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ENROLL NOW



More Indian COVID-19 vaccines on the way, says PM Modi
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Jaishankar suggests steps to repair India-China relations
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In multiple messages, Biden warns Beijing over expansionism
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Mushtaq Ali Trophy semifinals: Tamil Nadu faces Rajasthan and Punjab meets Baroda
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NEARBY



Core values are being subverted: Hamid Ansari
NEW DELHI
Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari has said a subversion of core values is under way and the word secularism has "almost disappeared" from the government's official vocabulary. Mr. Ansari wrote in his autobiography, *By Many A Happy Accident*, that this subversion was "compounded by the failure of other social and political forces to comprehend its true nature and the urgency to counter it".

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Bengal polls: Cong., Left agree to share 193 seats

KOLKATA

The Left parties and the Congress on Thursday agreed on seat-sharing in almost two-thirds of the Assembly seats in West Bengal – 193 of the 294 seats. Of the 193, the Congress will contest 92 and the Left 101. State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Left Front leader Biman Basu made the announcement.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Court rejects Natasha Narwal's bail plea

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday rejected the bail plea of JNU student and Pinjra Tod member Natasha Narwal, booked under UAPA in a north-east Delhi riots case. Ms. Narwal was arrested on May 23 last year in relation to an FIR over the sit-in protest against the CAA.

REGION ▶ PAGE 5

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Police issue notice to 40 farmer leaders

'They breached the terms agreed upon for tractor rallies during Republic Day'

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Thursday issued notices to 40 farmers' leaders for violating the terms and conditions agreed upon for holding tractor rallies on Republic Day. The notices were served on Darshan Pal, Rakesh Tikait, Yogendra Yadav, Baldev Singh Sirsa, Balbir S. Rajewal and others for breaching the agreement with the Delhi police.

They have been asked to submit their response within three days.

The Police Special Cell also registered a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and sedition in connection with violence during the tractor parades, said a police officer.

In a separate FIR registered at the Kotwali police station, the police named Deep Sidhu, actor-turned-activist, and another person Lakha Sidhana, a criminal, on charges of sedition.

"The last location of Deep was traced in Haryana,



Toughening stance: Farmers arguing with security personnel, who put up barricades at the protest site on the Singhu border in Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

where he permanently switched off his phone. We have issued lookout notices against him and Sidhana," said a police officer.

In a separate FIR registered at the Samaypur Badli police station, 37 farmer leaders have been named

and charged under IPC sections on attempt to murder, rioting and others.

The officer added that protesters at Red Fort removed the national flag disrespectfully. They also found many flags lying on the ground on Republic Day. A

senior police officer said lookout notices had been issued against farmer leaders named in an FIR in connection with the violence and sedition charges invoked in the Red Fort incident.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Pressure rises on farmers to move out

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After two months of protests without any significant pushback, the farmers' agitation outside Delhi is now seeing concerted pressure and intimidation from the police, as well as local villagers and administrations, to force them to vacate multiple dharna locations.

Putting farm unions further on the backfoot in the wake of the Republic Day violence, show-cause notices have been issued to union leaders, six of whom have been summoned to join the probe at the Delhi Police Special Cell office on Friday.

Thousands of farmers were engaged in a stand-off with the Uttar Pradesh police on the Ghazipur border on Thursday evening.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Over 155 farmers have lost their lives. The government remains unmoved and has responded with water cannons, tear gas and lathicharge. Every effort has been made to discredit a legitimate mass movement through government-sponsored disinformation campaign

JOINT STATEMENT BY OPPOSITION PARTIES

threadbare and as much time as is required will be set aside when the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of both Houses meet," said Mr. Joshi.

The Bahujan Samaj Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, YSR Congress, and Biju Janata Dal did not sign the joint statement even though some of them had protested against the farm laws during its passage last September.

Disinformation

The joint statement noted that though lakhs of farmers were peacefully protesting at the Delhi border for 64 days and 155 had lost their lives braving cold and rain, the government didn't move from its position.

"The government remains unmoved and has responded with water cannons, tear gas and lathicharge. Every effort has been made to discredit a legitimate mass movement through government-sponsored disinformation campaign," the Opposition statement read.

The Opposition leaders also said the farm laws were an assault on the State governments and violated the spirit of the Constitution.

High Court denies bail to comedian Faruqui

'Ensuring harmony is constitutional duty'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE



Court ruling. The court also rejected the bail plea of Nalin Yadav, another accused.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

FIR against Tharoor, senior scribes

Complaint against 'misleading' social media posts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

The Gautam Buddha Nagar police lodged an FIR on Thursday against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and senior journalists Rajdeep Sardesai, Mritin Pande, Zafar Agha, Anant Nath, Pares Nath, and Vinod K. Jose for inciting violence on January 26 through their social media posts.

In the FIR filed over a complaint by Arpit Mishra at the Sector 20 police station of Noida, the police have invoked Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153B, 295A (malicious acts to outrage religious feelings), 298 (deliberate intent to wound religious feelings), 504, 506, 124A and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 66 of the IT Act, 2000.

Vitiated atmosphere

The complainant alleged that Mr. Tharoor and others posted misleading tweets that the police had shot dead a protester.

They deliberately vitiated the atmosphere so that large-scale riots could happen in the city.

He said the accused tweeted out of bias and put the security of the country and its people in jeopardy. They tweeted in a pre-planned manner to create tension among different communities and incite protesters to indulge in violence for their political benefit, it said.

The complainant charged the accused of degrading the image of the police. Mr. Mishra wanted the tweets to be removed as they had been forwarded in multiple times.

Minister's appeal

Following the announcement, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi appealed to the Opposition to desist from their proposed boycott.

"The government is ready to discuss all issues

Indian-origin paediatrician shoots doctor, kills self

Accused was diagnosed with cancer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON, TEXAS

A 43-year-old Indian-American paediatrician diagnosed with terminal cancer shot dead a lady doctor and then killed himself after taking hostages at a medical office in Austin, according to police in the capital city of the U.S. state of Texas.

The armed man was identified as Dr. Bharat Narumanchi, police said, adding that he had also recently been turned down for a volunteer position at the medical facility.

Initially several hostages were held, police said, but many escaped and others were allowed to leave, except a paediatrician named Katherine Dodson.

The hostages who escaped told police that the man was armed with a pistol and what appeared to be a shotgun.

He also had two duffel bags. Dr. Narumanchi had visited the CMG office a week ago and applied for a volunteer position.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Stopping hate on television is essential to prevent riots: SC

Preventing instigation akin to providing lathis to police: CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said stopping hate on television was as essential for law and order as arming policemen with lathis and putting up barricades to prevent the spread of violence and riots.

"Control over certain kind of news which agitate people to violence and riots is a law and order problem. Preventing it is as powerful as putting up barricades.

Preventing instigation is as important as providing lathis to policemen," Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre.

The CJI referred to how the government had shut down Internet facility on January 26 amid violence during the farmers' tractor rally.

The CJI said the court, by government control, did not mean to curb free speech on TV.

"You shut down the internet mobile facility because

of the farmers' visit to Delhi," Chief Justice Bobde remarked.

'Non-controversial word'

"It can hardly be called a 'virus,'" Mr. Mehta reacted.

"I was just using a non-controversial word," Chief Justice Bobde replied.

The CJI said the court, by government control, did not mean to curb free speech on TV.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

AAP targets elections in six States in next two years

Kejriwal asks workers to build organisation in U.P., Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said in the next two years, the party will fight elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. He asked the party leaders and volunteers to concentrate on building the organisation outside Delhi.

"Across the country, the Delhi government's work is being discussed. People love and respect AAP. When we ask will you vote for us, they say that you don't have any presence here. We have to overcome this. For this, you people have to build the organisation. In the next two

years, we will fight elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat," the AAP convener said while addressing the 9th national council meeting of the party.

Stressing the importance of organisation building, Mr. Kejriwal said, "The entire country knows that in Delhi people get 24-hour electricity and that too free. This magic is known only to us. Everyone wants this and for this you have to build the organisation. You will have to go to each street and meet people and build the organisation in a big way. When the whole country becomes part of AAP, only then the country will change."

"We are not for AAP, we are for the country, and AAP is just a vehicle to change the nation," he said.

Punish 'actual culprits'

Terming the violence that happened in the Capital on Republic Day as "unfortunate"

"he said strict action should be taken against the 'actual culprits' and alleged that the Delhi police were filing 'fake' FIRs.

"Whoever is actually responsible should get strict punishment. But because violence happened on that day doesn't mean that the farmers' issues and agitation are over. All of us should stand with the farmers peacefully, as citizens without any politics," he told the gathering.

Attacking the BJP and the Congress, he said that their intention is wrong and they do not have any vision.

"If AAP could do this [development work] in just five years, the BJP and Congress could have done it in the last

70 years. This just proves that it was a deliberate attempt to push back the nation by keeping the people uninformed and keeping the nation underdeveloped. Both these parties have done it deliberately," Mr. Kejriwal said.

In a veiled attack on the BJP, he said "the party at the national level" tells people about things that happened centuries ago, without talking about how the 21st and 22nd-century India should be. "The nation has to decide whether to move forward or move back. These parties don't have a future plan for India. They have bad intent," he said.

AAP CHANGES PARTY CONSTITUTION ▶ PAGE 4

'Veda Nilayam' is now a memorial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday inaugurated the memorial established by the government at former Chief

Minister Jayalalithaa's residence 'Veda Nilayam' at Poos Garden. He also unveiled a life-size bronze statue of Jayalalithaa on the campus of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, and said

her birth anniversary would henceforth be observed by the government.

The inauguration was a low-key event, in view of the Madras HC's order restraining the entry of the public.

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Security beefed up at all three city borders

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The police on Thursday moved nearly 30 farmers from DDA ground in Burari to Singhu border. They also beefed up security at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders by deploying more policemen.

Additional forces

A senior police officer said after the violence, additional forces have been moved to protest site as precautionary measures. "To prevent any friction between locals and protesters, we have placed more barricades at borders. A small group of locals at Singhu staged protest and demand to open the road. Police intervened and the situation was pacified," said the officer.

Calm at Singhu border after R-Day storm

'Dip in footfall at langar facilities compared to last week'

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Two days after the tractor parade culminated into violence, the Singhu border on Thursday bore a relatively empty look with many of the vehicles missing in pockets along the highway.

Prakat Singh, a farmer from Amritsar, who has been at the protest site for over a month now, said: "The few empty spaces does not mean that people have left. The number of people who are currently present here at the border is the same as what it was before. The people who had come specifically for the tractor parade have left. That is the reason why the space looks a bit empty. The new tractors which are coming in are getting parked either on the other end of protest site or

Resident group up in arms against farmers

They demand that inter-State highway be cleared, threaten to assemble in greater strength at Singhu border

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

A group of people claiming to be residents of nearby villages staged a demonstration against the protesting farmers at the Singhu border on Thursday.

They demanded that the inter-State highway be cleared.

Hassles in commuting

The group alleged that they faced several hassles in commuting due to the two-month-long protest.

They said the farmers had disrespected the Tricolour on Republic Day.

The tractor parade by farmers on January 26 had culminated in violence with clashes erupting at several locations in the national capital.



A group of residents from nearby villages protest against the farmers at the Singhu border on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mahesh Chauhan, a resident of Palla village, which is a few kilometres away from

the Singhu border, said: "The highway has been blocked for over two months

now. It has caused immense inconvenience to all, including daily wagers, who need

to travel for work among others. We want the road cleared as soon as possible. Today we have come in a small group but soon we will be assembling here in much larger numbers."

Won't tolerate

Raj Singh Saini, a resident of a village in Narela, said: "We cannot tolerate this anymore. We want the road near the Singhu border cleared. Today [on Thursday], Pradhans of 40 villages along with others have come here. But we are ready to return with lakhs of people to ensure that the protesting farmers leave the borders soon."

Earlier in the day, farmers had prevented several media personnel from entering the protest site.

ceived and well-coordinated" plan to break the agreement arrived at with farmer leaders to bring international embarrassment for the government on Republic Day. A special cell will also investigate the case registered under UAPA and sedition charges. "The role and conduct of organisations and individuals based in India as well as those out of the country is being probed. An investigation is under way," said the officer.

Many protesters reached the Red Fort with tractors and entered the premises, the police said. Some even hoisted religious flags on its domes and the flagstaff at the ramparts.

Crime Branch to probe cases against protesters

Role, conduct of groups under scanner

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch will investigate the cases of violence at the Red Fort, ITO and seven other places during the farmers' tractor parade on Republic Day, an officer said on Thursday.

He said the police have registered 33 FIRs in connection with the violence that left 394 police personnel injured and one protester dead on January 26.

Lookout notices issued

Lookout notices have been issued against 44 persons, the officer added.

The Delhi Police said there was a "pre-con-

Policemen seek numbers as stirs 'more violent now'

When clashes began on R-Day, officers gathered in despair and resignation: DCP

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Following the violence that erupted in the Capital on Republic Day, Delhi Police officers have become a worried lot. Many officials feel that it has become a public perception that a protest is only successful when the police is beaten up. "We are not left with an ounce of self-respect"

Several of the langar facilities also bore a deserted look even though the volunteers maintained that the footfall had dipped compared to the last week but not to what it was initially. A volunteer at one of the langars, said: "...we are continuing with the 'sewa' as usual."

Even facilities like the Kisan Mall, which had come up over the course of the two-month-long protest, was closed. Volunteers present at the Kalsa Aid kiosk, however, said it had been shut "for a couple of days due to the unrest" but would reopen soon.

mething for us. Risk and Hardship allowance is given to the past couple of years. "Unlike before when protesters could be controlled using police vehicles as barricades. The protests and protesters have become more violent," he said, adding that there is a huge need for better equipment and allowances.

A head constable, who was posted at ITO during the violence, said looking at the video of policemen jumping from the wall at Red Fort, he was reminded of the Jallianwala Bagh incident. "This was probably how and why people jumped into the well. Thankfully, here police officials didn't die," he said.

The officer said the nature

"Despair because what they had anticipated was now being witnessed and resignation because of being briefed, trained and drilled over and over into 'no use of force'."

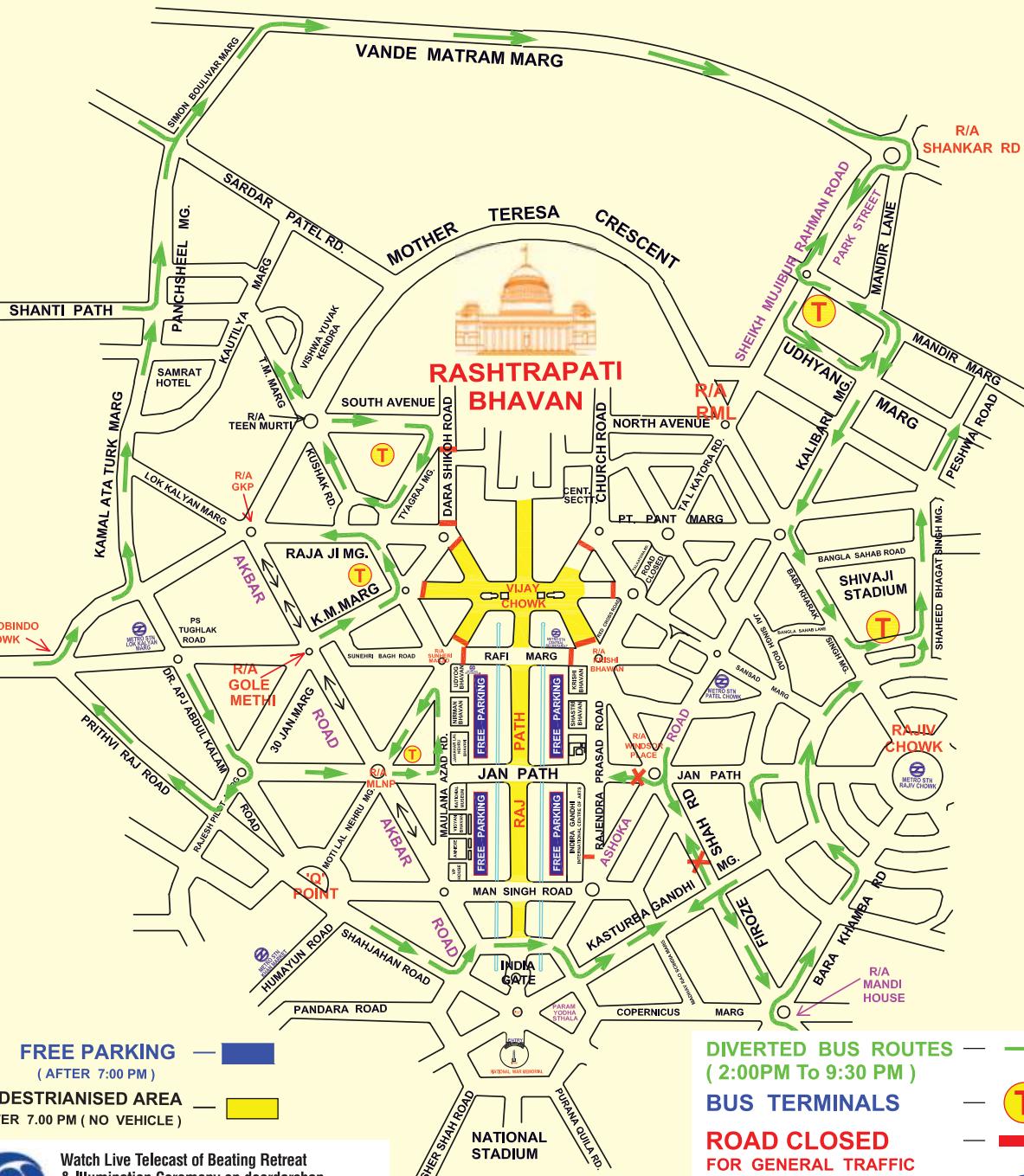
The officer recalled making calls to check on colleagues and getting asked questions like, "Why were these people allowed to take out a march when no one trusted their intent, words and body language? Why did we not ensure that in case of a battle, it is fought only at Singhu border?"

A constable said officers were told to use minimum or no force. "That is why we flee and next time, this is what we will do, we will run away at the possible moment," he said, adding: "We are beaten up everyone – be it lawyers, students, anti-CAA protestors or anyone," he added.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY



BEATING RETREAT AND ILLUMINATION ON 29th JANUARY, 2021 (4:00 PM ONWARDS)



Beating Retreat Ceremony will be held on 29.01.2021 at Vijay Chowk, as part of the Republic Day Celebration, 2021. Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangement for Beating Retreat Ceremony and Illumination of Rashtrapati Bhawan, North Block, South Block and Parliament House.

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

The following traffic restrictions will be put in place on 29.01.2021 from 1400 hours to 2130 hours.

- Vijay Chowk will remain closed for general traffic.
- Traffic will not be allowed on the following stretches:-
 - Rafi Marg between R/A Sunehri Masjid and R/a Krishi Bhawan.
 - Raisina Road from R/a Krishi Bhawan towards Vijay Chowk.
 - Beyond R/a Dara Shikoh Road, R/a Krishna Menon Marg and R/A Sunehri Masjid towards Vijay Chowk.
 - Rajpath between Vijay Chowk and "C" hexagon.
- General/public/motorist are advised to take alternate routes i.e Ring Road, Ridge Road, Aurobindo Marg, Madarsa 'T' Point, Safdarjung Road, Kamal Ataturk Marg, Rani Jhansi Road, Minto Road etc.
- Buses bound for Central Secretariat and Connaught Place coming from Shanti Path - Vinay Marg - Sardar Patel Marg will take Panchsheel Marg - Simon Boliver Marg - Vande Matram Marg - R/a Shankar Road - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Road.
- Buses bound for Central Secretariat will terminate at Udyam Marg and return via Kali Bari Marg - Mandir Marg - Shankar Marg.
- Connaught Place bound buses will take Mandir Marg - Kali Bari Marg - G.R.O.- Baba Khadak Singh Marg and reach Connaught Place & return via Bhagat Singh Marg - Peshwa Road - Mandir Marg - Shankar Road and Vande Matram Marg.
- Buses coming from South Delhi on Tughlak Road and bound for Connaught Place/ Central Secretariat will be diverted from Aurobindo Chowk to Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Panchsheel Marg - Simon Boliver Marg and follow the route as mentioned at Serial No. 1.
- Buses coming to Mandi House and Feroz Shah Road and proceeding to Connaught Place via Barakhamba Road will terminate at Shivaji Stadium and return via Kasturba Gandhi Marg/Barakhamba Road.
- Connaught Place bound buses coming on Shahjahan Road will proceed to Shivaji Stadium via Aurobindo Chowk - Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Panchsheel Marg and beyond.
- Buses bound for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmire Gate coming from South side will take Ring Road from AIIMS towards Dhaula Kuan and then Ridge Road, Rani Jhansi Road.
- Buses bound from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmire Gate coming from Ashram side will take Ashram Chowk - Ring Road towards Sarai Kale Khan and proceed further via Raj Ghat.
- Buses coming from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Kashmire Gate and bound for South and South East will take Delhi Gate - Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg - Rajghat - Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan - Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Vikas Marg and bound for South will take Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan - Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Connaught Place via Kasturba Gandhi Marg towards India Gate will take Minto Road - DDU Marg - I.P.Flyover - Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan.



METRO STATION

Entry/ Exit gates at Rail Bhawan & Udyog Bhawan/ Central Secretariat Metro Station will remain closed from 02:00 PM to 06:30 PM on 29.1.2021.



PARKING

Parking will be available for those coming to see illumination at Vijay Chowk behind the water channels between Rafi Marg and "C" Hexagon (after 7:00PM).

INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

- In case of any unidentified object or suspicious persons being seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty.
- General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel and remain updated through Traffic Police Facebook page, Twitter handle and Traffic Police Helpline. People are requested to plan their journey accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

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Budge Budge, Kolkata
9830991821

BANGALORE CAMPUS
Sompura Industrial Area, Niduvanda
Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala, Bangalore
9511982499

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one male name **Ramji Lal, S/o Late Sh. Ganga Ram, R/o H.N.O. 3615, Gali No. 98/1, B-Block, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi, Age: 87 years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, ID Mark: Left eye artificial, mentally disturbed, wearing Cream colour Checkdar Shirt, Cream colour Pajama and Sleeper in feet, has been missing from his house since 01.07.2020. In this regard a **DD No. 59A, dated 07.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Burari, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.**

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Burari, Delhi

DP/500/N/2020 **Ph.: 011-27616844, 27616845**

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://noidaauthorityonline.com)

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1	25/CGM/SM(WC-1)/2020-21 , Name of Work:- Other Maintenance Work (C/o Boundary Wall Vacant Plot No.- H-28, 40 and G-53 and 69 in Sector-9), Noida Cost - Rs. 30.90 Lacs
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Which can be uploaded by date 11.02.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 12.02.2021 at 11.00 AM.

**Chief General Manager
NOIDA**

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SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shabnam, D/o: Azeemuddin, R/o: H. No. L-32, Loha Market, Welcome, Delhi has been reported kidnapped on 06.03.2017 from above said address. In this regard FIR No. 148/17, dated 07.03.2017 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi.** The description of kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Shabnam, Age: about 17 Years 06 Months, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour kurta, Blue colour Pajama and Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Seelampur, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

Police Station, Seelampur, Delhi

DP/532/NE/2021 Ph: 011-22562035, 8750870721, 9868515175

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

PCRA Organizes month long SAKSHAM campaign

Over the years, Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, has been at the forefront of promoting energy efficiency and conservation in various sectors. Like previous years, this year too, PCRA, in association with Oil & Gas CPSEs, organized a month long SAKSHAM campaign from 16-January to 15-February 2021, with the theme "Green and Clean Energy" to sensitize about the need to adopt cleaner and greener forms of energy. BORL under the aegis of PCRA and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, took up various initiatives to spread mass awareness with the theme 'Green and Clean Energy' embarking on very important cause of adopting green and clean energy to ensure a healthy environment and better future. As part of Saksham 2021, oil refineries performance, interventions in energy efficiency and sustainability has been evaluated under the scheme "Best performance in PAT Cycle-II for Refineries", for the period April 2016 to March 2019. Total 18 refineries participated in this scheme and given targets to reduce their specific energy consumption followed by a mandatory energy audit conducted by the PCRA. BORL is adjudged for its best performance for over achieving its target by 89% and awarded by a special trophy and certificate.

Railways to restart E-Catering Services for passengers

The Indian Railways under the leadership of Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Minister for Commerce and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Distribution has achieved a number of milestones recently in partial fulfillment of the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Digital India'. The launch of the new user interface of the internet ticketing website www.irctc.co.in and addition of new real time feature in IRCTC's own payment gateway i-Pay during booking of tickets are among the new initiatives of Railways towards improving the user ticket booking experience on digital platforms. In a latest, IRCTC – the catering and tourism arm of Indian Railways is going to restart its e-catering services for the passengers traveling in the currently operating special trains. IRCTC had started this unique service in the year 2014 whereby passengers could order an array of food of their choice from reputed brands as well as popular regional and local delicacies on phone or online while traveling on trains and get the same delivered to their seats at railway station. During the pre-COVID period, IRCTC had started clocking 20000 e-catering orders per day. With the permission from Ministry of Railways coming in, IRCTC is ready to resume the E-catering services on trains shortly in phase-wise manner.

RITES wins ICAI Award for excellence in financial reporting

RIES Ltd. has received the award under the category of Public Sector Entities for its Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended March 31, 2020. RITES' Director (Finance) Shri Bibhu Prasad Nayak and Chief Financial Officer Shri Parmonj Kumar Narang received the award from Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal at a glittering ceremony on January 17. The award recognises accounting practices, policies adopted by RITES Ltd. for disclosure and presentation of financial statement(s) and the company's degree of compliance with accounting standards, statutory guidelines, regulation etc. The award was presented by

THE HINDU

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SEARCH FOR MISSING

The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Khusboo Kumari D/o Saroj Singh R/o Bakasera, Bihar has been found on 06.01.2021 from Nehru Chowk, Mandir Marg, New Delhi at around 2:16 p.m. In this regard, DD No. 46A, dated 06.01.2021 has been registered at PS Mandir Marg, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the details of the girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the found girl is as under:

Name: Khusboo Kumari, Gender: Female, Age: 15 years, Height: 4'11", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red colour sweater, navy blue colour track pant.

If anyone has any information regarding the girl, kindly inform SHO/ Mandir Marg, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
SHO
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/194/NDD/2021
Ph. No. 011-23366730, 23341680

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CHAYANGTAO DIVISION, PWD AP.**

No.CD/DRG-03/2020-21/618 Date 28/01/2021

CORRIGENDUM

The NITs vide No. CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/01, CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/02, CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/03 for e-Tender published on 26/01/2021 in various dailies were the result of technical glitch and due to re-submission of old emails by mistake, No such e-Tenders are being called. Hence, the mentioned NITs stand cancelled.

The packages vide NIT No. CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/01 and CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/02 are already awarded and works in progress while the package vide NIT No. CD/DRG-2/RIDF/2018-19/03 is under sub judice.

This inconvenience is highly regretted.

**Executive Engineer
Chayangtao Division PWD AP
Chayangtao**

DIPR/ARN/16119-22/2020

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd., a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:

1) Tender No. T20P131272: Civil work for modification of 315 MVA foundation by 500 MVA foundation for ICT-2 TR at 400 KV Sub Station Tikirkalan, 2) Tender No.T20P131251: Strengthening of cable bridge and protection of cables over Barapullah nala near Sarai Kale Khan and redevelopment of one no. tube well at 220 KV sub station DTL BTPS.

Last date for bid submission: **(22.02.2021 for SLNo.1) & (22.02.2021 for SLNo.2)**, at 1.00 p.m. For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website Delhi Govt website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> Tender ID No.2021_DTL_199152_1 & 2021_DTL_199150_1 and DTL website www.dtl.gov.in Unique No. DTL-8061-270127 & DTL-8062-270121 PR/20-21/34

All Corrigendum/Addendum/Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tender would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the national professional accounting body of the country.

TRIFED inks MoU with IFFDC to promote livelihood generation of tribal people

TRIFED, as the nodal agency working for the empowerment of tribals, is focusing its efforts on finding new ways to improve the lives and the livelihoods of the tribal people. As a part of its continued efforts, TRIFED has been partnering with like-minded organisations to create synergies together. TRIFED and Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 18, 2021 to work together for tribal livelihood generation. Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED, and Shri S. P. Singh, Managing Director, IFFDC signed the MoU in the presence of Shri Anupan Trivedi, ED, TRIFED, Smt. Sangeeta Mahendra, ED (I/C), TRIFED, and Shri Dr Harish Chandra Gena, Chief Project Manager, IFFDC. The two organizations have agreed to partner with each other to organise training programmes for tribal artisans in the area of entrepreneurship skill and business development. They will also collaborate further to identify and implement CSR initiatives and tribal development efforts. Other areas of association have been identified through which IFFDC promoted PFFCS/SHGs/CBOs will be linked with TRIFED for collection and marketing of NTFPs/MFPs.

Gail celebrates 72nd Republic Day

GAIL India Limited celebrated 72nd Republic Day at its Corporate Office in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion Shri Manoj Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, GAIL said that it is appropriate time for the Company to augment natural gas infrastructure by revisiting scale, speed and scope. He mentioned the relentless efforts of GAIL work force in executing natural gas pipeline projects, and enhancing the reach of infrastructure to provide cleaner energy and reduce pollution levels in various CGD cities and realising Government of India's vision for adopting a development path of carbon neutral energy.

PNB Celebrates Republic Day with a humanitarian Cause

Nation's leading public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) celebrated the 72nd Republic Day with lots of patriotism and fervor. The PNB MD & CEO Shri CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao hoisted the National flag at headquarters in New Delhi. The ceremony was attended by the EDs, CVO, CGMs and senior officials of PNB. Saluting the warriors, Shri CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, MD & CEO, PNB said "PNB Parivar salutes the innumerable sacrifices the armed forces have made for our wellbeing. During the celebrations, PNB generously donated through the 'PNB Prerna' initiative to four organisations working for the welfare of various sections of the society. The initiative was headed by Smt. Janaki Charmany, the wife of Shri. CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, MD & CEO, PNB. The financial assistance was offered to HelpAge India, Inspiration, Delhi Council of Child Welfare and Earth Savours Foundation, providing them with the necessary support during these difficult times.

PNL celebrates 72nd Republic Day

Marked by patriotism, Nabha Power Limited celebrated the 72nd Republic Day of India on the premises at its 2x700MW Rajpura Thermal Power Plant, dedicating its operations to the service of the nation. Chief Executive Officer, PNL, Mr Athan Shahab, hoisted the National Flag which was followed by the National Anthem. Speaking on the occasion, the CEO called upon the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and lauded their undying spirit to bring 'Swaraj' in India. He also hailed the contributions being made by people from all walks of life to make India stand out in the world as a union of diverse cultures, creeds and regions.

AAP changes party constitution, Kejriwal to continue as chief

No member was earlier allowed to hold same post for more than 2 consecutive terms

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday amended the party's constitution to remove a clause, which will allow Arvind Kejriwal to continue as the national convener of the party, multiple party leaders have told *The Hindu*.

This is one of the 14 amendments made to the party's constitution at the National Council meeting on Thursday. Before the amendment, as per the party constitution, no member was al-

lowed to hold the same post as an office-bearer for more than two consecutive terms of three years each. "It has been removed. A total of 14 amendments have been made," a party leader said.

The party did not officially comment on the amendment or share the new constitution.

Since the formation of the AAP in 2012 and its registration as a party in 2013, Mr. Kejriwal has been at the helm. In December 2018, the party's national council had decided to extend its term by a

year that gave Mr. Kejriwal a year more than the maximum tenure allowed by the constitution. At that time, his second tenure as national convener was about to end on April 26, 2019.

Practical difficulties'

Earlier in the day, in a video statement, senior party leader Manish Sisodia said that multiple changes to party's constitution had been made at the national council meeting on Thursday to remove "practical difficulties" in go-

ing forward.

Mentioning some of the amendments, Mr. Sisodia said, "Earlier, one clause of our constitution was that two people from the same family could not fight the election. This rule will be only valid for the existing members of AAP. But we are witnessing that many new leaders are joining our party two of whose family members have fought elections. In such cases, the party has decided to allow such people to join, fight elections and work for AAP."

199 new virus cases; 8,244 vaccinated in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

With the number of vaccination sites being increased, 8,244 healthcare workers took COVID-19 vaccine in Delhi on Thursday, which is the highest single-day count till now, the Delhi government spokesperson said. Also, there were 15 Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) on Thursday.

The number of people vaccinated on Thursday was 77.7% of the daily target of 10,600.

The number of vaccination sites were increased to 106 on Thursday from 81 earlier. With a target of 100 healthcare workers each at each site, the total target has increased to 10,600 from 8,100.

Delhi, meanwhile, reported 199 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 6,34,524, according to a health bulletin released by the government on Thursday. With nine more deaths, the total number of fatalities here now stands at 10,829.

Delhi records 'very poor' air quality

STAFF REPORTER</

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/hail likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Dense/very dense fog likely in some/isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar and Odisha. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	20.1	11.3	Zohikode	—	33.9	23.2
Ahmedabad	—	26.7	9.9	Kurnool	—	31.8	20.1
Aizawl	—	23.0	7.7	Lucknow	—	16.6	5.7
Allahabad	—	18.0	4.9	Madurai	—	31.9	18.5
Bengaluru	—	28.4	16.0	Mangaluru	—	35.0	21.5
Bhopal	—	22.4	8.2	Mumbai	—	29.9	15.2
Bhubaneswar	—	29.4	16.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	16.2
Chandigarh	—	17.0	5.2	New Delhi	—	19.4	3.8
Chennai	—	30.5	22.3	Patna	—	19.2	7.1
Coimbatore	—	29.8	17.6	Poorn Blair	—	30.9	26.2
Dehradoon	—	20.2	4.6	Puducherry	—	30.6	20.5
Gangtok	—	14.1	5.6	Pune	—	32.4	15.0
Goa	—	32.1	20.7	Raipur	—	30.6	18.0
Guwahati	—	26.3	10.8	Ranchi	—	26.8	9.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	18.0	Shillong	—	18.0	5.9
Hyderabad	—	30.6	20.3	Shimla	—	13.3	2.6
Imphal	—	25.7	6.6	Srinagar	—	3.0	—7.7
Jaipur	—	22.0	6.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	20.7
Kochi	—	31.8	21.6	Tiruchi	—	31.3	19.7
Kohima	—	17.6	6.5	Vijayawada	—	30.7	21.5
Kolkata	—	24.4	11.6	Visakhapatnam	—	29.6	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	25	137	23	91	114	—
Bengaluru	.8	32	21	148	103	—
Chennai	10	15	48	203	130	—
Delhi	14	.8	81	.439	409	—
Hyderabad	.2	52	29	.112	.105	—
Kolkata	31	71	.33	.262	.163	—
Lucknow	9	93	.78	.430	.404	—
Mumbai	.9	27	.64	.318	.263	—
Pune	—	140	.53	.177	.124	—
Visakhapatnam	17	.52	.40	.154	.154	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 394 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bagalkot, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Fugitive gangster held after 16-month hunt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPIUR

Fugitive gangster Vikram Gujjar alias Palpa, the most wanted criminal in Rajasthan carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh on his head, was arrested from Kolhapur in Maharashtra on Thursday after a 16-month-long hunt. The 29-year-old gangster, hailing from Haryana's Mahendragarh district, is also wanted in several criminal cases in his native State.

Will continue to support them: ex-Haryana CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday again appealed to the government to accept the demands of the farmers. He said that farmers were continuing their agitation in extremely harsh conditions and the government should adopt sensitive attitude and accept their demands soon so that the farmers can return to their homes.

The Leader of the Opposition said the three agricultural laws would not benefit the farmers. "Like the Punjab government, the Haryana government should also provide financial help and a job to the families of the martyred farmers," he said.

Addressing a press conference in Rohtak, Mr. Hooda said that he had been supporting the farmers' demands since day one and would continue to do so. He condemned the violence at the Red Fort during the tractor parade and said that these incidents were clearly aimed at disrupting the movement.

Fair investigation
Mr. Hooda said a fair and impartial investigation was needed to identify the people who came to the Red Fort with the intention of disrupting

the government," he said.

On a question over Abhay Chautala's resignation, Mr. Hooda said that his resignation would benefit the government and not the farmers. "We are going to bring a no-confidence motion against the government in the State Assembly and the resignation of Abhay Chautala has reduced one vote of the Opposition. The coalition will now need 45 votes instead of 46 to save the government," he said.

ing and derailing the disciplined and peaceful farmer's movement. He said lakhs of farmers had reached Delhi to be part of the tractor parade and despite such a large number, there was no news of any confrontation, indiscipline or any kind of unwanted activity, except from one place.

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"We are going to bring a no-confidence motion against the government in the State Assembly and the resignation of Abhay Chautala has reduced one vote of the Opposition. The coalition will now need 45 votes instead of 46 to save the government," he said.

23 last year, along with fellow JNU student Devangana Kalita in relation with an FIR registered on February 24, 2020, over the sit-in protest at Jafrabad metro station against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Separate FIR

The Crime Branch has lodged a separate FIR against both Ms. Narwal and Ms. Kalita in connection with the Delhi riots with charges of IPC Sections 147 (rioting), 353 (using criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 307 (attempt to murder), 302 (murder) among others.

The FIR also named relevant sections of the Arms Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Ms. Narwal was arrested on May

Farmers vacate sit site on Delhi-Agra highway

Police had served them notices for violence on Republic Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Hundreds of farmers, mostly from parts of Madhya Pradesh, vacated the sit-in site on Delhi-Agra highway at Palwal on Thursday after the police served them notices with regard to the violence on the Republic Day. The Palwal Police had on Wednesday registered case against 2,000-odd unidentified people on charges of attempt to murder, among others, under the Indian Penal Code.

Jaswant Singh, one of the farmers at the protest site, said they had decided to leave and return to their homes in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior for the time being, but vowed that they would return back in larger numbers. "Our numbers have dwindled over the past few days. So we have decided to leave for the time being. But we would return with greater strength," said Mr. Singh. He said they were facing opposition from the locals as well after the violence on Republic Day.

Superintendent of Police, Palwal, Deepak Gahlawat said the protesters were threatened with legal action in connection with the violence



A community kitchen at the Palwal sit-in site on the Delhi-Agra highway. ■ FILE PHOTO

and were told to leave following which they decided to vacate the premises. Deputy Commissioner Naresh Narwal confirmed that the site was vacated and the traffic on the highway resumed.

Around half-a-dozen separate groups of farmers from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were holding the sit-in at Palwal for almost two months now blocking the highway.

It is the second protest site to be vacated in Haryana over the past 24 hours. Earlier farmers holding a sit-in at Malsani barrage in Rewari's Dhruhera on Delhi-Jaipur Highway were forced to leave on Wednesday following opposition from the locals in the

wake of the violence on the Republic Day in Delhi. Most of the agitating farmers went to the Shahjahanpur protest site at Haryana-Rajasthan border.

Khap meet convened
In a related development, Dabdi MLA and Sangwan Khap president Sombir Sangwan has convened a meeting of Khap leaders from across Haryana at Rohtak on Friday to discuss the future course of action on the farmers agitation. Mr. Sangwan said the farmers were determined to take forward the agitation in support of their demands and a meeting has been called to discuss the strategy for it.

Protesters removed from Baghpat-Saharanpur site

NHAI work was getting affected: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAZIABAD

The Baghpat administration removed the farmers protesting on Baghpat-Saharanpur highway in Baraut town of the district on Wednesday night. The farmers were protesting against farm laws at the site for many days.

The videos of the eviction purportedly show policemen holding batons asking aged farmers to move out of the tents at night. Protesters could be seen rushing out with their belongings.

Amit Kumar Singh, ADM, Baghpat, said the protesters were removed after the administration got a letter from the National Highway Authority of India wherein it said the construction work was hampered because of the ag-

itation. He said farmers were peacefully removed and no force was used.

Alok Singh, Circle Officer, Baraut, said the farmers were protesting on highway where construction work had to be done. "The work of NHAI is pending, their project cost is escalating," he said. On whether they had been given any other site in the town to protest, Mr. Singh said "there is no other protest site."

On the hurry to remove elderly farmers after daylight, Mr. Singh said it was not because of law and order problem. "Nobody was troubled. There was pleasant weather yesterday. Anyway there is no difference between day and night in towns. Everything is peaceful," he maintained.

Social scientist Shaibal Gupta passes away

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

Patna-based social scientist and popular economist Shaibal Gupta passed away on Thursday.

Mr. Gupta founded the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) and was member-secretary of it since the beginning.

In 2016, the ADRI under his leadership had celebrated its 25-years of excellence with a programme attended by several world-famous academicians and scholars.

Mr. Gupta was so popular a social scientist that every visiting academician or journalist from across the world to Bihar ensured to drop in his office or residence in Buddha Marg here for insights of issues related to their subject.

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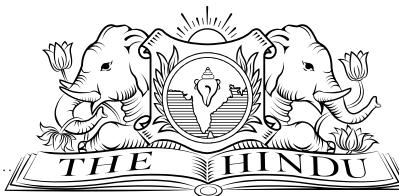
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Tempered optimism

Even with declining infection rates, public activity needs to be guided by caution

The course of the coronavirus pandemic in the new year presents a picture of contrasts, with some rich countries running out of vaccines, experiencing a tide of new cases and deaths, and poorer countries going without access to vaccination, while India reports a case decline. Vaccine hesitancy may even be wasting precious vials in some States. Amidst suggestions that the worst is over, the Home Ministry has proposed further relaxations in the protocols for public activity from February, including occupancy levels in cinema theatres, holding of exhibitions and access to swimming pools. This will come as a relief to some of the outlying sectors that could not fully unlock so far, although, as the Ministry points out, all other activities have been permitted. The January 27 guidelines for Surveillance, Containment and Caution also create a window for further relaxation of international air travel, but the DGCA has decided to maintain *status quo* on scheduled flights till February end. Full-fledged inter-city rail services await a decision too. In an economy struggling with a demand contraction for goods and services, a graded opening is the prudent course, with strict enforcement of public health measures. It would be wrong to read the MHA's unlock advisory, without taking cognisance of the protocols that must continue to be followed: use of face masks, healthy distancing, staggering of working hours, workplace sanitisation and firm action against spitting in public. These legal requirements, however, have been rendered moot in many instances by crowded election campaigns, agitations and gatherings. Many States are not even trying to persuade recalcitrant people in public.

India's declining infections have prompted a further relaxation of activity curbs, but there is no cause to lower the vigil. Genetic mutations of the coronavirus in South Africa, the U.K. and Brazil pose a new worry, with implications for those who have avoided infection so far or have recovered after a difficult battle. Poor communication and lack of transparency on vaccine efficacy data have produced hesitancy, resulting in low uptake in some States. On the other hand, the virus variants have turned the spotlight on second generation vaccines that are expected to protect against them but will take time to arrive. Without ready pharmaceutical remedies, citizens and policymakers have to fall back on the default toolkit of safe behaviour. There will be considerable interest in new measures in Europe, where governments now require use of masks of N95 or FFP2 standards, to offer higher protection in public places and transport; Germany is to give these free to people over 60 and to vulnerable individuals. In India, even with a sizeable population exposed to the virus, as seropositivity surveys show, the spate of infections in Kerala and Maharashtra underscores the value of the precautionary principle on the road to universal vaccination.

For one and all

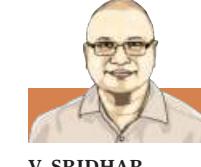
China should show global leadership, and not go down the path of arrogant superpowers

In 2017, China's President Xi Jinping became the first General Secretary of the Communist Party of China to attend the World Economic Forum at Davos, a gathering synonymous with global capitalism. He delivered a robust defence of globalisation, three days before newly elected U.S. President Donald Trump was set to be sworn in, and six months after the Brexit vote in the U.K. On January 25, Mr. Xi returned to the Davos platform, albeit virtually. His speech carried many of the similar themes from four years ago, calling for global unity, closer coordination on macroeconomic policy, and more equitable growth. It did also carry two messages that appeared to be aimed at Washington, a reflection of four turbulent years of a tariff and technology war between the world's two biggest economies. "Each country is unique with its own history, culture and social system, and none is superior to the other," he said. "Difference in itself is no cause for alarm. What does ring the alarm is arrogance, prejudice and hatred; it is the attempt to impose hierarchy on human civilisation or to force one's own history, culture and social system upon others." He also hit out at attempts "to build small circles or start a new Cold War, to reject, threaten or intimidate others, to wilfully impose decoupling, supply disruption or sanctions" and said a "misguided approach of antagonism and confrontation, be it in the form of cold war, hot war, trade war or tech war, would eventually hurt all countries' interests."

If Mr. Xi's first Davos speech found a broadly receptive audience amid a crisis in capitalism, with the rise of populism in the West creating the space for China to try and fill a void in global economic leadership, China will find a harder sell four years on. His message "to stay committed to international law and international rules instead of seeking one's own supremacy" and for "the strong [to] not bully the weak" will appear especially jarring to those in China's neighbourhood. Indeed, only the day before the speech, military commanders from India and China spent over 16 hours in talks, the latest unsuccessful attempt to disengage two forces that have been eyeball-to-eyeball for months, after China's unprecedented military mobilisation across the LAC starting in May. It is not only India that is dealing with a harder Chinese military posture in the midst of a global pandemic. On January 23, eight bombers and four fighters from China entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone, the latest warning to Taipei. One cannot find fault with Mr. Xi's statement that "decisions should not be made by simply showing off strong muscles or waving a big fist". Indeed, its importance is in its relevance to all the big, militarised powers. And, China is one of them.

Global antitrust and the challenge of Big Tech

The issue is about checking their monopoly power while encouraging their positive externalities and consumer surplus



V. SRIDHAR

There are ongoing investigations worldwide, including in the European Union and the United States, on the abuse of monopolistic power by the Big Tech firms, especially Facebook and Google. Many compare this with the earlier antitrust investigations in the U.S. on the telecom industry and the break-up of the AT&T dictated by the Department of Justice in its Modified Final Judgment in 1982.

Key differences now

However, there are important differences this time around when compared with the earlier investigations. First, the information good that is being provided by the Internet firms of today, is largely non-rival. The consumption of information by one does not alter the value for the others. However, in telecom, due to limited network capacity, the consumption by one has an effect of decreasing value for the others and, hence, is rival in nature.

Second, telecom services are within the jurisdictional boundaries of regulators and, hence, the regulators have the power to lay down rules of the orderly behaviour of the licensed telecom operators. On the other hand, the Internet firms operate globally, thanks to the ubiquitous Internet. Therefore, it is often difficult to lay

down international rules of obligation and fulfilment by the different country regulators.

Third, while it is debatable whether the goods and services provided by the Internet firms are excludable, telecom is certainly excludable due to the need for consumers to obtain connections from the respective telcos and pay the subscription charges for the same. It is this factor that was leveraged by the Internet firms to provide search, navigation, and social connectivity with no charge to the consumers, and, consequently, making these services non-excludable. In fact, the Internet, started as the Department of Defense project in the U.S., was created to be non-excludable. However, commercialisation of the Internet has created this new avatar of non-excludability that includes subtle trade-offs of personal information for availing services of the Internet firms.

Monetisation models

It must be pointed out that such non-excludable and non-rival goods, also known as public goods, are provided by governments. On the other hand, in a peculiar way, the information goods as described above are being provided by private firms. This arrangement poses several problems.

First, while governments can cover the expense of providing public goods (such as police protection, parks and street lights) through tax-payers' money, private firms need to have monetisation models to cover the costs of providing their services. Hence, the Internet firms have resorted to personalised advertisements and



third-party sharing of the personal information of their users for monetisation purposes.

Second, the strong network effects present in these Internet platforms warrant increasing the subscriber base and garnering as much market share as possible. This results in near monopoly of some firms in their defined markets. In order to retain their pole position, these firms may resort to anti-competitive behaviour including acquiring rivals to vertically integrate; erecting entry barriers by refusing to interconnect and interoperate with competing firms, and leveraging their capital base, thereby engaging in predatory pricing, and driving out competitors.

Indispensable applications

However, network effects create a huge consumer surplus. Even without our knowledge, these Internet firms have now become an indispensable part of our lives. We cannot do without Google Maps for our day-to-day commute to various destinations; Google Searches are indispensable in our quest for information and news; Google Scholar is a necessary tool for academics to explore relevant research artefacts. There are positive externalities as well. For

example, Google Maps Application Program Interface (APIs) is being used by almost all logistic and transport companies; Facebook APIs are used for advertisement by almost all firms across the industry. Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google, recently announced that its Search is being expanded to provide accurate and timely information on vaccine distribution to enable quick recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hence, the question before policymakers is how to regulate these Internet firms from abusing their monopoly power while at the same time encouraging the positive externalities and consumer surplus they create. This is a tough nut to crack as it is often very difficult to prove that the firms engage in the abuse of their monopoly power. Due to strong network effects, it is not possible to ban or curtail these services. Even if other options are available (such as Signal and Telegram for messaging), the network effects bind customers to their often used platform (WhatsApp), even if it is not their favourite.

Possible solutions

A traditional view is to subsidise the good that creates positive externalities. Should the governments provide tax subsidy to these Internet firms in return for their orderly behaviour in the marketplace? Should the governments mandate sharing of Non-Personal Data (NPD) owned by these firms for societal and economic well-being as pointed out in the expert committee on NPD? It is legitimate as pointed out by the Australian government in its media legisla-

tion, that Google and Facebook must negotiate a fair payment with news organisations for using their content in Facebook's newsfeed and Google's Search. Controlled expansion of products and services without hurting the interests of consumers and smaller competing firms shall be the mantra used by these firms to minimise litigation, lawsuits and, eventually, wastage of tax-payers' money.

The other way to control any abusive behaviour of the Internet firms is to use the power of public voice. The million mails that were sent to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in March 2015, effectively put an end to the Free Basics programme of Facebook in India, thereby prohibiting any violation of Net Neutrality principles. Similarly, the huge public outcry and subsequent government actions have delayed the recent changes to privacy policy relating to the sharing of personal information between WhatsApp and its parent firm, Facebook.

While governments and regulators deal with these dilemmas, should not the Internet firms adhere to core ethical principles in conducting their businesses? Lessons from the Enron scandal, and collusions between large banks and financial institutions during the 2008 financial crisis, indicate that firms that aim at super monopoly profits and are greedy to become powerhouses of the world, often end up in the ditch.

V. Sridhar is Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore. With inputs from Kala Seetharam Sridhar, Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change

A political player who is rising, but is still no Lenin

Notwithstanding the euphoria, Alexei Navalny is unlikely to be the catalyst that will lead to 'regime change' in Russia



NANDAN UNNIKRISHNAN

Russia had its fair share of internal and foreign upheavals in 2020 – the novel coronavirus pandemic, the consequent economic downturn, the controversial arrest of a regional governor, the developments in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh. But 2021 brought to focus another troubling event of the previous year: the tribulations of anti-Putin activist Alexei Navalny, which leave many questions unanswered.

A saga, European sanctions
The saga began on August 20 last year with Mr. Navalny falling ill on a flight to Moscow. His flight made an emergency landing at Omsk where Mr. Navalny was initially hospitalised and treated. He was, at the request of his wife, taken to Germany where he completed his treatment and had a miraculous recovery from what has emerged to be a near-lethal poisoning.

Meanwhile, the German government felt that it had enough evidence to accuse the Russian security services of poisoning Mr. Navalny. The Germans claim that he was struck with the now infamous Novichok poison, leading to the European Union imposing sanctions on six Russian officials,

including the head of the national security outfit, Federal Security Service (FSB) and a chemical research centre. Russia denies the accusations. But the Russian government still has many questions to answer about the poisoning.

The latest instalment of this story was Mr. Navalny's detention on arrival from Berlin (January 17, 2021) and the subsequent nationwide protests on Saturday (January 23). The charges against Mr. Navalny, include an old case in which he received a suspended sentence and a new case of fraudulent use of public money. Mr. Navalny denies all charges.

The protests this time

The protests demanding his release, while not the largest seen in Russia, were widespread, occurring in every major city, from the Pacific coast to the Baltic Sea; they resulted in about 3,000 people being detained and released.

What does stand out, however, is that people from various strata and age groups joined the mostly peaceful protest actions. Normally, Navalny-related demonstrations attract primarily youth (15-25 years old).

That others joined the protest this time is significant. It is probably a reflection of the deep disillusionment with the drop in living standards sparked off by years of Ukraine-related sanctions and lower energy prices, and worsened by the pandemic-driven economic downturn. This should worry the government even if Mr. Navalny

followed this up with several exposés of key members of the Russian elite. Prominent among them are government officials (Igor Shuvalov, Alexander Bastrykin, Viktor Zolotov) and oligarchs (Viktor Vekselberg, Roman Abramovich and Alisher Usmanov). All of them have denied the charges.

His subsequent investigations have targeted Dmitry Medvedev, the former President and Prime Minister. The latest, now viral exposure, targets Russian President Vladimir Putin himself, although the charge of him owning a plush palace being built with government money in Southern Russia is not new and has been denied earlier.

Earlier, Mr. Navalny's presence was primarily online, barring sporadic street protests and his campaign for the Mayorship of Moscow. Some analysts have suggested that Mr. Navalny was used as a tool in the internal battles among the elites. This is not difficult to believe because some of the information that Mr. Navalny uses in his anti-corruption campaigns would be difficult, actually impossible, to find in publicly available sources. This kind of knowledge would have to come from someone not just inside, but very high-up in the system.

Political targets

Mr. Navalny till the poisoning was a fringe political actor, mainly active in Moscow. His political career started with the liberal opposition party, Yabloko, in the early 2000s. He subsequently broke away to form his own nationalist group. His anti-corruption campaigns began in the late 2000s when as a shareholder of large companies such as Rosneft, Gazprom, he tried to seek greater transparency about their financial dealings.

He followed this up with several exposés of key members of the Russian elite. Prominent among them are government officials (Igor Shuvalov, Alexander Bastrykin, Viktor Zolotov) and oligarchs (Viktor Vekselberg, Roman Abramovich and Alisher Usmanov). All of them have denied the charges.

mistaking myths and fables to be facts of science. It is only through science, as Jawaharlal Nehru often reiterated, that India can prove to the world that it is a progressive nation.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

Promoting science

Science has occupied centre stage during the COVID-19 pandemic; vaccines will change the lives of millions dramatically. It is in this context that people deserve better than being enlightened with make-believe medicine (OpEd, "Pallbearers of cow science", January 27). The balance between modern medicine and traditional faith is shifting in the wrong direction. We are sadly captivated with the past and

corporations contribute their share of tax to pay for it.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Pet owner etiquette

Owning a pet, especially a dog, has become a part of the lifestyle of many urban families and individuals. But the problem is that the owners seem to be forgetting the unwritten rules that govern owning a pet. In the case of dogs, walking the animal becomes unpleasant for other people. The owners refuse to clean up after their

lution of that year. Whatever Mr. Kiselyov's reasoning, Mr. Navalny is no Lenin, even if the protests for his release continue. It is clear that now, Mr. Navalny will have a more prominent role in Russian politics and is likely to emerge as the darling of the western media – although, Moscow-based western media correspondents are less ebullient and more cautious in their assessments of Mr. Navalny and his future role.)

Churn among the elites
Mr. Navalny, notwithstanding the euphoria of the moment, is unlikely to be the catalyst that will lead to "regime change" in Russia. His nationalist platform is not currently capable of appealing to all sections of Russian society or convincing the political opposition to coalesce around it. He is simply not in the same league as Mr. Putin and several other leaders but could, for the time being, serve as the lightning rod for the people to register their disaffection with the regime's policies.

While India may not be waiting with bated breath for "regime change" in Russia, it is important to recognise that the shadow boxing taking place through Mr. Navalny is an indication of serious churn among the Russian elites. In Russia historically, barring once, change usually begins in the upper echelons of power.

Nandan Unnikrishnan is Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Farmers' protest

Dialogues and dissent are the essence of democracy. Both the government and farmers' organisations ought to be tempered by them at this juncture. In choosing the 'convenience' of the pandemic to push through Farm Bills and Labour Codes, without adequate deliberations, the government has obviously violated the cardinal principles of democratic governance. Some doubts have arisen how agitators found easy access to the Red Fort. Instead of blaming the Opposition parties for the violence, the government should be seeking political consensus. The farmers have displayed extraordinary grit in upholding the right of citizens to protest at a time when the life and liberty of citizens are increasingly under peril and the judiciary appears reluctant to provide any kind of

succour. However, the prudent step for farmers' organisations would be to accept the government's offer to keep the laws in abeyance and sit down for discussions. Success registered so far should not entice them to go overboard.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

■ It is astounding that those who organise a protest event involving lakhs of farmers and vehicles do not accept responsibility for the consequences that arise from their call to protest. As regards the perpetrators, the law will take its course, whether they are farmers or others.

A. RAMACHANDRAN,
Palakkad, Kerala

■ The central government has been participating in the 'talks' with the farmers without a farmer-friendly attitude. If the entire farmer

community does not want the farm laws, how can the government say that the laws are in favour of the farmers? The government is behaving as if it is the CEO of corporates. It is of great solace that even when the farmers' rally went amok, para military or military forces were not used against the protesting farmers.

SUKUMARAN C.V.,
Palakkad, Kerala

■ The central government has been participating in the 'talks' with the farmers without a farmer-friendly attitude. If the entire farmer

mistaking myths and fables to be facts of science. It is only through science, as Jawaharlal Nehru often reiterated, that India can prove to the world that it is a progressive nation.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

A new economic system

The flawed economic system has enabled the super-rich to amass more wealth, and, at the same time, made it more harder for millions of the poor. To tackle extreme economic inequality, we must end gender inequality and define a vision for a new human economy. As India is limping back to normalcy from the COVID-19 crisis, the Centre must rebuild the economy that works for the benefit of all. It must invest in public services and low carbon sectors and ensure that everyone has access to quality education, health and social care in a way that the richest individuals and

pet has performed 'its ablutions', which is becoming a menace in the suburbs in Chennai. In the West, owners face action if they do not dispose of the waste suitably. The issue of "sanitation" is not clear in the report, "Corpor. to launch web portal for pet licences" (Chennai, January 27), but one hopes the authorities concerned create awareness on this issue.

T.A. SAIRAM,
Chennai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
A sentence in a Business page report titled "Budget may set higher agri credit target at ₹19 lakh crore" (Jan. 27, 2021) read: "Agriculture credit target for the year 202

Why haven't other sports reached the heights of cricket?

PARLEY

India needs a sporting culture, better infrastructure and well-trained coaches

On January 19, precisely a month after being bowled out for its lowest Test score of 36 against Australia, India bounced back to script one of its most memorable series triumphs. Dealing with injuries and insult in varying degrees, the squad fought gallantly to beat the odds and a full-strength opponent to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The series-clinching three-wicket win at Brisbane – the first for a visiting team since 1988 – was achieved by a team without nine of the regular players who formed the playing XI in the first Test at Adelaide. This fitting finale to India's tale of guts and glory brought with it the admiration of not only the cricket-playing nations but also sports lovers across disciplines. But why has India not been able to replicate or even remotely match the success of cricket in other sports? R. B. Ramesh and Sharath Kamal discuss this question in a conversation moderated by Rakesh Rao. Edited excerpts:

At the outset, let us have your views on this historic triumph.

R. B. RAMESH: Initially, it was very disappointing that India got all out for 36. It felt like we didn't show enough character in a tough environment. I was very curious about how things were going to pan out in the remaining Tests. It was heartening to see the Indian players rise to the occasion after such a debacle and win the second match. The players showed a lot of grit and determination. I was impressed, both as a former player and as a coach, because I always want to understand these things at a personal level so that this information can be shared with prospective students in the future. It was very inspiring to see the manner in which the Indian team bounced back.

Sharath Kamal: For me, the biggest takeaway was that this bunch of youngsters who have done really well in Australia are ready, both physically and mentally, to take up the fight against any opposition.

For players from India, there's been a lot of improvement in attitude over the years. Earlier, when

Indian teams toured abroad, we did not fare well because of different conditions. I feel the most important reason is that we feel intimidated the moment we go to a foreign land. I don't see that particular aspect with these new, young players. That's probably due to the Indian Premier League where Indian players are on a par with foreign players and are treated as equals. Since the Ultimate Table Tennis league began, we are able to talk to some of the leading players in the game at a personal level. We are no longer intimidated by them, by their game or their skill. Therefore, we are able to fight against the best players in the world. There is clearly a shift in the attitude of sportsmen from India.

Hats off to what our Test team has done, especially after losing out players due to injuries. Some of the big names, including captain Virat Kohli, were not there. There were a few who were playing for India for the first time and they came out with flying colours. One didn't feel they were nervous. I'm happy with this kind of spirit and that should be carried to other sports as well.

No doubt, over the years, the cricket board has built a structure for coaching, holding tournaments at various levels, training match officials, etc. So what prevents other sporting disciplines from following the cricket model? Is it lack of infrastructure, funding, corporate support...?

RBR: If you look at our cricketing history, we did not reach the place we have reached in just a few years. When India won the 1983 World Cup, it was the first time that we as a cricketing nation became visible on the global stage and people started taking notice of us. It took a couple of decades, at least, for us to evolve and build an ecosystem from which we could produce champions.

In India, we did not play chess at the top level in the international arena for many decades after independence. We had to wait for a young Viswanathan Anand, who first became World Junior Champion and then India's first Grandmaster.



MANIKA BATRA - BISWANJAN ROLT

We need to create an ecosystem where the coach is able to grow along with the player. An Indian coach will always know more than a foreign coach in terms of the upbringing of players in our society.

SHARATH KAMAL

ters. This inspired the subsequent generations to believe in their skills.

SK: As Ramesh says, it is a process and it takes a lot of time, especially as India does not have a great sporting culture. If sports has become a profession today, this has happened only after 2010. Only after we won international medals did people start to see sport as a profession. Now, we have a sports industry. Prior to that, in my younger days, when I said I play sport, people used to say, but what do you do for a living? What else do you do? We were semi-amateurs back then.

I think 2018 was a great year and we are still harping on that. I hope better years are ahead.

When I won the Commonwealth Games gold medal in 2006, it was not considered great. If table tennis came to the limelight a little, it was in 2018 when a lot of players did India proud. In the Commonwealth Games, Manika Batra caught the eye and the men's team did well too. Later that year, we won two medals at the Asian Games. That's when the

sport came into the limelight.

Therefore, it's very, very important that a lot of players do well. We need a lot more improvement in terms of infrastructure and technical know-how. I went to Europe to get better as a youngster and many players continue to follow that, but none of the coaches were able to follow us. That's the reason the coaches are lagging behind.

Unlike cricket, the quality of coaches in chess and table tennis leaves a lot to be desired. After all, the role of coaches cannot be undermined when we speak of building a larger pool of talented players.

RBR: In the last decade or so, we have seen many Indian coaches coming up and that has added to the value of the game. It has also accelerated the process of producing champions. As a result, we don't have to wait for foreign coaches to come and teach us basic things. We have a platform to do it ourselves. I think we have built a good platform and a larger base from where we can produce champions. I think it will still take around five to 10 years for many Indian players to reach the top 20 in the world.

SK: We need to create an ecosystem where the coach is able to grow along with the player. An Indian coach will always know more than a foreign coach in terms of the upbringing of players in our society. A foreign coach can always share good technical knowledge, good technical know-how, but I think an Indian coach is the one who can actually get everything together.

In terms of infrastructure, we do have a few set-ups that are on an international level, but we need more of those kind of set-ups. If we need to do well as a country, I think we need to have a wider base of players who have access to the top level of sport. That is very, very important.

Compared to cricket, do you think the far less media attention that is given to chess and table tennis also reflects on the pace at which these sports are growing?

RBR: I don't think the media has been unfair to other sports or they have been partial to cricket. It might

look that way for many, but I would say the media projects what the people want projected. In that sense, it is just doing its job. It is for other sports to grow and get public attention. Obviously, media support is essential and fundamental, but for that, you need activities that can be properly promoted, you need stars who can be projected.

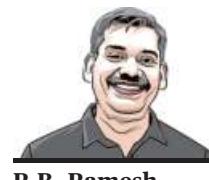
Let's say our players are not doing well. Then there is not much that the media can project. The two have to go hand in hand. The players have to deliver, and the media can then project their achievements to a larger audience. I remember many younger players in the past who were given due attention when they were coming up whenever they achieved some great results. I don't have any complaints against the media.

SK: We've got due recognition from the media. On the contrary, I feel we've been unfair in not giving the media the kind of regular news that it needs in terms of achievements or scaling new highs. If we are able to perform at regular intervals at the international level, then of course the media has something to write about or project. But if you're not doing great at the international level, then there is very little that the media can do.

Do you think lack of visibility, owing to absence of live coverage of chess and table tennis tournaments, is a factor that affects a sport's growth?

RBR: That was the case probably about 10 years ago. You didn't have visuals of any of our top performances. These days, almost all the major tournaments are available live on websites. These websites have video cameras covering the players in action in real time besides providing live commentary.

SK: I think presentation makes everything look nice. Table tennis is a very intricate sport, involving speed and skill, all in a very small space. In India, we do not have a platform where matches involving Indians are shown. So yes, we suffer from this handicap. This is exactly where cricket remains way ahead of the rest. Matches involving India are telecast and everybody gets to follow them.



R. B. RAMESH
is a former British champion, a Commonwealth champion, a Grandmaster-turned-coach, and former chief of the National Selection Committee



SHARATH KAMAL
is a two-time Asian Games medallist, a Commonwealth Games gold medallist, and a Commonwealth champion



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Remembering the Holocaust

Empowering people to reflect on the root causes and repercussions of hate crimes is essential

RON MALKA, WALTER J. LINDNER & ERIC FALT

Every year on January 27, the United Nations honours the victims of the Holocaust by reaffirming its unwavering commitment to counter anti-Semitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops in 1945 and calls for a sombre reflection on the real dangers of extreme forms of hatred.

"All of us, dying here amidst the icy, arctic indifference of the nations, are forgotten by the world and by life." This poignant statement by a camp inmate engraved on the walls of Yad Vashem should make us all sit up and take note that this is not just a forgotten sentiment in the pages of history books. This is a palpable feeling even today. Time and again, we have seen how hate speech can prompt ordinary people to feed into prejudices and hostilities. Has the eternal promise to "never forget" already been forgotten?

Hate speech has intensified
Currently, the anonymity of the Internet and increased screen time during the pandemic have intensified hate speech. Greater exposure to hateful discourses online has allowed anti-Semitism and other variants of racism to fester in our societies. According to researchers at Tel Aviv University, the feelings of uncertainty, alienation and dejection brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have aggravated anti-Semitism worldwide by attributing blame to the Jewish people and using them as a scapegoat. In this crucial time that requires unity, the proliferation of anti-Semitic sentiments on social media has revived prejudices and stereotypes, further dividing society.

For this reason, understanding the significance of the Holocaust carries great importance today. The Holocaust was a watershed moment in history as it illuminates the many manifestations of hate and its impact. Therefore, whilst urging member states to strengthen the resilience of people against hateful ideologies, the UN emphasises the use of education

as a potent tool to inculcate a culture of peace. Within the framework of its programmes on the prevention of violent extremism and Global Citizenship Education, UNESCO continually works towards advancing activities to prevent and address tacit and overt forms of anti-Semitism.

However, education must not be viewed as a panacea to cure intolerance. Lessons on how racist ideologies and hate speech inform the development of tragedies like the Holocaust must go beyond textbook learning. This is because, often times, we have seen highly educated people perpetuating hatred.

Denial and distortion
Holocaust denial and distortion is flourishing online. This is defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as a virulent expression of contemporary anti-Semitism. According to a previously launched report by the World Jewish Congress, more than 100 posts per day on average denied the Holocaust. This brings to light the increasingly growing dangers of online platforms in distorting reality and stoking hatred.

UNESCO's recently launched campaign called #ProtectTheFacts, developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the UN, and the European Commission, provides a unique opportunity this year to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust by promoting sound policies and practices that raise awareness about Holocaust denial and distortion.

In today's polarised world, empowering people to question and engage in critical reflections about the root causes and repercussions of hate crimes is essential. Individuals always have more power than they realise, for better or for worse. Consequently, equipping them to make the rational choice of acting as active bystanders rather than perpetrators is the only way to create peaceful and sustainable societies.

Ron Malka is Ambassador of Israel to India, Walter J. Lindner is Ambassador of Germany to India and Eric Falt is the Director and Representative of the UNESCO New Delhi cluster office covering Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka



NOTEBOOK

'Which media house are you from?'

As a result of distorted coverage, respondents have become distrustful of reporters

SHINJINI GHOSH

For a reporter, listening to voices from the ground is the most exciting part of the job. It doesn't matter what beat you're assigned, whether politics, environment, crime, or civic issues, or what event you're asked to cover, whether elections or protests; it's always the conversations on the ground and the story they help us build that matter. This is what I look forward to while reporting.

When I was assigned to cover the farmers' agitation, which has stretched on for over two months now to become a winter of discontent, I was naturally looking forward to speaking to as many people on the ground as possible and filing reports.

Unfortunately, due to recent events and coverage by certain sections of the media, especially biased coverage and even fake news, even starting a con-

versation with the farmers has become increasingly difficult at the protest sites at the Singhu border and Tikri border in Delhi.

Earlier, for all my other stories, I would simply establish contact with the respondent and begin a conversation. But the farmers at the protest sites are wary and distrustful of reporters. In several instances over the past few weeks, I have found myself cornered and questioned. I have been asked to prove that I do not belong to that section of the media which allegedly misrepresents the farmers. Their aversion to some media houses is so deep rooted that convincing them to speak to me has become one of my biggest challenges on the ground. After all, what is a report without voices?

And if I do manage to successfully convince them to speak to me, that's not the end of the story. I get calls or WhatsApp messages

from them the next morning demanding links of the story published – proof that I indeed stuck to my word.

Once, at the Tikri border, after an extensive conversation with a group of farmers, I sought permission to photograph them. They agreed, but only on the condition that I would allow them to photograph my press card so that they can be certain that their photos won't be misused. "Majboori hain madam" (We are helpless, Madam), they told me. Even at the Singhu border, where posters of certain channels and anchors, all *personae non gratae*, have been put up, the same challenges arise.

However, once trust is established, the farmers are friendly and generous. They have offered me fruits, tea, and even langar.

It is not just reporters; in some instances, the mere sight of a camera makes the

farmers uncomfortable. In some places, the protesters have prevented photojournalists from entering the protest site.

The most common complaint from the farmers is that "the media" is not writing or showing their version of the story. Their primary complaint is largely with sections of the television media. But their distrust of the "media" – which is as an all-encompassing entity that includes print, digital and television media; sober and sensational coverage; factual reportage and fake news – in general has become problematic.

We live in a polarised world where many inhabit echo chambers. While the farmers' fears and concerns are understandable given some of the distorted coverage of their protests and the fake news phenomenon, it is also becoming increasingly difficult for us reporters to just do our job.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1971

Churches against apartheid
(From an Editorial)

While the British Premier, Mr. Heath, is busy asserting his Government's right to sell arms to South Africa, Mr. Vorster's regime is going on with its ruthless implementation of apartheid. It has now attacked important members of both the Anglican and Catholic churches. The Dean of Johannesburg has been imprisoned for his outspoken attacks on racialism and the Government is preparing to expel Father Cosmas Desmond who wrote a book underlining the horrors of resettlement of people according to the colour of their skin. The Father wants to go to London to visit his parents and the Government is not willing to grant him a visa to return. But if he stays on, he may find himself in prison pretty soon under one or the other of South Africa's apartheid laws. Apart from this, the security police is closely watching all churches where priests with conscience are looking out for opportunities to permit inter-racial worship of God. Africans have been turned away from "whites only" churches, and "coloured" clergymen of the Dutch Reformed Mission have been specially warned not to do any propaganda against segregation. Apart from all this the Government has also moved against some whites in an Orange Free State small town for alleged intimacy with African women.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1921

The new economic menace to India

In this volume of about 250 pages Mr. B.C. Pal envisages the question of Imperial reconstruction in its bearing on India's interest. He shows how the policy of the economic exploitation on which Britain holds India tends to widen under the new influences and warns us against the danger that the new Imperialism might mean to India, viz. the domination of the Colonies in addition to that of Britain. The Milnerian distinction between the self-governing Empire and the dependent Empire is exposed in its true colours. Mr. Pal has hard things to say about the hollow cant underlying the talk about Imperial Preference and other nostrums which have regained currency in post war discussions. The remedies that are suggested in the book to overcome this menace of increased exploitation of British capitalists are an alliance with British labour and equalisation of wages and hours of work for labour in India besides a taxation on all excess profits in the country.

FROM PAGE ONE

Delhi police send notices to 40 farmer leaders

They have asked six farmers' leaders to join the probe. Chimoy Biswal, DCP (Headquarters), confirmed that notices had been sent to farmers leaders, who attended the meeting with the police for the tractor rally.

The letter reads that despite agreeing to the mutually decided terms and conditions for the rally, farmer leaders acted in a very irresponsible manner on January 26. These militant elements occupied the stage and started provocative speeches right from the early hours of January 26.

According to the police, the most serious and reprehensible act was performed by the organisations and other supporters at Red

Fort. The protesters climbed the ASI protected monument and vandalised the whole area and put the religious flag on the national monument. Flags of various farmers' organisations were also recovered from the Red Fort premises. The vandalism of the Red Fort on the Republic Day was the most deplorable and an anti-national act, the letter reads.

"It is clear that farmers' organisations deliberately violated the terms and conditions agreed to in the meeting with the Police. This resulted in violence in large parts of Delhi," the letter reads. The farmer unions have said that there was a conspiracy behind the violence.

'Stopping hate on TV is essential to prevent riots'

"People can take any tone on TV as long as they don't incite violence, hatred, communal riots. We are interested only with people instigating and inciting violence and riots. These are situations which cause loss of lives and property. That is what we are worried about," Chief Justice Bobde explained.

Mr. Mehta said the creation of such situations though "unfortunate" were "deliberate".

The Chief Justice said the court had no problem with "fair and truthful reporting".

"Fair and truthful reporting normally is not a problem. The problem is when it [broadcast, programmes] is used to agitate others.

There are broadcasts, programmes that definitely have the effect of instigating people, not just against one community, but any community... Why are you blind to them... You don't do anything about it?" Chief Justice addressed Mr. Mehta.

Mr. Mehta referred to how some channels end up with "rightfully or wrongfully guiding terrorists" during operations.

The hearing was based on a batch of petitions, including one filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which alleged that certain sections of the media communalised the Tablighi Jamat congregation by linking it to a spike in the spread of COVID-19 infection.

+ High Court denies bail to comedian Faruqui

Faruqui and four others were arrested on January 1 following a complaint by a BJP MLA's son that objectionable remarks about Hindu deities and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were passed during a comedy show at a cafe in Indore on New Year's day. One more person was arrested subsequently. Faruqui and Yadav are in judicial remand and lodged in Indore Central Jail. A magistrate's court and a sessions court had rejected earlier their bail pleas, following which they moved the High Court.

In its order, the High

Pressure on protesting farmers to move out

The Ghaziabad administration had issued an ultimatum that if the protesters do not leave by midnight, they will be removed forcibly.

An emotional Rakesh Tiwari, leader of one faction of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, declared that "if the black laws were not taken back and he was forcibly removed from the site, he would end his life."

Electricity and water supply to the protest site were cut earlier in the day, and local residents, who unions

say are being incited by local BJP leaders, have been demanding that they clear the road.

On Thursday morning, hundreds of farmers, mostly from Madhya Pradesh, were forced to leave their sit-in site at Palwal on the Delhi-Agra Highway after the Haryana police served them notices with regard to the violence on Republic Day.

(With inputs from Anuj Kumar, Shinjini Ghosh, Ashok Kumar and Priscilla Jebaraj and Saurabh Trivedi)

Paediatrician shoots doctor, kills self in U.S.

The suspect had terminal cancer and had only been given weeks to live. Lt. Jeff Greenwalt of Austin police told reporters, "So we feel like his terminal cancer probably played a large part in whatever it was that occurred in his life and what was happening yesterday," he said.

But for now, Lt. Greenwalt said, investigators are

still trying to unravel what could have led to the hostage situation.

He called for any of the doctor's family and friends who might have knowledge about Dr. Narumanchi to contact the homicide department. Earlier, police said hostage negotiators tried to make contact with Dr. Narumanchi, but were unsuccessful.

The lowest temperature

Show us the provision which withdraws MSP, SC tells MP

It asks Centre to respond to plea, tags it with other pleas challenging farm laws

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday challenged Congress MP from Kerala T.N. Prathapan to pick out the specific provision in the new agriculture laws which says farmers will not get Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their products.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, questioned the MP after the latter's lawyer submitted that "without MSP, farmers cannot survive".

Mr. Prathapan, in his petition, said the law opens the door for "corporate greed of multinational companies" to trample on agriculture markets.

"So you want the old regime to continue... Show us the provision which with-

draws MSP," Chief Justice Bobde asked the parliamentarian's lawyer.

The court finally asked the Centre to respond to the petition and tagged it with other pleas challenging the farm laws.

In his petition, Mr. Prathapan contended that the laws were merely a ruse to subvert the Agricultural Produce Market Committee

Without the APMC acting as a protective shield around the farmers, the market would ultimately fall to the corporate greed of multinational companies

T.N. PRATHAPAN
Congress MP from Kerala

SHARAD A. BOBDE
Chief Justice of India

(APMC) system. "Without the APMC acting as a protective shield around the farmers, the market would ultimately fall to the corporate greed of multinational companies, who are more profit-oriented and have no care for the conditions of the poverty-stricken farmers who are dependent on farming for their livelihood," the petition said.

It said the APMC deterred the exploitation of the farmers by providing MSP. The vagaries of weather and inherent handicaps make agriculture risky and inefficient in respect of both input and output management.

"These challenges cannot be addressed by way of monetisation of the farmer's produce to increase the income. Instead, strengthening the existing APMC system by infusing more capital and effective management of MSP is the need of the hour. The promotion of agreements for farm produce will weaken the process of monetisation as per the current structure of The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020," he submitted.

Centre exploiting farmers' ignorance, says Rahul

'Central agencies are being misused'

STAFF REPORTER

KALPETA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday lashed out at the Centre over the three contentious farm laws, stating that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government had been exploiting the ignorance of farmers.



Rahul Gandhi

ter, he added.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that Central agencies, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, were being used for political gains. However, such agencies were not targeting the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala; instead they were turning against Congress leaders in the State. He said the State government had failed to set up a government medical college in the district.

IN BRIEF



'One Nation One Card' for Bengaluru: Governor

BENGALURU
Karnataka Governor Vajubhai R. Vala said on Thursday that the long-awaited single mobility card for metro train and bus users in Bengaluru will be rolled out this year. In

2.5 lakh houses built by LIFE Mission: Pinarayi

Housing project completes milestone

STAFF REPORTER

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government will not waver under pressure tactics employed by political rivals to torpedo its development projects that are in various stages of execution.

Announcing the completion of construction of 2.5 lakh houses under the LIFE Mission housing project on Thursday, Mr. Vijayan alleged that certain quarters sought to scuttle the State's progress by propagating falsehoods and raking up controversies. Referring to the row surrounding the LIFE Mission apartment project at Vadakanchery, he said: "Attempts to hinder such works amounted to mocking the plight of disadvantaged sections. However, during the recent local body

elections, the public gave a befitting reply to such attempts to mislead them, particularly when they concerned their fundamental needs. The government cannot be cowed down into abandoning its projects on the basis of such misinformation campaigns."

As many as 2,50,547 houses have been constructed under the LIFE Mission thus far, thereby enabling over 10 lakh people in the State to lead dignified lives. In its initial phase, the project provided 52,607 houses for people without both land and home. As many as 87,697 out of 98,326 people who possessed land but did not own a house were provided houses in the second phase. The third phase will focus on constructing 85 apartment complexes, of which 52 were in various stages of completion.

IUMI worker stabbed to death in Kerala

MALAPPURAM
An Indian Union Muslim League (IUMI) worker was stabbed to death at Oravumpuram in Malappuram, Kerala on Wednesday. The police arrested four persons in connection with the murder.

Mohammed Sameer A.V., 26, suffered fatal wounds when he tried to stop an attacker during a clash between two groups. The UDF alleged that the CPI(M) was behind the attack. However, the CPI(M) distanced itself from the incident.

Four of family found dead on railway track

BELAGAVI
Four members of a family were found dead on the railway track near Raibag in Belagavi district, Karnataka on Thursday. Cattle grazers found the bodies of Satappa Annappa Sutar, 60, his wife Mahadevi and sons Santosh, 26, and Dattatreya, 28, between the rail lines. Investigators say the family members ended their lives due to financial distress. The family hailed from Biradi village near Raibag.

Part of move to tighten COVID-19 control measures



Step by step: A frontline worker receiving a vaccine shot at a hospital in Palakkad earlier this month. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

tions, such as weddings, should not be conducted in indoor venues as far as possible. Outdoor venues might be chosen for the same, provided people still maintained physical distancing. Mr. Pinarayi appealed to the public to avoid night travel and avoid going out after 10 p.m. as far as possible.

He said that though CO-

VID-19 cases were on the increase, the public health system was still very much in control of things. Disease transmission had not grown to an extent that the health system got overwhelmed.

The government was functioning in a very transparent manner as far as pandemic-related matters were concerned, he added.

BJP, Jana Sena urge Governor for free and fair polls

They cite violence, spike in unanimous elections favouring YSRCP last year

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA/GUNTUR

A delegation of the BJP and the Jana Sena Party (JSP), comprising Somu Veeraju, Nadendla Manohar, Kanna Lakshminarayana and Kandula Durgesh, submitted a memorandum to Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan on Thursday, and requested him to issue instructions for the conduct of gram panchayat elections in a free and fair manner.

The leaders alleged that the large-scale violence that was witnessed during the process of elections for the

municipalities, ZPTCs and MPTCs last year, and the attacks on candidates and coercive measures taken by the ruling party leaders at that time, had resulted in an unprecedented spike in unanimous elections in favour of the YSRCP.

These incidents created a doubt that the present elections might also be marred by violence and electoral malpractices against the backdrop of the spat between the government and the State Election Commissioner (SEC), the memorandum said.

They also told the Governor

that there had been attacks on temples and desecration of idols, but the government had so far not succeeded in nabbing the culprits.

YSRCP slams Naidu
YSRCP official spokesperson and legislator Ambati Ram-

babu on Thursday accused TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu of trying to turn the non-party gram panchayat elections into a party-based exercise.

He asked why State Election Commissioner (SEC) N. Ramesh Kumar was dithering about taking action

against the opposition leader for releasing a manifesto.

"Mr. Ramesh Kumar has not been working in the spirit of the Constitution. Even if Mr. Naidu pairs up with Mr. Ramesh Kumar, the TDP cannot be saved from sinking," Mr. Rambabu told presspersons at the party central office at Tadepalli.

Stating that unanimous elections existed in the country, Mr. Rambabu questioned whether it was mentioned anywhere in the Constitution that there should be no unanimous elections in the local body polls. He further accused the SEC of dancing to Mr. Naidu's tune and terrorising government officials by exercising his powers.

After the meet: BJP and JSP leaders after calling on Governor

Biswa Bhushan Harichandan in Vijayawada. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

expected to continue with the temperature expected to dip further.

The tourism sector has received a shot in the arm after the consecutive floods and the pandemic outbreak severely impacted tourist arrivals. The manager of a resort said they were receiving near-total bookings since the start of the Christmas season, a first in the past three years. Most of the tourists were from southern India.

Climatologist Gopakumar Cholayil said Munnar experienced a long winter with mercury dipping to sub-zero levels in February 2019. Many reasons were attributed for the winter spell. This was considered a separate phenomena in climatic events, he said.

As mercury dips, tourists flock to Munnar
For the past three days, frost has covered tea plantations, buildings and vehicles



Winter wonderland: A frost-covered car parked on the lawns of a hotel in Munnar on Wednesday morning.

recorded in Munnar on Thursday was -1 degree Celsius at Latchmi and 1 degree Celsius at Munnar UPASI and Chenduvai. On Wednesday, it was 0 degree Celsius at Nallathanni, Chenduvai, Seven Malai, and Silent Valley, and -1 degree Celsius at Latchmi.

On Tuesday, Nallathanni, Letchmi, Seven Malai and Silent Valley recorded 0, -1, 0 and 2 degree Celsius respectively. There is a continuous flow of tourists after lockdown curbs were eased prior to the Christmas/New Year season. The trend is

SC dismisses appeal by Karnataka BJP leader

He was disqualified from being Minister

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed an appeal filed by Karnataka BJP leader and Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) A.H. Vishwanath against a State High Court order disqualifying him from being appointed a Minister.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde said the disqualification would hold if a person is only nominated as an MLC and not elected. "Special leave petitions are dismissed," the court ordered.

Mr. Vishwanath was one of the 17 dissident legislators whose disqualification by the Speaker under the anti-defection law was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2019.

Their defection had led to the toppling of the combined Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka. The apex court, in its 2019 judgment, did not bar the disqualified legislators from contesting byelections.

Mr. Vishwanath, however, did not manage to get reelected. He was later nominated as MLC by the Governor.

He was in the race to become a Minister in the present BJP government under Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa, before the High Court order became a stumbling block in his path.

"If you come back elected it is fine. If you are simply nominated, it cannot be," Chief Justice Bobde said.

'Delhi police connived with splinter group'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police connived with a splinter group of farmers, allowing them to break away from the route agreed upon, and facilitated their entry into Red Fort, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said on Thursday.

At a press conference, Mr. Yechury said the violence on Republic Day was orchestrated to use it as an excuse to repress the movement. "Lakhs of farmers were sticking to the agreed route. A splinter group was allowed to deviate from this route. That would not have been possible without active connivance of police," he said.

It was perplexing that this group reached Red Fort and got access to its ramparts.

Stand-off continues at Ghazipur border

Farmer unions given ultimatum to vacate the spot that has been the centre of anti-farm law protests

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD



Farmers at the protest site in Ghazipur. ■ ANUJ KUMAR

The stand-off between the Ghaziabad administration and farmer unions continued at the Ghazipur border till late on Thursday night. After the Additional District Magistrate served a notice under Section 133 of CrPC, District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey gave the unions time till midnight to vacate the spot that has been the centre of anti-farm law protests for more than two months. With heavy deployment of police and paramilitary forces, the U.P. Gate turned into a police cantonment. Section 144 was also imposed at the site.

The farmer leaders repeatedly made emotional appeals from the stage to the protesters to stay put but the numbers gradually thinned out as the evening progressed.

An emotional Mr. Tikait

said he would not leave the site. He feared for the safety of farmers after his arrest. He reminded that the Supreme Court had not passed any order on the removal of protesters. "The district administration could not be bigger than the SC. We would move the SC against the district administration tomorrow," he said.

He alleged that in the name

of arrest there was a plot to eliminate him. "We want a judicial inquiry into the Red Fort incident. Deep Sidhu has already been socially boycotted," he said.

Sources in the administration said it was a matter of time before the space was vacated. "We are trying to carry out the process peacefully. Farmers are packing up. They

are some women in the tents and the langars will take some time to be vacated," said Shailendra Singh, ADM (City) Ghaziabad.

He said the leaders were trying to delay the process to save their skins. "There is visual evidence that proves one of the leader's presence at the Red Fort during the Republic Day clashes." Sources in the administration said farmer leaders were negotiating for safe passage with them while taking a tough stand on the stage.

Earlier, leaders of the Bhartiya Kisan Union alleged that the administration was trying to vitiate the atmosphere by creating a BJP-sponsored violence at the protest site. Dharmandra Malik, media in-charge of the BKU, claimed that the BJP MLA from Loni was seen at the site with his followers and tried to intimidate

the farmers. He said the process started late on Wednesday night when the electricity supply was cut and CCTV cameras were gradually removed.

Charge refuted

Mr. Pandey refuted the charge and said they were local businessmen who wanted to get their road vacated.

Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law & Order), said the perpetrators of Delhi violence would not be allowed to take shelter in the State.

Later, Mr. Tikait decided to sit on an indefinite fast. He said he would only drink water from his village. Meanwhile, his elder brother Narentra Malik, media in-charge of the BKU, claimed that the BJP MLA from Loni was seen at the site with his followers and tried to intimidate



Prahlad Singh Patel

Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 that prescribed penalties for damage to protected sites.

Mr. Patel said the tableau, which are displayed at the Red Fort after the parade for the public to see, were damaged. He said the "Ram mandir" tableau – Uttar Pradesh's first prize-winning tableau depicting the Ram temple – and the Culture Ministry's tableau were among those damaged.

A senior Delhi Police officer said: "We have registered an FIR under sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to damaging public property at Kotwali police station against the protesters who caused damage to the monument on Republic Day."

'R-Day violence in Delhi instigated by BJP, AAP'

Punjab CM lashes out at Javadekar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday hit out at Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, accusing him of attempting to shift the blame for the Red Fort violence on the Congress, which he said had evidently been instigated by supporters and members of his own BJP in collusion with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

"Workers and supporters of the BJP and the AAP, and not the Congress, have been caught on camera waving the Nishan Sahib at the Red Fort," said Capt. Amarinder. "Not a single Congress leader or member was seen there indulging in any kind of lawlessness. Even farmers were not responsible for the January 26 trouble, which was in fact the doing of anti-social elements who had infiltrated the tractor rally," he said.

He said the Centre should also get a free and fair probe

Uttar Pradesh wins best tableau award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh was adjudged the best tableau among the 32 tableaux, 17 from States and Union Territories (UTs), nine from various Ministries, departments and paramilitary forces and six from Defence Ministry, that participated in the Republic Day parade, the Defence Ministry said.

The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh. Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and MoS, Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju gave away the awards to the participants on Thursday. Tableau of Tripura and Uttarakhand were adjudged the second and third best respectively.

'Deceased woman's photo removed'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Google and Twitter informed the Delhi High Court on Thursday that they had taken down or blocked all the links which incorrectly showed a deceased woman's photo as that of the Hathras rape victim.

The social media platforms made the submission in response to an order by the court in November last year to remove all such links which showed the deceased woman as the rape victim.

Core values being subverted: Ansari

Former V-P brings out autobiography

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari has said a subversion of core values is under way and the word secularism has "almost disappeared" from the government's official vocabulary.

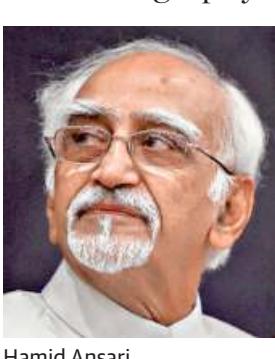
Mr. Ansari wrote in his autobiography, *By Many A Happy Accident*, that this subversion was "compounded by the abdication or failure of other social and political forces to comprehend its true nature and the urgency to counter it".

According to him, constitutional values such as a composite culture, fraternity and scientific temper had also seemingly disappeared from the political discourse and replaced by "promotion of beliefs and practices of the contrary".

Mr. Ansari, who had a distinguished career in the foreign service before becoming Vice-President, argued that the commitment to the rule of law appeared to be under serious threat. This, he said, arose out of a noticeable decline in the efficacy of state institutions, lapses into arbitrary decision-making and even mob rule.

He said the success of populism, depicted not as an ideology but a strategy to obtain and retain power and thriving on conspiracy, criminalisation of all Opposition and playing up external threats, "proved itself" in the 2019 general election.

"It was assisted by authoritarianism, nationalism and majoritarianism. This ideological potion, premised simplistically on the



desirability of oneness of language, ethnicity, religion, territory and culture was administered successfully to a little over a third of the electorate," he wrote.

Unscheduled visit by PM
Mr. Ansari revealed that one day Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unscheduled visit to his Rajya Sabha office. "After I got over my surprise, I made the customary gestures of hospitality. He said that 'there are expectations of higher responsibilities for you but you are not helping me'."

"I said that my work in the Rajya Sabha, and outside, is public knowledge. 'Why are Bills not being passed in the din?' he asked. I replied that the Leader of the House and his colleagues, when in Opposition, had appreciated the ruling that no Bills will be passed in the din and that normal procedures of obtaining consent will be observed." "He [Mr. Modi] then said that Rajya Sabha TV was not favourable to the government. My response was that while I had a role in the establishment of the channel, I had no control over the editorial content..."

West Bengal Assembly demands repeal of farm laws

BJP MLAs walk out of the House during debate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution extending support to farmers protesting in the national capital and demanding the repeal of three farm laws passed by Centre.

The State's Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Partha Chatterjee, moved a government resolution under Rule 169 urging the Centre that the three laws be repealed.

Speaking on the resolution, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the BJP government should either withdraw the farm laws or step down. She also accused the BJP government of passing these laws without much discussion. Referring to the developments in Delhi on January 26, the Chief Minister said there was prior permis-



Partha Chatterjee

sion for march, but the police could not handle it properly.

"Delhi Police are to be blamed for the violence. What was Delhi Police doing? It was intelligence failure. We will not tolerate farmers being branded as traitors. We will never tolerate that," she said.

Ms. Banerjee said there were attempts to malign the

protesting farmers, and demanded an investigation in the whole issue. She said the Union government was responsible for the violence that occurred on January 26 and added that she had spoken to the protesting farmers in Delhi.

Ms. Banerjee also tried out to reach out to the Left and the Congress, stating that they might have ideological differences but for the issue of farmers they must come together.

"Either you [Union government] accept the demands of farmers or resign," the Chief Minister said addressing a gathering later in the day.

While the Chief Minister was speaking in the House, the MLAs of the BJP descended to the Well of the house, raising slogans. Later they staged a walkout.

"We saw a person from the BJP, who is also known to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, participating in the violence," she said.

It's staged violence, says Mehbooba

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday called for the immediate withdrawal of the farm laws, and described the violence on Republic Day as "a deliberate attempt to defame the protesting farmers".

"The essence behind observing the Republic Day is to celebrate our Constitution. However, certain laws were being framed and enacted without considering people's opinion, like the farm laws. Therefore, the farm laws should be withdrawn immediately, as farmers' opinion was not taken into consideration," said the former Chief Minister, who started a tour of Jammu on Thursday.

"We saw a person from the BJP, who is also known to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, participating in the violence," she said.

national interest" in the view of the violence that took place on Republic Day "by some mischievous elements in the name of the farmers' movement...in order to defame farmers".

Both unions urged the government to enact a law guaranteeing minimum support prices for farmers. They said the three farm laws should not be implemented until they are amended in line with the feedback given by farmers' organisations.

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED - CHENNAI - 35 (ELCOT)	
TENDER NOTICE	
Tender No.	ELCOT/Proc/OT/33384/CCTNS 2.0 (SCRB)/2020-21
Due Date & Time for submission of Tenders	02.03.2021 @ 03.00 PM
Tender Opening Date & Time	02.03.2021 @ 04.00 PM
Prebid meeting & e-Portal Training	09.02.2021 @ 11.00 AM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
Tender Fee	Rs. 10,000/-
For further details visit our websites: www.elcot.in www.tenders.tn.gov.in, https://tnitenders.gov.in	Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	
BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, MEDICAL WORKS, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-5	
FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM)	
NT No. 24/2020-2021/BCMC/MW/CHENNAI Dated: 27.01.2021	
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited form the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Medical Works, Chepauk, Chennai-5.	
Tender Schedule Available Date	: 04.03.2021 upto 5.45 PM
Tender Schedule Receiving Date	: upto 3.00 PM on 05.03.2021
Tender Opening (PQ application only) at:	: 3.30 PM on 05.03.2021
Total No of works	: 8
Value of Works	: 8409.00 Lakhs
For further details and tender documents visit the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in	
Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, M.W., Chepauk, Chennai-5.	
DIPR / 624 / TENDER / 2021	

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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

S. No	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated
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COVID-19 curve flattened, says Minister

146 districts recorded no new cases in 7 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India has flattened its COVID-19 graph and 146 districts recorded no new cases in the last seven days, 18 districts in 14 days, six districts in 21 days and 21 districts in 28 days, said Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday.

The Minister chaired the 23rd meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 via video-conferencing and noted that fewer than 12,000 cases were reported in the last 24 hours and the active caseload had reduced to just 1.73 lakh, as per a release issued by the Ministry.

Dr. Vardhan added that out of the total active cases,

Rapid transmission

Studies have suggested that the SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01, or the 'UK strain' of the novel coronavirus, could be 50% to 75% more transmissible than the older variants. India has confirmed at least 165 cases of the new variant as of Thursday.

Rapid rise in R: London's Imperial College concluded in a study that the R-value (no. of people a COVID-19 patient can infect) increases by 50-75% for the new variant. A researcher from the University of Calgary in Canada applied this data to compare the case trajectory under the new variant with that of the old variants in Canada's Alberta province.

Assuming the increase in R-value to be 60%, the number of new cases in Canada's Alberta province would triple* from 1,000 to 3,000 in 14 days.

*On the other hand, under the regular/old variants with a lower R-value, the cases would halve to 500 in the same period.

0.46% were on ventilators, 2.20% in ICU and 3.02% on oxygen support. As many as 165 cases of the UK variant were reported and the pa-

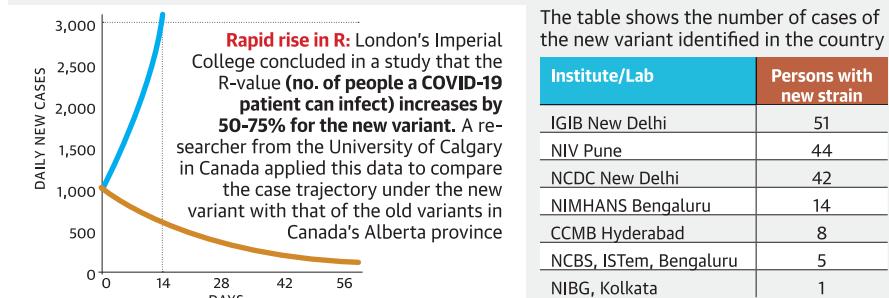
tients were under supervised quarantine and surveillance. At the meeting, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan presented the logistics of the

vaccination exercise and the gains made so far. He said that 112.4 lakh doses of COVID vaccines were distributed to States/UTs three days

ahead of the exercise. "Additional 115.6 lakh doses to States/UTs were completed on January 20 and 69,000 programme managers, 2.5 lakh vaccinators and 4.4 lakh other team members have been trained so far," he said. Mr. Bhushan added that 93,76,030 healthcare workers and 53,94,098 frontline workers were registered on the Co-WIN portal.

NITI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul informed that India currently stood at sixth in vaccination coverage and would move to third place in the next few days.

"Sixteen AEFI [adverse event following immunisation] hospitalisations out of 23 lakh vaccinations so far translates to just 0.0007%, with no case of severe/severe AEFI or death due to vaccination reported so far," said Dr. Paul.



The existing R-value in Alberta was 0.86 for the period Dec. 13-29, 2020. Assuming that the new variant is 60% more transmissible, the corresponding R-value would become 0.86*1.6=1.38

dent of a loss of life in 1975, prior to 2020. The relationship, he said, "is today truly at a crossroads" and "choices that are made will have profound repercussions, not just for the two nations but for the entire world."

Twenty Indian soldiers, and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers, lost their lives in a clash on June 15 last year in the Galwan Valley, following tensions that erupted in early May triggered by transgressions by China across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), massing of troops, and what India has described as a unilateral attempt to redraw the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in several areas in eastern Ladakh.

This was why last year's events, the Minister said, had "so profoundly disturbed the relationship", impacting public and political opinion. Until now, India was "yet to receive a credible explanation for the change in China's stance or reasons for massing of troops in the border areas".

"For all the differences and disagreements that we may have had on the boundary," the External Affairs Minister said, "the central fact was that border areas still remained fundamentally peaceful," with the last inci-



Last year's events have profoundly disturbed the relationship... India is yet to receive a credible explanation for the change in China's stance or reasons for its amassing of troops

S. JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

While both sides had made a common cause on development and economic issues and common membership of plurilateral groups was a meeting point, there were divergences when it came to interests and aspirations.

He cited as examples China's issuing of stapled visas to Indian citizens from Jammu and Kashmir in 2010, a reluctance from China to deal with some of India's military commands (Beijing had that same year refused to host the Northern Army Commander), China's opposition to India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the UN Security Council as a permanent member, the blocking of UN listings of Pakistani terrorists, and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project under China's

Belt and Road Initiative, violating India's sovereignty in J&K.

Over the years, he said, there was no significant progress of arriving at a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC, while there was "increasing construction of border infrastructure, especially on the Chinese side."

India, he added, had made efforts to reduce the considerable infrastructure gap since 2014, including through greater budget commitments and road building.

The External Affairs Minister suggested "three mutuals" and "eight broad propositions" as a way forward for the relationship. "Mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests" were "determining factors".

The first proposition, he

Vaccines are safe for those who are on blood thinners: ICMR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Both COVID-19 vaccines approved for emergency use in India – Covaxin and Covishield – are safe for people on blood thinners, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director-General Balram Bhargav said on Thursday.

At a Health Ministry press conference, he said manufacturers of both the vaccines had approached the Drugs Controller-General of India (DCGI) for revision of this contraindication on their fact sheets.

Relative contraindications regarding blood thinners have been mentioned in the fact sheets of both the vaccines and both the companies have written to the DCGI regarding revision of

ulants. For those on anti-platelets like aspirin, the vaccine causes no problem but for those on anti-coagulants, the tendency to bleed is much higher. This is also a relative contraindication and the anti-coagulant can be stopped a day or two before administering the vaccine.

The Health Ministry added that it was engaging with private stakeholders to look at increasing the future coverage of COVID-19 vaccines.

"The Ministry is also actively working at reducing wastage of the vaccine by bringing in a more flexible digital platform and issuing an exhaustive guideline to States/UTs to manage waste below 10%," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said.

Day 13: 4 lakh vaccinated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The total number of healthcare workers vaccinated against COVID-19 till date (the thirteenth day of the vaccination drive) crossed 28 lakh on Thursday, said a release issued by the Health Ministry. It added that a total of 4,91,615 beneficiaries were vaccinated through 9,994 sessions till 7 p.m.

this. The revision will happen soon. Blood thinners are of two categories – anti-platelets and anti-coag-

Bombay HC quashes another POCSO verdict

Lower court had given 5-year jail term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on Thursday held that "the acts of holding the hands of the prosecutrix [female victim] or 'opened zip of the pant' did not fit in the definition of 'sexual assault'", and quashed the conviction of a man under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

On February 12, 2018, the mother of the minor lodged a report that the day before had she noticed Libnus Kujur, a labourer in her house, molesting her five-year-old. She saw him holding the hands of her elder daughter and when she shouted for the neighbours to come in, the accused ran away.

The minor later told her mother that he had also exposed himself by unzipping his pants and asked her to come to bed for sleeping. The mother had also observed the zip left open. The man was charged and convicted under various sections of the POCSO Act.

Justice Pushpa Ganediwala was hearing a criminal ap-

peal filed by Kujur, from Gadchiroli challenging his conviction by the lower court on October 5, 2020, that sentenced him for five years.

In her order, Justice Ganediwala said, "The minimum sentence for this offence (punishment for aggravated sexual assault) is five years imprisonment. Considering the nature of the offence and the sentence prescribed, the aforesaid acts are not sufficient for fixing the criminal liability on the appellant/accused for the alleged offence of 'aggravated sexual assault'."

On February 12, 2018, the mother of the minor lodged a report that while both remain committed to a multipolar world, they should recognise that a multipolar Asia was one of its essential constituents.

While each state had its interests, concerns and priorities, sensitivities to them could not be one-sided and relations were reciprocal in nature. As rising powers, neither should ignore the other's set of aspirations, he added.

While there "will always be divergence and differences", their management is essential to ties, Mr. Jaishankar said.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed that order.

IN BRIEF



Online memorial soon for COVID-19 victims

NEW DELHI

In a unique tribute, an online national memorial has been conceived for those who died due to COVID-19 across the country. The website will go live from January 30 and is a venture by a Kolkata-based NGO consisting of medical staff and others. The tributes can be viewed at nationalcovidmemorial.in

IMA plans relay fast against 'mixopathy'

NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) members across the country will start a relay hunger strike from February 1 till 14 protesting against what they say is the shift in the government policy "where instead of promoting all the systems of medicine the government is encouraging a new method called mixopathy".

Protest in Arunachal over Chinese claim on State

GUWAHATI

Members of the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union on Thursday staged a statewide sit-in protest against the "illogical" Chinese claim over the frontier north-eastern State and the "lethargic, half-hearted approach" of the Centre to Beijing's expansionist policy.

ARG Outlier Media files case against TV anchor

NEW DELHI

Republic TV's parent firm, ARG Outlier Media Pvt. Ltd, has filed a defamation suit before a Delhi Court against Times Now anchor Navika Kumar for allegedly making certain defamatory statements against Republic TV and its editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami in connection with the TRP scam. The suit said documents had been distorted.

Jaishankar suggests way forward for China ties

'Recognition of mutual respect, mutual sensitivities and mutual interests is key to repairing relations'

ANANTH KRISHNAN

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday a recognition of "mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests" was key to repairing India-China relations, after what he called a year of "exceptional stress" in a relationship "profoundly disturbed" by the border crisis.

China's actions last year had "not only signalled a disregard for commitments about minimising troop levels" but also "showed a willingness to breach the peace and tranquillity" on the border that had been the foundation for the relationship, he said at the start of the All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS) organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) China Studies Centre.

"For all the differences and disagreements that we may have had on the boundary," the External Affairs Minister said, "the central fact was that border areas still remained fundamentally peaceful," with the last inci-

sion, was that agreements already reached must be adhered to in their entirety, both in letter and spirit. Both sides also needed to strictly observe and respect the LAC, and any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo was completely unacceptable.

Peace and tranquillity in border areas was the basis for the development of the relationship in other domains. If that was disturbed, he said, the rest of the relationship would be too.

The fourth proposition, he said, was that while both remain committed to a multipolar world, they should recognise that a multipolar Asia was one of its essential constituents.

While each state had its interests, concerns and priorities, sensitivities to them could not be one-sided and relations were reciprocal in nature. As rising powers, neither should ignore the other's set of aspirations, he added.

While there "will always be divergence and differences", their management is essential to ties, Mr. Jaishankar said.

Budget will be a conjurer's illusion: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leaders P. Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh and Mallikarjun Kharge addressed the media on the upcoming Budget session of Parliament on Thursday.

"We know that this government is exceptionally obstinate, impervious to good advice and uncaring about the calamitous consequences of its economic policies," Mr. Chidambaram said.

"Even without the pandemic, the economy would have continued on the downward path that had be-

gun in the first quarter of 2018-19 and continued for eight successive quarters. The pandemic pushed the economy into an abyss – 23.9% in Q1 of 2020-21 and 7.5% in Q2," he noted.

"The current Finance Minister has the distinction of presiding over the first recession in four decades. The year 2020-21 will end with negative growth. None of the numbers estimated at the beginning of the year will be achieved," he said.

"We are afraid that the Finance Minister will present a dressed-up revised estimates for 2020-21 and attempt to build an attractive narrative for 2021-22. The revised estimates for 2020-21 will be a set of false numbers and, therefore, the Budget estimate for 2021-22 will be a conjurer's illusion," he added.

Veteran Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Mallikarjun Kharge said the party will try to raise farm laws issues again in Parliament.

Then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was present

judge Bench with the first Chief Justice of India, Justice Sir Harilal Kekisundas Kanai. Below the dais and facing the assembled guests sat the 13 Chief Justices of the High Courts. Beneath the banner headline that said 'Supreme Court Inaugurated', were the words 'Guardian of Liberty'.

On the occasion, 71 years ago, the first Attorney General M.C. Setalvad, in his speech, as reported in *The Hindu*, said "in building a nation, alive to its national and international duties", the Supreme Court "will play a great and singular role and establish itself in the consciousness of the Indian people. Like all human institutions, the Supreme Court, we hope, will earn reverence through truth".

The January 29, 1950 edition of *The Hindu* carried a three-column, black-and-white photograph of 13 High

More 'Made in India' COVID-19 vaccines on the way, says PM

He was addressing World Economic Forum's Davos summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that more 'Made in India' COVID-19 vaccines are on the way to help speed up the world's vaccination efforts, and India's economy would help global growth recover from the aftermath of the pandemic.

"So far, there are only two Made In India Vaccines available. In the coming days, many more vaccines are expected to arrive. These will help the world vaccinate more people in an expeditious way," said the Prime Minister at the World Economic Forum's virtual Davos summit.

Seeking to assuage concerns about India's self-reliance aspirations as enum-

bal supply chain. We have a large consumer base as well, and as it grows, it will help the world's economy too," he said.

Inviting investors to consider opportunities in the country, Mr. Modi said: "India is full of possibilities and self-confidence. During the crisis, we have undertaken several structural reforms and they are being supported by production-linked incentives. Now, from the tax regime to FDI norms, we have a predictable and friendly environment."

Mr. Modi said, "The corona crisis has reminded us of the value of humanity... We have to ensure that technology becomes a tool for ease of living, not a trap. The world will have to take steps towards this together."

West Bengal polls: Congress, Left agree to share 193 seats

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Left parties and the Congress on Thursday agreed on seat sharing in almost two-thirds of the Assembly seats in West Bengal – 193 of the 294 seats. Of the 193, the

Experimental recipes with broken wheat are trending on YouTube as households in Kerala find their kitchens filled with Government-supplied variants



The not-so-humble BROKEN WHEAT



ATHIRA M AND SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Through trial and error, Radhika Suresh found a simple recipe to make *kochukkatta* with broken wheat rava. Not an ingredient that is used frequently in most Malayali homes, varieties of broken wheat recently became a staple when the Kerala State Government began including them in free kits of grains, pulses, cooking oil and spices, distributed to ration card holders in the State.

Recipe research
“Searching for dishes to cook with broken wheat *rava* has become a necessity since we have been getting 1 kg packs from the ration shop with the kits from March 2020. Eventually, we became tired of the same old *upma*. That is when I hit upon the *kochukkatta* recipe,” says Radhika, project officer of Miyawaki afforestation programme run by Cultural Shoppe.

Soba Thomas, a schoolteacher, trawled the Internet and found a recipe to make *appams* with the wheat *rava*. Recipes of *dosa*, *idli*, *puttu*, *upma*, *payasam*, *falooda*, milkshakes and *kanji*, all made with varying grades of broken wheat, are also much in demand among homemakers in Kerala. Innovation is the name of the game.

“This broken wheat varies in size, from coarsely broken wheat to medium-sized *rava* and fine-

Broken wheat milkshake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup broken wheat
- 400 ml + 1/4 cup milk
- 2 1/2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp condensed milk
- 2 crushed cardamoms
- Or 1/2 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 cooked beetroot slices
- Chopped nuts to garnish

METHOD

Soak the broken wheat in boiling water for 15 to 20 minutes. Drain the water and keep the broken wheat in a sieve for about three minutes. Transfer it to a mixer, add quarter glass of water and grind to a fine paste. Then sieve the creamy ground mixture into a bowl. The residue in the sieve can be discarded. Keep this broken wheat milk aside. Heat 400 ml milk and stir in the sugar. As the milk begins to boil, lower the flame and add the wheat milk to it. Keep stirring gently and continuously to prevent lumps from forming. Soon the mixture starts thickening. Once the mixture coats the spoon evenly, switch off the flame. Let it cool completely. Now, put it in the mixer with the quarter cup of cold milk and one teaspoon condensed milk. Ice cubes can also be added. Also add the slices of cooked beetroot. Blend it well. Serve in tall glasses and garnish with chopped nuts. Pre-soaked basil seeds or chia seeds can also be added.

Recipe by Neethu Johns

sized broken wheat. That depends on the brand. At present, different kinds are also being sold in neighbourhood provision shops and super markets,” says chef Sandhya Kumar.

Satheesh Babu, manager, FMCG- in-charge, Supplyco, says the Government has been buying the wheat and giving it to mills registered with the Government. “So the quality was assured. I believe

Dash of colour Vegetables like beetroot or carrot can transform a simple milkshake, says YouTuber Neethu Johns ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Government began a trend of broken wheat being used frequently in many households. In the Athjeevana kits, initially given for three months from March, both broken wheat and atta were given along with 15 other items. In all, 85 lakh kits were given in about two-and-a-half months.”

He adds that though the initial plan was to give the kits for three months, distribution resumed during Onam and was continued till December 2020. From January 2021 onwards, nine items are being given in the kits but it does not include broken wheat.

Going by the surge in popularity of broken wheat, the Government is planning to enter the market with broken wheat under its brand name Sabari.

Over the last ten months, many cookery channels on YouTube, run by Malayalis, have featured wheat *rava* recipes. Even those running channels from the UK and the US have uploaded such videos. UK-based Neethu Johns, (YouTuber channel: Mums Daily) has uploaded recipes of interesting drinks using the *rava*, milk, and vegetables like beetroot and carrot. Some of these videos have raked up 1.3 million views. “During a phone call, my mother from Thrissur told me how her help was asking her for recipes to cook the *rava*. So my mother, a fine cook herself, experimented to make a milkshake and shared the recipe with me. I did my share of experimentation and added a dash of colour with beetroot and carrots,” says Neethu, a mother of four and a software engineer. Since the shake is for children, she wanted to avoid artificial colours.

Neethu also has recipes such as *appam*, custard, *laddoo*, ice-cream, *halwa*, *kalathappam* and more, all with broken wheat.

Ahead of the curve

For Keralan-based KS Kumari, the trend is not new. She never misses a chance to cook broken wheat *halwa* at home. “The *halwa* is a big hit in my family. Now that there is always a stock of the wheat at home, I am tempted to make it often,” says the retired banker settled at Ettumanoor in Kottayam district. “*Dosa* is the easiest dish to make. Usually the wheat, which is soaked in water for three to four hours, is ground with black gram (*urad dal*) and left to ferment. But I don’t add the dal. Once the wheat is made into a fine batter, I add grated coconut, carrot and sautéed mustard, split black gram, curry leaf, garlic, ginger, onions and tomato to the batter. Crisp dosas can be made immediately,” she says.

Rajasree R, a homechef and entrepreneur from Thiruvananthapuram, makes a plethora of such dishes. “I have tried preparing *unniyappam*. Wheat, soaked in water for half an hour or so, is ground with mashed bananas and jaggery to prepare batter. Add fried coconut, cumin or sesame, if needed. I also make wheat balls, which you can also call the laddo! To a mixture of jaggery syrup and grated coconut, add broken wheat that is fried. Make balls after adding a little rice flour to it,” she says.

Recipe by Neethu Johns

A swig of the Godless Doppelbock

Merch is old-school. Leading thrash metal band Godless goes a step ahead and creates its own beer instead: a chocolatey, nutty, and dark brew made in collaboration with Hyderabad’s Over The Moon brewing company



PRABALIKA M BORAH

When Abbas Razvi, Kaushal LS, Aniketh Yadav, Moiz Mustafa and Ravi Nidarmathy of Godless, a metal band from Hyderabad, aren’t discussing music or jamming, they hold forth on one topic that unites them – beer.

They recently collaborated with Hyderabad-based Over The Moon

This beer, like any other bock, is a strong lager....
The band members also share a love of stouts

(OTM) brewing company and introduced the Godless Doppelbock, a bock or a dark, malty lager

Image matters The band chose a dark beer to go with its profile and genre ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abbas recalls, “After our performances, all we could think of was beer. The Germany and Belgium brews started growing on us and we realised we’d developed a taste for stouts (a dark full bodied ale). Thankfully, Hyderabad has the kind of beer we love.”

Their love for the malted drink often found them discussing flavours and brews. Abbas says it was an indication of something they missed drinking. “So we discussed it with Nicholas, the brewer at OTM and he was happy to take our inputs and work on the flavour profile we wanted,” says Abbas.

He adds, “We spent about a month discussing

the taste, and once Nicholas started the brew we made several rounds to work on the flavour profile. We were very sure that we wanted something dark, medium to full-bodied, and yet different. Godless Doppelbock is a slightly stronger bock. Once the beer was almost ready, we felt we wanted to complement the chocolatey notes with a nice after-flavour that would balance the bitter aftertaste.”

They chose hazelnut, and seem very happy with their choice. “It is not just us; dark beer lovers around the country are loving it too. When we put a teaser about Godless Doppelbock, our followers from everywhere – the Northeast to Pune – enquired about when they can lay their hands on it. Unfortunately, it is only on tap at OTM in Hyderabad.”

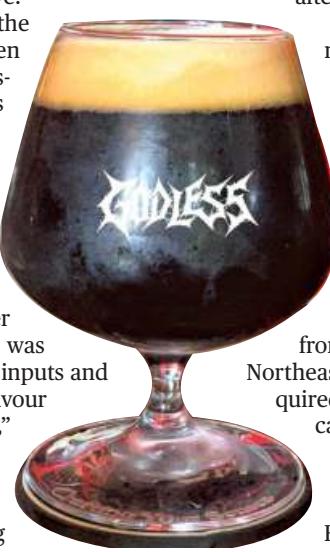


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M ND-NDE

Thiruvananthapuram's Turkish romance

Mobile joints vending varieties of Turkish rolls and other dishes have mushroomed in Kerala's capital

HARIKUMAR JS

Alwin Mathews and friends are on the lookout for “something different” to munch, on a Sunday evening in Thiruvananthapuram. They drive by the series of mobile joints flanking the busy Kowdiar-Kuravankonam road, and stop by one vending Turkish-style rolls for a quick bite. “They are quite filling and spicy. Sometimes, I have one for a meal if I plan to skip dinner,” says Alwin.

Thiruvananthapuram’s love for the West Asian snack shawarma now appears to have morphed into a trend of tangy Turkish rolls. Come evening, and Turkish roll joints that have mushroomed in the city are abuzz with the chatter of eager customers waiting to ‘grab’ and eat. It’s mostly a young crowd.

At Istanbul Grills and Rolls, Kuravankonam, seasoned meat (chicken and beef) stacked around a slow-turning vertical spit gets ready. A deft hand shaves off meat slices that are transferred onto a flat *saj* bread (*rumali roti*) before onion, lettuce, tomato and some French fries are added. These are topped with mayonnaise and chilli sauce. The flatbread is then folded into a roll, wrapped in butter paper and served hot.

Bazil Muhammad, proprietor, says he opened the joint after his travels in Istanbul two years ago. “There’s a street dedicated to meat rolls in Istanbul. I was blown away by the crowd there,” he says. He bought a truck and designed it to suit his requirements. The name, of course, is a tribute to the Turkish city.

Competition is tight: close by stands Turkish Ottoman Rolls & Grills. Owner Muhammad Sharif says, “I was earlier running a travel agency that suffered greatly when the lockdown came. In order to retain my staff and help support them, I opened Ottoman.” To make his food as authentic as possible, he roped in cook Sulfiqar Sultan, who has experience preparing Turkish dishes while working with a restaurant in Oman.

What primarily differentiates shawarmas from Turkish rolls is the mix of herbs and spices used in the latter. Also, unlike the Arabian shawarma, its Turkish cousin mostly steers clear of cabbage and tomato sauce. But those running these joints want to keep the ingredients that go into



the *masala* a “trade secret”. “Apart from the mix, we use Kashmiri chilli that is added both in crushed and powder form. Mayonnaise, barbecue sauce and a bit of our spicy in-house sauce are added during mixing,” says Amal Raj R of Turkish Ottoman Leba at Nalanchira.

Spicing it up
The original Turkish rolls are admittedly less spicy, and restaurateurs here understandably make tweaks to suit the *desi* palate.

Mohammad Fauzan of Turkey Gold, a newly-opened shawarma joint attached to the restaurant Moroccan Midway in Pettah, says a spicy in-house sauce, jalapenos, cheese, tabasco sauce and mustard sauce are used in their snacks. “I obtained the recipe for our Turkish rolls from a Syrian-origin Turkish chef that I got to know of via Facebook. After trials, we added some of our signature touch as well,” he says.

Bab Arabia near Marappalam, which brands itself as a Turkish-Arabic restaurant, is perhaps the only place in the city that offers a wider choice of authentic Turkish cuisine. On the menu are Adana kebab (named after the city of Adana in Turkey), *beyti* kebab, *pide*, *shish tawook* (a type of kebab) and Turkish-style chicken *kapama*, a meat (beef, chicken or mutton) and rice-based dish.

Akbar Kunnapadi, in-charge of Bab Arabia, says, “Authentic Turkish dishes are deemed quite healthy. They need minimal oil but are also less spicy. So we spice up our dishes to suit Malayali taste buds. For marination, Kashmiri red chilli powder is added. Apart from Turkish spices, we use leaves of rosemary, garlic, black pepper, thyme, olive oil, Himalayan salt (rock salt) and a wee bit of butter for flavour.”



Dig in (Top) Turkish rolls at Istanbul Rolls; and Bab Arabia's Adana kebab ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Happy hunting, 47

Having voiced the iconic assassin in the Hitman video games for 21 years now, David Bateson shares some behind-the-scenes memories, and reveals why Hitman 3 holds a special place

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

David Bateson, as Hitman's Agent 47 does, does not don a dark suit with a white shirt and red tie for his interview with us from his home in Denmark. Rather, he is in a light polo T-shirt akin to one of the famous character's disguises. And instead of the stoic expression Agent 47 is known for, Bateson has a warm smile as he fondly speaks of his relationship with the video game character that millions of players have grown to love over the years.

The man behind the voice

"It is hard to describe what it is like to get to know a character and to become a friend with him. I know he doesn't exist... I mean, he does exist (laughs), but I don't know any real hitmen in my normal life. But I really know 47," Bateson says.

The voice actor calls Hitman 3 (the video game was released recently) "the best game", adding

THE NAME IS 47

Known for his suave signature ensemble, Agent 47 is known for his modulated and deep voice, courtesy the South Africa-born Bateson. Named 47 for his clone sample that is '640509-040147' – a figure that is tattooed with a barcode on the back of his head – this 'test tube soldier' grew up in a laboratory, and was groomed to become the perfect hitman. The first Hitman release was in 2000 with Hitman: Codename 47. Eight more games released in the next two decades; the latest release is Hitman 3, which released on January 20 to millions of pre-orders across the globe and rave reviews.

that its reception has been quite unlike the previous games. "This one is a lot more emotional because gamers know there won't be another Hitman game in this trilogy as Agent 47 comes full circle," he says.

Bateson, who is a BAFTA Games juror, admits it is rare for an actor to be associated with a single character for this long; 21 years does not just mean a number of games, but also a number of generations of gamers who have had fresh chances to fall in

love with the series. And these fans have stayed loyal.

Bateson, 60, speaks highly of the different teams of writers for each Hitman game; he agrees the new energies (writers) bring new challenges and nuance for the players and the storytelling.

Immersive experience

He says, "When we record my lines, which are done every six weeks over a six-month period, we have a routine now where we record three takes of the same

POINT BLANK

Q: How many red ties do you own?
Bateson: Just two. I have the official Hitman red tie, and another which is a backup, it is a little too orange for my taste.

Q: If Agent 47 had an everyday name, what would it be?
Bateson: Something boring like Bob would be hilarious as he puts on some flip flops and heads down to the beach.

Q: What hobbies would Agent 47 have picked up during the lockdown?
Bateson: Something calming like pottery or painting. I will not have 47 knit anything!

Right on target David Bateson at BAFTA Games 2016; (far left) a still of Agent 47 • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

line. I decided which was the best take, and the guys on the other side of the window decided too, and it matched every single time. It is wonderful to give this character, which has such a fanbase, life." Bateson indeed gave Agent 47 life, but also gave players a sense of intimacy and immersion.

He recalls an incident from when he was recording one of the early games. "For the second game, I started doing something new. The studio couldn't see what it was as I was in a closed room so they asked what I was doing. I said 'I'm breathing really close to the microphone'. I asked them how it felt and they said, 'Really spooky, it feels like you are really close'. It was exactly what I was going for because Agent 47 was standing behind a curtain and was about to take out someone on the other side. That is what the player, who is mostly wearing headphones, needs to feel... they need to feel my voice," Bateson says.

There have also been creative differences during the making of the games. Bateson recalls that during the production of Hitman 2 (2018), when the writers approached him with throwaway lines for when Agent 47 was in disguise, such as 'Would you like some more ice, sir?' or 'I'll call a waiter over'.

Bateson immediately shot them down, insisting 47 was a silent assassin. The writers, however, convinced the actor to record the lines so that the player would feel more involved in the mission. Bateson agrees this upped the experience for the games, and for the player. Looking back on the past 21 years of growth, gaming and god-like status in the industry, he does not know when he will see his "friend" again. Down the line, he anticipates an 'early years' game of 47's time growing up in the laboratory in which a 19-year-old could be playing the character.

However, there also won't be another Hitman game for a while as developer IO Interactive will be dedicating time and energy to the James Bond games, including Project 007. In fact, fans have already been asking IO Interactive to have Bateson voice Bond.

To this, Bateson simply responds, "You never know!"

A question of answers

Teresa Manimala's questions on sexism have made her a viral celebrity

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Six-year-old Teresa Manimala became a viral sensation when her routine bedtime story hour became an occasion to call out sexism and gender disparities.

As she indignantly asks her mother why books use man-made instead of the gender-neutral 'people made' or 'human made', her mother, Sonia John, can be heard outside the frame telling her that the word man implies women also.

"Aren't women allowed to build?... Then why don't they say human made?" she says. Before turning back to her book, she tells her mother with a shake of her head, "It's not nice, right?"

That simple statement has made her voice heard beyond the confines of her home and family.

Sonia, a data analyst, who lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in the US, says Teresa is a voracious reader with an inquisitive mind. "I am not surprised that she asked these questions and I am happy that she has begun asking these questions. I hope she has that same attitude when she grows up," says Sonia.

Sonia and her husband, James Manimala, an Associate Professor at the Oklahoma State University, were particular that their only daughter treasures books and so reading bedtime stories was a habit they instilled in her.

"I used to read to her, but for the last two years, she has been reading much of it herself. I got her a couple of books written by Sudha Murthy that she enjoyed reading," says Sonia.

It was during their routine bedtime ritual that Teresa asked her mother about the embedded gender disparity in books.

"I recorded her asking me these questions while she was reading a biography of Abraham Lincoln that was meant for children," says Sonia. Amused by her daughter's incisive questions, Sonia posted the video on her WhatsApp groups, her Facebook page and also on a YouTube channel devoted to her daughter.

Someone shared it on Twitter and before the family knew it, the video was shared by celebrities and advocates of gender equality. Sonia admits that the family was taken aback by the way the video went viral.

In the meantime, Teresa chips in to say that she has begun reading Enid Blyton and has got her first book of the author's Famous Five series.

Speaking her mind Teresa Manimala with her mother Sonia John • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All is not lost

Onkar Diwadkar's short film *Still Alive* brings about a much-needed conversation around mental health



Opening up A still from *Still Alive*; (inset) Onkar Diwadkar • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NEERAJA MURTHY

Trigger warning: this article contains material related to suicide and mental illness. Discretion is advised.

Writer-director Onkar Diwadkar puts the spotlight on mental health in his Marathi short film *Still Alive* (with English subtitles). Recently screened at the 51st International Film Festival Of India (IFFI) and the 26th Kolkata International Film Festival, the film delves into the psychological state of a woman at a particular point in her life. The protagonist Meera (played by Pooja Raibagi) stands on the beach and decides to take her life.



Unable to bear the breakup with her boyfriend of five years, she is frustrated and tries to call him, then her mother, and even dials the Manas Foundation, a suicide prevention helpline. Despite reassuring words, walks into the water, but a high tide throws her back to the shore. In that instant, she realises how precious life is.

Onkar, also the producer says, "The subject is that of heartbreak, but it applies to everyone who has experienced hurt and pain. I want to create a window for the audience to be a witness for a few moments, to a person's life when he/she feels so helpless to end life, but also comes out of it. I want to show the transformation so that the impact is positive. Whenever someone is depressed, they will be reminded of the film and know that they can come out of it," he says.

Still Alive does not judge or take sides. The 27-minute-long single take film was shot over three days at Vengurla beach on the Konkan coast in October 2019 in natural light. The film had inputs from Dr Anand Nadkarni of the Institute of Psychological Health, Pune and Sulabha Subramaniam at the Maitra helpline.

Without disclosing any personal data, the duo had long discussions with the filmmaker to help him understand the subject. While Onkar has written dialogue, Sulabha aided him.

Still Alive is also inspired by Onkar's personal life. Having had depression for five years, he wanted to depict how one gets stuck in this vicious cycle. "When thoughts attack our minds, we believe them to be true. We can see an external at-

tack but what about the internal ones? Many do not accept that they have mental health issues. We can give medicines to cure a physical injury but when you neither see nor accept the inner trauma, the healing becomes tough," says the 25-year-old whose first short was *Mrugajal - In the Land of Mirage* (2019).

After watching *Still Alive*, a few people told the director of similar experiences. Says Onkar, "We need to talk about mental health issues. When we do not open up, there is no awareness and process to tackle it."

If you are in crisis call the 24x7 helpline at Aasra 9820466726

POOCHE CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



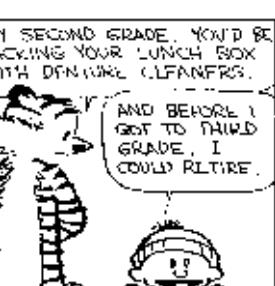
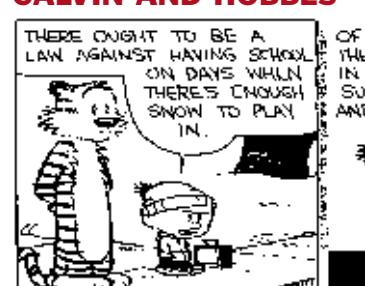
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



'U.S. will rejoin deal if Iran is compliant'

Secretary Antony Blinken asks Tehran to follow the terms of the nuclear accord completely

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

On his first full day on the job, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed the administration's position that if Iran were to become compliant with the terms of the now defunct Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, or the "Iran deal"), the U.S. would re-enter it too. The Trump administration had pulled out of the deal in 2018.

"With regard to Iran, President Biden has been very clear in saying that if Iran comes back into full compliance with its obligations under the JCPOA, the United States would do the same thing and then we would use that as a platform to build, with our allies and partners, what we called a longer and stronger agreement and to deal with a number of other issues that are deeply proble-



Tough test: A file photo of the Natanz nuclear research centre in Isfahan, Iran. • AFP

matic in the relationship with Iran," Mr. Blinken told reporters during his first briefing as Secretary.

Out of compliance

"But we are a long way from that point. Iran is out of compliance on a number of

fronts. And it would take some time, should it make the decision to do so, for it to come back into compliance in time for us then to assess whether it was meeting its obligations," Mr. Blinken said. The Secretary said he would constitute a team of

Iran dismisses U.S. call

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TEHRAN

Iran dismissed on Thursday a call by the U.S. for it to return to full compliance of a nuclear deal first, insisting that it had only taken "remedial measures" since America's withdrawal.

"Reality check for @SecBlinken: The US violated (the) JCPOA," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted, referring to the

accord by its formal name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. He said that as well as its unilateral withdrawal, the U.S. had also imposed sanctions that "blocked food/medicine to Iranians" and "punished adherence" to a UN resolution. "Now, who should take 1st step? Never forget Trump's maximum failure," he added, stressing Iran had "abided by the JCPOA".

experts to advise on how to engage with Iran, should Iran come back into compliance with the JCPOA.

Mr. Blien, who had said at his confirmation hearing that America would approach the world with "humility and confidence", told

reporters that the new team would be "constantly questioning our own assumptions and premises", not engaging in groupthink and that there would be self-reflection and self-criticism when confronted with foreign policy issues.

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recognizing India's growing role on the world stage, the Obama-Biden Administration formally declared U.S. support for India's membership in a reformed and expanded United Nations Security Council," Mr. Biden's campaign website had said. India has just embarked on a two-year non-permanent term at the UNSC.

Ms. Thomas-Greenfield, a former Ambassador, who is likely to be confirmed soon, was grilled by Senators on a speech she gave in 2019 at the Savannah State University, which was sponsored by the Confucius Institute, established by the Chinese government to promote Chinese culture and language abroad.

The U.S. has for some years supported India's permanent membership to the Council – with former President Barack Obama declaring his country's support in his address to Parliament in 2010.

In 2017, former President Donald Trump reaffirmed the U.S.'s support for the idea in a joint communiqué issued during Prime Minis-

'India's UNSC seat a matter of discussion'

Diplomat cites support and opposition

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

In response to a question on whether India, Germany and Japan should become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), U.S. President Joe Biden's pick for UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said discussions on the subject were under way.

She noted that there were arguments for and opinions against these countries becoming permanent members.

"There are some strong arguments for that but I also know that there are others who disagree within their regions that they should be the representative of their region. That too is an ongoing discussion," she said during her Senate confirmation hearing.

UFC group

Ms. Thomas-Greenfield was presumably referring to the opposition that the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group – Pakistan, South Korea, Italy and Argentina – has to the G4 (Brazil, Germany, Japan and Italy) becoming permanent members. In addition, China opposes permanent membership for India and Japan.

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Linda Thomas-Greenfield

ter Narendra Modi's visit to the White House.

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The murder took place three years after Sheikh, along with Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, was released by India in 1999 and given safe passage to Afghanistan in exchange for the nearly 150 passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814.

A three-judge Bench dismissed the Sindh government's appeal against the Sindh High Court's decision to overturn the conviction of Sheikh in the murder case. The Bench issued a 2:1 split judgment to uphold the SHC order by rejecting the appeals and ordered that Sheikh should be set free, his lawyer said.

The court also ordered the release of the three other accused.

Pak. SC orders release of Pearl killers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed appeals against the acquittal of British-born al-Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh in the kidnapping and murder of Daniel Pearl in 2002 and ordered his release, a judgment denounced by the American journalist's family as "a complete travesty of justice".

Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal*, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story on the links between the ISI, the country's powerful spy agency, and the Al-Qaeda.

Sheikh and his three aides – Fahad Naseem, Sheikh Adil and Salman Saqib – were convicted and sentenced in the abduction and murder case of Pearl in Karachi in 2002.

The murder took place three years after Sheikh, along with Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, was released by India in 1999 and given safe passage to Afghanistan in exchange for the nearly 150 passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814.

The court also ordered the release of the three other accused.

New Zealand tops COVID-19 performance ranking

India ranked 86 out of 98 countries by Australian think tank; Sri Lanka best faring nation in South Asia

ANANTH KRISHNAN

New Zealand and Vietnam were ranked the best performing countries in their response to the pandemic, according to a COVID-19 "performance index" put together by the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank, which sought to assess the impact of geography, political systems and economic development in assessing outcomes.

The index, which was based on six different indicators, including confirmed cases and deaths per million

people and the scale of testing, sought "to gauge the relative performance of countries", assessing 98 countries in the 36 weeks that followed their hundredth case.

"Fewer reported cases and deaths, both in aggregate and per capita terms, point towards a better response to the virus," the Sydney-based think tank said. "More tests conducted on a per capita basis reveal a more accurate picture of the extent of the pandemic at the national level. Lower rates of positive tests, meanwhile, indicate greater degrees of

control over the transmission of COVID-19."

U.S., Brazil worst

India ranked 86 out of 98 countries, while the U.S. stood at 94 and Brazil at the bottom of the index. Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus were in the top five. Sri Lanka was the best faring nation in South Asia, ranking 10, while the Maldives was at 25, Pakistan at 69, Nepal at 70, and Bangladesh at 84.

The think tank said China was not included "due to a lack of publicly available data on testing".

Assessing regional responses, the institute found that although the outbreak began in China, the Asia-Pacific region fared the best, while Europe and the U.S. were initially overwhelmed. Europe, however, "registered the greatest improvement over time of any region" before succumbing to a second wave, which it attributed to more open borders.

Population size was one factor. Smaller countries with fewer than 10 million people "consistently outperformed their larger counterparts throughout 2020", the think tank concluded.

The level of economic development and regime-type were less significant than expected, which it attributed to "the relatively 'low-tech' nature of the health measures used to mitigate the spread of the virus" which "may have created a more level playing field between developed and developing countries".

"In general, countries with smaller populations, cohesive societies, and capable institutions have a comparative advantage in dealing with a global crisis such as a pandemic," the think tank concluded.

Rajapaksa thanks India as vaccines arrive in Sri Lanka

Inoculation will commence today at six hospitals



Helping hand: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, left, receiving the consignment from Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay. • AFP

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Thursday received 5,00,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine gifted by India, the country's first consignment as the island nation prepares to begin its roll-out.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who received the vaccines from the Indian High Commissioner at the Bandaranaike International Airport in the morning, tweeted: "Received 500,000 #COVID19 vaccines provided by #peopleofindia at #BIA today! Thank you! PM Shri @narendramodi & #peopleofindia for the generosity shown towards #PeopleofSrilanka at this time in need."

Vaccination will commence on Friday at six main hospitals in Western Province, a statement from Mr. Rajapaksa's office said. "Around 1,50,000 health workers, 1,20,000 members of the tri-forces, police and security forces who are at the frontline of COVID prevention operations will be given first priority," it said.

Sri Lanka's public health

sector, along with the military, has been leading the country's response to the pandemic, since it struck the island in March 2020. Sri Lanka, which controlled the first wave effectively, is currently witnessing a surge in coronavirus cases, with the number of positive patients and deaths going up from 3,300 and 13 respectively in early October to 60,694 infections and 290 deaths as of Thursday. In addition to reporting the U.K.-variant of the virus, scientists earlier this week identified another new strain, reported in countries such as Switzerland, Denmark, Iceland, and Germany.

India donated the vaccines to Sri Lanka following a request Mr. Rajapaksa made to Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who was in Colombo earlier this month, had assured Sri Lanka that India would give it "top priority" while dispatching vaccines in the region.

Over the past few weeks, the Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar received vaccines from India, in addition to Mauritius, Seychelles, and Brazil and Morocco, which received them on a commercial arrangement.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo, on the eve of the arrival of the vaccines, said the consignment of Covishield vaccine was arriving on the "auspicious Duruthu Poya Day" [full moon], in what it called "a remarkable coincidence".

Biden warns Beijing over 'expansionism'

He underscores support for allies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

A week into the job, U.S. President Joe Biden has sent a clear warning to Beijing against any expansionist intentions in East and South-East Asia.

In multiple calls and statements, he and his top security officials have underscored support for allies Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines, signalling Washington's rejection of China's disputed territorial claims in those areas.

On Wednesday, Mr. Biden told Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga that his administration is committed to defending Japan, including the Senkaku Islands, which are claimed both by Japan and China, which calls them the Diaoyu Islands.

Tough stance

That stance was echoed by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who told Japanese counterpart Nobuo Kishi on Saturday that the contested islands were covered by the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. He affirmed that the U.S. "remains opposed to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea", according

to a Pentagon statement. Meanwhile, three days into the Biden administration, State Department spokesman Ned Price warned China about menacing Taiwan after it repeatedly sent more than a dozen military fighters and bombers through the island's air defence zone.

"We will stand with friends and allies to advance our shared prosperity security and values in the Indo-Pacific region – and that includes deepening our ties with Democratic Taiwan," Mr. Price said in a statement. "Our commitment to Taiwan is rock-solid."

Stand with Philippines'

Secretary of State Antony Blinken told his Philippine counterpart on Wednesday that a mutual defence treaty obliging the U.S. to defend the Philippines against attack in the Pacific also applied to the disputed South China Sea – something the Obama administration did not specify. Those comments and others sought to emphasise that the new Biden administration will not deviate from the firm security stance towards China that it inherited from former President Donald Trump.

भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

Plot No.C4-A, 'G' Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051, Maharashtra

PUBLICATION OF UNTRACEABLE DEFAULTERS

Recovery Certificates were drawn up against the following Defaulter(s) by the Recovery Officer, SEBI under section 28A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 read with section 222 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. However, Notice(s) of Demand could not be served on the Defaulter(s) at their last known address as provided in the table below:

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEFALUTER(S)	PAN	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF DEFALUTER(S)	RECOVERY CERTIFICATE NUMBER(S)	DATE OF NOTICE OF DEMAND
1	Pritam Mohite	AIVPM9182E	Room No.6, Ambedkar Sadan, Arthur Road, Sane Guruji Marg, Bldg., Mumbai – 400011 (Maharashtra)	227 of 2014	11/07/2014
2	Santosh Gade	AIRPG9635J	Lal Bahadur Hanuman Tekdi, Khandekar Maidan, Asalfa Village Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai 400086 (Maharashtra)	122 of 2014, 166 of 2014 & 1487 of 2018	23/06/2014, 04/07/2014 & 01/06/2018
3	Rajiv Samani	BPKPS6949Q	New Harileela House, 5th Floor, 28/23, Mint Road, GPO, Mumbai 400001 (Maharashtra)	1987 of 2019	26/02/2019
4	Santosh Rohidas Jagtap	AFUPJ0681F	A/12, Dhankar Chawl Mominpada, New Panvel, Navi Mumbai 410206 (Maharashtra)	2479 of 2019 & 2500 of 2019	21/08/2019 & 29/08/2019
5	Dadasaheb Gavhane	AIGPG9521L	A/12, Dhankar Chawl Mominpada, New Panvel, Navi Mumbai 410206 (Maharashtra)	2488 of 2019	27/08/2019
6	Kiran Dhanavade	AHYPD7530R	Nagesh Wadi, Ghatala Village, Chembur, Mumbai 400071 (Maharashtra)	2489 of 2019	27/08/2019

The abovenamed Defaulter(s) are advised to contact the Recovery Officer by sending a letter to the address given above or an email to jaip@sebi.gov.in latest

MARKET WATCH

	28-01-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	46,874	-1.13
US Dollar	73.05	-0.18
Gold	48,183	-0.49
Brent oil	55.81	-0.45

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	519.10	+0.25
Asian Paints	2441.70	+5.10
Axist Bank	670.70	+38.60
Bajaj Auto	4135.80	-10.55
Bajaj Finserv	8955.30	-170.80
Bajaj Finance	4910.25	-34.75
Bharti Airtel	570.90	+0.10
BPCL	384.30	+3.70
Britannia Ind	3603.75	-7.00
Cipla	841.90	-0.60
Coal India	128.20	-0.95
Divis Lab	3429.75	-53.30
Drd Reddys Lab	4871.80	-37.50
Eicher Motors	2798.45	+8.55
GAIL (India)	128.60	+0.90
Grasim Ind	1067.40	+5.85
HCL Tech.	933.95	-21.55
HDPC	2425.75	-41.25
HDPC Bank	1371.45	-38.15
HDPC Life	671.80	-11.05
Hero MotoCorp	3397.40	-38.85
Hindalco	229.05	-2.35
Hind Unilever	2300.40	-90.90
ICICI Bank	528.25	+5.90
IndusInd Bank	802.60	-17.55
Infosys	1276.20	-24.80
Indian Oil Corp	92.60	+1.20
ITC	206.60	-4.05
JSW Steel	376.30	+0.05
Kotak Bank	1722.85	-41.85
L&T	1345.35	-14.50
M&M	765.00	-4.95
Maruti Suzuki	7588.50	-282.40
Nestle India Ltd.	1738.65	-150.45
NTPC	91.60	+0.30
ONGC	90.65	+0.95
PowerGrid Corp	187.30	-5.05
Reliance Ind	1876.55	-18.45
SBI Life	872.55	-9.20
State Bank	282.35	+6.70
Shree Cement	23106.30	-286.10
Sun Pharma	564.35	+5.45
Tata Motors	266.80	-0.70
Tata Steel	623.70	-2.30
TCS	3196.55	-64.50
Tech Mahindra	981.60	-15.50
Titan	1450.10	+9.40
UltraTech Cement	5443.70	-38.85
UPL	565.45	-8.80
Wipro	431.90	-14.55

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.84	73.16
Euro	88.18	88.57
British Pound	99.56	100.00
Japanese Yen (100)	69.84	70.15
Chinese Yuan	11.27	11.32
Swiss Franc	81.80	82.20
Singapore Dollar	54.69	54.94
Canadian Dollar	56.66	56.91
Malaysian Ringgit	18.00	18.09

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Granules India profit climbs to ₹147 crore

HYDERABAD
Pharma manufacturing company Granules India has posted a consolidated net profit of ₹147 crore for the quarter ended December 31 compared with ₹64 crore in the year-earlier period. The firm has declared a third interim dividend of 25 paise per share for 2020-21.

Equitas SFB Q3 net rises 18% to ₹111 crore

CHENNAI
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. has reported a 18% increase in standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December to ₹111 crore. The lender posted a net interest income of ₹484 crore as against ₹384 crore, and the net interest margin was 8.47%, according to a regulatory filing.

Plug gaps in GST to raise fiscal support'

IMF's Gopinath warns tightening policy support in the middle of a pandemic risks economic damage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India should propose a credible privatisation plan for public sector firms, plug gaps in GST collections and cut wasteful expenditure from the Budget in order to contain borrowing costs while enhancing fiscal support for the economy, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist Gita Gopinath said on Thursday.

'Expand job guarantees'
Stressing that there is a risk of a sharp rise in inequality, with millions entering extreme poverty, Ms. Gopinath said India must continue to provide support to the weaker sections and increase outlays for the national employment guarantee scheme this year as well.

"The policies of in-kind



Clear messaging: India should propose a credible privatisation plan to curb borrowing costs, says IMF's Gopinath. ■REUTERS

and in-cash support that were deployed in 2020 and expired in 2020, should be deployed again this year. And also, the employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) should be ex-

panded again this year like last year, so that you are able to prevent this rise in inequality," she said, delivering a lecture at the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

"The policies of in-kind

'Overseas route curbs impairing profitability'

Interglobe posts 3Q loss of ₹620 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

IndiGo owner Interglobe Aviation Ltd. on Thursday said the continued curbs on international operations were hampering the airline's return to profitability.

"The low level of international capacity continues to remain a major concern for us, and continues to hurt our financials," said CEO Rojoy Dutta, after the company reported a third-quarter net loss of ₹620 crore. "We are anxious to get back in a big way into the international game," he added.

The loss, however, narrowed from the preceding quarter's ₹1,194 crore loss as the government allowed



more domestic flight capacity and demand improved, especially in tier-1 and tier-2 cities where it had "surpassed pre-COVID levels".

India has only partially resumed international flights via 'air bubbles' with 24 countries. The company said IndiGo was currently operating only 28% of its total international capacity.

TVS Motor profit doubles to ₹266 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

TVS Motor Co. Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2020 more than doubled to ₹266 crore driven by strong growth in two-wheeler sales in the domestic and international markets.

Two-wheeler sales in the domestic market rose by 21% and international market by 31%, ahead of the industry's growth of 13% and 20% respectively.

The third quarter of FY20 saw a one-time reversal of an exceptional item of ₹76 crore.

The board on Thursday declared an interim dividend of ₹2.10 per share.

Maruti Q3 net rises 26%, company flags base effect

Revenue up 13%; input costs dent profit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) on Thursday posted a 26% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹1,996.7 crore for the quarter ended December, mainly on the back of higher sales.

However, the company said "these results have to be viewed in the context that in the previous year FY2019-20, sales volume declined by 16% for the company and about 18% for the industry". Total revenue from operations rose 13% to ₹23,471.3 crore in the quarter under review.

Maruti sold more than 4.95 lakh vehicles in the

quarter, an increase of 13.4%. Mital Shah, head of Research, Reliance Securities, said Maruti had "reported subdued Q3 performance due to a sharp jump in commodity cost. However, we expect the domestic PV industry to record double-digit volume growth in FY22, which would support MSIL's business."

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Burns: a left-hander with the right attitude

The England opener looks forward to the big challenge in Indian conditions

ENGLAND IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Batting in India for a visiting batsman calls for a certain amount of toughness and resilience. You often have to swim against the flow of the game and still have runs against your name.

Rory Burns of Surrey and England is nothing if not a battler. Not the most attractive of openers, the south-paw, nevertheless, collects useful runs off his legs and through covers.

Sound defence

The 30-year-old Burns has a sound defence and doesn't play deliveries he does not have to. Making his debut in 2018 at Galle, Burns has 1233 runs in 21 Tests at 32.44, with two hundreds, one in the Ashes Test at Birmingham and the other in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Despite just 20 runs in his last four Test innings, against Pakistan, and missing the recent Test series in Sri Lanka owing to a paternity leave,



Tall order: Rory Burns will need all of his resilience and defensive skills to make an impact. ■ AFP

Burns is the first-choice opener for England.

In the first Test beginning here on Feb. 5, Burns and Dominic Sibley are likely to be the English opening combination.

Burns is aware the present Indian attack is not just about spin. The side can hurt with

its pacemen too and none is more lethal than Jasprit Bumrah.

He said in a Zoom chat here on Thursday, "Bumrah is quite a hard man to prepare for, isn't he? He is obviously unique in terms of how he comes in and bowls.

It would just be about working those angles."

Burns caught some of the gripping action between India and Australia on television back home and said, "India are in a pretty handy form, not necessarily their first playing XI at different points, but still, they managed to get over the line

and Burns, the left-hander with the right attitude, will have a crucial role at the top of the order.

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TV PICKS

Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), noon & 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
BWF World Tour Finals: Star Sports 2HD & 3, 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan vs South Africa: 1st Test, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF



CSA chief Yacoob resigns after spat with scribe

Zak Yacoob, the interim chairperson of Cricket South Africa (CSA), has been forced out after his verbal tirade against a journalist. South Africa Sports Minister Nathi Mthethwa has asked Board member Dr. Stavros Nicolaou to take over despite an unreserved apology from Yacoob. PTI

Ramkumar advances

ANTALYA (TURKEY)
Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated Ernesto Escobedo of the USA 7-6(6), 6-3 in the first round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here. It was the first victory in three meetings for the 26-year-old Ramkumar against the 24-year-old American. In the \$15,000 ITF women's event in Cairo, top seed Riya Bhatia lost in the second round to Slovenia's Pia Lovric. **The results:**
€44,820 Challenger, Antalya: First round: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Ernesto Escobedo (USA) 7-6(6), 6-3. **\$15,000 ITF, Cairo: Men, first round:** Rinpei Kawakami (Jpn) bt Tushar Madan 6-0, 6-2. **Women, pre-quarterfinals:** Pia Lovric (Slo) bt Riya Bhatia 6-2, 6-3.

Tokyo Olympics test event postponed

TOKYO
The first Tokyo Olympics test event of 2021 has been postponed because of travel restrictions under Japan's coronavirus state of emergency, organisers confirmed on Thursday. The artistic swimming event will double as the sport's final qualifier for the Games. It was due to be held here from March 4 to 7 but will now take place from May 1 to 4. AFP



Denver Nuggets guard Murray fined \$25,000

Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for a shot to the groin area of Dallas Mavericks' Tim Hardaway Jr. Murray was ejected in the third quarter of the Monday game. The initial call was a foul on Murray, and it was upgraded to flagrant-2 foul after a video review. AP

Aubameyang doubtful for Man United clash

LONDON
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang is a doubt for Arsenal's Premier League clash against Manchester United on Saturday after missing games due to his mother's "health issues". The club captain was absent for the FA Cup defeat at Southampton on Saturday as well as the 3-1 Premier League win over the same team three days later. AFP

Lokuhettige found guilty
DUBAI
Former Sri Lanka pacer Dilhara Lokuhettige was on Thursday found guilty of three offences under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code, following a hearing by an independent tribunal. He was charged under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code in November 2019 for his involvement in match-fixing during a T20 tournament in UAE in 2017. He was found guilty on all charges after he exercised his right to a hearing before an independent Anti-Corruption Tribunal. Lokuhettige remains suspended and sanctions will follow in due course. PTI

Harris and 76ers hand LA Lakers its first road defeat



Suspended animation: Sixers' Tobias Harris goes for a shot past Lakers' Montrezl Harrell. •AP

Manas makes semifinals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Manas Dhamne beat third-seeded Nikhil Nirajan 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the ITF grade-4 junior tournament at Tennis Project, Bialiwas, on Thursday.

The 13-year-old Manas, who came through the qualifying event, will challenge top seed Nishant Dabas in the semifinals. Champion of the last event, Chirag Duhan got past Ajay Malik in straight sets to set up a semifinal against fourth seed Aman Dahiya.

In the girls' section, Anjali Rathi battled past Lakshmi Prabha in three sets to set up a semifinal against top seed Sanjana Sirimala.

The girls' champion last week, Shruti Ahlawat sailed past eighth-seeded Bhakti Shah & Riya Uboveja at Hetevee Chaudhari & Veda Raju Prapurna 7-6(4), 6-3.

Expo 2020 Dubai to host World chess championship

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Expo 2020 Dubai will host this year's World chess championship from November 24 to December 16.

The €2 million championship will see reigning champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway taking on the winner of the Candidates tournament, which had to be stopped midway last year because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Candidates tournament is slated to resume at Ekaterinburg, Russia, in April.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France and Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia were in the lead with 4.5 points each from seven rounds when the tournament was stopped last March.

'Outstanding event'

"The World Championship match is an outstanding event, and we are proud to team up with Expo to create a breath-taking experience not only for the hardcore chess fans, but also for the wider audience," said FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich.

Cricfine Wonders and OneX Sports in final

Man-of-the-match

Ashutosh Agarwal top-scored with 66 and picked up five wickets for just 13 runs as Cricfine Wonders beat VK-18 Academy by 14 runs to enter the final of the One X T20 tournament.

In the other semifinal, Prateek Bhardwaj's 56 led OneX Sports to a 5-wicket win against Fine Talent. **The scores:**

Cricfine Wonders 184/9 in 20 overs (Ashutosh Agarwal 66, Tishant Dabla 31, Nikhil Khatri 2/22, Abhinav Yadav 2/32) bt VK-18 Academy 170/9 in 20 overs (Sanjay Bhaskar 59, Daljeet Singh 55, Ashutosh Agarwal 5/13, Shivender Sharma 4/24).

Fine Talent 169/5 in 20 overs (Sikandar Kumar 47 n.o., Kulvir Uniyal 44, Himanshu Kaushik 2/26) lost to OneX Sports 170/5 in 20 overs (Prateek Bhardwaj 56, Kaushal Suman 47, Bunti Rana 37 n.o., Money Grewal 3/40).

Ashmit picks up four

Ashmit Jindal's four wickets and Bhavya Sharma's 73 not out helped Swasthik Sports Management beat Turf Academy by eight wickets in the Turf Youth Cup Under-15 tournament. **The scores:**

Mount Club 172 in 39.5 overs (Kamal Jain 49, Samyam Arora 37) lost to Youth XI 202/6 in 35 overs (Ankit Partap Singh 101 n.o., Ayush Doseja 4/35).

Gurjas, Ayush impress

Impressive bowling by Gurjas Singh (4/4) and Ayush Rawat (3/19) saw Ace Academy beat RKB Academy by five wickets in a low-scoring Bal Bhawan Premier League match.

The scores: RKB Academy 42 in 16.2 overs (Gurjas Singh 4/4, Ayush Rawat 3/19) lost to Ace Academy 45/5 in 14.3 overs.

Century by Ishan

Ishan Negi scored a match-winning century as Gyanti Academy beat Endurance Academy by 71 runs in the Endurance Under-15 League.

The scores: Gyanti Academy 228 in 34.4 overs (Ishan Negi 112, Vansh Anand 54) bt Endurance Academy 157 in 31.2 overs (Manvik Hooda 61, Dev Mehra 3/9).

Quickfire ton by Ankit

Ankit Partap Singh scored an unbeaten 80-ball 101 as Youth XI beat Ravi Brothers by four wickets in the Tripathi Premier League.

The scores: Ravi Brothers 201/9 in 35 overs (Kamal Jain 49, Samyam Arora 37) lost to Youth XI 202/6 in 35 overs (Ankit Partap Singh 101 n.o., Ayush Doseja 4/35).

Marathon Club posts win

Aadhyansh's 33 runs saw

Brooklyn Nets scores an overtime victory over Atlanta Hawks

NBA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

Tobias Harris drove in the final dagger as Philadelphia 76ers thwarted a late Los Angeles Lakers rally to hand the reigning NBA champion a first road defeat of the season – 107-106.

In a bruising heavyweight clash, the Eastern Conference-leading Sixers made a statement against the league-leading Lakers.

Triple-double

Joel Embiid scored 28 points, Ben Simmons notched up a triple-double of 17 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists and Harris, fed by Seth Curry, sealed the victory with a pull-up jump shot with three seconds remaining.

The Lakers, who had won

a franchise-best 10 road games to start the season, nearly kept the streak alive despite trailing by 14 points in the fourth quarter.

The Lakers, down by 12 with 3:07 remaining, produced a 13-0 scoring run launched by Alex Caruso's finger-roll lay-up.

After three-pointers from Caruso, Dennis Schroder and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Anthony Davis gave the Lakers a 106-105 lead on a lay-up set up by LeBron James.

After a time-out, Sixers inbounded the ball with 11.2 seconds remaining. They got the ball to Harris, who drove left and fired. Davis' desperate heave from half-court as time expired was never close.

James, coming off a 46-point performance at Cleveland on Monday, led the Lak-

ers with 34 points, Davis added 23 and Schroder had 16.

Meanwhile, Brooklyn Nets, with a big night from its big three, escaped with a 132-128 overtime victory over the Hawks in Atlanta.

Kevin Durant scored 32 points, James Harden added a double-double of 31 points and 15 assists with eight rebounds and Kyrie Irving added 26 points for the Nets, who won their third straight.

Sabonis shines

Indiana forward Damion Sabonis delivered a triple-double of 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as the Pacers beat the Hornets in Charlotte 116-106.

Sabonis was doubtful to start the game with a bruised left knee, but he showed no sign of trouble as he connected on nine of 10 shots from the floor, including two of

three from three-point range.

Elsewhere, Brandon Ingram and Zion Williamson scored 32 points each as New Orleans Pelicans overcame a 47-point performance by Bradley Beal to defeat Washington Wizards 124-106.

The results: New Orleans Pelicans 124 bt Washington Wizards 106; San Antonio Spurs 110 bt Boston Celtics 106; Atlanta Hawks 128 lost to Brooklyn Nets 132 (OT); Miami Heat 82 lost to Denver Nuggets 109; Philadelphia 76ers 107 bt LA Lakers 106; Toronto Raptors 108 lost to Milwaukee Bucks 115; Golden State Warriors 123 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 111; Phoenix Suns 97 lost to Oklahoma City Thunder 102; Utah Jazz 116 bt Dallas Mavericks 104; Charlotte Hornets 106 lost to Indiana Pacers 116; Cleveland Cavaliers 122 bt Detroit Pistons 107; Orlando Magic 107 lost to Sacramento Kings 121.

Rijiju launches anti-doping RM

I congratulate all the scientists: minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A reference material (RM), jointly synthesised by the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati, for use in the anti-doping field was launched by Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday.

The RM, identified by NDTL as one of the rarely available ones globally, would be used to strengthen anti-doping measures in all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited labs,

"This is a special moment. I congratulate all the scientists in NDTL and NIPER-G for producing one of the 20 RMs," said Rijiju.

During testing of a sample, RMs provide identity confirmation for prohibited substances which do not have threshold limits.

NDTL and NIPER-G had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in August 2020 to synthesise 20 rare RMs over three years.

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International medal winners and Dronacharya award winners would be appointed as coaches on contract or deputation.

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Quite significantly, the SAI would also attempt to have top-class educational facilities at its centres, on a public/private partnership.

SAI's NCOE project approved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has got ₹100 crore approved for the development of National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) across the country, during its governing body meeting held here on Wednesday.

The project includes construction of hostels in Bengaluru and at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi, apart from creation and upgradation of various facilities.

The SAI would also be outsourcing the management of hostels, mess and kitchen to expert agencies at various SAI centres to improve the overall standard. The start

would be made with the newly built hostel at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range and the one at the Nehru Stadium.

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between states and a previous hard lockdown of more than 4 million people in Melbourne when a second wave got out of control in Victoria state, Australia has had only 909 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

And 820 of them were in

Victoria – most during that second deadly wave when overnight curfews were put in place and use of masks made compulsory outside of home.

There was some considerable doubt during that second wave whether the Australian Open would even be remotely possible in Melbourne.

This year's Australian Open was delayed by three weeks to allow arriving players to spend those 14 days in quarantine.

HFC roars back to snatch a draw

Santana and Sandaza strike in the final minutes

ISL 2020-21

SPORTS BUREAU

A defensive meltdown in the final moments cost Bengaluru FC a precious win as Hyderabad FC snatched a 2-2 draw at the Tilak Maidan stadium in Goa on Thursday.

BFC had the match in the bag, leading 2-0 with just five minutes of regulation time left, thanks to goals from Sunil Chhetri and Leon

Augustine. Naushad Moosa even replaced Manuel Marquez's side retain its top-four position (19 points), even as it extended BFC's winless run to eight matches, a streak that the club last experienced in 2016-17 when it was still part of the I-League.

The result: Hyderabad FC 2 (Aridane 86, Sandaza 90) drew with Bengaluru FC 2 (Chhetri 9, Augustine 61).

Friday's match: FC Goa vs SC East Bengal, 7.30 p.m.

Mumbai Falcons ready to soar