



Quick results

Russian President Vladimir Putin says, "We all want results of the fight against the new virus to be as efficient and quick as possible."

IN BRIEF

African swine fever kills pigs in Bali

Bali: Hundreds of pigs have died from African swine fever in Bali, authorities said Wednesday, marking the Indonesian holiday island's first recorded outbreak and after the virus claimed some 30,000 hogs in Sumatra. Ida Bagus Wisnuardhana, Bali's agriculture and food security agency chief, said nearly 900 pigs succumbed to swine fever since mid-December. "The results are positive for African swine fever," Ida told reporters, referring to tests performed on the dead animals. The string of deaths had appeared to stop over the past week, Wisnuardhana said, adding Bali would go ahead with a pork festival on Friday in a bid to ease concerns over the outbreak. The announcement comes after Indonesia said this week it would temporarily ban some livestock imports from China over fears about the coronavirus.

Many evacuate NZ homes over floods

Wellington: Hundreds of people evacuated their homes and farms Wednesday to escape flooding in southern New Zealand. Authorities told many residents in the towns of Gore, Mataura and Wyndham they should leave immediately as rivers continued to rise following heavy rainfall. Several hundred tourists were being evacuated from Milford Sound after getting stuck there earlier this week when flooding and mudslides cut off car access. Many of the tourists were evacuated by helicopter. The Grenfell family was rescued after spending a terrifying night stuck in a hut along a popular hiking track. They told New Zealand broadcaster NewsHub that they set up tables to climb above the water and onto the top bunks.

Pluto's icy heart controls its wind

Washington: Pluto's famous heart-shaped structure containing frozen nitrogen controls its wind circulation, and may give rise to certain features on its surface, according to a NASA-led study. The structure, named Tombaugh Regio, became famous after NASA's New Horizons mission captured footage of the dwarf planet in 2015, and revealed it isn't the barren world scientists thought it was. The study, published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets, shows Pluto's renowned nitrogen heart rules its atmospheric circulation. Such findings can pinpoint both similar and distinctive features between Earth and a dwarf planet billions of miles away, the researchers said. Nitrogen gas — an element also found in air on the Earth — comprises most of Pluto's thin atmosphere, along with small amounts of carbon monoxide, and the greenhouse gas methane.

MIDNIGHT ZONE DIVE TO STUDY DARK OCEAN

Barcelona, Feb 5: A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a "Midnight Zone" where light barely reaches but life still thrives. Scientists from the British-led Nekton Mission plan to survey wildlife and gauge the effects of climate change in the unexplored area. Working with the Seychelles and Maldives governments, the five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of metres from the sea floor. To explore such inhospitable depths, Nekton scientists will board one of the world's most advanced submersibles, called "Limiting Factor". "What we do know is that beneath 1,000 metres, there's no light down there, but a lot of animals ... are bioluminescent. It's life that glows," says Nekton mission director Oliver Steeds. "The area that we're going to be researching, it's one of the most bio-diverse parts of the world's oceans. So what we're going to find there is unknown," Steeds recently said in Barcelona, Spain, before sea trials for the submersible and its mother ship. Last August, the "Limiting Factor" completed the Five Deeps Expedition, diving to the deepest point in each of the world's five oceans. The deepest was almost 11,000 metres down — deeper than Mount Everest's height.

US, China battling virus: Trump

Prez says admin will take necessary steps to safeguard its citizens from the threat

Washington, Feb. 5: The US is working closely with Beijing to combat the coronavirus outbreak, President Donald Trump said, prompting the World Health Organisation to declare a global health emergency. "Protecting Americans' health also means fighting infectious diseases," Trump said in his State of the Union speech late on Tuesday night while highlighting the initiatives taken by his administration in the healthcare sector. "We are coordinating with the Chinese government and working closely together on the coronavirus outbreak in China. My administration will take all necessary steps to safeguard our citizens from this threat," he said. Worldwide, the virus, so far, has spread to Thailand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Macau, India, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, United States, Canada, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Russia, Finland, Spain, the UAE and Sweden. "As we pray for all who are sick, we know that America is constantly achieving new medical breakthroughs," Trump said in his speech.

- The toll in China's coronavirus outbreak rose to 490 on Tuesday while the total number of confirmed cases mounted to 24,324.
- China's National Health Commission said 65 deaths were reported on Tuesday, all from Hubei province and its capital Wuhan.
- Also 3,887 new confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection were reported on Tuesday, it said.
- On Tuesday, 431 patients became seriously ill, while 262 were discharged from hospital after recovery.
- The health commission added that 3,219 patients remained in severe condition and 23,260 people were suspected of being infected with the virus



Medical workers in protective suits lead a passenger who tested positive for coronavirus from the cruise ship Diamond Princess at Yokohama Port, south of Tokyo, on Wednesday

The president underlined that his administration has launched ambitious new initiatives to substantially improve care for Americans with kidney disease, Alzheimer's, and those struggling with mental health challenges. Trump said a good life for American families also requires the most affordable, innovative and high-quality healthcare system. "Before I took office, health insurance premiums had more than doubled in just five years. I moved quickly to provide affordable alternatives. Our new plans are up to 60 per cent less expensive. "I have also made an ironclad pledge to American families: We will always protect patients with pre-

existing conditions — that is a guarantee," he said. The president said his administration will always protect the Medicare and the Social Security schemes. Asserting that his administration will never let socialism "destroy" US healthcare, he said, "As we work to improve Americans' healthcare, there are those who want to take away your healthcare, take away your doctor, and abolish private insurance entirely." "One hundred thirty-two lawmakers in this room have endorsed legislation to impose a socialist takeover of our healthcare system, wiping out the private health insurance plans of 180 million Americans," he added. —PTI

10 on Japan cruise ship have virus

Tokyo, Feb. 5: At least 10 people on a cruise ship quarantined off the coast of Japan have tested positive for the new coronavirus, Japan's health minister said on Wednesday. Japan quarantined the vessel carrying 3,711 people and began testing those on board for the virus after a former passenger who disembarked in Hong Kong was diagnosed with the illness. Meanwhile, hundreds of travellers on board a cruise ship that docked in Hong Kong on Wednesday will be allowed to leave the vessel after health checks, the operator said, despite three recent

passengers testing positive for coronavirus. Japan's Health Minister Katsunobu Kato told reporters that specimens were collected from 273 people on board the Diamond Princess, which arrived in Yokohama Bay on Monday. So far, the results of 31 tests are available, with 10 confirmed to have the virus, he said. The 10 who tested positive were removed from the vessel in the early morning and sent to medical facilities, the minister added. The rest of the passengers and crew on board the ship will be required to stay on the vessel for 14

Belgium reports first case

London, Feb. 5: Belgium, meanwhile, reported its first case of the coronavirus, found in one of the nine citizens who were repatriated from Wuhan over the weekend. The Belgian Health Ministry said the infected individual was in good health and didn't show any symptoms of the disease. The person was taken to a special hospital for further care while the others remained under observation. Germany confirmed two more cases of the virus: One an employee of an auto parts company that a Chinese colleague visited two weeks ago and the other in a child of an infected company employee who previously had another child test positive.

medical consensus that the new virus has an incubation period of up to two weeks. "We ask people on board to behave in a way to avoid infection while we continue the quarantine process," he said. —AFP

- EUROPE: 28 CONFIRMED**
- 12 — Germany.
 - 6 — France.
 - 2 each — Russia, Italy and the UK.
 - 1 each — Finland, Sweden, Spain and Belgium.

Chest X-ray scan that may help in diagnosis revealed

New York, Feb. 5: In a first, researchers have described the chest X-ray scan features that may aid in the early detection and diagnosis of the novel Chinese coronavirus which has so far killed nearly 500 people in China. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the virus that has been temporarily named, the "novel coronavirus" (2019-nCoV) causes respiratory illness resembling viral pneumonia, resulting in fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The current study, published in the journal Radiology, characterised the key X-ray imaging findings in chest CT scans in a group of 21 patients infected with 2019-nCoV in China. The patients consisted of 13 men and 8 women ranging in age from 29 to 77 years old, with a mean age of 51.2 years. According to the researchers, the initial CT scans of the patients

number of cases as well as a vaccine to prevent its spread. In a breakthrough of sorts, US doctors treating a coronavirus patient early this month reported his successful recovery after treating with experimental antiviral drug Remdesivir. This prompted China to announce immediate field trials to test the drug. China's National Health Commission said the drug trials were being carried out at multiple hospitals in Wuhan. —PTI

these discrepancies. The researchers also assessed the chest scan images for the presence of nodules, liquid discharge, abnormal lymph node size, and underlying diseases like fibrosis. —PTI

MALAYSIAN JOURNO CHARGED OVER VIRUS POSTS

Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 5: A Malaysian journalist was charged Wednesday with causing public alarm with Facebook posts about the deadly coronavirus outbreak in China, as authorities warned against online "rumour-mongering". The virus has so far killed almost 500 people and infected 24,000 others in China, and spread to more than 20 countries, including Malaysia, which has 12 cases. It has also unleashed a flood of misinformation online, from misleading tolls to vaccine conspiracies, and several Asian countries have arrested people for spreading false information. Wan Noor Hayati Wan Alias, a Malaysian newspaper journalist, denied three charges in a Kuala Lumpur court of breaking laws that ban statements which cause public alarm, according to court documents. —AFP

2 more planes evacuate Americans from Wuhan

Washington, Feb. 5: The United States evacuated more than 300 more people on two new flights out of Wuhan, China, the epicentre of the fast-spreading new coronavirus, the State Department said. The two flights left Wuhan on Tuesday US time after the passengers were screened, a State Department official said on Tuesday. The official said that the United States has now brought home more than 500 passengers on three flights. A first flight, with 195 Americans on board, left Wuhan last week and landed in California. The United States is preparing one or two additional planes to evacuate Americans on Thursday, after which it does not intend further flights, the official said. The United States has been placing passengers under mandatory quarantine, the first time that the federal gov-



In this file photo an airplane carrying US citizens from Wuhan, China, lands at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California. — AP

ernment has taken such a major step since the 1960s. As stated in a travel advisory issued last week, "US citizens currently in China should attempt to depart by commercial means," the official said. The United States has offered seats on government planes as they become available, with US citizens asked to reimburse the government. Washington declared a public health emergency over the pathogen and has banned the entry of foreign nationals who have travelled to China. Eleven cases of infection have been confirmed in the United States. —AFP

■ AN OFFICIAL said that the United States has now brought home more than 500 passengers on three flights.

STAR | ATTRACTIONS ■ Study also says housing peculiar species can attract people, conserve biodiversity

Zoos housing large, iconic animals see more visitors

London, Feb 5: Zoos where large, iconic animals like rhinos, tigers, and bears reside see more visitors, according to a study which suggests housing peculiar species can be an alternative way to attract more people, and help conserve biodiversity. The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, noted that it is usually difficult for zoos to accommodate large animals since they take up a lot of space and resources, meaning relatively few can be housed. According to the researchers, including those from Trinity College Dublin in Ireland, alternative strategies to encourage visitor attendance include the housing of unusual animals. "While having big charismatic animals is

one way to gather an audience, having a more unusual collection of species is an alternative way to drive gate receipts and with them conservations fund. — KEVIN HEALY Co-author of the study from the National University of Ireland, Galway



researchers said a collection of many different butterfly species or threatened amphibians may also boost visitor counts. According to co-author Yvonne Buckley from Trinity

College Dublin, the study provides "global evidence to suggest that zoos don't need to compromise their economic viability, and entertainment value in order to have a significant

value to conservation." In the study, the scientists modelled the relationships between visitor attendance, animals, conservation, and other factors for more than 458 zoos in 58 countries of the world. The findings revealed that attendance and conservation funding at zoos and aquariums are influenced by factors like size and variety of species. "Zoos and aquariums not only breed and maintain populations of thousands of wildlife species but they also act as centres for public education, wildlife rehabilitation, scientific research and public entertainment," said study co-author Andrew Mooney from Trinity College Dublin. The researchers noted that zoos and aquariums attract more than 700 million people annually around the world, providing an unparalleled audience for conservation education. "Housing large, charismatic animals in zoos and aquariums is being questioned more and more from an ethical perspective, but our research concludes that these animals do not solely play an entertainment role, but also serve a broader conservation purpose by indirectly increasing in situ project investment," Mooney said. —PTI

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On trial

Malaysia's former First Lady Rosmah Mansor goes on trial for corruption

BRIEF

Rohingyas: UN takes no action

United Nations: The UN Security Council on Tuesday discussed the international Court of Justice's order that Myanmar must do all it can to prevent genocide against the Rohingya Muslims, but failed to agree on a statement. Myanmar's ally China as well as Vietnam objected, diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed. Instead, the EU members of the council urged Myanmar in a joint statement to reporters afterward to comply with the measures ordered by the UN top court, stressing that they are "compulsory under international law." France, Germany, Belgium and Estonia along with former council member Poland also urged Myanmar "to take credible action to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations."

Saudi spy ring: Denmark jails 3

Copenhagen: Three men who are members of an Iranian separatist group, the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz, have been jailed in pre-trial custody in Denmark until Feb. 27, suspected of spying for an unnamed Saudi intelligence service. The three members of the group were arrested Monday in Ringsted, 60 kms southwest of Copenhagen, for the suspected spying on people and companies over a period of six years from 2012. They appeared before the nearby Roskilde City Court where judge John Larsen on Tuesday ordered the hearing held behind closed doors, meaning no details were made public. Heavily armed police officers with machine guns guarded the courthouse in Roskilde, about 40 kms west of Copenhagen. The men who can't be named under a court ban, pleaded not guilty. The men are facing preliminary charges of espionage under a milder paragraph that could give them up to six years in jail.

Avalanche toll in Turkey 23

Istanbul: At least 23 people were killed Wednesday in an avalanche in eastern Turkey during a search and rescue mission after a similar incident the day before, local officials said. The bodies of 14 rescue workers and nine civilians were discovered at the scene in Van province, where they had been helping uncover a minibus buried by an avalanche late Tuesday, said governor Mehmet Emin Bilmez according to news agency Anadolu. Five people travelling in the minibus were killed, taking the overall toll to 28. The governor said rescue efforts continued despite the difficult winter conditions causing transport problems with TV images showing heavy snow continued to fall on the mountainside. Officials said 30 people had been found alive and taken to hospital. Minister Fahrettin Koca warned the number of casualties could rise.

J&K abrogation was fatal mistake: Imran

Islamabad, Feb. 5: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday that his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi has committed a "fatal mistake" by revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the Legislative Assembly of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in Muzaffarabad, Khan also alleged that Modi did it because he got mandate after using Pakistan as a scapegoat in election.

"Modi made a fatal mistake, one that he could not step back from... He cannot go back from where he has taken India. The genie of Hindu nationalism is out of bottle and it cannot be put back," he said. Khan also claimed that the chain of events would "finally result in the independence of Kashmir."

His remarks came as Pakistan observed the Kashmir Solidarity Day, with the top leaders extending their support to the Kashmiri people. The day is observed every year on February 5 by Pakistan.

"It is my faith that Kashmir will become free after the August 5 action by Modi. If he had not taken this step, we would not have been able to highlight it to the world," he said, adding that it was "our duty" to inform the world about it. Indian abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

India has categorically told the international community that its move to scrap Article 370 was an internal matter and has also advised Pakistan to accept the

Unity in shreds as Trump makes case for re-election

Don talks of growth in SOTU address; Pelosi tears speech copy

Washington, Feb. 5: President Donald Trump's State of the Union address became a shocking display of US divisions Tuesday with Democrats protesting the Republican's boasts before their leader, Nancy Pelosi, ripped up her copy of the speech on live television.

The House speaker's gesture at the very end encapsulated the seething atmosphere in the Capitol as Trump made a one hour and 18 minutes pitch for a second term in office.

Instead of what traditionally has been an annual moment for political truce, this State of the Union mirrored the political war raging through the country ahead of November elections.

Trump was still on the podium, having just completed the soaring finale to his speech when Pelosi, standing just behind him, raised the papers and demonstratively tore them to pieces.

"It was the courteous thing to do, considering the alternatives," she told a reporter afterwards.

The speech began with as much rancor as it ended, when Trump ignored past custom and declined to shake hands with Pelosi, who as speaker of the House of Representatives had overseen the push to impeach Trump for abuse of office.

She put out a hand and Trump turned away, leaving her arm in thin air.

Democrats responded to Trump's speech, where he proclaimed a "great American comeback" and touted his achievements, by refusing to follow Republicans in repeated standing ovations. There was boing and several



Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi rips a copy of US President Donald Trump's speech after he delivered the State of the Union address at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on Wednesday. — AFP

Democrats walked out.

"The president has no class," House Democrat Jim McGovern told reporters afterwards. "I mean, he should have, out of respect, taken the speaker's hand."

But after delivering what essentially was a campaign rally speech that was terribly dark and divisive, I think the speaker did the right thing ripping it up. Underlying all the tension was the fact that after months of impeachment investigations in the Democratic-led House, the Republican majority Senate is now almost certain to acquit Trump on Wednesday.

But Trump's speech did not once mention the word "impeachment." — AFP

'Soleimani's killing terminated his evil reign of terror forever'

Washington, Feb. 5: Terming Iran's slain military commander Qasem Soleimani as a "ruthless butcher", President Donald Trump on Wednesday praised the US military for carrying out a "flawless precision strike" that killed him and terminated his "evil reign of terror forever".

Iranian major general Soleimani was killed last month in a US drone strike in the Iraqi capital Baghdad ordered by Trump, bringing the entire Gulf region close to a full-blown conflict. — PTI

Regional tensions increased after Iran fired 22 ballistic missiles in a pre-dawn attack, targeting at least two bases where US military and coalition forces are stationed in Iraq, which Tehran said was a "slap in the face" of America.

Delivering his 3rd State of the Union address to the US Congress, Trump said, "Soleimani was the Iranian Regime's most ruthless butcher, a monster who murdered or wounded thousands of American service members in Iraq." — PTI

Israel targets Hamas, Palestine teen shot

Jerusalem, Feb. 5: Israel struck Hamas militant targets in Gaza early Wednesday in response to rocket fire toward Israeli communities overnight, the military said, the latest flare-up following the release of the Trump administration's West Asia plan, which the Palestinians have fiercely rejected.

A Palestinian teenager was shot dead by Israeli troops on Wednesday in the West Bank city of Hebron, the first Palestinian killed in protests against the peace plan.

The Israeli army said troops responded to a "violent" rioter armed with a Molotov cocktail.

The military said it targeted a Hamas weapons manufacturing site; no casualties were reported in Gaza. The exchange comes amid an uptick in cross-border rocket and "explosive balloon" launches from the Hamas-controlled territory, as well as violent protests in the West Bank. The Gaza Strip has been relatively calm in recent months as part of an informal truce between its Hamas rulers and Israel, but tension has increased since President Donald Trump unrolled his favor-

able plan for Israel last week. Under the plan, Israel would be allowed to annex all Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as well as the strategic Jordan Valley.

The Palestinians were offered limited self-rule in Gaza, parts of the West Bank and some sparsely populated areas of Israel in return for meeting a long list of conditions. The Palestinians, as well as much of the international community, view the settlements in the West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem — territories seized by Israel in the 1967 war — as illegal and a major obstacle to peace.

In return, Israel eased the blockade it imposed with Egypt on Gaza after the Islamic militant group seized power from forces loyal to the Palestinian Authority in 2007. Hamas rejected the Trump plan and vowed that "all options are open" in responding to the proposal, but the group is not believed to be seeking another war with Israel. Palestinians have held protests in condemning the Trump initiative, burning US and Israeli flags and posters of Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. — AFP

Govt. of Bihar Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited CIN - U93000BR2018SGC038181 Registered Office - First Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda. NOTICE FOR EMPLOYMENT (NIT No-11/2019-20) Introduction Bihar Sharif Smart City Ltd. (BSSCL) is inviting application from experienced and dynamic professionals who are motivated to work for the innovative scheme of Smart Cities. Employment Detail: Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Post, Type of Appointment, No. of Positions, Minimum Qualification, Experience, Age Limit, Honorarium (per month per post), Category. 1. Accountant, Contract based, 1, M.B.A./PGDM or Equivalent in financial Management or B.Com/ M.Com of Equivalent Knowledge on tally, Not less than 04 years of Experience in finance / Accounts in reputed Organization. Tally experience is must. 40, 35000, EBC-1. 2. Company Secretary (CS), Contract based, 1, Graduation in any discipline with at least 60% marks or equivalent grade point average and Member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Not less than 05 years of post qualification experience in managerial capacity in an equivalent or similar position in a reputed organization. LLB will be an added advantage. 50, 90000, UR-1. 3. Manager (Finance & Procurement), Contract based, 1, Member of ICAI, Not less than 05 years Experience in finance/Account in reputed organisation Qualification of CMA will be an added advantage. 45, 85000, UR-1. 4. Stenographer, Contract based, 2, Graduation in any discipline with knowledge of short hand writing & Computer, Not less than 02 years of experience in Stenography. 35, 25000, UR-1 EBC-1. General Instructions: 1. Detail information and application form can be seen and downloaded from website: https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/. 2. Results/Outcomes/Decisions of all previous advertisements have been uploaded on https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/. No application from previous NIT will be considered for present appointment. Although candidates who have applied earlier may apply again in this NIT with fresh application. 3. For this advertisement interested candidates can send CV in given format with complete details through E-mail only on biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com latest by 3 PM on 28-02-2020 with all attachments. 4. No application will be considered after the above stated application deadline. 5. It would be sole responsibility of the candidate to ensure that file is properly attached and sent timely. 6. Applicant should clearly mention the post applied for in the Application Form with the Category. Self attested proof of category should also be attached. No document is required to apply in UR category. 7. Recruitment on these post will be initially for three years on contractual basis and thereafter based on the performance and need of the project it can be extended by one year each to a maximum of two years. 8. Honorarium is as indicated against each post. 9. Candidates once recruited by Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited will be restricted to offer their services elsewhere. 10. All posts are non-practicing in nature. 11. Application charges for Unreserved/BC/EBC category is INR 500 and for SC/ST category is INR 250 in the form of Demand Draft from a nationalized bank in the name of "Managing Director, Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited" payable at Bihar Sharif. Candidates are required to attach the scan copy of draft in their application and later have to submit physical DD at the time of interview. 12. Incomplete application form without necessary detail or application form submitted without Qualification / Experience certificate or unattested certificates will automatically lead to rejection and may not be considered further. 13. BSSCL reserves the right to reject any or all applications at any time without assigning any reasons whatsoever. In special circumstances the entire process of recruitment can be suspended or cancelled and decision of "Managing Director, BSSCL" in this regard will be final and binding. 14. Qualifications for each post are minimum and do not imply that every applicant possessing the same will be called for interview. BSSCL reserves the right to evaluate the proposal as per its requirements. 15. Preference will be given to candidates with higher qualification and relevant experience. 16. In the event of qualification or experience certificate, age proof, caste certificate or any other document found to be incorrect or false after the recruitment, the employment contract will be terminated and suitable legal action will be initiated against the candidate. In this case BSSCL will have right to reclaim any or all compensation paid to the candidate. 17. Candidates shall have to submit a declaration that neither he has been charged/ convicted from any Hon'ble court nor Dismissed/ Removed/Compulsory retired by way of punishment for, the service of any public Undertaking/Private Sector or from Govt. Department nor he has not been declared insolvent by any court. 18. The appointment is purely on contractual basis and in no way should be construed as regular government service. The candidates will not be eligible for absorption as a regular government employee. 19. Shortlisted candidates will be informed about interview and further process through website and email. 20. Any disputes arising shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Court of Bihar Sharif. 21. Managing Director, BSSCL reserves the right to terminate any or all process without assigning any reason whatsoever. For further details please visit website www.prdibihar.gov.in Managing Director Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited PR. No. 015053 (Ni Ni) 2019-20 बिटिया मेरी अभी पढ़ेगी, शादी की सूली नहीं चढ़ेगी।

No. 9A/CT(TM)-19/Pers(Rectt)/BSF/2020 Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs Directorate General Border Security Force (Personnel Directorate: Recruitment Section) NOTICE All candidates of Constable (Tradesmen) Exam-2019 (Total - 1763 vacancies) and Constable (Technical) Exam-2018 (Total - 207 vacancies) in BSF, are hereby informed that BSF official website i.e. www.bsf.nic.in has become inaccessible to public domain due to some technical security issues. 2. Candidates who have preferred appeals for appearing in Review Medical Examination (RME) of Constable (Tradesmen) & Constable (Technical) are hereby informed that, RME of said recruitments are scheduled to be held from 10th Feb' 2020 to 24th Feb' 2020 (For CT/Tradesmen) and from 15th Feb' 2020 to 26th Feb' 2020 (For CT/Technical) at Composite Hospital BSF, Jalandhar Cantt., Punjab, Pin - 144006. In this regard, admit cards/call letters for RME have already been issued to all eligible candidates by concerned RAs/FHQ through post and list of eligible candidates along with venue/schedule of Review Medical Examination will be published on https://bsf.gov.in in 'Result' tab on home page. However, candidates are also advised to visit BSF official website i.e. www.bsf.nic.in as and when it become accessible to gain all recruitment related information in future. Sd/- Commandant (Rectt) Feb, 2020 davp 19110/11/0112/1920

28, SCG, NSG, IBRAHIMPATNAM, DISTT - RANGAREDDY, (TELANGANA) - 501506 - Phone: 08414224403 5550/28 SCG/Q/20 Dated, the 28 Jan 2020 AUCTION NOTICE A Public Auction of Unserviceable / Condemned Stores including hazardous stores covered under Battery (Management & Handling) Rule 2001 and E-waste (Management & Handling) Rule 2011 will be held on the date, timing and placed as mentioned below:- Table with 4 columns: DATE, TIMINGS, DESCRIPTION OF STORES, PLACE. 20 Feb 2020, 1100 hrs onwards, Unserviceable / Condemned Stores, Helipad Ground, NSG Campus, Ibrahimpatnam, Distt Rangareddy (Telangana) - 501506. DETAILS OF UNSERVICEABLE / CONDEMNED STORES a) Cooking utensils b) IT Eqpts c) Misc Eqpts d) BD Eqpts e) Batteries of all types f) MT Tubes g) MT Spare Parts h) GIA Grant Stores j) Welfare Grant Stores k) QD Grant Store 2. The stores can be inspected / seen by the interested parties between 0930 hrs to 1030 hrs on the day of auction at the given venue. Auction will commence at 1100 hrs. 3. All bidders will have to deposit refundable security money of Rs. 5,000/- Rupees (Five thousand) only for entering the auction premises. However, this deposit will be forfeited if any bidder does not deposit full amount against an accepted value of bid on the same day. 4. The auction will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis and successful bidders will be required to deposit full amount with applicable taxes in cash on the same day and lift the stores at their own expenses. Cheque / draft will not be accepted. 5. As per Battery (Management and Handling) Rule, 2001, this department shall auction used batteries to registered recyclers only. Also as per E-waste (Management and Handling) Rule, 2011, NSG shall auction / dispose off electrical and electronics eqpts through auctioned / registered dismantlers / re-cyclers. 6. NSG reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning any reason. Sd/- (Rahul Sankhyan) COI, GP CDR, 28 SCG, NSG MHA / Govt. of India davp 19115/11/0006/1920

There are many of us willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us willing to do little things.

I prefer an ugly truth to a pretty lie. If someone is telling me the truth that is when I will give my heart.

DECCAN Chronicle

6 FEBRUARY 2020

After 6 months, J&K's future remains bleak

Exactly six months ago, on August 5, 2019, with the stated purpose of fully integrating Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian mainstream, the Narendra Modi government ended the state's autonomy and broke it up into two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh. Since then New Delhi hasn't seen it fit to give Parliament a composite account of the situation in the two UTs, particularly J&K.

The obvious facts that can be seen from daily media reporting appear far from reassuring. All important leaders of mainstream parties of the former state, except the BJP, remain in jail. These include three former chief ministers. There is no autonomous political activity of any kind left.

The only political game being played are those by the Union home ministry which is working on never-before-tried dubious schemes to create a "new politics" for Kashmir. This consists of investing minor panchayat and block-level officials, elected through desperate processes lacking in popular legitimacy, with a higher level of sanction aimed at insinuating them into positions previously occupied by parties like the National Conference, PDP, Congress and a clutch of smaller parties.

A few former ministers from these parties, some discredited, are being duly incentivised — through below-the-counter manipulations — and are being groomed under the guidance of the Centre to take on leadership roles in the proposed "new politics" for Kashmir.

The entire exercise seems of questionable status on its integrity quotient, and smells of quisling politics, the kind played by Beijing in Tibet. The Centre may ban existing mainline parties, but it's unclear what it will do with its jailed political leaders unless it decides to banish them from J&K.

What we see on the horizon can only fill us with foreboding, for the people of the Valley are totally excluded from any calculation in the so-called new politics of the J&K UT. In such an eventuality, India's international isolation on the Kashmir question is only likely to grow. This is likely to give Pakistan and China greater room for manoeuvre against this country. Important political quarters in the United States and Europe, and some international organisations, have already started expressing unease over New Delhi's handling of the Kashmir issue of late.

Removing Kashmir's autonomy was officially explained as necessary to end terrorism in J&K, especially the Valley. The government withheld data in this respect in the past six months but news reports consistently speak of firings, bombings and IED blasts. Indeed, a decorated non-Muslim police officer has been discovered to be in the pay of terrorists, revealing the extent of the government's failures. To what extent terrorism has been curbed in anyone's guess.

The communications situation has eased a little. The Internet can now be used for some essential services, but ordinary people don't really have the Internet in any meaningful sense. There has been next to no development or economic activity since Kashmir was locked down.

Telangana lessons for America

Technology played a central role in two recent electoral processes. Telangana used a voter facial recognition technology in the Kompally municipality election on January 22 and this week said it had an accuracy of 80 per cent. Despite political scepticism it was a laudable achievement, with officials attributing the shortfall to the poor quality of voter photographs originally uploaded, or to outdated photos.

The second instance was the inner-party election in Iowa, in the United States, the beginning of choosing the contestants in the next presidential election in November. No surprise as President Donald Trump won the Republican primary with 97 per cent, given that sitting Presidents are rarely challenged within their own party. It was the Democratic Party that surprised everyone by not having a result on Monday evening. Twenty-four hours later, more than a quarter of votes were still to be tallied. It gave no clarity in a race where at one point there were 21 candidates vying to face-off with Mr Trump, and where the top four are locked in a close contest in Iowa. Iowa is important as it can give momentum to a candidate to break from the pack; all recent Democratic presidential candidates have won in Iowa. At the centre of the goof-up was a hastily-developed app that was to tally the votes from various precincts spread across this rural, midwestern state. The app developed a glitch. Mr Trump and his party lost no time in ridiculing the Democrats, asking how they would run the country if they can't manage a small state caucus.

The Democrats see a strong chance to topple Mr Trump in November, but they also see that a flawed candidate or messy infighting between "moderates" and "socialists" could keep Mr Trump in power. In trying to show digital savvy, they failed. Perhaps they should learn from Telangana.

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Subhani

Delhi poised on edge: Can a hate chant win?



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

Love has its stories, poems, songs. Now, hate has found its chant. It is "desh ke gaddaro ko, goli maaro saalo ko" (shoot the traitors). With the Delhi Assembly polls just around the corner, bullet talk has been tripping off the lips of those who see traitors everywhere — among students, housewives, ordinary working women and men — who raise their voices against government policies and laws.

This hatred is no ordinary hatred. It is deep. It is visceral. Most significantly, it's a hatred that thrives as public spectacle, aided by television and social media. Those who hate or chant the hate slogans don't wish to be quiet. They are brazen, unabashed about their beliefs and crave for their moments of fame on television.

On Tuesday, a group of young men supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act marched down the road in front of Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, chanting "Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalo ko". They carried the tricolour and also chanted "Jai Shri Ram". Jamia and its neighbourhood, Shaheen Bagh, have been the focal points of the public protests against the Narendra Modi government's new citizenship law.

A Jamia student who was part of the anti-CAA protest told reporters the group stopped at the barricade where the main protest is on, and chanted "Goli maaro..." in full view of the police present at the spot.

The young men who breezily sauntered down the road shouting explicitly violent slogans were eventually bundled into a police van and taken away. But eyewitnesses said they had nearly half an hour to spew hate in broad daylight, in full

view of the public and police. The young men continued to chant their hate slogans even inside the police van.

"How are students (Muslims and Hindus) gaddar (traitor). If not, then why sloganeering, by pointing fingers at them?" television journalist Saahil Murlu Menghani tweeted from the site. The young men enamoured by hate songs are not breaking new ground. They are taking their cues from leaders of the ruling BJP and its brand of hardline Hindutva.

Last month, the Election Commission was forced to order removal of minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur and BJP's West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma from the party's star campaigners' list for the Delhi elections following their statements violating the model code of conduct. Mr Thakur was issued a notice by the EC for participating in a rally where the same chants rent the air. Mr Thakur repeatedly chanted "Desh ke gaddaron ko..." and the crowd responded with "Goli maaro saalo ko". The minister later told the media he merely asked people what should be done with traitors to the country.

Parvesh Verma, the BJP MP for West Delhi, was pulled up by the EC for saying "These people can enter your homes. They will take your sisters and daughters, rape them and kill them," in a scarcely-veiled reference to Shaheen Bagh, a working-class Muslim neighbourhood, where protests have been dominantly secular led by ordinary women.

Mr Verma later pooh-poohed the EC ban. He told a TV channel the public was his only judge, and no institution could ban him.

Neither Mr Thakur nor Mr Verma showed the

slightest remorse for their patently divisive words reeking of hatred for people whose only fault is that they don't see eye to eye with the government. The BJP fielded Mr Verma to defend the government's CAA stand in Lok Sabha. The BJP's Kapil Mishra also shouted the same "Desh ke..." while leading a march in support of the new law. He is the party candidate from Model Town constituency for this weekend's Delhi elections. Mr Mishra claims he meant arsonists, not all protesters.

Campaigning for the same poll, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, a BJP star campaigner, also spliced his speeches with references to goli (bullet) — "Jo hamla karega, toh phir boli se nahi, usko police ki goli samjhane ki karya karegi" (Police bullets, not words, will make miscreants understand).

Hate as a public spectacle was also on full display when a gunman fired at the Jamia protest site, injuring a student. Before opening fire, the gunman shouted at those protesting against the CAA — "Yeh lo azaadi". The gunman was live streaming the shooting incident on his Facebook page. This deep hatred of those who think differently, who are of different faith and the fascination for converting a crime into a spectator sport reminds one of the savage killings in New Zealand last year. A lone gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch on March 15 while livestreaming the attacks on Facebook.

This new avatar of hatred, where spectacle is the key, is the cutting edge of an India that is getting more and more polarised along sectarian lines, with divisive

This new avatar of hatred, where spectacle is the key, is the cutting edge of an India that is getting more and more polarised along sectarian lines, with support of the country's ruling party

rhetoric rending the air with support of the country's ruling party.

Clearly, the prospect of the spectacle providing 15 seconds of notoriety attracts some youth whose lives may otherwise be bleak. In 2017, Shambu Lal Regar uploaded a terrifying video from Rajasthan — of him hacking and burning a Bengali Muslim migrant labourer, Afrazul Khan.

Now this prospect of hate as a spectacle is mobilising more people to polarise India further.

The immediate reason for this hate crescendo is clear: BJP strategists think polarisation works in their favour and it's the most effective way to win the Delhi Assembly polls. We shall know on February 11 if it has succeeded.

What is this campaign of hate doing to India? Is it possible to have development for all, which the BJP claims to offer, if the country's existing faultlines get deeper and it is divided further along religious and caste lines?

Will "goli maaro" — the anthem of hate — win?

Despite the grim scenario, there are signs of hope.

Walking down the same road in Jamia where just hours earlier some people had chanted "Goli maaro...", I found a young man singing a song of love to "Pyara Hindustan". There were mothers and grandmothers in the crowd; students sat huddled on a mat on the pavement, reading. The university's Zakir Husain Library had been vandalised when the police stormed the Jamia campus on December 15, beating up students and firing tear gas shells inside. At the pavement library that has come up as a protest of its own kind, a placard states: "Our library might have been vandalised but this cannot stop us from reading."

The scholars looked unafraid. Fear is not winning everywhere.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.

LETTERS

GANDHI'S ROLE

Karnataka MP Anantkumar Hegde created an unnecessary flutter about Gandhi and our freedom movement (*Gandhi's freedom struggle was a 'big drama': BJP MP, February 4*). It was historically recorded with the British being more worried about the resurgence of Indian nationalism with Subhash Chandra Bose's revolt rather than the hunger strikes and satyagrahas by Gandhi. The British damaged the social fabric of our country by stoking Hindu-Muslim animosity.

Vinod Sreebhashyam
Hyderabad

BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde criticising Gandhiji is not in good taste and needs to be condemned by all right thinking citizens. The incident is like some of today's youth who do not appreciate the struggles of their parents in up bringing them and on the other hand blame them for all former's failures.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

CHINA'S EXAMPLE

MA&UD minister K.T. Rama Rao is keen to turn Hyderabad into a city with many facilities available to public. However, he should appreciate China for completing a hospital from scratch and making it operative within 10 days. Similarly, he must engage active staff to complete all works on priority to convert Hyderabad into a healthy and clean city.

Gudipati Shanti Priya
Secunderabad

DOCTOR'S SUICIDE

My condolences to the bereaved family of Dr Ajay Kumar who committed suicide (Doctor ends life, blames hospital building owner, DC, Feb. 5). It showed the depth of his frustration. It is unfortunate that the doctors who counsel others against suicide now need it for themselves.

O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

ANTI-RAPE LAWS

Tightening the laws against rapists alone may not suffice. We must bring in laws against lawyers pleading for rapists ad finding innovative ways to deny justice to victims.

A.S. Murthy
Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.



Mahir Ali

Trump's peace 'deal of century': But the outrage seems missing

He said flat out, don't talk to me about history," Aaron David Miller says of Jared Kushner, the US president's son-in-law and the architect of the "deal of the century" unveiled last week by Donald Trump.

"He said, I told the Israelis and the Palestinians not to talk to me about history too," recalls Miller, a former "peace negotiator" who was among the people Kushner consulted in formulating a plan that conforms with Benjamin Netanyahu's wildest dreams.

Its announcement was apparently timed to bolster Netanyahu's chances of securing a majority in next month's Israeli elections, the third within a year after two inconclusive contests. It is also supposed to help Trump maintain his ascendancy with the Christian evangelicals devoted to Israel as a conduit for the end times, when they expect to be raptured away on the stairway to paradise while the rest of us roast in hell.

The irrepressible Haaretz columnist Gideon Levy has a somewhat different take on the matter. "In a flimsy hospital gown, injured, barefoot and confused, without food or water, with a catheter attached and wearing a diaper, Gaza resident Omar Abu Jeriban was tossed on the side of the road on June 13, 2008 and left to die," he wrote last week in the Israeli newspaper, adding: "The other day, the entire Palestinian people became Abu Jeriban." He goes on to argue in the same article that the announcement in Washington is tantamount to the third Israeli Nakba, or catastrophe: "After losing most of their land, property and dignity in the first [1948] and their liberty in the second [1967], now comes the third to crush whatever is left of their hope."

The complexities of the past can readily be discounted, of course, if you ignore history, as Kushner was determined to do. His plan, obviously devoid of any Palestinian input, envisages the incorporation of all Jewish settlements, illegal under

international law, into Israel, plus the annexation of 30pc of West Bank. In return, if the Palestinians play nice, they will get a bunch of non-contiguous municipalities, linked by bridges or tunnels, with Israel controlling the "security" aspects of the ghettos and almost everything else.

Furthermore, some of the Palestinians who are now Israeli citizens will be stripped of that dubious privilege and allocated to the proposed "state". A capital on the least developed periphery of Jerusalem is a possibility, and they can call it Al Quds if they so desire.

Not surprisingly, Mahmoud Abbas, the lame duck presiding over the so-called Palestinian Authority (PA), has rejected the plan as well as any communications with the Trump White House. He doesn't want Trump to be able to claim that Abbas has been "consulted", and he has been quoted as saying that he doesn't want to go down in history as the man who sold out Jerusalem.

Let us not forget, though, that Israel

and its perennial allies deemed Abbas an appropriate replacement for Yasser Arafat precisely because he was deemed readily malleable, and throughout his tenure the PA has collaborated with Israeli security agencies. It hardly matters any more that Arab League foreign ministers have endorsed Abbas's view of the unfolding fiasco. The US and Israel know that some of the richest Arab states are effectively on their side. The UAE, Bahrain and Oman even sent their ambassadors to the distinctly Zionist celebration in the White House. The Saudis stayed away, perhaps only because its crown prince has lately been restrained by his father.

Perhaps the only implementable aspect of Kushner's plan is the annexation part, and there were indications that Netanyahu would proceed almost immediately to achieve that goal, but he appears to have been held back by admonitions from the White House, with even the president's men wary of a hasty step

without any quid pro quo.

Broadly speaking, though, global outrage at this travesty has been conspicuous by its absence. That may in part be a measure of how seriously the rest of the world takes the initiative — which is to suggest it has been disregarded on account of its transparent absurdity. The indifference could also be a measure, though, of how little empathy the Palestinian cause attracts. Of late, France equates anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, and Germany has outlawed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that sets out the kind of approach that proved so effective against South African apartheid.

Let's not forget, though, that for a long time the most powerful Western states smiled on the racists in charge of South Africa and looked upon Nelson Mandela as a terrorist. As Kushner is aware, though, it's useful to ignore the past.

By arrangement with Dawn

Imagining, planning or thinking about a project instead of doing it | A mainstream media story about the Internet that has little or no basis in fact

Gated Republic: Who stole my Muslim neighbour?



Sriram Karri

Neither the name nor the address of the gated community I have been living for nearly a decade as a tenant of a flat really matters. It is a lot like almost all the others in most big Indian cities.

We have a swimming pool, a gym, a club house, a garden, children's play area, campus-wide CCTV cameras and round-the-clock security, a closely connected community, and no Muslim fellow-residents. And in that way too, we are a lot like most other flats, urban residential communities and gated communities, many a facility and no Muslims. I am not too sure but I doubt there are any dalits, either as owners or tenants.

Now, there is no law preventing anyone from purchasing a flat. No overt discrimination based on religion or caste can be detected during the purchase of property in this slice of life; yet, some sections are represented far below their

national composition, or none at all. These communities are rather homogenous, with a global flair, at least four families out of 120 being foreigners, Americans presumably, expats working in nearby tech majors.

Without an iota of doubt, almost everyone who resides in our building is secular, democratic and broad-minded. Yet, we have never ever discussed this, and we do talk a lot about politics, about events, trends, and are obsessed with what is fair, and what is not.

Now, there is Khaseem Ali, who manages our building's office and most of its affairs. All helps — maids, cooks, personal driver, gardeners, security guards and housekeeping staff — mostly comprised of those from an "underprivileged" section, euphemism for "lower caste", dalits if you wish to be exact — report to him. Asif is our on-campus plumber, Wasim is our on-call electrician, Rehmat, on retainer, manages our piped gas supply, while Yusuf attends to errands as a carpenter-cum-pest control resource.

Khaseem, Asif, Wasim and Rehmat are reportedly happy with their employment with us, each having been around for nearly longer than a decade. They are happy to partake in our festival celebrations on Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Dussehra, Sankranti and Christmas — and grateful for the symbolic iftar party we throw only for them, with several vegetarians contributing to order mutton biryani and haleem.

Three decades post-liberalisation, this living format is a new normal for most Indians. It reflects a huge metamorphosis over a long journey from how we were raised, in the 1970s and 1980s, where a somewhat clichéd Amar-Akbar-Anthony-Akal are brothers kind of secular integration was a reality.

From colonies in towns and cities, often belonging to the government sector — armed forces, steel plants, railways, banks — to schools and colleges — as mates, neighbours and friends — Muslims were present in every part of our lives as equals, in the larger image of our country — socialist, secular and democratic. The diversity was deeply and heartily celebrated. Petty politically-incorrect disputes aside, religious differences were never a burden, most certainly not a blemish to be corrected. It has changed, obviously.

Who stole my Muslim neighbour? When did I stop missing his absence? Why did I never

Colonies grew into cities. A city filled with racist communal gated communities that brook neither diversity nor dissent, an elite echo chamber, with organic food, Saturday night parties and Sunday morning social responsibility activism.

notice it before? If done in phases; the first being an outright veto enforced in super-constrained real-estate jungles of Mumbai's high rises; the second one was perhaps mutually accepted segregation — of voluntary ghettos and separation of zones.

We traded them away for swimming pools and gated security, cameras and multi-level car parking. With rising incomes and lifestyles mirroring the West, founded on an unshakeable belief in fairness of meritocracy, we did not notice them vanishing. In holding merit as a fair infallible principle, we assumed it would be perfect too, ensuring a fair representation for everyone in a free, globalising new world.

Institutionalised bias sneaked in and not only changed demography drastically, it changed our character, even implanted a flawed idea of a perfect microcosm, of a gated community.

After a fleeting season when

it did not matter who you were born as, and were defined only by what you aspired to become — we reverted to the oldest roll call — each one of us burdened and destined by the past, the most ancient of lotteries, a fall of sperm caught in an ovary — your birth defining the limits of your aspirations and achievements.

For a generation that mistrusted socialism and hated anything manufactured by the government, we created colonies with high walls of entry-barrier where only the private sector was respected. We sought private schools to protect our children from government schools; we strove for private hospitals to save our parents from government hospitals, and private security to protect our families. Private television, private airlines, private telecom, private Internet, private mobile telephony, private banks, private insurance, and private social security post-retirement — we were creating utopias.

The middle classes paid taxes not for government services but to keep the State away; it was just a stay-away fee for politicians, protection money to politics to not enter our little worlds. They did something more. They divided and separated us in a way that we did not notice. Or choose to.

It is an unimpeachable truth of Indian cities today, clusters of living segregated by religion or caste, and every possible

narrow bias at work. Throw in a few exceptions, which prove nothing, save help maintain a charade. It was not just a housing issue, because the colony has always been imagined in the mould of a country. We used to build our colonies as we believed our country was. Now that the colony has been metamorphosed, who could prevent recasting the country in the image of a gated community?

Small towns are aspiring to be rapidly recast in the image of mega-cities, perhaps have the same formulae laid out. The divide will spread in the days ahead. There will be no protests. It is a glittering success story after all, a rising skyline, its underbelly invisible.

Across the country, they are protesting against the amended citizenship law. Those who never protested when we build colonies in which they had no place, none surprised the gated community had cancerously grown to gulp the nation. After all, they too countered our walls with their own bit wall, the voluntary ghetto.

The play worked like magic. Once the Muslim was obliterated from the colony, it was easier to suspect, demonise and hate. Much like a nation was divided and two nations forged out of it long ago, two colonies, silently partitioned, without violence, without protest; two colonies and never twin shall they meet, or interact.

The only interaction was formal, not as equals, a worker and a paymaster. When Khaseem comes over to work as a manager, as long as he never questions why none of his ilk can reside there. When they come in as Uber drivers and Zomato delivery boys, briefly, and even those can be filtered, sorry, don't want a Muslim driver, hey, don't send me a Muslim delivery boy.

Those who worked with pride in corporations providing equal opportunities, created an exact opposite kind of home place. Separate restrooms for drivers and maids. Separate lifts. A place for everyone based on their birth-station.

One property at a time, we demolished the Preamble. We fought against socialism, yet somewhere along the way, secularism died too. Colonies grew into cities. A city filled with racist communal gated communities that brook neither diversity nor dissent, an elite echo chamber, with organic food, Netflix, bicycle paths, Saturday night parties and Sunday morning social responsibility activism. One in whose image the Republic is being reshaped.

Whether nightmares of a dreadful Hindutva dystopia keep you awake at nights, or dreams of Akhand Bharat enable you a blissful sleep — your nightmares or dreams of our nation tomorrow — we are already in it today. A mini, gated, brave, new Republic!

BJP leaders' vitriol stems from shrinking footprint, insecurity

M.Q. Ali Shah
Abul-Ul'ai

By all accounts, the forthcoming Delhi elections will be a watershed in so many ways for the BJP. The very fact that party leaders have resorted to calling New Delhi's chief minister a "terrorist" proves the importance of these elections to the BJP. Shockingly, Union minister Prakash Javadekar, instead of condemning MP Parvesh Verma's allegation that Arvind Kejriwal is a "terrorist", repeated the slur during a press conference on Monday.

The BJP leaders are aware that they have little to show on the development front and the only chance they have of defeating the AAP, at this juncture, is the issue of anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh, polarisation and name-calling. This they are doing so at the risk of doing irreparable damage to the psyche of the young voters, creating a wedge between communities, and in a nutshell, pitting citizens against each other, the long-term impact be damned.

Though the party on its own had routed the UPA and its NDA allies had benefited from the 2019 Lok Sabha election results, the fact remains that the BJP had been losing ground, and state after state, since its heyday in 2017.

For the BJP, which won all seven Lok Sabha seats in New Delhi last year, winning the

Assembly polls is crucial, not just because it has been out of power in the city-state for over two decades now, but also because Shaheen Bagh has come to symbolise resistance against the march of the saffron brigade with the ongoing anti-CAA protests. By themselves, these two issues have made the Delhi election an issue of prestige by the BJP, but there are other issues too that will have a longer-lasting impact on the party. These factors are behind the decision of the BJP leadership to pull out all stops to win the polls.

The AAP, on its part, has dodged the BJP's attempts to get it to take a stand on Shaheen Bagh (except for one or two statements) because it doesn't want the focus to shift from its development plank. Also, the AAP is operating on the assumption that a lot of BJP voters had voted for the party as they were looking for an alternative and not because they subscribe to Hindutva ideology.

It is this set of voters that the AAP is focusing on and it does not want to alienate them by taking a stand on Shaheen Bagh. The AAP's refusal to be drawn into the anti-CAA issue has left the BJP with no option but to get increasingly vitriolic since it has little to show in the name of development.

It's a fact that the BJP won the 2014 elections on Hindutva plus hope — the hope that corruption and the corrupt will end, the hope that they will get good governance, the hope that Narendra Modi will provide decisive leadership. In 2019, it was Hindutva plus hope and also admiration for Mr Modi, who is seen as a very hardwork-

The BJP leaders are aware that they have little to show on the development front and the only chance they have of defeating the AAP, at this juncture, is the issue of anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh, polarisation and name-calling

ing man that has raised India's image across the world.

Mr Modi had tapped into the aspirations of the people who had believed that he would fulfil their dreams and also because they were disgusted with the entire Opposition, the corruption and the indecision of the UPA government.

Even now, all surveys say that most people prefer Mr Modi to lead the country and that the core of his followers remain with the Prime Minister. However, the BJP leadership realises that it is no longer Hindutva plus hope, now that the promise of development is gone or because people have experienced the lack of it. Even if Mr Modi manages to turn around the economy in the next four years, or by a miracle, the country grows phenomenally, say at a rate of 10 per cent, will the people give the BJP credit, or will the regional parties allow it to take credit?

The assumption that the development plank will make sense to voters, assuming that the BJP actually achieves development, no longer holds valid, even if the BJP uses its admirable propagan-

da machinery to convince people. If the campaigns over the last two years in the non-BJP ruled states like Telangana and AP are any indication, those appropriating the benefits of development works taken up by the Centre are the state governments.

For example, if you ask a common man in a non-BJP ruled state about any scheme, he is quite likely to give the credit to the state's chief minister.

One must remember that the BJP had won as many as 21 states by 2018, or in other words, the party now governs 35 per cent of the country's landmass in comparison to over 71 per cent in 2017. This is despite the BJP fulfilling its key ideological promises in its 2019 Lok Sabha manifesto — abrogation of Article 370, Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the Ram Mandir.

The party's shrinking footprint means that it is deprived of the benefit of the state government machinery to propagate its schemes.

The BJP leadership is aware that Mr Modi has failed to live up to his promise of "minimum government, maximum governance". The party knows, but is unwilling to accept in the public domain, that the economy is in doldrums, unemployment is at an all-time high and farm distress is increasing. The BJP realises that the kind of economic slowdown India is going through will take some time to recover. It perhaps realises that it is quite unlikely that the economy will rebound before the next general election. The BJP has to win every state election between now and 2024 if it hopes to rule the country for another term.

With the development plank out of the equation, the BJP has returned to its time-tested method of polarisation.

Past experience has shown the BJP that polarising voters yields electoral dividends. It has also shown the party that the average voter is liable to react to polarising statements and overlook issues like development.

While shockingly venomous slogans like "goli maaro saalo ko..." would not have been surprising if it had been made by someone like Giriraj Singh or Pragna Thakur, the fact that it was made by an educated person like Anurag Thakur is a clear sign of the BJP's desperation ahead of the Delhi election.

The slogan also proves that the Delhi election is important because it's a straight fight between Hindutva vitriol and development. This automatically raises the stakes, and because the stakes are so high, the BJP leaders are going berserk. So what if the vitriol irreparably damages the mindsets of the country's youth, as shown by youths opening fire on protesters after branding them "anti-nationals"?

It only proves that the BJP's attempts to shift the focus away from development are working. Also, the intense hate for a section of society means more and more citizens of India are BJP voters for life. Polarisation by vitriol has helped the BJP grow from two seats in the Lok Sabha to 303 at present. It is highly unlikely that the party will ever shy away from dividing people into "nationals" and "anti-nationals".

The writer is a journalist based in Hyderabad

It's time for the word 'Continental' to make a comeback



Ysenda Maxtone
Graham

Feasting on the remnants of my edible Christmas presents during the otherwise frugal month of January, I experienced a frisson when I opened the box of Thorntons "Continental" chocolates.

For anyone who grew up in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the word "Continental" carries with it a waft of balmy air from the Mediterranean, a sense of longed-for glamour, pleasure and breakfast on a balcony, unavailable on this rainy, cut-off island. I'm wondering whether, as we leave the EU and return to being a small country across the water from a many-countried, warmer landmass, the word "Continental", and the concept, will come back into use. Do other small countries across bodies of water from large continents have this concept? Do Madagascans speak of glamorous items from mainland Africa as "Continental"? Do Sri Lankans call Indian things "Continental", or perhaps "sub-Continental"?

Of all the Thorntons ranges, the "Continental" selection was always the most enticing. It has (and still has) silhouettes of Milan Cathedral, St Peter's and the Acropolis round the edge. "Inspired by travelling across Europe in search of rich and delicate taste experiences", Thorntons dreamed up the dark Italian Panforte, the cupcake-like Dutch Speculoos, and the Spanish Turron that comes in squishy white slices. The flavours, I admit, seem rather brash and over-sweet in this age of Roccoco and Prestat, but the air of glamour clings on.

Remember the Continental quilt? The Continental breakfast? The Continental tent? How we fantasised! The Continental quilt introduced a whole new way of life in bed: carefree abandon and downy flinging, after centuries of lying rigid under tucked-in sheets and itchy blankets. The Continental breakfast made you imagine you were on honeymoon in Antibes. As for the Continental tent, it had rooms. What a breakthrough from one-bedroom-only tents! Suddenly you could sit in the living-room of your tent and look out of the window while playing Monopoly. To know about these exotic, new-fangled items was a cultural signaller.

As Britain became increasingly integrated into the EU during the 1980s, the adjective "Continental" was superseded by the invented prefix "Euro". Some of us sighed, wishing that the deadly dull name of the new European currency could have been something more romantic, such as the Continental shilling.

A few hotels called the "Continental" managed to cling on, and still do to this day. Well done them. There's a Continental Hotel in Hounslow. I visited it last week, and was reminded, once again, of the slight sense of anticlimax when you've been building up to the idea of something being Continental. Nothing wrong with this 1970s-built hotel, and the Romanian bar waitress was utterly charming, but the overwhelming sense was of brown: brown carpets, brown armchairs, brown slatted wood walls, and brown padded leather behind the banquettes in the empty restaurant. There's a Hotel Continental (spot the exotic adjective-after-noun) in Whitstable, whose menu lettering is charmingly 1920s-Agatha Christie.

Realising that the word "Continental" was becoming slightly antiquated, the Continental Hotel in Plymouth changed its name to the New Continental Hotel, and the Bentley Continental (car) changed its name to the Bentley New Continental. Those were canny acts of reinvention, rather like New Labour.

It would be delightful if the prefix "Euro" could now be phased out entirely in Britain and the word "Continental", without "new" or "inter", could make a comeback. We've perhaps lost our innocence, though, about how glamorous it all is over there. We now know it's hypermarkets on the outskirts, strikes on public transport, chewy overpriced steak in town squares, and gridlock on the road from Nice to Cannes. If the word does come back into common usage, it will be proof that we've fallen in love with the Continent all over again, in our new semi-detached state.

By arrangement with the Spectator

Sufi Inayat's words of wisdom



Ghulam Rasool Dehli

The 93rd Urs celebration of Hazrat Sufi Inayat Khan, popularly known as the "Universalist Sufi" of India was held on February 5. The universal message of the Indian musician-turned-mystic — Hazrat Inayat Khan — is more relevant in the current state of affairs, because he taught music with mysticism to the West when it was faced with World War I. He offered the Western masses a spiritual panacea through the Hindustani vocal recital of the sitar and the "violin" to combat "violence". Therefore, his spiritual discourses and words of

wisdom as in "The Bowl of Saki" desperately need to be heeded, especially in India today, in order to rejuvenate the country's age-old syncretic, pluralistic and mystical tradition.

Hazrat Inayat grew up in an inter-religious atmosphere, and therefore, since his childhood, he lived in a deep conviction, at an experiential level, about the universality of the divine. Thus, through the rest of his life, he showed an inner path towards recognition of the unity of religious ideals, spiritual liberty, mutual respect for fellow human beings, cultiva-

tion of the art of personality, and appreciation of the sacred nature of music. This is the essence of all his

He had mastered music and poetry in his childhood and would play the vina at the courts of nawabs and princes, and the Nizam of Hyderabad.

"My taste for music, poetry and philosophy," he says, "increased daily, and I loved it more than a game with boys of my age." His murshid, Syed Abu Hashim Chishti, exhorted him: "Fare forth into the world, my child, and harmonise the East and West with the harmony of thy music."

Thus, Inayat set out on his mystical voyage to the West where he introduced Indian Sufism, sacred music, Hindustani vocal recital mysticism of sound and music; all

with an aim to strengthen the unity of religious ideals. In one of his discourses, *The Art of Being and Becoming*, Hazrat Inayat relates that "the first sign of realisation is tolerance towards others. There are the words of Jesus Christ: "In the house of my father are many mansions" and those of the Prophet: "Each soul has its own religion". This is what he means by "spiritual liberty".

Answering a question on what is the most desirable to seek or to dwell in this changing life, he says that everyone has desire according to his/her evolution. It implies that what we are ready for is desirable for us.

Ghulam Rasool Dehli is an alim (classical Islamic scholar) and a Delhi-based writer. He can be contacted at: grdehli@gmail.com





Coronavirus hit
LG Electronics is pulling out of the Mobile World Congress (MWC)



SHORT TAKES
HUAWEI
'MADE IN EUROPE' 5G, SAYS HUAWEI

Brussels, Feb. 5: Chinese telecom giant Huawei has said it would set up manufacturing hubs in Europe, as it tries to fight off US pressure on EU nations to stop it from operating. "Huawei is more committed to Europe than ever before," said the company's top executive for Europe Abraham Liu during a Chinese New Year reception in Brussels on Tuesday.

"That's why we have decided we want to set up manufacturing bases in Europe — so that we can truly have 5G for Europe made in Europe." The announcement comes just days after the EU recommended that member states could ban telecoms operators deemed a security risk from critical parts of 5G infrastructure. But the EU plan, which closely mirrored rules set out by Britain allowing a limited role for Huawei, stopped short of barring the company from the next-generation communications network designed for near-instantaneous data transfers.

Those guidelines were the fruit of months of agonising within the EU, which has struggled to find a middle way to balance Huawei's huge dominance in the 5G sector with security concerns pressed by Washington.

A ban on Huawei will now ultimately be up to member states, but the European Commission's middle road recommendations give cover to European capitals to resist pleas from Washington. — AFP



NISSAN LEAF MAKES COMPLEX DRIVERLESS TRIP

Cranfield (England), Feb. 5: A Nissan car has completed a 230-mile journey autonomously in Britain, the longest and most complex such trip in the country as carmakers race to develop driverless technologies which are revolutionising travel.

Britain has been wooing developers of autonomous vehicles, hoping to grab a slice of an industry it estimates could be worth around £900 billion (\$1.2 trillion) worldwide in 2035.

The Nissan LEAF vehicle undertook the 370 km journey from the Japanese carmaker's European technical center in Cranfield, southern England, to its Sunderland factory in the north east, alongside conventional road users.

It included roads with no or minimal markings, junctions, roundabouts and motorways, using advanced positioning technology helped by GPS, radar and light detection and ranging equipment, allowing vehicles to navigate roads and obstacles.

"The ... project allowed us to develop an autonomous vehicle that can tackle challenges encountered on UK roads that are unique to this part of the world, such as complex roundabouts and high-speed country lanes with no road markings, white lines or kerbs," said Nissan Technical Centre Project Manager Bob Bateman.

The project, known as HumanDrive and led by Nissan as part of a consortium, also received government funding.

Nissan has previously said Britain's flexible approach to testing autonomous vehicles helped it pick London for its first European tests in 2017 when a driverless vehicle traveled up to 50 miles per hour. — Reuters

Twitter to label deepfakes

Crackdown comes at a time when there are widespread global concerns

New Delhi, Feb. 5: Twitter on Wednesday said it will soon begin labelling tweets containing "manipulated media" which aim to mislead people, and would take steps including removal of tweets if such content has the potential to harm public safety or lead to voter suppression.

Other measures include flashing a warning to users before they share or like tweets that contain 'synthetic and manipulated media' and reducing visibility of the said tweet on its platform.

The crackdown over synthetic and manipulated media comes at a time when there are widespread concerns globally over altered, forged content on social media, including deepfake videos, and its catastrophic implications.

"If we believe that media shared in a tweet have been significantly and deceptively altered or fabricated, we will provide additional context on the tweet. This means we may apply a label to the tweet, show a warning to people before they retweet or like the tweet..."

the microblogging platform said in its latest blog post.

Other actions under the updated rules include reducing visibility of the tweet on Twitter and preventing it from being recommended, and providing extra explanations or clarifications, as available, such as a landing page with more context.

"In most cases, we will take all of the above actions on tweets we label. Our teams will start labelling Tweets with this type of media on March 5, 2020," Twitter said.

To determine whether the media has been significantly altered or fabricated, Twitter said it will consider whether the content has been substantially edited in a manner that fundamentally alters its composition and sequence.

It will also take stock of any visual or auditory information — such as new video frames, overdubbed audio, or modified subtitles — that has been added or removed.

Other consideration will be whether media depict-

■ **TWITTER SAID 9 out of 10 individuals said placing warning labels next to significantly altered content would be acceptable.**

■ **TWEETS THAT share manipulated media are subject to removal under this policy if they are likely to cause harm, Twitter said.**

It said definition of 'harm' could include threats to the physical safety of a person or group, risk of mass violence or widespread civil unrest, threats to the privacy or ability of a person or group to freely express themselves or participate in civic events, voter suppression or intimidation.

Deepfake technology can be misused to manipulate videos to show people saying things they never said. It gained eyeballs in 2018, when actor and director Jordan Peele created a video that was doctored to show as if former US President Barack Obama was making derogatory remarks about the current US President Donald Trump.

If deepfake content makes its way to unsuspecting users on social media, the ramifications could be damaging and dangerous, warn experts.

The latest announcement by the microblogging platform came three months after it sought public views on ways to effectively clampdown on manipulated or deceptively altered media.

In its statement on Wednesday, Twitter noted that it had previously announced plans to seek input from around the globe on how to address synthetic and manipulated media.

Twitter said it had received over 6,500 responses from people around the world, and consulted with civil society and academic experts on the draft rules. "Overall, people recognize the threat that misleading altered media poses and want Twitter to do something about it," it said.

Globally, over 70 per cent of people who use Twitter were of the view that "taking no action" on misleading altered media would be unacceptable.

Respondents, it said, were nearly unanimous in their support for Twitter providing additional information or context on tweets that have altered or misleading media.

Twitter said 9 out of 10 individuals said placing warning labels next to significantly altered content would be acceptable. — PTI

Disney+ shows to appear on Hotstar

New Delhi, Feb. 5: Disney has announced that its subscription-based streaming service Disney Plus, which launched in the US in November last year, will arrive in India on March 29 through its Hotstar app.

The announcement was made by Disney CEO Robert Iger during the company's quarterly earnings call on Tuesday. "We're excited to announce that we will be launching Disney Plus in India through our Hotstar service on March 29th at the beginning of the Indian Premier League cricket season," Iger said.

Though the Disney top boss didn't go into the specifics, he said the company will rebrand the Hotstar app to "Disney Plus Hotstar".

"We see this as a great opportunity to use the proven platform of Hotstar to launch the new Disney Plus service in one of the most populous countries and fastest growing economies in the world," he added.

Disney had acquired Hotstar streaming service in 2017 as part of its acquisition of Fox Studios, which also included the entire Star India group. As of now, most of the premium Disney content is available on Hotstar app.

But the decision to club Disney Plus with Hotstar will enable the Indian subscribers to finally watch some of the newer content from the studio's streaming service, most notably

"Star Wars" spin-off series "The Mandalorian" which is currently only available on Disney Plus.

Iger said the company is yet to finalise the pricing aspect of the rebranded



streaming service, but it will be offered in two categories. "One will be more premium in nature that will include the entire library, so with the original programming and the other one will be more basic that will have the library and not the original programming," he said.

The Disney CEO also revealed that the company hopes to capitalise on the IPL as Star India is the official broadcaster of the league. "Priced for the market and launched at a very peak period of time for the IPL, the cricket league."

"And so, we think it's an opportune moment, we take advantage of the presence of Star in the market and the millions of subscribers that they also have, we take advantage of the sports tie-in, and we use the interface and the technology that includes the billing that already exists to launch a service, we believe, under very, very optimal circumstances," Iger added.

With Hotstar and Disney Plus bundled together, the company hopes to take on the competition from existing players in the country's streaming market, particularly Netflix and Amazon, who have already established a wide variety of Indian content on their platforms. — PTI

USE PHILIPS HUE BULBS? UPGRADE YOUR FIRMWARE TO PROTECT AGAINST A NEWLY FOUND FLAW

■ **A newly found vulnerability could let a hacker inject malware into homes that use Philips Hue bulbs, reports CheckPoint Research.**

■ **Philips has rolled out a patch that eliminates this threat.**

■ **From anywhere beyond 100 meters, the threat actor would only need a laptop and a Zigbee antenna to spread malware in the network.**

■ **The malware takes advantage of the vulnerability in the Zigbee standard to spread from the bulb to their Hue Bridge when the user deletes the suddenly unresponsive bulb from the Hue app and attempts to re-pair with.**

■ **With Zigbee, two connected devices — even if they're from different manufacturers — speak a common language, so there is no barrier to communication. ZigBee devices make use of radio frequencies to communicate.**

■ **In 2017, a different team of researchers were able to take control of a Hue lightbulb on a given network, and propagate between lightbulbs. Due to design limitations, the vendor was only able to fix the propagation vulnerability, thus attackers could still take over a target's Hue lightbulb.**

■ **Using this remaining vulnerability, CheckPoint researchers decided to take this prior work one step further and used the Hue lightbulb as a platform to take over the bulbs' control bridge completely.**

■ **At the moment, there are more than 400 members registered to the ZigBee Alliance and over 2,500 devices.**

■ **Most of the big names in the industry are currently partner brands under the alliance. Well-known users of Zigbee are Amazon Echo Plus, Samsung SmartThings, Belkin WeMo, Hive Active Heating and accessories, Philips Hue, Yale smart locks, Honeywell thermostats, Bosch Security Systems, Ikea Tradfri, Samsung Comcast Xfinity Box.**

Researchers at Check Point suggest the following security tips in wake of their findings:

- **Make sure that all devices are fully patched**
- **Set devices to automatically download updates when they are released**
- **Be on the alert for any out of the ordinary behavior of IoT devices**
- **For offices, segregate the IoT devices to a different network/vlan**



Perfect design meets great sound!

Apple AirPods Pro
PRICE: ₹24,900
RATING: ★★★★★

AARON ALMEIDA | DC MUMBAI, FEB. 5

It's been a long time coming; but Apple has delivered where it matters the most — superior noise isolation alongside a great design. After being teased and appearing in a few leaks, Apple, in the latter half of 2019 launched the AirPods Pro that are aimed at audio enthusiasts that want nothing but the best in terms of design, performance and functionality.

The AirPods Pro come with massive improvements such as active noise cancellation, a better and snugger fit and last but not least, a new and enhanced design in comparison with the original, 2016 AirPods that should go some way in bringing more iPhone users into its true wireless ecosystem.

In India, the AirPods Pro retail for ₹24,900 which puts it on the upper-end of the pricing segment for true wireless earphones and this takes away some of its lustre. In a market like India's, very few true wireless earphones are priced above ₹20K, which makes Apple's option all the more desirable for tech enthusiasts or clout-seekers.

If you happen to own an iPhone and want to have nothing but the best in what Apple has to offer — snug fit, great audio quality and superior noise cancellation; then the AirPods Pro are an obvious choice for you.

Additionally, the new and improved design means that you get an all-encompassing fit that's unlikely to get easily undone; no matter your ear type. Also, with intuitive controls and easy access to a new 'Transparency' feature, you can allow ambient noises to get in with-

out plucking them out from your ears.

If you have used Apple's original AirPods in the past, then you may not witness a huge learning curve; however, the new touch sensitive controls need a bit of learning which you should master in a couple of days. However, we do recommend learning all the necessary controls as it will improve your overall experience significantly.

The AirPods Pro is designed to perfection and has the Apple ethos running through every single bit of it. This convenience which is off overlooked ranges from the time its first paired to your iPhone right to it doing a custom scan of your ears to ensure it offer the best possible fit. Apple fans will undoubtedly love each and every aspect of the AirPods Pro making it an ideal purchase for all iPhone owners; or some Android users that want to experience Apple's expertise in the wearable department.

The overall audio quality has improved pretty impressively over the previous version with there being noticeable enhancements in the bass and vocals department. This ensures that fans of popular genres such as Hip-Hop or EDM will greatly enjoy using these earphones. However, those who are fans of other genres won't feel out as these sound great as well.

While we don't get some major improvements on battery life like some of the competition; Apple does ensure that you get a 4.5-hour playback with active noise cancelling turned on.

The AirPods Pro are a great pair of true wireless earphones and it is definitely a recommended product if you don't have any cash restraints and want an Apple-designed product. With that being said, there are models like the Sony WF-1000X which offer better noise-cancellation and others like the HIFIMAN TWS600 that offer up to 38.5 hours charge in the charging case.

If you happen to own an iPhone and want to have nothing but the best in what Apple has to offer — snug fit, great audio quality and superior noise cancellation; then the AirPods Pro are an obvious choice for you.

We need to revise our approach to anonymised data



Rohan Seth

Data is a complex, dynamic issue. We often like to make large buckets where we want to classify it. The Personal Data Protection Bill does this by making five broad categories, personal data, personal sensitive data, critical personal data, non-personal data, and anonymised data. While it is nice to have these classifications that help us make sense of how data operates, it is important to remember that the real world does not operate this way.

For instance, think about surnames. If you had a list of Indian surnames in a dataset, they alone would not be enough to identify people. So, you would put that dataset under the ambit of personal data. But since it is India, and context matters, surnames would be able to tell you a lot more about a person such as their caste. As a result, surnames alone might not be able to identify people, but they can go on to identify whole communities. That makes surnames more sensitive than just personal data. So you could make a case for them

to be included in the personal sensitive category.

And that is the larger point here, data is dynamic, as a result of how it can be combined or used alone in varying contexts. As a result, it is not always easy to pin it down to broad buckets of categories.

This is something that is often not appreciated enough in policy making, especially in the case of anonymised or non-personal data. Before I go on, let me explain the difference between the two, as there is a tendency to use them interchangeably.

Anonymised data refers to a dataset where the immediate identifiers (such as names or phone numbers) are stripped off rest of the dataset. Non-personal data, on the other hand is a broader, negative term. So anything that is not personal data can tech-

nically come under this umbrella, think anything from traffic signal data to a company's growth projections for the next decade.

Not only is there a tendency to use the terms interchangeably, but there is also a false underlying belief that data, once anonymised cannot be deanonymised. The reason the assumption is false is because data is essentially like puzzle pieces. Even if it is anonymized, having enough of anonymized data can lead to deanonymization and identification of individuals or even whole communities. For instance, if a malicious hacker has access to a history of your location through Google Maps, and can combine that with a history of your payments information from your bank account (or Google Pay), s/he does not need

your name to identify you. In the Indian policy making context, there does not seem to be a realization that anonymisation can be reversed once you have enough data. The recently introduced Personal Data Protection Bill seems to be subject to this assumption.

Through Section 91, it allows "the central government to direct any data fiduciary or data processor to provide any personal data anonymised or other non-personal data to enable better targeting of delivery of services or formulation of evidence-based policies by the Central government".

There are two major concerns here. Firstly, Section 91 gives the Government power to gather and process non-personal data. In addition, multiple other sections ensure that this power is largely

unchecked. For instance, Section 35 provides the Government the power to exempt itself from the constraints of the bill. Also, Section 42 ensures that instead of being independent, the Data Protection Authority is constituted by members selected by the Government. Having this unchecked power when it comes to collecting and processing data is problematic especially it has the potential to give the Government the ability to use this data to identify minorities.

Secondly, it just does not make sense to address non-personal data under a personal data protection bill. Even before this version of the bill came out, there had been multiple calls to appoint a separate committee to come up with recommendations in this space. It would have then been ideal

to have a different bill that looks at non-personal data. Because the subject is so vast, it does not make sense for it to be governed by a few lines in Section 91 for the foreseeable future.

So the bottom line is that anonymised data and non-personal data can be used to identify people. The government having unchecked powers to collect and process these kinds of data has the potential to lead to severely negative consequences. It would be better instead, to rethink the approach to non-personal and anonymised data and have a separate committee and regulation for this.

(The writer is a technology policy analyst at the Takshashila Institution. All views are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's)

Cabinet okays new port in Maha
The government on Wednesday approved setting up a new major port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra at a cost of ₹65,544.54 crore. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting. "Cabinet gives in-principle approval for setting up a new Major Port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra," an official statement said.

6% of adults aged till 24 are credit active
Only six per cent of adults aged till 24 are credit active in India and have a higher proclivity for consumption loans like two-wheelers and credit cards, a report said on Wednesday. However, contrary to assumptions that this set of consumers are subprime from a risk perspective, the study by credit information company Transunion Cibil said a bulk of the "Gen Z" have better risk profiles. The report comes at a time when lenders are increasingly targeting to expand their retail books, and also amid unemployment rising to a four-decade high as per the official data.

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Sensex | 41,142.66 | 0.87 |
| Nifty 50 | 11,979.65 | 2.32 |
| S&P 500 | 3,328.06 | 0.92 |
| Dollar (₹) | 71.25 | 0.00 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 92.56 | 0.05 |
| Euro (₹) | 78.34 | 0.15 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 41,270 | -388 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 55.00 | 1.48 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield* | 6.51 | -0.076 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 1.54 | 0.03 |

* As of Tuesday

PSU general insurers' merger by March-end

The government aims to complete merger of three state-owned general insurance companies—National Insurance, United India Insurance, and Oriental Insurance—by the end of March, finance secretary Rajiv Kumar said. Respective boards of the three companies have already given their in-principle approvals for the merger.

Puri: No plans to absorb AI staff after divestment

There is no proposal under consideration to absorb Air India employees in any other government department after the airline's divestment, Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday. The Central government on January 27 issued a preliminary information memorandum, initiating the process to divest its entire stake in the national air carrier.

XLRI successfully places its entire batch of students

Xavier School of Management has successfully achieved 100 per cent placements for the outgoing batch of 2018-20 of its flagship programs: Two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Management - Human Resource Management and Two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Management - Business Management with all 359 candidates securing offers within two days.

Airtel won't bid for 5G spectrum at govt rates

Bharti Airtel on Wednesday said it will not buy 5G spectrum in the upcoming auction if its base price is fixed at ₹492 crore per megahertz as recommended by Trai. The company has stressed balance sheet reeling under debt of ₹1.14 lakh crore with liability to clear statutory dues of around ₹5,500 crore, following a Supreme Court order in October 2019.

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Domestic IT firms paint a bleak picture

ASHWIN J. PUNNEN
MUMBAI, FEB. 5

The management commentaries of top domestic IT companies paint a bleak picture as discretionary spending in key vertical like BFSI and retail remain subdued over next year. According to analysts, IT spends by companies in sectors like BFSI and retail are likely to remain low due to the waning impact of US tax reforms and the policy uncertainty in the US in light of the impending elections.

However, domestic IT firms are expecting that margins remain stable and on a constant currency basis, pricing, large deal transitions and cost of onsite delivery will be the key margin movers, going forward. On the demand front the market leader, TCS, is confident about medium- to long-term demand with cautious outlook in BFSI. The Bengaluru-based Infosys, the second largest IT firm in the country, is expecting large deal wins reflecting robust demand. Infosys continued with

■ **CITI BANK, Wells Fargo, Freddie Mac, DB, CS and UBS are key accounts to watch out for given the special situations like consolidation, insourcing, reassessments.**

strong hiring as it added 6,938 employees during Q3FY20 taking total head count at 2,43,454, while attrition rate came down to 17.6 per cent from 19.4 per cent in the quarter. For HCL, deal pipeline was at an all-time high and the management is confident of higher conversion.

Wipro is seeing its digital investments are yielding results. However, BFSI deal win rate has been slow of late—delayed due to macro uncertainty and resultant delays in customer decision making. "While key verticals should remain tepid, we expect as retreat in some horizontal trends (e.g.

IMS) where public cloud repatriation should drive growth. In that context, we prefer Infosys and HCLT among large caps, and LTI among mid-caps. This is attributable to decent visibility in growth, headroom for profitability improvement and reasonable valuations," said Motilal Oswal Securities in a report. Commentary of major banks like Citi, JP Morgan, BoA and Wells Fargo on technology spending remained stable, indicating flatish IT spends in CY20. Data governance, KYC,

infrastructure, automation, mobile and platform solutions will likely be the key areas of IT spends by US banks in CY20. In fact European banks (e.g. UBS) continue to go through cost pressures. Focus on insourcing of technology workforce was reiterated. Citi bank, Wells Fargo, Freddie Mac, DB, CS and UBS are key accounts to watch out for given the special situations like consolidation, insourcing, reassessments. "Tier-1 techs continued to see a moderation in revenue growth in

Dec'19 quarter... EBIT margins were broadly in line across Tier-I companies. Order intake was weak, although companies remain confident about a pick-up in bookings in Mar'20 quarter, aided by pipeline. Companies continue to indicate increased targets of fresher hiring for FY21, providing further evidence around our sector thesis," said Emkay Global in a report. "We continue to expect a further moderation in growth for the IT Services sector as a whole," it further said.

Carmakers hope launches at Auto Expo will enthuse buyers

Despite coronavirus scare, green vehicles steal proceedings at Auto Expo

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, FEB. 5

Despite a deadly cloud of coronavirus and prolonged slowing economy looming over Auto Expo 2020 at Greater Noida, automakers on the first day launched new cars priced from ₹8.25 lakh to a whopping ₹2.42 crore and unveiled several new upcoming models to woo buyers.

The Mercedes-Benz AMG GT 63 S 4-Door Coupé, launched on Wednesday starts at ₹2.42 crore at pan India showroom, is the fastest series-production sedan around the iconic Nürburgring racetrack. This four-wheel drive Coupé comes fitted with a 4.0-litre, twin-turbo V8 petrol engine, which is good for 639hp and 900Nm of torque. It springs to a claimed 0-100kph within 3.2 seconds.

South Korean car maker Kia Motors introduced its second offering for the Indian market, the Carnival MPV, at ₹24.95 lakh for the based model and ₹33.95 lakh for the top-end. Available with a sole diesel-automatic powertrain, the MPV can be had in three seating configurations and three trims—the entry-level Premium variant is available as a 7- and 8-seater, the mid-spec Prestige can be had in a 7- or 9-seat arrangement and the range-topping Limousine variant gets a 7-seat layout with plush 'VIP' second-row seats.

The Carnival has bagged 3,500 orders, of which 70 per cent are for the top-spec Carnival Limousine. Should the MPV sustain the initial momentum, Kia's second model for India could be its second hit in a row after Kia Seltos midsize compact SUV. Kia also unveiled its Sonet compact SUV to be launched in India this year.

Skoda India, struggling to sell its cars, launched the Octavia RS 245 at ₹35.99 lakh. It comes as a Completely Built Unit and its production will be limited to just 200 units for the Indian market. While bookings will open on March 1, deliveries will take place in April. Tata Motors launched the BS-6 Harrier starting at ₹13.69 lakh. The BS-6 Harrier automatic line-up starts at ₹16.25 lakh for the XMA variant, with the XZA costing ₹18.80 lakh, and the top-spec XZA+ is priced at ₹19.99 lakh. It also unveiled the Gravitas SUV.

Mahindra launched its all-electric eKUV100 priced at ₹8.25 lakh (ex-Delhi showroom including FAME II scheme benefits) makes it the most affordable electric car on sale in



Maruti Suzuki India's MD and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa unveils the Concept Futuro-E in the SUV segment

A model poses next to a Hyundai Le Fil Rouge (HDC-1) concept car displayed at the Auto Expo 2020 in Greater Noida

The newly-launched Mercedes-Benz AMG GT 63 S 4 door coupé, the Mahindra Funster EV Concept car and the Volkswagen Tiguan Allspace were on display at the Auto Expo

Maruti questions duty hike on imported EVs

Greater Noida, Feb. 5: Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday questioned the rationale behind the government's move to hike customs duty on imported electric vehicles, saying it isn't easy to localise in a short period. The company, which earlier planned to launch an electric vehicle (EV) based on WagonR this year, is reviewing the decision as it is finding it difficult to

bring EV to the market at an affordable price. "I don't understand, why. Why they are increasing the tax?" Maruti Suzuki India MD and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa told PTI when asked about the hike in customs duty on imported EVs, as announced in the Budget. He further said, "We have to localise but the point is that it is not easy to localise in short-term basis."

India at the moment. The eKUV100 uses a 40kW electric motor which sends power to the front wheels. The liquid-cooled battery provides the EV with a claimed 150km range on a single charge, and it can be charged in just 5-hour and 45 minutes on a regular charger, or 55 minutes on a fast charger. Many automakers also unveiled their new car models at the motor show

to excite the car market. These are the second-generation Mercedes-Benz GLA SUV, Maruti Suzuki Futuro-E, Hyundai Tucson SUV facelift, sportier Hyundai Grand i10 Nios, concept car Le Fil Rouge (HDC-1), the Hyundai Nexa fuel cell EV (FCEVs), Skoda Superb facelift, Skoda Kodiah BS6, VW Tiguan AllSpace SUV, VW T-Roc SUV, MG Motor's Marvel X SUV, electric

autonomous driving car and MG Motor's 360M MPV, Tata Sierra EV concept, the Hexa Safari Edition, the HBX micro-SUV concept, the Gravitas SUV, and the BS6-compliant Harrier, Force Motors' new off-roader Gurkha. New Chinese entrants such as Great Wall Motor's Haval sub-brand, the H9 SUV, Haima Automobile's Haima E1 EV were also on display.

RENAULT SET TO LAUNCH ELECTRIC VEHICLE IN 2 YRS

Greater Noida, Feb. 5: French car maker Renault unveiled the AMT (automated manual transmission) version of its sub-compact multi-purpose vehicle Triber at the Auto Expo here on Wednesday and said it plans to double sales in India in mid-term. The company is also working towards entering the fast growing electric vehicle (EV) space in the country and is likely to launch its first EV in the next two years, Renault India MD and CEO Venkatram Mamillapalle said.

The AMT version, which is set to be launched in the second quarter of the year, was unveiled by Fabrice Cambolive, senior vice president and chairman of Africa-Middle-East-India-Pacific Region for Renault Group along with Mamillapalle. —PTI

Funds for tourism infra not released

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

The government has not sanctioned or released any fund for the development of tourism related infrastructure under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD scheme in 2019-20. Since 2016-17, the funds have been shrinking and have come to a nought by 2019-20.

Swadesh Darshan and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) are two schemes under which the ministry of tourism provides financial assistance to the states and Union Territories for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country.

According to the ministry data, the funding towards these schemes has been shrinking year after year since 2016-17. In 2016-17, the ministry had sanctioned ₹3,001.93 crore under the Swadesh Darshan scheme for various projects. Of this, the government released ₹2,031 crore.

In 2017-18, the sanctioned amount significantly shrunk to ₹809.41 crore and of this ₹438.53 crore was released. In 2018-19, a total of ₹645.33 crore was sanctioned, but a meagre ₹5.38 crore was released for one project intended to develop way-side amenities.

For the financial year 2019-20, the ministry has neither sanctioned nor released funds for any project until January 27, 2020. As per the Budget, the government had outlaid ₹1,106 crore for Swadesh Darshan scheme in 2019-20 and has allocated ₹1,200 crore for 2020-21.

Similarly, for the PRASHAD scheme, the ministry has not sanctioned any project or released funds for the financial year 2019-20. In 2016-17, it had released ₹252.89 crore against an aggregate cost of ₹378.67 crore for the sanctioned projects. In 2017-18, out of the total project cost of ₹181.25 crore, the government had released ₹98.38 crore. In FY19, the ministry released ₹65.41 crore against aggregate project cost of ₹188.3 crore.

FLIPKART PULLS THE PLUG ON JABONG

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Flipkart has closed down Jabong, which had become part of the group in 2016. Customers who accessed Jabong's site were redirected to Myntra, another fashion portal operated by Flipkart.

According to sources, this move will help Flipkart consolidate the online fashion market, 70 per cent of which is controlled by the retailer along with its group companies Myntra and Jabong. It would also help the firm become more cost efficient. Flipkart also will be able to focus on Myntra more. Flipkart refused to comment on the development. Flipkart has been going a little less aggressive with Jabong since its acquisition in 2016.

COOPERATIVE BANKS COME UNDER RBI

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

In a move to prevent mal-practices and ensure better regulation in cooperative banks, the Centre, on Wednesday, approved amendment to the Banking Regulation Act. The move comes after the near collapse of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank last year. Briefing the media about the Cabinet decisions, Prakash Javadekar said, "The proposed law seeks to enforce banking regulation guidelines of the RBI in cooperative banks, while administrative issues will still be guided by Registrar of Cooperative."

"After the amendment, such banks will also be audited as per RBI norms under RBI's regulation."

Unemployment rate at 6.1%: Govt

New Delhi, Feb. 5: Unemployment rate in the country as per a new survey was 6.1 per cent in 2017-18, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Labour Santosh Gangwar said the government is conducting a new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys in this regard. "As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey being conducted by the

government, the labour force participation is 36.9 per cent and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1 per cent," he said.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the minister said the report of this survey is very different than the surveys conducted in previous years. This survey is not comparable to previous surveys, he said, adding it was an attempt to provide authentic data with the new survey conducted through the Ministry of Statistics. —PTI



Sacked again

Brescia have sacked coach Eugenio Corini for the second time this season, the Italian league strugglers confirmed

Games

KARAN GRABS LEAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 5

Karandeep Kochhar of Chandigarh, who capped his career-best season last year with a fourth-place finish on the PGTI Order of Merit, showed signs of carrying forward his hot form into the current season as he struck a masterly eight-under-63 to seize the first round lead at the season-opening Golconda Masters at the Hyderabad Golf Club on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old, who became the youngest-ever winner on the PGTI back in 2016 at 17 years and five months while still an amateur, enjoyed a one-stroke advantage over Patna's Aman Raj and the Bengaluru duo of Trishul Chinnappa and Khalin Joshi, all three of whom posted 64s.

Five players were bunched together in tied fifth with rounds of 65. This included Sri Lankan Mithun Perera, Mhow's Om Prakash Chouhan, Ludhiana's Pukhraj Singh Gill, Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat and Kolkata's Shankar Das.

Rashid Khan, the leading Indian in the world ranking at 177 and also the 2019 PGTI Order of Merit champion, carded a 66 to be placed tied 10th.

Pune's Udayan Mane, the 2018 champion and winner of PGTI's last event in December 2019, returned a 68 to be tied 18th.

Venkat Gautham was the best-placed among the Hyderabad-based professionals. He was in tied 27th courtesy his two-under-69.

Former Indian hockey captain Dilip Tirkey, playing as a professional for the first time, produced a 10-over-81 to be placed 125th. It was a low-scoring day with as many as 51 players shooting under-par rounds.

Karandeep began the tournament with birdies



Karandeep Kochhar lines up a shot during Day One of the Golconda Masters at Hyderabad Golf Club on Wednesday.

on the first two holes thanks to a tap-in and a 20-foot conversion. Karandeep, who missed just one green all day, added three more birdies on the sixth, seventh and eighth to quickly climb up the leaderboard. A few missed birdie opportunities early on the back-nine didn't dampen his spirit as he continued his upward graph with

another hat-trick of birdies from the 15th through the 17th. He drove the par-4 15th green and chipped it to within a foot on the 17th. A great bunker shot on the 18th set the youngster up for his fourth straight birdie but his 15-foot putt lipped out. Aman Raj, the joint runner-up at last year's edition, once again displayed he has what it takes to

negotiate the tough conditions at the HGA. The Asian Tour regular, who had shot three rounds of 64 at the 2019 edition, came up with another 64 to make an impact early on in the tournament.

Aman began his day on the back-nine and accumulated birdies on the 12th, 15th and 16th. He narrowly missed a chip-in for eagle on the 15th.

Navneet strikes twice, India win

Auckland, Feb. 5: Striker Navneet Kaur scored a brace to guide the Indian women's hockey team to a convincing 3-0 win over New Zealand in the last game of its five-match tour here on Wednesday.

Navneet found the net in the 45th and 58th minutes, while Sharmila scored a field goal in the 54th minute as India drew curtains on a bright note. After a goalless opening two quarters, Navneet finally broke the deadlock for India in the 45th minute. Sharmila then doubled the lead when she struck a powerful shot past the New Zealand goalkeeper in the 54th minute.

Navneet found the net again just two minutes from the final hooter with a beautiful field strike. India began the tour by thrashing New



Members of the Indian women's hockey team pose after beating New Zealand 3-0.

Zealand Development squad 4-0 before suffering close 1-2 and 0-1 defeats to the home senior team. In penultimate game of the tour, skipper Rani's lone strike handed India a 1-0 win over Great Britain. "...I am happy we produced

three goals against New Zealand in the last match. This tour gave us a good insight about where we need to improve and one of the things is to create faster play than we do now," said India's chief coach Sjoerd Marijne.

Commenting on his side's performance during the tour, Marijne said, "Sometimes we tend to keep the ball too long on the stick and then we create pressure. We need to avoid that by passing faster."

—PTI

Bucks bully Pelicans

Los Angeles, Feb. 5: Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokoumpo scored 34 points and grabbed 17 rebounds to lead the league-leading Milwaukee Bucks over the New Orleans Pelicans 120-108 on Tuesday.

Antetokoumpo hit 12-of-17 from the floor and 9-of-13 free throws while adding six assists, a steal and a blocked shot as the Bucks improved their NBA-best record to 43-7 thanks to a 42-24 scoring edge in the third quarter.

"I had a good game but I could get better," Antetokoumpo said. "Closing down the third quarter, we didn't do a good job. We got sloppy," he added.

The Greek star still feels the sting of losing to Toronto in last year's Eastern Conference final and failing to lift the Bucks into their first NBA Finals since 1974, three years after Milwaukee won its only title. "That's why chasing the NBA one-season best record of 73-9 by Golden State is not the Bucks' major goal."

Brandon Ingram led the host Pelicans with 32 points, while 19-year-old rookie star Zion Williamson had 20 points despite 5-of-19 shooting from the floor with seven



Khrist Middleton (left) of Milwaukee Bucks goes to the basket against Josh Hart (second from right) of New Orleans Pelicans in their NBA game in New Orleans on Tuesday. The Bucks won 120-108.

rebounds and five assists. In Los Angeles, the Lakers got 36 points, nine assists and seven rebounds from LeBron James and 18 points from Anthony Davis and Kyle Kuzma as the hosts rolled over the San Antonio Spurs 129-102.

The Lakers improved the best record in the Western Conference to 38-11, 3 1/2 games ahead of the second-place Los Angeles Clippers. James sank five 3-pointers in the first 3 1/2 minutes of the fourth quarter

to stretch the Lakers' lead from 87-77 to 108-87 and seal San Antonio's fate.

"LeBron came out and hit five straight threes in 3 1/2 minutes, he got the lead for us and closed out the game early," Davis said.

NBA scoring leader James Harden, chasing a third consecutive NBA scoring crown, poured in 40 points, passed off 12 assists and grabbed nine rebounds to power the Houston Rockets over visiting Charlotte 125-110.

PARIS GIANTS WIN 2-1 TO GO ON TOP IN FRANCE

Paris, Feb. 5: Paris Saint-Germain further strengthened their dominance of Ligue 1 with a 2-1 win at Nantes that moved the champions 15 points clear of the domestic rivals.

Goals in either half from Mauro Icardi and Thilo Kehrer were just about enough for Thomas Tuchel's side to stretch their lead over second-placed Marseille ahead of their trip to Saint-Etienne on Wednesday.

PSG extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to 20 matches despite a Presnel Kimpembe howler allowing Moses Simon to race through and pull one back in the 68th minute, setting up a nervy finish. PSG were dominant for long periods despite the absence of Neymar with a rib complaint.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES NO E-02/2020

Office of the Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Chennai Division has published tenders for procurement of 1. BRIDGING TERMINAL SERVER (Tender No.90205179 Due Date 02-03-2020)

2. 2MBPS CONVERTERS (Tender No. 90205180 Due Date 02-03-2020)

Tenders are advised to log on to the IREPS website for further details and submission of their offer.

AMM/MAS for Sr.DMM/MAS

RATANBALA GUIDES KRYPHSA TO CRUCIAL WIN

Bengaluru, Feb. 5: KRYPHSA FC, having already qualified for the Indian Women's League (IWL) semifinals, maintained their winning run and wrapped up a perfect record in Group 'A' by seeing off FC Kolhapur City by a goal to nil (1-0) at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

Ratanbala Devi scored what turned out to be the winner in the 19th minute. The winners dominated possession and had the better of the initial exchanges. They went ahead when a cross-field was exquisitely controlled by Ratanbala.

—Agencies

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Directorate of Construction, Services & Estate Management
Centralized Quantity Division

PRE-QUALIFICATION CUM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT NO.DCSEM/CQD/QSA/LIGO-India/SOB/NIT/321/02-2020 dated 05.02.2020

Chief Engineer (C1), DCSEM, DAE, V.S.Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-94, on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender (in two bid) through e-tendering mode, from reputed, qualified, experienced, technically and financially sound engineering construction agencies for the work "Construction of Site office building including Civil, Public Health, Electrical, HVAC, Firefighting works for LIGO-India at Aundha Village Hingoli Dt., Maharashtra." Estimated cost Rs.430.00 lakh, EMD Rs. 8.60 Lakh, completion period 06 months. Cost of tender processing fee Rs.5900.00 in the form of e-payment. Detailed tender notice along with other documents are available on website ; www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. Tender documents are available for view / download from 06.02.2020 (11:00 hrs.) to 20.02.2020 (17:00 hrs.). Uploading of Pre-bid Queries from 06.02.2020 (11:30 hrs.) to 21.02.2020 (17:00 hrs.). Closing of online submission of tenders upto 17:00 hrs on 06.03.2020. Receipt of hard copies towards EMD etc. upto 15:00 hrs. on 09.03.2020. Opening of online tender (Technical bids) on 11.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Financial bids of qualified bidders shall be opened at a later date to be notified separately. Detailed NIT is also available on website www.dcsem.gov.in for view only. For further clarification, please contact on 022-25487324, 25487314, Fax : 022 - 25565362.

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

e-TENDER NOTICE

Regional Director (P&S), HRPUS, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online tenders as given below:

- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11034**
(b) Description : **Supply of Hydraulic Power Pack (without Control System) for Fully Automatic 150 Ton Bi-Directional Compacting CNC Hydraulic Press as per specifications - Qty 6 Nos.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 14/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 13/03/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD : ₹ 10,00,000/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/MTL/7737**
(b) Description : **(i) Liner Blank for 225 mm dia container of 3780 T Horizontal Extrusion Press - Qty 6 Nos., (ii) VPP Liner 220mm dia container - Qty 2 Nos.** details as per tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 13/03/2020 upto 2:00 PM (d) Tender Fee : NIL (e) EMD : ₹ 1,79,360/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/PPF/1928**
(b) Description : **Manufacturing & Supply of Seamless Conditioned Hollows / Blanks of UNSN08800 Grade of size 62.5 mm OD X 8.4 mm WT as per specifications - Qty 300 MT.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 26/02/2020 @ 11:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 26/03/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee : NIL (f) EMD : ₹ 20,00,000/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11086**
(b) Description : **Design, Manufacturing, Testing, Supply, Erection & Commissioning, Performance Demonstration of Four Head Belt Grinding Machine for 20-65 mm Diameter Tube Blank - Qty 1 No.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 20/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 20/03/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD : ₹ 10,00,000/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11084**
(b) Description : **Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of Electrically Heated Rotary Reduction Furnace and Water Cooled Rotary Stabilization Unit as per specifications details as per tender specifications** (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 19/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 19/03/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee : NIL (f) EMD : ₹ 10,00,000/-

Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details. [DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/35]

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES NO-E-27/2020

The following e-Tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to Login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in> -> E-Tender-goods & services (new) and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing time for all tenders 14.30 hours.

| Sl. No. | Tender No. | Description | Due Date |
|---------|------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | 44195048 | Body side arrangements for BOXN LW Wagon | 10-FEB-2020 |
| 2 | 43190633 | GLASS FIBRE BAG FILTER | 10-FEB-2020 |
| 3 | 04190701A | Mirror Assembly | 10-FEB-2020 |
| 4 | 11190384A | V-GROOVE AXLE PULLEY | 11-FEB-2020 |
| 5 | 44201051 | POLY RING FOR CONSTANT CONTACT SIDE BEAR PAD | 11-FEB-2020 |
| 6 | 01190305 | ANGULAR CONTACT SINGLE ROW BALL BEARING | 12-FEB-2020 |
| 7 | 09190224A | LP Sheet | 12-FEB-2020 |
| 8 | 44200069 | FACE PLATE FOR BUFFER PLUNGER | 13-FEB-2020 |
| 9 | 111906289 | 110V 200Ah LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID BATTERY | 17-FEB-2020 |
| 10 | 11200580 | ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT COMPLETE | 17-FEB-2020 |
| 11 | 26191162A | NOMINAL SIZE CAST IRON BRAKE SHOE (BRAKE BLOCK) | 17-FEB-2020 |
| 12 | 29193284 | MOTOR ASSEMBLY, STARTER | 17-FEB-2020 |
| 13 | 29193443 | LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID BATTERIES | 17-FEB-2020 |
| 14 | 44200250 | COUPLER BODY WITH SHANK WEAR PLATE | 17-FEB-2020 |
| 15 | 04200038 | GUIDE BUSH | 18-FEB-2020 |
| 16 | 04200063 | BODY PILLAR PART (BG) LH AND RH | 18-FEB-2020 |
| 17 | 43200496 | COIL SPRING OUTER FOR MOTOR TRUCK | 18-FEB-2020 |
| 18 | 04200005 | LOWER SPRING SEAT | 19-FEB-2020 |
| 19 | 04200065 | COLLAR FINISH MACHINED | 19-FEB-2020 |
| 20 | 12190341 | CARBON BRUSH FOR BGAC EMU TRACTION MOTOR | 20-FEB-2020 |
| 21 | 16195021 | SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC COMPUTERIZED SINGLE WAGON TEST RIG. (AS PER DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF MSP ENCLOSED). | 20-FEB-2020 |
| 22 | 44205002 | SET OF AIR BRAKE CONTROL EQUIPMENTS FOR BLCs WAGONS | 20-FEB-2020 |
| 23 | 10200140 | PRE-LAMINATED SINGLE SHADED COMPREG SIZE 3MM X 1220MM X 2440MM | 21-FEB-2020 |
| 24 | 09190221 | PVC Flooring | 21-FEB-2020 |
| 25 | 10190101A | GREASE NO. O GRAPHITED | 21-FEB-2020 |
| 26 | 12190378B | SOLID CORE PORCELAIN BRACKET INSULATOR | 24-FEB-2020 |
| 27 | 44200613 | K-type composition brake block | 25-FEB-2020 |
| 28 | 11190580B | ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT | 25-FEB-2020 |
| 29 | 44200299 | SHACK BEARING WITH SIGN PLATE | 26-FEB-2020 |
| 30 | 44205003 | SLACK ADJUSTER COMPLETE TYPE | 26-FEB-2020 |
| 31 | 05200049 | MAIN LED SIGNAL RED, YELLOW AND GREEN ASPECTS | 27-FEB-2020 |
| 32 | 16195027 | Multipurpose Fire tender Vehicle Detailed Specifications and special conditions of M&P with CAMC enclosed. | 28-FEB-2020 |
| 33 | 16195028 | DIESEL OPERATED SELF PROPELLED ARTICULATING BOOM LIFT CAPACITY 230KGS | 28-FEB-2020 |
| 34 | 04200104 | HANGER FOR BOGIE BOLSTER SUSPENSION | 02-MAR-2020 |
| 35 | 21190762 | NON-ASBESTOS BASED K TYPE | 02-MAR-2020 |
| 36 | 04200007 | THERMOPLASTIC POLYESTER ELASTOMER (HYTREL) LOWER WASHER | 04-MAR-2020 |
| 37 | 04200103 | HANGER BLOCK FOR BOLSTER SUSPENSION | 04-MAR-2020 |

Attention: Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs). The benefits provided to MSEs under Public Procurement Policy for goods and services are as per details provided in the link <http://www.ireps.gov.in> -> ireps public documents -> southern railways.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

CITY UNION BANK LTD.
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices at Door No.23, 75/25/1, Ground Floor, R.K. Nagar, Anand Bagh Cross Road, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad - 500 047 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)& (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 17-10-2019 followed by paper publication dated 23-11-2019 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Sardar Enterprises, Shop No.1, Gurudwara, Hyderabad - 500 016. No.2) Mr. S. Bhanu Singh, S/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh, H.No.11-4-702, Redhills, Nampally, Hyderabad - 500 004. Also at:- Mr. S. Bhanu Singh, S/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh, H.No.8-3-228/11/23 (Southern Portion), Rahmath Nagar, Yousufguda behind Gurudwar, Hyderabad - 500 045. No.3) Mrs. Amarjeet Kaur, W/o. Mr. S. Bhanu Singh, H.No.11-4-702, Redhills, Nampally, Hyderabad - 500 004. No.4) Mrs. Surjeet Kaur, W/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh, 15-3-137, Gouliguda, Chaman, Hyderabad - 500 012 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.10,67,765/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Five Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 15-10-2019 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 1st day of February 2020.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Property and any dealings with the Property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.10,32,354/- (Rupees Ten lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Four Only) (after taking into account the subsequent repayments into the loan/cash credit facility) and interest thereon from 15-10-2019 till the repayment of entire dues.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mrs. Surjeet Kaur, W/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh)

An extent of 100 Sq.Yds. or 83.60 Sq.Mts., of Site/Land and superstructure already existing (R.C.C. in Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor with built-up area of 2,492 Sq.ft.) and superstructure to be putty thereon in future situated at Municipal D.P. No.8-3-228/11/23 (Southern Portion), situated at Rahmath Nagar, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, A.P. Bounded by:- North - Portion of H.No.8-3-228/11/23, South - Road 18 feet, East - H.No.8-3-228/11/2, West - H.No.8-3-228/11/24.

Place: Hyderabad, Date: 01-02-2020 Authorised Officer

CITY UNION BANK LTD.
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices at Shop No.4 & 5, Meridian Plaza, Green Land, Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500 016 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)& (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 11-10-2019 followed by paper publication dated 29-11-2019 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Sai Sravan Health Care Private Limited, 2-1-8/1, Nagole Cross Road, Nagole, Hyderabad - 500 068. Also at:- M/s. Sai Sravan Health Care Private Limited, Supraja Hospitals, 2-1-8/1, Nagole Cross Road, Nagole, Hyderabad - 500 068. No.2) Mr. Ch. Srinivas, S/o. Mr. Ch. Guravalli, B5-105, Indira Aranya Pallavi, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Hyderabad - 500 068. No.3) Mr. K. Jagadish Reddy, S/o. Mr. Ranga Reddy, H.No.4-1-12/1/25/4A, VST Colony, Nacharam, R.R. District, Hyderabad - 500 076. Also at:- Mr. K. Jagadish Reddy, S/o. Mr. Ranga Reddy, C-3-4-133, Annapurna Colony, Mallapur, R.R. District, Hyderabad - 500 076. No.4) Mr. P. Mallikarjun, S/o. Mr. P. Ramulu, H.No.3-11-116/6, Sri Sai Garden, Ramnathapur, Hyderabad - 500 039. No.5) Mrs. K. Urmila Bai, W/o. Mr. Ranga Reddy, H.No.1-7-8, Street No.8, Habsiguda, Hyderabad - 500 007. Also at:- Mrs. K. Urmila Bai, W/o. Mr. Ranga Reddy, C-3-4-133, Annapurna Colony, Mallapur, R.R. District, Hyderabad - 500 076. No.6) Mr. A.V. Santhosh Kumar, S/o. Mr. Srinivajulu, H.No.8-8, Habsiguda, Hyderabad - 500 007. No.7) Mrs. P. Padmavathi, W/o. Mr. P. Mallikarjun, H.No.3-11-116/6, Sri Sai Garden, Ramnathapur, Hyderabad - 500 039. No.8) Mr. K. Pradeep, S/o. Mr. K. Odhli, Flat No.101, S.V. Arcade, Doctors Colony, Road No.1, Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 035 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.1,77,63,413/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Seven Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Thirteen Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 04-10-2019 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 1st day of February 2020.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Properties and any dealings with the Properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.1,61,29,166/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Six Only) (after taking into account the subsequent repayments into the loan/cash credit facility) and interest thereon from 04-10-2019 till the repayment of entire dues.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A: (Property Owned by Mr. A.V. Santhosh Kumar, S/o. Mr. Srinivajulu)

All that the Plot No.15 Western Part, in Survey No.58, measuring 150 sq.yds. or 125.4 Sq.mtrs. situated at Block No.1, Annapurna Colony, Meerpet Village, Uppal Mandal, Kapra Municipality, Ranga Reddy District, within the Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar, Uppal, R.R. District and Bounded by:- North - 30 Feet Wide Road, South - Plot No.21, East - Plot No.15 Eastern Part, West - Plot No.14 (In the above said Plot Area Building with Plinth Area of Ground 1,093.65 Sq.ft., First Floor - 1,093.65 Sq.ft., Second Floor - 1,093.65 Sq.ft., partly Third Floor 736.42 Sq.ft. exists).

Schedule - B: (Property Owned by Mrs. P. Padmavathi, W/o. Mr. P. Mallikarjun)

All that the Open Plot No.6, in Survey Nos.12/2 and 12/5, at Block No.4, Area 100 Sq.yds. or 83.6 Sq.mtrs. situated at Ramnathapur Khalsa, Uppal Kalan Municipality, Revenue Mandal Uppal, R.R. District under the preview of Sub-Registrar Uppal, R.R. District and Bounded by:- North - Plot No.5, South - Plot No.7, East - Neigh Land, West - 20 feet Wide Road (By-valuation report dated 20-06-2019. Ground Floor - 582.16 Sq.ft., First Floor - 777.24 Sq.ft., Second Floor 777.24 Sq.ft., Third Floor - 427.50 Sq.ft. exists) and boundaries are North - Vittal Nivas, South - ACC Rooms on H.No.3-11-116/7, East - Neigh Apartment Vishal Mega Mart on Complex, West - 20 feet Wide Road.

Schedule - C: (Property Owned by Mrs. K. Urmila Bai, W/o. Mr. Ranga Reddy)

All that the piece and parcel of the House bearing No.C-3-4-133, in Plot No.66 Part measuring 150 Sq.Yds. forming Survey Nos.169, 171 and 172 situated at Mallapur Village, under Mallapur Gram Panchayath, Hyderabad East Taluk, Ranga Reddy District within the jurisdiction of Registration Sub-District, Uppal, North - Plot No.56, South 25 ft. Wide Road, East - Plot No.65, West - Plot No.66 Part (As per valuation report in the above site are building with Ground Floor - 901 Sq.ft., First Floor - 918 Sq.ft., Second Floor - 918 Sq.ft. and Boundary North - Neigh Open Plot, South - Road, East - Neigh Building, West - Neigh Building on H.No.4-132 exists).

Schedule - D: (Property Owned by Mr. Ch. Srinivas, S/o. Mr. Ch. Guravalli)

All that the premises of House bearing No.7-85 Part, measuring 188 Sq.yds. (Plot Nos.14 and 17 in Sy.No.365 to 367) having its Plinth Area Ground Floor 867 Sq.ft., First Floor Plinth Area 922 Sq.ft. and Second Floor (Semi finished) Plinth Area 782 Sq.ft., Total Plinth Area 2,571 Sq.ft., with R.C.C. situated at Ibrahimpatnam Proper Village, Ibrahimpatnam Revenue Mandal, under Ibrahimpatnam Nagara Panchayat, Ranga Reddy District, Registration Sub-District, Ibrahimpatnam Ranga Reddy District and Bounded by:- North - House of Vendor (Sold to K. Jagadish Reddy), South - Plot No.11, East - 20 ft. Wide Road, West - 20 ft. Wide Road.

Schedule - E: (Property Owned by Mr. K. Jagadish Reddy, S/o. Mr. Ranga Reddy)

All that the premises of House bearing No.7-85 Part, measuring 188 Sq.yds. (Plot Nos.14 and 17 in Sy.No.365 to 367), having its Plinth Area Ground Floor 867 Sq.ft., First Floor Plinth Area 922 Sq.ft. and Second Floor (Semi finished) Plinth Area 782 Sq.ft., Total Plinth Area 2,571 Sq.ft., with RCC, situated at Ibrahimpatnam Proper Village, Ibrahimpatnam Revenue Mandal, under Ibrahimpatnam Nagara Panchayat, Ranga Reddy District, Registration Sub-District, Ibrahimpatnam Ranga Reddy District and Bounded by:- North - Plot No.19, South - House of Vendor (Sold to Ch. Srinivas), East - 20 ft. Wide Road, West - 20 ft. Wide Road.

Place: Hyderabad-Ameerpet, Date: 01-02-2020 Authorised Officer



Crunch moments

Stand-in skipper Tom Latham says building partnership and holding their nerves in the crucial moments helped New Zealand cross the finish line in the high-scoring first ODI against India

Taylor swift

Ross on song as Kiwis pull off a remarkable chase of 348

Hamilton, Feb. 5: An unbeaten century from veteran batsman Ross Taylor powered New Zealand to a stunning four-wicket win over India in the first one-day international in Hamilton on Wednesday.

The hosts completed the second highest run chase in their history to finish on 348 for four and overhaul the imposing target set by India.

It was a morale-boosting victory for the Black Caps, who went into the match as underdogs after a 5-0 whitewash in the recent Twenty20 series, when they repeatedly squandered winning opportunities.

The roles were reversed at Seddon Park, with India posting a mammoth total of 347 for four after losing the toss, including a maiden century to Shreyas Iyer and half-centuries for skipper Virat Kohli and KL Rahul.

But the tourists' bowling attack failed to prevent a match-turning innings from Taylor, who scored a 73-ball century, his 21st in ODIs, and ended the match on 109 not out.

He was supported by a quick-fire 69 from captain Tom Latham and Henry Nicholls' hard-fought 78, although three late wickets gave India hope of rescuing the match.

"It's been a long time between drinks," said Latham, whose side suffered a 3-0 Test series defeat in Australia before the T20 drubbing on home soil.

"It's nice to get over the line and we managed to keep our composure at the end and get there." Kohli was gracious in defeat, saying India produced a "decent" performance that was not quite good enough on the day.

"You have to say that the opposition played better than us because they were more intense," he said.

New Zealand started their chase well, reaching 147 for two after 25 overs as Taylor and Nicholls developed a promising partnership.

It took a piece of fielding brilliance from Kohli to break it with India's skipper swooping on a stay ball and tossing it underarm with skill in mid-air to run-out a diving Nicholls.

But Taylor continued his assault with Latham to take New Zealand to 292 for three with 10 overs remaining and the 35-year-old remained at the crease to hit the winning run.

While Iyer's 103 from 107 balls was the highlight of India's innings,

SCORECARD

India: Prithvi Shaw c Latham b de Grandhomme 20, Mayank Agarwal c Tom Blundell b Southee 32, Virat Kohli b Ish Sodhi 51, Shreyas Iyer c Santner b Southee 103, Lokesh Rahul not out 88, Kedar Jadhav (not out) 26. **Extras (LB-7, W-19, NB-1) 27. Total (for four wickets in 50 overs) 347.**

FoW: 1-50, 2-54, 3-156, 4-292. **Bowling:** Southee 10-1-85-2, Bennett 10-0-77-0, De Grandhomme 8-0-41-1, Neesham 8-0-52-0, Santner 10-0-58-0, Sodhi 4-0-27-1.

New Zealand: Martin Gupthill c Kedar Jadhav b SN Thakur 32, Henry Nicholls run out (Kohli) 78, Tom Blundell st Rahul b Kuldeep Yadav 9, Ross Taylor (not out) 109, Tom Latham c Shami b Kuldeep Yadav 69, James Neesham c Kedar Jadhav b Shami 9, Colin de Grandhomme run out (Shreyas Iyer/Kohli) 1, Mitchell Santner (not out) 12. **Extras (LB-4, W-24, NB-1) 29. Total (for six wickets in 48.1 overs) 348.**

FoW: 1-85, 2-109, 3-171, 4-309, 5-328, 6-331. **Bowling:** Bumrah 10-1-53-0, Shami 9-1-0-63-1, Thakur 9-0-80-1, Jadeja 10-0-64-0, Kuldeep 10-0-84-2.

Ross Taylor celebrates his match-winning century against India. — AP



We handle pressure better in ODIs: Ross

Hamilton, Feb. 5: New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor on Wednesday said their ODI side can deal with pressure situations a lot better than the Twenty20 side and that precisely is the reason they could knock down a big target in the series-opener here.

"It's always nice to win after a clean sweep in the T20. Obviously new personnel came in and the loss was not a hang up for them. I am sure it must have played on their minds little bit, you are human, and towards the end we lost a couple of wickets," Taylor said.

"But at the same time, the last game was our world cup final and a lot of the guys have played in pressure situations. They are a lot more experienced than the T20 side. So that showed, but it is only one game and lots to go in this series. It is nice to get that monkey off the back," he said.

Taylor said the dimensions of the ground helped out, but the New Zealand batsmen all contributed to the successful chase.

"That's the tough thing about playing on some of these grounds in New Zealand, not knowing what a par total is at any time. Whether at the MCG, or here or anywhere else, you always give yourself a chance. At the same time if you lose two early wickets it was going to be a tough chase. I think there were some great contributions through out the whole order," he said. — PTI

India were below-par on the field with Kuldeep Yadav dropping a skier and bowlers doing a less than commendable job. "Look, we didn't grab onto one chance, but we were decent. Something we need to keep (on) improving. We can't focus too much (on negative things). Today, the opposition played better than us and they deserved to win," Kohli said.

The Indian captain also seemed satisfied with the performance by debutants Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw. — PTI

HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASES VS INDIA IN ODIs

| Score | Overs | Opponents | Venue | Date |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------|
| 359-6 (47.5) | Australia | Mohali | 10-03-2019 | |
| 348-6 (48.1) | New Zealand | Hamilton | 05-02-2020 | |
| 322-6 (49.5) | Pakistan | Mohali | 08-11-2007 | |
| 322-3 (48.4) | Sri Lanka | The Oval | 08-06-2017 | |
| 319-7 (48) | Pakistan | Ahmedabad | 12-04-2005 | |

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

SHORT TAKES

Dalmiya's son is CAB president

Kolkata: Former BCCI president late Jagmohan Dalmiya's son Avishek on Wednesday became the youngest president of Cricket Association Bengal at the age of 38 after being elected unopposed. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's elder brother Snehasish Ganguly, a former Bengal left-hander, is the new joint secretary, a post that has been vacated by Dalmiya junior before his elevation. The CAB president's post was lying vacant after former India captain Sourav Ganguly took over the reins of BCCI. However Avishek will go for a cooling-off period from November 6, 2021 as per the Lodha recommended Constitution giving him a tenure of about 22 months. Avishek thus became the 18th president of CAB with his father holding the office for two terms. Looking dapper in a blue suit, CAB tie, Avishek turned emotional taking charge of the same chair where his father sat in his two terms in office from 1992-93 to 2006 and then from 2008-09 till his demise on September 20, 2015. "Right from my childhood, I always heard my father saying 'Eden is a temple of worship'. That sentiment will run with me always," Avishek said. — PTI

Lehmann to undergo heart op

Sydney: Former Australian cricket coach Darren Lehmann will undergo a heart bypass operation after being rushed to hospital on Wednesday suffering chest pains, Cricket Australia reported. The popular former Test batsman was celebrating his 50th birthday watching his son play cricket on the Gold Coast when the health scare occurred, the official cricket.com.au website said. It said he was resting in hospital and would have surgery on Saturday. "I would like to thank everyone in the Australian cricket family for their concern," Lehmann said. "I am receiving the best of medical care and am confident I'll be back on my feet soon." Lehmann quit as Australia coach in 2018 after a ball-tampering scandal that rocked the game in the sports-mad nation. He returned to a coaching role this summer with the Big Bash League's Brisbane Heat. — AFP

ABHINAV HITS DOUBLE TON, TN DOMINATE

Baroda: Experienced Tamil Nadu opener Abhinav Mukund scored his seventh Ranji double hundred (206) as the visitors took a massive 316-run first innings lead against Baroda in Group B. Tamil Nadu racked up 490 for 7 declared after bowling out the home team for 174, built on Abhinav's splendid knock and his big opening partnership with L. Suryaparakash (75). At Rajkot, Sheldon Jackson hit a stroke-filled 85 to put Saurashtra on the verge of securing a vital first innings lead against Mumbai on the second day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy match here on Wednesday. Saurashtra bundled out Mumbai for 262 and then rode on Jackson's gritty 85 to end the second day at 257/6, as they trail by just five runs. Saurashtra skipper Arpit Vasavada (46) and Chirag Jani (45 not out) also made valuable contributions to take the game away from the 41-time Ranji champion. Saurashtra lost opener Snell Patel (4) early. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES

At Rajkot: Mumbai 262 (Sarfraz Khan 78, Shams Mulani 60; D Jadeja 5/92) vs Saurashtra 257/6 (Sheldon Jackson 85, Arpit Vasavada 46, Royston Dias 2/40). **At Baroda:** Baroda 174 and 10/0 vs Tamil Nadu 490/7 declared (Abhinav Mukund 206, L Suryaparakash 75; Yusuf Pathan 2/67). **At Delhi:** Delhi 293 (Kunwar Bidhuri 78, Himmat Singh 56, Rush Kalaria 5/78) vs Gujarat 269/4 (Manprit Juneja 88 batting, Dhruv Raval 83 batting, Samit Gohel 51, Simarjeet Singh 2/53). **At Patiala:** Andhra 93 and 134 (Ricky Bhuji 61, Varun Choudhary 6/46) lost to Punjab 108 and 129/6 (Anmol Malhotra 51 no, Abhishek Gupta 37).



Shreyas Iyer celebrates his maiden ODI century. — AP

Flexible batting position helped me settle: Iyer

Hamilton, Feb. 5: Shreyas Iyer now owns the No 4 slot in white ball cricket but the success has come owing to his flexible batting positions between Nos 3 to 5 for the India A team, where he learnt the art of tackling various match situations.

Iyer scored his maiden ODI hundred but India failed to defend a target of 348 against New Zealand in the series opener on Wednesday. With six half-centuries and a hundred with an average of 48 plus in 16 ODIs, Iyer has had a good time in the Indian middle-order. "In India A, it's not that I have to bat number four all the time. You keep changing your position depending on what is the situation. I got to manoeuvre my place from 3 to 5, I kept changing (batting order). It's just that we get good practice there and you face different opposition as well so you get used to the atmosphere," Iyer attributed his new-

India fined for slow over-rate in Hamilton ODI

Hamilton, Feb. 5: The India cricketers were on Wednesday fined 80 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the first One Day International here. Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Virat Kohli's side was ruled to be four overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time. "Kohli accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing," an ICC release said. — PTI

found success to his stint with the 'A' team. For someone, who had to wait for his opportunity to cement his place in the senior team, the interim duration spent on A tours was important learning curve. "India A games are always been helpful for me person-

ally because whenever I used to go there, I used to make sure that as many matches I got, I have to make the best use of it and the players and the atmosphere is also amazing. You literally have no pressure," Iyer said about the team which is mentored by NCA director Rahul Dravid. "And coming from the top arena (senior) to one level below (A team) doesn't make you feel that you are completely away from the team but you always see similar faces around you. I really enjoy that atmosphere like I said," he said. "I would have been happier if we could have finished the game on a winning note," said Iyer. — PTI



No fund shortage

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has assured that there will be no shortage of funds for the National Sports Federations, despite the government slashing its allocation in an Olympic year

SHORT TAKES



Harry Kane

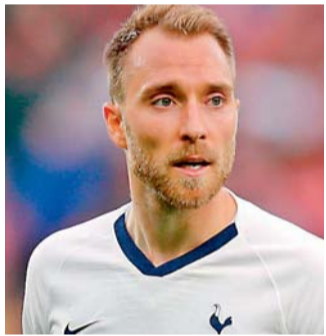
Kane could return in May, says Jose

London: England captain Harry Kane could return from injury in time for the final two games of the Premier League season, Tottenham Hotspur coach Jose Mourinho said.

Kane is recovering from surgery to repair a ruptured tendon in his hamstring suffered during Tottenham's defeat at Southampton on New Year's Day. Tottenham had previously stated they expect the 26-year-old to return to training some time in April despite reports he could be sidelined for six months.

However when asked if Kane would play again this season, Mourinho told reporters on Tuesday: "The Leicester match (May 9). Maybe we need that match for something. Maybe we need that match for something."

"To be fourth, to be fifth, to be sixth. Maybe we need that match for something and maybe he can help us in this match. I hope. There's no pressure, he keeps going, no setback. I just think that's my feeling," he added. — AFP



Christian Eriksen

Was made black sheep: Eriksen

London: Christian Eriksen says his decision to run down his contract at Tottenham made him a "black sheep" at the Premier League club.

The 27-year-old midfielder joined Inter Milan last month for a fee of around £17 million (\$22 million), ending his six-and-a-half year stay at Spurs.

The Dane would have been out of contract at the end of this season and had been linked with a move away from London since revealing he was ready for a new challenge after Spurs' Champions League final defeat to Liverpool in June.

That admission prompted some fans to turn on him. "I did get the blame for a lot of stuff, for being the bad guy," he told BBC Sport. "I read I was the bad person in the changing room, that ever since I said I wanted to leave, it was no good me being there." Eriksen said there was a sense of relief in starting a new chapter in Italy. — AFP

BENGAL MAY HOST 2022 NATIONALS

Kolkata: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday agreed in principle to hold the 2022 National Games in Bengal, which has played host to the multi-sport event twice in the past.

"Definitely, in principle we have agreed for 2022. But it's an ongoing process. We will take forward accordingly. 100 percent we are willing to come to Bengal. Let's be positive," IOA president Narinder Batra said. The 36th National Games, which was postponed several times, is finally slated for October 20-November 4 in Goa.

"I'm being sacrosanct on 2022 and I'll be sending you letters on that. Bengal had hosted the National Games way back in 1938 and 1964. It's high time that National Games come to Bengal again," he said at the Netaji Indoor Stadium. — PTI

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Red buds bloom

Liverpool's youngest ever starting XI win at home

London, Feb. 5: Liverpool's youngest ever team proved coach Jurgen Klopp was right to rest his stars as they reached the FA Cup fifth round with a 1-0 win against third-tier Shrewsbury.

Klopp and his entire first team were all absent for the fourth round replay at Anfield as part of the club's winter break.

The Liverpool manager was criticised for disrespecting the FA Cup, but his youngsters proved up to the task and their mature display was rewarded when Ro-Shaun Williams headed the decisive own goal in the closing stages on Tuesday.

Liverpool will face Chelsea in the last 16 at Stamford Bridge in March.

Klopp had turned over the responsibility of leading Liverpool to the club's under-23 coach Neil Critchley, who also took charge when the Reds played an under-strength side for their League Cup quarterfinal defeat at Aston Villa earlier this season.

This time, it was purely his decision to ignore the FA Cup, but resting Mohamed Salah, Virgil Van Dijk and company at least gave fans a glimpse of the next generation.

With an average age of 19 years and 102 days, it was Liverpool's youngest ever starting line-up in all competitions.

There were seven teenagers, including 16-year-old Harvey Elliott, while Pedro Chirivella was the oldest player in the team at 22.

Liverpool-born teenager Curtis Jones became the club's youngest captain at 19 years and five days. The youngsters showed hunger and showcased their potential.

Despite dominating possession, Liverpool almost fell behind in the 58th minute when Shaun Whalley headed home, only to see VAR disallow the goal for offside against one of his teammates in the build-up.

Liverpool made the most of that escape to win it in the 75th minute. — AFP

● With an average age of 19 years and 102 days, it was Liverpool's youngest ever starting line-up in all competitions. There were seven teenagers in the side that beat Shrewsbury 1-0.



Liverpool's Curtis Jones (right) and teammate Neco Williams celebrate after Shrewsbury Town's Ro-Shaun Williams scored an own goal during their English FA Cup Fourth Round replay match at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool on Tuesday. Liverpool won 1-0. — AP

VAR needs to improve: Masters

London, Feb. 5: Premier League chief executive Richard Masters admits his organisation must try to improve VAR after a season marred by controversy surrounding the review technology.

A recent survey from opinion polling firm YouGov showed more than two-thirds of Premier League fans questioned believe VAR has made the game less enjoyable since it was introduced into the English top-flight.

Players, managers and fans have all complained about the way the system is used, with lengthy review delays and dubious eventual decisions causing widespread frustration.

Masters, who started his permanent role with the Premier League in December, told BBC Sport that VAR would stay in the game, but he hopes it can be improved. "I don't think VAR has

I don't think VAR has been damaging but I accept it needs improvement. Scrapping it is not an option — what we have to do is try and make VAR better. It's going to be a work in progress this season and next as we try to rebalance it so you get the positives of better decision-making and fewer of the perceived negatives.

— RICHARD MASTERS
Premier League, Chief Executive

been damaging but I accept it needs improvement," Masters said. "Scrapping it is not an option — what we have to do is try and make VAR better," he added.

VAR has been brought in to the Premier League to decide on goals, penalties, red cards and offside decisions.

Masters revealed to the BBC that the Premier League would discuss changes to VAR with the clubs in April. "We are going to have a debate about what sort of VAR they would like next season and what improvements can be made to the

system," he said. "It's going to be a work in progress this season and next as we try to rebalance it so you get the positives of better decision-making and fewer of the perceived negatives about delay and sometimes confusion," he further added.

Meanwhile, in his first major media interviews, Masters said he does not believe homegrown player quotas will improve the fortunes of the England team.

The balance between homegrown and overseas players in a 25-man Premier League squad is

back in the spotlight following the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, which will affect the way clubs do their international transfer business once the transition period ends at the end of the year.

The Football Association has previously stated in November 2018 that it favoured cutting the number of overseas players per squad from 17 to 13 with a view to boosting the chances of young English talent.

FA representatives are due to present to Premier League clubs at the league's shareholders' meeting on Thursday.

"We have to come up with a different system. The FA, the EFL and the Premier League all agree that (system) shouldn't impact on the competitiveness of the Premier League, that concept of the best versus the best," Masters said. — AFP

Sindhu wins but Hunters crash

Hyderabad, Feb. 5: P. V. Sindhu ended her campaign at Star Sports Premier Badminton League 2020 on a high with a strong 15-7, 15-8 win against Rituparna Das as the former champions Hyderabad Hunters clashed with the Pune 7 Aces at the GMC Bhalayogi Sats Indoor Stadium here in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

While Pune have confirmed their semifinals berth, the journey came to an end for the Hunters as they failed to make it to the knock-out stages.

Having upset World No.14 Beiwen Zhang in her previous match, World No.100 Rituparna Das came into this match with a lot of confidence.

But the world champion Sindhu posed a very different challenge. The Rio Olympic silver medallist was in no mood to relent as she built a big lead of 8-3, banking on her aggression and speed.

Sindhu did just enough to lift her game from thereon and completed a strong 15-7, 15-8 win to end her PBL5 campaign on a high.

In an engrossing battle between two of India's best youngsters, PBL debutant Mithun Manjunath of Pune made a 5-3 start

● Despite P. V. Sindhu's 15-7, 15-8 win over Rituparna Das of Pune, the Hyderabad Hunters failed to make it to the knockout stages of the Premier Badminton League.

against the Hyderabad Trump Priyanshu Rajawat. The latter had stunned World No. 49 Lee Dong Keun in his last match and obviously was prepared for a fightback.

Soon he made his intentions clear as he levelled at 5-5 and remained on the heels of Manjunath before the latter held off the surging Rajawat to take the opener 15-11. An under-terminated Priyanshu was not ready to bow out that easily and he fascinated the crowd with his array of shots to level the match.

In an enthralling decider, Mithun raced ahead to 8-2 only to see a resilient Rajawat coming back to make the score 8-8. It was a test of their nerves since then as there was little to separate the two.

The match headed to a heart-stopping finish with the two remaining on par till 13-13. Manjunath showed nerves of steel under pressure the sneak out the 15-11, 11-15, 15-13 win on a debut that was memorable.

Earlier, Pune's Chirag Shetty and Hendra Setiawan bounced back from a loss to secure a commanding 15-12, 15-9 win against Hyderabad's World No.32 Ben Lane and Sean Vandy. — Agencies



Mithun Manjunath of Pune 7 Aces plays a shot during his men's singles match against Priyanshu Rajawat of Hyderabad Hunters at the Bhalayogi Stadium in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Manjunath won 15-11, 11-15, 15-13.

India to allow China's wrestlers

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Wednesday said it has got assurance from the central government that "quarantined" Chinese grapplers will not be denied entry into the country for the upcoming Asian Championship despite fears surrounding the deadly coronavirus.

The Indian government has suspended the e-visa facility for the Chinese travellers, fearing the spread of the virus which has claimed 490 lives so far.

The WFI, though, is expecting a 40-strong contingent from China at the Championship, scheduled to be held here from February 18 to 23 after receiving assurance from the external affairs ministry.

WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said they have requested the external affairs ministry to ensure that visa is granted to wrestlers from Pakistan as well. "Today, I met the foreign minister and I'm extremely hopeful there will be no problem. There is possibility of wrestlers from both the countries competing. He has assured me that there will be no problem. After the discussion I don't think there is going to be any problem," Sharan said.



Wrestler Divya Kakran in this file photo.

The Chinese Wrestling Association (CWA) has written to the WFI, requesting them to help out with the participation of their grapplers in the championship.

"China's federation sent us a request letter saying that 40 grapplers have been checked and none of them have been tested positive for the virus. They have been quarantined. All the wrestlers who will participate will go through all the precautionary measures," Bhushan said.

Sharan also asserted that no wrestler can refuse to grapple with their Chinese rivals, if the Chinese are found to be unaffected by the virus. "This problem is only in 1-2 cities in China and not the entire country and if the wrestlers go through all the tests in China and then again clear the tests by our government then no player can say s/he has come from here and we won't fight with them," he said.

The WFI has also received a letter from the United World Wrestling (UWW), the world governing body, warning them that no country should be denied participation. "If a country is denied visas, India will risk ban on hosting tournaments. 'UWW has also written to us stating that no visa problem should be there as this is a mandatory tournament. When we are allotted a tournament, we have to give them the assurance that no country will be denied participation by us," he clarified. — PTI

TOKYO | OLYMPICS

JAPAN REALLY CONCERNED OVER CORONA

Tokyo, Feb. 5: The chief executive officer of the Tokyo Olympics admitted Wednesday that organisers are "extremely worried" about the possible effect of the deadly new coronavirus on this summer's Games.

Toshiro Muto said he hoped the outbreak in China would be quickly contained to restore confidence in the run-up to the Olympics.

"We are extremely worried in the sense that the spread of the infectious virus could pour cold water on momentum for the Games," he said before a meeting with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

"I hope that it can be eradicated as quickly as possible. We plan to cooperate with the IOC (International Olympic Committee), the IPC, the government and the city of Tokyo to tackle the disease."

More than 20 countries have confirmed cases of the pathogen, which has killed nearly 500 people and infected at least 24,000 in mainland China.

However, Japan has had no reported deaths so far from the deadly virus attack. — AFP

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