

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 16 JANUARY 2021

## WEATHER

Max: 29.07°C  
Min: 17.06°C  
RH: 49%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partially cloudy.  
Misty morning. Max/Min  
temp. 30/17 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+39,212)	(+415)
1,05,41,760	1,52,086

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+202)	(+2)
TS: 2,91,118	1,574
(+94)	(+1)
AP: 8,85,710	7,139

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,38,61,080
DEATHS
20,09,441
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

219

[worldometers.info/coronavirus](http://worldometers.info/coronavirus)

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Tadya till 7.47 am
Star: Satabisham till 6.09 am (Sunday)
Variyam: 12.44 pm to 2.23 pm
Durmuhurtam: 6.53 am to 8.22 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Jamadi- ul- Akhir 2,1442 AH
PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.46 am  
Zohar: 12.36 pm  
Asar: 4.26 pm  
Maghrab: 6.08 pm  
Isha: 7.19 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.19 AM

MOONSET TODAY 9.05 PM

## COUNTER POINT



No, he hasn't won an election... he just got a Covid shot!

## SHORT TAKES

## Kamal Morarka dies at 74

Mumbai: Former Union minister and industrialist Kamal Morarka on Friday died of a heart attack at his home in South Mumbai. He was 74. A close friend and senior journalist

Santosh Bharatiya said, "Morarka died after he suffered a heart attack at 7.50 pm on Friday. He complained of a cough on Thursday. He did not come to office yesterday as he was ill."

■ Report on Page 7



## WORLD | 9

Joe Biden announces \$1.9 tn Covid stimulus



## SPORTS | 12

Natarajan makes an impressive debut

## TABLOID

Fusion of fashion and technology



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## Army's drone attack prowess



Soldiers display 'drone swarm' capability for the first time during the 73rd Army Day parade in New Delhi on Friday. The demonstration involved 75 indigenously developed drones which, working autonomously, located and destroyed "targets" like tanks, terror camps, fuel dumps and a "suddenly" found helipad. During the mock attack, the baby kamikaze drones detached themselves from mother drones and directly hit these targets in a suicide mission. The drones, which can travel 50 km, also delivered first-aid during the demo. Militaries are looking at drones after Azerbaijan used armed drone swarms to defeat Armenia in a recent conflict.

— PTI

## Farm talks stuck after 9 rounds

## Next round of talks on Jan. 19, Centre worried about R-Day

SANJAY KAW | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 15

The ninth round of talks on Friday between the Central government and the protesting farmers' unions over the three agricultural reform laws again failed to break the deadlock as the two sides were unable to reach common ground on the issues of repeal of the laws and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Act.

The next round of talks has been scheduled on Tuesday, January 19, the day when the Supreme Court-appointed committee was due to start its consultations with stakeholders to end the impasse. Friday's was the first meeting after the

court stayed the implementation of the farm laws till further orders and announced formation of a four-member panel to hear the grievances of the farmers and the government's views.

Just two days after the committee was named by the court, Bhupinder Singh Mann, president of BKU (Mann) and chairman of All India Kisan Coordination Committee, recused himself from the panel, saying: "I will always stand with my farmers and Punjab".

One of the major challenges before the government is to ensure that the farmers call off their proposed tractor march to Delhi on Republic Day. On Monday, the Supreme

Court will have to decide on a petition by the Centre, moved through the Delhi police, to stop protesters from holding any rally that could disrupt R-Day parade.

While the Centre insists the laws introduced in September will unshackle farmers from having to sell their produce only at regulated wholesale markets, the protesting farmers say the bills are meant to benefit private buyers.

After meeting 41 representatives of farmers' unions, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said: "Today's talks with the farmers' unions were inconclusive. We will hold talks again on January 19. We are positive (about) reaching

ing a solution through talks." During the negotiations, he urged the union leaders to be "flexible" in their approach. Besides Mr Tomar, Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Som Parkash, who is an MP from Punjab, were also present at the meeting which lasted for around five hours.

Mr Tomar said the government was concerned about the health of the farmers who have been camping on Delhi's outskirts for almost two months. The farmers' round-the-clock sit-ins in cold weather have also led to some deaths among them.

■ Page 2: SC panel will do its work: Tomar

## TD, BJP activists behind temple attacks: AP DGP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 15

In a major breakthrough, the Andhra Pradesh police arrested 15 persons with political affiliation to Telugu Desam and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in connection with the recent offences at various temples across the State.

The police, after thorough investigation into nine cases, identified 21 persons directly involved in desecration of idols and statues or spreading false news of attacks on temples.

Of them, 17 belonged to the principal Opposition while the remaining four were affiliated to BJP. Six accused are absconding.

The development gives

credence to the government's contention that the series of attacks on temples or desecration of idols were part of a larger game-plan to disturb communal harmony in the State and reap political benefits.

Briefing media persons, Director General of Police Gautam Sawang said a deliberate attempt was made by vested interests belonging to the political parties to create unrest in the State.

He appealed to people to cooperate with the Special Investigation Team constituted to probe into the attacks and provide further information about the incidents on mobile No: 93929-03400.

The DGP appealed to the political parties to

refrain their cadre from indulging in such wrong

acts and warned of stern action against people behind the conspiracy, irrespective of how influential they were.

As the opposition parties may dismiss the arrests as part of political vendetta and show them in poor light, the police claimed that they carried out the investigation in a scientific manner and gathered incriminating evidence against the accused.

The DGP, who has been personally monitoring the investigation, directed the officials to take the cases to their logical conclusion and as early as possible.

The DGP appealed to the political parties to

Brisbane, Jan. 15: Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was targeted for abuse by a section of the crowd on the opening day of the fourth Test against Australia, a newspaper here reported, claiming he was called a "grub".

The incident happened a few days after Siraj was racially abused at the Sydney Cricket Ground during the third Test.

■ Page 5: Material put on idol not impure: Forensics

■ Full report on Page 12

ing veterinary doctors and a shooter, among others, is placed in such a way that it will reach a location within half an hour, along with trap cages, after noticing a tiger movement. Their plan is to trap the tiger via firing shots from a distance. The tranquilisation shot would be done as and when the tiger remains in the same position for at least 10 minutes.

■ Page 2: Forest staff cordon off area

## SCENT HUNT

## Tigers sense normal scent of a human body from afar, keep away

## Forest officials get 'dirty' to trap tiger

PILLALAMARI SRINIVAS | DC

KANDI BHEEMANNA TEMPLE (KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD), JAN. 15

These are hard times for the team of forest staff

engaged in trapping the tiger that killed two persons in the forests on the outskirts of Papannapet village in Bejjur mandal late last year.

Forest officials say the tiger migrated from the Chandrapur area in Maharashtra and has

spread panic in the state for the past few weeks. They have identified eight locations where the tiger movement was noticed. The tiger has also killed several animals.

A total of 62 animal trackers are on the job. Among them, 22 animal trackers are at the base camp in addition to the 15 others placed there.

■ THE DIRT, sweat of unbathed staff camouflages human scent

The unbathed forest personnel, it is believed, camouflages the scent of humans and will not warn the tiger away. Tigers can also sense perfumes, aftershaves and

other cosmetics. So, the forest staff on the rescue operation are avoiding shaving, they say.

Forest officials are also keeping packs of cow dung in the area and sprinkling water on these at intervals to spread the smell so as to attract the tiger to the man-made camp set up on a watchtower. There, a trap has been set up for the tiger. Once the tiger reaches the spot, the shooter and the veterinary doctors would tranquillise the tiger.

The forest team comprising

ing veterinary doctors and a shooter, among others, is placed in such a way that it will reach a location within half an hour, along with trap cages, after noticing a tiger movement. Their plan is to trap the tiger via firing shots from a distance. The tranquilisation shot would be done as and when the tiger remains in the same position for at least 10 minutes.

■ Page 2: Forest staff cordon off area

Mohammed Siraj

## SIRAJ TARGETED AGAIN BY CROWD ON OPENING DAY

■ Full report on Page 12

■ Page 5: Material put on idol not impure: Forensics

■ Full report on Page 12

■ Page 2: Forest staff cordon off area

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■ Full report on Page 12

■ Page 2: Forest staff cordon off area



**IN BRIEF**  
**TOSS extends last date for academic yr**

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana Open School Society announced extension of the deadline for 2020-21 up to January 25. Candidates interested to continue studies through open and distance learning mode can enroll in SSC and Intermediate courses by uploading their application form with the prescribed fee and late fee through TS Online, MeeSeva or APOnline portals. For details, candidates can contact district education officers of their respective district or visit Telangana Open School website [telanganopenschool.org](http://telanganopenschool.org).

**AFA TO CELEBRATE ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE TODAY**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The Air Force Academy (AFA) at Dundigal, Hyderabad, will celebrate its golden jubilee on Saturday. All officers of the Indian Air Force pass through the portals of the AFA.

The AFA has planned a golden jubilee marathon, Academy Utsav, blood donation camp, activities by Air Force Wives Welfare Association. The celebrations will culminate on January 19 with a training workshop and the release of a special postal department by Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria, Chief of Air Staff.

**MVF OFFERS 'EAR TO HEAR' SERVICES**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The Meenakshi Venkatraman Foundation (MVF), a charitable trust founded by G.V. Sethuraman and G.V. Krishnan in 2013, and Rotary International have been providing 'Ear to Hear' services with free diagnostic hearing evaluation, speech therapy and rehabilitation for needy and underprivileged, and offers services for babies younger than one month as part of its screening process. The trust offers services at the Gandhi and Niloufer hospitals and maternity hospitals at Sultan Bazaar and Petla Burj. According to a release, MVF can be reached at 8500776327 or [admin@eartohear.org](mailto:admin@eartohear.org).

**IIT-H ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF 'INDIC WIKI' WEBSITE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH), launched its project website 'Project Indic Wiki' to increase content availability in Indian languages and enhance the Telugu and Hindi Wikipedias, on Friday.

Articles on their website [indicwiki.iiit.ac.in/](http://indicwiki.iiit.ac.in/) are freely available to read, share, and enhance. The website will be available in both mobile and desktop modes and is equipped with a plethora of training content, Telugu and Hindi Wikipedia sandboxes, and a way to contact and join the team as a writer, subject or language expert.

The Indic Wiki Project also announced its online internship programme, ideal for students and freshers. Details are available at <http://indicwiki.iiit.ac.in/>

**HUNGER STRIKE ON JAN. 23 FOR STAFF PAY HIKE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The United State Steering Committee announced a one-day hunger strike at Dharna Chowk as well as demonstrations at the offices of collectors, mandal centres and education institutions on January 23, demanding speedy implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) recommendations.

The committee also demanded release of the PRC report in the public domain, implementation of new wages from July 2018, with acceptable fitment by the end of this month.

It sought equal pay for equal work for contract and outsourced employees and restoration of the old pension scheme to those recruited in the selection process before September 2004.

# Staff crisis hits govt schools

Teachers say without filling vacancies it will be difficult to hold classes

## UoH likely to review phased schools reopening policy

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN 15

Even as the Telangana State Teachers United Federation (TSTUF), a government teachers body, has welcomed the decision to reopen schools for in-person classes from Class 9, it has raised major concerns.

There is a major dearth of teaching staff in government schools, especially with the blended form of learning — that includes online and in-school classes — to be put in place from February 1.

There could be a crisis in school premises where, in order to follow physical distancing guidelines, students from one class will have to be split up into different sections, said Chava Ravi, general secretary, TSTUF.

"There are at least 7,000

vacancies in 5,000 high schools for subject teachers. We have tried reaching out to the government to fill the vacancies, with

out which it will be a Herculean task to hold classes, especially in schools where only one or two teachers are present. However, there has been no response to our

demands," he said.

Another issue is that of regular sanitisation of schools. Even as the government has directed local bodies and gram

February 1.

The UoH, a Central university, follows the UGC's guidelines. The task force at the university, however, will also take into consideration the state government's guidelines in reviewing its decision, said Vinod Pavarala, head of the task force.

"We have some review meetings scheduled in the next few days in which we may decide on increasing the number of returning

students in the next phases in February, including the 150 already planned. We will be focusing on priority students scheduled to graduate in June," he added.

This comes at a time when PG and research students from non-science backgrounds are raising complaints over the university's alleged negligence towards humanities and social science students.

demands," he said.

Another issue is that of regular sanitisation of schools. Even as the government has directed local bodies and gram

panchayats in each district to undertake sanitisation of schools, the TSTUF is demanding that service persons be appointed to each school to examine the cleanliness and hygiene, as has been the case in the past four years.

Meanwhile, district education officers as well as headmasters have been asked to provide a detailed set of standard operating procedures to the government, with logistical, seating and medical plans by January 18.

The Jubilee Hills police on Friday arrested a construction worker for stealing a bonsai tree from the house of former director-general of police V. Appa Rao. The accused was identified as Gollapudi Prasannanjaneyulu, 21, who had "frequented the road before deciding to steal and sell the tree."

The 15-year-old bonsai was stolen on Sunday, following which the Jubilee Hills police booked a case. The plant belonged to the Saru casuarina chettie category and its estimated worth is ₹1.5 lakh. It was placed outside the main gate at the residence of Appa Rao on Road 18, Jubilee Hills.

"The accused is a resident of Omnagar in Yousufguda and frequents the area. He committed the theft along with his accomplice, Abhishek, who is absconding," the DCP of West Zone A.R. Srinivas said.

"Prasannanjaneyulu confessed to the cops that he had often seen the tree while passing by the road

**FIRST DIRECT FLIGHT FROM CHICAGO LANDS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

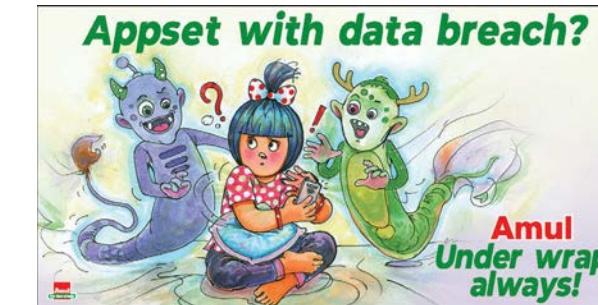
Air India's first weekly Chicago-Hyderabad flight landed at the Shamshabad airport just past midnight on Friday, in what could turn out to be a Sankranti gift for the people.

Flight AI108 left Chicago on its inaugural flight at 9.30 pm local time on January 13 and landed at 12.40 am IST on Friday. This flight will operate on Wednesdays. AI-107 will leave on Friday at 12.50 pm IST and reach Chicago at 6.05 pm.

The flight will operate with a Boeing 777-200LR aircraft with a seating capacity of 238. It has eight first class, 35 business class and 195 economy class seats and carries four cockpit and 12 cabin crew. The total flight time will be approximately 16 hours 45 minutes from Hyderabad to Chicago and 15 hours and 40 minutes in the return direction, the difference caused by winds.

Passengers on the first flight were greeted with a cake cutting ceremony, cultural events and photographs. Those who took the first Hyderabad-Chicago flight were similarly feted. Officials at the airport said the flight would serve the largest unsevered market between India and the US, with over 7.4 lakh passengers annually. Hyderabad is a gateway to south and central India, and the preferred transit hub.

Telugu diaspora is one of the fastest-growing communities in the US.



## 21-yr-old held for stealing bonsai tree from ex-DGP

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD JAN. 15



The bonsai tree recovered from an alleged thief.

and knew it was valuable. He took out the tree, asked Abhishek to ride his bike while he sat pillion and left the spot. He did not have a buyer ready and was waiting for someone to purchase it when we caught him," said the police.

The case was cracked with the help of CCTV cameras on the road and the men were identified with the help of informants. "We nabbed him from his residence in Yousufguda and recovered the plant intact from his possession," added the police.

## Ex-DGP spends 3 hrs tending to his plants

**NAVEEN KUMAR | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Retired DGP Appa Rao said he spends about three hours every morning to nurse his plants as "they need to be taken care of like a small child." He was distraught upon learning about the theft of his casuarina bonsai tree.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Rao said he and his wife learned about bonsai from Japan in the 1980s.

"My wife is president of the Friends Bonsai Society founded in 1982. We took a fancy to these plants when we visited Japan. The Task Force office in Secunderabad was my residence for 16 years. We had numerous such plants there," Appa Rao recalled. "We shifted home to Jubilee Hills and we have had about 200 bonsais under our care. I spend three hours every morning, spraying water, trimming and taking care of these trees as they require care as a small child does," he said.

The society has given out bonsais to Ramoji Film City

and Raj Bhavan among other places and they are also taken care of by its members. Appa Rao said he had faith that the city police would recover the lost bonsai. He got back the plant without damage.

"When I was police commissioner of the city, DGP M. Mahendar Reddy was the DCP of East Zone, DGP Anurag Sharma was the South Zone DCP, and DGP Gautam Sawang (of AP) was the traffic DCP. I had recruited a batch of sub-inspectors back then who are working as station house officers.

## Parents' appeal to PMO works, girl spends time with soldiers

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15



Nyorah Patra with soldiers during the Army Day celebrations on Friday.

Modi, seeking a special visit for their daughter to any army establishment or help in extending an invitation to attend either the Independent Day or Republic Day celebrations.

To their surprise, they were contacted by the PMO to say that a special arrangement will be made in Hyderabad for Nyorah to visit the Army establishment. She was overly joyous.

Soon, she received a letter from the Artillery establishment at Golconda, extending an invitation to Nyorah for a visit. It was later revealed that she might be one of the guests attending the Army Day and Army Veteran's Day celebrations, and the joy was doubled.

## Two arrested for fake GST invoices

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Jupiter Trading Company, B.I Enterprises have issued fake GST Invoices/e-waybills and facilitated in passing of ineligible ITC to the tune of ₹14.20 crore and evaded payment of GST in respect of transactions made in the name of Frontline Enterprises and Universal Enterprises to the tune of ₹3.15 crore," said the officials.

Investigations revealed that the two had a pre-planned conspiracy aimed to dupe the exchequer by creating a complex web of interconnected firms engaged in fraudulent issuance of tax invoices without supply of goods or services to enable the recipient companies to avail and utilise fake ITC, leading to loss of government revenue.

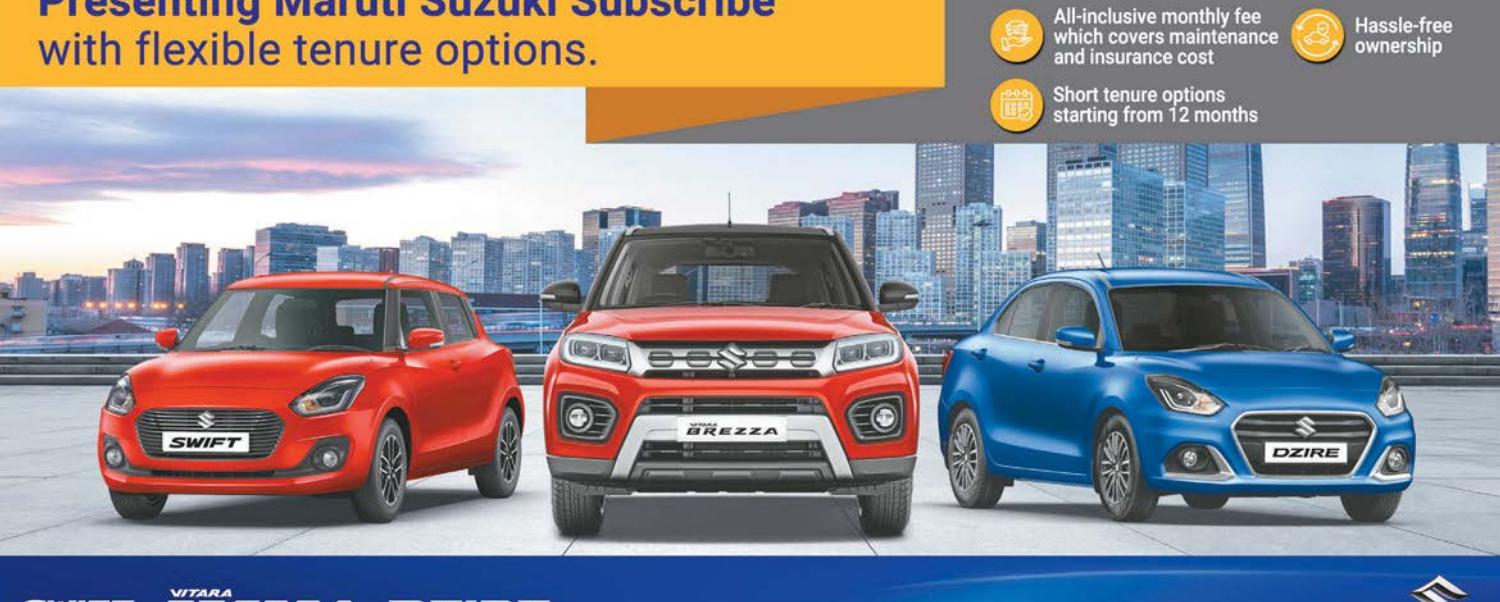
Kutbuddin and Aliaser Junaghawala have accepted their involvement and their statements were taken up before placing them under arrest on Tuesday. They were produced before the economic offences court on Wednesday and were remanded to judicial custody up to January 25.

"Our investigations have revealed that National Hardware Trading Company, Platinum Trading Syndicate, Marvel Industrial Corporation,

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## IN BRIEF

**₹20L gold seized at RGIA**

**Hyderabad:** Gold worth nearly ₹20 lakh concealed in paste form was seized from a passenger who arrived at the airport here from Dubai on Friday. The 395.07 grams gold was found concealed in a specially stitched pocket in the jeans of the passenger, a Customs release said.

**IDENTIFY STAFF FOR PROMOTION: ERRABELLI**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao directed officials to prepare lists of promotions of officers and employees at various divisions and categories in the panchayat raj and rural development departments, including engineering, as per the directions of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

It was suggested that the seniority list of all employees in their respective departments, from the date of appointment should also be prepared and a separate list comprising those eligible for promotions.

He had a special meeting with panchayati raj and rural development secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, commissioner Raghunandan Rao and Sanjeeva Rao of the engineering department on Friday. The minister wanted the promotion list to be orderly and transparent to avoid future problems. He urged the officials to directly oversee the process of promotion and preparation of its list.

**MEA'S SWACHHATA EVENT ENDS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The Swachhata Pakhwada programme concluded on Friday at Clock Tower Park in Secunderabad with a 'swachhata walk'. The programme started on January 1 involving four offices of the ministry of external affairs in Hyderabad – Regional Passport Office, ministry of external affairs, protector of emigrants office, and Migrant Resource Centre, apart from regional office of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

The 15 days' programme involved webinars on cleanliness and lectures on water conservation, hygiene and sanitation. During the valedictory function, masks, sanitisers and soaps were distributed to applicants at Regional Passport Office at Hyderabad. Officials who took active part in the 15-day programme were presented steel water bottles.

Meanwhile, Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad, has been declared "Plastic Free Zone" from January 8 onwards.

**DR REDDY'S LAB GETS NOD FOR P-3 TRIAL**

**New Delhi, Jan. 15:** Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Friday said it has received approval from the Drugs Control General of India to conduct Phase 3 clinical trial for the Sputnik V vaccine for COVID-19.

It will be conducted on 1,500 subjects as part of the randomised, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study in the country, the Hyderabad-based firm said.

Earlier this week, the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) reviewed the safety data from the Phase 2 clinical trial. The DSMB had concluded that no safety concerns were identified and the study met the primary endpoints of safety.

"This is an important milestone... We expect to commence the phase III study within this month," DRL's co-chairman and managing director G.V. Prasad said.

In September 2020, the drug major had partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund to conduct the clinical trials of the Sputnik V vaccine and for its distribution rights in India.

Sputnik V, developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, was registered by the ministry of health of Russia and became the world's first registered vaccine against Covid-19 based on the established human adenoviral vector platform. The vaccine's efficacy is confirmed at 91.4 per cent.

—PTI

# Govt supports illegal My Home mining: BJP

**Nizamabad MP says TS not sending MSP plan for turmeric**

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

a letter that detailed the helplessness of farmers. The letter also mentions about the illegal mining by the My Home Group.

Later, talking to the media, the MP said that the Centre is ready to release all funds needed by farmers but the state government is not at all sending proposals. Instead they are blaming the Centre for their own negligence.

On the My Home Group was attempting a similar operation in the reserved forests, which have a total area of 600 acres. The group is being supported by the state government, Arvind said.

Nalgonda. The group was attempting a similar operation in the reserved forests, which have a total area of 600

acres. The group is being supported by the state government, Arvind said. The state government has not responded to the three letters written by the Centre, the MP said. This highlights the carelessness of the state government that is encouraging the My Home group to go about its illegal mining operations. This is the MP's second letter to the Chief Secretary on the issue of alleged illegal mining by the My Home Group.

## TRS: Bandi makes hate remarks for publicity

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Bandi Sanjay is setting "deadlines" to the state government only to stay in the headlines, alleged Bodakunti Venkateshwarlu, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Chief Whip in the Legislative Council.

Talking at the media point at the Council here on Friday, Venkateshwarlu said Sanjay wanted to magnify every issue. In Jangaon, Sanjay was setting separate deadlines in every village, he said.

He complained that Sanjay was speaking in a "vulgar" manner about Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, a person who had fought for Telangana



Bandi Sanjay

statehood. Without any reason, Sanjay is attacking TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, the MLC said.

"Sanjay must maintain decorum as he is a member of Parliament and president of a state party unit. Senior BJP leaders must teach Sanjay how to behave," Venkateshwarlu said.

Referring to the

**HE COMPLAINED** that Sanjay was speaking in a "vulgar" manner about Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, a person who had fought for Telangana statehood. Without any reason, Sanjay is attacking TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, MLC Bodakunti Venkateshwarlu, said.

police lathicharge on BJP activists last week, the MLC said the issue was "a very small" one but the BJP was making it appear that it was a statewide issue.

He said BJP leaders do not bring funds from the Centre but they blame the state government, the MLC said.

## Will repay dues to investors, if freed: Nowhera

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Nowhera Shaikh of the Heera Group has told the Supreme Court that she will repay dues to complainants within six months in case she is released.

Mohammed Saleem, deputed by Nowhera Shaikh to handle some of her legal matters, in an affidavit dated January 13 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 31 of 2020, submitted the proposed schedule of payment to investors.

Shahbaz Ahmed Khan, president, Heera Group Victim Association, alleged that though lakhs of people including NRIs and emigrant nationals of other countries in the Gulf had invested in the companies owned by Nowhera Shaikh and the sum touched ₹50,000 crore, the police had stated that they could find about 1.72 lakh investors and the amount was ₹5,640 crore. He said about 10,000 investors have submitted their withdrawals.

Khan alleged that thousands of investors have not come forward to lodge complaints as the henchmen of Nowhera Shaikh had given an impression that whoever does so would not get their amount until the cases are settled while there are chances of disbursement of the amount to those who refrained from going to the police. Nowhera Shaikh was arrested on October 16, 2018 and faces cases in Telangana state, Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) are also investigating the companies.

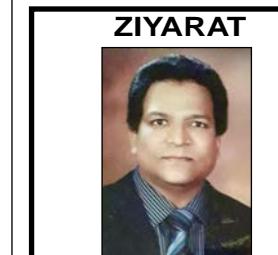
## MIM to fight Bidar civic poll

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The AIMIM is all set to field candidates in the ensuing elections to the Bidar Municipal Council, which are likely to be held next month.

Party president Asaduddin Owaisi has appointed senior party leader Mohammed Ghous and Shalibanda corporator Mohammed Mustafa Ali as in-charge representatives. They left for Bidar on Friday and will hold meetings along with party leaders and functionaries.

Of the 35 wards of the Bidar municipality, AIMIM had won three in the 2013 elections from the eight it had contested. This time, the party may field more candidates. The ward delimitation work has been completed and the government has sought claims and objections on it.



Mr. SYED ISHAQ IQBAL

D.O.B.: 13.01.2021  
"Time may pass & fade away but memories of you always stay with us." We love you always and miss you."

Ziyarat held on 16th Jan, 2021, besides Boats Club Masjid-E-Sonabe Abdulla. Timing are 4.15 pm (Asia).

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

(S/2021/D01080)



Shri BOORUGU MURALIDHAR

DOB : 23-10-1948 DOD : 6-1-2021

We deeply miss your presence.

Inserted by: Boorugu Premlatha

W/o Late Boorugu Rajeshwara Rao

Boorugu Mahadevshwar Rao

Boorugu Suvarnamala & All Family Members.

(S/2021/D01072)



SOMA SUDERSHAN GOUD

D.O.B : 05-01-2021

13th Day Ceremony (17-1-2021) is observed at our residence, Address : Plot No.5,Avanthi Housing Society, Ramapuram, Sec-bd, 500003.

Lunch follows From 12 noon.

Bereaved Family Member.

Wife: Late Soma Shukrula Goud

Sons - SOMA Anjali Goud, SOMA Thirumal Goud

Daughters - P.Sudha Sree, S.Gayathri

Grandsons, Grand Daughters and Daughter-in-laws

(S/2021/D01073)



Shri BOORUGU MURALIDHAR

DOB : 23-10-1948 DOD : 6-1-2021

A fountain of knowledge and always a source of inspiration. The values you set, will always remain with us.

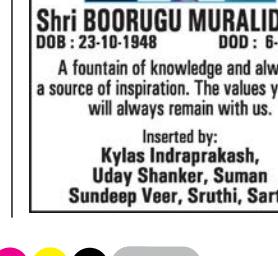
Inserted by:

Kylas Indrapakash,

Uday Shanker, Suman

Sundeep Veer, Sruthi, Sarth

(S/2021/D01074)



Smt. A. MADHU CHARY

DOB : 01-01-2015

We missed your ever smile, ever loving

person, time passed away but you always

remained in our thoughts. Rest in peace.

By: Dr. A.Y. Chary - Husband

Son: Dr. A. Mithin,

Daughter-In-Law: Dr. Satya Vanl

Sister, Brother and Grand Children.

(S/2021/D01075)



6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DOB : 01-01-2015

A fountain of knowledge and always a source of inspiration. The values you set,

will always remain with us.

Inserted by:

Kylas Indrapakash,

Uday Shanker, Suman

Sundeep Veer, Sruthi, Sarth

(S/2021/D01076)



Shri BOORUGU MURALIDHAR RAO

DOB: 23.10.1948 DOD: 05.01.2021

May his soul rest in peace

Inserted by:

Moluogi Veeresham & Family

(S/2021/D01077)



Smt. A. MADHU CHARY

DOB : 01-01-2015

We missed your ever smile, ever loving

person, time passed away but you always

remained in our thoughts. Rest in peace.

By: Dr. A.Y. Chary - Husband

Son: Dr. A. Mithin,

Daughter-In-Law: Dr. Satya Vanl

Sister, Brother and Grand Children.

(S/2021/D01078)



Dr. Doma J. Charles

May 1st, 1944 - December 26th, 2020

Thanksgiving Memorial Service

On Saturday, January 16, 2021,

11:30am - Service (IST): 1:30pm - Fellowship

Lunch at CSI Church Village: Gopalpet,

Dist: Kamareddy, Telangana, INDIA

Remembering in our prayers UTCC

## SHORT TAKES

NIZAMABAD  
JAWAN SUCCUMBS  
TO INJURIESDC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, JAN. 15

An Indian Army jawan from Nizamabad district succumbed to injuries he received in a road accident near here, on Friday. The jawan, Degavath Mothilal, 25, of Meghyanalik thanda in Indalwai mandal, had come home on leave recently.

Mothilal was seriously injured in the accident near Daggi village in Sadashivanagar mandal of Kamareddy district on National Highway 44 on December 28. He was admitted to the Army Hospital in Secunderabad, where, while undergoing treatment, he succumbed on Friday.

Roads minister V. Prashanth Reddy, MLC K. Kavitha, Nizamabad Rural MLA Bajirreddy Govardhan expressed grief over the death of the jawan and assured all possible help to the bereaved family members.

MATERIAL PUT ON  
IDOL NOT IMPURE:  
FORENSICS

From Page 1

In the Rajamahendravaram case in which idols were desecrated and a propaganda was carried out that some impure material was pasted on the Ganesh idol, Bomuru police arrested four persons, two each belonging to TD and BJP. The Forensic Lab Report revealed that the material pasted on the idol was not impure as propagated. The arrested included Vellappalli Prasad Babu and Chitikana Sandeep (both TD) and Adapa Varaprasad and Kasturi Srinivasa Rao from BJP.

TD activist Challa Madhusudhan Reddy was involved in damaging the idol of Goddess Saraswathi in Guntur district, while TD's Bojjana Subba Reddy was involved in garlanding slippers to Anjaneya statue in Kondaleedu of Kadapa district. Golla Peddaiah, Gadde Ramanjaneyulu, Barne Jayaramudu and Syed Fakruddin, all belonging to TD, were involved in desecration and demolishing of Maddamma temple in Kurnool district for treasure hunting.

TD's Viswantha Reddy, who is temple committee chairman, was involved in the desecration of Aanjaneya Swamy idol legs and stealing of hundi in Marlamanda village in Kurnool district. Six persons belonging to TD were involved in the alleged damage to the idol of gods in Lakshminarayana Swamy temple at Singarayakonda in Prakasam district.

Two TD activists spread false news about chopping of hands of a Vinayaka idol, a long time ago at Yetigyrapet in Visakhapatnam.

One Konchada Ravikumar, who is Dompet BJP mandal secretary, was involved in spreading false news about the damage of Hanuman statue, which was earlier damaged when a tree fell on it. BJP activist Dharmavarapu Acharya was involved in spreading false propaganda about veena of Saraswathi Devi being broken by people from another religion. It was actually broken a long time back due to wear and tear in Srikakulam district's Etcherla.

## Pre-vaccination check



East Zone DCP M. Ramesh Reddy inspects a centre where government employees would be vaccinated along with medical superintendent Dr S. Trilok Shyam at area hospital in Malakpet, Hyderabad on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

## Do not fear Covid-19 vaccines: Health dept

Minister says DCGI approved jabs after extensive trials

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Vaccines approved by the Centre for combating Covid-19 were safe and there was no need for any fear, top health department officials said here on Friday.

Health minister Etala Rajendar, who described himself as the "captain" of the healthcare workers in state, said, "It was only after extensive trials that the Drug Controller General of India approved their use. Some people are worried over the side-effects. You should remember that penicillin which has saved tens of crores of lives is never administered even now after all these decades, without a shot."

Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy and Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, who earlier in the day addressed a press conference, also stressed on the safety of the vaccines.

## READY FOR ANYTHING

The government has created elaborate infrastructure to deal with possible adverse effect after immunisation (AEFI) events

**57** teaching, district and area hospitals ready

**10**-bed AEFI ICUs in big hospitals

- AEFI mitigation measures to stay in place till everyone in state is vaccinated
- Adverse reaction that warrants increased medical attention to be taken to a bigger hospital
- AEFI kits – drugs, etc – including oxygen tanks, ready at even PHCs
- Doctors, drugs to deal with any reaction

Dr Rao pointed out that though lakhs of Covid-19 vaccine doses had been administered in 26 countries, there was not a single death on account of any adverse reaction. "The economy is hurting. It is time to end the pandemic. We urge the media not to sensationalise any reactions to the vaccines.

We should all give confidence to the people," he said. There could be some very common reactions, such as some swelling or pain at the injection site, some may develop some fever just as happens with many other vaccines. Even commonly used medicines for headaches can have side-effects,

he said.

Dr Ramesh Reddy said as per the Centre's India guidelines, the vaccines will not be given to anyone younger than 18 years, women who are pregnant or lactating. This is not because the vaccine is not safe, but it is because these sections of the population were not covered in the trials.

Anyone with previous history of severe anaphylactic reactions, will not be given the vaccine, he said. Anyone with issues relating to blood clotting will also not be given the vaccine.

Some reactions are inherent to any vaccine and are an indication that the body is reacting to the vaccine and is generating antibodies. When the people take the second dose, the common reactions may be more marked. Some exaggerated reactions might be possible but adverse reactions may be possible at the rate of one in a lakh of people, he said.

On Thursday, the highest number of cases, 48, were recorded from Hyderabad and GHMC area, followed by 15 in Ranga Reddy, 13 in Warangal Urban, 12 in Karimnagar, and 10 in Medchal Malkajgiri district.

According to the state health department's daily Covid-19 bulletin, two people lost their lives to the disease on Thursday, while one death was registered on Wednesday. The cases found on Thursday took the total to 2,91,118 and the fatalities have reached 1,574.

As many as 4,442 persons were still considered to be active Covid-19 cases as on Thursday, of whom 2,541 were receiving treatment while in isolation either at their homes or in designated isolation centres.

On Thursday, the highest number of cases, 48,

## 1 week tab on Covaxin recipients

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Of the two vaccines approved for emergency use in India — Covishield and Covaxin — those receiving the latter as part of the anti-Covid-19 vaccination drive, will be under a close watch, definitely for at least one week from the day they receive their first dose.

"We will check their status every day for a week. Anyone receiving Covaxin, as per government of India guidelines, will also have to sign a consent form saying they are taking it voluntarily.

While the recipients can self-report, we will also have daily checks. We will follow all protocols, whether Covaxin or Covishield," Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said.

When a reporter asked a question on the safety of Covaxin, the senior official said it was time to stop questioning Covaxin. Instead of questioning it, "We should be proud that it is developed in Hyderabad. It is a product of Telangana gadda (land). It is a totally indigenous vaccine. We should take pride in that," the Director of

Health Services said.

Of the 3.84 lakh doses of the two vaccines received by Telangana state in the first instalment, Covaxin, developed and produced by the city-based Bharat Biotech, accounts for 20,000 doses.

Dr Srinivasa Rao or Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy who addressed the press conference did not say whether those receiving Covishield developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca and produced in the country by Serum Institute of India will be under similar scrutiny.

Meanwhile, according to a fact sheet from Serum Institute on Covishield, some of the side-effects reported very commonly (one in 10 recipients) include tenderness, redness or some pain at the injection site, some chills or feverish feeling, headaches, or nausea or joint or muscle pains.

Common side-effects included a lump at the injection site, fever, some vomiting and flu like symptoms and the uncommon ones were a feeling of dizziness, decreased appetite, abdominal pain, enlarged lymph nodes, excessive sweating and itchy skin or rash.

## Kites, food, illumination marks colourful Sankranti festivities

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

The celebration of Sankranti is marked by colourful kites, gathering of family and friends on the terrace, enjoying food and beverages, and illumination by halogen lights. It was no different in several parts of the city this year. In fact, some families partied right up to Friday morning, thanks to the long weekend.

Some of the areas that are gaining in popularity for night flying of kites with lights atop buildings are Ghansi Bazaar, Begum Bazaar, Gollakidki, Gowlipura, Dhoopet, Esamia Bazaar and Doodhbowl. LED-day lights, power cans, sharp-lights, whose light beam stretches up to 1,000 metres were in use.

Almost 200 houses had these facilities and the costs were shared by the residents.

Kattam Prasanna Kumar of Gandhi Lane, Gollakidki, said, "We had a large gathering of relatives and friends, who

relative's places where lighting is arranged.

Anoop Ala, a resident of Goshamahal, said, "I was flying kites the whole day on my terrace. After sunset, we went to Gowlipura to a relative's place. Even girls enjoyed flying kites and being part of the celebrations."

Kallyam Ananthraj, a resident of Chappal Bazaar, explained, "Most of my friends visit our place because kite flying can be extended by several hours. The whole area is lit up as bright as day." Sai Ram of Chatrinaka said, "because of Covid-19 prevalence, the festival was restricted only to immediate families. We ensured that."

Police constable Pukkapuram Srikanth, posted on 'Dial 100' duty, said "Kites soared in the sky even a day after Sankranti. When the sun was fading, the enthusiastic lot released hot air lanterns in the air. It was a sight to behold." A few of the experts flew 'light kites', with small lamps stuck to their thread.

enjoyed specially prepared food and sipping beverages while flying kites, which continued till the early hours of Friday. Lighting up terraces has become a tradition since 15 years."

Those without such facilities move to their friends or

Government of Bihar, Water Resources Department,  
Office of the Irrigation Planning & Monitoring Circle  
Sinchai Bhawan, Hardinge Road, Patna-800015

India  
National Hydrology Project  
IBRD Loan no 8725-IN

Ref No: BIHAR/WRD/Irrigation/NHP-SW/EoI/01/2020-21

Procurement Plan Ref No :NHP-2018-2019 BRSW-601797\_1

## Abridged Version

Request for Expression of Interest  
(Consulting Services-Firms Selection)  
(E- Procurement)

Subject: Consultancy Services for Development of Sone Canal Asset Management System for Irrigation Management (Using Online Web Based Monitoring System and GIS Techniques) and as a Decision Support tool

Date of Issue/Publishing 28.01.2021

Last Date and Time for Uploading of REoI 03.03.2021 Time: 3:00 pm

Date and Time of Opening of REoI 03.03.2021 Time: 3:30 pm

Interested parties may view and download the Request for Expression of Interest containing the detailed terms and condition free of cost from the website <http://fmis.bih.nic.in> and <http://wrld.bih.nic.in>

For further details please visit website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

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Irrigation Planning & Monitoring Circle,  
Mobile :9431421952  
E-mail :[irrigationmonitoringcircle@gmail.com](mailto:irrigationmonitoringcircle@gmail.com)

PR- 11097 ( W R D ) 2020-21

नोट लोगों के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता देता है। Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

2 students electrocuted,  
TRS man falls to deathDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

YACHARAM POLICE said that at Nallavelli village, Kunduru Rakesh, 13, was flying a kite which got stuck in the power cables in front of the house. "He tried to free the kite with an iron rod and was electrocuted," police said.

In the first incident, Bangaru Krishna, a TRS activist from Chikkadpally division, was flying kites from the terrace of a multi-storey building at Ashoknagar when he slipped and fell on the iron grills fixed on the compound wall. Badly injured, he died while being shifted to the hospital," police said.

At Jeedimetla, M. Charith Kumar, 12, a Class VII student, was flying a kite along with a group of friends when he got electrocuted. "In the process of balancing himself, he touched the pipe of the water motor and

was electrocuted. It was found that the cables supplying electricity to the motor were broken, resulting in the incident," said the police.

The Yacharam police said that at Nallavelli village, Kunduru Rakesh, 13, was flying a kite which got stuck in the power cables in front of the house. "He tried to free the kite with an iron rod and was electrocuted," police said.

"He tried to free the kite with an iron rod and was electrocuted," police said. His elder sister Soni, 19, tried to rescue him but sustained severe burns. She has been rushed to a hospital for treatment.

WITH 202 NEW  
COVID CASES,  
TESTING DROPS  
IN TELANGANADC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Sankranti celebrations appear to have cut into Covid-19 testing, with the state conducting 19,898 tests on Thursday, further down from 28,894 tests on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the state had conducted 38,192 tests.

Reflecting the lower number of tests, the new cases on Thursday fell to 202, from 276 on Wednesday and 331 on Tuesday.

According to the state health department's daily Covid-19 bulletin, two people lost their lives to the disease on Thursday, while one death was registered on Wednesday. The cases found on Thursday took the total to 2,91,118 and the fatalities have reached 1,574.

As many as 4,442 persons were still considered to be active Covid-19 cases as on Thursday, of whom 2,541 were receiving treatment while in isolation either at their homes or in designated isolation centres.

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to a fact sheet from Serum Institute on Covish

## SHORT TAKES

## JAGAN TO LAUNCH COVID VACCINATION IN VIJAYAWADA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 15

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan will formally launch Covid-19 vaccination from a government hospital in Vijayawada 11.30 am on Saturday. Soon thereafter, vaccination will commence at 143 of the 332 sites identified throughout the state owing to logistical reasons.

Healthcare workers will be administering 100 vaccines per session per day from 9 am to 5 pm up to January 20 during Phase-I of the vaccination programme in AP.

Health director Dr. T. Geetha Prasadini said, "We have made all requisite arrangements. Our teams of doctors are ready to attend to any side-effects. Beneficiaries to be administered vaccines will only be those who have registered to take the vaccine of their own volition."

Incidentally, Jagan will set off vaccination in AP an hour after Prime Minister Narendra Modi does so for the nation in the virtual mode at 10.30 a.m. in Delhi on Saturday. The entire vaccination programme in the country will be run as per software application Co-WIN, though monitored manually by a team of doctors at control rooms set up in each district of the country.

Soon after a beneficiary arrives at the vaccination site, his or her identity will be authenticated using the Co-WIN app. He/she will then move to the vaccination room, where an ANM will inject the vaccine. The person will remain under observation at the vaccination centre for half-an-hour to check for any adverse reaction. Those vaccinated will be able to get back only after doctors check their vitals and they are found to be normal. The person will be informed when he or she needs to return for the second dose.

## CEO: TOTAL ELECTORS IN AP IS 4,05,08,222

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 15

Andhra Pradesh has 4,05,08,222 voters, including NRIs and service electors. Of these, 2,00,30,486 are men, 2,04,73,601 women and 4,135 belong to the third gender as per the final special summary revision with January 1 as the qualifying date. The data was contained in the special summary revision (SSR) of electoral rolls released here on Friday by Chief Electoral Officer K. Vijayanand.

The total number of overseas electors are 7,070 including 5,570 men, 1,498 women and two belonging to the third gender. Of the 66,844 service voters, men constitute 64,749, women 2,095. The total number of voters in the 18-19 age group is 2,83,301 and new electors added to the list were 4,25,860; 2,08,396 men, 2,17,378 women and 86 belonging to the third gender. The elector to population ratio stands at 752 to 1,000 and the gender ratio 1,025 to 1,000.

The draft electoral rolls published on November 16, 2020 put the total number of voters at 4,00,79,025. Subsequently, the names of 4,25,860 (1.06 per cent) voters were included and 63,507 electors (0.16 per cent) deleted since the draft publication of electoral rolls taken up under SSR, 2021.

## Saving the ox



AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy saves a bull from hitting his head against the iron barricade during a "Do Do Basavanna" performance at the Gopuja Mahotsavam which was organised by the TTD in Narasaraopeta of Guntur district on Friday. The video of the incident has gone viral on social media. — TEJO ROY ELETI

## Crores spent on cockfights

Directives by court, cops go unheeded

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, JAN. 15

It was a free-for-all for organisers of traditional cockfights and gambling games — playing cards, the Gundata-cutting cards game — in two Godavari districts during the three-day Sankranti festival. The police warning that these traditional activities would not be allowed in view of court directives went unheeded.

In the run-up to Sankranti, the police created a stir and filed bound-over cases against many, ploughing the fields where cockfights are organised, and in general creating an atmosphere of fear. This did not help.

Cockfights were organised in remote villages in the two Godavari districts and crores of rupees changed hands. To make things more exciting, record dances were also held in some places.

Initially, many organisers were skeptical of the events this time due to the Covid-19 scare and the vigorous police campaign against these. But, the first day of the Sankranti season, on Bhogi Day, some big organisers of cockfights initiated the action in places like Kesanakurupalem in East Godavari as also Undi and Mahadevapatnam in West Godavari district. This emboldened others too.

In general, the police used to start raids on the cockfight grounds on the third day of Sankranti, on Kanuma. On this Friday, the Kanuma Day, the cockfights were organised on a scale larger than on the Sankranti day. Even small teams also held the cockfight wherever they got a vacant space. In some areas, women

them and give them a chance to play around. Irrespective of age, people from all walks of life run after the animals and several of them sustain injuries.

This year, the sport was held on a par with the Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu, with main shows in several villages in Chittoor district, like Chandragiri, Ramachandrapuram, Kuppam, Ramakkuppam, Rangampeta and Palamaner. Under political pressure, the police stood back as mere spectators.

The event was organised also at Kotha Sanambatla in Chandragiri mandal, Anupalle in Ramachandrapuram mandal and Rangampeta. This time too, several people were injured. YSRC MLA RK Roja took part in the bull-taming sport at Pulliahgaripalai village. The police said they booked cases against some of the organisers.

"We received information from locals about the conduction of Jallikattu and from the hospitals about the injured participants. We are booking cases against the organisers. Stringent action would be initiated against them," Ramakrishna, SI, Chandragiri, told Deccan Chronicle.

also participated in the sport.

The state government had decided not to allow cockfights this year. But, in the aftermath of destruction of Hindu idols in some temples, the ruling party. Hence, the government thought it wise to not enforce curbs.

## Chittoor bull sport unchecked

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUPATI, JAN. 15

## CHENCHU TRIBES LEAD SANKRANTI FETE IN SRISAILAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNool, JAN. 15

Members belonging to Chenchu tribe of Nalamala forests have been given the rare honour of officiating during Sankranti celebrations at the Srisailam Temple. It was Chenchus who had first found the Maha Shiva Lingam amid these dense forests a millennium ago. Authorities of Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple of Srisailam celebrated the Kalyanotsavam of Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Parvati Devi on Thursday, inviting people of Chenchu tribes as special guests. The tribals performed Bhramotsava Kalyanam wearing their traditional dresses. At least 200 tribal families from various Chunchu Gudems of Kurnool, Guntur, and Prakasam districts attended this holy programme, said temple executive officer K. S. Rama Rao.

Conventionally, Goddess Bhramaramba is treated as daughter of Chenchus while Lord Shiva (Srisailam Mallanna) is seen as their son-in-law, the EO pointed out. It is for this reason that they invited Chenchu families as special guests on the occasion, he underlined.

## Sankranti turns to be protest season

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 15

the burning of GOs in bonfire started," said G. Venkateswarlu, a priest.

"Any group can express its anguish to the government any time, but protests during festivals would draw added attention. Hence, resort to such actions is seeing a rise year after year," he added.

Social activist, R Vinod said farmers who facing "difficulties" due to the new agriculture laws were not sleeping for many days. "They are not in a position to celebrate the festival. There is nothing wrong in burning the copies of GOs, as Bhogi is meant to burn the old and the unacceptable. Aside of the burning protests by several groups and political parties, the people in general organised Bhogi bonfire in a traditional manner."

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

## E-Tender Notice

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SG-664-10-Tel-2020-21, Dhanbad, dt-13.01.2021

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

**SI.No.: 1. Name of the work:** (1) Integration of Electronic In-Motion Weighbridges (EIMWBs) at West Bakor bridge (Chairpur) along with FOIS & (2) Integration of Electronic In-Motion Rail-Weighbridges of CCL with FOIS Connectivity and CCTV.

**SI.No.: 2. Appox. Cost of the work:** ₹ 2,27,06,692.58 **SI.No.: 3. Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,63,500.00 **SI.No.: 4. Date & time for closing of tender:** 03.02.2021 (12:30 बजे) **SI.No.: 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post / Courier / FAX or self.** Manual proposals although the letter is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

**Note :-** Tenders are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum / corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.

For Sr.D.T.E.  
East Central Railway, Dhanbad

PR/1309/DHN/S&T/T/20-21/144

## CENTRAL RAILWAY

## OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: DRMWNGP-02/2021 DTD 12.01.2021

**SI. No. 1. Name of Work :** Proposed replacement of steel channel sleeper with H-Beam sleepers between various locations on Wardha-Badnera section (Qty. = 1950 Nos.) under Sr. DEN (S), Nagpur's jurisdiction.

(I) **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 29,90,664.87

(ii) **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,15,00,000

**SI. No. 2. Name of Work :** Proposed replacement of steel channel sleeper with H-Beam sleepers between various locations on Narkhed-Wardha section (Qty. = 1572 Nos.) under Sr. DEN (S), Nagpur's jurisdiction.

(I) **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 24,36,298.16

(ii) **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,63,200.00

**SI. No. 3. Name of Work :** Proposed replacement of steel channel sleeper with H-Beam sleepers between various locations on Wardha-Badnera section (Qty. = 2271 Nos.) under Sr. DEN (S), Nagpur's jurisdiction.

(I) **Apprx. Cost:** ₹ 6,17,01,741.55 (II) **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,58,500.00 **SI. No. 4. Name of Work :** Proposed replacement of steel channel sleeper with H-Beam sleepers between various locations on Wardha-Badnerah section (Qty. = 1173 Nos.) under Sr. DEN (S), Nagpur's jurisdiction.

(I) **Apprx. Cost:** ₹ 3,07,07,507.77 (II) **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,03,500.00 **Date & Time of Closing of Tender :** 03.02.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-Tendering and online participation for the above work is available on Railway's website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Divisional Railway Manager (Works) PM-45 Central Railway, Nagpur

**SECURITY HELPLINE 182**

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110 001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	09202117	YOKO DRG. NO. SK-62724	1810 NOS.	15-02-21

**Note:** 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> for details.

2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender No. : 49/2020-2021 Dated: 15.01.2021

122/21

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking)

## E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No.: KR-CO-SG-TENDER-SA-030-2020 dt. 15/01/2021.

Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer invites E-Tender bids (Two Packet Open Tender System) from Eligible and Experienced Contractors:

The Tender constitutes the following works-

- Supply, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of 24 Fibre Armoured OF Cable, 6-Qaud Jelly Filled Cable and 20 Pair Twisted Pair Telecom Cable for KRCL of 350 Kms. in Mid Sections of KRCL route (of 740 Kms) i.e. Rho to Thokur, at Tenderers own cost.
- In consideration of above (1), Laying / Blowing / Pulling of Tenderers own 24/48 Fibre Armoured OFC Cable along the 740 Kms. Stretch of KRCL. This 740 Kms. Includes Blowing of Tenderers 24/48 Fibre Cable (not more than 12 mm in dia) in the existing 40 mm DUCT carrying the 24 Fibre OFC Cable laid by KRCL in Station areas of about 400 Kms. and the 350 Kms. being executed by Tenderer at his own cost as in (1) above.
- Payment of Way Leave / O&M charges etc., to KRCL by Tenderer towards the maintenance of 740 kms. of tenders 24/48 Fibre Armoured OFC by KRCL for 20 years.

Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids : 15/02/2021 up to 16:00 hrs.

Estimated Cost of Work : ₹ 67.86 Crore (Excluding GST).

For further details please visit : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

## PARADIP PORT TRUST

FIRST CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.: MD-ACCTS-WK-R-7/2020/1379 Dt. 24.12.2020 for the work "Manning, Operation & Maintenance of Port Crafts M.KALI 300 Ton Reception Barge and Pollution Control Equipment for a period of 05 (five) years"

Estimated cost put to the tender ₹ 2,05,57,108/- Plus GST. With reference to the above e-tender, A Pre-bid meeting will be organized on 29.01.2021 at 12:00 hrs. on 18.01.2021 where all the documents of prospective bidders with respect to tender clauses will be clarified. Further the last date and time for downloading the e-tender document and submission & opening of bids is extended as follows:- Document download date : 27.01.2021 at 15:00 hrs. Bid Submission and date : 28.01.2021 at 15:00 hrs. Last Opening date (Technical Bid) : 27.01.2021 at 16:00 hrs. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. For details, please log on to the website : <https://procure.gov.in/procure/app>

P.T.P/PR/366/20-21

Dt. 14.01.2021

## SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

Chief General Manager/Metro Zone/Gr. Hyderabad

e-Tender Specification Short Tender Notice No.CGM-MZ-07/20-21 (Paper Notification)

E-Tenders are invited from the eligible agencies for Shifting of HT/LT lines along with OTTR's for Comprehensive Development of corridor from Nagonda X Road-Sabidap-SI Sadan - Osiwasi junction corridor - Elevated corridor and AT-Grade Improvement from Nagonda X Road to Osiwasi junction in South Circle under GHMC works. Any further information in this regard can be viewed from the website of [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in).

DIPR RD No.: 1366-PP-CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21, Date: 15.01.2021

Chief General Manager Metro Zone, Hyderabad

SE/HMC, PSPCL, Patiala, (9646118774)

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

## IN BRIEF

## INDIA, NEPAL TALK BORDER MANAGEMENT

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 15

Crucial "political and security issues" as well as "border management" were among the subjects discussed at the sixth India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi on Friday that was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his visiting Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali but it is unclear whether the Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipu Lekh border issues - that affected bilateral ties last year - were even briefly discussed or raised by the Nepalese side.

India had already made it clear earlier on Thursday that the JCM and boundary talks are "separate mechanisms", thereby hinting clearly that it was not on the agenda.

But connectivity and development projects were very much discussed, with the two sides discussing the establishment of a new petroleum products pipeline on the eastern side connecting Siliguri in India to Jhapa in Nepal and a possible broad gauge railway line connecting Raxaul (Bihar) in India and the Nepalese capital Kathmandu.

Nepal also requested for early provision of Covid vaccines from India at the meeting.

## KERALA ANNOUNCES SLEW OF SOPS

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 15

Free Covid vaccine for all, laptop in every household, high speed internet connection for 20 lakh economically backward families, 1.5 lakh houses for landless-homeless poor, hike in all social welfare pension thus goes the list of social welfare measures announced by Kerala's CPM led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in its budget on Friday.

With just three months left for the crucial Assembly elections in the state, the 3.18 hour record breaking budget speech of finance minister Dr T.M. Thomas Isaac in Kerala assembly sounded more like an election manifesto.

He announced a slew of social welfare measures including 10 kg rice for 50 lakh families and hike in all social welfare pensions from ₹1,500 to ₹1,600.

The LDF had tasted spectacular victory in the recently concluded local body polls. The victory was mainly attributed to the relief measures implemented during covid pandemic including distribution of free ration kits to the people and uninterrupted pension for socially and economically weaker sections.

The LDF hopes to retain power in assembly elections to be held in April-May with relief programmes that have a direct connect with people.

## ACTION AGAINST MUNDE ONLY AFTER PROBE'

SONU SHrivastava | DC  
MUMBAI, JAN. 15

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Friday said that a woman of ACP rank should probe allegations of rape against social justice minister Dhananjay Munde. Mr. Pawar said that his party will decide on probable action against Munde after the police investigation is concluded.

Mr. Munde has been facing serious allegations of sexual harassment charges.

Mr. Pawar said that though he had termed the allegation against Munde of serious nature, action will be taken after the police investigation is complete.

A 38-year-old woman had alleged that she had been raped by Munde and claimed that her complaint was ignored by Mumbai Police. Following this, she had written a letter to Mumbai Police Commissioner on January 10, stating that the NCP leader, who hails from Beed district of Marathwada region, had raped her repeatedly in 2006.

Mr. Munde had denied the rape charges stating that he was in relationship with the complainant's sister.

Asked about some BJP leaders targeting the NCP over the episode involving Munde, Pawar said it is the right of the opposition to criticise.

## PM doesn't respect farmers, says Rahul



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during their protest against Centre's farm reform laws, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not respect farmers and wants to tire out those protesting against the new agri laws. He also said that the talks that are being held with the protesting farmer leaders are part of the government's delaying tactics. - PTI

## Naravane: Don't test patience

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 15

Amidst the ongoing standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, Indian Army Chief Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane on Friday said that while India was committed to resolving the ongoing row through talks and diplomacy, "no one should commit the mistake of testing our patience".

On Pakistan, the Army chief said that 300-400 terrorists are waiting in various terror camps across the Line of Control in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to infiltrate into J&K.

He said last year had seen a 44 per cent increase in ceasefire violations at the LoC by Pakistan.

"You are aware of the ongoing tensions with China on northern borders. Regarding the conspiracy to unilaterally change the status quo on our borders, a befitting reply was given. I want to assure the country that the sacrifice of Galwan's bravehearts will not go in vain," Gen. Naravane said while addressing the Army Day parade.

He said to resolve the issue there had been eight rounds of talks between the senior commanders of India and China. He added that efforts will continue to be made to resolve the issue on the principle of "mutual and equal security".

For the first time at the

## SATABDI ROY CANCELS MEET WITH SHAH

RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC  
KOLKATA, JAN. 15

Ending speculation of her defection to the BJP ahead of the polls, three-time Trinamool Congress MP of Birbhum Satabdi Roy cancelled her New Delhi visit on Saturday after a meeting with her party leadership on Friday evening.

She was supposed to meet union home minister Amit Shah in the capital on Saturday as she quit as a member of Tarapeeth Development Council under the state municipal affairs and urban development department of the Mamata Banerjee government, complaining of her inability to work independently in the ruling party.

The trust, set up by the government after Supreme Court's direction, is the authority to oversee the construction of the temple.

At various locations throughout the country, contributions were made including in Gujarat,

## SHIVRAJ HAILS LAST YEAR'S PADMA SHRI AWARDEE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOWAL, JAN. 15

A Twitter post by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan saying that the state was proud of the Padma Shri honour conferred on social activist late Abdul Jabbar for 2020, on Friday sparked confusion.

The Chief Minister, in his Twitter post, said Madhya Pradesh felt proud of late Jabbar being honoured with Padma Shri for 2020, posthumously. Late Mr Jabbar would be remembered for raising his voice for the cause of victims of Bhopal gas tragedy, the post said.

Mr Chouhan's post caused confusion in the official and media circles here since late Mr Jabbar was conferred the award posthumously in 2020. Media persons were seen contacting the state public relations department frantically trying to ascertain the reason for posting a year-old event on Twitter by the chief minister.

When contacted by this newspaper, state public relations department director Ashutosh Pratap Singh said, "Let me check". Although officials in the chief minister's office were tight lipped on the issue, sources said the faux pas may have been committed by the CM's Twitter handlers.

Four persons from Madhya Pradesh were conferred with Padma Shri in 2020.

For the first time at the

## MONEY | DRIVE

## Kovind donates ₹5 lakh; Shivraj Singh Chouhan gives ₹1 lakh for construction

## President, CMs contribute for Ram Temple fund

DC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, JAN. 15

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand among other states.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5 performed the *bhoumi pujaan* at the Ram Jamboomi in Ayodhya, paving the way for construction of the temple.

A delegation including VHP's international working president Alok Kumar RSS leader Kulbhushan Ahuja, treasurer of the trust Govind Dev Giri and trust's head Nripendra Mishra called on the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday morning.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat also participated in the campaign at Mahrishi Valmiki Temple in the national capital.

Juna Peeth's head Swami Avdheshanand Giri par-

ticipated in the campaign at the Seva Basti in Nagpur, while Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

donated ₹1 lakh as a contribution to the construction of the temple in Ayodhya. "One brick from my family shall also be placed in the construction of Lord Ram's Temple. This is not a Ram Temple really, it is a national temple," he tweeted.

Uttarakhand governor Baby Rani Maurya and chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat also contributed.

The highest contribution on Friday came from former UP MLA Surendra Bahadur Singh, who donated ₹1 crore (₹1,11,111) for the temple and handed over the

cheque to VHP's Champat Rai in Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh.

## Former minister Morarka dies

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, JAN. 15

Former Union minister and industrialist Kamal Morarka on Friday passed away at his home in South Mumbai. He was 74. He died of a heart attack.

A close friend and senior journalist Santosh Bharatiya told *Deccan Chronicle*, "Mr. Morarka died after he suffered a heart attack at 7.50 pm. He complained of a cough on Thursday. He did not come to office on Thursday as he was unwell."

Morarka, who hails from Rajasthan, was survived by two daughters and wife. He was a Union Minister in the Chandra Shekhar government in 1990-91 and a former Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan from JD(S) between 1988 and 1994.

In 2012, he became the head of Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) which was started by Chandra Shekhar and Devi Lal after they broke away from the Janata Dal in 1990.

Morarka, who was born in a well-known business family, donned many hats — a successful businessman, a cricket administrator who was the vice-



Kamal Morarka

president of the BCCI during Jagmohan Dalmia's time, a minister in the Union cabinet, a wildlife photographer and an organic farmer who has done some great work in Rajasthan to promote agriculture and support farmers. He and his MR Morarka foundation have been also at the forefront to promote art, Sanskrit literature and culture. Morarka was also associated with Indian cricket as an administrator.

He has served as vice president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. In 2000, he was a member of the BCCI disciplinary committee that took the decision to ban Mohammed Azharuddin. However, years later he criticised the decision as a sham.

## EC wants govt to delete data once Covid vaccination exercise is over

## VACCINE DRIVE TO START WITH SECURITY GUARD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BHOWAL, JAN. 15

Madhya Pradesh is set to kick off the first phase of vaccination against Covid-19 on Saturday.

Security guard of the government-run J P Hospital here Hari Deb is set to get the first shot of the vaccine, according to state health minister Prabhuram Choudhury.

A workshop on vaccination was conducted jointly by Mr Choudhury and state medical education minister Viswas Sarang here on Friday to generate awareness regarding the vaccination, commencing on Saturday.

Mr Deb would get the opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister on Saturday on the occasion.

home ministry and the Union health ministry to settle day-to-day issues, the sources said.

Last month, officials of the Union health ministry and the Niti Aayog had met the EC top brass seeking their help in the distribution of Covid-19 vaccine given the poll panel's robust network at the booth level. According to guidelines for the vaccination drive, the latest electoral roll for Lok Sabha and assembly elections will be used to identify the priority population over the age of 50 years.

- PTI

period risking our lives. But we got only a few days work. We demand 30 days full work for entire year till the age of 60. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee felt our necessity. So she decided to provide the vaccine to us. But our life is at stake not for work. It is because our family is at stake. If our demand is not met, we will boycott the vaccination drive."

Mr Das argued though the vaccine would protect the civil defence workers, their family members would remain unsafe due to lack of earning throughout the year.

West Bengal is all set for the much-awaited inoculation drive and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will supervise the exercise virtually from the state secretariat.

## FORMER VC OF SANKARDEV VARSITY TO BE THE FIRST RECIPIENT IN ASSAM

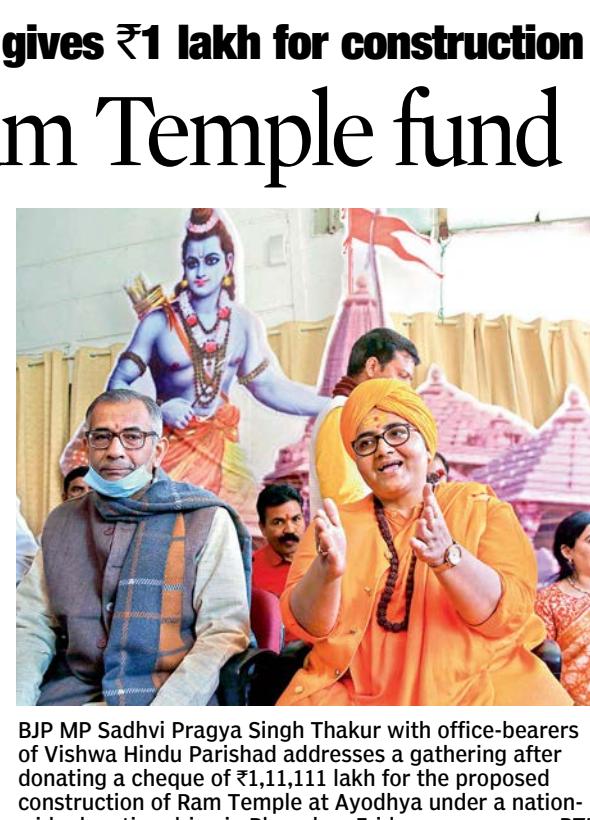
MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, JAN. 15

ent among 12 invitees for the inaugural vaccination programme on Saturday, Mr Sarma said.

"We have received 2,20,000 vaccine vials. A total of 1,56,000 people in Assam have registered for the vaccine and we are capable of inoculating 1,19,000 people. There will be two doses of the vaccine which will be given at separate intervals," he said.

Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Friday said that the state is all set to roll out vaccination programme for which 1,56,000 people have registered on the website in Assam.

Umesh Chandra Sarma, former vice-chancellor of Sankardev University would be the first recipi-



BJP MP Sadvi Pragy Singh Thakur with office-bearers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad addresses a gathering after donating a cheque of ₹1,11,111 lakh for the proposed construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya under a nationwide donation drive in Bhopal on Friday.

- PTI

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	49,034.67 -1.11
Nifty 50	14,433.70 -1.11
S&P 500*	3,771.14 -0.64
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)*	54.71 -3.03
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.988 1.08
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.095 -0.034

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Gail announces ₹1,046-crore share buyback

Gail (India) Ltd announced a Rs 1,046.35-crore share buyback programme, as it looked to return surplus cash to shareholders, the biggest being the Gail with a 51.76 per cent share. Gail India said it will buy back 6.97 crore shares at Rs 150 per share each. The board also declared an interim dividend of 25 per cent (Rs 2.50 per share) for 2020-21. The record date for buyback as interim dividend is January 28.

## Embassy REIT raises ₹2,600 cr to refinance debt



Embassy Office Parks REIT said it has raised Rs 2,600 crore through issue of non-convertible debentures to refinance an existing debt of its IT park 'Embassy TechVillage' in Bengaluru. Embassy said it has "successfully priced and allotted by way of a private placement, Rs 2,600 crore or \$351 million of rupee-denominated, listed, rated, secured, redeemable, transferable NCDs at a 6.40 per cent quarterly coupon."

## L&T Finance Q3 net profit slips 51% to ₹288 cr

L&T Finance Holdings reported a 51 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 287.75 crore in the December quarter against Rs 591.47 crore in the year-ago quarter. The NBFCs total income fell to Rs 3,622.16 crore from Rs 3,735.79 crore YoY. Average AUM fell to Rs 68,976 crore from Rs 71,587 crore. "Post-Covid, the rural economy performed better than urban and this trend is reflected in our disbursements, MD Dinanath Dubhashi said.

## Honda City tops mid-sized sedan segment in 2020

Honda Cars India said its mid-sized Sedan City led the segment last year with cumulative sales of 21,826 units. Staying true to its legacy of being the Japanese automaker's longest running nameplate in India, the all-new fifth generation City was launched in July 2020. The City's market share in Dec. 2020 stood at 41 per cent in the segment, Honda said. Its cumulative sales in July-December 2020 stood at 17,347 units.

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## Volatility index surges 16% during week Profit taking trips overbought mkt

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, JAN. 15

The market turned volatile after healthy gains during the week that took the indices to record highs. The volatility index surged more than 16 per cent during the week, which is certainly not good news for the bulls. Also, the build-up in derivatives contracts showed the market was overbought, said analysts.

The Sensex fell 549 points, or 1.11 per cent, on Friday, closing just above 49,000 mark amid weak global cues. The benchmark index plunged 788 points intraday, touching a low of 48,795.79 before a pullback.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Sensex had touched a new all-time high of 49,795.19 before a climbdown in the next two sessions.

The Nifty-50 Index shed 161.90 points to close at 14,433.70 on Friday.

The broader market also saw profit-taking with the BSE Mid-cap Index closing down 1.25 per cent and the Small-cap Index down 1.06 per cent.

During the week, the Nifty-50 gained 3.2 per cent while the Sensex gained 2.7 per cent. Mid-caps continued to outperform with the Nifty Mid-cap 100 Index gaining 5.2 per cent in the week.

"Considering the overall development seen in F&O (futures & options) space, we expect some follow up selling in the coming week as well," said Sneha Seth, derivatives analyst, Angel



### PCF'S ₹5,000-CR BOND ISSUE SUBSCRIBED 94%

New Delhi, Jan. 15:

State-run Power Finance Corporation's Rs 5,000-crore taxable non-convertible debenture issue was subscribed 94 per cent on the first day on Friday and is likely to close on Monday, a source said.

PCF has planned to raise Rs 10,000 crore through bonds in two tranches. The first tranche of Rs 5,000 crore opened for subscription on Friday and was scheduled to close on January 29. "The issue has got overwhelming response and subscribed for an amount of Rs 4,700 crore or 94 per cent in first day," the source said. —PTI

Broking. The market remained volatile last week and hence we saw mixed activi-

ty in terms of open interest in the index futures segment and clearly suggested the market was overbought," Seth said.

On Friday, only four of the 30 Sensex stocks and seven of the Nifty-50 stocks managed to close in the green.

Nevertheless, on a weekly basis Tata Motors was the biggest mover in Nifty-50, gaining 32 per cent. Other two big gainers were Bharti Airtel (11.7 per cent) and ITC (8 per cent).

Shrikant Chouhan, analyst-equity technical research, Kotak Securities, said, "The market is showing indecisiveness. The chart indicates that the market has taken a breather ahead of the major event of Union Budget, which is scheduled on February 1, 2021."

Provisional data showed domestic institutions were net sellers on Friday of equities worth Rs 942 crore while foreign portfolio investors were net buyers by Rs 971 crore.

## HCL TECH TO HIRE 20,000 IN NEXT TWO QUARTERS: CEO

New Delhi, Jan. 15: IT services major HCL Technologies is looking at hiring about 20,000 people over the next two quarters to meet the demand coming in on the back of strong growth in deal signing and adoption of digital services.

The Noida-based company, which crossed the \$10-billion revenue milestone in the calendar year 2020, had 1,59,682 employees at the end of December 31, 2020.

It saw a gross addition of 12,422 people, while net addition during the December 2020 quarter was of 6,597 people. Attrition for IT services (on last 12 month basis) was at 10.2 per cent.

"There was net hiring of over 6,500 people in Q3 (third quarter). There is a big demand pipeline and so, we are continuing to hire both freshers and lateral talent to fulfil the demand," HCL Tech president and CEO C. Vijayakumar said.

"I foresee about 20,000 people to be hired—both freshers and laterals—in the next four-six months based on the demand that we have seen". He added that about 15 per cent of these would be for onshore locations or client geographies with the remaining will be offshore.

HCL Tech shares fell nearly 4 per cent after the firm reported a 31.1 per cent rise in its December quarter net profit at Rs 3,982 crore on strong momentum in its digital, products and platform segment. —Agencies

## DHFL lenders vote for Piramal Enterprises bid

New Delhi, Jan. 15:

Piramal Enterprises' bid for debt-ridden DHFL received the most votes from lenders at the close of the voting process on Friday, sources said.

Piramal Enterprises' bid received 94 per cent votes as compared to 45 per cent for the US-based Oaktree Capital.

Voting was done on various parameters, including qualitative and quantitative.

After this, the committee of creditors (CoC) is likely to meet to take a final call and send its recommendation to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the sources added.

Since the conclusion of the fifth and final round of the bidding process last month, Piramal Enterprises and Oaktree Capital each claimed that their bid was the highest and fully implementable.



According to sources, suitor have submitted bids in the range of Rs 35,000-37,000 crore.

Its large lenders are SBI, including SBI Singapore with Rs 10,083 crore exposure. Others are Bank of India (Rs 4,125 crore), Canara Bank (Rs 2,681 crore), NHB (Rs 2,434 crore), Union Bank (Rs 2,378 crore), Syndicate Bank (Rs 2,229 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 2,075 crore), Indian Bank (Rs 1,552 crore), Central Bank (Rs 1,389 crore), IDBI Bank (Rs 999 crore) and HDFC Bank (Rs 361 crore).

superseded and R Subramaniakumar was appointed as the administrator. He is also the resolution professional under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

As of July 2019, the company owed Rs 83,730 crore to banks, the National Housing Board, mutual funds and bondholders.

In November 2019, the Reserve Bank referred Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), the third-largest pure-play mortgage lender, to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for insolvency proceedings.

DHFL was the first finance company to be referred to NCLT by the RBI using special powers under Section 227 of the IBC. Prior to that, the company's board was

—PTI

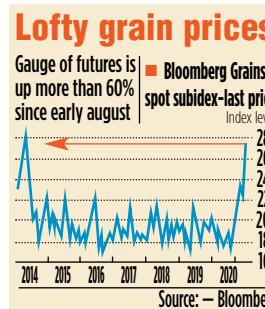
## Wheat jumps as Russia hikes tax

MEGAN DURISIN &amp; YULIYA FEDORINOVA

JAN. 15

Wheat rose to a six-year high in Chicago after Russia said its new wheat-export tax will rise even more than expected a few weeks after kicking in, as the country accelerates efforts to cool domestic food prices.

Russia, the biggest wheat exporter, is adding to measures announced late last year after President Vladimir Putin told the government to cool food-price inflation



because of sharp increases for staples like bread and sunflower oil. A grain-export quota and wheat-export tax that will both

kick in February 15 have combined with tightening supply elsewhere and surging Chinese demand to drive global grains prices to multiyear highs.

Russia's wheat duty will rise to 50 euros a tonne (\$61) from 25 euros on March 1, the Economy and Trade Ministry said in a statement. The government is also planning to continue taxing shipments into the next season. The agriculture ministry earlier this week proposed an increase to 45 euros from March 15. —Bloomberg

## INDIGO PAINTS PRICES PUBLIC ISSUE IN ₹1,488-₹1,490 BAND



RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, JAN. 15

Pune-based Indigo Paints announced a Rs 1,170-crore initial public offering (IPO) of equity shares in the price band of Rs 1,488-Rs 1,490 per equity share of Rs 10 face value. The public issue opens on January 20 and closes on January 22.

The IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares aggregating Rs 300 crore by the company and an offer for sale of up to 5,840,000 equity shares worth Rs 870.16 crore by Sequoia Capital India Investments, SCI Investments V (investor selling shareholders), and Hemant Jalan, the promoter selling shareholder,

## Samsung's Galaxy S21 to hit market this month

"We are living in a mobile-first world, and with so many of us working remotely and spending more time at home, we wanted to deliver a smartphone experience that meets the rigorous multimedia demands of our continuously changing routines," said T. M. Roh, president and head of mobile communications business at Samsung Electronics.

The Galaxy S21 features a 6.2-inch display, 10MP front and triple rear camera, 8GB RAM, 128GB/256GB internal memory and 4000 mAh battery. The Galaxy S21+ features a larger 6.7-inch display and 4800 mAh battery from Friday.

"All the three devices are hyper fast 5G ready and are powered with Samsung's own Exynos 2100 chipset. Consumers can pre-book Galaxy S21 Series starting January 15 across Samsung's Exclusive Stores and retail stores and on Samsung.com and leading online portals," it said in a statement.

The Galaxy S21 will be priced between Rs 69,999-79,999, Galaxy S21+ for Rs 81,999-85,999 and the Galaxy S21 Ultra will retail for Rs 1,05,999-1,16,999. —PTI

immediately respond to a request for comment.

A major change to the new computers will be how they charge. Over the past five years, Apple has relied on USB-C ports for both power and data transfer on its laptops, making them compatible with other manufacturers' chargers. But the company is now bringing back MagSafe, the magnetic power adapter that means any accidental yanking of the power cable would simply detach it from the laptop rather than pull down the entire computer. It was a favourite feature of the company's portable PC lineup that was first introduced in 2006 and most recently revived for its latest line-up of iPhones.

The return of MagSafe with the next MacBook Pros will also allow those laptops to charge at a faster rate, the person said. The connector will be similar to the

elongated pill-shape design of the older MagSafe port.

Despite moving away from USB-C for charging, Apple will still include multiple USB-C ports on its future Macs.

In developing its next set of Mac laptops, Apple has also tested versions that remove the Touch Bar from its laptop keyboards. The Touch Bar, introduced as part of the last MacBook Pro redesign in 2016, turns the keyboard's top row from function keys into a touch-screen strip that can display a variety of information and a changing set of controls to adapt to apps and tasks. Some professional users have said they found that control scheme less convenient than physical keys.

Apple is also planning a redesigned MacBook Air, but that is not expected to be released until long after the next MacBook Pros. —Bloomberg

## SKODA DRIVES IN REFRESHED SUPERB AT ₹32 L

MICHAEL GONSALVES

PUNE, JAN. 15

The Czech automaker Skoda on Friday launched the updated Skoda Superb sedan priced at Rs 31.99 lakh for the Sportline and Rs 34.99 lakh for the Laurin and Clement model. "With its compelling combination of elegant design, luxurious interiors, plentiful space, and distinctive presence, the saloon has been a favourite for many 'value luxury' seekers in India," Zac Hollis, Brand Director at Skoda Auto India, said.



## New devices will mark Apple's move away from Intel components

### MacBook Pro returns to magnetic charging

MARK GURMAN

JAN. 15

Apple Inc is planning upgraded MacBook Pro laptops this year with much faster processors, updated displays and the return of its magnetic charger, according to a person with knowledge of the plans.

The new laptops are planned to come in two screen sizes, a 14-inch model codenamed J314 and a 16-inch version internally dubbed J316. Both will use next-generation versions of Apple's in-house Mac processors, upgraded with more cores and enhanced graphics, the person said, asking not to be named as the products are not yet announced.

These devices will mark Apple's first high-end laptops to move away from Intel Corp. components. The company updated its base 13-inch MacBook Pro with



its own M1 chip in November, to broadly positive reviews.

Beyond the more powerful chips, Apple is also planning to step up the displays in its new MacBook Pros with brighter, higher-contrast panels. The new Mac



## SHORT TAKES

## POWERFUL QUAKE KILLS AT LEAST 42, IN INDONESIA

Jakarta, Jan. 15: A powerful earthquake rocked Indonesia's Sulawesi island on Friday, killing at least 42 people, levelling a hospital and severely damaging other buildings, authorities said, as they warned there were people still trapped beneath rubble.

Hundreds were also injured when the 6.2-magnitude quake struck in the early hours, triggering panic among the terrified residents of the island, which was hit by a huge quake and tsunami two and a half years ago that killed thousands. So far, 34 bodies have been hauled from beneath crumpled buildings in Mamuju, a city of about 1,10,000 in West Sulawesi province, while another eight were killed south of the area after the quake struck.

"We don't know how many more are missing," said Arianto from the rescue agency in Mamuju, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

"There are still people trapped beneath the rubble." Rescuers were searching for more than a dozen patients and staff trapped under a levelled Mamuju hospital. "The hospital is flattened — it collapsed," Arianto said.

Earlier Friday, rescuers said they were also trying to reach a family of eight who were under their destroyed home. At least one hotel had partially collapsed, while the regional governor's office also suffered extensive damage.

## WHO tackles new virus strains

Global death toll from Covid-19 tops 2 million, fresh restrictions imposed

## China builds new isolation centre as virus cases surge

Geneva, Jan. 15: Global health experts gathered on Thursday to tackle new Coronavirus strains blamed for a fresh surge in infections as countries including Britain and France tightened restrictions to head off a further worsening of the pandemic.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) emergency committee session came as their colleagues were seeking the origins of the virus on a long-delayed mission to the pandemic ground zero in Wuhan.

The global death toll from Covid-19 topped 2 million Friday as vaccines developed at breakneck speed are being rolled out around the world in an all-out campaign to vanquish the threat.

"When you first met almost a year ago, just 557 cases of the disease we now call Covid-19 had been reported to WHO," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in his opening remarks to the emergency meeting.

Much of the planet is facing a second or third wave of infections, with populations chafing under painful and economically damaging restrictions.

Already hard-hit by a new variant at home, Britain announced on Thursday it was banning all arrivals from South America, Panama, Cape Verde and Portugal.

Beijing, Jan. 15: A city in northern China is building a 3,000-unit quarantine facility to deal with an anticipated overflow of patients as Covid-19 cases rise ahead of the Lunar New Year travel rush. State media on Friday showed crews leveling earth, pouring concrete and assembling prefabricated rooms in farm-

land outside Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital of Hebei province that has seen the bulk of new cases.

That recalled scenes last year, when China rapidly built field hospitals and turned gymnasiums into isolation centers to cope with the initial outbreak linked to the central city of Wuhan. China has

largely contained further domestic spread of the Coronavirus, but the recent spike has raised concerns due to the proximity to the capital Beijing and the impending rush of people planning to travel large distances to rejoin their families for country's most important traditional festival. — AP

The step was taken over fears of importing yet another new coronavirus variant in Brazil, where the northern Amazonas state announced a 7 pm to 6 am curfew.

The health system has been pushed to breaking point in the state capital Manaus. The strain, known as E484K, was detected initially in South Africa and on subsequent variants in Brazil and Japan, and it has raised greater alarm among researchers over its possible impact on immunity.

Partly over fears of new variants, France said it would impose a daily nationwide curfew at 6 pm starting from Saturday and remaining in force for

at least two weeks. Most of France had been under an 8 pm curfew, with some areas, especially in the hard-hit east, already under the stricter 6 pm limit.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday called for tougher restrictions to contain the country's worsening Coronavirus outbreak and pushed for crisis talks with regional leaders, sources from her party said.

They quoted her as saying the virus could only be stopped with "significant additional measures". Lebanon meanwhile went into full lockdown with residents barred even from grocery shopping. There was better news for those who have already had Covid-19, with a British study suggesting recovery can confer immunity for at least five months.

But the virus's new strains were causing increasing worry and went under the WHO microscope in Geneva on Thursday after being logged in dozens of countries.

WHO's emergency committee normally gathers every three months, but the meeting was brought forward by two weeks. In China, millions of people have been locked down again to try to tame a fresh outbreak that has now claimed the country's first reported Covid-19 death in eight months. — AFP

## Dutch admin quits over child benefits scandal

- THOUSANDS OF parents were wrongly accused by Dutch authorities of fraudulently claiming child allowance.

bility can be borne. And that leads to the conclusion that I have just now offered the king the resignation of the entire cabinet.

Thousands of parents

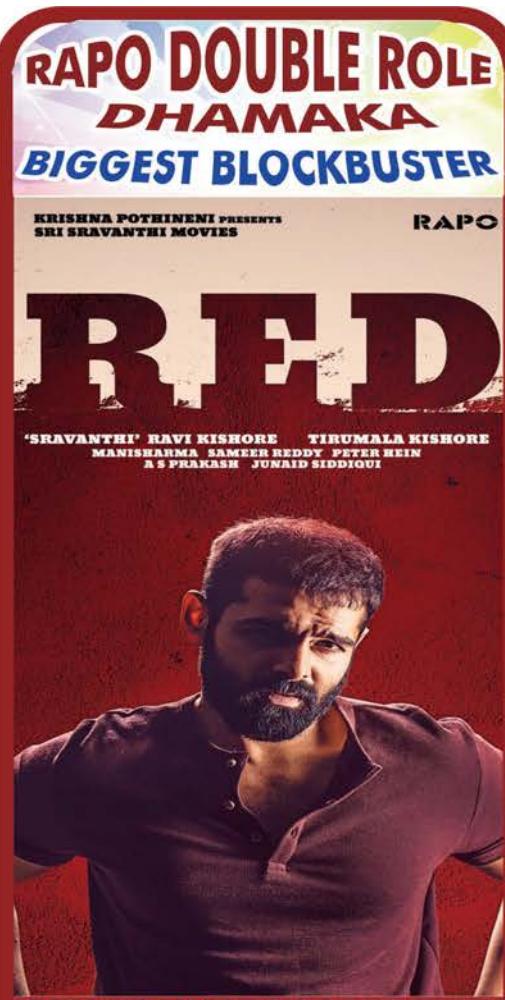
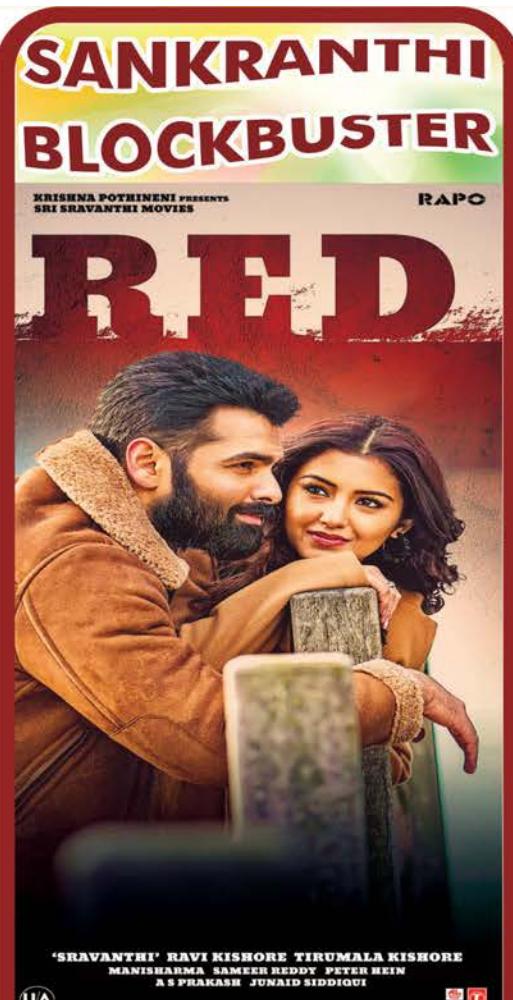
were wrongly accused by Dutch authorities of fraudulently claiming child allowance, with many of them forced to pay back large amounts of money and ending up in financial ruin.

The fact that some parents were targeted for investigation by tax officials because they had dual nationality also underscored long-standing criticisms of systemic racism in the Netherlands.

"Our fight against coronavirus continues," said Rutte, adding that the caretaker cabinet would "do what is necessary in the interests of the country". Polls say his Freedom and Democracy Party would likely come first in the next elections, putting Rutte in line for a fourth term since 2010.

A hard-hitting parliamentary investigation in December said civil servants cut off benefits to thousands of families wrongly accused of fraud between 2013 and 2019. — AFP

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**TIVOLI**  
catch the stars  
**TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

<b>RED</b> TELUGU U/A 146 MIN 10:40 AM, 1:40 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:45 PM, 10:45 PM
<b>SUDARSHAN 35MM</b> (Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby atmos) 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
<b>TARAKARAMA-KACHIGUDA</b> 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM
<b>MAHALAXMICOMPLEX</b> 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
<b>MALLIKARJUNA 70MM</b> 11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM
<b>ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY</b> 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM
<b>KONARK 70MM-DILSHUKHNAGAR</b> 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
<b>MANJU 70MM-SECUNDERABAD</b> 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
<b>SREERAMULU70MM-MOOSAPET</b> 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM
<b>RAMAKRISHNA35MM-ABIDS</b> 11.15, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM
<b>INJARA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI</b> 11.30 & 6.00PM

**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, 4:10 PM,  
4:20 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:50 PM

**KRACK**  
TELUGU U/A 153 MIN  
10:10 AM, 1:20 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**

**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
(Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby atmos)  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**TARAKARAMA-KACHIGUDA**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

**MAHALAXMICOMPLEX**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**SIVAGANGA-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**  
SHA-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.45PM

**RADHIKA-10.30, 1.20, 4.10, 7.00, 9.55PM**  
GPR-10.20, 1.40, 4.40, 7.40, 10.40PM

**MCUBE-10.30, 10.35, 1.40, 4.40, 7.45, 10.45PM**  
CINESQUARE-10.30, 10.50, 1.35, 1.45, 4.10, 4.50, 7.25, 7.40, 9.50PM

**10.15, 1.15, 1.40, 4.15, 7.15, 7.50, 10.15PM**  
AMB CINEMAS-10.15, 1.30, 4.25, 6.55, 7.05, 10.45PM

**AMB CINEMAS**  
8.45, 11.30, 2.15, 5.00, 7.45, 10.30PM

**MOOSAPET**  
2.45, 9.30PM

**TIVOLI** TIVOLI-10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.45, 10.45PM

**MJR** MJR-10.30, 1.40, 4.30, 7.40, 10.35PM

**PLATINUM**  
9.00, 10.00, 11.40, 12.45, 2.30, 3.35, 5.15, 8.00, 10.00, 10.50PM

**SHALINI** SHALINI-10.40, 3.30, 11.00PM

**CHANDANAGAR** CHANDANAGAR-11.45, 3.15, 6.45, 10.00PM

**BALANAGAR** BALANAGAR-9.00, 10.00, 12.15, 1.15, 1.45, 3.07, 4.45, 11.00PM

**INOX** INOX-11.10, 12.10, 2.35, 3.30, 6.00, 6.55, 9.30, 10.20PM

**MP MALL** MP MALL-9.10, 12.30, 3.30, 5.70, 7.10, 10.30PM

**GSM MALL** GSM MALL-10.10, 12.25, 1.50, 2.35, 3.50, 5.25, 7.15, 9.00, 10.00, 10.40PM

**Cinepolis** Cinepolis-11.10, 12.30, 2.30, 3.35, 6.00, 7.20, 9.25, 10.45PM

**CCPL** CCPL-10.30, 12.00, 3.30, 6.50, 7.20, 10.20PM

**SUDHA** SUDHA-11.15, 12.30, 3.35, 6.15, 7.20, 10.45PM

**DSL** DSL-11.00, 12.30, 2.30, 3.35, 6.00, 7.20, 9.25, 10.45PM

**MANTRA** MANTRA-11.00, 12.30, 2.30, 3.35, 6.00, 7.20, 9.25, 10.45PM

**CCPL** CCPL-10.30, 12.00, 3.30, 6.50, 7.20, 10.20PM

**SUDHA** SUDHA-11.15, 12.30, 3.35, 6.15, 7.20, 10.45PM

**FORUM** FORUM-10.00, 10.10, 10.30, 11.00, 1.00, 1.10, 1.30, 2.00, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00PM

**MUSARAMBAGH** MUSARAMBAGH-1.00, 2.00, 2.25, 3.45, 4.00, 5.00, 7.00, 8.00, 10.00, 11.00PM

**GALLERIA** GALLERIA-10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 1.10, 1.45, 2.00, 4.35, 4.40, 5.00, 7.40, 8.00, 8.20, 10.40, 11.00, 11.20

**CENTRAL** CENTRAL-10.00, 10.15, 1.00, 1.35, 4.00, 4.40, 7.00, 8.10, 10.00PM

**INORBIT** INORBIT-10.00, 10.30, 1.00, 1.45, 4.00, 4.40, 7.00, 8.20, 10.00, 11.00PM

**PVR IRUMARIL** PVR IRUMARIL-1.00, 2.00, 4.00, 5.00, 7.00, 8.00, 10.00, 11.00PM

**PVR RIKKON** PVR RIKKON-10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 5.00, 7.00, 8.00, 11.00PM

**MALLAPUR** MALLAPUR-10.20, 11.00, 1.20, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM

**MALLAPUR** MALLAPUR-5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM

**FORUM MALL - Kukatpally**  
10.10am, 1.15, 4.20, 7.25, 10.30, 11.10pm

**ICON MALL - Hitech City**  
12.00pm, 3.05, 6.10, 9.15pm

**CENTRAL MALL - Punjagutta**  
10.00am, 1.15, 7.55, 11.00pm

**INORBIT MALL - Cyberabad**  
10.15am, 1.30, 4.35, 7.40, 10.45pm

**IRRUMANZIL**  
1.35pm, 4.35, 7.40, 10.45pm

**MOOSARAMBAGH**  
12.30pm, 3.35, 6.40, 9.45pm

**GALLERIA - Punjagutta**  
10.00am, 1.05, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20pm

**RK MALL - Banjara Hills**  
10.00am, 8.20, 11.20pm

**PVR CINEMAS**  
10.30am, 1.20, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

**CINEPLANET - Kompally**  
10.30am, 1.20, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

**CINESQUARE - Uppal**  
10.30am, 1.35, 4.40, 7.05, 10.45pm

**GPR MALL - Kukatpally**  
1.30pm, 4.35, 10.40pm

**M CUBE MALL - Attapur**  
10.40am, 1.30, 4.15, 7.15, 10.10pm

**RADHIKA - Kapra**  
1.15pm, 4.40, 10.50pm

**MJR SQUARE - Narapally**  
10.45am, 1.10, 4.40, 7.45, 10.45pm

**SHIVA - Dilsukhnagar**  
2.00pm & 9.00pm

**SHASHAHENSA - Chintal**  
2.00am & 6.00pm

**LAXMIKALA - Mosapet**  
11.15am & 6.15pm

**GVK MALL - Banjara Hills**  
11.30am, 3.00, 6.30, 10.00pm

**GSM MALL - Miyapur**  
10.00am, 11.15, 3.20, 6.50, 10.20pm

**MP MALL - Kachiguda**  
9.00am, 12.25, 3.50, 7.15, 10.40pm

**DSL - Uppal**  
11.15am, 2.45, 6.15, 9.45pm

**MANTRA MALL - Attapur**  
11.15am, 2.45, 6.15, 9.45pm

**CCL - Malkaigiri**  
11.30am, 3.00, 6.30, 10.00pm

**SUDHA - Shalibanda**  
1.00am, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30pm

**BVK MULTIPLEX - L.B Nagar**  
10.30am, 1.15, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

**Balanagar** Balanagar- 9.05, 12.20, 7.20, 10.40pm

**Chandanagar** Chandanagar- 12.30, 7.30, 10.15pm

**S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur**  
10.00am, 1.05, 4.75, 10.50pm

**PLATINUM - SLN** SLN 9.50am, 4.25, 10.40pm

**TALLURI - ECIL** ECIL 11.15am, 2.15, 6.00

**Ameerpet** Ameerpet 10.30am, 4.35, 7.35pm

**PRASHANT 70 VENKATARAMANA**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 2 Shows : 11.30 & 9.30

**SHARADA 70MM BHUJANA 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 2 Shows : 11.00, 6.00

**SRLAXMI 70 SRIKRISHNA 70**  
12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**NARTAKI 70 SENSATION INSOMNIA**  
11.30, 2

## SHORT TAKES



Srivalli Varma (left) poses with the winners trophy alongside coach P. Apuroop Reddy.

### Werewolves hunt down tennis cup

**Hyderabad:** Team Werewolf won the Hyderabad Tennis Premier League (HTPL) held at the Sreenidhi International School. In a tournament played on a format that decided winners on games won, rather than matches, the Wolves beat Tennis Strikers 43-34 in the final. Earlier in the semifinals, Team Werewolf defeated V. M. Aces 42-37.

#### THE RESULTS

**Final (Werewolf players mentioned first):** Boys U-12 — Praneeth Reddy lost to Rohan K 1-6; Girls U-12 — Neha E bt Saanvi Singh 6-4; U-12 mixed doubles — Praneeth Reddy/ Neha E lost to Rohan K/ Saanvi Singh 4-6; Boys U-14 — Chris Hamilton bt Thiriseek V 6-5; Girls U-14 — Thaniya Sarai bt Aditi Bhat 6-3; U-14 mixed doubles — Chris Hamilton/ Thaniya Sarai bt Thiriseek V/ Aditi Bhat 6-3; Boys U-16 — Vineeth Muttyala bt Tarun Korwar 6-3; Girls U-16 — Srivalli Varma M lost to Raheen Taranum 2-6; U-16 mixed doubles — Vineeth Muttyala/ Srivalli Varma M bt Tarun Korwar/ Raheen Taranum 6-0.

### Saina, Srikanth out of Thai Open

**Bangkok:** Shuttler Saina Nehwal was knocked out of the Thailand Open Super 1000 after losing the women's singles second round to Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan here on Thursday.

In a battle of attrition, Saina managed to grab the opening game but ran out of steam in the end, losing 23-21, 14-21, 16-21 in a match that clocked 68 minutes.

It was Saina's fourth straight loss to the world number 12 Busanan.

In the men's singles, former world number one Kidambi Srikanth was forced to give a walkover to his eighth seeded Malaysian opponent Lee Zii Jia after pulling up his right calf muscle.

Earlier in the day, Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the competition after suffering a 19-21, 17-21 defeat against second seeded Indonesian combination of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

That meant the Indian challenge at the event ended. — PTI

### Basketball event at Sec'bad YMCA

**Hyderabad:** The YMCA of Greater Hyderabad is organising a basketball tournament from January 24 to 26 at the Secunderabad YMCA for boys and girls in the age groups of 14 and 16. For further details, contact T. Kalyan Raj (8886487203) M. Moses Manohar Avinash (9949985472).

### Live on TV

**BADMINTON**  
Thailand Open: Semifinals from 7.30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

**CRICKET**  
Sri Lanka vs England: First Test, Day 3 from 10 am on Sony Ten 2

**Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament:** Assam vs Bengal from 11.55 am; Odisha vs Jharkhand from 6.55 pm on Star Sports 1 HD

**Big Bash League:** Sydney Sixers vs Perth Scorchers from 1.00 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

**Australia vs India:** Fourth Test Day 3 from 5.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

**FOOTBALL**  
Indian Super League: Mumbai vs Hyderabad from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**Italian League:** Bologna vs Verona from 7.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

# Samiya smashes to top

## City shuttler is world No.2 in junior rankings

**New Delhi, Jan. 15:** Young shuttlers Samiya Imad Farooqui and Varun Kapur have attained career-best second spots in their respective categories in the latest BWF's junior world rankings, which features six Indians in the top-10.

Samiya jumped six places among female singles players, while Varun climbed four spots in the male category.

While 17-year-old Samiya, a U-15 Asian Badminton Championship winner, has been one of the consistent performers on the junior circuit last year, Varun had a great run last year as he picked his sixth junior title, claiming the XII Portuguese International 2020 in November.

"It's great to see many junior shuttlers doing so well. We currently have 10 Indians in the top-20 and the juniors have shown a lot of promise," Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a release.

"This ranking will work as a desired boost for each of them and surely motivate them to work harder as it has been a tough year for Covid-19 affected sporting world and badminton is trying to make a comeback after almost a year's break," Sarma added.

BWF had frozen the world junior rankings as of March 17, 2020, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, with the



Samiya Imad Farooqui of Hyderabad in action during a match in this file photo.

recommencement of some international junior tournaments, BWF decided to add subsequent International junior tournament results to the world junior rankings without deducting points from previous weeks, thereby creating a rolling ranking until such time as

the world junior rankings can be fully unfrozen.

While Varun is the only Indian in the top 10 among male shuttlers, the female singles category has three other Indian shuttlers — Tasnim Mir (4), Treesa Jolly (8) and Aditi Bhatt (10) — in the top-10 rankings list.

In the women's doubles category, Tressa (8), Tanisha Crasto (9) and Aditi (9) are among the Indians who are placed inside top-10.

"BAI executive council meeting and AGM is scheduled for January 30 in Delhi. We will be finalising detailed plan on

how to conduct domestic tournaments as well as the key junior tournaments that BAI plans to send its players this year. We will also be discussing the future plans related to coaching and training for junior shuttlers," said BAI General Secretary Ajay Singhania. — PTI



Members of the KVBR Club girls Under 19 team are all smiles as they receive the FIBA 5x5 basketball tournament winners' trophy from FIBA official Norman Isaac in Hyderabad.

### Superstars, KVBR champions

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Sai Superstars and KVBR Club emerged winners in the FIBA 5x5 basketball tournament conducted by FIBA Club at the Apollo Health City, Jubilee Hills. While Sai Superstars emerged on top in overtime against Nizam Basketball Academy at 47-43, KVBR Club got the measure of The Future Kids School 41-32. In the

boys under 16 category Team Hotshots defeated Team Sritej 48-42 to emerge winners.

The U-19 boys final was hotly contested with both teams vying with each other to gain an upper hand. The winners enjoyed height advantage and dominated the paint while the NBA players impressed with their long range shots and turnovers.

Karthik Chaddha with 18 points, Sai Saatvik with 12 points and Subhash with 10 did the bulk of scoring for Sai Superstars, it was Anthony and Majid with

did an excellent job and with Sai Saatvik playing the role of a power forward, the winners were able to withstand the fast attack of the NBA players. Majid, Mohan, Anthony and Charan were quick to grab any opportunity to score.

Karthik Chaddha with 18 points, Sai Saatvik with 12 points and Subhash with 10 did the bulk of scoring for Team Hotshots while Akshith and Akash did well for Team Sritej.

Mohan with 9 who were the scorers for NBA.

The supremacy of the KVBR was never in doubt with Mohana Motha and Nidhi dominating with their shooting even though Aditi and Sriya were scoring for FKS.

In the boys under 16 final, Armaan and Akash K were impressive for Team Hotshots while Akshith and Akash did well for Team Sritej.

In the Juniors, Sushanth tallied 11.5 points out of 12 rounds while I. Akash Kumar came second with 10.5 points. Aansh Nerulkar was third with 10 points to his credit.

**THE PLACINGS**

**Open Category:** 1. Kartavya Anadkat, 2. Ritobroto Sen, 3. Mathiyazhagan, 4. Chidvilas Sai, 5. KVK Karthik. **Boys U-15:** 1. I. Akashkumar, 2. B. Naga Akhil Charan. **Girls U-15:** 1. Swara Lakshmi S Nair, 2. Vaishnavi S. **Boys U-13:** 1. Ishaan Das, 2. Atharv Bansal. **Girls U-13:** 1. Jyothika, 2. Amulya Bhagavathula. **Boys U-11:** 1. Naga Sai Sarthak, 2. Aryan Tutiki. **Girls U-11:** 1. Harshitha Agarwal, 2. Karnika Krishnaswamy. **Boys U-9:** 1. Aansh Nerulkar, 2. Havin Kovind. **Girls U-9:** 1. Priyanka Ranjan, 2. Lasya T. **Boys U-7:** 1. Hariram Perecharla, 2. Aadhyank. **Girls U-7:** 1. Durga Lakshmi, 2. M. Pranavi.

### Arsenal fail to breach Palace

**London, Jan. 15:** Arsenal's three-match winning streak in the Premier League ended with a 0-0 draw against Crystal Palace as the Gunners missed a chance to keep their momentum going and climb up the table.

Arsenal remained rooted in 11th place with 24 points, while Palace stayed in 13th with 23 points.

We'll take it, Palace winger Eberechi Eze said on Thursday.

It's a good point to take. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was under severe pressure before Christmas after the team's worst start to a season since 1974. But wins over the festive period against Chelsea, Brighton and West Bromwich Albion moved his team back into mid-table and in sight of the European positions.

But Thursday's game saw his team revert back to its old form, lacking creativity in midfield and cutting edge up front.

Arteta partly blamed fatigue, saying his players lacked some freshness and some quality in the final third.

We lacked the last pass or the last shot. We had to generate more to win that game, he said.

#### BILBAO KNOCK OUT MADRID IN SUPER CUP

**Malaga:** Athletic Bilbao knocked out defending champion Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup with a 2-1 win, setting up a final against Barcelona.

Ral Garcia scored two first-half goals to put Athletic in Seville against the Catalan club, which beat Real Sociedad in a penalty shootout in the other semi-final on Wednesday.

Athletic is looking to win

its third Spanish Super Cup title, and first since beating Barcelona in the 2015 final. The Basque Country club also won the competition in 1984.

Garcia opened the scoring for Athletic in the 18th minute with a shot past Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in a one-on-one situation inside the area. He added to the lead by converting a penalty kick in the 38th after a foul by Lucas Vazquez.

Madrid reduced the deficit in the 73rd minute when Karim Benzema scored his first goal in four matches. The French striker appeared to have scored an equaliser in the 82nd but the goal was disallowed for offside.

#### SPAL SET UP LAST 8 MATCH VS JUVENTUS

**Milan:** Second-division team Spal will face Italian league champions Juventus in the Italian Cup quarterfinals after winning 2-0 at 10-man Sassuolo.

Spal is the only Serie 'B' side left in the competition. Sassuolo was the better side in the first half but the match turned immediately after the restart when midfielder Filip Juricic was sent off for a dangerous tackle on Spal defender Leonardo Sernicola.

Spal took the lead two minutes later when Demba Seck ran into the area and pulled the ball back for Simone Missiroli to side-foot into the bottom right corner. The visitors doubled their advantage in the 58th minute. Marco D'Alessandro put in a cross from the left to the back post where Lorenzo Dickmann volleyed in from close range. Sassuolo hit the post twice in the match on Thursday.



C. V. Anand (left) and his doubles partner Waheed (right) receive the Ramayya Memorial Open tennis tournament trophies from Sports Authority of Telangana State chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy (centre) at the Lal Bahadur Stadium Tennis Complex in Hyderabad.

### Double joy for tennis Anand

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 15

Organised by the Hyderabad Open Tennis Association (HOTA) and being the first senior national tournament after the lockdown, a record number of 374 players from all parts of the country participated in the event. The competition was very tough with draws going up to 128 in 40+ and 50+ categories.

#### THE RESULTS (all finals)

**40+ singles:** C. V. Anand (Hyderabad) bt Vikas Aswani (Nagpur) 9-7.

**40+ doubles:** C. V. Anand/ Waheed bt Laggani Srinivas/ Shivakumar Raju 9-6.

**50+ singles:** Neelkant Damre (Pune) bt NVK Murthy 6-1 6-3.

**50+ doubles:** Neelkant Damre/ Narendra Kankaria (Pune) bt Srikant/ C. T. Patil (Mysuru) 6-0, 6-0.

**60+ singles:** Srinivasulu Reddy/ Dhanunjayulu bt Meher Prakash/ V. Sankar 6-2, 6-1.

**60+ doubles:** Srinivasulu Reddy/ Dhanunjayulu bt Meher Prakash/ V. Sankar 6-2, 6-1.

**70+ doubles:** Tahir Ali/ Daval Patel bt KSR Murthi/ Col Parvathesam 9-1.

### Captains' choice



Hyderabad women's Under 19 cricket team captain Pranavi Chandra receives the Most Promising Cricketer award from former Karnataka cricketer Hemalatha as former Indian captains Shantha Rangaswamy (second from right), Mohammad Azharuddin (third from left) and Mithali Raj (second from left) applaud during the presentation ceremony of the Falcon Sports Club Golden Jubilee Inter-academy tournament in Bengaluru. Four teams — Herons, Kini RR, Sheen and Ameya Sports — took part in the double round robin league format tournament in which 15 players from the current national team took part. Pranavi was part of the Ameya Sports team.

### BRIEF SCORES

■ Armoor 60 in 19.5 overs

■ Ram Nishit 5/12 lost to Bhadradi 64/4 in 10.3 overs.

■ Adilabad Rural 134/4 in 20 overs (Daikiv Reddy 28) tied with Tandur 134/6 in 20 overs (Utsav 45, Uday 30). **Super Over:** Tandur 11/0, Adilabad Rural Score 13/1.

■ Mancheril 118/6 in 20 overs (Rithwik 39, Sudheer 3/17) lost to Warangal Rural 122/6 in 17.3 overs (Abu Sifyan 34).

■ Suryapet 94 in 14.3 overs (Heeth Dokwl 3/19) lost to Adilabad Urban 95/5 in 18.1 overs (Harshith 32, Bhanu 3/18).

■ Nirmal 114/7 in 20 overs (J. Vijay Rau 29) lost to Mancheril 115/7 in 19.2 overs (Rithwik 51, Appala Shourya 4/20).

■ Warangal Urban 139/2 in 16 overs (Rithwik 66) bt Armoor 41 in 11 overs (Fahim 3/3, Yuvaraj Singh 3/13).

■ Armoor 60 in 19.5 overs

■ Armoor 60 in 19.5 overs

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Saini complains of groin pain**

**Brisbane:** The injury-plagued Indian team took another hit on Friday when pacer Navdeep Saini was forced off the field during the final Test against Australia due to groin pain and taken for scans. The 28-year-old had bowled five balls of his eight, and the innings 36th, over during the second session when he had to walk off the field because of the pain. With this, his further participation in the match, which began this morning, has been thrown into serious doubt. "Navdeep Saini has complained of pain in his groin. He is currently being monitored by the BCCI medical team," read a short statement from the BCCI. — PTI

**Root ends his century drought**

**Galle, Sri Lanka:** England captain Joe Root hit an unbeaten 168 as his side built up a lead of 185 over Sri Lanka on a rain-hit second day of the opening Test. England were 320 for 4 when rain halted play in Galle. Root and Dan Lawrence, who scored 73 on his Test debut, built a 173-run partnership after the tourists resumed the day on 127 for 2. Root, who is batting with Jos Buttler (7), hit his 18th Test ton and kept up the pressure on the home bowlers despite losing overnight partner Jonny Bairstow for 47 early in the day. **Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 135 vs England 320/4 (Joe Root batting 168, Lawrence 73, Embuldeniya 3/131).

**Honda one-two at the Dakar Rally**

**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia:** The final stage of the 2021 Dakar Rally delivered the outright race win to Monster Energy Honda Team. Kevin Benavides claimed the triumph after 12 gruelling stages. Ricky Brabec accompanied him on the podium in second place. It was an intense, yet intriguing 202-kilometre special stage, which brought down the curtain on the Dakar Rally on the shores of the Red Sea. And it could not have been a happier one for the elated Honda Team riders: "we have won the 2021 Rally Dakar!"

Kevin Benavides has clinched the 2021 Dakar crown with teammate Brabec finishing runner-up. This marks a first title for the Argentinian rider and, once again, a historic result for Honda, who dominated throughout the 2021 Dakar.

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# NATS AND BOLTS

Natarajan twin strikes boost India despite Oz domination



Thangarasu Natarajan (centre) celebrates the wicket of Marnus Labuschagne with teammates on Day One of the fourth Test at the Gabba in Brisbane. — AFP

## NATTU 1ST INDIAN TO DEBUT THRICE ON SAME TOUR

**Brisbane, Jan. 15:** Pacer Thangarasu Natarajan, who came to Australia as a net bowler on Friday became the first Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all three formats during the same tour.

The 29-year-old Tamil Nadu player was one of the rookies named in the playing eleven of the Indian team in the fourth and final Test. He made his international debut in the third ODI against Australia on December 2 in Canberra, which India won by 13 runs.

Natarajan made an immediate impact by taking two wickets for 70 runs from his 10 overs.

Natarajan then played his part in India's 2-1 series win in the three-match T20 International rubber by taking six wickets during the series. "Welcome to Test cricket... Thangarasu Natarajan becomes the first Indian player to make his International debut across all three formats during the same tour," the ICC tweeted.

"The stuff dreams are made of. A perfect treble for @Natarajan\_91 as he is presented with #TeamIndia's Test No. 300. Nata is now an all-format player," BCCI tweeted. — PTI

## SCORECARD

**Australia first innings:** David Warner c Rohit b Siraj 1, Marcus Harris c Washington Sundar b Thakur 5, Marnus Labuschagne c Pant b T Natarajan 108, Steven Smith c Rohit b Washington Sundar 36, Matthew Wade c Thakur b T Natarajan 45, Cameron Green batting 28, Tim Paine batting 38. Extras (b-4, lb-4, nb-5) 13. Total (for 5 wkts, in 87 overs) 274.

**ForW:** 1-4, 2-17, 3-87, 4-200, 5-213.

**Bowlers:** Mohammed Siraj 19-8-51-1, T. Natarajan 20-2-63-2, Shardul Thakur 18-5-67-1, Navdeep Saini 7.5-2-21-0, Washington Sundar 22-4-63-1, Rohit Sharma 0.1-0-1.

## Siraj called 'grub' by Gabba crowd

**Brisbane, Jan. 15:** India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was targeted for abuse by a section of the crowd on the opening day of the fourth Test against Australia, a daily here reported, claiming that he was called a "grub" by some spectators.

The reported incident happened a few days after Siraj was racially abused by spectators at the Sydney Cricket Ground on the third and fourth

day of the drawn third Test. That had led to an expulsion of six people from the stands and an unreserved apology from Cricket Australia to the visiting team.

On Friday, a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* quoted a spectator as saying that a section of the crowd at the Gabba targeted Siraj.

"The guys behind me have been calling — shouting — both

Washington and Siraj grubs," a spectator named Kate was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

"It started targeted at

Siraj and it was a chant similar to the SCG one (in

which fans sang to the tune of *Que Sera, Sera* but substituted the lyrics with *Que Shiraz, Shiraz*).

"But this time it was Siraj. I suspect it's not a coincidence that it's Siraj being targeted post the SCG stuff."

According to the newspaper, at one point, a man in the crowd was heard yelling, "Siraj, give us a wave, give us a wave, Siraj, you bloody grub."

Play was halted during

the Sydney Test for about

10 minutes after Siraj complained of racial abuse from a section of the crowd. The BCCI had also lodged a complaint with the match referee against the abuse. — PTI

## Mighty Mumbai make a shock exit after 3rd loss

**Mumbai, Jan. 15:** Domestic giants Mumbai crashed out of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after suffering their third straight defeat — this time by eight wickets against Haryana in an Elite 'E' Group league game — here on Friday.

The loss meant Mumbai's campaign is over although they still have two more games left in hand.

As per the format of the tournament, the top ranked teams from each group (six groups in total) will qualify for the knock-out stage, along with the next two teams in Elite Groups 'A' to

E with the most points.

So even if Mumbai win their last two games, they will only have eight points which will not be enough to make it to the knock-outs from Elite Group 'E' as there are two other teams already with 12 points apart from current table-toppers Kerala.

Opting to bat at the BKC ground, Mumbai was bundled out for a meagre 143 with seasoned off-spinner Jayant Yadav (4/22) and right-arm medium pacer Arun Chaprana (3/22) doing bulk of the damage.

For Mumbai, barring young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (35), the entire top-order faltered. Haryana then roared on Himanshu Rana's blazing unbeaten 75 off 53 balls to chase down the target without much fuss, despite being down 2 for 27 at one stage. — PTI

### BRIEF SCORES

**Mumbai** 143 in 19.3 overs (Atharva Ankolekar 37, Yashasvi Jaiswal 35; Jayant Yadav 4/22; Arun Chaprana 3/22) lost to **Haryana** 144/2 in 17.4 overs (Himanshu Rana 75 n.o., Shivam Chauhan 43 n.o.; Arjun Tendulkar 1/34).  
**Delhi** 212/4 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 77; Lalit Yadav 52 n.o.; S. Sreesanth 2/46) lost to **Kerala** 218/4 in 19 overs (Robin Uthappa 91, Vishnu Vinod 71 n.o.)

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