



Poultry industry hit by bird flu fears, chicken prices drop by 50%

NEW DELHI

After the coronavirus pandemic wreaked havoc on the country's poultry industry, it is now reeling under the fresh threat of the bird flu infection. Due to the fear of bird flu, the sale of chicken and chicken products have been the worst-hit.

Especially in north India, the poultry industry has been badly affected by ban on the transportation of hens from one state to another. A delegation from the industry is scheduled to meet the central government on Sunday.

The cases of bird flu in poultry chickens so far have been found only in Haryana while most of them have been found in wild birds or migratory birds elsewhere and some cases have also been found in poultry ducks.

However, in the beginning of 2021, the fear of bird flu has increased so much that the demand for chickens and chicken products has decreased by more than 70 per cent, the poultry traders said. Poultry Federation of India President, Ramesh Khatri, told IANS that chicken sales had fallen by almost 70 to 80 per cent over the last three to four days, while prices had fallen by 50

per cent and egg prices had also come down by nearly 15 to 20 per cent. Khatri said the primary reason for the falling demand for chicken is that the movement of poultry from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir has been halted from one state to another.

He said that the two farms in which the bird flu has been confirmed in Haryana are both layer farms and not broiler ones. In the layer farms, poultry farming is done for eggs, while in the broiler farms, poultry farming is done for chicken meat.

He said he would demand from the central government to save the poultry industry from rumour-mongering of bird flu.

A delegation from the poultry industry on Sunday would meet Union Minister Jitendra Singh in which Ramesh Khatri would also be present.

Poultry farm operator, Rakesh Manhas, also said he would urge the Central government that the rumours spread about bird flu causes humongous loss to the industry so measures should be taken to prevent such a situation.

The Union Animal Husbandry Ministry also said in the seven states where there were confirmed



► The fear of bird flu has increased so much that the demand for chickens and chicken products has decreased by more than 70 %

► Central govt urged that the rumours spread about bird flu causes humongous loss to the industry so measures should be taken to prevent such a situation

cases of bird flu on Saturday, only the reports of bird flu in poultry-chickens in Haryana has been confirmed. In India since 2006, almost every year in winters, Avian Influenza, a common cold disease found in birds has been found somewhere or the other and the way to deal with the outbreak of this disease was made by the government in 2005, which has been implemented in the infection-affected areas.

Experts point out that the methods of eating chicken and eggs in India do not raise the question of transmitting bird flu in humans, although they say that the effort should be on not to eat infected birds. Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India, Praveen Malik, told IANS that there is no direct evidence of Avian Influenza (AI) virus being transmitted to humans by eating contaminated poultry products.

He said that there is a need to maintain cleanliness and hygiene and the cooking and processing standards are also effective to prevent the spread of AI virus.

Agricultural economist and Poultry Federation of India advisor, Vijay Sardana, said the country's poultry industry is worth nearly Rs 1.25 lakh crore, which has drastically come down to half during the corona pandemic crisis. This means the business of the poultry industry which was nearly Rs 1.25 lakh crore before the disaster of coronavirus has reduced to nearly Rs 60,000 to 70,000 crore at present.

The recovery of the poultry industry came in the last few days of 2020, which was earlier ravaged by coronavirus, but is now reeling under the threat of bird flu.

APPREHENSIONS ON PANDEMIC

SEC addresses poll panel staff

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

STATE Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar on Sunday wrote an open letter to the employees seeking to clarify their apprehensions about the safety and security measures during the polling process.

Ramesh said that the State Election Commission had taken note of the objections raised by the employees particularly in view of the corona pandemic. He assured them that the polling staff

OFFERS PPE KITS, FACE SHIELDS & VACCINATION FOR THE STAFF

would be given PPE kits, face shields and sanitisers. He said he had also asked the Government to give vaccination to those who would be drafted for poll duty on priority basis. He said this issue was discussed with the Chief Secretary.

Ramesh Kumar said that the conduct of elections was a constitutional obligation.



Khattar cancels kisan event after farmers vandalise venue

CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday cancelled his 'kisan mahapanchayat' programme in Karnal after farmers opposing the Centre's three farm laws uprooted tents and damaged the stage at the venue.

Police resorted to mild lathi-charge and used teargas and water canons to stop hundreds of farmers from reaching a helipad in Kaimla village, where Khattar was scheduled to land.

Khattar later said with such behaviour, the protesters had "defamed farmers" and he believed "Congress party and Communists have a major role to play in such incidents."

Over 1,500 cops had been deployed as security for the meeting and seven checkpoints were set up ahead of the venue. Agitating farmers, however, managed to breach six



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar's Kisan Mahapanchayat venue in a Karnal village was vandalised on Sunday

checkpoints and arrive near the helipad, forcing authorities to move the landing spot for Khattar's helicopter to a different location. The farmers then moved to occupy the venue of Khattar's kisan mahapanchayat, where around 2,000 farmers, most of them BJP supporters, were waiting. The protesting farmers flung

chairs, tore banners and vandalised other arrangements made for the meeting.

Speaking at a press conference later, Khattar said the incident had "sent a message" to people. "I have received many calls that it was not right. These people have defamed farmers. It cannot be the behaviour of farmers. Gurnam

Singh Chadhuni's video from two days ago, where he incited people, is responsible for today's incident.

I believe that Congress party and Communists have a major role in such incidents. Through these agitations, if they think they can spread their wings, they are highly mistaken. I condemn today's incident. I am an elected representative, it is not right that we protest against anybody," the Chief Minister said.

Khattar said protesting against someone in this manner was different from expressing one's views. "We have a strong democratic setup in our country. We have never stopped anybody from expressing their views. Even during Covid-19, we have made adequate arrangements for their [protesters'] safety and security. But violation of Constitutional provisions is not right," he said.

Suriname's Prez to be R-Day chief guest after UK PM cancels visit

NEW DELHI

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade on January 26, said sources in the PMO, days after UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson cancelled his visit to India. Sources confirmed that Santokhi, who is of Indian origin, will be attending the Rajpath parade.

Earlier this week, Santokhi was the chief guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, held by the Ministry of External Affairs and he delivered the keynote address.

India had initially invited Boris Johnson to be the chief guest, but the British PM had to cancel his visit in view of

the grim coronavirus situation back home.

Santokhi was sworn in as President of Suriname in

July 2020, when his party, the Progressive Reform Party, won 20 of the 51 seats in the elections. His win also brought an end to the dictatorial rule by Déni Bouterse.

The PRP, known in the Dutch language as Vooruitstrevende Hervormingspartij or VHP by its initials, largely represents the Indian community and had originally been called the United Hindustani Party.

Suriname is a former Dutch colony where people of Indian descent make up the largest ethnic group comprising 27.4 per cent of the population of 587,000.



Suriname's president Chan Santokhi

Maid found hanging in employer's flat

NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old woman working as a housemaid was found hanging in the apartment of her employers in Dwarka's Sector 19 here, police said on Sunday.

The woman's kin, however, alleged foul play and demanded an inquiry.

The Akshardham apartment is owned by a software engineer couple employed in Gurugram.

Police received a call on Friday about the alleged suicide by Shivani, who was found hanging by a sash in one of the rooms. Police said the body had no external injuries. Police said that her employer Ashish Thakur, his wife and two children were living in the rented flat for the past 4-5 years.

"The maid was working for them for the last 4-5 months. She was living in the flat but occasionally visited her parents in the Goyla Dairy area. Her parents too often came to meet her," DCP Dwarka Santosh Kumar Meena said.

"We are looking into all aspects and take legal action accordingly. The body has been sent for post-mortem," the officer added.



WASHINGTON

With only days left in his presidency, Donald Trump - silenced by Twitter and shunned by a growing number of Republican officials - faces a renewed drive by Democrats to remove him from office after he incited his supporters to storm the US Capitol.

Democratic members of the House of Representatives will introduce formal articles of impeachment on Monday, Representative Ted Lieu said on Twitter. The California Democrat, who helped draft the charges, said the articles had drawn 180 co-sponsors as of Saturday afternoon. A spokeswoman for Lieu said no Republicans have yet signed on. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top congressional Democrat, has threatened to impeach Trump for a historic second time unless he

► House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top congressional Democrat, has threatened to impeach Trump for a historic second time unless he resigned "immediately," a move the pugnacious President is unlikely to consider

resigned "immediately," a move the pugnacious president is unlikely to consider.

Pelosi has also asked members to draft legislation aimed at invoking the U.S. Constitution's 25th Amendment, which allows the removal of a president unable to fulfil the duties of the office.

Trump "has done something so serious -- that there should be prosecution against him," Pelosi

told CBS' "60 Minutes" according to an early excerpt of the interview.

The intensifying effort to oust Trump from the White House has drawn scattered support from Republicans, whose party has been splintered by the president's actions. Democrats have pressed Vice President Mike Pence to consider the 25th Amendment, but a Pence adviser has said he opposes the idea.

The odds that Trump will actually be removed before Jan. 20, when President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in, remain long. Any impeachment in the House would trigger a trial in the Republican-controlled Senate, which is scheduled to be in recess until Jan. 19 and has already acquitted Trump once before. Trump has said he will not be at Biden's inauguration, but Pence will attend, a senior administration official said on Saturday.

STANDSTILL!



A flock of flamingos in a pond in Navi Mumbai on Sunday

Nasal Covid vaccine can be a gamechanger

NEW DELHI

PUBLIC health experts believe that intranasal vaccines for coronavirus, administered through nose rather than muscles, can be a potential gamechanger in India's fight against the virus pandemic.

The nasal vaccine will be approved, as it is needle-free, and trained health workers can administer it, eliminating associated risks, and it is scalable. Several studies have proved that the efficacy of intranasal vaccine is superior to that of intramuscular vaccine. In India, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech has sought Drugs Controller General of India's (DCGI) approval to conduct clinical trials of its nasal vaccine for coronavirus.

Last month, Pune-based Serum Institute of India and Codagenix Inc had announced that they have received regulatory approval in the United Kingdom to begin an early-stage trial of their single-dose, intranasal coronavirus vaccine. "At the moment, four vaccines are undergoing phase 1 and 2 of

nasal vaccine trials in the world. It can be a gamechanger, but it all depends on whether it is safe and effective," said Lalit Kant, former head of epidemiology and infectious diseases at the Indian Council of Medical



store. "You can immunise a larger number of people in a small amount of time. There would be no need for people to come back for a second dosage," the noted epidemiologist said.

"It is a live attenuated vaccine. When you give it through the nose, there is the mucous membrane in the upper throat, where it gets absorbed and can develop the antibodies. Since it enters the mucous membrane directly, the absorption is faster," Kant said.



MADHURI DIXIT NENE
@MADHURIDIXIT

A unique experience and a challenging role - Begum Para #Dedhlshiqiya is one of my most memorable movies & thank you everyone for giving it so much love #7YearsOfDedhlshiqiya



A HEART CONNECT

What finger is your wedding finger

PUJA GUPTA

At one point, you must have wondered, why does a husband or a wife always wear their wedding band or engagement ring on one particular finger and why not the other ones?

Chaitanya V Cotha, executive director at 150 years C Krishniah Chetty Group Of Jewellers helps us understand which finger is the ring finger and why it's designated to be so.

Which Hand and Finger?

In most religions and cultures, the fourth finger of your left hand is considered the ring finger. Engagement or wedding ceremonies in some religions consist of both the bride and groom exchanging rings to confirm the engagement/ wedding.

In other religions, it is not the bride and groom that mostly exchanges the rings, instead, it is the families that put a ring on the bride's or groom's finger. It is a known tradition for conservative families who prefer separate events. In Hindu or Muslim weddings, there is a specific event to exchange rings, both on the wedding and as an engagement. But unlike the two religions, Christians usually don't have a proper event of this. It depends on when and where the gentleman proposes to the lady.

All in all, all religions believe that the fourth finger of the left hand is the ideal finger for the ring. But you must be wondering, why specifically the fourth finger of the left hand?

People in almost every religion have a firm belief that the

All of the religions believe that the fourth finger of the left hand is the ideal finger for the ring

fourth finger of the left hand is the ideal finger for both the bride and groom. Why? Well, it is because they believe that there is a vein that connects directly from the finger to the heart. When the bride and groom wear the rings on the designated finger, the rings connect them by heart. This helps them create a bond that is near to their heart, which lasts long and their love becomes stronger. Sometimes, the hand varies from culture to culture but the finger stays the same. Wearing a ring on this specific finger symbolizes that you are committed and are planning to get married soon. It doesn't necessarily have to be an engagement ring, you can exchange the rings on your wedding too, to seal the rituals and wedding completely.

We believe that everyone deserves to commemorate their precious moments with the best jewellery items that capture all the memories and feelings within them. This is why we keep our promise to provide our customers with the best jewelry items that are not only durable but light on the pocket as well. This way, you won't even have to empty your pockets and still have the most heartfelt moments that you can remember forever.

How to redeem your mutual funds

The Hans India spoke to Jyoti Bhandari, Founder and CEO of Lovak Capital Pvt. Ltd on what are the ways through which women can redeem their mutual funds

Women have been an important part that is equally contributing to the economy for the past many years. Women are capable enough to earn their standard of living and invest their money smartly. Women have started investing their money in various mutual funds or by other means, but what happens when markets are falling? A majority of women panic when markets are falling and want to sell off everything in their portfolio. If you are one of them, think again.

Especially, if you have invested in a systematic investment plan (SIP), a single spell of volatility should not worry you. With SIPs, you reap the advantage of rupee cost averaging that keeps the volatility under check. This means you accumulate more units when markets are falling, and accumulate fewer units when markets are high.

Instead of worrying about the markets, the following are better reasons to exit a fund:

If the asset allocation changes over time

Asset allocation involves dividing an investment portfolio among different asset categories, such as stocks, bonds, and cash.



It is one of the most important decisions that investors make and rewards immensely if done wisely. Therefore, it's imperative to be aligned majorly with your goal and risk profile.

If you are close to your goal

It is always advisable to gradually transfer your funds from equity to debt instruments de-

pending upon your risk profile when you are 2 to 3 years away from your goals which will ensure you from the sudden market crash.

If there is a decline in the performance of the fund

Many factors affect the performance of the funds like an expense ratio, fund size, cash flows,

and skills of a fund manager. In general, if there has been a consistent decline in the performance of the scheme as compared to its peers for more than 2 years. You could decide to exit out of that particular scheme.

If there is any change in your goals

A major change in circum-

stances may alter the time horizon or targeted corpus of the goal. This may require the investor to change his investment strategy and even tweak the asset allocation.



Jyoti Bhandari

If you have a large number of funds

It only leads to duplication and you end up buying the same stocks through other funds. Not only a large number of funds are more difficult to keep track of, but it defeats the whole diversification principle also.

If there is a change in a scheme

If the new underlying mandate in the new scheme no longer aligns with your risk profile and goals. A change in mandate means the new fund may not match the return expectation or risk profile of the investor. An exit out of the scheme is justified if there is change in the fund's risk profile or doesn't align with your needs anymore.

Flaunt your kurtas, tunics in style



Whatever be the event or function, a kurta or a tunic will be the sparing beauty of it. You may find numerous styles of kurta in your closet and might be thinking about how to restyle them. Well, the choice is boundless. Here are few mix and match tips to make you look stylish in kurtis and tunic

Look stunning by wearing kurta with jeans

Well, jeans go well with all types of kurtis, whether they may long straight or short. Many young girls love to wear jeans with kurta for a cool and stylish look. Go with any colour kurta to pair with your denim. You can fold your jeans from your ankle-length, and you are good to go. However, this perfect combination kurta with jeans design gives you an Indo-western look.

Style your kurta with shrug

Yes, you can definitely wear shrugs on kurta. It enhances a modern look to style your outfit. Try any plain kurta with shrugs with prints to make a style statement. Any shrugs design can opt for long or short kurtis for that indo-fusion look. Shrug comes in many designs and patterns. Be it long or short sleeves, this outfit will never go out of fashion. So, be ready to flaunt at any occasion with these stylish shrugs designs.

Kurta with cigarette pant style

Styling your kurta with cigarette pants gives you a modern yet sophisticated look. This new and stylish kurta is mostly liked by every age group of women. Even the plus size ladies can go with this style. For any festive and wedding occasion, you can go with em-

broidery kurta with straight pants. Also, you can choose dupatta as per your choice. Additionally, wear stud earrings and a pendant necklace to complete the look.

Chunky and funky- kurta with shorts style

Yes, who said kurta can't be wear with shorts? Personally, I just loved this cool and funky dress. Especially young women love these indo-fusion wear. Kurta comes in many colors and patterns but makes sure to match kurta with shorts in contrast. You can add a belt over the kurta for a casual look. Wear simple sandals to complete the look. Also, read how to wear salwar kameez in different ways

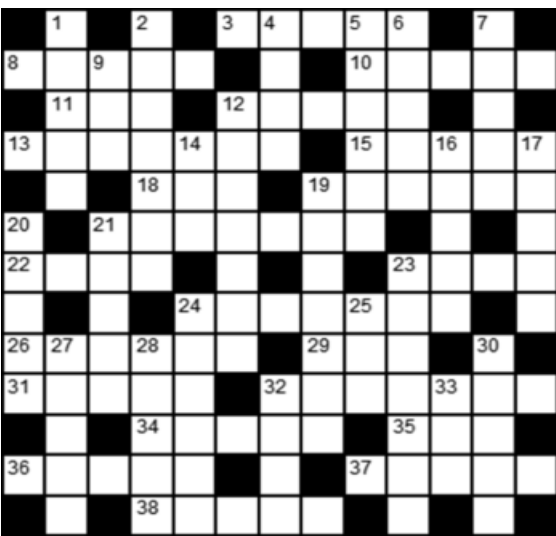
Pair kurta with sharara pant

Sharara comes in many designs and patterns. It looks like palazzo which has a flared

pleat from its knee. Because of its unique design, many Indian women love to have this ensemble. Though it enhances the ethnic look, the sharara and kurta set are a great choice for all age group ladies. So, just pair your plain kurta with contrast sharara bottom and you are ready to go.

Look fabulous in kurta with dhoti pant style

Kurta with tulip pant dhoti pants always look stunning. Many celebrities have adopted this outfit in many shows and events. Following the trend, young girls love to flaunt in this ethnic outfit. Make sure to pair short kurta with dhoti salwar. Moreover, they seem like a fancy top that is above or just the knee-length. This fashion is most alluring among young girls, particularly in the summer festival. Wear pretty sandals or heels to look stylish.



SOLUTION TO JANUARY 10

CROSSWORD

Across

- 3 Shoals (5)
- 8 Dull (2-3)
- 10 European country (5)
- 11 Succeeded (3)
- 12 Fine fiddle (5)
- 13 Lukewarmly (7)
- 15 Large divided leaf (5)
- 18 A small pin (3)
- 19 Fully-grown elephant (6)
- 21 West African country (7)
- 22 Fly high (4)
- 23 Chemicals used to colour fabrics (4)
- 24 Easy targets (7)
- 26 Last syllable of a word (6)
- 29 Levin or Gershwin (3)
- 31 Tropical resin (5)
- 32 Deserved (7)
- 34 Communion table (5)
- 35 Cloistered woman (3)
- 36 Aphorism (5)
- 37 Sums owing (5)
- 38 Church council (5)

Down

- 1 Strength (5)
- 2 An evergreen shrub (7)
- 4 Television award (4)
- 5 Recurring irregularly (6)
- 6 Agitates (5)
- 7 By oneself (5)
- 9 Jump on one leg (3)
- 12 N. African state (7)
- 14 Lair (3)
- 16 Greenlights (5)
- 17 Apparel (5)
- 19 More savoury or palatable (7)
- 20 Children (5)
- 21 Pan-fry (5)
- 23 Spent (7)
- 24 An emoticon (6)
- 25 Be mistaken (3)
- 27 Extensive grassy plain of S. America (5)
- 28 Mosque leaders ? (5)
- 30 Leases (5)
- 32 Salad dressing (4)
- 33 Clumsy boat (3)

SUDOKU



NEWS ROUNDUP

Tisca Chopra: Feminine roles are no longer generic stereotypes

Actress Tisca Chopra says feminine roles are no longer generic stereotypes but people who have conflicts, dimensions and trajectories.

"When I started out, there were three types of roles; there were the three B's. The babe from age 16-25, the Bhabhi from age 25-40 and anything over 40 was Biji," Tisca said while talking about how things have changed for female stars.

"Fortunately, since then, things have moved and characters have now evolved to becoming far more layered, nuanced, lived in and fleshed out. Feminine roles are no longer generic stereotypes but people who have conflicts, dimensions and trajectories and are far more interesting to play," she added.

She added: "We need more living and breathing characters with vulnerabilities and flaws." Tisca entered Bollywood with the commercial potboiler "Platform" in 1993, and worked in projects like "Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii", "Karishma Kaa Karishma" and "Sau Jhooth Ek Sach". The turning point was her role of a mother in "Taare Zameen Par", and she went on to prove her talent in projects like "Firaq", "Qissa: The Tale Of A Lonely Ghost", "24", "Ghayal Once Again", "Beecham House" and "Hostages".

The actress opened up about the changing face of the industry in an episode of "Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films", which airs on Zee Cafe in India.



Bird flu: Centre directs zoo managements to submit daily report

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

A day after over 1,200 birds were found dead in the country with seven states confirming outbreak of avian influenza, the Centre on Sunday directed zoo managements to submit daily report to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) till their area is declared free from the disease.

The CZA, under the environment Ministry, issued an office memorandum directing management of all zoos to strengthen surveillance and aviary management. "In endemic areas, entry to aviary sections may be monitored and restricted, and all vehicles entering the zoo may be sanitised. All water bodies within the zoo should be monitored and artificial water bodies may be drained. "Bird exchange programmes (both national and international may be stopped until further notice). Entry points of migratory birds to be strictly monitored. Aviary enclosures may be disinfected and all keepers in the sections may be instructed to follow disinfection protocol and use PPE kits which may be destroyed as per standard protocols," it said.

The CZA said avian influenza is a scheduled disease under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, and reporting such a disease is obligatory for taking appropriate preventive measures against its spread. "In the event of declaration of infected area within a zoo, either due to outbreak within the zoo or if the zoo is located within the surveillance zone as notified by central/state government, the officer in charge of the zoo shall submit a daily report to the office of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) till the area is declared free from avian influenza by the competent authority," the memorandum stated.

Reporting and monitoring format in the daily report will have the name of the zoo, district, total number of bird species housed there, total number of birds in the zoo, free ranging birds (species and any other data observations as available), number of suspected cases, number of samples sent for confirmation and name of laboratory to which samples were sent.

The CZA also advised that strict hygiene protocols must be maintained in all aviaries and all droppings must be collected, disinfected and disposed of appropriately. Over 1,200 birds were found dead across the country on Saturday, including 900 in a poultry farm in Maharashtra, with the Centre saying that the outbreak of avian influenza has been reported in Uttar Pradesh, taking the total number of affected states to seven.

Besides Uttar Pradesh, the other six states where bird flu has been confirmed were Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat. The Centre on Saturday said confirmation of bird flu in Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, is awaited as the samples have been sent for testing.



OPD services at Rajiv Hospital to resume today

FIRST HEART BYPASS SURGERY AFTER 10 MONTHS

NEW DELHI

DOCTORS at Delhi government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH) are slated to conduct a heart bypass surgery on Monday, which will be the first operation to be done there since it was declared a dedicated coronavirus facility nearly 10 months ago, officials said.

The national capital had reported its first coronavirus case on March 1 when a businessman from east Delhi had tested positive for the infection. LNJP Hospital and RGSSH were among the facilities converted into dedicated COVID-19 hospitals soon after the cases began to rise.

"Our OPD is scheduled to resume from tomorrow, however, it will be only available on three days -- Monday, Wednesday and Friday," RGSSH spokesperson Dr Chhavi Gupta told PTI. "But, as a super speciality hospital, tomorrow is an important day for us as after 10 months a surgery will be conducted at the facility which had been all closed as we had become a fully COVID facility," she added.

The 650-bed RGSSH was a dedicated coronavirus facility till recently when it was converted into a partially COVID-19 hospital, along with six other Delhi government-run hospitals, including Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital. The OPD services resumed at the 2000-bed LNJP Hospital located in central Delhi, the largest facility under the city government, from January 4.

"The OPD services of five departments will function only partially in a week. So, cardiology and urology departments will run it on Monday and Wednesday, gastroenterology will run only on Monday, while pulmonology and CTVS will operate on Wednesday and Friday," Gupta said.

WAF stars steal the show

NEW DELHI

THE 8th World Auto Forum Awards concluded on Sunday with WAF stars stealing the show all the way!! This time, the awards were bigger, different and as stringent as they always come! Deeply researched, passionately debated and carefully chosen, they showcased Platinum performances from across the Automotive ecosystem.

Anuj Guglani, CEO, World Auto Forum, remarked, "WAF Awards 2021 are a testimony to how the Industry stars have taken care of their customers, teams and suppliers, balancing health-physical, mental and financial".

"2020 was a turbulent year for most industries particularly the Auto and Mobility sector, and companies that were proactive in dealing with the Covid impact were the ones that bounced back faster", expressed Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI. "As a Jury Member at WAF awards, it was heartening to see companies move beyond pure profits and embrace employee welfare and retention to form a strong foundation for future potential", he added.

Tanuj Pugalía, CMD, Gallops Motors explained, "WAF awards are so close to my heart, we have been associated with WAF since the beginning and absolutely proud about that very fact. WAF Awards brings in recognition to the behind the lines unsung heroes of the Automobile Industry, not only it encourages, it enriches each one of us with the best practices and the latest innovations of this industry thus making us sharper and brighter by the day".

The awards

Auto Makers: 1. Sunil Kakkar | Maruti Suzuki India Limited | Best Purchase/Supply Chain Head | Auto Maker - PV Category 2. Hyundai Motor India | Service on WhatsApp | Best Innovation | Auto Maker - PV Category 3. Vijay Sethi | Hero MotoCorp Limited | Best Chief Information Officer | Auto Maker - 2W Category 4. Rajendra Bhat | TVS Motor Company Limited | Best After Sales Head | Auto Maker - 2W Category

EV Companies: JBM Auto Limited | ECO-LIFE Electric Bus | Best Innovation | EV Maker Category

Auto Dealers: Kataria Group | Highest Sales Performance - Auto Retail | Passenger Vehicles Category

Auto & Mobility Tech Companies: Sameer Malhotra | Shriram Automall | Best Chief Executive Officer - Auto and Mobility Tech Companies CamCom Technologies | AI-Powered Defect/Damage Inspections | Best Innovation | Auto & Mobility Tech Category iTriangle Infotech | Drive Assist 101 | Best Innovation | Auto & Mobility Tech Category

Mobility Companies: Hari Kaushik | TransLease | Best President | Mobility Services Company Category Sandeep Gambhir | ORIX India | Best MD & CEO | Mobility Co Category CarzOnRent | CabPro | Best Innovation | Mobility Services Company Category Edelweiss General Insurance | Switch (Driver Based Insurance) | Best Innovation | Mobility Services Company Category

Aftermarket: AkzoNobel | UV Filler & Xpress Clear | Best Innovation | Automotive Aftermarket Category



2nd Convocation ceremony of Sanskriti University held

NEW DELHI

SANSKRITI University organised its 2nd Convocation on Sunday amidst the state of pandemic scenario across the globe.

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Honourable Union Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India graced the occasion via video conferencing as Chief Guest and delivered the convocation address. Padam Bhushan Rajat Sharma Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV as Guest. Sanskriti University presented degrees to the graduating students and charged them with the same. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Minister inaugurated Centre for Krishna Consciousness (CKC).

The Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to the various top rankers of the respective Diploma, Undergraduate and Post Graduate Programmes offered by the university.

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Union Minister of Education congratulated all the graduating students of the University and their parents. He called upon the students to strive hard to cherish their dreams despite enormous challenges to be faced in the times to come. He also reminded them to remember the contribution of the alma mater i.e. Sanskriti University for its innovative teaching, learning and mentoring them to the path of success. He also expressed that the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) of Govt. of India will go a long way in brightening the future of the new students which will pave the way for holistic and multidisciplinary education.

Vice Chancellor Prof. CS Dubey emphasized upon to develop creative thinking, morality and passion while going to take more newer jobs in 4th Industrial Revolution



CBI arrests 2 for sale, purchase of child sexual abuse material

NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

THE CBI has arrested two persons in an ongoing investigation of a case related to the alleged sale and purchase of child sexual abuse material over Instagram and other social media platforms.

The accused, identified as Neeraj Kumar Yadav, Kuljeet Singh Mekan, were arrested on Friday and were remanded to judicial custody up to January 22 by a special CBI court here on Saturday.

The CBI registered the case against a private person under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Information and Technology Act, 2000 on the allegations that the accused was advertising over Instagram account for sale of objectionable material, including child pornographic material.

It was further alleged that the accused had purchased large volume of data from another accused person which was stored over cloud-based websites containing objectionable material, including the child pornography material and made payment to him through Paytm for the same.

Thereafter, the accused allegedly published an advertisement for the sale of the said material over Instagram, the CBI said.

"On receipt of payments via Paytm or Google Pay from the customers or seekers, the accused was allegedly sharing the objectionable material with them through WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram and other social media platforms. It was also alleged that he has gained monetary benefits and was indulging in these activities since 2019."

Rafale jets, Panther helicopters now under 'Make in India'

**PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI**

INDIA is insisting on strengthening its position in the field of defense. India and France have taken steps together to cooperate with each other in the field of defense. France has made a big offer to India on Rafale fighter aircraft and Panther helicopters. Now France's Panther utility chopper will be assembled 100 percent in India.

Apart from this, the assembly line of Rafale fighter jet can be shifted up to 70 percent in India only. This will help in furthering India's Make in India campaign. According to media reports, there has been a discussion on transferring technology in both countries.

Emmanuel Bonn, diplomatic advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron, was in Delhi last week over the annual strategic dialogue between India and France. During this time there was a discussion on defense cooperation between the two countries. According to sources, more Rafale fighter jets can be purchased from France. It is believed that assembling them in India will reduce the price considerably.

Indian Navy is looking to buy medium range helicopters. Airbus AS565 MBe can be used in any season. It is a multi-role medium helicopter, designed for operation from the ship's deck, offshore location and land-based sites.

In the India-France Strategic Dialogue this week, the 9,900 MW Jaitapur nuclear power structure Corporation of India was also discussed. India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was present during the conversation. A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs informed that the two countries discussed a range of issues including counter-terrorism, cyber security, defense cooperation, maritime security, regional and global affairs and cooperation in the Indian Pacific region.







"A premium Co-Living Space"

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by  Approved No. PO2400001598

SAFE

AFFORDABLE

NO MAINTENANCE

Earn extra sft*

9% to 11% Returns

Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

Voters should wake up to save democracy

ONCE again, Andhra Pradesh politics is mired in controversy over local body elections. Though the State Election Commissioner (SEC) N Ramesh Kumar had issued proceedings on the elections on Friday and said that “the commission had carefully weighed in the pros and cons, the State government seems to be in no mood to hold the elections and the decision of the Centre to launch Covid-19 vaccination from January 16 has come in handy for the government to refuse the launching of process of local body elections. It has already moved the High Court and the State Election Commissioner has been going around temples praying to the God that the elections should be held in peaceful manner before his term ends soon. The SEC also issued orders to implement the list of transfers it had recommended. But given the mood of the government, it may not be imple-

mented. On the other hand, acrimonious, vituperative comments are coming from the Ministers and ruling party members. With the Opposition being weak both at national and State level, verbal accusations and trading charges against each other have increased and the political culture has hit the lowest ebb. Comments by the people in power or those on social media are bereft of decency and decorum. There seems to be an unhealthy competition among leaders who across the country through their behaviour have let the image of the country go down the drain. One does not find any logic or ideology in what they speak, and politics is becoming more and more indecent. Added to this, one can see equally vitriolic debates which are no less than street fights. Decent and parliamentary words seem to have been erased from their dictionary. They serve no purpose. At the most, they help in some increase in the TRP of the programme. The country is moving closer towards chief executive's control over legislature. The single party majority in many States as well the Centre makes it all the more necessary to have an effective Opposition if democracy has to survive. What India needs is a record voter turnout, emotional involvement in campaigns invoking issues re-

lated to people and ideologies (not promises which would make people lazy or unproductive). The candidates should be those who had come from the grass root level and have direct connect even with the average voter. All parties should focus more on bread and butter issues. But unfortunately, at the national level, the Congress is in state of decay and is mired in internal crisis over leadership issue. The situation in the States where regional parties are in power is no different as the major Opposition parties there have been decimated. There is no leader or party which can bring all Opposition parties under one umbrella. Even if anyone tries, he will not succeed because, no party seems to be willing to join others to take on the government. They refuse to accept that in a democracy with a weak Opposition the ruling party pays no costs for poor performance and ultimately it is the people who suffer. They also do not seem to be bothered about the systematic way all institutions are losing their power and importance. Unless the sleeping giant called the voter wakes up and says ‘No’ to money, caste and religion-based politics and makes the netas to come out of their slumber, democracy will just remain a mere slogan.



A fear perspective on Capitol Hill attack

B MARIA KUMAR

THE 6th of January attack on Capitol Building in Washington D. C. reminds me of 2001 terrorist assault on Indian Parliament Building in New Delhi. The main difference between the two events is that the culprits in the former incident were reported to be the supporters of a long-standing American political party and in the case of the latter, the intruders belonged to banned international terrorist organisations. Another difference is that the Capitol Hill attackers stormed the building in public view as though they did not care about the law of the land deliberately whereas the terrorists sneaked into the Indian Parliament Building premises secretly in order to execute their diabolical plans.

In both the instances, security forces were successfully able to counter the nefarious efforts of the culprits before more damage could take place. However, the biggest question following the unfortunate Capitol episode that left every right-thinking American citizen perplexed was as to who else is secure if the highest governing institution in the country is not safe. Here I see that the instant tragic occurrence is the outcome of many failures on many fronts. First of all, the alleged attackers grossly failed to conduct themselves as reasonably responsible citizens by not taking recourse to innumerable avenues available for venting their grievances peacefully.

On the other hand, the political leaders at the level of mayor or senator or representative failed to hold prompt and sincere negotiations with the mobsters prior to the ghastly incident to mollify the protesters' rash temperaments. Police forces too failed miserably not only in collecting the inputs of intelligence about the potential assembly of huge violent crowd but also in taking preventive action by invoking relevant legal provisions to forestall the thronging.

Though there are many angles to understand the Capitol riots, be it political or socioeconomic or emotional; I think that a fear perspective will yield a balanced analysis as far as security/law and order shortcomings are concerned.

Fearism and fearology are two terms which deal with the relationship between fear and life and this trans-disciplinary study was independently pioneered and propounded by Desh Subba, a Nepali thinker and R Michael Fisher, a Canadian philosopher. According to fearist viewpoint, it can be interpreted that the mobsters lacked benign fear (good fear like respect, reverence etc) towards law and custodians of law. Such questionable attitude was not the result of a single day spontaneous affair but that of habitual defiance to constitutional ethos nurtured over a period of time when law seemed be losing its grip over the society at large to keep it in order. One explanation, inter alia, could perhaps be attributed to repeatedly occurring slack and ineffective enforcement drives by police officers during the ongoing pandemic. Therefore, it was clearly perceptible that the attackers have not taken policemen's lawful authority seriously enough as it should have been while converging at Capitol Hill. The subsequent emboldenment effect resulted in storming and invading the building and the people inside. It shows that the attackers have apparently developed a deadly sort of reckless lawlessness and irrational fearlessness towards the authority of people's representatives and enforcement officials. This gruesome act put the US government on a red alert to see that such grave eventualities should not recur in future.

The fearological approach looks at the instant public order crisis mainly from four sides of fear. As we know, fear is generally of two opposite strains which are good fear (or benign fear which is positive and respectful) and bad fear (or toxic fear which evokes irrational and harmful feelings). Juxtaposed to fear is fearlessness which, in equal and opposite directions, exists again in benign (rational and good oriented fearlessness) and toxic (irrational and endangering) forms. The combinations of these four elements determine the extent of people's obedience to law. The state of benign fear co-existing with benign fearlessness will pave the way for the most harmonious and law-abiding society. Toxic fearlessness can be controlled by resorting to inculcation of benign fear to maintain a fair degree of equanimity in social relations during the maintenance of law and order. Toxic fear can be neutralised by applying benign fearlessness to promote righteous freedom and liberty among the people. Toxic fear and toxic fearlessness will in unison yield the worst kind of chaotic human conditions in the society and the Capitol disaster is a live example. The reason being that the protesters might have most probably developed negative attitudes towards police officers by virtue of various unfortunate past instances. The innocent members of the crowd would invariably tend to adopt illogical mob psychology

Given the sad state of affairs that shook America on that fateful day, it is now high time for the US government to take immediate steps to repair not only systemic faults but also the divisive mindsets of the suspect police officers and the racist citizens. And one of such curative measures must include fear management strategies and fearlessness approach as part of solutions.

(The writer is a retired IPS officer and co-author of 'Fear, Law and Criminology' & 'India, A Nation of Fear and Prejudice'. Views expressed are personal)

Tax biggies to stop borrowing

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Hunjunhwal

THE Finance Minister should increase the budget allocations for science and communications and for providing direct cash transfers to all the citizens. The former will lay foundations of our economic prowess in the next century.

The latter will engage our manpower in productive employment, put purchasing power in the hands of people, generate demand in the market and set in motion a fortuitous cycle of employment generation, production, creation of demand and yet more employment generation. Increasing expenditures on capital intensive infrastructural works like making highways will not start the economy because these do not employ large numbers of workers and do not harness the productive power of our youth. These activities are like a beautiful island in midst of a sea in turmoil.

The present year 2020-21 is abnormal hence I will give my suggestions for the coming budget on the basis of the figures for 2019-20. I have given all figures in approximate to keep the presentation simple. On the revenue side, my first suggestion is that the rates of Corporate Tax must be increased. The share of the Central government in the collections from Corporate Tax was Rs 3.2 lakh crore in 2019-20. This may be increased to Rs 4.0 lakh crore. Indeed, there will be a tendency of Indian corporates to shift their head office to foreign countries in order to avoid paying the high taxes here. This should be dealt by amending the Double Tax Avoidance Agreements that we have entered into in the last two decades.

Two, Income Tax rates must be increased. The share of the Central government in the collections from Income Tax was Rs 2.8 lakh crore in 2019-20. This must be increased to Rs 4.0 lakh crore in 2021-22. Indeed, this will lead to a reduction in the demand from the better-off sections who are income taxpayers, but much greater demand will be created from the common man by the dropping of helicopter money as I propose below.

Three, GST rates must be reduced. The share of the Central government in the collections from GST was Rs 6.1 lakh crore in 2019-20. This must be reduced to Rs 4 lakh crore in 2021-22. This will lead to lower prices of goods in the market and rev up the demand.

Four, customs duties must be increased three times. The share of the Central government in the collections from customs duties was Rs 0.6 lakh crore in 2019-20. This must be increased to Rs 2 lakh crore in 2021-22. This will provide a big boost to domestic production by providing them protection from

cheap imports. Five, Central Excise Duties must be increased by about 67 percent. These are collected mainly on petroleum products. The Central government collected Rs 2.5 lakh crore in 2019-20 from these duties. This must be increased to Rs 4 lakh crore in 2021-22. This increase will lead to higher price of petrol, reduced demand and lesser dependence on imports. That, in turn will lead to less pressure on us to export. Once again, the loss to the common man from higher price of petroleum products will be many times compensated by the helicopter money.

Six, the fiscal deficit may be reduced from the 7 percent-plus expected in the present year 2020-21 and restricted to 3.8 percent of GDP as it was in 2019-20. That will provide an amount of Rs 7.6 lakh crore from borrowings. The total budget of the Central government was Rs 27 lakh crore in 2019-20. This will increase to Rs 30 lakh crore due to the increased receipts from taxes suggested above after compensating for the reduced receipts from GST.

On the expenditure side, the first suggestion is that the allocations for defence must be increased. The Central government spent Rs 4.4 lakh crore on defence in 2019-20. This must be increased to Rs 7 lakh crore in 2021-22 in view of the threats we are facing from China. Two, allocations for technology and communications must be increased manifold. The Central government spent Rs 0.3 lakh crore each on these heads in 2019-20. This must be increased five times to Rs 1.5 lakh crore for both the heads in 2021-22. These sectors will lay the foundations of our future technological progress and this must be done pronto. Three, allocation for Home Ministry at Rs 1.4 lakh crore must be maintained since law and order is a fundamental requirement of a stable economy. Four, allocation for Health Ministry at Rs 0.6 lakh crore must be maintained. However, there is a need to change to composition of expenditures within the Ministry. The expenditures on Central government health services and similar schemes that provide health care to individuals must be scrapped entirely and the beneficiaries must be asked to pay in full for the services. The money saved may be diverted for research in control of Covid-19 pandemic. Five, expenditures on infrastructure must be temporarily reduced and expenditures on welfare schemes like Public Distribution System, MNREGA and education that provide welfare services to the people directly must be entirely scrapped. The Central government spent Rs 20 lakh crore on these Ministries in 2019-20. This must be reduced to Rs 10 lakh crore in 2021-22. The abovementioned expenditures will require Rs 22 lakh crore leaving a balance of Rs 8 lakh crore out of the total revenue of Rs 30 lakh crore. This money should be transferred as “helicopter



On the expenditure side, the first suggestion is that the allocations for defence must be increased. The Central government spent Rs 4.4 lakh crore on defence in 2019-20. This must be increased to Rs 7 lakh crore in 2021-22 in view of the threats we are facing from China. Two, allocations for technology and communications must be increased manifold. The Central government spent Rs 0.3 lakh crore each on these heads in 2019-20. This must be increased five times to Rs 1.5 lakh crore for both the heads in 2021-22. These sectors will lay the foundations of our future technological progress and this must be done pronto. Three, allocation for Home Ministry at Rs 1.4 lakh crore must be maintained since law and order is a fundamental requirement of a stable economy. Four, allocation for Health Ministry at Rs 0.6 lakh crore must be maintained. However, there is a need to change to composition of expenditures within the Ministry. The expenditures on Central government health services and similar schemes that provide health care to individuals must be scrapped entirely and the beneficiaries must be asked to pay in full for the services. The money saved may be diverted for research in control of Covid-19 pandemic.

money” in the bank accounts of the 140 crores of our citizens providing Rs 500 per person per month to all the people. This transfer will more than nullify the loss from the dismantling of the welfare schemes in increased burden from increase in petroleum prices. This transfer will immediately generate a huge demand for goods in the market. Coupled with the increase in import duties this will lead to higher domestic production and set in motion a fortuitous cycle of demand generation, production, employment generation and more demand generation. The expenditures on infrastructure such as in the highways can be

restored after one or two years once the economy is back in motion.

We are in a crisis period. The Finance Minister should not increase expenditures on capital-intensive infrastructure schemes by borrowing ever larger amounts. That will impose a higher interest burden and throttle the economy. When domestic demand can be generated by increase in taxes and dropping of helicopter money; why try to do the same by borrowing and pushing us into a debt trap?

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

YSRCP opposes civic body polls for fear of defeat

UNDER the pretext of Covid-19 conditions, the YSRCP government is trying to get the local body elections delayed, to escape public rebuke and wrath and humiliating defeat in the local polls. When there was no problem for polls in Telangana, Bihar and other States even under the pandemic conditions, the contention of YSRCP is all sham. Even in the US, where the virus is rampant, presidential polls have been held with much buoyance. When the YSRCP is ready to open schools and colleges despite the spread of Covid-19, there is no saneness in impeding the proposed polls. Pouncing on Chandrababu Naidu or the TDP in this regard by any party reminds me of the axiom, ‘the bad workman always blames the tools...’ What goes around comes around is true. Whatever YSRCP has done, they will backlash for sure.

K Sai Prasanna Tagore, Tadepalligudem, AP

Repay excess fees paid by students

ALL the students who have applied for counselling have paid the college fee after the 1st phase of seat allotment and then many have given their consent by going for 2nd phase seat allotment. So, when in the 1st phase they paid the college fee of Rs 45,000 and when they got some other college, they paid college fee of Rs 30,000. Now the government has to return the amount which the student has paid in excess after allotment of seat in the 2nd phase. It



has been two months the 1st year students joined the college and have been undergoing online classes. But till now the amount is not transferred to the students' account. When the student exceeds the date of paying the fee then there would be fine to be paid by the student. But what about the government? Why the government is not paying the fine or interest to the student? Rs 15,000 is very huge amount for the middleclass people. So, the government should refund these amounts to the accounts of students.

Rathna Manoj Kumar, Chennur, Telangana

Capitol Hill attack a shame on Trump

THE horrible incident of the attack on the Capitol Hill last week in Washington by supporters of incumbent President has left the world stunned beyond words. The process of the election of President of the United States involves many stages. The candidate who gets 270 electoral college or more wins the US Presidential election. Joe Biden got 306 electoral college votes as against 232 electoral college votes polled for the incumbent President. Also, Joe Biden got more than 70 million popular votes as against more than 66 million polled for the incumbent President. However, the incumbent President refused to concede the defeat and levelled charges of fraud against

President elect Joe Biden. During the meeting of the joint session of the Congress held on January 7 2021 in Capitol Hill, chaired by the Vice President of the USA to confirm the result, fanatic supporters of the incumbent President attacked the Capitol Hill Building (Parliament building of the USA), entered into the building, created mayhem, resulting in suspension of the meeting for six hours and in the violence outside, four people lost their lives and curfew was imposed. The whole problem arose as a consequence of the incumbent President refusing to concede the win by his rival and also levelling charges of poll fraud. The courts in the USA dismissed the allegations of irregularities in the election process. The Vice President Mike Pence confirmed the win of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for the Post of President and Vice President, in spite of the instruction of the incumbent President to do the opposite. The essence of democracy is the periodic conduct of elections by an independent body and the smooth transition of power to the newly elected body. It is a civilized way of choosing representatives by the people (which is the antithesis of violent capture of seats of power). In case the defeated candidate has grievances of poll irregularities/fraud, he/she can approach the courts, instead of inciting people and attacking institutions and refusing to vacate the office. The loser should show grace in defeat and accept the verdict of the people. Or else, the conduct of elections to any post would become meaningless.

K Ahmed, Santoshnagar, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

TRS mantris launch broadside at BJP

ALL GET INTO OFFENSIVE MODE, ASK BJP TO STOP MUDSLINGING

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FINALLY, the Telangana ministers jumped into action to protect Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao from the tirade launched by the BJP leaders in the State as the ministers Eatala Rajender, Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Puvvada Ajay Kumar took a broadside at saffron party leaders on Sunday and warned the opposition leaders not cross the limits.

The TRS leaders have been facing criticism from their own cadre that they were not taking into consideration the attacks and aggressive onslaught by the BJP leaders against the party chief and also on the government. The party activists were surprised with the party leaders maintaining silence on the BJP even after the opposition party was targeting the chief minister. They wanted the party leaders to counter those allegations. A few days ago, government whip B Suman had called upon the party activists to counter the BJP leaders.

The leaders on Sunday targeted the BJP leaders at different programmes.

Health Minister Eatala Rajender on Sunday criticised the BJP leaders for repeatedly charging false allegations on the TRS government.



Ministers laying foundation stone for Mudiraj Bhavan at Kokapet on Sunday

Along with Ministers, T Srinivas Yadav, Gangula Kamalakar, and Sabitha Indra Reddy, MPs Keshava Rao, Prakash, Ranjith Reddy, and others, he participated in the foundation-laying ceremony for construction of Mudiraj Bhavan at Kokapet in the city. Eatala said that the BJP leaders only indulge in talking. "The BJP always uses the weaker sections only as vote banks and never cares for their upliftment. "There are 240 residential schools in Telangana...Are there any residential schools in any of the BJP ruled states?" asked Rajender.

Srinivas Yadav praised that the Chief Minister offers all help to the poor communities. He told

the BJP leaders that mudslinging would be of no use. Giving costly land in Kokapet area to Mudirajs is for helping the poor and self-respect.

Kamalakar congratulated the Mudiraj community for the new Bhavan. It will offer the support to the community people come from districts, he said. Sabitha Indra Reddy said that the KCR government is for helping the poor communities through such facilities. The government is known for welfare of the poor, she added.

Dayakar Rao alleged that the BJP never fulfils the promises made during the elections. He said that while the BJP was yet to

'While the BJP is yet to fulfil its pre-poll promises, the TRS has been implementing the promises not mentioned in the manifesto. What has happened to black money? Where are the Rs 15 lakh in bank accounts? Where is the flood relief to the state? They indulge in social media gimmicks, do not fall in their trap,'

fulfil its pre-poll promises, the TRS has been implementing the promises not mentioned in the manifesto. "What has happened to black money? Where are the Rs 15 lakh in bank accounts? Where is the flood relief to the state? They indulge in social media gimmicks, do not fall in their trap," said Rao. The BJP leaders should stop the cheap politics otherwise people would teach them a lesson, he warned.

Puvvada Ajay said that the BJP leaders come as tourists during the elections. He said that people of Khammam would not listen to the Saffron party leaders lies. He said the party workers will not keep quiet if the BJP leaders continue to talk irresponsibly. The BJP leader is indulging in mudslinging. I am not ready to wait until 2023 and face action. Now itself Sanjay should take action if he can," the minister said.



Come Sunday, families with kids have whale of a time at Sanjeeviah Park, chillingax in the Covid times. Photo: Adula Krishna

Kuchipudi dance show enthrals at Shilparamam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MADHAPUR

DURING the week-end cultural programme held here on Sunday, the Kuchipudi dance presentation "Ardanareeswaram" by Dr Venkat and his disciples received appreciations from the audience at Shilparamam Amphitheatre. In the item "Ardhanareswara" is depicted as half-male and half-female, equally split down the middle. The right half is usually the male, Shiva, and the left Goddess Parvathi.

During the performance, the team presented 'Srigananadham', 'Vinnapalu', 'Miliitha Sangeetha', 'Koluvaithiva Rangasai', 'Krishna Shabdam', 'Ananda Thandavam', 'Dasavatharam', 'Thillana'.



The artistes included Rithwik Venkat, Charmila Venkat, Ravikath, Vijay, Gagan Venkat, Kruthi Reddy, Varsha, Anita, Varun.

Bhuma Akhila undergoes tests, back in prison

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FORMER AP Tourism Minister Bhuma Akhila Priya was taken to Osmania hospital as she complained about ill-health and seizures.

According to sources, the TDP leader complained about getting fever, cold and seizures to the Chanchalguda prison authorities and stated that the medical treatment of the prison was not enough for her. She was taken to Osmania hospital on Saturday night for checkup.

After conducting thorough health checkup, the doctors informed the police that she was stable and prescribed

some medicines. As they informed the cops that she can be taken back to prison, she was shifted to the Chanchalguda prison.

The hearing of Akhila Priya case involving abduction over a real estate dispute is to take place in the Secunderabad city civil court on Monday.

She was arrested from her residence last week on charges of kidnapping the Katikaneni brothers as there was a land dispute of acres of land at Hafeezpet between the families.

Though initially named as accused no. 2 in the FIR, cops named her as the accused no. 1 in the charge-sheet filed before the court.

RTC to use Volvo buses in Hyd for long routes

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

AS the Metro Rail made inroads into its turf and got a huge response from the public, all the high-end air-conditioned Volvo buses of RTC in the city are confined to the depots for a long time. However, the TSRTC authorities are planning to revive their services and make use of them for inter-State services. They will embark on long distances from Sankranti to clear the rush of passengers.

The TSRTC buses were limited to depots for more than six months because of lockdown and though the services were started later, only a limited number of buses came onto the roads. The city services were

To start with, to press them into inter-state service to meet Sankranti rush



started after a gap of 187 days, on September 25 but with just 25 per cent of the fleet. The numbers were gradually increased to more than 50 per cent. However, the Corporation is unable to generate good revenues from or-

dinary buses as also from AC buses.

The corporation has got about 80 high-end Volvo buses under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JN-NURM). However, there has not

The corporation has got about 80 high-end Volvo buses. However, there has not been much revenue generated through these luxury buses in the city. They were being used in IT corridor only but after Metro garnering public fare, they stayed off the road

in the IT corridor. The corporation initially raked in good revenues. But after the Metro Rail was introduced, the patronage by the public waned, said an official adding there was also some adverse impact by the RTC strike, which went on for a long time.

TSRTC faced some issues after entering into an agreement with regard to inter-state services with the neighbouring states. Even as services to neighbouring States increased, it was not finding new buses to operate on those routes. It was then that the officials decided to shift the AC buses from the city services to the inter-state service. Also, the long-distance inter-state services buses generate more revenue for the corporation.

Industries Minister plays Pawan for making baseless allegations

- Points out that the State govt has directed the management of Divis not to proceed further until the issues of locals are resolved
- An expert committee comprising representatives from the Fisheries and Industries depts has also been formed for the purpose
- Recalls that the YSRCP govt passed a legislation to provide 75 per cent reservation in jobs to the local people
- Criticises Pawan for speaking without having the basic understanding of the issue and trying to mislead the youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

MINISTER for Industries and IT Mekapati Gautam Reddy criticised that Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has been falsely accusing the government over Divis Laboratories and said that he has been making comments without any knowledge on the subject.

He addressed the media in the city on Sunday and informed that the job opportunities for locals have increased as soon as the YSR congress government came to power in the State as 75 pc of the quota has been allocated to the locals after a law was introduced in 2019.

He said that the first preference would be given to those (families) who have given land

Anil lambasts Naidu for obstructing progress

- The Water Resources Minister describes Naidu as 'Saindhava'
- Exudes confidence that the YSRCP will win the by-election to the Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency by a thumping majority

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

MINISTER for Water Resources Dr P Anil Kumar Yadav criticised that Opposition leader Chandrababu Naidu was acting like Saindhava and obstructing the progress in the State. He addressed the media at the Chief Minister's public meeting venue in the city on Sunday and announced that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is giving Rs 15,000 to each of the beneficiaries as part of Amma Vodi just before the important festival Sankranti.

But he blamed the former Chief Minister for trying to create obstacles to the programme using his wicked plans. He warned that the people of the State would teach Naidu a strong lesson in the coming



Irrigation Minister P Anil Kumar Yadav addressing the media in Nellore on Sunday. Others seen from left are: MP Adala Prabhakar Reddy, Industries Minister M Gautam Reddy and Education Minister Audimulapu Suresh.

elections. He said they are firm to conduct the launching activity of Amma Vodi on Monday at any cost even though the Opposition plans to disturb it.

Further, the Minister said that they would show their might in the coming by-election to the Tirupati LS seat. The election would provide a strong lesson to the Opposition leader who has been diverting the

attention of the people with his tactics and exuded confidence that the ruling party would win the Tirupati seat with a huge majority.

Further, School Education Minister A Suresh said that they would conduct the public meeting in Nellore on Monday following the guidelines of the State Election Commission. He said the Chief Minister also directed them to follow the instructions.

further without resolving the local issues, and said that the government had constituted a committee with experts from both industries and fisheries department.

Gautam Reddy said that Pawan should write to State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh to stop the elections to local bodies if he is really sincere about the lives of the people, as the local body polls disrupt Covid-19 vaccination and could lead to the spread of coronavirus.

Botcha says situation not conducive for polls

- Points out that keeping the employees' and people's safety in view, many are opposing the civic polls
- Says the threat of the second wave of pandemic is looming large
- Wonders for whose benefit the election schedule has been announced
- Alleges that the SEC wants to apply brakes on the various welfare schemes being implemented by the State govt
- However, the Minister says the YSRCP will win 95 per cent seats in the local body elections whenever they are held

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

MINISTER for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana speaking at a press conference in Visakhapatnam on Sunday



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana speaking at a press conference in Visakhapatnam on Sunday

party office here on Sunday, he said keeping the employees' and people's safety in view, many are opposing the civic polls. "We have been repeatedly saying that conducting elections is not safe now as the government is responsible if anything goes wrong in the present situation," the Minister said.

Botcha said that people are aware of the 'Unconstitutional force' behind the decision and the motive of the Election Commissioner as well.

The Minister said the State was implementing several welfare programmes and alleged that the State Election Commission (SEC) wants to apply brakes on them by

bringing in the election code.

He said that the SEC's decision was nothing but 'Unconstitutional' and reflects misuse of power. "With the threat of the second wave of the pandemic looming large, many political parties, employees and people from various sections of society are against the conduct of the local body polls. I do not understand why such a decision has been taken in a short span of time," he wondered.

Further, the Minister said he did not understand for whose benefit the election schedule was announced. He alleged that the State Election Commission was acting like a 'Political party.'

RWS SE, 2 others hurt as pvt bus hits car

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIZIANAGARAM

A senior engineering official and his two subordinates were seriously injured when a private bus hit the car in which they were travelling. The mishap occurred at the Collector' office junction on Sunday evening.

Traffic Sub-Inspector P Bhaskar Naidu informed that PLN Prasad, Superintending



Badly mangled car at the site of the mishap

Engineer (SE) of Rural Water Supply (RWS) wing, and K Simhachalam, assistant engineer, were returning from Bhogapuram and were moving

towards the Collector's office. When they reached the Collector's office junction, the bus going in the same direction hit the car. The two engineers along with car driver S Sankar sustained injuries and they were immediately rushed to the nearby M R general hospital. The driver of the bus is absconding. The police reached the place and cleared the traffic. A case has been registered.

‘₹1,364 cr paid to 20 lakh undeserving beneficiaries under PM-KISAN’

NEW DELHI

THE government has paid Rs 1,364 crore to 20.48 lakh undeserving beneficiaries under its ambitious PM-KISAN scheme, a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) query by the Union Agriculture Ministry reveals.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sammann Nidhi (PM-KISAN) was launched by the Centre in 2019 and under the scheme, an income support of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments is paid to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding or ownership of up to 2 hectares. The Union Agriculture Ministry, in response to the RTI application, identified two categories of undeserving beneficiaries who received PM-KISAN payouts as "ineligible farmers" and "income tax payee farmers".

RTI applicant Venkatesh Nayak of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) who received the data

from the government said, "More than half (55.58%) of these undeserving persons belong to the 'income tax payee category'."

"The remaining 44.41% belong to the 'ineligible farmers' category'," he added. Nayak said according to media reports, proceedings have been initiated to recover these funds transferred to undeserving persons. He said data obtained under RTI Act, 2005, indicated that since the commencement of the PM-KISAN Yojana in 2019, Rs 1,364.13 crore (USD 186.59 million) has been paid to 'ineligible persons' and 'income tax payee farmers' till July 31, 2020.

"Government's own data indicates money went into the wrong hands," he added. A major chunk of these ineligible beneficiaries belongs to five states -- Punjab, Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, as per the data. "Punjab tops the list accounting for 23.16 per cent (4.74 lakh) of the total number of undeserving per-



sons across the country who received payouts, followed by Assam with 16.87% (3.45 lakh beneficiaries) and Maharashtra with 13.99% (2.86 lakh beneficiaries).

These three states account for more than half (54.03 per cent) of the number of undeserving persons who received payouts," Nayak said Gujarat is at the fourth position with 8.05 per cent (1.64 lakh beneficiaries), followed by Uttar Pradesh at fifth position with 8.01 per cent (1.64 lakh beneficiaries), he said. Sikkim with just one undeserving beneficiary reported the lowest figure, Nayak said.

"The total amount of Rs 1,364.13 crore was paid to recipients across the states in 68.20 lakh installments (where each installment of Rs 2,000 paid out per recipient is counted separately). Out of this, 49.25 lakh installments were paid to 'IT payee farmers' while 18.95 lakh installments were paid to 'ineligible farmers' across the country," he said quoting the RTI data. Under the

scheme, an amount of Rs 6,000 per year is transferred in three installments of Rs 2,000 every four months directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status, a PIB statement had said.

The scheme was formally launched on February 24, 2019, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a grand function in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. Several categories of farmers are excluded from the scheme like institutional landholders; farmer families in which one or more members is among beneficiaries -- former and present holders of constitutional posts; former and present ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, mayors and chairmen of district panchayat; serving and retired government employees; pensioners receiving over Rs 10,000 monthly pension; income tax payees and professionals such as doctors, engineers, chartered accountants and architects etc.

CULLING OF BIRDS BEGINS IN KANPUR, 13 MP DISTRICTS HIT

KANPUR/BHOPAL

THE Kanpur Zoological Park has been closed for visitors till further orders after samples taken from two dead birds found there tested positive for the avian influenza virus, an official said on Sunday. The area up to one kilometre of the zoo has been declared an infected zone and the culling of birds has begun there, said Additional District Magistrate (City) Atul Kumar.

"Four fowls and two parrots were found dead in the zoo in the last five days. Of these, two birds tested positive," Kumar said.

Bird flu cases have so far been confirmed in 13 districts of Madhya Pradesh, while around 1,100 crows and other wild birds have been found dead across 27 districts since the flu virus was first detected in the state last month, a government official said on Sunday.

A poultry market in Agar Malwa district has been shut for a week after the bird flu virus was detected in one sample there, the official from the public relations department said. The district administration has started culling and burying of poultry birds.



A worker sprays disinfectant in an enclosure of Assam zoo in the wake of avian influenza outbreak, in Guwahati on Sunday

180 birds die

Aurangabad: Amid the bird flu scare in several states, an "alert zone" was declared in a 10-kilometre radius around Ahmedpur area in Latur in Maharashtra after 180 birds, including 128 hens, were found dead over the past couple of days, an official said on Sunday. The cause of death is yet unknown and the alert zone has been marked as a precautionary measure around Kendrewadi village, some 265 kilometres from here.

Geese worst hit

Pong Dam : Nestled in the sylvan surroundings of the Kangra valley in Himachal, the Pong Dam wetlands in the foothills of the Himalayas are normally agog with flapping of feathered guests each winter. But this winter, for the first time in recent decades, birds in the 307-square km Pong wetlands are hit by avian influenza H5N1. And the worst affected species is one of world's highest-altitude fliers, the bar-headed goose.

Heat-labile

New Delhi: Contrary to what some people think that the bird flu virus, is spread to humans via consumption of cooked poultry products, health experts on Sunday stressed that it usually does not infect people as the virus is heat-labile (degraded and killed when subjected to heat). These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.



Flamingos fly in Navi Mumbai on Sunday

GST team arrests 215 in fake invoice cases, recovers over ₹700 cr in 2 mths

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the CGST Commissionerates have recovered more than Rs 700 crore and arrested 215 persons in the last two months in cases related to fake GST invoices that were used to illegally avail or pass on input tax credit (ITC).

GST intelligence authorities have registered about 2,200 cases and unearthed more than 6,600 fake GSTIN entities during this period, sources said. The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the CGST Commissionerates

have so far arrested 215 persons, including six chartered accountants and one company secretary, and recovered more than Rs 700 crore from these fraudsters, sources said. Those arrested not only include operators of fake entities but also the end beneficiaries who connive with these fraudsters running businesses of fake invoices on commission basis, sources said. Use of data analytics, data-sharing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) along with BAFTA tool has enabled the GST ecosystem and intelligence authorities to identify layer-by-layer activities of these fake entities and pinpoint the fraudsters with precise input, sources said.

Stop Covaxin trial in Bhopal: NGOs working for gas victims

BHOPAL

AT least four NGOs working for the survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that the ongoing clinical trials for Covaxin, an indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine, be stopped in the Madhya Pradesh capital in view of the "gross violation of laws and guidelines". In the letters addressed to the PM and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, these NGOs have also sought punishment for the "responsible parties who were negligent in ensuring the safety, well being and the rights of the trial participants". They also demanded monetary compensation for "damages caused during the Covaxin trial in Bhopal". These letters have

been written by Rashida Bee of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmchhari Sangh, Nawab Khan of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha, Rachna Dhingra of Bhopal Group for Information and Action, and Nausheen Khan of Children Against Dow Carbide. Covaxin is developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

"We are writing to you to apprise you of the onground situation with regard to the conduct of the trial. Evidence has emerged that the trial in Bhopal is being conducted in gross violation of laws and guidelines governing clinical trials in India," the NGOs stated in the letters, copies of which were shared with media persons.



Two sisters Qurat-ul-Ain Zohra and Aiman Zohra along with their mother give a final touch to a snow sculpture to honour health workers and their fight against COVID-19, after a heavy snowfall, outside their residence in Srinagar on Sunday

Four killed in US shooting

CHICAGO

AT least four people were killed and two others severely injured in a shooting rampage in the US state of Illinois, a media report said, adding the suspect was shot and killed by the police. The NBC Chicago report said the first shooting took place at a pharmacy in Chicago on Saturday afternoon, resulting in the death of a 30-year-old man, Xinhua news agency reported. When officers arrived at the scene, the suspect managed to flee and shot another three people dead during his escape. In an IHOP restaurant in Evanston, he took a woman hostage, who was later shot by the suspect and has since been hospitalised. A 15-year-old girl, who was shot in the head, was rushed to the hospital and is now in critical condition.

Free 2GB/day for TN college students

CHENNAI

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister K.Palaniswami on Sunday announced issuance of free data cards for college students.

In a statement issued here, Palaniswami said owing to Covid-19 pandemic, the colleges are holding online classes for students.

In order to enable the students to attend the online classes, the government has decided to give free data cards with usage capacity of 2 GB per day between January to April.

Palaniswami said the data cards will be issued to about 9.69 lakh students studying in the government and government assisted colleges by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (Elcot), a state government undertaking.

Army officer accused of staging Shopian encounter for reward

SRINAGAR

JAMMU and Kashmir Police has charged an army captain of stage-managing the Amshipora (Shopian) encounter to get the reward money of Rs 20 lakh.

The charge sheet presented by the local police in the court of chief judicial magistrate in Shopian district accuses Captain Bhupinder Singh, presently in custody of the army, of hatching a conspiracy with two locals to claim the reward money.

The two civilians are Tabish Nazir and Bilal Ahmadi Lone. The latter has now turned approved for the police.

The charge sheet says Bhupinder Singh fired at three innocent civilians in July last year in Amshipora village even before the forces had laid the cordon there.

"He later told the security

forces that he had to fire as the militants were trying to escape," the charge sheet says.

The charge sheet includes statements of four army personnel who were part of the team along with him during the "encounter".

Three civilians belonging to Rajouri district of Jammu division who were working as labourers in Shopian were killed in this "encounter". They were later identified as Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammad Ibrar. The bodies of the victims were later exhumed and handed over to their families for last rites.

The army has also completed the summary of evidence in Amshipora encounter. Sources said besides the criminal proceedings in a civil court, the accused captain is also likely to face a court martial for his role in the operation.



Pak faces massive power outage

ISLAMABAD

SEVERAL cities and towns across Pakistan plunged into darkness overnight following a major technical fault in the country's power generation and distribution system, the energy minister said on Sunday. The power outage was reported shortly before midnight almost simultaneously in many cities. Residents of Karachi, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Islamabad, Multan and others faced the blackout.

Pakistan Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan, along with Information Minister Shibli Faraz, told reporters that the power supply snapped at 11:41 pm on Saturday after a technical fault at Guddu power plant in Sindh province.

"It had what we call a 'cascading effect' and shut down the power system, choking about 10,320 megawatt of electricity," he said, adding that it was the precise amount of energy needed for the entire country during the winter nights.

The minister said that the power plant's safety systems started shutting off automatically soon after it developed a fault, the Express Tribune reported.

Khan said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has been informed of the entire situation, the report said. He said that technical teams were working to fully restore the power supply.

Wrestlers show support to farmers through event at protest site

GHAZIPUR

AFTER over a month of the farmer agitation, the farmers are sitting at the borders of the national capital in protest against the farm laws. With the backing of the 'Samyukta Kisan Manch', a wrestling event titled 'Kisan Kesari Dangaal' was organised on Sunday to honour the protesting farmers at the Ghazipur border. Nearly 50 male and female wrestlers participated in this event organised as a token of respect to farmers.

The wrestling bout was held under the guidance of Rakesh Tikait, the National Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU).

"We have come here to support the farmers sitting at the Ghazipur border. I have been wrestling for the last three years," Meenakshi Rohal, a female wrestler at the Ghazipur border, told IANS.

Chaudhary Yudhisthir Pehalwan, Wrestling Organiser member and founder of Shaheed Bachhan Singh Wrestling Arena, and Supreme Court advocate and former wrestler Surendra Kaliraman were also present at the Ghazipur border.

Yudhishtir Pehalwan told IANS, "We are first and foremost sons of farmers and afterwards are wrestlers. We have also come forward to stand with the farmers' in their protest. We all wrestlers oppose these 'black laws' implemented by the Central government."

Wrestlers from western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan were invited for a wrestling event at the Ghazipur border.

Rakesh Tikait, BKU leader, told IANS, "All these wrestlers have come forward to voice our support for the farmers so this wrestling event has been organised. Each and every section of the country is standing with the farmers."

All these wrestlers have come forward to voice out their support for the farmers so this wrestling event has been organised. Each and every section of the country is standing with the farmers: BKU leader Rakesh Tikait

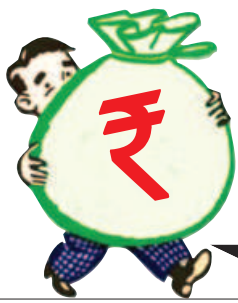
In the wrestling event organised at the Ghazipur border, well-known wrestlers would be given five minutes and lesser known wrestlers would be given three minutes. During this time, a decision would be taken over who was defeated and who won the wrestling bout. At the same time wrestling events have been organised for all wrestlers depending upon their weight.



Farmers organise a wrestling competition during their protest against the new farm laws, at the Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Sunday



Index investing outperforms active management year after year – Jim Rogers



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities



THE HANS INDIA
DELHI MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2021

IN SHORT

Sebi revises format of monthly reports

Regulator Sebi on Friday revised the format of monthly reports submitted by portfolio managers, with an aim to broaden the information obtained under such filings. Portfolio managers are mandated to submit a monthly report regarding their portfolio management activity on Sebi intermediaries' portal within seven working days of the end of each month in a format specified by the regulator. In the revised format released on Friday, Sebi has added certain sections for disclosure. Portfolio managers would now have to specify the types of services offered - discretionary, non-discretionary and advisory service.

Sebi grants exemption to AIFs

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday provided certain exemptions to Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) with regard to an investment committee framework. The exemption in AIF rule is conditional upon a capital commitment of at least Rs 70 crore from each investor accompanied by a suitable waiver, Sebi said in a notification. So far, manager was responsible for investment decisions of the alternative investment fund and the manager was required to constitute an investment committee to approve investment decisions of the AIF. The members of investment committee were equally responsible as the manager for investment decisions.

Q3 results, IIP data will weigh on mkts

Adopt stock-specific trading approach; short-term traders should avoid contrarian moves

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Boosted by optimism on vaccine rollout, expectations of strong Q3 earnings, consistent liquidity flow from FII inflows and positive global cues from US; the benchmark indices ended at record closing highs during the week ended. The Sensex rallied 913.53 points to 48,782.51 and the Nifty jumped 328.75 points to 14,347.25. The broader markets continued to outperform benchmarks with the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices notching 5.2 per cent and 3.8 per cent gains during the week.

It is pertinent to observe that over the past 10 weeks, the Nifty has gained over 2,800-odd points; and 9 out of 10 weeks have ended with weekly gains. The only one week that had a negative ending was that of just 11-odd points. The Sensex completed its longest stretch of weekly increases since 2009. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies also touched a new high.

In addition to around Rs 53,500 crore of inflow in December, FIIs net bought more than Rs 9,200 crore worth of shares in January till date. Expect the upward momentum in market to sustain long as the FII flows are positive. The focus of the Indian markets is on Q3 earnings for present. Prominent companies coming out with Q3 numbers in the coming week include Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, HDFC Bank, Karnataka Bank, Tata Elxsi, Filatex India, Aditya Birla Money, L&T Finance Holdings, PVR and Shoppers Stop. Expectations are also high on the forthcoming Union budget.

Key inflation data and IIP numbers are also due in the coming week. Scanning the rotational buying across the sectors, adopt sector/stock-specific trading approach. Short-term traders should limit their leveraged positions and avoid contrarian trades.

Heard on the street

US stocks ended the first week of 2021 at record levels, as investors looked past political turmoil and signs of economic weakness to focus on prospects for more fiscal stimulus.

It is interesting to observe that a year back, on January 10, 2020, Bitcoin was \$7,808 and at last check, Bitcoin was trading at \$39,104 price over the weekend. In fact, it has almost doubled from \$21,310 (as of December 17, 2020) in less than a month and appreciated nearly 4X since October. In a recent note of a major investment bank it predicted Bitcoin's price rise could be as high as \$146,000 in long-term to compete with gold as an 'alternative' currency. Are we in times of excessive froth and irrational exuberance is the question now.

Futures & options/sector watch

Mirroring the strong bullish undertone in cash markets, derivative segment witnessed robust trading during the week ended. The maximum open interest in Calls is at 14,500 followed by 15,000; whereas the maximum open interest in Puts OI is at 14,200 followed by 14,300. Fresh Put writing was seen at 14,200. With Put writers continuously adding up hefty open interest at 14100 & 14,200 strikes, punters predict limited down side in Nifty

MARKET KHBREIN

for present. The Implied Volatility (IV) of calls closed at 18.06 per cent while that for put options closed at 18.97. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 20.62 per cent. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.67 indicates more puts writing than calls.

Coming week will see introduction of the Nifty Financial Services Index in the derivative segment. Nifty Financial Services Index is a 20 stock Index as against 12 stocks Bank Nifty and the constitution is different. While Bank Nifty is fully banks, Nifty Financial Services has financial institutions, banks, and insurance companies with the banks constituting almost 63 per cent, while the rest is coming from other sectors that are gaining traction. On Friday, the Nifty Financial Services Index closed at 15,511 and the Bank Nifty ended at 32,084.

Recovery in key verticals, strong demand tailwinds, continued increase in digital spends, especially after Covid-19, large deals ramp-up and lower-than-expected furloughs could help IT companies show robust revenue growth. Stay on invested and buy declines of Infosys, HCL Tech and Wipro. True to predictions, cement stocks started witnessing strong buying. Buy strong companies like Ultratech, Ambuja and Ramco Cements for

surprising gains. Sources indicate bonus issue in Ramco Cements. Auto sector witnessed a bumpy ride laced with speed breakers during year ended. After zero to marginal sales during the lockdown months, sharp rebound was seen in the latter half of the year on the back of festive demand, lower interest rates, easy financing, and pick-up in economic activities. Demand, especially in passenger car and two-wheeler segments, has been fuelled by people's preference for personal mobility.

Stock futures looking good for buying are Amaraja, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Hero Motocorp, Jubilant Food, Marico and Wipro. Sell on rallies: Bajaj Finance, Biocon, HPCL, ITC, Torrent Power and NTPC.

Stock picks

Sarla Performance Fibers Limited (formerly known as Sarla Polyester Limited) is a 100 per cent EOU engaged in the manufacturing and export of polyester and nylon textured, twisted and dyed yarns, covered yarns, high tenacity yarns and sewing thread. The company exports to 40 countries. The company's emphasis is to focus on niche end-user applications in India, higher value-added yarns to leading global apparel brands and companies. One of the positive factors in

recent time is the increasing gap between cotton and polyester prices. Though there was a glut in cotton and prices had fallen due to oversupply and less off take from China, the synthetic fibre prices also fell following the slump in crude oil and its derivatives. The prospects of polyester/nylon yarns remain healthy due to increase in demand and due to decrease in the price of partially oriented yarn (POY) and chips. Buy at current levels of Rs 30 for short term target price of Rs 42 / 45 during the announcement of Q3 results and Rs 60 / 70 in next 9 to 12 months.

Andhra Petrochemicals Limited (APL) is a joint venture promoted by APIDC and Andhra Sugars Limited (ASL). APL was established with a capacity to produce 30,000 MTPA of oxo alcohols in Visakhapatnam. The plant has undergone an optimisation and modernisation scheme to increase the capacity to 73,000 MTPA. The plant employs technology from JMDavy, London, U.K., with total capital investment of Rs 4,970 million. Estimated demand of oxo alcohols at 250,000 MTPA, with healthy growth rate of 8 per cent to 10 per cent per annum, in general, is a good opportunity for the company with existing capacity of 80,000 MTPA, considering the huge demand-supply gap in the country. Sales realisation has improved on account of anti-dumping duties imposed by India on imports from certain countries.

The company signed natural gas (NG) term sheet agreement with GAIL last year. The NG project is expected to be completed by Q3 of 2020-21 and NG is expected to be available from Q4 of 2020-21, which

may substantially bring down cost of production. Results of Q3 are expected to be very good with sources indicating Rs 40 crores plus PAT, which is one of the highest in its history. Buy for target price of Rs75 / 80 during results time and Rs120 in medium-term.

Olectra Greentech Ltd is engaged in manufacturing polymer insulators and electric buses. OGL is the largest manufacturer and suppliers of composite insulators in India. After GOI has introduced Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME-II) policy in India which aims to boost electric mobility and increase the number of EVs in commercial fleet by providing subsidy/incentives on electric vehicles; Olectra tied up with global major BYD and entered the electric bus segment aggressively. Olectra has already bagged orders for over 1,450 electric buses for various STUs across India. Further, orders of over 3,000 buses are in pipeline. The presence of Olectra electric buses in India has crossed more than 1500 numbers, first for any OEM in India. The company has reportedly put plans in place to indigenise the buses, which will boost the profitability tremendously. With the delivery plans of orders in place for Q3 and Q4, the company is expected to post quantum jump in turnover for FY20-21 to close to Rs 600 crores. Punters are labelling the company "Indian Tesla". Buy for short term target of Rs250 and medium term target of Rs 400.

(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)

Role of equities in building retirement corpus



K Naresh Kumar

With falling interest rate, it's perilous to rule out equities, especially based on investor's age

funds which modify the asset allocation within the investment automatically as the target date approaches. According to Investopedia, these are usually mutual funds or ETF (Exchange Traded Funds) structured to grow assets in a way that is optimised for a specific timeframe. These funds periodically rebalance the asset class weights in their exposure to optimise risk and returns for predetermined timeframe. The asset allocation is designed to gradually shift to a more conservative profile as to minimise risk when the target date approaches. This provides for an auto-pilot mode in investing.

In India, we've the National Pension Scheme (NPS) with two options of active mode and auto choice mode of investing. In the auto choice or the life cycle fund, the portfolio of the subscriber and the asset allocation varies with the age i.e., as the age increases the proportion of equity in the invested portfolio comes down. This is a very good passive play by an investor. Even in active management strategy, advisors tend to move part of the gains to a secured or fixed-income investment as the target (date/period) nears. Thus, the gains made from the equities are retained and also avoid the volatility asso-



ciated with the equity as the need arises. The tax arbitrage could work in the benefit of the investors. While the stock prices are volatile, the dividend income is within a standard deviation which helps the investors to assess a pie of their income, though they're non-guaranteed like that of the interest on the bonds.

We could take a leaf out of Japanese investors to learn some important lessons on equity investing especially in a low interest rate regime of the world which is gaining pace across many countries.

What the developed world is currently experiencing has been a reality for Japan for the last two decades, with interest rates near zero and also lurching into negative rates. And then the demographic burden of ageing population which the Europe is slowly leaning to and also the US and later estimates to put with China in about a decade-and-half. The Japanese investors have compensated their fixed income return from the high dividend yields of their stock portfolios but that doesn't mean we need to imitate it blindly. But, the macro factors of demographics and Zero Interest Rate Policy (ZIRP) has been a feature in Japan for two decades, serving us a decent case study.

(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)

Next 3-4 weeks very critical for markets

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

Indian stock market closed at a new lifetime high on a continuous buying support from the foreign institutional investors. After opening above 14100 level, it traded 400 points range during the last week. Finally, it closed with 328.75 points or 2.35 per cent gain and closed at 14347.25.

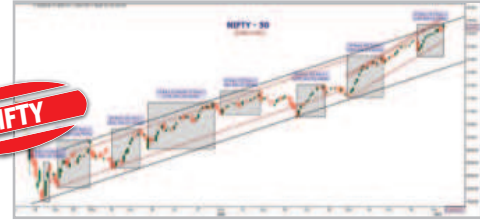
The broader market participation also improved during the week. Barring FMCG all the sectoral indices advanced during the week.

The Nifty gained 2811 points or 24.37 per cent since 30th October low. And 1215 points or 9.25 per cent gained in the last 13 sessions. Out of 10 weeks, it closed in positive territory for nine weeks. The negative closing was with a tiny 11 points. The benchmark index was also moving in an upward channel with these two significant swing lows. Anyone who believes in trend following rules, at least one latest swing, has to be broken. Means, the Nifty must close below 21st December low 13131. Or at least a minimum of upward channel support line, currently placed 13770-13950 zone must have taken off.

In other words, the Nifty is in a strong uptrend with overstretched conditions. It is at multiple resistance levels. As mentioned earlier, there are several resistance levels at 14375 levels. The first one is channel resistance. The Nifty is moving in 45 degrees uptrend. It gained 91.28 per cent from March low. In

the current market, it took just 41 weeks to retrace the entire March fall. Interestingly, the fall is violent than others. In 2008 the fall lasted for nine months, and in 2016 it was 11 months. But this time it was just three months. 2008 fall wall above 60 per cent from the top, this time is just 39.56 per cent.

The interesting observation is that, after 2008 fall, the next major top was made at 162 per cent retracement level. And after 2016 bottom, it retraced 234 per cent. Currently, the retracement is 140



per cent. In any case, the Nifty retraces 162 per cent, and the target is at 15470, which have a potential of another 1000 point rally. It may be an over-estimation, it is a possibility in 2021. There may be consolidations and corrections before it reaches the target. There is a possibility of at least 23.6 per cent retracement the whole rally means a correction towards 12749. These 1600 points fall looks like another violent fall. This fall may have at least two downswings and three upswings. The possibility of forming a triangle is very high.

The broader market participation is very interesting this time. After 2018 high, the mid and small caps have witnessed a sharp sell-off. The

Nifty Midcap-100 index corrected over 50 per cent from the 2018 top. And the Nifty Smallcap-100 corrected over 66.6 per cent. The Midcap-100 index moved above the 2018 top during the last week. It took 36 months to retrace the 100 per cent of the fall. At the same time, the Nifty Smallcap-100 index is able to retrace only 62 per cent in this period. Another 23 per cent to the 2018 top. The Participation in Mid and small caps is increasing as retail investors interest.

Coming back to the Nifty, It is definitely overstretched as said in previous columns. It is also on overstretched valuations. The recent Foreign Institutional Investors inflow is a main driver for the market. The weakness in the Dollar index is main to invest in India and the emerging market. Last week's spike in US 10 year bond yields and any technical pullback in the Dollar index (DXY) may pause the inflows. And in just 15 sessions the General Budget is scheduled. This could be a trigger for the market direction. The next 3-4 weeks is very critical for the markets. It may witness higher volatility, as news flow will dominate the market sentiment. The financial results are already pouring in. Any disappointments or surprises will affect the price movements. Be selective on stocks and be in light position sizing in trading.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

The resistance level for NSE Nifty moved up by 500 points to 14,500CE and support level rose by 200 points to ATM (At The Money) 14,200PE as per the options data available on NSE after trading hours on Friday (January 8, 2021). Derivatives analysts see an immediate support for the index at 14,100 points. On the higher side, 14,500 strike holds the highest Call base followed by 14,300. Hence, a positive bias towards 14,500 is expected till the NSE Nifty holds 14,100 strike.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "From derivatives front, Put writers are continuously adding up hefty Open Interest at 14,100 and 14,200 strikes, which point towards limited

F&O data holds narrow positive bias for Nifty

Nifty VIX at 20.62%; Put-Call Ratio of OI at 1.67 indicates more Put writing

down side in Nifty as of now. On a flip side, Call writers are feeling uncomfortable at the current juncture as substantial shedding up of an Open Interest at 14,300 strike was seen. Call writers are seen shifting towards a 14,500 strike, which would act as an immediate hurdle from Nifty."

The highest concentration of Call OI (25.29 lakh contracts) was at 14,500 strike followed by 15,000 strike with 24.20 lakh contracts, 14,600 strike with 20.98 lakh contracts, 14,800 strike with 20.87 lakh contracts and 14,300 strike with 20.72 lakh contracts. Further, 14,800/14,600/ 14,350/ 14,700 strikes recorded significant build-up of Call OI, while 14,200/14,100/15,000 strikes wit-

nessed offloading of Call OI.

Coming to Put side, the 14,200 strike, which also recorded highest build-up of Put OI (21.47 lakh contracts), has highest Put OI of 37.12 lakh contracts followed by 14,000 strike, which recorded Put OI addition of 11.50 lakh contracts, with 25.71 lakh contracts, 14100 strike with 19.91 lakh contracts, 14,300 strike, which has Put OI addition of 16.81 lakh contracts, with 19.71 lakh contracts and 13,800 strike with 18.80 lakh contracts.

For the week ended January 8, 2020, BSE Sensex closed at 48,782.51 points, a gain of 913.53 points or 1.90 per cent, as against 47,868.98 points. NSE Nifty moved up by 328.75 points or 2.34 per cent and closed at 14,347.25 points from

F&O TRADING			
Product	Contracts	Turnover (Rs/cr)	Premium (Rs/cr)
Index Futures	2,88,876	27,220.96	--
Stock Futures	8,61,954	73,120.08	--
Index Options	1,63,74,823	15,22,636.79	8,930.41
Stock Options	17,10,561	1,50,002.15	3,895.38
F&O Total	1,92,36,214	17,72,979.98	12,825.79

14,018.50 points.

For the week, the volatility index remained near 20 levels due to heightened volatility. With significant Put writing seen in the last couple of weeks, the Put-Call Ratio (PCR) rose substantially and any profit booking in the market may increase volatility levels towards 23. However, analysts hold caution if a move above 23.

Bisht forecasts: "Technical indicators suggest that markets are likely to witness intraday volatility in upcoming sessions with positive bias and remain in favour of bulls as far Nifty is holding above 14,000 levels broadly."

Sectorally, technology stocks should be in focus due to the third quarter results. Moreover, FII activity should also be kept under

watch as the buying figure has reduced gradually in the last couple of weeks. "The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 18.06 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 18.97. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 20.62 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.67 and it indicates more Put writing than Calls," added Bisht.

According to the data from ICICI Direct.com, in the F&O space, FIIs remained net buyers. However, their buying support has been declining. FIIs bought Rs 206 crore in index futures, Rs 1,291 crore in the stock futures and Rs 8,456 crore index options during the week.

Bank Nifty

The NSE's banking index Bank

Nifty closed at 32,084.20 points, a net gain of 858.85 points or 2.74 per cent from 31,225.85 points. The Bank Nifty was struggling to move beyond 32,000 as Call writers are more active. However, in the last two sessions, bulls were dominating and it pushed the index above 32,000 suggesting further upside.

The NSE's banking index recorded a long OI block of 23 per cent, which is the bottom for the week. Analysts forecast that it would turn as a base near 31,300 for the coming week. ATM strike of 32,000 followed by 31,500 strike saw decent OI blocks during the week. Bank Nifty has multiple supports at lower levels whereas on upside it could rally towards its Call base of 33,000 points.

The current price ratio of Bank Nifty-Nifty rose to 2.26 levels. On the back of outperformance in banking stocks, this ratio could further move higher towards 2.3 levels, observe derivatives analysts.

India face huge task to save third Test

Lose openers on Day 4 in chase of 407

SYDNEY

INDIA lost openers Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill on Sunday in their pursuit of the 407-run target set by Australia in the ongoing third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

At Stumps on Day Four, the visitors reached 98/2, having lost the wickets of Sharma (52) and Gill (31), still needing 309 runs with eight wickets in hand to take a 2-1 lead in the ongoing four-match series.

Earlier, Australia declared their second innings at 312/6, riding on brilliant half centuries from Cameron Green, Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne. Resuming the day at 103/2, overnight batsmen Labuschagne (73) and Smith added 35 before the former was caught behind by substitute wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha, down the leg-side off the bowling of Navdeep Saini. Matthew Wade (4) followed soon after as he edged one off Saini also to Saha.

Smith and Green saw Australia off to the end of the first session with no further damage, adding 34.

Resuming the post-lunch session at 182/4, Smith and Green collected runs at a brisk pace and scored boundaries at will, thus adding pressure on the Indian bowlers. Smith (81), however, missed out on his second century of the match as he got out lbw against off spinner Ravichandran Ashwin for the third time in the series.

Skipper Tim Paine, who came in next, started off slowly but once he got set, he punished the Indian bowlers and alongside Green, hit the ball to all parts of the ground. Green, in particular, was highly impressive as he scored his maiden half-century. The hosts were also helped by poor fielding by the Indian players who dropped plenty of catches.

After reaching the milestone, the all-rounder unleashed and scored four sixes before getting out and bringing an end to his 132-ball inning.

Chasing a mammoth target, Sharma and Gill once again provided India with a good start as the duo added 71-runs for the opening wicket. Both the batters collected runs at a brisk pace.

However, just when things seemed to be under control for the Indian team, Gill got out to a peach of a delivery from Josh Hazlewood in the 23rd over as he was caught behind.

Cheteshwar Pujara, who came in next, survived some nery moments in the initial stage of his innings. Criticised heavily for his slow batting in the first innings, Pujara continued to bat in the same manner and shared a 21-run partnership with Sharma, who after reaching the 50-run milestone, fell prey to a bouncer bowled by Pat Cummins. Trying to hit a maximum, the 32-year-old was caught at fine-leg boundary by Mitchell Starc and thus, provided a big boost to the hosts.

Pujara (9*) and skipper Ajinkya Rahane (4*) then made sure India didn't lose any further wicket till the end of the day's play.

Australia had made 338 in the first innings and bowled India out for 244 in theirs. (ANS)

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND RACIAL ABUSE

Absolute peak of rowdy behaviour: Kohli

NEW DELHI

REGULAR captain Virat Kohli on Sunday strongly condemned reported incidents of racial abuse during the third Test between Australia and India, saying it was sad to see what happened with his team-mates at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

Taking to Twitter, Kohli -- who is in India for the birth of first child -- said that strict action should be taken against the offenders to set things straight.

"Racial abuse is absolutely unacceptable. Having gone through many incidents of really pathetic things said on the boundary lines, this is the absolute peak of rowdy behaviour. It's sad to see this happen on the field," Kohli said.

"The incident needs to be looked at with absolute urgency and seriousness and strict action against the offenders should set things straight for once," he added.

The Indian team had apprised match referee David Boon of alleged racial abuse at the end of the third day's play. Match and stadium officials were alert on the fourth day and as such play was halted and six people were evicted following another incident just before Tea during Australia's second innings.

Sunday's incident followed alleged racial abuse of Indian players -- Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj -- by a section of the SCG crowd, the complaint of which was officially made by the Indian team on Saturday. Right-arm pacer Mohammad Shami also condemned the incidents and said it was disappointing to see his teammates becoming subject to racial abuse re-

- ▶ Not the 1st time Australian crowd doing this nonsense: Harbhajan
- ▶ CA unreservedly apologise to Team India

peatedly in Sydney.

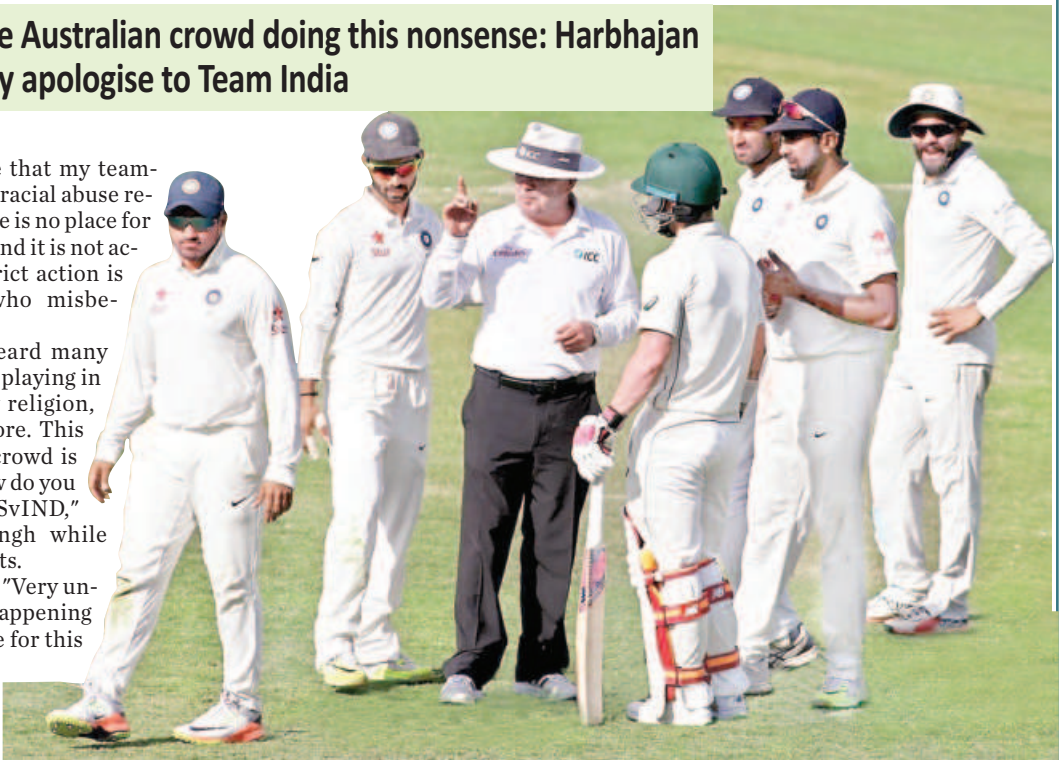
"Disappointing to see that my team-mates were subjected to racial abuse repeatedly in Sydney. There is no place for racism in today's world and it is not acceptable. I hope that strict action is taken against those who misbehaved," he tweeted.

"I personally have heard many things on the field while playing in Australia about me, my religion, my colour and much more. This isn't the first time the crowd is doing this nonsense. How do you stop them??? #AUSvIND," tweeted Harbhajan Singh while condemning the incidents.

VVS Laxman tweeted: "Very unfortunate to see what's happening at SCG. There is no place for this rubbish. Never understood the need to yell abuse at players on a sporting field. If you're not here to watch the game and can't be respectful then please don't come and spoil the atmosphere."

Meanwhile, Cricket Australia (CA) has apologised to Team India and assured strict action against the offenders.

"CA is awaiting the outcome of the International Cricket Council's investigation into the matter reported at the SCG on Saturday. Once those responsible are identified, CA will take the strongest measures possible under our Anti-Harassment Code, including lengthy bans, further sanctions and referral to NSW Police. As series hosts, we unreservedly apologise to our friends in the Indian cricket team and assure them we will prosecute the matter to its fullest extent," said Carroll, Cricket Australia's Head of Integrity and Security in an official statement.



ICC flays racial behaviour of SCG crowd

SYDNEY

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) has strongly condemned reported incidents of racism during the ongoing third Test match between Australia and India at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

In a statement, ICC said that it has also offered Cricket Australia all necessary support in investigating the incidents.

"There is no place for discrimination in our sport and we are incredibly disappointed that a small minority of fans may think that this ab-

Chief Executive Manu Sawhney.

"We will provide Cricket Australia and the relevant authorities with our full support in any ensuing investigation as we will not tolerate any racism in our sport."

Under the ICC anti-discrimination policy, the Australian cricket board will now be required to probe the issue and provide a report to the ICC on the incident and any action taken to ensure the issue has been dealt with appropriately.

Cricket Australia, on its part, has already confirmed that it has launched an investigation into the incident that took place on Day Four of the Pink Test.

"A number of spectators were interviewed by NSW Police and subsequently removed from the SCG on Sunday afternoon. While we await the outcome of the investigation by NSW Police, CA has launched its own inquiry into the matter," said Sean Carroll, CA's head of integrity and security. (ANS)

horrent behaviour is acceptable. We have a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy in place that members have to abide by and ensure is adhered to by fans and we welcome the action taken by ground authorities and Cricket Australia today," said ICC

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne plays the ball past Indian bowler Mohammed Siraj during day four of the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Australia on Sunday

SCOREBOARD	
Australia 1st innings: 338 India 1st innings: 244 Australia 2nd innings (overnight 166/2) David Warner lbw b Ashwin -----13 Will Pucovskic Saha b Siraj -----10 M Labuschagne W Saha b N Saini -----73 S Smith lbw b Ashwin -----81 M Wade c Saha b Navdeep Saini -----4 Cameron Green c Saha b Bumrah -----84 Tim Paine not out -----39 Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-3) -----8 Total (For 6 decl in 87 overs) -----312 Fall of wickets: 16-1, 35-2, 138-3, 148-4, 208-5, 312-6	Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 21-4-68-1, Mohammed Siraj 25-5-90-1, Navdeep Saini 16-2-54-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 25-1-95-2. India 2nd innings: Rohit Sharma c Starc b Cummins -----52 Shubman Gill c Paine b Hazlewood -----31 Cheteshwar Pujara batting -----9 Ajinkya Rahane batting -----4 Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) -----2 Total (For 2wickets in 34 overs) -----98 Fall of wickets: 71-1, 92-2 Bowling: Mitchell Starc 6-0-27-0, Josh Hazlewood 8-3-11-1, Pat Cummins 9-1-25-1, Nathan Lyon 9-3-22-0, Cameron Green 2-0-12-0.

Odisha, Chennaiyin trade misses, play out goalless draw

BAMBOLIM (GOA)

ODISHA and Chennaiyin were unable to convert their chances and played out a goalless draw at the GMC Stadium on Sunday. The match was a cagey affair but both teams had clear chances on the goal which were undone by wayward shooting.

That Odisha had only three shots on target while Chennaiyin managed just two (of the

RESULTS
Chennaiyin FC draw with Odisha FC 0-0
Jamshedpur FC lose to with Kerala Blasters FC 2-3

twelve shots they took) exemplified how much both sides cancelled out each other. Chennaiyin, the better side in terms of possession, had a couple of chances to get a winner but their forwards were unable to net them.

TODAY'S MATCH

ATK Mohun Bagan vs Mumbai City FC
at Fatorda Stadium 7.30pm

Ramkumar, Ankita advance to 2nd round of Australian Open Qualifiers

MELBOURNE: Indian tennis players Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina advanced to the second round of the Australian Open Qualifiers after recording wins in their respective singles draws. Ramkumar, who is yet to make a Grand Slam main draw appearance, ousted 10th seed Argentine Facundo Bagnis with a hard-fought 7-6(6) 7-5 victory in one hour and 53 minutes in men's singles first round. In the women's singles, Ankita outplayed Hungary's Reka-Luca Jani 6-2 6-2 in 67 minutes. Sumit Nagal has already been awarded a wild card entry into the men's singles main draw. (PTI)

Staying in bio-bubble won't affect performance of players: Azharuddin

PANAJI: The players have shared the tough experience of staying in a bio-bubble but former Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin feels that it won't impact performance of the cricketers.

Talking to PTI on the sidelines of a local tournament in Fatorda, Azharuddin though stressed on enough practice before the matches. "During those days, they are doing their yoga or regular (physical exercises) sessions. But I think it is very important that they practice three or four days before the match," he said.

A few players had likened the bio-bubble to five-star prisons. The players have complained of physical and mental fatigue by staying in restricted environment. The former Indian captain said that with the current COVID-19 condition, we can predict that bio-bubbles are going to stay here for some more time.

"Once things improve there will be no bio bubble." When asked about Syed Mustaq Ali Trophy T-20, which got underway on Sunday, Azharuddin said that these tournaments won't be "normal like in the past".

"They cannot be like a normal because it is played under bio bubble and you have to follow COVID-19 rules and regulations. So I don't think it will be in a normal way," he said. (PTI)

Racial abuse 'upsetting and disappointing', says Langer

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA coach Justin Langer has called the racial abuse incident in the ongoing third Test that saw a few Australia fans hurl abuses at Indians "sickening" and "a shame". He also acknowledged the proactive step that team captain Tim Paine took to talk and offer support to the Indian team.

When play was stalled for a while on the fourth day of the third Test between India and Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground after Mohammed Siraj complained of racial abuse, Paine walked to the Indian team huddle and offered support.

Later at tea, the Aussie team sat in their dressing room and condemned the incident.

"We talked a bit at tea about what was going on. As hosts, we don't want to see our visitors get treated poorly. There are different levels of that. We went to England last year and some of our guys felt it before (referring to Steve Smith and David Warner being called cheats). There's nothing pleasant about it. I guess it (Paine walking to them) was show of support that we don't condone really, really bad behaviour," said Langer after the end of the fourth day's play.

"It was great to watch, nice to have Tim out there when that incident happened. He is a class act as you know," he added.

The Aussie team, which was notorious for sledging, has been trying an image makeover after the ball-tampering scandal that rocked them in South Africa in 2018. Also, with the issue of racism gaining ground this year following the Black Lives Matter movement, the cricket field has also witnessed many steps. West Indies and England 'took a knee' while the Australians themselves made a barefoot

Warner being called cheats). There's nothing pleasant about it. I guess it (Paine walking to them) was show of support that we don't condone really, really bad behaviour," said Langer after the end of the fourth day's play.

"It was great to watch, nice to have Tim out there when that incident happened. He is a class act as you know," he added.

The Aussie team, which was notorious for sledging, has been trying an image makeover after the ball-tampering scandal that rocked them in South Africa in 2018. Also, with the issue of racism gaining ground this year following the Black Lives Matter movement, the cricket field has also witnessed many steps. West Indies and England 'took a knee' while the Australians themselves made a barefoot

circle ahead of the first Test to recognise the atrocities done to aborigines by the white settlers in the country.

"It is upsetting and disappointing. Anyone who knows me, I have said for years that it is one of my greatest pet hates in my life that people who can think that they can come to sporting events whether it is cricket or any code and pay their money and abuse and say whatever they like. I have hated it as a player, as a coach, we have seen in different parts of the world and it is really sad to see it happen in Australia," said Langer.

"It has been incredible cricket, been brilliant to watch on the field, great spirit between the two teams. It is a shame to see it getting marred by incidents we have been hearing today and last night," he added.

The Australian coach, who is a former Test opener, said that he and the team have been educating themselves about the issue over the past few years.

"We had a brief talk a few months ago. The personal journey has been huge. I have just read books and watched Adam Goodes's documentary on racism. We are exploring and learning and getting educated. The more educated you get, the more you learn, the more sickening when you hear of racial discrimination as has been alleged today.

"It makes you feel very sad that people are subjected to that. And when you start getting educated about what has happened in the history of Australia as the path I have been on personally and a number of the players are, you can understand why it is so hurtful." (ANS)

