# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 18 JANUARY 2021

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## WEATHER

**Max:** 29.3°C
**Min:** 17.4°C
**RH:** 43%
**Rainfall:** Nil

**Forecast:** Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 29/17 ºC

## COVID-19 COUNT

| CASES | DEATHS |
|---|---|
| (+14,012) | (+159) |
| 1,05,71,658 | 1,52,447 |

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

| | |
|---|---|
| (+299) | (+2) |
| TS: 2,91,666 | 1,577 |
| (+161) | (+1) |
| AP: 8,85,985 | 7,140 |

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

9,51,90,015

**DEATHS**

20,35,297

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219

*worldometers.info/coronavirus*

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari;** Uttarayana
**Tithi:** Pushya Shuddha Panchami till 9.15 am
**Star:** Purvabhadra till 7.43 am
**Varjyam:** 6.12 pm to 7.57 pm
**Durmuhurtam:** 12.48 pm to 1.33 pm; 3.01 pm to 3.46 pm
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am

**HIJRI CALENDAR**
**Jamadi- ul- Akhir** 4,1442 AH

**PRAYERS**
**Fajar:** 5.46 am
**Zohar:** 12.36 pm
**Asar:** 4.27 pm
**Maghrib:** 6.08 pm
**Isha:** 7.19 pm

**SUNSET** TODAY 6.02 PM
**SUNRISE** TOMORROW 6.49 AM
**MOONRISE** TOMORROW 10.35 AM
**MOONSET** TODAY 10.46 PM

## COUNTER POINT

Full dress rehearsal of farmers for the parade!

## SHORT TAKES

### Ustad Ghulam Mustafa dead

**Mumbai:** Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan passed away on Sunday afternoon at his residence here. He was 89. Khan's daughter-in-law Namrata Gupta Khan told PTI that the veteran breathed his last at 12.37 pm at his Bandra home.

■ Report on Page 7

### Nepali climbers scale K2 in winter

**Kathmandu:** A team of 10 Nepali climbers made history by becoming the first to scale in winter the world's second highest mountain K2, considered as the world's most dangerous and challenging peak. K2 with its daunting 8,611 metres height is located in Gilgit-Baltistan side of the Karakoram range.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay (from right) and Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy seen at the BJP state executive meeting in Secunderabad on Sunday, along with state general secretary Gujjula Premendar Reddy, party co-incharge of Tamil Nadu Ponguleti Sudhakar, BJP OBC Morcha president Dr K. Laxman and party MLC N. Ramchander Rao. *— S. SURENDER REDDY*

# TS laughing stock of India due to KCR at helm: Bandi

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Telangana state has become a laughing stock in front of the country for having K. Chandrashekar Rao as its Chief Minister for he is the only administrator who never comes to work at the Secretariat to run the state's administration, said BJP's Telangana state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Speaking at the BJP executive meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday, Sanjay targeted the Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao for working in, what he alleged, was "total contrast" to the expectations and aspirations of the people of the state.

He further alleged that the CM camp office had become a platform for the land, sand and brick mafia.

CM Rao has reduced Telangana, a surplus budget state at the time of its formation, to a debt-ridden unit, he said, adding that the BJP was the only party which had the wherewithal to put an electoral end to this "worst administration ever" being run by the TRS.

> During the pandemic, instead of working to give strength and boost the morale of the people, the CM was sleeping in his farmhouse. The CM's office has become a platform for land, sand and brick mafia.
>
> — **BANDI SANJAY**
> BJP state president

During the pandemic, instead of working hard to give strength and boost the morale of the people, the CM "slept in his farmhouse," the BJP chief said.

The TRS' car (its symbol) has been already punctured by the BJP in the Dubakk and the GHMC elections, so Chandrashekar Rao was protecting himself in office by keeping a 'Razakar party' beside him, said the BJP state chief.

Blasting the false claims of the TRS leaders that during their reign the state of Telangana added 13,500 investments, leading to creation of three lakh jobs, he said, "If there had been an iota of truth and even if a partial success was seen on ground as a reality, I would have been obsequious towards KCR and do *pooja* to him."

Strongly castigating the TRS supremo for destroying caste harmony and for creating rifts between people on caste lines instead of trying to bridge the gaps, Sanjay said, "by including Muslims in backward castes, he is stealing the rightful claims of the OBC in their reservation quotas due to them."

■ Page 4: BJP will show how to rule: Bandi

# 'World pharmacy' India invited to UK's G-7 meet

## UK PM moves to 'deepen expertise' at elite summit

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC**
NEW DELHI, JAN. 17

Currently battling a fresh wave of the raging coronavirus pandemic at home and hailing India as the "pharmacy of the world", Britain on Sunday officially invited New Delhi to attend the G-7 summit to be hosted by it in Cornwall from June 11 to 13 this year. It had first been confirmed last month that British PM Boris Johnson had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "join the UK-hosted G-7". Mr Johnson will also now visit India before the G-7 summit.

India is not a member of the G-7 bloc that comprises seven countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States — termed as seven of the "largest" advanced economies in the world, but the G-7 host nation can invite other nations as guests to the summit. Australia and South Korea have also been invited to attend by Britain which launched a fresh condemnation on Sunday of "Russia's annexation of Crimea". This has made it clear that ties between the West and Russia will continue to remain strained, something that will worry New Delhi since Moscow has been its time-tested friend for decades. The Cornwall summit is also likely to be the first in-person G-7 leaders' meeting after Joe Biden takes charge as US President this week.

> **BRITAIN HAS** also invited Australia and South Korea for the summit which will be held in Cornwall, from June 11 to 13 this year. The UK PM will visit India before that

It may be recalled that Modi had earlier attended the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France, in August 2019 at the French government's invitation. He was also been invited by US President Donald Trump to attend the G-7 meeting that was to have been held in the US last year but was cancelled due to the pandemic. Britain on Sunday said: "The G-7 — which is made up of the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the USA and the EU — is the only forum where the world's most influential and open societies and advanced economies are brought together for close-knit discussions".

Hailing India on Sunday as the "pharmacy of the world", Britain pointed out that "India already supplies more than 50 per cent of the world's vaccines, and (that) the UK and India have worked closely together throughout the pandemic", adding: "Our Prime Ministers speak regularly and Prime Minister Johnson has said he will visit India ahead of the G-7".

In a statement, the British high commission in New Delhi said: "Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (has been) invited to attend G-7 as a guest. The UK will use the G7 presidency to unite leading democracies to help the world build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future. Australia and South Korea (have) also (been) invited as guest countries." Britain said the three nations had been invited "to attend as guest countries to deepen the expertise and experience around the table".

## 447 ADVERSE CASES ONLY AFTER 2.24 L JABS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
NEW DELHI, JAN. 17

Of all 2.24 lakh people who have been vaccinated, 447 developed minor complications. Only three persons who were hospitalised have now been discharged.

On the second day of vaccination, only 17,072 received their jabs in six states.

The states and Union Territories have fixed specific days for vaccinations.

■ Report on Page 7

# Farmers' R-Day tractor rally on; SC hearing today

**SANJAY KAW | DC**
*with agency inputs*
NEW DELHI, JAN. 17

The farmers' unions on Sunday decided to go ahead with their proposed tractor parade in the national capital on Republic Day.

The decision has come just a day before the Supreme Court will hear the Centre's plea seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor rally or any other kind of protest that seeks to disrupt celebrations on January 26.

Kisan Sangharsh Samiti (Haryana) convener Mandip Nathwan, however, dispelled rumours that the protesters would unfurl the tricolour at Red Fort and that the tractors and tanks will roll together on Republic Day. "It's being said farmers will unfurl tricolour at Red Fort and tractors and tanks will roll together (on January 26). No such programme was finalised," he said.

Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said most farmers are in favour of the new laws and the government, but All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) general secretary Hannan Mollah accused the Centre of "dragging" things in a bid to tire out the farmers.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said farmers are prepared to protest against the farm laws "till May 2024" and termed the agitation by peasants at Delhi borders an "ideological revolution".

## WILD BOARS SEEN NEAR BALAJI TEMPLE IN TIRUMALA

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
NELLORE, JAN. 17

Wild boars were found roaming on the streets in the vicinity of Lord Balaji temple at Tirumala late on Saturday night. On noticing this, officials of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) started fixing meshes to the entry points to prevent the wild boar from entering human habitation.

It may be mentioned here that during the lockdown the animals were seen moving around in groups in search of food at various locations of Tirumala. One of the reasons for the boars frequenting the hill town was that nearly 25 tonnes of garbage is generated daily because of 40,000 pilgrims every day.

Though the TTD took measures to prevent these animals from entering Tirumala, they managed to beat the barriers in their search for food.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle,* TTD vigilance and security officer G. Balireddy said that they are in pursuit of permanent and concrete measures to prevent wild boars from straying into the streets.

■ Page 5: Iron mesh put at all entry, exit points

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# Caution needed even after vaccination: Doc

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Even as hopes run high that the vaccines to prevent Covid-19 will help the country overcome the pandemic and put an end to the spread of the disease, caution should continue to be the watchword even among those who are getting the vaccines, according to Dr Ranga Reddy Burri, president of Infection Control Academy of India.

One of the questions that is being asked, with the vaccination drive on across the country, is whether those receiving the vaccines can do whatever they want from now on. "The answer," according to Dr Ranga Reddy, is a resounding "no."

"No one is going to turn into a superman or a superwoman post vaccination. Getting the vaccine does not mean that one can go around and enjoy a fairytale lifestyle," he told *Deccan Chronicle* during an interview.

**DOCTOR SPEAK**

Dr Ranga Reddy Burri, *President of Infection Control Academy of India.*

What was a normal lifestyle, of going out, meeting people, enjoying oneself or just going to work and being with colleagues all day long, have now acquired the aura of a fairytale lifestyle because of the ease with which Covid-19 spreads from person to person.

It is important that everyone who gets the vaccine continues to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. Dr Ranga Reddy cautioned against euphoria among the vaccine recipients saying the four weeks between the first and the booster doses and then the two weeks more needed for the body to produce the protection from the virus means it takes time for the protection to kick in.

"Wear a mask, wash hands regularly, maintain physical distance from others and avoid crowded places. There is simply not enough data for determining whether a person, after receiving both doses of the vaccine, can contract the virus, or spread it as a silent asymptomatic person," he explained.

Despite the current challenges of understanding how the vaccines will behave, Dr Ranga Reddy said that as the days go by, more data that will come that might answer such questions. He said: "I think it is fantastic how scientific and medical communities responded to the pandemic by getting the vaccines out quickly. Vaccines in general, are a boon to humanity, they are good for public health. People should understand how human history evolved and changed for the better because of vaccines."

Everyone, Dr Ranga Reddy said, should take the vaccine when their turn comes. Leave the debates on which vaccine is best, what is the level of protection etc., to the scientists and the medical professionals. The vaccine is our best bet to begin the end of the the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.

## COVID PATIENT ENDS LIFE AT PVT HOSPITAL IN KONDAPUR

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

A 77-year-old man who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kondapur after testing positive for Covid-19 died by suicide on Sunday. According to the police, the deceased, Narayana, was also undergoing treatment for depression.

"Narayana tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday and was being treated in an isolation ward on the second floor of the hospital building. He was not cooperating with the doctors and the hospital staff had informed his family," police said.

On Sunday around 10 am, he jumped from the window of his ward. Upon receiving information, the Madhapur police reached the spot and took up investigations after booking a case of suspicious death. The body was shifted to the Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem examination and later handed over to the family.

## 299 NEW COVID INFECTIONS IN TELANGANA

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Telangana state added 299 fresh Covid-19 cases and two fatalities until Saturday night, raising the caseload to 2,91,666 and the toll to 1,577, as per the state health department's bulletin issued on Sunday. The case fatality rate stood at 0.54 per cent, it said.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area contributed the maximum of 57 cases followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri district with 26 and Karimnagar district with 24. The bulletin said 379 people had recovered from Covid-19 between Friday and Saturday, taking the total recoveries to 2,85,898, translating into a recovery rate of 98.02 per cent.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area contributed the maximum of 57 cases followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri district with as many as 26 cases.

# Some want Indian vaccine, others do not want jab at all

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL and HARLEEN MINOCHA**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

With the Covid-19 vaccination drive now well underway across the country, and Telangana state set to start Day 2 of the drive on Monday, Deccan Chronicle spoke to people from the city to find out what their thoughts were about the vaccination.

While some were apprehensive, several others said they cannot wait to get their Covid-19 vaccine jabs.

According to Dr Mothukuri Ramchander, a counselling psychologist, "People are experiencing a kind of fear as the one during the initial days of Covid-19 virus. It is in the nature of the mind to doubt." He said the government has to play an important role in educating people about the potency of the vaccine and give them the assurance of safety, through advertisements and promotions.

For some ready to get their shots, pride in being local, in terms of the choice of the vaccine, appears to be an important factor.

I urge everyone to take the vaccine shots in India. I would personally prefer the Covaxin vaccine. I trust our own than the foreign vaccine that is available.
— **ASHWIN KUMAR,** Financial and wealth management professional

I will wait for the results of all vaccines. I am not against taking it but I want to be sure. Till then, I will depend on masks, sanitisers and social distancing.
— **KULWANT KAUR,** Legal counsellor

I am leaning towards the Bharat Biotech vaccine. They are in their third stage trial. By the time it'll be our turn, they would have bettered it. I'd want an Indian-made vaccine.
— **REKHA RAJENDRA,** Retired Banker

My family would opt for a vaccine made in India. Bharat Biotech is in our Hyderabad. They are working hard and developing the vaccine, unlike others that have been pushed for emergency use.
— **PAYAL VALERA,** Baker

I have never taken any medication. I am 63 and fit. When everyone taking the Covid-19 vaccine, the virus is controlled, and I don't see the necessity for me to take it.
— **RAJA JITHENDER DESHMUKH,** Agriculturalist

Taking the vaccine is a social responsibility. When my turn comes, I will take it and strongly recommend everyone to go for it. More than 20 officers at my previous police station were infected.
— **C. ANJAIAH,** Inspector

I will definitely go for the Covid-19 vaccine and also take my family along for it. We had a tough time when I was infected with Covid-19 while performing my duties.
— **A. GOPALRAO,** Govt. employee

My parents and I would stay away. I was infected with Covid-19. We went through a tough time when my father got infected. The immunity we have built is enough.
— **D. VINEETH ABISHEK,** Senior tax consultant

I am not going for the vaccination. I was keeping myself safe and I will continue the same way. I don't want anything injected which will lead to complications.
— **J. SUNDER SINGH,** JNTU junior assistant

We are waiting for the vaccine. My family was infected with the Coronavirus. 2020 went by without any gatherings and events. The vaccine will be a curtain raiser for social gatherings.
— **MARIAN RAJU,** Senior driver

I will wait and see how the vaccine behaves on people who have taken them and then decide whether or not to go ahead, I cannot risk my family and my parents.
— **SHABAD RAJU,** Realtor

It seems like a political exercise. There has been no clarity on the Coronavirus. Now, the vaccine is here and there is not much information. I will stay away.
— **M.A. NAYEEM,** Talab Katta resident

# 11 fine after Covid jab reactions: Official

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

All the 11 persons who reported some very minor adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) in the state on Saturday after they received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, are doing well. There were no further reports of any adverse reactions since Saturday evening, the state health department said on Sunday evening.

Director of Public Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao on Sunday said that plans have been put in place to increase the number of people receiving the vaccines to 50 at each of the 324 session sites (vaccination centres) on Monday, the second day of the vaccination drive. The aim is to inoculate 16,200 persons on Monday, nearly four times the target on the first day.

On Saturday, Telangana state targeted vaccinating 30 persons at each of the 139 vaccination centres but fell short with some individuals pulling out at the last minute. Of the 4,170 persons who had signed up, those who received the vaccine stood at 3,962.

SHORT TAKES

## M'NAGAR TO BE MADE TS SPORTS HUB

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
MAHBUBNAGAR, JAN. 17

Mahbubnagar would be made the sports hub of Telangana state, said minister V. Srinivas Goud while participating in the concluding session of the five-day National Paramotor Championship held for the first time in India at Mahbubnagar.

The Aerosports Paramotor Adventure Training Institute, the first of its kind in India, would be set up at Mahbubnagar, about 90 km from Hyderabad, at a 15-acre piece of land which would pave way for adventure and aviation-related sports, he said.

The town has good road and rail links with Hyderabad and Bengaluru, among others.

Nitin Kumar of Haryana was adjudged as the overall champion of the National Paramotor Championship and will represent India at the Thailand International Paramotor Championship. The solo championship was won by Satyanarayan while Imadudddin Farooqui won the spot landing division.

# 15 more held for aiding Akhila Priya in kidnap

## Event manager, others posed as police, I-T personnel

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

The Hyderabad city police have arrested 15 more suspects in connection with the Bowenpally kidnap case on Sunday.

According to the police, the accused, M. Siddhartha, an event manager, had arranged about 20 persons to pose as income-tax officials and execute the kidnap of Pravin Rao and his two brothers on January 6.

"Akhila Priya, the prime suspect in the case, along with her husband, M. Bhargav Ram Naidu, conspired with her brother Jagath Vikhyath Reddy and her follower Srinivas Choudhary alias Guntur Srinu. They conducted meetings at her residence in Lodha Apartments in KPHB and a school in Yousufguda on executing the kidnap in the first week of January," said Anjani Kumar, Hyderabad police commissioner.

Police commissioner Anjani Kumar speaks at a press conference to announce the arrest of 15 persons in the Praveen Rao kidnap case. — DC PHOTO

Kumar said that Srinu contacted Siddhartha and asked him to recruit young men to execute their plan with a promise to pay ₹5 lakh to him and ₹25,000 to each person.

Bhargav Ram, through Mallikarjun Reddy and Sampath, got 10 stamp papers. Srinu along with the duo bought six basic mobile phones and procured toy pistols, rope and plasters used in the offence, the police said.

"On January 5 evening, all the suspects assembled at a school in Yousufguda, where they were briefed by Bhargav Ram about the execution of their plan posing as cops and I-T officials," Anjani Kumar said adding that a recce of the victims' house in Manovikas Nagar was also done.

The police seized five cars including one driven by Bhargav Ram and Vikyath Reddy and registered in the name of Bhargav Ram's mother. The suspects will be produced before the court for remanding in judicial custody, police said.

On the other hand, teams deployed to nab Bhargav Ram, Guntur Srinu and others in Hyderabad and Allagadda and other places in Andhra Pradesh were still on the job, the commissioner said.

## MINI-MEDARAM JATARA FROM FEB 24 TO 27

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
WARANGAL, JAN. 17

The mini version of the mega Medaram Jatara, one of the largest temple events in Asia, would be held from February 24 to 27. The temple trust committee and the endowment department declared the dates on Sunday, clearing apprehensions the Jatara will not be held this year due to the Covid-19 spread.

While the state government officially holds the biennial fair, the temple priests conduct the mini-jatara at the request of devotees in the intervening year. Chief priest Siddaboina Arun said that on Wednesday, February 24, the rituals including temple-cleaning, worship and village confinement would be done. On Thursday the 25th, deities Sammakka and Saralamma will be worshiped with turmeric and vermillion.

# Drunk man held for killing son

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

A 55-year-old drunken man allegedly murdered his son following an argument over the latter's marriage at their house in Shadnagar on Sunday, the Nandigama police said.

The accused, Yellaiah, and his son Naresh, labourers and residents of Chegur village in Kothur mandal, used to frequently argue over the issue. Police said Naresh would often come home drunk and pick up an argument over it and abuse his father.

This happened again on Sunday, and Naresh insisted that his marriage be solemnised without delay at an early date. Yellaiah, who was in an inebriated condition, attacked his son with a sickle. Naresh was severely injured and rushed to Osmania General Hospital for treatment where he died. On receiving information, the police booked a case of murder against Yellaiah.

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**Chief Administrative & Accounts Officer**

# SCB residents want free water

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Residents of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) are sharply critical of the alleged step-motherly attitude from the civic authorities as regards the water supply and charges thereof.

On Sunday, ward member T. Satish Gupta met residents of various apartments in Indrapuri Railway Colony and they pointed out that the residents of GHMC areas were getting 20,000 litres of free water, while those of the colony faced water problems. "When the government can give free water to the entire populace in the GHMC limits, why can't the same be done for us," asked Mary, a resident of Meghna Gardens in Marredpally.

Satish Gupta said it was unfair to charge as high as ₹315 to ₹450 per month for drinking water supply. Worse, the board had last month issued several notices saying they should pay ₹135 per family in the form of arrears.

**THE SECUNDERABAD Cantonment Board has one of the largest slums of the city under its limits, Rasoolpura, where the residents are finding it hard to pay hefty sums as water bills.**

The SCB has one of the largest slums of the city under its limits, Rasoolpura, where the residents are finding it hard to pay hefty sums as water bills.

"It isn't just the water bill that irks the residents, the lack of pressure in the water is also a pain. If the SCB is the largest cantonment in the country, shouldn't there be sufficient action from the central government," asked Gupta.

According to sources in the board, talks are under way with the state government to replicate the free-water scheme for the SCB too so that the entire geographic area of Hyderabad is covered under the free-water scheme.

## Poor maintenance

A GHMC public urinal at RP Road near a temple and masjid has made life miserable for pedestrians passing by due to lack of maintenance. — S. SURENDER REDDY

# GHMC driver held for ₹39 lakh theft

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD JAN. 17

A temporary driver with the GHMC was arrested for stealing ₹39 lakh worth gold and silver ornaments among other things from a pawn shop owned by his prevous employer. The loot was recovered from a garbage bin where the accused had hidden it, within 24 hours by the Market police of Secunderabad.

Police said the accused, Mohammad Aadil alias Arhan, 28, had decamped with 1009.60 grams of gold, 209 grams of silver along with ₹50,000 in cash. The arrest was made based on a complaint by N. Anil Jain.

Following the complaint, four teams were formed with the help of Karkhana police and North Zone Task Force. The accused was identified with the help of CCTV cameras and caught.

Police found that Arhan had been previously arrested as a minor for stealing bikes and three years ago in a theft case. Arhan had worked as a car driver for Anil Jain from 2015 to 2017 and was well-versed the shop layout, police said.

He entered the shop by climbing the pipes and removing the grills.

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SHORT TAKES

## AP GOVT REJECTS ASHOK GAJAPATI RAJU'S DONATION

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
VIZIANAGARAM, JAN. 17

In another humiliation meted out to senior TD leader Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, the AP endowments department on Saturday rejected his donation of ₹1,01,116 for making a new idol of Lord Rama to be placed in the Sri Kodanda Rama Swamy temple at Ramatheertham in Vizianagaram district.

The previous idol was desecrated by miscreants a few weeks ago.Venting his anger on Twitter, and attaching the donation slip, Raju said "First, they unilaterally dismissed me as hereditary trustee / chairman without as much as a notice in complete contravention of section 28. Now, they reject my offerings to the Lord as a representative of the founder family for the vigrahas."

Assistant commissioner, endowments, Ch Ranga Rao said the new idol was being prepared by the TTD free, and therefore there was no need for any donations.

## OFFICIALS SUSPEND TIGER-TRAP OPS TEMPORARILY

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, JAN. 17

Forest officials temporarily suspended the tiger rescue operations on Sunday after six days of its launch, and the rescue teams that came from Maharashtra and Warangal returned to their bases.

The operations will resume if and when a new cattle-kill occurred in the area and a tiger movement is noticed.

The officials took the decision after realizing that the tiger has changed its path and not visiting the forest area near the Kandi Bheemanna temple on the outskirts of Papannapet village in Bejjur mandal. The veterinary doctor and shooter involved in the operations went back to their bases. The tiger did not re-visit the spot of attack so far, though the forest officials had arranged manchan and cages to trap it.

## YOUTH DIES IN RING WHILE PLAYING KABADDI

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
KADAPA, JAN. 17

A youth died in the ring during a district-level kabaddi competition at a model school in Gangayapalli in Valluru mandal, police said on Sunday. He was M. Narendra (28) from Kondapeta of the Chennur mandal.

The incident occurred at the second session of the kabaddi post lunch, the play being in the final. narendra went to the opponent team player's court, and fell down when caught. He rose, walked two steps and fell down again. The co-players and the staff gave him first-aid and he was immediately shifted to the Kadapa Government General Hospital RIMS. Doctors there confirmed that he was dead. Police said Narendra had completed his Master in Commerce. His parents were in the dhobi profession. He was having a brother and two sisters.

Kamalapuram MLA Pochamreddy Ravindranath Reddy said he was shocked to hear the news and got in touch with the local officials and leaders for providing necessary support and assistance to the family. The family members rushed to the hospital and were confused as he wasn't sick. The police said they would investigate the matter.

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Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy speaks with party leader Vijayashanthi and others at the BJP state executive committee meeting at Sikh Village in Secunderabad on Sunday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

# Expose KCR failures, graft: BJP to cadres

## TRS leaders grabbing land, looting state: Chugh

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

BJP state affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh urged the party cadre to expose the TRS government's failures and corruption and fight against them.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is 'looting' the state under the guise of Bangaru Telangana, and ruling party leaders were grabbing land in the name of development, Chugh alleged.

Addressing the party's state executive committee meeting here on Sunday, he said that the people had begun thinking of BJP in power and the party will need to seize the mood and consolidate its position in the State.

The BJP leader criticised the Chief Minister for failing to fill up the over two lakh government jobs.

He made it clear that they will highlight the developments achieved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Reminding that former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had assured to construct Babri Masjid, he said that Modi was honouring his word about constructing Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Chugh said that the Modi government also took a daring decision on Article 370.

**ADDRESSING THE party's state executive committee meeting here on Sunday, he said that the people had begun thinking of BJP in power and the party will need to seize the mood and consolidate its position in the State.**

## BJP will show how a CM should rule: Bandi Sanjay

From Page 1

Bandi Sanjay said, "In the coming days, once the BJP comes to power, we will show TRS how a government must actually be run and what a Chief Minister and Cabinet who actually works can achieve."

He was also extremely critical of the KCR government for registering "false cases" against BJP leaders. "Such unleashing of police brutality and illegal arrests will not stop the BJP's commitment towards the people or slow down our fight against this corrupt TRS government."

Minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, who also addressed the gathering, said, "The people of Telangana are fed up with the TRS government, which has created a record as the worst administration ever." Asserting with certitude the likelihood of coming to power of the BJP, Kishan Reddy said, "Across the state, discussions have already started amongst common people as to not if but when the BJP government will come in the state to rescue them from the TRS."

"Senior IAS and IPS officers are confiding in private that a change in government is definitely going to happen in the coming days. The next two years will be crucial for all of us, even as with each passing day, people are losing faith completely in the TRS government," said Kishan Reddy.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar is seen with former MP A.P. Jithendar Reddy and other leaders at the executive meeting of the party. — DC

Admonishing the state government for its indifference to propriety, he said, "After Independence, there has never been an election in which teachers served as officials during polls. But the TRS government headed by KCR conducted elections for the GHMC without teachers. The KCR government promised to give ₹10,000 to flood victims after elections, which proved to be yet another broken promise of the TRS"

"At the call of the BJP, the people defeated KCR's daughter Kavitha and his relative. People of Telangana are waiting for change. By having an alliance with the MIM, the TRS got some seats, else they would have not won 50 plus seats in GHMC," Kishan Reddy said.

The Telangana BJP leaders must take inspiration from the Bengal BJP unit and fight against this government from the ground level up, he said.

"Intellectuals across the country are supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under his leadership, the BJP will continue to win more elections and get support from the people. In the upcoming MLC elections, for the BJP to win two seats is important. To achieve this goal, karyakarthas from the grass-root-level to state leadership must work tirelessly to ensure BJP's MLC candidates Ramchander Rao and Premendhar Reddy win," he said.

The BJP will also win the Warangal election. If we had a little more time, the BJP would have given Hyderabad a new mayor, he added.

# PM, KCR neglecting memory of Flag designer, says VHR

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao were ignoring the memory of Pingali Venkaiah, who designed the National Flag.

The Congress leader, on Sunday, wrote to AICC president Sonia Gandhi asking her to direct all state party unit chiefs to hoist the Tricolour on April 1 to send a message to the Prime Minster and to Chandrashekar Rao.

On April 1, 1921, Venkaiah had designed the flag and presented it to Mahatma Gandhi during the All India Congress Committee session in Vijayawada.

"Modi speaks about integrity and rich heritage of our country and claims to be a true patriot, But where is his integrity when he cannot respect a person who designed the National Flag," Hanumantha Rao said.

"Chandrashekar Rao celebrates former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's centenary celebrations, what is the reason behind his forgetting the National Flag designer," he asked.

## FIGHT BREAKS OUT OVER ₹2,400 LOAN IN JUBILEE HILLS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Tension prevailed at Road No. 51 of Jubilee Hills after two men started fighting over ₹2,400 which one of them had borrowed from the other.

The police said that the quarrel was between Raju, a resident of NBT Nagar of Banjara Hills, and Gopal from Mastaannagar basti of Road No. 51, Jubilee Hills.

"Gopal had borrowed ₹2,400 from Raju but did not return it as promised. At around 5 pm, Gopal along with his relative Maraiah were ambushed by Raju and his friends," police said. Raju demanded the money and attacked Maraiah when he intervened. Gopal called for four men from the area and attacked Raju, who sustained minor bleeding injuries.

The police was informed and a patrol was despatched to the spot. By that time Raju had gone to the Jubilee Hills police station and he was referred to a private hospital for first aid, police said.

# Protests stall 'plan' to remove Kadiri temple balipeetham

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
ANANTAPUR, JAN. 17

Speculation over the removal of the bali peetham in the historic Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Kadiri has led to tension, following protests. While the issue was viral on social media that bali peetham was being removed as part of the road-widening process, the government had to react and ruled out any such removal.

Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple was built centuries ago with gopurams set up at all eight directions in Kadiri town. Along with gopurams, bali peethams were also fixed as part of tradition.

On Sunday, news spread that bali peetham at west gopuram was being removed as part of road widening.

A group of activists reached the temple and staged protest. The issue went viral after BJP state Secretary Vishnuvardhan Reddy tweeted that the government was acting against traditions and hurting sentiments of devotees.

Interestingly, the endowment department released a press note that there was no attempt to remove the bali peetham stone.

Executive officer Venkateswar Reddy said that priests were performing poojas and offerings at bali peethams. "On coming to the fourth bali peetham, while performing poojas one after the other, suddenly a group of protestors came and staged protests", the EO said and ruled out its removal.

Anantapur in-charge collector A. Siri said that such reports were untrue. The district in-charge collector said that no attempt was made to remove any structure of the famed Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy shrine in the name of road widening.

4thDEATH ANNIVERSARY

Sri Doulatramji Ailani
(S/o Late Sri Vishandasji Ailani)
Date of Death: 18th January 2017
You will always remain in our hearts FOREVER..!!
Inserted by :
Premkumar, Ramchandra, Atmaram, Laxmandas, Ravikumar (Brother) Pradeep, Kanhaiya, Prakash, Roshan (Nephew) Manish, Hitesh (Son) & Ailani Family
SRI SAI SATYANARAYANA MITHAI BHANDAR
SATYANARAYANA VEG BAKERS
Siddiamber Bazar, Hyderabad.
Ph: 9885899368, 9885559995

OBITUARY

Late. BOLLAMPALLY AGA REDDY
DOB: 09-06-1917 DOD: 17-1-2021 2.00PM
Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure
Love you always, and miss you forever
Inserted by
B. Narsimha Reddy & B. Bharathi
B. Ratna w/o. Late Justice B. Subhashan Reddy
S. Suvarna w/o Late S. Goverdhan Reddy
A. Sadguna w/o Late A. Goverdhan Reddy
B. Jagdeshwar Reddy & B. Vasumathi
Dr. B. Mahender Reddy & B. Manjulatha
Dr. B. Vidyasagar (Late B. Anitha)
A. Shobha & A. Ranga Reddy and Family Members
Cremation: 18th Jan 10.00am, Mahaprastanam, Jubliee Hills. 9866002000

OBITUARY

T.S. PRABHAKAR RAO
Technical Manager, ECIL
DOB: 17th Feb. 1948
DOD: 17th Jan 2021
Sirisha Dhandamudy: 9849567266
Sandeep Thalloory: +817014830455
(CA-3507)

శ్రద్ధాంజలి

స్నేహశీలి, నిర్వహణ దక్షతతో
ధన్వంతరి ఫౌండేషన్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ ను
3 లక్షల సభ్యత్వంతో ప్రపంచ వ్యాప్తంగా పటిష్టమైన లక్ష్యాలు సంస్థగా తీర్చిదిద్దిన
శ్రీ వెన్నెలగంటి సుబ్బారావు గారు
dt. 08-01-2021 శుక్రవారం నాడు భగవదైక్యం చెందినారని
బాధాతప్త హృదయంతో తెలియజేయడమైనది.
dt. 19-01-2021న మంగళవారం వైకుంఠ సమారాధన
హైదరాబాద్ స్నేహపుల్ కాలనీ, వీధి నెం.15లో గల వారి
స్వగృహము నందు జరుగును.
ఇట్లు
ధన్వంతరి ఫౌండేషన్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ బ్రాహ్మణ జాగృతి మరియు
అనుబంధ సంస్థల కార్యనిర్వాహక వర్గము, సిబ్బంది

PRARTHANA SABHA

MR. RAJENDRA KUMAR
S/o. Late Raja Tarmakdas Kishandas
(DOB: 25.09.1949 · DOD : 16.01.2021)
PRARTHANA SABHA
on 18.01.2021 from 5 to 5:30 pm
at OUR PALACE, Road No. 10,
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad
In grief:
Smt. Padmavati Tarmakdas (Mother)
Smt. Brijbala Rajendra Kumar (Wife)
Arvind Kumar T Das (Brother)
Chaitania R Kumar (Son) & Family
Ph: 9849022132, 9949000056, 9390311119

OBITUARY
....Blessed are the dead which die in the LORD....
- Rev 14:13

B. S. MARY
Our beloved Mother/Eldest Sister went to be with the LORD in the early hours of yesterday (17-01-2021)
We request your presence for the Memorial Service to be held at Safilguda tomorrow 19-01-2021 (Tuesday)
Inserted by Sons & Siblings
Rsvp: 98484 38484, 98499 94206

14th ANNIVERSARY

N. SATYANARAYANA (Advocate)
DOD : 18-01-2007
You will always remain in our hearts and continue to inspire us.
Inserted by:
Ramadevi (Wife)
& All Family members.

21st ANNIVERSARY

Sri S. RATHNAKER RAO
(Prop. Engineering Enterprises)
Expired: 18-01-2000
Family & Friends
Resi.: 303, Venkatarama Towers, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-29.
Off: 5-9-47/13, Basheerbagh.
Ph: 9848018991/23241233

1st Death Anniversary

Shri D V Subba Rao
DOD: 18th January 2020
We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there.
Inserted by: Srinivas Dronamraju
Cell: 98668 54983

# 400-year-old well still gives water to people and cattle

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
KANCHANPALLI (KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD), JAN. 17

An ancient drinking water well, around 400 years old, is still quenching the thirst of people and cattle in interior Komaram Bheem district. This is located on the outskirts of Kanchanpalli village in Lingapur mandal.

The well is popularly known as 'Kantam Kuhi'; broadly meaning a drinking water well that even in summer has a minimum of neck-deep water level. It never dried in the duration of the past six generations. The wooden logs used in the well are as old and still intact. Locals say the Gond rajas dug up this well.

The traditional water pumping system called 'Etham' is attached to this well. Etham is used when water level goes down during the summer. Atram Jangu Bapu, the raja of Kanchanpalli who set up the village Kanchanpalli dug up the well for the villagers. Atram Bheemrao, of the present 6th generation of the family, told *Decan Chronicle* that Raja Jangu Bapu belonged to the family's first generation.

He said the people of the surrounding villages too draw drinking water from this well. Cattle grazers along with their cattle frequently come to the Kantam Kuhi to quench their thirst; as do agriculture labourers and farmers from the surrounding agriculture fields.

The water level in the well, at times, is so high that one can collect water by just bending the body.

# Vinod says fill KV vacancies

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

**VINOD KUMAR wrote a letter to Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal seeking that vacancies in KVs be filled on priority.**

Telangana Planning Board vice-chairman Boyini Vinod Kumar on Sunday demanded that the Centre expedite efforts to fill up vacancies with regular staff in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) in the state.

The schools are a popular choice of parents who expect quality education and one that would be better than local educational institutions.

Vinod Kumar wrote a letter to Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal seeking that vacancies in KVs be filled on priority.

He said the current staff of the 35 KV schools in Telangana state was brought to his notice by aggrieved parents, who were worried about their children due to non-availability of sufficient teaching staff.

Kumar pointed out that the deputy commissioner of KVs in Hyderabad has given information with regard to unfilled vacancies across Telangana. Of 1,208 sanctioned strength of teaching staff, only 959 regular staff is working while there are 131 contractual teaching staff.

He stated that when he was a Member of Parliament, he had interacted with students, teachers and principals of Karimnagar KV. He realized that being understaffed they were unable to provide quality education.

# Poor security leaves shrines open to attack

## All temples should be equipped with modern surveillance equipment

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 17

Absence of surveillance and security measures in several temples is helping gangs in committing crimes. The series of incidents in recent weeks took place in such temples, police said and stressed that these had happened in past years too.

AP Police initiated or strengthened surveillance steps for holy places under which, for the first time in the country, as many as 58,871 temples were geo-tagged in the 13 districts. Committees were formed with locals for protection of religious places.Attacks on temples took place in previous periods too, but this time some political parties made a big hue and cry even in the matter of minor incidents. Mainly, the Telugu Desam, the BJP and the Jana Sena were in the forefront while other Hindu organisations too raised their voice.

As per records, 163 temple offences were registered in 2015, in which 12 were of idol desecration/idol theft, 144 of ornament theft, six of digging of temple premises and one of chariot burning. The temple offences increased to 207 in 2016, in which 31 cases were of idol desecration/idol theft, 139 of ornament theft, three of digging the temple premises and 34 of temple demolitions.

In 2017, as many as 139 temple offences registered in which 25 were of idol desecration/idol theft, 113 of ornament theft and one of digging a temple premises.

As many 123 temple offences were registered in 2018, in which 29 were of idol desecration/idol theft, 91 of ornament theft, two of diggings the temple premises and one of temple demolition. In 2019, as many as 177 temple offences were registered, in which 22 were of idol desecration/idol theft, 151 of ornament theft, four of digging the temple premises and two of chariot burning.

In 2020, 143 temple offences were registered, in which 34 were of idol desecration/idol theft, 103 of ornament thefts, four of diggings the temple premises and two of chariot burning. In the corresponding year 2021, six temple offences were registered in which four were of idol desecration/idol theft and two of ornament theft.

**FOR INSTANCE,** of the temples in one-town area of Vijayawada city, only four temples are equipped with CCTV cameras and the rest 28 did not have cameras. Only six temples have security guards and there was no protection for 26 temples, which reflected the poor security and protective measures.

There are 23,834 recognised temples under the supervision of the state government through the endowment department. Further, nearly 25,000 temples belong to private individuals and committees. Barring a few big temples, the majority of these temples lacked surveillance and security measures.

For instance, of the 32 temples in one-town area of Vijayawada city, only four temples are equipped with CCTV cameras and the rest 28 did not have cameras. Only six temples have security guards and there was no protection for 26 temples, which reflected the poor security and protective measures.

Temple priest S. Rama Murthy said habitual temple offenders would rob the hundis, take away ornaments and ancient idols. They sometimes do digging for treasure hunt.

He said many temple committees would not initiate measures to appoint security guards and install surveillance systems. All temples should be equipped with modern surveillance equipment and these be linked with the concern police stations.

APDGP Gautam Sawang said the police department geo-tagged 58,871 temples in AP and 43,824 CCTV cameras were installed for continuous surveillance. This was the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country. The police also set up communal harmony committees at state, district and police station levels for the protection of religious places. Minister for endowment Vellampalli Srinivas said all the temples were instructed to initiate security measures. A majority of the temples are following the norms and the rest would install protective measures in coming days, he said.

# 2 celestial brass idols stolen from temple

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 17

Two celestial brass idols were stolen from a temple in broad daylight at Guntur on Sunday and an alert police arrested the culprit within hours.

Police said the accused came to the Kusma Haranatha temple and stole two brass idols from there. The temple is situated near the Chamber of Commerce building in the busy Jinnah Tower centre in Guntur.

The temple representative found the missing of the two brass celestial idols of Kusuma and Haranath at 10.30am and called in the police. Guntur urban SP RN Ammi Reddy said the two celestial idols were 30 years old. Police formed three teams led by Guntur east DSP B Seetaramaiah to track the culprit(s).

He said a person was found suspiciously moving around at Kodi Guddu Satram area. Police detained him and found the two brass idols in his possession. The police identified him as Polisetti Durga (21) belonging to 9th lane of Kattavari street in Old Guntur area. He was arrested.

The SP said Durga was a habitual offender and involved in two cases in Guntur police station limits and one in Krishnalanka police station of Vijayawada. The police started an investigation to ascertain the real motto behind the idol theft. He announced rewards to the police staff for their swift action and arrest of the accused.

# Iron mesh put at all entry, exit points

**From page 1**

"On Saturday night, we received information about wild boars straying. As an immediate measure, we have arranged iron mesh and chain-links at all entry and exit points along the four mada streets. To put an end to this menace, we are in consultation with forest officials for chalking out plans to erect such fences on the outer corridor of Tirumala, so that the wild animals will not be able to enter the inner corridor", Reddy explained.

In fact, the abode of Lord Venkateswara located in the midst of the lush green Seshachalam biosphere, is home to many wild and endangered animals, including elephants, leopards, hyena, golden jackal, Indian fox, jungle cat, sloth bear, spotted deer, mouse deer, and four-horned antelope.

The TTD, which manages the affairs of the holy shrine, keeps a tab on the movement of wild animals especially leopards and elephants to keep them at bay from the temple town. They rely on advanced surveillance systems and take measures accordingly.

# Kurnool airport to propel temple tourism

**Kurnool, Jan. 17:** With Kurnool airport now all set to take off, there is a great scope for promotion of temple tourism besides giving impetus to real estate development.

The location of Orvakal, about 25 kilometers from Kurnool, where the airport is to commence its operations, is almost midway between Nandyal and Kurnool.

Finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, who had pursued the realisation of the airport in its last lap, gave the finishing touches as the air project was moving back and forth in the last two decades.

Parliament Standing Committee chairman on transport, tourism and culture, T.G. Venkatesh, said that temple tourism can flourish once Kurnool airport is open.

# THREE HELD FOR THEFT IN TEMPLES

**Vizianagaram, Jan 17:** The Vizianagaram police arrested three persons in three incidents of thefts in temples the past one week. The three were B Jagadeesh (20), K. Narayana (28) and G. Prasad (30).

Vizianagaram police chief B Raja Kumari said they have received complaints related to theft of collection boxes and other items in three different temples.

This is a public announcement for information purposes only and is not a prospectus announcement.This does not constitute an invitation or offer to acquire, purchase or subscribe for securities. Not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly outside India.

# INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited on December 12, 1986, as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi & Haryana ("**RoC**"). Thereafter, our Company received a certificate of commencement of business from the RoC on December 23, 1986. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India ("**MCA**"), through its notification dated October 8, 1993, classified our Company as a Public Financial Institution under Section 4(A) of the Companies Act, 1956 (now defined in Section 2(72) of the Companies Act, 2013). Subsequently, our Company was registered with Reserve Bank of India ("**RBI**") under Section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934 to carry on the business of a non-banking financial institution without accepting public deposits, pursuant to a certificate of registration bearing No.14.00013 dated February 16, 1998. Subsequently, vide a fresh certificate of registration bearing No.14.00013, dated March 17, 2008, RBI classified our Company as a non-deposit accepting asset finance non-banking financial company. Thereafter, our Company was re-classified as an NBFC-ND-IFC by RBI, through a fresh certificate of registration bearing No. B-14.00013, dated November 22, 2010. For further details, including details of change in registered office of our Company, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters"* on page 127 of the Red Herring Prospectus ("**RHP**") dated January 12, 2021, filed by the Company.

**Registered and Corporate Office:** UG-Floor, East Tower, NBCC Place, Bisham Pitamah Marg, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003; **Tel:** +91 (11) 2436 9766

**Contact Person:** Vijay Babulal Shirode, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel:** +91 (11) 2436 8068; **E-mail:** cs@irfc.nic.in; **Website:** www.irfc.nic.in; **Corporate Identification Number:** U65910DL1986GOI026363

## OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ("MoR")

**INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO 1,782,069,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED ("OUR COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [•] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹[•] PER EQUITY SHARE) (THE "ISSUE PRICE") AGGREGATING TO ₹ [•] MILLION ("ISSUE") CONSISTING OF A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO 1,188,046,000 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING TO ₹ [•] MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 594,023,000 EQUITY SHARES BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MoR ("SELLING SHAREHOLDER"), AGGREGATING TO ₹ [•] MILLION ("OFFER FOR SALE"). THE ISSUE INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [•] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING TO ₹ 5.00 MILLION FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE ISSUE LESS EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS REFERRED TO AS THE NET ISSUE. THE ISSUE AND THE NET ISSUE WILL CONSTITUTE UP TO 13.64 % AND [•] % RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST ISSUE PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY. THE FACE VALUE OF EACH EQUITY SHARE IS ₹ 10. THE ISSUE PRICE IS [•] TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.**

**QIB Category: Not more than 50% of the Net Issue | Retail Individual Investors Category: Not less than 35% of the Net Issue**
**Non Institutional Category: Not less than 15% of the Net Issue | Employee Reservation Portion: Up to ₹ 5.00 million**

**Price Band: ₹ 25 per Equity Share to ₹ 26 per Equity Share of face value of ₹ 10 each.**
**The Floor Price is 2.50 times the face value and the Cap Price is 2.60 times the face value of the Equity Shares.**
**Bids can be made for a minimum of 575 Equity Shares and in multiples of 575 Equity Shares thereafter.**

**ASBA*** | **Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!** | **Mandatory in public issue. No cheque will be accepted.** | *Application supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

**UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors.****
**Bidders are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.**

**UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Bidders ("**RIBs**") (up to ₹ 2,00,000), applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, DPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (**SCSBs**) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "***Issue Procedure***" beginning on page 371 of the Red Herring Prospectus. The process is also available on the website of AIBI and Stock Exchanges in the General Information Document. ASBA bid cum application forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**BSE**", and together with NSE, the "**Stock Exchanges**") and can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ICICI Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Issue, in accordance with the requirements of the UPI Circular dated November 1, 2018, as amended.

**Risks to Investors**

I. **The four merchant bankers associated with the Issue have handled 22 issues in the past three financial years, out of which 9 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.**
II. **There are no listed peers in India engaged in Issuer's line of business.**
III. **Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholder is ₹ 10 per Equity Share and the Issue Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 26 per Equity Share.**
IV. **Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for last three financial years is 11.00%.**

**BID/ISSUE PROGRAMME**

**OPENS TODAY**
**CLOSES ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021**

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Issue Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/Issue Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, our Company may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid / Issue Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/ Issue Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Issue Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a press release, and also by indicating the change on the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers and at the terminals of the other Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries.

The Issue is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("**SCRR**"), read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("**SEBI ICDR Regulations**"). In accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, the Issue is being made through the Book Building Process wherein not more than 50% of the Net Issue shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**") ("**QIB Portion**"), provided that our Company and the Selling Shareholder, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("**Anchor Investor Portion**"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. In the event of undersubscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the Net QIB Portion. Further 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining Net QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Issue shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Issue shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price. Further, [•] Equity Shares shall be reserved for allocation on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees bidding under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Issue Price. All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) shall mandatorily participate in the Issue through an Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of the bank account which will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("**SCSBs**"). Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Issue through the ASBA process. For details, see *"Issue Procedure"* on page 371 of the RHP.

**Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form/Application Form, the Bidders/Applicants may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Issue, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidders/Applicants as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for any correspondence(s) related to the Issue. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants' sole risk. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that PAN, DP ID the Client ID and the UPI ID, as applicable, are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form/Application Form. The PAN, DP ID and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form/Application Form should match with the PAN, DP ID and Client ID available in the depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active.**

**Contents of the Memorandum of the Company as regards its Objects:** For information on the main objects and other objects of our Company, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters"* on page 127 of the RHP and Clause III of the Memorandum of Association of our Company. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Issue. For further details, see the section *"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"* on page 402 of the RHP.

**Liability of the members of the Company:** Limited by shares.

**Amount of share capital of the Company and Capital Structure:** The authorised share capital of our Company is divided into 25,000,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each constituting ₹ 250,000,000,000. The issued, subscribed and paid up share capital of our Company is ₹ 118,804,600,000 divided into 11,880,460,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each. For further details, see "*Capital Structure*" on page 70 of the RHP.

**Names of initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them:** The initial signatories of the Memorandum of Association are Mr. Prakash Narain, Mr. Prakash Narain, Mr. Srinivasa Ramaswamy, Mr. Saroj Kumar Mitra, Mr. Satish Mohan Vaish, Mr. Raj Kumar Jain, Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Singh and Mr. Amar Nath Wanchoo who subscribed to one Equity Share each of face value of ₹ 1,000 each of our Company. The liability of the members of the Company is limited. For details of the main objects of the Company as contained in the Memorandum of Association, see "***History and Certain Corporate Matters***" on page 127 of the RHP.

**Listing:** The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received an 'in-principle' approval from the BSE and the NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters dated January 30, 2020 and January 31, 2020, respectively. For the purposes of the Issue, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be NSE. A copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be delivered for filing with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of filing of the Red Herring Prospectus up to the Bid/Issue Closing Date, see **"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"** on page 402 of the RHP.

**Disclaimer Clause of SEBI:** SEBI only gives its observations on the draft issue documents and this does not constitute approval of either the issue stated in the specified securities or the issue document. The investors are advised to refer to page 348 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

**Disclaimer Clause of NSE (the Designated Stock Exchange):** "It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the issue document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the issue document". The investors are advised to refer to page 358 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

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| BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS | | | | REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE | COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| **DAM Capital Advisors Limited**<br>(Formerly known as IDFC Securities Limited)<br>One BKC, Tower C, 15th Floor, Unit No. 1511, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.<br>Telephone: +91 22 4202 2500<br>E-mail: irfc.ipo@damcapital.in<br>Investor grievance e-mail: complaint@damcapital.in<br>Contact Person: Kunal Thakkar<br>Website: www.damcapital.in<br>SEBI Registration No.: MB/INM000011336 | **HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited**<br>52/60, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001, Maharashtra, India<br>Telephone: +91 (22) 2268 5555<br>E-mail: irfcipo@hsbc.co.in<br>Investor grievance e-mail: investorgrievance@hsbc.co.in<br>Contact Person: Sanjana Maniar<br>Website: www.business.hsbc.co.in/engb/in/generic/ipo-open-offer-andbuyback<br>SEBI Registration No.: INM000010353 | **ICICI Securities Limited**<br>ICICI Center, H.T. Parekh Marg, Churchgate, Mumbai – 400020, Maharashtra, India<br>Telephone: +91 (22) 2288 2460/70<br>E-mail: irfc.ipo@icicisecurities.com<br>Investor grievance e-mail: customercare@icicisecurities.com<br>Contact Person: Shekher Asnani/Anurag Byas<br>Website: www.icicisecurities.com<br>SEBI Registration No.: INM000011179 | **SBI Capital Markets Limited**<br>202, Maker Tower 'E', Cuffe Parade, Mumbai – 400 005, Maharashtra, India<br>Telephone: +91 (22) 2217 8300<br>E-mail: irfc.ipo@sbicaps.com<br>Investor grievance e-mail: investor.relations@sbicaps.com<br>Contact Person: Aditya Deshpande<br>Website: www.sbicaps.com<br>SEBI Registration No.: INM000003531 | **KFin Technologies Private Limited (formerly known as "Karvy Fintech Private Limited")**<br>Selenium Tower-B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Hyderabad 500 032, Telangana, India<br>Telephone: +91 40 6716 2222<br>Email: einward.ris@kfintech.com<br>Investor grievance email: irfc.ipo@kfintech.com<br>Contact Person: M. Murali Krishna<br>Website: www.kfintech.com<br>SEBI Registration No: INR000000221 | Investors can contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Issue in case of any pre-Issue or post-Issuer related problems such as non-receipt of letter of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund intimations and non-receipt of funds by electronic mode. |

**Availability of RHP:** Investors are advised to refer to the RHP, and the "***Risk Factors***", beginning on page 24 of the RHP, before applying in the Issue. Full copy of the RHP is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the BRLMs at www.damcapital.in, www.business.hsbc.co.in/engb/in/generic/ipo-open-offer-andbuyback, www.icicisecurities.com and www.sbicaps.com and the websites of BSE and NSE i.e. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively.

**Availability of Bid-cum-Application Forms:** Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of the Company, **Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, Tel**: +91 (11) 2436 9766; the BRLMs: **DAM Capital Advisors Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Securities Limited),** Telephone: +91 22 4202 2500, **HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 (22) 2268 5555, **ICICI Securities Limited,** Telephone: +91 (22) 2288 2460/70 and **SBI Capital Markets Limited,** Telephone: +91 (22) 2217 8300, at selected location of the sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Issue. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

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**Escrow Collection Bank/Refund Bank/Public Issue Account Bank:** Axis Bank Limited.

**Sponsor Bank:** ICICI Bank Limited.

**UPI:** Retail Individual Investors Bid through UPI mechanism.

**All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.**

For **Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited**
On behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

**Date:** January 16, 2021
**Place:** New Delhi

Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi. The RHP is available on the websites of SEBI, BSE and NSE at www.sebi.gov.in, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the websites of the BRLMs i.e. DAM Capital Advisors Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Securities Limited), HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, ICICI Securities Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.damcapital.in, https://www.business.hsbc.co.in/en-gb/in/generic/ipo-open-offer-and-buyback, www.icicisecurities.com and www.sbicaps.com, respectively. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see the section titled "***Risk Factors***" on page 24 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP or Addendum dated October 23, 2020 filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Securities Act") or any other applicable law of the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) within the United States only to persons reasonably believed to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A and referred to in the RHP as "U.S. QIBs". For the avoidance of doubt, the term "U.S. QIBs" does not refer to a category of institutional investor defined under applicable Indian regulations and referred to in the RHP as "QIBs") in transactions exempt from, or not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act, and (ii) outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S and pursuant to the applicable laws of the jurisdictions where those offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering in the United States.

Adfactors

DECCAN Chronicle

18 JANUARY 2021

# Transparency the key to success of vaccine drive

India has a population of 136 crore people and the highest number of Covid-affected people after the United States, and hence a campaign to inoculate the entire population is critical to the success of humanity's fight against the pandemic. It ought to be an exercise without parallel in history for the sheer number of the target group and the logistical and economic challenges it would face. The Union government is working with the states and vaccine manufacturers to ensure that about three crore people, who are mainly Covid warriors, are inoculated in the first phase with two made-in-India vaccines in a drive that began on Saturday. Reports say 1.91 lakh people were vaccinated on the first day against a target of three lakh.

Everyone wants the campaign to be a success, but it is regrettable that the government has been less than transparent about it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes justifiable pride in the fact that both the vaccines are made in India and underlines the role of Indian scientists in making it happen. But the truth is that one of the two vaccines, Covaxin, which is developed jointly by the Indian Council of Medical Research and Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Limited, and manufactured by the latter, has been in a clinical trial mode. Those people who were given the Covaxin jab were made to sign a consent form, which says that they are participating in a trial. A section of doctors in the government-run Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi insisted that they be given the vaccine developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India. They said they are a bit apprehensive about the lack of complete trial in the case of Covaxin.

**The government must be upfront about the whole programme and respect science and scientific processes. Tom-tomming national pride is not a great idea in the face of a pandemic.**

This is unfair and unacceptable. If a vaccine is under trial and has not gone through the due process, then its administration should be called a clinical trial, and not vaccination. It should be given only to volunteers and its administration should not be part of the inoculation campaign. This is the minimum the government owes to the people. The Prime Minister's statement that Indian vaccine scientists, medical system, Indian process and institutional mechanism are trusted globally and that this trust is earned with a consistent track record is true, but it does not square with the present campaign. Also true is the fact that about 60 per cent of children the world over receive life-saving vaccines which are made in India and passed through stringent Indian scientific tests; but the only point is that Covaxin has not gone through those tests.

That the head of All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the member (health) of Niti Aayog took the Covaxin jab proves nothing; it can only be seen as a persuasive act. Even if the Prime Minister is administered the vaccine, it proves nothing except sending a message on vaccination, not on the vaccine. The government must be upfront about the whole programme and respect science and scientific processes. Tom-tomming national pride is not a great idea in the face of a pandemic.

# Afghan: Get US to stay on

When he assumes charge as US President two days from now, it is not quite clear yet if Joe Biden can change tracks in significant ways from Donald Trump's policy of a complete withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan by May this year, but this is a matter that cannot but deeply concern the government of President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul. Among the regional powers, India is on the same wavelength as the Ghani government. It is to be hoped that the incoming Biden administration begins to seriously invest in counter-terrorism in the Afghanistan theatre.

This is in view of the monstrous proportions terrorist violence has assumed all through 2020 after the Trump administration signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February last year under which the US troops have been withdrawn almost entirely. In the last quarter of 2020, more than 500 civilians were killed in the country and more than 1,000 injured. There have been targeted assassinations of prominent politicians, social workers and journalists. Vice-president Amrullah Saleh, well known for his opposition to Pakistan's policy of promoting extremism and terrorism in Pakistan, barely escaped death. Places of worship and educational institutions have been bombed. Only last week, a plot to assassinate highly placed US diplomatic officials in Kabul is thought to have been mounted.

It is in this backdrop that national security advisor Ajit Doval was in Kabul last week. If the Taliban assume real control in Kabul as a result of the peace deal, whatever the appearances, we may expect a full-fledged renewal of terrorism-related pressure on India from the Pakistan side. On January 13, after Mr Doval called on President Ghani, the Afghanistan President's office said in a media release, "Both sides discussed counter-terrorism cooperation and efforts for building regional consensus on supporting peace in Afghanistan." The statement also quoted Dr Ghani as saying that "Afghanistan and India in joint efforts with Nato and the United States will be able to succeed in the fight against terrorism".

As a leading regional player invested in peace in Afghanistan, it redounds on India to persuade the new government in Washington to re-establish the focus on counter-terrorism, and to coordinate peace-oriented moves with Kabul and like-minded regional players.

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Subhani

# Bolstering corporates was intent of farm laws

Manish Tewari

**State of the Union**

The recent Supreme Court decision staying the farm laws, protecting the minimum support price regime and directing that no farmer would be dispossessed of his land is appropriate under the given circumstances. Perhaps if the committee appointed by the Supreme Court could also have also been constituted in consultation with the protesting farmer unions, it would have inspired far greater confidence.

When the Supreme Court finally does decide to hear the farm laws matter, for many petitions that deal with equally contentious decisions taken by the current government continue hanging fire in the apex court, it must keep in mind that agriculture, with its allied sectors, are the largest source of livelihoods in India.

A total of 70 per cent of our rural households still depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood. Of them, 82 per cent of farmers are small and marginal. On the whole, about 60 per cent of the Indian population, i.e. 81 crore people, are agriculture-dependent.

They can be called small entrepreneurs, for they mostly own the land they till and it is their labour on that small patch, varying from one to five acres, that keeps the home fires burning. The average size of a land holding in India is 1.16 hectares. This is roughly 2.8 acres. Moreover, these farm laws also have the added potential of making us import-dependent bringing back the spectre of ship-to-mouth that the green revolution finally surmounted in the early 1970s.

These farm laws are actually intended to give Corporate India a legal licence to muscle in on these small guys who have unequal or no bargaining power.

Look at what has happened to the Indian economy over the past 80 months. The chairperson of the Competition Commission Of India in a recent interview stated, "The Commission has now decided to undertake market studies in pharmaceutical sector, telecom sector and digital market sector… The Commission has received cases with allegations of anti-competitive conduct by market players in these sectors as well as reviewed various combination notices in these sectors…" The goal is to ensure that competition remains "vibrant" and "there are enough players who are able to participate in the award of concessions".

A classical example of this is the aviation sector where the government despite opposition from both the department of economic affairs (DEA) ministry of finance and the Niti Aayog allowed the Adani Group of companies to take six key airports and also acquire a controlling stake in both the Mumbai and the upcoming greenfield Navi Mumbai Airport. These seven airports, namely Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai, roughly handled 80 million passengers during the last fiscal (2019-20). This converts into nearly one-fourth of the 340 million odd domestic air passenger traffic.

On the 11th of December 2018 when the NDA/BJP government's public private partnership appraisal committee (PPPAC) considered the civil aviation ministry's privatisation pitch, the DEA in a note ostensibly red-flagged it, stating, "These six airports projects are highly capital-intensive projects, hence it is suggested to incorporate the clause that not more than two airports will be awarded to the same bidder duly factoring the high financial risk and performance issues. Awarding them to different companies would also facilitate yardstick competition."

Niti Aayog also surprisingly demonstrated spine and, in a note, opined, "A bidder lacking sufficient technical capacity can well jeopardise the project and compromise the quality of services that the government is committed to provide."

Brushing aside these concerns, the government still went ahead and allowed one company with no previous experience in airport management to take control of all these airports albeit through a public auction.

However, therein lies the problem. Even if it is through the bidding route allowing monopolies to develop in sector after sector of the economy tantamount to creating economic oligarchies and chaebols.

An oligarchy is a country or industry that is controlled by a small group of powerful people while a chaebol denotes a "wealth clique" in Korean. They are popularly assumed to have been influenced by the Japanese zaibatsu — both sharing the same Chinese characters and meaning. Like chaebols, zaibatsus were also family controlled conglomerates that dominated the Japanese economy until they were finally extinguished by the United States during its occupation of Japan post World War II.

Country after country has had to deal with these oligarchies and chaebols for ultimately they start influencing the politics of nation in the most pernicious manner possible. The US had to bring the Sherman Anti-Trust Act way back in 1890 to curb concentrations of power that interfere with trade and reduce economic competition. The unsaid part of it was that do not allow corporations to become so powerful so that they start "controlling by influence" the policy frameworks and governance of the state. However, where the government is itself engaged in facilitating the development of these oligarchic chaebol-like structures it becomes even more sinister to put it mildly.

**These farm laws are actually intended to give Corporate India a legal licence to muscle in on these small guys who have unequal or no bargaining power**

The US has used its anti-trust laws to reign in various entities, including Standard Oil, AT&T, Kodak and Microsoft in the twentieth century, to name a few.

Way back in 1909, the Department of Justice of the US government filed a federal anti-trust lawsuit against Standard Oil arguing that the company restrained trade through its preferential deals with railroads, its control of pipelines and by engaging in unfair practices like price-cutting to drive smaller competitors out of business.

On May 15, 1911, the Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of Standard Oil Company, ruling it was in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The court's decision forced Standard to break into 34 independent companies spread across the country and abroad. Many of these companies have since split, folded or merged today. The primary descendants of Standard include ExxonMobil, Chevron and ConocoPhillips. Recently, the US government has gone after Big Tech companies with a wave of anti-trust law suits for it considers their market dominance among other things as dangerous for democracy.

Similarly, South Korea has for long grappled with the malevolent influence of chaebols on their politics. Russia is a typical example where a noxious combination of big business and entrenched political interest are controlling that country since the exit of Boris Yeltsin at the turn of the millennium.

The Supreme Court, therefore, must be mindful of the true intent of these farm laws. It is to further the agenda of further consolidating these oligarchies and chaebols that control a significant part of the Indian economy already and, therefore, are, through their financial, media and other muscle, disproportionately significant players in our democratic and governance ethos.

*The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.*

## LETTERS

### VACCINATION

It is unfortunate that the Opposition is against whatever the government does. Repercussions of such a stand will be irreparable and damage the country's reputation. Every political party must introspect and put themselves in the shoes of the ruling party and cooperate when something good is being done.

**Rau Nidumolu**
*Hyderabad*

The vaccine has come when the virus is almost disappearing on its own. It is weakening and not spreading fast as only a few positive cases are being reported now. At this stage, it will be difficult to judge the effectiveness of the vaccine to produce the desired results. However, people should not be forced to vaccinate. Political leaders who promised free vaccine before Bihar polls, must fulfil them.

**J. Vijay Kumar**
*Secunderabad*

With the surge in Covid cases abroad and lack of information regarding herd immunity, it is the responsibility of every citizen to take Covid vaccination to eradicate the dreaded pandemic. Till then we must follow social distancing, hand washing and wearing masks when we go out.

**V. Nagendra Kumar**
*Hyderabad*

### FREE WATER

The government's 20,000-litre free water scheme to every household is not reaching genuine citizens. They are facing hurdles in linking Aadhaar online as the bills in a few cases have only the initials instead of the full name as it appears in the Aadhaar card. This is the first time consumers are asked to link Aadhaar details to avail benefits.

**Chandrasekhar**
*Secunderabad*

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### TPS has one-point manifesto

HYDERABAD, JANUARY. 17

The Telangana Praja Samithi leader, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, said here today that the Samithi had been converted into a political party only to fulfil the requirement to get a common symbol for TPS candidates in the elections.

Dr. Reddy, who was replying to a question at a "meet the people and the press programme", said the TPS was equidistant from all other political parties though it was "absolutely clear" that "we stand for all progressive things."

Kishwar Desai

**London Diary**

# Long UK lockdown defeats Britons; Spurs' 'shot in arm' for soccer fans

So not only is it very cold but the forecast is also bleak. And the worst is that another lockdown has been announced! As of 2 am on Monday, all travel corridors to the UK will be shut. As they used to say 'Fog in the Channel. Continent isolated. Lockdown in UK. The World isolated!'

Those were the days!

But now the tables have turned. It is the UK that has become even more of an island!

Theatres were pleased last November they could open but now they are shut again as are pubs and restaurants. We have vaccinations slowly covering the population but as of now it will be Easter before the over 50s will be covered. That leaves the younger half of the 70 million to come.

However, what is astonishing is that the latest photos show that the stoic Briton is completely fed up and would rather party than live in isolation. So where will this lead — except for more infections and more deaths? One despairs! This was once a disciplined and well-regulated country. But now as Covid continues to rampage through lives — I am worried about the consequences. With at least 1,000 deaths everyday, in a small nation like this... what terrible impact will Covid have on households, on the economy?

The British may have been great at finding a vaccine that work — coming second, though not first — with AstraZeneca. But technology does not seem to be a strong point. Despite the tough stance of home secretary Priti Patel about fighting crime and immigrants, it turns out the Home Office has managed to wipe out 150,000 (or could be 400,000 no one knows for sure) people's arrest records and with it much sensitive information — their fingerprints, DNA and arrest history. At least that makes those 150,000 happy. No so long ago, a National Health computer lost thousands of names of people who had been infected. We need an abacus urgently.

Meanwhile... Brexit is still causing problems. Now the Atlantic storm Filomena has ruined the Spanish lettuce crop and we have a serious lettuce shortage.

A cheerful event did happen the other day. It was rather like a battle between the elephant and the mouse. The mouse did not win but it did get to ride on the elephant's back for a bit. The FA Cup is a contest where all the football teams — the best ones from Premier League down to local village teams playing in a small league — can contest with each other. Rather like the Mumbai Indians of the IPL playing with a team from a village in Bihar. This year Marine, a village team established back in 1884, and playing in the Northern Premier League Division One, North West, was drawn against the mighty Premier League North London side, Tottenham Hotspurs, in the Third Round. This was on the Marine's home grounds rather than in London on Spurs' home turf. Anyway no spectators are allowed due to Covid. Anyone would expect the mighty Spurs to send their third reserve side to play the minnows 160 places below them in national ranking. But Jose Mourinho, the Spurs Spanish manager, selected their regular top side with a few stars and promising youngsters hoping to show he took the fixture seriously.

The result, alas, was not the unexpected victory of the mouse. The elephant won. But Marines were able to sell 30,000 tickets for watching on Zoom at £10 each. Their ground facility only accommodates 3,185 in all with 389 seats and rest standing. But thanks to Covid and the Big team bringing all the stars, the Marines cleaned up. Their game was shown on BBC. They lost 5-0 but who is counting the goals. Their good luck continued. After a match, players often exchange their shirts as a gesture of friendship. In Covid Times, this is forbidden. But the Spurs promised to send the Marine team a freshly washed set of shirts which then the entire team wore on the day. It is the gesture that made the day.

Good news at last about Noor Inayat Khan. This famous daughter of a Sufi music master fought in the Second World War with the spy code name Madeleine on the British side. She was sent to France where she worked as a radio operator. She was captured but refused to say anything about her associates because, being a Sufi, she would not tell a lie. She was sent to the Dachau concentration camp where she died. Now there will at last be a TV series with Freida Pinto. This is good news for me as well. Long ago, my husband and I had spotted this as excellent story to make a film, and bought the rights for a book on it and even lobbied for it for a long time. But we found the process of filmmaking very daunting, and so am thrilled that 15 years later — something is happening on the OTT platform.

***Kishwar Desai** is an award-winning author.* The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani *is her new book.*

SHORT TAKES

## SHAH: DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME BIGGEST PRIORITY

**Bagalkote (Karnataka), Jan. 17:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said doubling farmers income was the biggest priority of the Narendra Modi government and that the three central farm laws would ensure manifold hike in their earnings.

Since coming to power, the Modi government had increased the budget for the farm sector and also the minimum support price (MSP) for various crops, he said.

"I want to say that if there is any big priority of the Narendra Modi government it is to double the farmers income," he said at an event in Kerakalmatti village in this district in Karnataka.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone and inauguration of farmer-friendly projects of the MRN group, headed by newly inducted Karnataka Minister Murugesh R. Nirani, Shah listed out various programmes and initiatives of the central government for the welfare of the farmers.

Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa led BJP government in the state too has not left any stone unturned to work for the welfare of farmers, the Home Minister said.

If there was any government that was in the forefront of implementing central schemes and programmes in the country, it was the government here, he added.

## CBI BRINGS SUBHRA KUNDU FOR QUESTIONING

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 17

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials on Sunday brought Subhra Kundu, the wife of Rose Valley Group chairman Gautam Kundu, to Bhubaneswar for questioning.

As per sources, the CBI is keen to conduct further probe in connection with the Rose Valley chit fund scam in Odisha. The group has allegedly cheated thousands of depositors, promising high returns on investments in its illegal schemes.

According to CBI sources, the amount of money garnered by Rose Valley through such schemes could be more than ₹12,000 crore.

The CBI is expected to conduct an intensive investigation to ascertain the involvement of other persons in the scam in Odisha. Subhra Kundu's husband Gautam Kundu is also in jail since March 2015.

As per reports, Subhra was also running a jewellery chain — Adrija — which has been sealed since the investigation started. Subhra Kundu was reportedly arrested from her apartment in south Kolkata. She was earlier brought to the CBI office at the CGO complex at Salt Lake for questioning.

Subhra had also faced interrogation several times by the CBI and ED since 2015 when her husband was arrested.

The Rose Valley group has allegedly made substantial investments in hotels and resorts across the country including Odisha and Bengal by duping scores of people.

At least 174 chit fund firms, including Rose Valley Group, AT Group, Seashore and Micro Finance Group have looted 20 lakh people, especially small depositors, by promising high returns on their investments.ged links with the ponzi firms.

## Indian Navy prepares for Republic-Day

Indian Navy contingent prepare for the Republic Day parade in full swing, starting their practice in the early hours practices, at Rajpath in New Delhi, on Sunday. — *PTI*

# Missing Scindia at party function raises eyebrows

### Opposition Congress described the development as a 'sign of rift'

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC
BHOPAL, JAN. 17

Senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia's absence at a party function here on Sunday, organised to felicitate new office-bearers of the state unit, has raised many eyebrows here with the Opposition Congress describing the development as a "sign of rift" between him and state BJP leadership.

Madhya Pradesh Congress unit vice-president Raja Pateria said Scindia's absence was significant considering the inadequate representation given to his camp in the recent reorganisation of the party. "Only one leader from Scindia's camp has been accommodated. This indicates all is not well in the BJP in MP", Pateria said.

Madan Kushwaha, a leader from Gwalior considered Scindia's loyalist, has been appointed state secretary. The BJP dismissed the charges, describing it a "conspiracy theory manufactured by the Congress."

"It is not necessary for Scindia to attend all party events. He has expressed his best wishes to all the newly-appointed office-bearers individually. Many senior leaders such as Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar were also not present at the function. It is the Congress which promotes the 'my men, his men' culture. The BJP shuns such culture," state BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said.

State party president V.D. Sharma and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were among the senior party leaders who were present on the occasion.

Hailing Sharma for giving an opportunity to the next generation leaders in his team, the Chief Minister said BJP always promoted young people unlike the Congress which never dared to look beyond its old guard. In the reconstituted BJP in MP, there are 12 new vice-presidents, 12 state secretaries, a treasurer, an assistant treasurer, an office secretary and a media in-charge.

## Cong seeks to fight 130 seats in WB, Left rejects demand

RAJIB CHOWDHURI I DC
KOLKATA, JAN. 17

Bargaining for the main face of its alliance with the Left Front in the coming West Bengal Assembly elections, the Congress has sought to contest in as many as 130 out of 294 seats with a plan to finalise their joint candidates list within this month. But the Left parties have clearly rejected the Congress' demand, leading to an argument over the seat-sharing formula between the two partners at a meeting on their alliance in Kolkata on Sunday.

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who placed his party's demand for 130 seats, became so angry at the Left's response that he almost stormed out of the meeting. Chowdhury, who is also the state Congress chief, was stopped by Rajya Sabha MP Pradip Bhattacharya, who was present along with the party's Assembly leader Abdul Mannan.

At the meeting, Chowdhury named six districts— Malda, Murshidabad, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Bankura and Purulia — where the Congress would field a majority of its 130 candidates, party insiders said. Left Front chairman Biman Bose and other leaders, including CPI(M) state secretary Suryakanta Mishra, reminded the Berhampore MP that Left candidates should be fielded in these districts in view of their votebank.

Ironically, the Congress, which won 44 seats in the 2016 Assembly polls, has been reduced to 24 in the House after 19 of its MLAs defected to the ruling Trinamul Congress and one to the BJP. The Left, which had 33 MLAs five years ago, has been reduced to 25. With no outcome from Sunday's meeting, the two partners will sit again on January 25 before an announcement on their seat-sharing formula and candidates' list, possibly on January 28.

Silent on the Congress' demand of 130 seats, Chowdhury later said: "The Congress and the Left have to fight the Assembly polls unitedly as a secular democratic alliance to defeat a communal BJP and an autocratic Trinamul Congress. We are heading in that direction. Our meeting, held in a cordial environment, was not only peaceful but also a friendly discussion through exchange of opinions. None of us wants to put anything onto each other. We want to finalise our seat-sharing within this month. It is a process and cannot be finalised overnight. As the Left will discuss it among its constituents, we will do the same."

Echoing him, Bose said: "There is no gap in understanding between the Congress and the Left. There is no bitterness between us over the lack of results on the seat-sharing."

## SHIV SENA TO CONTEST IN UPCOMING WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

SONU SHRIVASTAVA I DC
MUMBAI, JAN. 17

In a bid to damage the prospects of the BJP, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Sunday formally announced that it would contest the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. The elections which are expected to witness a high-octane fight may be scheduled in April-May this year.

Shiv Sena spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut said, "So, here is the much awaited update. After discussions with Party Chief Shri Uddhav Thackeray, Shivsena has decided to contest the West Bengal Assembly Elections. We are reaching Kolkata soon." Raut also Tweeted this decision in Bangala.

In 2019, the Sena had contested the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal. Last year, it had contested the Bihar elections. However, all its candidates had failed to save even their deposits. The Sena polled 0.05 per cent of the total votes in the Bihar elections.

## SHIV SENA, CONG IN SLUGFEST OVER RENAMING OF AURANGABAD

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, JAN. 17

The political slugfest over the renaming of Aurangabad city as Sambhajinagar has continued as the Shiv Sena and the Congress – the alliance partners in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra – have accused each other of indulging in vote bank politics over the issue.

The Shiv Sena has said that the renaming might affect the vote bank of 'secular parties' as it will upset the Muslim community. However, calling its alliance partner a 'hypocrite,' the Congress said Sena is raising the renaming issue for the fear of losing its voters.

Writing for 'Rokhthok', the weekly column in Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', party MP Sanjay Raut said, "Secular parties like the Congress are of the view that Aurangabad should not be renamed as Sambhajnagar. They feel that minority communities like Muslims will not be happy if Aurangabad is renamed and it will affect their vote bank."

"However, Aurangzeb was never secular. He was religiously blind and harboured hatred towards other religions. He considered Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as his enemy and killed Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj brutally. Hence, there should not be any city named after Aurangzeb at least in Maharashtra. Call it 'Shivbhakti' (devotion to Shivaji Maharaj) or Maharashtra's self-esteem," said Mr Raut.

# 2.24 lakh get jab; 447 adverse cases reported

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 17

As the Covid-19 vaccination drive entered the second day, India for the first time reported Sunday that its share of active cases within the total number of infections has shrunk below two per cent. Of the 2,08,826 positive cases reported in the country, the number of active cases had now gone below 1.98 per cent.

While over 1.91 lakh healthcare and frontline workers were vaccinated on the first day, only 17,072 received their jabs in six states on Sunday. The states and UTs have fixed specific days for vaccinations.

Of all 2.24 lakh people who have been vaccinated, 447 developed minor complications. Only three persons who were hospitalised have now been discharged.

India is the only nation in the world, including the United States, Britain and France, to have vaccinated the highest number of people on the first day of the immunisation drive. It is also the only country in the world which started a mass vaccination drive at a time when its infection rate is on the decline. In contrast, in European nations where the vaccination drive started before India, there has been a steep rise in the number of viral infections, posing a serious challenge to their medical facilities.

India has been reporting less than 20,000 daily cases in the past 10 days. Its total recovered cases —10,196,885 — exceed the active cases by 99,88,059. The country's death toll is now 1,52,274, with 181 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.

**INDIA IS** the only nation in the world, including the United States, Britain and France, to have vaccinated the highest number of people on the first day of the immunisation drive.

Of the total active Covid-19 cases, Kerala has the highest number, at 68,633, followed by Maharashtra at 53,163, Uttar Pradesh at 9,162, Karnataka at 8,713, West Bengal at 7,151, and Tamil Nadu at 6,128.

A day after India took its first steps out of the pandemic with shots of the Covishield and Covaxin vaccines, the Congress Party on Sunday hit out at the Centre, asking why didn't Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers take vaccine shots. Congress spokesman Randeep Surjewala also asked the government if people below the poverty line will get free coronavirus vaccines. He raised questions over the price of Covishield and Covaxin doses, and the Centre's decision to allow the export of one of the vaccines before immunising everyone in the country.

In Delhi, where 4,319 healthcare and frontline workers were vaccinated on Saturday, health minister Satyendar Jain said there were 51 cases of minor complications. He said there was one "serious adverse" case, in which the patient was admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences.

## TWO CHINESE HELD IN MONEY LAUNDERING

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 17

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested two Chinese nationals in a money laundering case. Charlie Peng and Carter Lee were arrested in connection with a probe linked to an alleged hawala racket worth an estimated ₹1,000 crore that involved shell or dubious firms.

They were produced before a local court here on Saturday that sent them to 14 days custody.

The ED case against Peng stems from an income-tax department (ITD) investigation of last year and an FIR filed by the Delhi Police special cell against him in 2018.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
e-Tender Notice No. 2020/WP/DDU-2/Mech/WT-13(OPEN) For & On behalf of President of India, Dy.CME-I/WP/Patna invites e-tender for the following works as detailed: **Sl.No. 1. Name of the work and location:** Composite Works (Civil and Mechanical components) involving construction of Industrial sheds (Extension), Track works(Embedded), Drainage system, Electrification and illumination works, Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant (EOT cranes etc) in connection with "Extension of 25T & 50T Bay with 2 nos. Additional crane and 01 no. Pit in Diesel Shed/TRS to facilitate safety checking" at DDU of East Central Railway, **Sl.No. 2. Estimated cost:** Rs. 3,50,58,786.63/- **Sl.No. 3. EMD:** Rs. 3,25,300.00/- **Sl.No. 4. Date & Time for closing of tender:** 18.02.2021 up to 13.00 hrs. **Sl.No. 5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded:** Tender can only be downloaded and Bid from IREPS **website: www.ireps.gov.in** for any other information please contact Office of CAO/Workshop Projects/Indian Railways, Chamber Bhawan, 3rd floor J.C. Road, Patna-800001
**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer-I Workshop Projects/Patna**
**PR/1310/WPO/Mech/T/20-21/44**

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)
OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE
**(1) Name of Work:** Provision of Power Supply & Lighting Arrangement for OHE Depot, Tower Wagon Shed & Traction Sub-station (TSS) between Roha to Verna on Konkan Railway Route in the State of Maharashtra and Goa. **Tender Notice No.: KR/RN-RE/EL/T/1/2021 dt. 18/01/2021. Estimated Cost:** ₹ 76,07,839/- excluding GST. **EMD :** ₹ 1,52,200/-.
**(2) Name of Work:** Electrification of OHE Depot cum AEE/TRD Office and Power Supply Arrangement for Sectioning and Paralleling Post (SP) / Sub-Sectioning and Paralleling Post (SSP) / Traction Sub-Station (TSS) under Karwar Region in the State of Karnataka. **Tender Notice No.: KR/KW-RE/EL/T/2/2021 dt. 18/01/2021. Estimated Cost:** ₹ 79,31,985/- excluding GST. **EMD :** ₹ 1,58,700/-.
**Completion Period:** Three Months. **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender :** 02/02/2021 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender :** On 02/02/2021 at 15.30 Hrs. Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents :** Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.

भारत सरकार Government of India
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग Department of Atomic Energy
क्रय एवं भंडार निदेशालय Directorate of Purchase & Stores
संदर्भ/Ref : DPS/CPU/09/D1/1279/19-20/202 Date: 14/01/2021
e-Tender Notice
भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और की ओर से निदेशक, क्रय एवं भंडार द्वारा निम्नलिखित ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं /Online tenders are invited by Director, P&S for and on behalf of the President of India for following :

| क्रम सं. S. No. | निविदा संख्या Tender Number | संक्षिप्त ब्यौरा Brief Description | निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तारीख/ Due date of submission UPTO 2.30 pm |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DPS/CPU/03/ A3/2294-TPT | X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETER | 23/02/2021 |

संपूर्ण निविदा दस्तावेज वेबसाइट https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं तथा वहाँ से डाउनलोड भी किए जा सकते हैं। निविदा में भाग लेने के लिए एनरोलमेंट अनिवार्य है। निविदाएं केवल ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करनी हैं। तकनीकी सहायता के लिए संपर्क 020-25315555 EXTN No. 6. विक्रेताओं को हमारे उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर एनरोल करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।
Complete tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from website **https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in.** Enrolment is mandatory for participating in Tender. Tenders are to be submitted online only. For Technical assistance. **CONTACT** 020 25315555 EXTN No.6 mail to **support.dpsdae@nextenders.com.** Vendors are encouraged to enroll on our above sited portal.

END OF | AN ERA **Veteran hailed from family of musicians, got basic classical music training from his father**

# Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan passes away

**Mumbai, Jan. 18:** Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan passed away on Sunday afternoon at his residence here. He was 89.

Khan's daughter-in-law Namrata Gupta Khan said that the veteran breathed his last at 12.37 pm at his Bandra home. "Today morning he was fine. We had a 24 hour nurse at home. During his massage he vomited and I ran immediately his eyes were shut and he was breathing slowly. I tried connecting to doctors and when they came he had already died," Namrata said.

She said the family is in shock due to Khan's sudden demise as he was keeping well. The musician was going to turn 90 on March 3. Khan had suffered a brain stroke in 2019 and left side of his body was paralysed. Namrata also shared the news of Khan's demise on her Facebook page.

"With a very heavy heart, I inform you all that my father,-in law the pillar of our family and a legend of our nation, Padma Vibhushan Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan sahab has left for his heavenly abode few mins ago," she posted on the social media platform.

Khan's last rites will be performed at Santacruze Kabrastan later this evening. Born on March 3, 1931 in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh, Khan was the eldest son in a family of four brothers and three sisters.

President Ram Nath Kovind confers the Padma Vibhushan on classical singer Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan during the Padma Awards 2018 function at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on March 23, 2018. — *PTI*

His father, Ustad Waris Hussain Khan was the son of celebrated musician Ustad Murred Baksh, while his mother, Sabri Begum, was the daughter of Ustad Inayat Husain Khan, credited as the founder of the Rampur-Sahaswan gharana of music.

Khan got his basic classical music training from his father and later studied music under his cousin, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhusan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018.

In 2003 he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi award, the highest Indian recognition given to practicing artistes.

Soon after Khan's demise his collaborators from Indian music industry including legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar and music composer A.R. Rahman took too social media to pay tributes to the maestro.

Mangeshkar said she was "deeply saddened" by the news of Khan's death. "I got to know the news of passing away of Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan Saheb. I am deeply saddened. He was not only a very good singer but also a very good human being," she said, adding, her niece had also learnt music from him. — *PTI*

SHORT TAKES

## NEW PROTESTS IN FRANCE AGAINST SECURITY BILL

**Paris, Jan. 17:** Tens of thousands of protesters marched across France Saturday to denounce a security bill critics say would restrict the filming of police and posting images to social media, notably to document cases of police brutality.

Thousands marched in Paris and cities across France, many of them angry about they say was the "disproportionate" response by police when they broke up an illegal New Year's rave in Brittany that attracted some 2,400 people.

Estimates of the turnout varied widely between the authorities and the activists: while police put the total turnout across the country at 34,000, organisers insisted it was closer to 2,00,000.

In Paris, the marchers came out despite a rare snowfall, carrying banners with slogans such as "Police everywhere, justice nowhere", and "State of emergency, police state.""It's a strange dictatorship, one asks how far they will go with this law," said one marcher in the northern city of Lille, who identified himself only by his first name Francois. "If this is the case in the country of the rights of man and freedom, then I'm ashamed to be French!" he added.

# 2 Afghan SC women judges shot

## US envoy blames Taliban as new trend of killings target high profile figures

**Kabul, Jan. 17:** Gunmen shot dead two Afghan women judges working for the Supreme Court in an ambush in the country's capital on Sunday, officials said, an attack the top US envoy in Kabul blamed on the Taliban.

Violence has surged across Afghanistan in recent months despite ongoing peace talks between the Taliban and government — especially in Kabul, where a new trend of targeted killings aimed at high-profile figures has sown fear in the restive city.

The latest attack, which US Charge D'Affaires Ross Wilson blamed on the Taliban, comes just two days after the Pentagon announced it had cut troop levels in Afghanistan to 2,500, the fewest in nearly two decades.

The attack on the judges happened as they were driving to their office in a court vehicle, said Ahmad Fahim Qaweem, a spokesman for the Supreme Court. "Unfortunately, we have lost two women judges in today's attack. Their driver is wounded," Qaweem said.

A woman walks at the site where gunmen shot dead two Afghan women judges working for the Supreme Court, in Kabul on Sunday. — *AFP*

There are more than 200 female judges working for the country's top court, the spokesman added.

Kabul police confirmed the attack, which no group has claimed so far.

Afghanistan's Supreme Court was a target in February 2017 when a suicide bomb ripped through a crowd of court employees, killing at least 20 and wounding 41.

The latest attack drew widespread condemnation, with Wilson blaming the Taliban directly as he called for an investigation.

"The Taliban should understand that such actions for which it bears responsibility outrage the world and must cease if peace is to come to Afghanistan," wrote Wilson on Twitter.

The shooting came just hours after a high-level meeting between the Taliban negotiation team and US special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, along with the head of US forces in Afghanistan, General Scott Miller, according to tweets by a Taliban spokesman.

During the sit-down, spokesman Mohammad Naeem said the insurgents called again for the release of the group's remaining jailed fighters, along with the removal of the Taliban from the UN blacklist.

The Afghan government has already released almost 5,000 Taliban inmates despite widespread concern that the fighters would be used to reinforce the insurgents' ranks.

President Ashraf Ghani also accused the Taliban of launching an "illegitimate war and hostility".

"The government once again reiterates its call on the Taliban that violence, terror, brutality and crimes... will only prolong the war in the country," he said in a statement issued by the presidential palace.

The head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission also condemned the murders, calling the ongoing killings a "systematic massacre".

"Afghanistan is losing one of its most important gains, its educated & professional cadre, in what seems to be a systematic massacre & the world seems to be just watching. This must stop," tweeted Shaharzad Akbar.

The killing also spurred a rare statement from the Chinese embassy in Kabul, offering condolences to the victims' families. — *AFP*

# Kremlin critic Navalny takes off to Russia despite threat

**Moscow, Jan. 17:** Chief Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny returns to Russia from Germany on Sunday, facing imminent arrest after authorities warned they would detain him.

The 44-year-old opposition leader is flying back to Moscow after spending several months in Germany recovering from a poisoning attack that he said was carried out on the orders of President Vladimir Putin.

Navalny fell violently ill on a flight over Siberia in August and was flown out to Berlin by medical aircraft in an induced coma.

Western experts concluded he was poisoned with a Soviet-designed nerve toxin Novichok.

The Kremlin denied involvement and Russian investigators said there were no grounds to launch a probe into the attack.

Berlin said Saturday it had responded to requests for legal assistance from Moscow and handed over transcripts of an interview conducted by German police with Navalny.

On the eve of his departure Navalny thanked the people in Germany, including doctors, police and politicians, whom he met during his five-month stay.

"Thank you, friends!" he wrote in German in a post on Instagram.

Russia's prison service (FSIN) is now saying Navalny may face jail time on arrival to Moscow for violating the terms of a 2014 suspended sentence he was handed on fraud charges.

FSIN said it would be "obliged" to detain Navalny. The anti-graft campaigner may also face criminal charges under a probe launched by Russian investigators late last year who say he misappropriated over $4 million worth of donations.

Navalny and his allies view these moves as attempts to prevent his return and encouraged supporters to come meet the opposition leader on Sunday evening when he lands in Moscow's Vnukovo airport. — *AFP*

# CINEMA

## IRAN ASKS U.N. NOT TO PUBLISH 'UNNECESSARY' NUKE DETAILS

**Tehran, Jan. 17:** Iran urged the United Nations' nuclear watchdog to avoid publishing "unnecessary" details on Tehran's nuclear program, state TV reported on Sunday, a day after Germany, France and Britain said Tehran has "no credible civilian use" for its development of uranium metal.

The report quoted a statement from Iran's nuclear department that asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to avoid publishing details on Iran's nuclear program that may cause confusion.

"It is expected the international atomic energy agency avoid providing unnecessary details and prevent paving ground for misunderstanding" in the international community, the statement said. It did not elaborate.

On Saturday, Germany, France and Britain pressed Iran to back off its plan to develop uranium metal, calling it "the latest planned violation" of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The goal of the deal is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, something Iran insists it does not want to do. "Iran has no credible civilian use for uranium metal," they said in a joint statement. — *AP*

## RAINS HAMPER HUNT FOR QUAKE SURVIVORS IN INDONESIA

**Mamuju, JAN. 17:** Torrential monsoon rains hampered the hunt Sunday for anyone still buried alive under buildings flattened by a powerful earthquake on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, after the huge tremor killed at least 81 and left thousands homeless.

Excavators and cranes were deployed across the devastated seaside city of Mamuju, where buildings were reduced to a tangled mass of twisted metal and chunks of concrete, including a hospital and the regional governor's office.

It was unclear how many people — dead or alive — could still be under mountains of debris in the aftermath of Friday's 6.2-magnitude quake. "The rain poses risks because damaged buildings could collapse if it gets too heavy...and aftershocks could move them too," said rescuer Octavianto.

Excavating debris too fast with heavy equipment could crush and kill any buried survivors, he added. —*AFP*

# Bobi Wine confined to home

## Ugandan Oppn leader held after disputed polls

**Kampala, Jan. 17:** Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine remains under "house arrest", his party said on Sunday, after a disputed election returned President Yoweri Museveni to office for a sixth term.

The former ragga singer turned lawmaker came second in the presidential election, and has said the process was marred by widespread fraud and violence. He has not left his home since he went out to vote in the election on Thursday, and on Friday said he was under "siege" as soldiers and police surrounded his home, preventing anyone from entering or leaving.

"Our leader ... is effectively under house arrest," National Unity Platform spokesman Joel Ssenyonyi told a press conference, adding no one was being allowed access.

"His home is not a detention facility. We are very concerned about the state in which he is in, and his wife."A Twitter update under Wine's account, written by an administrator as Uganda remains under an internet blackout for a fifth day, said the couple had "run out of food supplies." The party said prominent MP, Francis Zaake, who had been arrested during an attempted visit to Wine's house on Friday, had been admitted to hospital "badly beaten and brutalised" by security forces. — *AFP*

## A helping hand

A man helps a woman cross a muddy street in the Atme camp for displaced Syrians close to the border with Turkey in Syria's northwestern Idlib province after heavy rains, on Sunday. — *AFP*

# Violent youth protests hit Tunisia amid turmoil

**Tunis, Jan. 17:** Police used tear gas to disperse violent protests led by disgruntled youths in several Tunisian cities overnight, including in the capital of Tunis and in the seaside city of Sousse.

Tunisians in general are angry that the North African country is on the verge of bankruptcy and has dire public services. And many feel disappointed that on the 10-year anniversary of the revolution that ousted autocratic President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali there is little to show in terms of improvement.

Police swooped in as shops and banks were looted and vandalised, arresting "dozens" of youths, according to state news agency *TAP*.

Protesters blocked roads by burning tires and threw stones and other objects at police and businesses, according to the Interior Ministry, which said the situation was now "calm" across the country on Sunday.

**POLICE SWOOPED in as shops and banks were looted and vandalised, arresting "dozens" of youths, according to state news agency TAP.**

Videos circulating on social media showed dramatic chases down alleys between groups of young people and the police who used tear gas to disperse them.

Tunisia on Thursday commemorated the 10th anniversary since the flight into exile of the iron-fisted Ben Ali, who was pushed from power in a popular revolt that foreshadowed the regional pro-democracy uprisings, strife and civil war in North Africa and the Mideast that came to be known as the Arab Spring.

A budding democracy in Tunisia grew out of the aftermath. And yet, despite gains, a pall of disenchantment hangs over the North African country, which has been stressed by extremist attacks, political infighting, a troubled economy and promises unfulfilled, including development of the interior.

Despite guaranteed rights and numerous democratic elections, protests flourish, especially in the central and southern regions where the jobless rate among youth reaches 30 per cent and the poverty level is above 20 per cent. According to the Tunisian Forum of Economic and Social Rights, more than 1,000 demonstrations took place in November alone. — *AP*

# Biden aide slams Trump branding Huthis as ultras

**Washington, Jan. 17:** The outgoing Trump administration's decision to classify Yemen's Huthi rebels as terrorists will only cause more suffering for the people of that war-torn nation, Joe Biden's nominee for national security advisor said on Saturday.

The rebels control much of Yemen and have faced an offensive from US ally Saudi Arabia, with millions in Yemen depending on aid to survive. Designating the Huthis a terrorist group is expected to halt many transactions with Huthi authorities, including bank transfers, paying medical personnel and for food and fuel, due to fears of US prosecution.

"Huthi commanders need to be held accountable, but designating the whole organisation will only inflict more suffering on Yemeni people and impede diplomacy critical to end the war," Biden's pick for national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, tweeted.

The designation is set to come into force on January 19 — the eve of the inauguration of Biden, whose aides had hoped to mount a fresh push to end Yemen's six-year war.

It is also seen as complicating the incoming US leader's promised efforts to restart diplomacy with Iran, which has links to the Huthis.

The terrorist classification has drawn criticism from aid groups, the European Union and many others over fears it will exacerbate the already dire humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

"What is the likely humanitarian impact? The answer is a large-scale famine on a scale that we have not seen for nearly 40 years," Mark Lowcock, the UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, said. — *AFP*

# CINEMA

ALLARI NARESH COMEDY HANGAMA
AK Presents
AK ENTERTAINMENTS
23 SATURDAY JANUARY
బంగారు బుల్లోడు
AMB CINEMAS-GACHIBOWLI
ASIAN CINEMAS: Cinesquare-Uppal, Mcube mall-Attapur, Radhika-Kapra | Sivaganga-Dsnr, GPR-Kukatpally
BIG Cinemas: Gold Ameerpet
ASIAN Cineplanet: Cineplanet Kompally
PRASAD'S: Prasad's Kairatabad
PLATINUM: Gachibowli
INOX: Banjara Hills | Kachiguda, Madinaguda
MIRAJ CINEMAS: Chandanagar | Balanagar, Dilshuknagar
PVR CINEMAS: RK Plex | Inorbit | Forum mall, Central | Musarambagh | icon city, Irrummanzil | Next Galleria
Cinépolis: CCPL | Mantra | Manjeera, DSL mall
TIVOLI EXTREME | MULTIPLEX VIJAYA LAKSHMI | S2 CINEMAS
GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

Saraswathi Films Division
KRACKIFIED BLOCKBUSTER
2nd WEEK
KRACK
SAPTAGIRI70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
BRAMARAMBA70MM-KUKATPALLY 11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM
RAJADHANICOMP-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15
METRO70MM-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00
SENSATIONSUNSHINE-6.15,9.15PM
AMB 10.00,12.40,4.15, 7.00,10.25PM | PRASADS 10.30,1.30,4.30,7.30, 10.30PM
ASIAN Cineplanet 10.40,1.30,4.20, 7.10,10.10PM | ASIAN Lakshmi Cineplex 11.30,2.45,6.30, 9.45PM
TIVOLI EXTREME 10.05,1.20,4.35 7.50,10.40PM | MULTIPLEX VIJAYA LAKSHMI L.B.NAGAR 1.45,4.45,7.45PM
S2 MALLAPUR 4.20,7.30,10.40PM | ASIAN MJR SQUARE NARAPALLY-10.50, 1.40,4.50,7.45,10.30PM
PVR CINEMAS: INORBIT-10.10,1.20,4.30,7.40,10.50PM; ICON-1.00,4.10,7.20,10.30PM|RK-1.25,4.35PM; FORUM MALL-10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40PM; IRRUMMANZIL-12.00,3.10,6.20,9.30PM; MUSARAMBAGH-12.15,3.25,6.35,9.45PM; GALLERIA-10.00,1.30,4.10,7.20,10.30PM
ASIAN CINEMAS: RADHIKA-10.40,1.40,7.35,10.40PM; GPR-10.15,1.15,7.30,10.45PM; UPPAL-10.45,1.20,4.35,7.50,10.20PM; MCUBE-10.15,1.20,4.20,7.05,10.20PM
BIG Cinemas 10.20,1.30, 4.30,7.30, 10.30PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS: CHANDANAGAR-4.00,10.30PM; BALANAGAR-3.25,6.40,9.55PM
INOX: GVK-11.15,2.15,2.50,6.25,10.00PM; MP-11.35,3.10,6.45,10.20PM; GSM-11.45,1.30,3.00,5.15,6.30,10.00PM
Cinépolis: CCPL-11.40,3.10,6.40,10.30PM; MANTRA-11.30,3.05,6.40,9.15PM; SUDHA-10.45,2.50,6.20,9.40PM; DSL-11.30,3.05,6.40,10.15PM
PLATINUM 10.00,1.25. 4.15,7.25, 10.30PM
INDRA VENKATARAMANA\PADMAVATHICOMPLEX 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM
ANJALI 70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM | SRILATHAR.C.PURAM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM
MAHALAXMICOMPLEX 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM | SRINIVASA UPPAL 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM
LAXMISHAMSHABAD 2.30 & 6.30PM | TALLURI70MM 11.15,6.15,9.15PM
AARADHANA70MM 11.15,2.15,6.00,9.00PM | BHUJANGA70MM 2.00,9.00PM(2 SHOWS)
KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

ASIAN CINEMAS its showtime!
TODAY SCHEDULE
RED
ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA
RED(U/A)(TEL)10.30,1.20,4.10,7.00,10.35PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL)1.35,4.30,10.20PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL)10.10,7.15PM
KRACK(U/A)10.40,1.05,7.25,9.55PM
MASTER(U/A)(TAMIL)3.55PM
ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY
RED(U/A)(TEL)10.30,4.40,7.40,10.30PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL)1.50,4.35,10.40PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL)10.00,1.15,4.10,7.20PM
KRACK(U/A)10.20,1.15,7.30,10.20PM
ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR (FULLY RENOVATED)
RED(U/A)(TEL)10.30,1.40,4.40,7.45,10.45PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL) 10.40,1.30,4.10,7.15,10.10PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL)10.20,1.15,4.25,7.25,10.30PM
KRACK(U/A)10.35,1.20,4.20,7.00,10.20PM
ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL
RED(U/A)(TEL) 11.00,6.00PM
KRACK(U/A)11.30,2.30,9.00PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL)9.45PM
MASTER(U/A)2.00,6.15PM
ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR
RED(U/A)(TEL) 11.15,6.15PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL)9.15PM
KRACK(U/A)(TEL)11.00,2.00,9.30PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL)2.15,6.00PM
ASIAN CINESQUARE-UPPAL (FULLY RENOVATED)
KRACK(U/A)10.50,1.20,1.35,4.35,7.00,10.15PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL) 10.15,1.25,4.25,7.30PM
RED(U/A)(TEL) 10.30,1.45,4.10,4.50, 7.00,7.25,7.40,9.50PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL) 10.40,1.30,4.45,7.45,10.20PM
MASTER(U/A)(TAMIL) 10.35PM
ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET
KRACK(U/A)(TEL)11.30,2.45,6.30,9.45PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL) 11.00,2.20,6.15,9.50PM
RED(U/A)(TEL) 11.15,6.15PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL) 2.45,9.15PM
ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY
KRACK(U/A)(TEL)10.15,1.30,4.05,7.10,10.00PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL)10.00,1.20,4.30,7.10,10.00PM
RED(U/A)(TEL) 10.50,1.40,4.40,7.30,10.25PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL) 10.40,1.10,4.20,7.15,10.10PM
ASIAN MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY
KRACK(U/A)(TEL)10.50,1.10,4.50,7.15,10.30PM
MASTER(U/A)(TEL)10.20,1.20,4.30,7.30,10.40PM
RED(U/A)(TEL)10.30,1.40,4.30,7.40,10.35PM
ALLUDU ADHURS(U/A)(TEL) 10.35,1.40,4.40,7.45,10.45PM
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BOXOFFICE MASTER
IN CINEMAS NOW
DEVI 70MM 11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm
PRASAD LARGE SCREEN - 4.00pm,10.30pm
PRASAD MULTIPLEX - 10.00am
AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli 10.00am,12.35,3.40,7.15,10.00pm
TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad 10.00am,1.15,4.20,7.35,10.50pm
PVR CINEMAS: FORUM MALL - Kukatpally I 11.15am,12.50,2.50,6.25,10.00pm; CENTRAL MALL - Punjagutta 9.55am,1.05,4.35,7.40,11.15pm; GALLERIA MALL - Punjagutta 10.10am,11.15,2.50,6.25,10.00pm; INORBIT MALL - Cyberbad 10.10am,1.20,4.45,7.40,11.20pm; MOOSARAMBAGH 12.00pm,3.35,7.10,10.45pm; IRRUM MANZIL 11.00am,2.35,6.10,9.45pm; ICON MALL - Hitech City 3.05pm,6.40,10.15pm; RK - Banjara - 1.00pm, 7.45pm
ASIAN CINEMAS: GPR MALL - Kukatpally 10.15am,4.15,7.20pm; M CUBE MALL - Attapur 10.20am,1.15,4.25,7.25,1030pm; CINEPLANET - Kompally 10.00am,1.20,4.15,7.25,10.45pm; CINESQUARE - Uppal 10.15am,1.25,4.30,7.30pm; MJR SQUARE MALL - Narrapally 10.20am,1.25,4.30,7.30,10.40pm; LAXMIKALA - Mosapet 10.45am,2.20pm,6.15,9.50pm; RADHIKA - Kapra - 10.15, 1.20pm; SHIVA - Dilshuknagar - 2.15 & 6.00pm; SHA - Chintal - 11.15 & 9.15pm
INOX: GVK MALL- Banjara 10.30am,2.30,6.30,10.30pm; GSM MALL- Miyapur 10.30,11.15,2.30,6.00,6.30,9.00,10.30pm; MP MALL- Kachiguda 10.00am,1.35,2.00,6.00,9.00,10.00pm
Cinépolis: MANTRA MALL - Attapur 2.50pm,6.50,10.50pm; DSL MALL - Uppal 2.50pm,6.50,10.50pm; SUDHA - Shalibhanda 10.30am,2.30,6.30,10.30pm; CCPL - Malkajgiri -11.30,2.00,6.00pm
MIRAJ CINEMAS: Balangar - 10.20am,2.10,6.00,9.50pm; Chandanagar - 10.30am, 6.30pm
S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur - 11.45,4.10,6.55
PLATINUM - Mallapur 9.00am,12.25,6.30,7.15,10.40pm
BVK - Mallapur - 10.15am, 4.25pm
TALLURI - Ecil X Road 2.15,6.00,9.15pm
Ameerpet - 10.00am,1.15,4.20,10.45pm

★ SANKRANTI ★ BLOCKBUSTER
DEVI 70MM 11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm
MAHALAXMI - Kothapet 11.00am & 2.30pm
SHIVA PARVATHY 70MM 11.30am, 2.45 6.30, 9.45pm
RAJDHANI COMPLEX 11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm
VENKATARAMA 2 Shows : 2.30,6.00 | AMBA 70MM 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30
SRI KRISHNA 70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 | SRIDEVI 70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
GANESH 70MM 2 Shows : 2.00,9.00 | RANGA 70MM 2 Shows : 11.00,6.00
TAMIL VERSION
PRASAD LARGE SCREEN - Khairtabad 12.45pm, 7.15pm
AMB - Gachibowli -4.25pm,10.05pm
PVR CINEMAS: FORUM MALL - Kukatpally I 1.25am,4.25,7.30,11.05pm; GALLERIA MALL - Punjagutta 1.00pm,4.45,7.35,11.10pm; INORBIT MALL - Cyberbad 12.35pm,6.40,10.15pm; MOOSARAMBAGH-11.15am,3.00,5.35pm; IRRUM MANZIL 12.25am,7.10,10.45pm; CENTRAL - Punjagutta 4.20,11.10pm; ICON - Hitech -11.30am, 3.25pm; RK - Banjara - 4.35pm, 11.15pm
INOX: GVK MALL- Banjara 10.20am,5.30,9.30pm; GSM MALL- Miyapur 10.20,2.20,6.20,10.20pm
Cinépolis: MANTRA MALL - Attapur 10.10am,2.10,6.10,10.10pm; DSL MALL - Uppal 10.10am,2.10,6.10,10.10pm; SUDHA - Shalibhanda 2.20pm,9.55pm; CCPL - Malkajgiri -3.20,10.45pm
ASIAN RADHIKA - Kapra 4.00pm
MIRAJ CINEMAS: Balangar 3.35pm | Chandanagar 2.30pm
S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur - 3.20,10.30pm

AMB CINEMAS
SCHEDULE FOR TODAY
RED TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:25 AM, 1:05 PM, 1:40 PM, 4:05 PM, 4:35 PM, 7:20 PM, 10:35 PM
ALLUDU ADHURS TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:35 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:45 PM
MASTER 2D (U/A) TELUGU: 10:00 AM, 12:35 PM, 3:40 PM, 7:15 PM, 10:00 PM TAMIL: 4:25 PM, 10:05 PM
KRACK SUPERHIT TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:00 AM, 12:40 PM, 1:20 PM 4:15 PM, 7:00 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:25 PM
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TIVOLI catch the stars
TODAY'S SCHEDULE
RED TELUGU U/A 146 MIN 10:40 AM, 1:40 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:45 PM, 10:45 PM
ALLUDU ADHURS TELUGU U/A 149 MIN 10:20 AM, 1:10 PM, 4:35 PM, 7:30 PM, 10:40 PM
MASTER TELUGU U/A 178 MIN 10:00 AM, 1:15 PM, 4:20 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:50 PM
KRACK TELUGU U/A 153 MIN 10:10 AM, 1:20 PM, 4:10 PM 7:50 PM, 10:30 PM
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY. ENJOY A SAFE CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE.
TIMINGS SHOWN IN BOX ARE PLAYING AT
EXTREME
bookmyshow

SHORT TAKES

## BANKING HEIR BENJAMIN DE ROTHSCHILD DIES

**New York, Jan. 17:** Benjamin de Rothschild, who oversaw the banking empire started by his father in 1953, has died. He was 57. The Edmond de Rothschild Group, the company he was chairman of, said that de Rothschild died of a heart attack Friday afternoon at his home in Pregny, Switzerland.

Since 1997, Benjamin de Rothschild headed the banking group, which was named after his father. Today, Edmond de Rothschild Group says it manages assets worth 160 billion euros, or $190 billion. Forbes magazine estimates de Rothschild's net worth at $1.5 billion. He is a descendent of the Rothschild family, which has a nearly 300-year history running European banks.

In a press release announcing his death, the Edmond de Rothschild Group said de Rothschild was passionate about finance, sailing, cars and wine. He was also a philanthropist, involved in the Adolphe de Rothschild Foundation Hospital, the company said. He is survived by his wife, Ariane de Rothschild, and their four adult daughters.

## PALESTINIAN VOTE: EU ASKS ISRAEL TO HELP

**Brussels, Jan. 17:** The European Union on Saturday welcomed a promise by Palestinian leaders to hold their first elections in 15 years, urging Israel to facilitate the ballots.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said elections would be held in May and July, as part of a warming of ties between his Fatah party and its Islamist rival Hamas.

"This is a welcome development," said a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. He said the bloc "stands ready to cooperate with relevant actors to support the electoral process" and urged Israel to "facilitate the holding of these elections throughout the Palestinian territory".

The statement from Abbas said he expected polls to be held "in all governorates of Palestine, including east Jerusalem", which was annexed by Israel following the 1967 Six-Day War but is considered occupied territory by much of the international community.

Israel bans all Palestinian Authority activity in east Jerusalem, and there was no indication the Jewish state would allow a Palestinian vote within the city.

The 2005 Palestinian presidential vote saw Abbas elected with 62 percent support to replace the late Yasser Arafat.

In the last Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006, Hamas won an unexpected landslide.

The polls resulted in a brief unity government but it soon collapsed and in 2007, bloody clashes erupted in the Gaza Strip between the two principal Palestinian factions, with Hamas ultimately seizing control of Gaza.

## ANTI-NETANYAHU PROTESTS ON IN ISRAEL

**Jerusalem, Jan. 17:** Hundreds of protesters braved a cold night in Jerusalem on Saturday to press on with their calls for Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu to step down over corruption charges against him.

Demonstrators gathered at a Jerusalem square near Netanyahu's official residence. The weekly protests have been taking place for over seven months. Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three cases involving billionaire associates and media moguls, charges that he denies.

The protesters insist Netanyahu cannot properly lead the country while under indictment for corruption. His trial is set to begin evidentiary hearings next month. Israel will hold its fourth national elections in two years in March, in what will likely be another referendum on Netanyahu as he faces a challenge from defectors within his Likud party. The protesters also say Netanyahu and his government have bungled the Coronavirus response.

The country has seen its economy hit hard by virus curbs and is again under a nationwide if partial lockdown. Netanyahu has used vaccination drive, in which more than a tenth of its population has been immunised, to try to belittle the protesters and their cause. They say the PM is working to end the outbreak while they hold demonstrations.

# National Guards in Washington

### Step taken to keep eye on possible protests

**Washington, Jan. 17:** By the busload and planeload, National Guard troops were pouring into the US capital on Saturday, as governors answered the urgent pleas of defence officials for more troops to help safeguard Washington even as they keep anxious eyes on possible violent protests in their own states.

Military leaders spent chunks of Thursday evening and Friday calling states in an unprecedented appeal for more National Guard troops to help lock down much of the city in the days before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. In dribs and drabs, governors responded, some agreeing to send an extra dozen, 100 or even 1,000, while others said no.

The calls reflect fears that violent extremist groups are targeting the city in the wake of the deadly insurrection at the US Capitol on Jan. 6. The threats range from armed insurgents to possible attempts to plant explosive devices at so-called soft targets. But as Washington begins to resemble an armed camp, with more than 25,000 Guards due in the city by early next week, concerns about violence at state capitals has grown. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said she turned down the federal request to send at least 100 more National Guard troops to D.C. "I didn't think that we could safely fill that commitment," Brown said.

Oregon has already agreed to send 30 to Washington, but state leaders are worried about violence at the state capitol in Salem. Others agreed, setting off a dizzying torrent of military flights and convoys into the region. "The peaceful transfer of power is a central tenet of American democracy, and Connecticut stands ready to aid in the protection of our country." said Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, who had initially approved sending 100 Guard and on Friday agreed to send 200 more. All told, more than 130 US Air Guard flights in the past 72 hours have carried at least 7,000 Guard troops to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, according to US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal numbers.

Thousands more are in buses and military trucks, thundering up highways toward Washington. Army Gen. Dan Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, called adjutants general around the country, and others, such as Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, called governors to seek help.

— *AP*

## Man arrested with gun at checkpoint

**Washington, Jan. 17:** A man with a loaded handgun and more than 500 rounds of ammunition has been arrested in Washington at a security checkpoint near the US Capitol, authorities said.

Wesley Allen Beeler, of Virginia, had driven to a checkpoint on Friday evening and tried to use a phony credential to access the restricted area where President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated next week, according to a document filed in Washington, DC Superior Court.

As officers checked against an authorised access list, one of them noticed decals on the back of Beeler's pick-up truck that said "Assault Life," with an image of a rifle, and another with the message: "If they come for your guns, give 'em your bullets first." Under questioning, Beeler told officers he had a Glock handgun in the vehicle.

A search uncovered a loaded handgun, more than 500 rounds of ammunition, shotgun shells and a magazine for the gun, the court document said. Beeler was arrested on charges including possession of an unregistered firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition, a police report said.

Following his arrest, Beeler said it was "an honest mistake" and that he was a private security guard who got lost on his way to work near the Capitol.

Washington is under a high state of alert ahead of Biden's Wednesday inauguration, after a mob of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the Capitol on January 6.

Five people died in the assault, including a police officer.

— *AFP*

## BIDEN TO PRIORITISE LEGAL STATUS FOR IMMIGRANTS

**San Diego, Jan. 17:** President-elect Joe Biden's decision to immediately ask Congress to offer legal status to an estimated 11 million people in the country has surprised advocates given how the issue has long divided Democrats and Republicans, even within their own parties.

Biden will announce legislation his first day in office to provide a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants in the United States illegally, according to four people briefed on his plans. The president-elect campaigned on a path to citizenship for the roughly 11 million people in the US illegally. — *AP*

## Day 1: Biden to sign executive orders

**Washington, Jan. 17:** Joe Biden's top aide said Saturday the incoming president would sign about a dozen executive orders on his first day in office, as police fearing violence from Trump supporters staged a nationwide security operation ahead of the inauguration. Incoming Biden chief of staff Ron Klain said in a memo to new White House senior staff that the executive orders would address the pandemic, the ailing US economy, climate change and racial injustice in America.

"All of these crises demand urgent action," Klain said in the memo.

"In his first 10 days in office, President-elect Biden will take decisive action to address these four crises, prevent other urgent and irreversible harms, and restore America's place in the world," Klain added. As he inherits the White House from Donald Trump, Biden's plate is overflowing with acute challenges.

The US is fast approaching 400,000 dead from the Covid-19 crisis and logging well over a million new cases a week as the Coronavirus spreads out of control.

The economy is ailing, with 10 million fewer jobs available compared to the start of the pandemic. And millions of Americans who back Trump refuse to recognise Biden as the legitimate president.

Biden this week unveiled plans to seek $1.9 trillion to revive the economy through new stimulus payments and other aid, and plans a blitz to accelerate America's stumbling Covid vaccine rollout effort. — *AFP*

## Auspicious Kolam drawings mark inauguration kickoff

**Washington, Jan. 17:** Kolam, a traditional Indian art form of drawing geometric patterns on the floors as a sign of welcome, was part of the virtual kick-off ceremony of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris, who traces her origin to Tamil Nadu where these auspicious designs adorn almost every household. In Tamil Nadu, where Harris has roots, women draw Kolams on the ground to invite health and prosperity into houses where they are displayed.

Pictures of thousands of Kolam tiles were on Saturday woven into a video to welcome Biden and Harris in the spirit of 'Presidency for All' and to showcase the multi-cultural heritage of America.

More than 1,800 individuals from across the US and many from India participated in the online initiative to create thousands of Kolam designs. "Many believe Kolams symbolise positive energy and new beginnings. People from various communities collaborated from homes with eco-friendly materials," said Shanthi Chandrasekar, an award-winning multimedia and multidisciplinary artist from Maryland. — *PTI*

People jog along the river front as they exercise in Battersea Park in London on Sunday, as surging cases of the novel Coronavirus are placing health services under increasing pressure. Britain recorded another 55,761 cases of Coronavirus on Friday, although new cases have fallen nearly 14 percent in the last week. — *AFP*

# Pfizer tries to ease Europe's worries on vaccine delivery

**Paris, Jan. 17:** Pharma giant Pfizer tried to ease concerns in Europe about deliveries of its Coronavirus vaccine as nations across the world doubled down on restrictions to fight the rampaging pandemic. The Coronavirus pandemic is showing no signs of slowing down, with infections surging past 94 million and more than two million deaths, and Europe among the hardest-hit parts of the world.

Worries have grown that delays in the delivery of Pfizer-BioNTech shots could hamper a European vaccine rollout which has already faced heavy criticism across the continent.

Work is ongoing at the Pfizer plant in Belgium to increase capacity, and the firm and its German partner BioNTech said Saturday it would allow them to "significantly" scale up vaccine production in the second quarter.

Deliveries would be back to the original schedule to the EU from January 25, they pledged. Several Nordic and Baltic countries have described the situation as "unacceptable", while Belgium's vaccination strategy task force condemned a lack of consultation by Pfizer over the deliveries as "incomprehensible". France, which crossed 70,000 Covid-19 deaths on the weekend, is set to begin a campaign to inoculate people over 75 from Monday. Russia plans to begin mass vaccinations the same day.

Despite the rollout of vaccines, countries still have few options but to rely on movement and distancing restrictions to control the spread of the virus. Curbs will be tightened in Italy and Switzerland from Monday, while Britain will require testing of all international arrivals.

The number of infections in the United States — the worst-hit country — soared to more than 23.7 million on Saturday, with close to 400,000 deaths, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally.

The pandemic has battered the American economy, with millions left jobless, and President-elect Joe Biden has vowed to step up efforts to end the pandemic.

Biden will sign executive orders on the day he is inaugurated next week, including action on the coronavirus crisis.

The incoming administration has pledged to set up thousands of immunisation sites, deploy mobile clinics and expand the public health workforce in a bid to revive the stuttering rollout of vaccines.

In some nations, that resentment has sparked protests.

Roughly 10,000 people marched in Austria's capital Vienna against coronavirus restrictions on Saturday, calling on the government to resign.

Britain's government said on Sunday it is looking at requiring all incoming travellers to isolate in hotels, expanding on new Coronavirus restrictions entering into force in the coming hours. All arrivals to the UK will have to quarantine and show negative tests for Covid-19 from Monday at 0400 GMT, after the government scrapped "travel corridors" from countries with lower caseloads following the emergence of new strains.

The *Sunday Times* said the government planned to go further, emulating countries such as Australia and New Zealand in requiring travellers to self-isolate in hotels at their own charge, using GPS and facial-recognition technology to check they are staying put. — *AFP*

## Mexico sees 2nd straight day of 20,000 Covid-19 infections

**Mexico City, Jan. 17:** Mexico posted its second straight day of more than 20,000 Coronavirus cases Saturday, suggesting a surge in a country already struggling in many areas with overflowing hospitals. There were 20,523 newly confirmed cases Saturday, after 21,366 infections were reported Friday.

That was about double the daily rate of increase just a week ago. Reporting normally declines on weekends, suggesting next week may bring even higher numbers. The country also recorded 1,219 more deaths, a new record. The country has now seen almost 1.63 million total infections and has registered over 140,000 deaths so far in the pandemic. The country's extremely low testing rate means that is an undercount, and official estimates suggest the real death toll is closer to 195,000.

Teams vaccinating frontline health care workers administered about 25,000 shots on Saturday, bring the total so far to over 463,000. The numbers are still inadequate for the 750,000 frontline health care workers, each of whom will require two doses. Mexico has reported severe reactions to the Pfizer vaccine. — *AP*

## FB PUTS WARNING ON CARDINAL VIDEO

**Mexico City, Jan. 17:** Facebook has placed a warning screen over a rambling chat by retired Mexican Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iñiguez in which he claims Coronavirus vaccines contain a satanic microchip.

The Facebook screen warns viewers, "This post repeats information about Covid-19 that independent fact checkers say is false." However, viewers on Saturday could still see the video, which was posted Jan. 12. Sandoval Iñiguez is the emeritus archbishop of the archdiocese of Guadalajara, where he retired in 2011 after reaching the age of 75. He turns 88 in March.

In the video, he refers to "the chip that they are planning to put in the vaccine to control you, it is the mark of the beast." The video is titled, "The plot to impose a new world order without Christ." — *AP*

## Pak approves use of Oxford vaccine

**Islamabad, Jan. 17:** Pakistan has approved the emergency use of Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine and the government hopes to make the drug available by the first quarter of the year, as the country's Coronavirus tally surged to 519,291.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Health Dr Faisal Sultan confirmed on Saturday that the Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP) has granted approval for emergency use of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Coronavirus vaccine across the country, according to a report in the *Geo TV*.

Minister for Planning Asad Umar, who is also the chief of National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the country's Coronavirus control body, said that the vaccine will be rolled out by March, the report said. In the first phase, the vaccine will be given to health workers and those aged 65 years and above, he said. The vaccine is designed by scientists at the University of Oxford and produced by AstraZeneca, a British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical company. Pakistan reported 43 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of fatalities to 10,951. — *PTI*

## ALL TRAVELLERS TO SINGAPORE MUST TEST ON ARRIVAL

**Singapore, Jan. 17:** All travellers, including Singaporeans and permanent residents, will need to take a Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test upon arrival in Singapore, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has announced. This will take effect from 11.59 pm on January 24 as part of tighter border measures to manage the risk of imported Covid-19 cases, reported the *Channel News Asia*. Singapore has seen an increase in the number of Coronavirus cases. — *PTI*

TEST | FIRING

### Artemis I mission to test the SLS, unmanned Orion spacecraft to take place before '21 end

# NASA test of mega Moon rocket engines cut short

**Washington, Jan. 17:** NASA conducted a test firing of the engines for its giant Space Launch System (SLS) lunar rocket on Saturday but they shut down earlier than planned, the space agency said.

The "hot-fire" test at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi was supposed to last a little over eight minutes — the time the engines would burn in flight — but they shut down just over a minute into the burn.

"Teams are assessing the data to determine what caused the early shutdown, and will determine a path forward," NASA said in a statement.

The SLS rocket is intended to launch the Artemis missions that will take US astronauts back to the Moon.

Despite being cut short, NASA said the test of the RS-25 engines had provided valuable information for the planned missions.

"Saturday's test was an important step forward to ensure that the core stage of the SLS rocket is ready for the Artemis I mission, and to carry crew on future missions," said NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine.

- **THE "HOT-FIRE"** test at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi was supposed to last a little over eight minutes — the time the engines would burn in flight — but they shut down just over a minute into the burn.
- **THE SLS** rocket is intended to launch the Artemis missions that will take US astronauts back to the Moon.
- **NASA'S EVENTUAL** goal is to establish an Artemis Base Camp on the Moon before the end of the decade, an ambitious plan that would require tens of billions of dollar of funding and the green light from President-elect Joe Biden and Congress.

"Although the engines did not fire for the full duration, the team successfully worked through the countdown, ignited the engines, and gained valuable data to inform our path forward." It is not yet known what caused the early shutdown but SLS programme manager John Honeycutt told reporters they had seen a flash in a thermal protection blanket on one of the engines and were analyzing the data.

"In my opinion the team accomplished a lot today, we learned a lot about the vehicle," Honeycutt said.

NASA's Artemis I mission to test the SLS and an unmanned Orion spacecraft is scheduled to take place before the end of 2021.

The following Artemis II mission in 2023 will take astronauts around the Moon but will not land. Artemis III will send astronauts, including the first woman, to the Moon in 2024.

In its configuration for Artemis I, the SLS will stand 322 feet (98 metres), taller than the Statue of Liberty, and is more powerful than the Saturn V rockets used in the Apollo missions that sent the first astronauts to the Moon.

NASA's eventual goal is to establish an Artemis Base Camp on the Moon before the end of the decade, an ambitious plan that would require tens of billions of dollar of funding and the green light from President-elect Joe Biden and Congress.

A manned return to the Moon is the first part of the Artemis programme to set up a long-term colony and test technologies for a crewed mission to Mars in the 2030s. — *AFP*

LIVE RICH
FINANCIAL Chronicle
HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 18 JANUARY 2021



# quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 49,034.67 | -1.11 |
| Nifty 50 | 14,433.70 | -1.11 |
| S&P 500* | 3,768.25 | -0.72 |
| Dollar (₹) | 73.04 | 0.00 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 99.71 | 0.01 |
| Euro (₹) | 88.70 | 0.17 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 48,690▲286 | 0.00 |
| Brent crude ($/bbl)* | 55.10 | -2.34 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 5.988 | 1.08 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 1.087 | -0.92 |

* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Bank credit up 3.2% in first nine months of FY21

Bank credit grew 3.2 per cent to Rs 107.05 lakh crore in the first nine months of the current financial year against a growth of 2.7 per cent in the same period of 2019-20. In the fortnight ended March 27, 2020, bank advances stood at Rs 103.72 lakh crore. Bank deposits rose 8.5 per cent to Rs 147.27 lakh crore in the April-December 2020 period against an increase of 5.1 per cent a year ago, RBI data shows.

## FPIs invest close to ₹18,500 cr in stocks this month

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) put in Rs 14,866 crore in Indian capital markets in the first half of January with participants expecting strong third-quarter results by companies. As per depositories data, FPIs invested a net Rs 18,490 crore into equities but pulled out Rs 3,624 crore from debt segment between January 1 and January 15. This translated into a total net investment of Rs 14,866 crore.

## Alkem arm recalls over 20K bottles of drug in US

Ascend Laboratories LLC, subsidiary of Mumbai-based Alkem Labs, is recalling over 20,000 bottles of antibacterial drug cephalexin for oral suspension from the US market, as per a report by the US drug regulator. The US-based Ascend Laboratories is recalling bottles of cephalexin for oral suspension, USP, 125 mg per 5 ml, manufactured by Alkem Laboratories, according to the US FDA's Enforcement Report.

## 2021 to be good year for Indian IT: Balakrishnan

The year 2021 will be good forIndia's information technology sector and most of the companies in the space are expected to clock high single digit growth, according to IT industry veteran V. Balakrishnan. The former CFO of Infosys said Indian IT companies have handled the Covid very well in terms of transitioning to work-from-home and capturing new business opportunities in the wake of the pandemic.

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### May propose SLR, CRR requirements for big players

# RBI mulls stricter norms for NBFCs

**AFTAB AHMED, SWATI BHAT & NUPUR ANAND**
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, JAN. 17

India's central bank is likely to propose tightening rules on "shadow banks" in a bid to strengthen solvency and sustainability of a sector that has been showing signs of stress in recent years, two sources said.

The Reserve Bank of India has been trying to tighten regulatory norms on the sector since Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services, the largest non-bank financial company, went bankrupt in 2018 and Dewan Housing Finance Corp and Altico Capital defaulted on payments in 2019.

The RBI is expected to set out proposals in a discussion paper this week, recommending that bigger shadow banks maintain a statutory liquidity ratio, the sources said.

India's banks must maintain at least 18 per cent worth of deposits that they must hold in cash, gold or government securities.

The RBI could also suggest large non-banks be required to maintain a cash reserve ratio. For banks this ratio is 3 per cent, reduced from 4 per cent in a measure the central bank imposed that is to be reversed after March 31.

The move could be a huge cash drain for the sector which is currently free from maintaining these reserve ratios, allowing them to lend to subprime lenders as well.

**CUTTING SYSTEMIC RISKS**

- RBI is expected to recommend phased implementation of reserve ratios
- Currently banks must maintain at least 18% of deposits as statutory liquidity ratio
- They must also set aside 3% of deposits as cash reserve ratio
- Mandating the ratios could proved to be a huge cash drain for the sector

The proposal is expected to recommend a phased implementation of the reserve ratios, giving non-banks time to comply, one official said.

"Cost of compliance to rules and regulations should be perceived as an investment, as any inadequacy in this regard will prove to be detrimental," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in a speech on Saturday, referring to increased regulation in recent years for banks and shadow banks.

One official said that move is to avoid failures of big shadow banks that could pose systemic risks and is expected to encourage some of the larger ones to move towards becoming full-time banks.

But shadow banks believe the new norms will hurt their operations.

Shadow banks enjoy "certain flexibilities which allow them to do last-mile financing which banks can't do," said an executive at a non-bank. "Blurring the lines" between banks and non-banks would "be detrimental for India, where financial inclusion is still low."

At its last monetary policy meeting last month Das said regulations of shadow banks need review and that a discussion paper would be issued by mid-January.

There are nearly 10,000 shadow banks in India but just over two dozens are thought to be large enough to pose systemic risks, sources said.

Raising liquidity ratios "or other liquidity buffers could pose a drag on their earnings" said A.M. Karthik, head of financial sector ratings at Icra. Lenders will also have to manage their treasuries more effectively, which would entail additional operating costs, he said.

The RBI will also recommend stricter checks on thousands of smaller non-banks, one official said. The central bank may not propose norms such as statutory lending or cash-reserve ratios, but it will recommend more scrutiny of their books, the official said. —*Reuters*

## FINMIN LOOKS AT BANK INVESTMENT COMPANY

**New Delhi, Jan. 17:** The finance ministry is looking at other avenues for affordable capital infusion, including setting up of a Bank Investment Company (BIC), as the RBI has raised concern over the issuance of zero coupon bonds for recapitalisation of public sector banks (PSBs), sources said.

Setting up BIC as a holding company or a core investment company was suggested by the P. J. Nayak committee.

The report recommended transferring shares of the government in the banks to the BIC, which would become the parent holding company of all these banks, as a result of this, all the PSBs would become 'limited' banks. BIC will be autonomous and it will have the power to appoint the board of directors and make other policy decisions about subsidiaries.

BIC will serve as a super holding company and reduce the dependence of PSBs on government support. —*PTI*

# WFH bares wage disparity for industrial homeworkers

**SANGEETHA G**
CHENNAI, JAN. 17

While the pandemic has brought 'work from home' to the limelight as a strategy to prevent mass unemployment, traditional homeworkers in India earn 60 per cent less than their counterparts who do not work from home, finds a study by the International Labour Organisation.

In India home work is dominated by industrial homeworkers, who are employees working from their home premises. The Periodic Labour Force Survey in 2018 has identified 31 lakh as homeworkers. When 2.35 million home-based beedi rollers and almost 8,00,000 home-based embroiderers were recast as probable homeworkers, the total homeworkers in India stood at 62,41,333, says ILO.

Around 66 per cent of these homeworkers are women. Most of them are in the age group of 35-59 years of age. Further, 58 per cent are into craft and related trades.

The industrial homeworkers of India are paid by piece and their earnings are just 41 per cent that of workers who do not work from home. The monthly earnings of garment workers in India are 11 per cent of the average Indian wage.

The earnings gap is 18 per cent due to fewer hours and 82 per cent due to very low hourly wages as they are paid per piece. In India homeworkers in all occupational categories are paid less.

The gender wage gap is higher among homeworkers in low or middle income countries like India, Mexico and Argentina. However, average weekly working hours for women homeworkers were higher at 36 hours, while it was 28 hours for non-home-based women workers.

At one end of the category of homeworkers are some of the poorest workers in the world of work, such as the 2.5 million women rolling beedi in India, while at the other end are the well-educated and highly paid employees of leading corporations working remotely from their home. In India, the Department of Telecommunications has given IT workers an exemption that allows them to work from home. This has led to 90 per cent of India's 4.3 million strong IT workforce shifting to full-time telework, says ILO.

"Given the possibility of other labour market disruptions in the future, homeworking may well feature as a key method of operation adopted by firms and their workers," says ILO. Hence, the governments have the responsibility of establishing comprehensive home work policies. Key policy areas include improving the visibility of homeworkers, raising awareness of their rights and responsibilities, setting fair wages and limiting working hours, ensuring safe and healthy workplaces, eliminating child labour, applying a strategic compliance model of enforcement, ensuring social protection coverage, ensuring access to quality childcare and promoting training and career development.

# Game startup Nazara kicks off tech IPO season

**SARITHA RAI**
JAN. 17

Nazara Technologies Ltd, the cricket games developer backed by ace investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, became the first Indian gaming technology company to seek a market debut as mobile entertainment takes off across the world's No. 2 smartphone arena.

The Mumbai-headquartered startup filed initial public offering documents with the market regulator on Friday. Its impending debut on the local exchanges could encourage other Indian startups to tap public markets, after years of explosive growth in mobile and internet usage created giant private firms from Paytm to Flipkart.

Founded by gamer Nitish Mittersain in 2000, when he was a college undergrad, Nazara is among the firms that have benefitted from a global boom in smartphone gaming that began even before the pandemic drove millions online. Mittersain started the company with Rs 3 crore borrowed from friends and family, only to get derailed during the dotcom bust. The firm spent its first decade clearing debt, but steadily built market share by acquiring fellow gaming startups. It's now seeking to be among the first major startups to go public.

The company's platform hosts several content categories and is active in esports, while commanding a share of the mobile cricket gaming segment with titles like World Cricket Championship. Nazara operates in 52 countries from North America and the Middle East to Africa and SE Asia. —*Bloomberg*

## REALTY SECTOR ASKS FOR ITC ON LEASED PROPERTY

**New Delhi, Jan. 17:** The government should allow commercial real estate developers to set off GST paid on inputs like cement from the tax liability on rental income to avoid double taxation and boost the office market realty firms and consultants said on Sunday.

In its Budget recommendation for the 2021-22, industry body CII has demanded that Section 16 read with Section 17(5) of the CGST Act should be amended to enable the real estate players to avail ITC (input tax credit) on procurement of goods and services during the construction phase when the space is intended for commercial leasing or renting.

The denial of ITC, leads to blockage of funds for a real estate player, it said.

"In case of commercial leasing of properties and outlets at malls, the renting of such premises attracts 18 per cent which is available as credit to the client. Disallowance of credit during the construction phase leads to the increased cost of construction, working capital loss and increased financing costs," the CII said. — *PTI*

# Publishers seek duty waiver as newsprint cost shoots up

**New Delhi, Jan. 17:** The cost of paper used in printing newspapers and magazines has jumped 20 per cent in the past three months due to a demand-supply imbalance post-pandemic, prompting news publishers to rush to the government seeking the waiver of 5 per cent import duty to cut cost.

An industry that was facing headwinds from a slowing economy even before the pandemic was hit hard when most readers stopped buying newspapers and magazines on fears of them being carriers of viruses.

While no medical studies have established the virus transmission theories, sales did not pick up even after lockdown restrictions were relaxed, industry leaders said.

Now, the rising cost of newsprint created due to a drastic fall in supplies after 3 million tonnes of manufacturing capacities were either closed or converted to brown paper grades worldwide has dealt a second blow that is threatening the survival of the industry.

Indian Newspaper Society (INS) president L. Adimoolam said most newspapers have stopped sending the hard copies to the rural areas with readership of less than 50 copies to reduce the distribution cost.

In a representation to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the INS has suggested cutting the customs duty on imported newsprints.

They also want a fiscal stimulus package for the publishing industry or raising tariffs of government advertisements by 50 per cent.

"If working out a stimulus package for print media is difficult at this juncture, DAVP (Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity) may please consider releasing advertisement for all its departments to all publications with an increased tariff of 50 per cent, which would be highly helpful for the industry as a whole," the INS representation said.

It has also sought extension of the validity of RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India) circulation certificates to up to March 31, 2022, which will enable DAVP rates to remain the same till next year.

It is estimated that the print media would take two-three years to recover from the current situation, the INS added.

Adimoolam told PTI, "The government helped a few industries (during the pandemic) with stimulus packages. We are (also) expecting some stimulus."

Several newspapers have responded to the situation by cutting costs that included shutting down editions, reducing the number of pages and laying off staff.

Several small papers have closed down, Adimoolam added.

He said the newspaper distribution has become very costly.

The Indian publishers continue to be dependent on imported newsprint due to insufficient domestic capacity/output and poor quality.

"Prices of newsprint have shot up by 20 per cent in the past three months. Another increase of 10-15 per cent is on the anvil next month which will severely impact the publishers," said the INS. — *PTI*

## LUXURY CAR FIRMS WANT CUT IN TAXES

**New Delhi, Jan. 17:** Luxury car makers Mercedes-Benz, Audi and Lamborghini expect the government to lower taxes on automobiles in the upcoming Budget, saying the premium segment of the auto industry has not been able to grow due to high taxation besides being hit hard by coronavirus.

Any hike in taxes on luxury cars will hit demand and prevent recovery from the disruptions witnessed last year, according to officials of the companies.

"Anything which is a deterrent to the demand in the sector we should stay away," Mercedes-Benz India MD & CEO Martin Schwenk said.

He was responding to a query on the company's expectations on the tax front from the government in the budget.

Seeking a reduction on taxes on the auto sector, Schwenk said, "Already the auto industry is highly taxed...from the import duties to GST and cess which is 22 per cent (on luxury cars). I think the target should actually be to support the growth of the sector and reduce tax."

Expressing similar sentiments, Audi India head Balbir Singh Dhillon said the challenges for the luxury car segment in 2021 are "more or less the constants from the past".

"One is, of course, the high taxation on luxury cars, including cess. That remains a challenge because what it has done is that it has not let luxury cars grow beyond 1 per cent (of the total automobile markets in India). It is just hovering around 1 per cent and in last year 2020 it could have dropped probably 0.7-0.8 per cent," he added. — *PTI*

**FUNDING | CRISIS** Survey finds 68% not benefited from specific measures

# Limited MSMEs gains from schemes

**SANGEETHA G**
CHENNAI, JAN. 17

Funding remains the biggest challenge for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) despite the government announcing several measures to address the financial crisis faced by them. The majority of units has not benefitted from the various schemes in the last 12 months, finds a survey.

The government has in 2020 introduced various measures to enhance credit access to startups and MSMEs under schemes like Startup India, MSME Samadhan, no or low interest loans, Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat. However, in an annual survey of startups and MSMEs conducted by Local Circles, only 21 per cent said they have benefitted from the government schemes while 68 per cent said they have not. The share of respondents who said they have not received any benefits has gone up from 50 per cent in last year's survey to 68 per cent this time.

Raising funds and loans continues to be the biggest challenge for MSMEs. Finding growth is the second big challenge for almost 25 per cent respondents while it was just 10 per cent in last survey. Survival of the business continues to be the third major challenge. The survey received over 20,000 responses from more than 8,000 startups and MSMEs.

"MSMEs need to be qualified for the schemes. Access to loans has never been easy...But ECLGS (emergency credit line guarantee scheme) has disbursed Rs 2 lakh crore during the pandemic times. More and more buyers are being pushed on TReDS (trade receivables discounting system) platforms helping MSME to finance receivables. So while the market conditions are yet to be fully conducive for growth, the legacy issues continue to bog MSMEs down. In normal circumstances too barely 15 per cent MSMEs have access to loans from banks," said Anil Bhardwaj, secretary general, Federation of Indian MSMEs (Fisme).

The survey further found that only 31 per cent respondents have more than three months of cash. About 10 per cent said they had cash for more than six months and 18 per cent maintained they were out of funds. This is a vast improvement from the mid-June survey that had indicated only 16 per cent had cash to survive for more than three months while 42 were already out of funds.

## Over 1.26 cr join stock market rush in last one yr

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD**
MUMBAI, JAN. 17

The Covid period saw a record number of new investors joining the stock market, with at over 1.26 crore unique client code being added during the last one year, taking the total to over 5.96 crore registered investors as on January 15, 2021.

Of these, the maximum, of over 27 lakh investors, were added in Maharashtra and in per cent term the maximum rise at 71 per cent, or over 6.55 lakh investors, was registered from Telangana against the all-India annual rise of 26.86, BSE data shows.

Telangana added 6,55,354 unique code clients in the last one-year period, taking the total registered investors tally in the state to over 15.70 lakh. Andhra Pradesh added over 6.77 lakh new investors at an annual growth rate of 27.46 per cent.

The largest number of retail investors is based out of Maharashtra, at over 1.30 crore.

Gujarat (11.77 lakh), UP (10.51 lakh), Karnataka (7.46 lakh), Rajasthan (7.28 lakh) and Andhra Pradesh (6.77 lakh) were the states from where maximum number of retail investors was added. Northeastern states also added retail investors at high rate due to their low base.

# FAIRYTAIL!

## Magical stand between tailenders Shardul, Sundar keeps India afloat

**Brisbane, Jan. 17:** Debutant Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur punched above their weight with splendid half-centuries to keep Australia at bay and India bullish after an engrossing third day's play in the series-deciding fourth Test here on Sunday.

Australia's openers — David Warner (20) and Marcus Harris (1) — saw out six overs, and extended the home team's lead to 54 by stumps after India's first innings ended at 336.

However, Australia's lead could have been much more had it not been for a delightful 123-run partnership for the seventh wicket between Washington (62) and Shardul (67), who defied and then attacked the rival bowling attack with gusto.

"We knew their bowlers were tiring out a bit so it was a matter of hanging in there for one hour. We knew we probably would be on top if we hung in," said Shardul at the post-play press conference.

Pacer Josh Hazlewood finished with a well-deserved 5/57 for Australia, a reward for consistently bowling with an impeccable line and length at a brisk pace.

Symbolising the courage shown by the visitors, now rendered almost second-string owing to a plethora of injures suffered by their top players through the four-match series, Washington and Shardul mixed caution with aggression to bail their team out of a precarious 186 for six.

First, they turned unlikely saviours after three soft dismissals pushed India on the back foot, and in the final session, the two opened up and went after the world-class Australian attack.

If his nine fours were not enough, Shardul bludgeoned off-spinner Nathan Lyon, holder of 397 wickets, for a maximum over long-on to reach his maiden Test fifty in style in only his second match.

In fact, Shardul opened his account with a hooked six off the world's number one bowler, Pat Cummins.

Playing in his first Test, Washington too soon got to his maiden fifty in the traditional format while finding the fence seven times and clearing it once.

He became the first visiting cricketer in Australia in 74 years to grab three wickets and smash a half-century on debut.

The one before him was also an Indian, Dattu Phadkar, who made 51 while batting at No.8 and took three wickets during a 1947/48 tour.

— *PTI*

Washington Sundar (right) is congratulated by Shardul Thakur after reaching his half century against Australia on the third day of the fourth Test at the Gabba in Brisbane on Sunday. — *AFP*

### INDIA'S FOURTH HIGHEST SEVENTH WICKET STAND AGAINST AUSTRALIA

- Shardul Thakur and Washington Sundar added 123 runs for the seventh wicket in India's first innings on the third day.
- It was India's fourth best stand for this wicket position against Australia. Ravindra Jadeja and Rishabh Pant are the only Indian pair to add more than 200 runs for the seventh wicket against Australia. They added 204 at Sydney in 2018-19.
- Overall, it was eighth century stand for the seventh wicket for India against Australia.
- Washington Sundar became only the sixth Indian batsman to score a fifty on debut against Australia.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

### SCORECARD

**Australia 1st innings: 369**
**India 1st innings (overnight 62/2):** Rohit Sharma c Starc b N. Lyon 44, Shubhman Gill c Smith b P. Cummins 7, Cheteshwar Pujara c Paine b J. Hazlewood 25, Ajinkya Rahane c Wade b M. Starc 37, Mayank Agarwal c Smith b J. Hazlewood 38, Rishabh Pant c Green b J. Hazlewood 23, Washington Sundar c Green b M. Starc 62, Shardul Thakur b P Cummins 67, Navdeep Saini c Smith b J. Hazlewood 5, Mohammed Siraj b J. Hazlewood 13, T. Natarajan not out 1. Extras (b-5, lb-7 nb-2) 14.
**Total (all out in 111.4 overs) 336.**
**FoW:** 1-11, 2-60, 3-105, 4-144, 5-161, 6-186, 7-309, 8-320, 9-328.
**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 23-3-88-2, Josh Hazlewood 24.4-6-57-5, Pat Cummins 27-5-94-2, Cameron Green 8-1-20-0, Nathan Lyon 28-9-65-1, Marnus Labuchagne 1-1-0-0.
**Australia 2nd innings:** Marcus Harris batting 1, David Warner batting 20. **Total (for no loss in 6 overs) 21.**
**Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 2-1-12-0, T Natarajan 3-0-6-0, Washington Sundar 1-0-3-0.

# Mount stands tall for Blues

**London, Jan. 17:** Mason Mount put Chelsea back on track with the late winner that sealed a vital 1-0 victory at 10-man Fulham, while Leicester moved up to second in the Premier League thanks to a 2-0 win over Southampton.

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard was under pressure after just one win and four defeats in their previous six matches that saw the Blues kick-off at Craven Cottage down in 10th.

But Chelsea got the break they needed when Fulham defender Antonee Robinson was sent off just before half-time for a rash challenge on Cesar Azpilicueta.

Lampard's men laboured to make their numerical advantage count, but England midfielder Mount finally broke the deadlock in the 78th minute when he drilled home from 20 yards.

That was enough to seal Chelsea's first league victory since they beat West Ham just before Christmas and climb up to seventh.

"Of course it feels good to get a win, it has not been easy with the league form recently and you have to break the duck," Lampard said.

"I trust the quality of the players. There was a feeling we would get a goal because the pressure was constant. It was about staying patient with our passing and I think we did."

Fulham remain in the relegation zone after their first defeat in six league games.

Next up for Chelsea is a trip to Leicester on Tuesday. — *AFP*

# Allround Andhra hammer Kerala

**Mumbai, Jan. 17:** Andhra Pradesh dished out an all-round show to beat an in-form Kerala by six wickets in an Elite Group E match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Sunday.

Kerala, who had won their first three matches in the group, managed to score 112/4 after being asked to bat first.

Andhra then overhauled the target in 17.1 overs, with opener Ashwin Hebbar top-scoring with a 46-ball 48.

Kerala lost both openers, Robin Uthhapa (8) and Mohammed Azharuddeen (12) cheaply and were in a spot of bother at 28/2. It soon became 30/3 after skipper Sanju Samson (7) also perished early.

Andhra's chase was anchored by right-handed opener Hebbar, who hammered six boundaries and a six, despite losing partners at the other end.

Andhra fetched four points for the win.

### BIHAR POST FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN

In Chennai, Bihar thrashed Manipur by nine wickets in a Plate Group match to register their fourth straight win.

Bihar opted to field first and restrict Manipur to 105 for eight in 20 overs.

Chasing, opener Shasheem Rathour hammered an unbeaten 60 and shared a 61-run second-wicket stand with Babul Kumar to take Bihar home in 17.1 overs. — *PTI*

### BRIEF SCORES

- Kerala 112/4 in 20 overs (Sachin Baby 51 not out; Manish Golamaru 2/19) lost to Andhra Pradesh 113/4 in 17.1 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 48, Ambati Rayudu 38 not out; Jalaj Saxena 2/9).
- Mumbai 94 all out in 19 overs (Shivam Dube 28; Santha Moorthy 5/20, A. Aravinddaraj 2/20) lost to Puducherry 95/4 in 19 overs (S. Karthik 26; Shivam Dube 2/8).

Members of the Warangal Urban team are all smiles after winning the TCA Telangana North East Cup U-14 T20 cricket tournament in Adilabad on Sunday.

# Warangal Urban win T20 trophy

**DC CORRESPONDENT**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Warangal Urban defeated Adilabad Rural by five wickets to win the TCA Telangana North East Cup U-14 T20 cricket tournament at the Indira Priya Darshini Stadium in Adilabad on Sunday.

Batting first, Adilabad Rural managed a mere 113 for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated overs. Their total was built on an unbeaten 71 by Mohammed Asfan even as Ramu took 3 wickets while conceding 14 runs.

Warangal Urban replied with 114 for 5 in 18.3 overs, with Rithwik (24) being the top scorer.

Ramu was adjudged Man of the Match, Rithwik Best Batsman as well as Man of the Series while Bhavesh of Adilabad was voted Best Bowler of the tournament.

**Brief scores: Adilabad Rural 113/9 in 20 overs (Mohd Asfan 71 n.o, Ramu 3/14) lost to Warangal Urban 114/5 in 18.3 overs (Rithwik 24, Hiranya Dowkl 2/17)**

# Winning over Oz crowd was Shardul's inspiration

**Brisbane, Jan. 17:** When Shardul Thakur stepped out to bat on Sunday, rescuing India from a precarious 186/6 was not the only target on his mind as he was also keen to impress the Australian crowd after being told how "rewarding" it would feel by coach Ravi Shastri.

"When I walked in, the situation was difficult I would not deny that. The crowd was cheering for Australians bowlers. But I remembered our coach Ravi Shastri saying right at the start of the One-day series that 'if you perform in this country, you will be rewarded'," Thakur talked about the inspiration behind the unfazed manner with which he batted.

**Batting at number eight, Shardul impressed with his stroke-play, his drives coming straight out of coaching manuals.**

"People will love you for your performances and that one thing was also on my mind that people are going love me."

Batting at number eight, Thakur impressed with his stroke-play, his drives coming straight out of coaching manuals. At stumps, Australia were 54 ahead after reaching 21 for no loss in their second innings following India's dismissal for 336.

"Eventually at the end of the day it would help my team, that was the biggest positive. These two things were on my mind. Crowd would make noise, but If I bat well, the same crowd will cheer for me," Thakur said.

Cheered, he definitely was by not just the crowd but also his teammates, who gave him a standing ovation on his way back to the dressing room.

— *PTI*

# HAZLEWOOD RUES LACK OF EXECUTION FROM AUSSIES

**Brisbane, Jan. 17:** Australia speedster Josh Hazlewood on Sunday credited Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur for taking India to a safe position with their century stand but rued the execution of home team bowlers in finishing off the visitors tail on the third day of the fourth Test here.

"Yes, it is obviously a crucial partnership (between Shardul and Washington), but then we had them. I think, 6/200 around that mark, so we thought we (were) on top there but to be fair the guys batted really well," Hazlewood, who returned with figures of 5 for 57, said at the virtual post-day press conference.

"We didn't probably execute well as we could have in that period but (we) created a few little half chances. On any other day, hopefully we take those, but credit to those two guys (Shardul and Washington). They batted beautifully and I think it just shows the wicket is pretty good."

Hazlewood conceded that Australia let a few moments slip in the day, which could have eventually made the difference.

"I thought the guys did bowl really well again and everyone else backed us up. Just let a few moments slipped, I think, and also a few a half chances there. If we could have grabbed them, it could have made a little difference," the 30-year-old said. — *PTI*

# Rohit's dismissal underlines lack of judicious shot selection

Hemant Kenkre
**Silly Point**

When it comes to cricket, especially batting, there is a fine line between (being called) reckless and attacking. After battling out the 'on spot' Australian bowlers for 19 overs, Indian opener Rohit Sharma holed out to long-leg off a dipper bowled by Nathan Lyon to walk back to the pavilion after a well compiled 44 runs.

Many called the shot irresponsible and reckless while some believe, that's the way the Mumbaikar plays and that he shouldn't be hauled up for playing such a shot.

The shot, once again, drew out the tussle between the old school of cricket and one that pushes modern thoughts into an old sport. Cricket has seen many changes since the inception of the competitive part of the game began in the later part of 19th century.

From the red, we now see the game being played in white and pink colour balls and the game is played across three formats — long, short and mini.

While Rohit's shot was severely criticised by many people from the old school of cricketing thought, the protagonist gave himself the leeway by justifying his action.

In the post match presser, the opener said he was following a process of dominating the bowling and had no regrets in playing that shot.

In his words, Rohit stated: "It is something I like to do. I like to put the pressure on the bowler once I am in, and that is my role in the team. To make sure I keep putting that pressure on the bowlers because we have seen throughout the series how run-scoring has been difficult for both the teams."

As an old schooler who loves the way modern cricket is shaping, particularly from an improvement in the skill sets and providing entertainment point of view, one feels that neo-processes such as those followed by Rohit, need a major overhaul. For starters, was Rohit being dominated by Lyon to make him play a shot to reverse the situation? The bowler was in his initial sages and had been dispatched by Rohit for a classy boundary and wasn't hemmed in by dot balls or any other pressure.

If he were to hark back to his return-to-Test-cricket match at Sydney a week ago, he will see how the team slid to a total of 244 runs after he had given them a start of 70 runs. I'm sure the thought never came into his mind of building his and the team's total with a bit of planning and judicious shot selection. Words like 'process of dominating the bowling' and putting emphasis on the 'role he is meant to play' in the team while justifying a terrible shot reeks of an ego, fuelled with false sense of self-appraisal.

In the 20 Test matches that Rohit has played abroad, his average of 27.58 belies his total average of 46.18, clearly showing he has struggled in foreign climes.

The moniker of being a 'short format, white ball' specialist has stuck on his famed shoulders thanks to his performance abroad and this was the best opportunity for him to make up.

Coming in to chase a solid Australian total of 369 runs, Rohit had done all the hard work of seeing-off the new ball and looked like he would slap the doubting Thomases till he gave it all away.

From the dug out, Rohit has watched two complete greenhorns take on the might of the Aussies in their stronghold.

Debutant Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur (batting for the second time in Tests) showed awesome resilience by playing according to the situation and nullifying the advantage that the Aussies had gained in the ongoing Test, with a 123 run stand. In the team's scheme, the roles of Thakur and Sundar, who average 16 and 31.29 in first class cricket, were to do with the ball. The duo took the fight right to the Aussies and demystified the 'Gabba' factor by their attitude.

The defiance shown by Hanuma Vihari and Ravichandran Ashwin in the Sydney Test is raved about as the duo made the (almost) impossible happen by playing a role which was well above their pay grade.

They too followed a 'process', one of patience and constraint and weathered nasty deliveries and nastier comments, to ensure that they kept the series alive with a draw, which must have inspired Thakur and Sundar.

While Rohit's opinion of playing a certain attacking role in the team's overall strategy is understandable, playing according to the situation and judiciousness when it comes to shot selection is what Test cricket is all about. The sooner the 'Hit Man' realises it the better, or he will continue to be called a white ball home tiger.

## SHORT TAKES

### More players in Oz Open lockdown

**Melbourne:** An additional 25 players will have to spend two weeks in quarantine before the Australian Open, organisers said Sunday, as Covid-19 continues to disrupt preparations for the Grand Slam tournament.

The players were on a flight from Doha to Melbourne on which one passenger, who is not one of the players, tested positive for coronavirus having tested negative before the flight.

They will join 47 players already confined to their rooms for 14 days in Melbourne, meaning a total of 72 players are now unable to leave their hotel rooms for two weeks.

"There were 58 passengers on the flight, including 25 players. All are already in quarantine hotels," tournament organisers said in a statement on Twitter. — *AFP*

### English smell win against Lankans

**Galle, Sri Lanka:** Sri Lanka rattled England with three quick wickets late on the fourth day of the first Test in Galle on Sunday, but the visitors remained favourites to win the match with just 36 more runs needed and seven wickets in hand.

England were expected to comfortably close in on a victory after Jack Leach took 5/122 with Sri Lanka all out for 359 in their second innings, leaving the visitors needing only 74 to win. But Sri Lanka struck early, with Dom Sibley (2) and Zak Crawley (8) falling to left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya. Captain Joe Root was run-out for one after a mix-up with Jonny Bairstow. Bairstow and Dan Lawrence took a nervous England to 38-3 as bad light brought an early end to proceedings. — *AFP*

**Brief scores: Sri Lanka 135 & 359** (Perera 62, Thirimanne 111, Mathews 71, Leach 5/122, Bess 3/100) vs **England 421 & 38/3** (Embuldeniya 2/13).

### New body for State chess

**Hyderabad:** K. S. Prasad of Hyderabad and A. Jayachandra of Warangal Urban have been elected as president and general secretary of the Telangana State Chess Association, elections to which were held at a hotel in the city on Sunday.

The body, elected unanimously for a four-year term, also has three vice-presidents, three joint secretaries, a treasurer and six executive committee members. As many as 19 District Chess Associations partipated in the elections, according to a press release.

**The body:** K. S. Prasad (president, Hyderabad), Siraj Ur Rahman (vice-president, Mancherial), Gaddala Srinivas (vice-president, Peddapalli), K. Narasimhareddy Rao (vice-president, Mahbubnagar), A. Jayachandra (general secretary, Warangal Urban), R. Janardhan Rao (joint secretary, Adilabad), Ch Satyanarayana (joint secretary, Ranga Reddy), A. Gangadhar (joint secretary, Nizamabad), Ravindra Patel (treasurer, Siddipet).

Executive Committee Members — G. Jyothsna (Bhadradri Kothagudem), M. Kranthilakshmi (Medchal), S. K. Rafi (Khammam), G. Malsur (Mahbubabad), R. Chandramouli (Wanaparthy), Y. Srinivasreddy (Nalgonda).

## Live on TV

**CRICKET**

**Sri Lanka vs England:** First Test, Day 5 from 10 am on Sony Ten 2

**Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament:** Jharkhand vs Hyderabad from 11.55 am; Tamil Nadu vs Bengal from 6.55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**Big Bash League:** Sydney Thunder vs Hobart Hurricanes from 1.45 pm on Sony Six, HD

**Australia vs India:** Fourth Test Day 5 from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

**FOOTBALL**

**Indian Super League:** Chennaiyin vs East Bengal from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**English Premier League:** Arsenal vs Newcastle from 1.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

**Italian League:** Cagliari vs AC Milan from 1.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2

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