

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
VISAKHAPATNAM | WEDNESDAY | 30 DECEMBER 2020

## WEATHER

Max: 28.2°C  
Min: 16.8°C  
RH: 94%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Fog,  
Max/Min temp.  
28/16°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+18,035)	(+246)
1,02,42,306	1,48,426
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+397)	(+2)
TS: 2,85,465	1,535
(+326)	(+2)
AP: 8,81,599	7,100

CASES AROUND THE WORLD  
8,20,00,970  
DEATHS  
178,805  
COUNTRIES  
AREAS WITH  
CASES  
218  
worldometers.info/  
coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Saravati, Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Margashirsha  
Purnima till 8:55 am  
Star: Ardra till 6:51 pm  
Varjyam: Nil  
Durmuhuratam: 11:56 am to  
12:40 pm  
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1:30 pm  
HILARI CALENDAR  
Jamadi-ul-Awwal 14, 1442 AH  
Prayers  
Fajar: 5:50 am  
Zohar: 1:30 pm  
Asar: 4:45 pm  
Maghrib: 6:15 pm  
Isha: 8:15 pm  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5:27 AM  
SUNSET TODAY 5:31 PM  
MOONRISE TODAY 5:45 PM  
MOONSET TOMORROW 6:28 AM

## COUNTER POINT



You are lucky! You tested positive for Covid-19, not its variant!

## SHORT TAKES

### Pierre Cardin passes away at 98

Paris: Pierre Cardin, 98, the French designer whose name embossed everything from wristwatches to bed sheets after his iconic Space Age styles shot him into the fashion stratosphere in the 1960s, has died, the French Academy of Fine Arts said.

### Sudha Bharadwaj seeks books

Mumbai: Three accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoists links case have moved a court here seeking access to books and newspapers in prison. Activist Sudha Bharadwaj filed separate plea through their lawyer Chandni Chawla in NIA court.

## DEATH ROW



### No law and order in state, says Naidu

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

## STATE | 2

### India strike back, level Test series 1-1 with Oz



Australian captain Tim Paine congratulates his Indian counterpart Ajinkya Rahane, right, on winning the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, on Tuesday. India beat Australia by eight wickets to level the series at 1-1. ■ Page 8

## Ban on UK flights likely to be extended: Minister

Passengers from Nov. 23 being monitored

VINEETA PANDY  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 29

With the samples of six UK returnees to India being found to be positive with the new mutated Covid-19 variant genome by the labs in Nimbhanga-Bengaluru (three samples), CMO-Hyderabad (two) and NIV-Pune (one), the ban on incoming flights from the UK is likely to be extended for some more time.

Minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri indicated this on Tuesday, saying, "I foresee a short extension on this temporary suspension. I do not see the extension to be long or indefinite." All passengers who have travelled to India since November 23 are being monitored and will now be tested in the states. The number of such passengers is about 30,000. Health ministry officials said "the situation is under careful watch", and regular advice is being given to the states for enhanced surveillance, containment, testing and dispatch of sam-

### RAJINI BACKS OUT FROM POLITICS DUE TO ILL HEALTH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, DEC. 29

With just a couple of days left for the scheduled announcement of his new political party, actor Rajinikanth, citing health reasons, called off his entry into electoral politics on Tuesday through a tweet. In a three-page statement, he said he will do whatever good he can to people without contesting polls and that he considered his taking ill at the shooting of the film *Annamalai* in Hyderabad as a warning from God.

■ Full report on Page 4

## AP woman tests +ve to UK mutant strain

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

AP health authorities confirmed that the woman from Rajamahendravaram who returned from London recently tested positive to the UK mutant strain of Coronavirus. The tests were done at the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology. Health and family welfare commissioner K. Bhaskar said there, however, was no spread of the UK strain

planned designated government labs. In addition, five per cent samples of all daily detected Covid-19 positive cases in the states/UTs will be sent for genome sequencing. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, meanwhile, that the rising Covid-19 cases in the UK was a cause for concern. However, PM's princ-

## Now, licence to rear dogs, pigs

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

The state government on Tuesday issued an order specifying rules relating to issue of licences for rearing dogs and pigs and control of unlicensed pets and animals. The department of panchayat raj and rural development issued GO MS No. 683 on Tuesday specifying rules on grant of licence for dogs and pigs; logistic arrangements for con-

trol of stray dogs and obligations of the gram panchayats; capturing/sterilisation/release of dogs; identification and recording of sterilised or immunised dogs; sterilisation or putting to sleep dogs found with voice impaired or dumb rabid dogs; disposal of carcasses of dogs; formation of monitoring committees; general functions of the gram panchayat level monitoring committee and control on pigs.

He will arrive in Visakhapatnam in a special aircraft from Vijayawada and fly to Guntakam by helicopter. After making an aerial survey of the lands being given to the beneficiaries, he will arrive at the venue and interact with the women beneficiaries. Beneficiaries have been identified in Vizianagaram district who would get houses and house site pattas. Of them 71,237 will be new beneficiaries who would use houses and possession certificates would be given to 24,237 who have built houses on government land and living.

### BOTSAS REVIEWS HOUSE PATTA DISTRIBUTION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIZIANAGARAM, DEC. 29

Minister for municipal administration and housing, Satyanarayana along with local MLA Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy, S. Kota MLA K. Srinivasa Rao and collector Dr. M. Hari Jawahar reviewed the arrangements being made at Guntakam village in the district where Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will distribute house pattas and land and address a public meeting on Wednesday. The Chief Minister will be participating in the programmes at three places in the state including Guntakam.

Shivamogga was dead. Later he switched off his mobile. When he did not return till late in the night, his family members and the police found his body on the track. In his suicide note, Gowda apologised to his mother and wife, and wrote down details about his property and gave other financial details, advising his family to complete the house that was under construction.

## NATION | 5

### Mufti promises not to give up fight

## HC TELLS STATE, SEC TO RESOLVE GP POLL ISSUES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

The AP High Court has directed both the state government and the State Election Commission to build and resolve the issue amicably on the latter's move to conduct gram panchayat polls in February 2021. A division bench headed by justice A.V. Seshasai held the hearing on Tuesday and issued the order asking both the parties to start consultations in three days from the date of receipt of the order copy. The court said that the SEC would decide the date and venue for taking up consultations and asked the state government to depute officials in the rank of principal secretary to consult the SEC.

The court suggested to the state to state a series of guidelines issued by the Centre on Covid-19 and its recommendations to contain spread of the virus before the SEC in a written format and advised it to submit all relevant documents also. It may be mentioned that panchayat raj principal secretary Gopala Krishna Dwivedi had filed a petition to the HC earlier challenging the issue of proceedings by the SEC to conduct gram panchayat polls in February 2021 in the state. The Judge asked both the parties to resolve the issue, in an amicable manner through negotiations keeping in mind the directions of the SC.

■ Page 2: AP raises issue of SEC's month for election

## No New Year fete in Vijayawada: Cops

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

No New Year celebrations will be allowed in Vijayawada city to contain the spread of Covid-19. Vijayawada city police commissioner Battina Srinivasulu said that the police will not give permission for the celebrations and appealed to people to ring in the New Year at their homes. He said that there was no lowering Covid-19 protocol.

### BOTSAS REVIEWS HOUSE PATTA DISTRIBUTION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIZIANAGARAM, DEC. 29

A major decision by the YSR government soon after winning power last year was to cancel the MoU signed between the TDP government and multinational Lulu group for setting up hyper market at RK Beach in Visakhapatnam. Now, it turns out that Lulu's loss is CMR group's gain. The cabinet decision was taken on October 30 last year. As per the MoU, Lulu got 16.4 acres of land, of which the CMR group had owned 3.4 acres. In lieu of the 3.4 acres, the government gave CMR 1.36 acres at Siripuram close to the HSBC complex, 0.91 acres in MVP Colony, 0.31 acres in Kirlampudi, 1.49 acres in MVP Double road, 0.65 acres in Seethammadhara and 0.11 acres in Lawson's Bay Colony - together worth 182.53 acres as per the SRO value.

Minister for tourism and culture Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao said on June 19 last year that the land parcels given to the CMR group would be revised. "We have objection to the land exchange between the CMR group and the previous government under which the former got Rs 200 crore worth of land for

## WORLD | 5

### Biden sees danger in transition stalling

## CM releases third YSR sop tranche

₹1,766 cr released to benefit 8.34 L farmers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday released the third tranche of 'YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan' funds. The ₹1,766 crore relief is accompanied by a compensation of ₹646 crore for crops damaged during the Nivara cyclone. This will support 8.34 lakh farmers. A total sum of ₹1,766 crore was deposited in the farmers' bank accounts with a single click. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the state government has spent ₹61,400 crore towards farmers welfare in the last 18 months.

He said that he believes the state would be better off when the farmer is happy and doing well. He stated that his government provided ₹13,101 crore towards YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan by giving ₹13,500 every year to 51.59 lakh farmers, including tenant farmers and those cultivating forest lands.

The CM slammed TD president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for being irresponsible and playing cheap political dramas pretending to have a concern about farmers. He said, "The Opposition leader lives far away from the lands, hardly spent ₹12,000 crore in their five-year rule. The

son (Pawan Kalyan) in the state but he doesn't have trust either of them as people rejected them both. The cyclone relief was announced on multiple occasions and the state had also purchased the damaged crops even though they are moist and germinated. Under relief measures, 43,000 quintals of seeds were given at 80 per cent subsidy. Despite taking so many measures, the Opposition leaders are still trying to eke out political mileage by levelling false allegations."

The Chief Minister stated, "The previous government that had abandoned the farmers and cheated them by promising to waive off ₹87,612 crore of farm loans, had hardly spent ₹12,000 crore in their five-year rule. The

previous TD government left a huge pile of debts on farmers including the subsidy for crops, seeds, insurance, electricity arrears, and zero-interest loans. The arrears left by the previous government were paid by the YSRC government including providing an ex gratia to 434 farmers families who committed suicide during Telugu Desam rule."

With regard to the input subsidy, the Chief Minister said that the state government had paid ₹1,038.46 crore between June-November, compensating the crop loss due to heavy rains and floods. He said, "Also, the government had cleared the unpaid dues of the previous government of ₹960 crore for paddy procurement and the state were also paid under the seed subsidy, ₹1,430 crore on free electricity and aqua farmers, including ₹8,655 crore of debt. To provide 9 hours of free electricity during day time, the state government had initiated to strengthen the feeders at an expenditure of ₹1,700 crore. The state government had cleared ₹904 crore of pending arrears of zero-interest loans put by the previous government and credited ₹510 crore towards YSR Zero-interest crop loan given ₹1,968 crore under YSR Crop insurance."

He warned of stern action against those selling liquor to people under 21 years and those violating New Year programmes violating norms at bars, restaurants and hotels. He warned that vehicles would be seized for violation of norms like drunken driving, wearing of helmets and seat belts. He appealed to people to cooperate with the police by celebrating New Year in at homes.

### After cancellation of the MoU with Lulu for a hyper mart in Visakhapatnam, many thought the YSRC government would take back the lands given to CMR Group.

● Instead, by GO No 219, the government allowed 25 per cent 'setback relaxation' to all sides in the proposed six pieces of land and agreed for extra floors as per the request of CMR Group. This a major gain for the CMR group. CMR group got six most valuable lands in the heart of Visakhapatnam city and an extra 1.45 acre, which itself would cost around ₹75 crore, said a prominent realtor in the city. "Now, APHC has a huge chunk of land admeasuring 13.40 acres. "The government has not taken any decision on the use of this prime land," said APHC zonal manager C Yehi Raju. Former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu had gone all the way to Kochi to meet the Lulu group. Mohammed Yusuf Ali and invite him to open a hyper mall in Visakhapatnam on the same lines. Ali did on a massive scale in Kochi. In February 24, vice president M Venkiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for the project at RK Beach site in the presence of Yusuf Ali, Chandrababu Naidu and several ministers. Naidu said the hyper market will create 5,000 jobs with an average salary of ₹10,000.

lands worth less than Rs 100 crore. We will not allow a loss to the government," the minister had said before the CMR group and the previous government under which the former got Rs 200 crore worth of land for

VINAY MADHAV | DC  
BENGALURU, DEC. 29

A fortnight after creating a controversy by being part of a no-confidence motion against the Karnataka Legislative Council chairman, the Upper House's deputy chairman, S.L. Dharmu Gowda, committed suicide by jumping in front of a running train. His death note, where he

said the recent Legislative Council incident, where he was dragged down from the Chair by Congress members, had hurt him a lot, has created a controversy with BJP and JD(S) leaders pointing fingers at the Congress. The 65-year-old JD(S) member of the film *Annamalai* in Hyderabad on Monday at the Mankenahalli railway track, about 20 km from his

home. Family sources said he left home at around 6.30 pm with his driver and asked him to stop the car at a place called Gunasagar, just 3 km from the spot where he committed suicide. He asked his driver to go home, as he had to meet some friends. Later, he called one of his followers and enquired at what time the Janashabdhi train from Bengaluru-

Shivamogga was dead. Later he switched off his mobile. When he did not return till late in the night, his family members and the police found his body on the track. In his suicide note, Gowda apologised to his mother and wife, and wrote down details about his property and gave other financial details, advising his family to complete the house that was under construction.

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## OTHER STORES

## Case registered against loan Apps

**Visakhapatnam:** The Vizag city police registered a case following a complaint from one person against the loan Apps. As per the reports, one B. Satyanarayana availed a loan of ₹4 lakh from the ₹50 to ₹60 loan Apps. Though he paid 90 per cent of the loan, he had received several phone calls from the loan App call centres and he was harassed to pay the rest of the loan amount. They also called his family members and sent a WhatsApp message citing that if the amount is not paid with in stipulated time the Aadhaar Card and Pan Card will be blocked and issued a legal notice through WhatsApp. Based on the complaint from the victim, the police registered a case and investigation is on.

## Biker hit by lorry dies in Agency

**Visakhapatnam:** One person died in a road accident near his bike hit a lorry near Turabaddagadda area under Chintapalle Mandal in Vizag Agency. The deceased was identified as P. Prasad, a native of Ballipeta of G. Madugula mandal. The incident took place when Prasad was travelling towards Narasimam on his bike and he hit the lorry which was coming in opposite direction. The police have registered a case and shifted the body to the government hospital for post-mortem.

## 13-year-old drowns in tank

**Visakhapatnam:** In a tragic incident, a 13-year-old boy drowned in a local tank and died at Pedagantayada in Vizag city. The deceased was identified as K. Ramesh. The police have registered a case and investigation is on.

## 2 held for thefts in temples

**Nellore:** The Kavali town police led by C. Srinivasa Rao and S. Kondiah nabbed two habitual offenders involved in thefts in temples at various Kavali division parts on Tuesday. The police team recovered ₹28,500 cash and a mobile phone from the accused identified as I. Gopi Chand and T. Govardhan. The duo was booked in six thefts they committed after their jail release in October. There are 22 cases against them, and all of them pertain to stealing hand deposits and valuables in the temple.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I. PLAKSHMI MANASA**, P. Vijay Bhaskar, Residing at D. No. 8-57-26, Sarana Nagar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam-530026, A.P., hereby declares that my Daughter's name was wrongly entered in School Certificate as P. TANU SREE instead of correct name **P. TANVI**. The same was rectified in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9933 8798 7774.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I. HEMARAJAN SACHIN** (Old Name) S/o. Hemarajan Balchand Paramaram, residing at Door No. 55-57-2, Sarana Nagar, Visakhapatnam-16, A.P., Changing my name from **HEMARAJAN SACHIN** (Old Name) to **SACHIN J. LAALA** (New Name) shall henceforth be called as **SACHIN J. LAALA** (New Name) for all purposes.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**Usha Mohammed Shah Madani** (Old Name) S/o. Madawalla Mohammed Shah, R/O. Door No. 9-42-401, Balu Pathar, Bani Nagar, Sorapam, Visakhapatnam-530026, A.P., Changing my name from **Usha Mohammed Shah Madani** (Old Name) to **Betha Madawalla** (New Name). Henceforth I am being called as **BEHLAH MADAWALLA** (New Name) for all purposes.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## SITUATION VACANT

## MULTIPLE VACANCIES

**REPUTATED FIRE** Fighting Company Requirement Staff For Telangana Andhra Pradesh Experience Marketing Executives Four, Marketing Managers Two, Fire System Engineers With Execution Designs Electrical/Mechanical Four And Insurance Officer One, Accounts Officer One, Required Technicians, Welders, Fitters, Electrician. Contact: 9885166673, 9908348452. Mail: gndfassociates@gmail.com (HYM/2021/C05248)

## EDUCATIONAL

## CAREER/ENTRANCE COURSES

**ONE-SITTING / Fast-track Graduations (All) Post-Graduations (All), PG Diplomas, Polytechnic Diplomas, Secondary (10th) & Senior Secondary (12th), Provided Online results & Online verification. Eligible for Private & Abroad. Ph:9912540011, 7337291133, www.hydccr.com (A/2021/C00082)**

## CCMB finds new variant of Covid highly transmittable

New variant of coronavirus shows 17 mutations in its genetic material

## Swab of 7-year-old UK returnee sent to CCMB

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DEC. 29

**Visakhapatnam:** The new variant of the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19 has been found to be B.1.1.7 and believed to be 71 per cent more transmissible than the other variants.

The Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology is one of the 10 research institutes in India involved in tracing the new variant. In a statement from CCMB issued on Tuesday, Dr. Datta Tripathy, who is leading the Coronavirus genome sequencing efforts at CCMB, said, "We have used both the traditional Sanger sequencing method and modern next-generation sequencing tools."

The CCMB authorities

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VISAKHAPATNAM, DEC. 29

A seven-year-old boy who returned from the UK recently along with his parents tested positive on Monday and his swab has been sent to CCMB, Hyderabad, to check for the new strain. His parents tested negative. The boy has been sent to institutional quarantine, said Andhra Pradesh Medical College principal and OSD for Covid-19,

Dr. Datta Tripathy, who is leading the Coronavirus genome sequencing efforts at CCMB, said, "We have used both the traditional Sanger sequencing method and modern next-generation sequencing tools."

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north coastal Andhra Pradesh Dr. P.V. Sudhakar. He said in all 1,216 returned from the UK in the last couple of days and tests were conducted on all of them. Only the boy tested positive, he added. Meanwhile, positive cases have come down in north coastal Andhra during the last few days. On Monday, two cases were reported from Vizianagaram, four in Srikalahasti and 41 in Visakhapatnam. Active cases

have also come down proportionately. Srikalahasti has 85 active cases with 32 undergoing treatment in hospital, 45 in Vizianagaram and 251 in Visakhapatnam. Vizianagaram district, which remained green for over two months after the outbreak reported zero cases on December 27 and 28. "Positive cases came down due to increased awareness and people following the Covid-19 protocol," Dr. Sudhakar said.

is believed to enhance the binding between the virus and the receptors facilitating its entry into the host of cells.

expresses on its outer surface and binds to the ACE receptors in the host cells. They further say that one of the mutations

They say that the mutations have not worsened the symptoms or the disease outcomes and are also not an impediment to the vaccine development and add that the testing protocol also remains the same except the only problem is that the new variant spreads more easily than the others. CCMB director Dr. Rakesh Mishra said, "The measures to avoid infection including from the new variant still remains the same like using masks when in presence of others, avoiding crowded places and maintaining physical distancing as they are found to be more effective and feasible. It is now very important to launch an extensive genome surveillance of the virus to assess the extent of the spread of the new virus. We should also keep an eye on the other variants that might emerge independently."

## AP RECORDS 326 COVID CASES, TWO DEATHS

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

Andhra Pradesh registered 326 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities issued Covid-19 bulletin on Tuesday reporting that out of 50,794 samples tested, 326 persons were infected with the Covid-19. Out of a total number of 1,17,08,678 samples tested so far, 8,81,599 persons were found infected with the Covid-19 and of them, 8,71,116 were recovered in the course of treatment while 3,383 are still active with the virus.

Among daily cases of confirmed Covid-19, Krishna registered the highest number of 67, followed by 56 in Guntur, 52 in Chittoor, 41 in Visakhapatnam, 24 in Kadapa, 23 in West Godavari, 21 in East Godavari, 15 in Anantapur, nine in Prakasam, six each in Nellore and Srikalahasti, four in Kurnool and two in Vizianagaram.

The police have increased the night vigil in recent months due to some untoward incidents reported at the temples. Consequently, the police increased vigil in rural areas. Village Protection Committees were formed to protect the temples and other places of worship, which helped prevent crime in the last few months in rural areas. Theft cases also decreased in the district as 478 theft cases were reported in 2020 against 720 cases of last year—only five dacoity cases registered in the district in 2020 against nine cases respectively in 2019. Property related 478 crime cases were booked in 2020 against 688 cases registered in 2019. Murder cases decreased as 28 murder cases reported this year against 48 murder cases last year.



Beach Road seems to be busy with the vehicles as the people still avoid public transport and prefer their personal vehicles for their travel in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. — P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

## Crimes decreased in 2020 in Krishna district

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

The all-round crime rate was decreased in Krishna district in the year 2020 compared to 2019. The Krishna district police registered 8877 crime-related cases in 2020 against the 9,767 cases booked in 2019. The Police Department took the Covid-19-related lockdown and the measures to check the crime helped decrease crime cases.

Krishna district superintendent of police M. Ravindranath Babu said, "The annual press meet at Machilipatnam on Tuesday said the number of crime incidents decreased in the district 2020 compared to 2019. He said the regular monitoring by the police, use of modern technology for detecting crime, increasing night beats, village protection committees and conducting

Crime against women also dropped in the district as 1,229 cases were booked in 2020 against the 1,292 cases registered in 2019.

video conference regularly yielded good results in checking the crime in the district. He said the crime rate decreased due to some untoward incidents reported at the temples. Consequently, the police increased vigil in rural areas. Village Protection Committees were formed to protect the temples and other places of worship, which helped prevent crime in the last few months in rural areas.

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## Shortage of TLE drug hits HIV/AIDS patients in AP

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 29

Shortage of the first line drug regimen called TLE (Tenofovir, Lamivudine and Efavirenz) is causing hardships for the HIV/AIDS infected patients in Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh AIDS Control Society supplies TLE tablet for the infected patients to be taken at bedtime every day. Nearly 2.20 lakh HIV/AIDS infected patients are enrolled for availing antiretroviral therapy in the state as the National AIDS Control Society supplies drugs to APSACS which in turn distributes drugs to the Nodal ART and ART centres located in the state. All drugs are being supplied to the patients for lifetime free of cost. Among those who are on antiretroviral therapy, nearly 35-40 per cent are using TLE. Patients at the

fail to help us overcome our health problem, they themselves are expressing helplessness to give us TLE for want of supply to them. As we cannot afford to purchase such drug in the open market, we are unable to consume such drug and it is resulting in aggravating our health problem."

Health authorities maintain that if the patients fail to use such the drug on a regular basis, it will result in rise in their viral load and make them vulnerable to other infections and may also lead to fatality. Some patients are also complaining about side-effects like insomnia, development of rash on skin and other health problems after using TLE as an alternative to the TLE. The patients are urging the government to intervene and direct APSACS to procure regular supply of all drugs.



## PROVIDE UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY TO CONSUMERS, OFFICIALS TOLD

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VISAKHAPATNAM, DEC. 29

Secretary of Energy, AP government and CMD of AP Transco, N. Srikanth asked officials to provide uninterrupted and quality power to the consumers.

At the workshop with officials of AP Transco of five districts of APEEDCL at Corporate Office in Vizag city, he spoke on the future development projects in Transco and Discoms. Superintendent Engineers of Srikalahasti, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari districts

gave a PowerPoint presentation on their districts' progressive developments. He instructed the officials to draw future plans for forecasting capacity and peak demand for further five years period for providing quality and reliable power to consumers. For this purpose automation plan for sub-stations, automation feeders, and strengthening of the network, new sub-stations, changing of lines, and improving new technology is required. He asked them to prepare new budgetary estimations for implementing above.

**COFMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS)**  
Railway Offices Complex, Tikka Bridge, New Delhi - 110 002  
Tel: 91-11-23370453, Email ID: concofnewdel@gmail.com

**Corrigendum-04**  
Sub: Tender No. COFMOW/2020/WT-14 for "Design, development, Fabrication, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Smart Yard Equipment consisting of Way Side Equipment and Maintenance Machinery & Plants for Rolling Stock at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) Station Yard at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division, East Central Railway." Following Corrigendum may please be incorporated in the subject tender.

S. No.	Section	As per Existing Tender	Now to Read as
1.	Tender Closing Date and Time	06/01/2021 and 15:00 Hrs.	21/01/2021 and 15:00 Hrs.

Chief Mechanical Engineer/COFMOW  
"Serving Customers with Smile"

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION PROVIDENT FUND TRUST, PATIALA**  
(Or) CAO/PSPCFL com Secretary PSFC PF Trust, Patiala  
Phone & Fax No. 9175-2213546

**Open Tender**  
RFP is invited by BOTs of PSFC PF Trust for Appointment as Portfolio Fund Investment Advisers.

Tender Specification No.	RFP S/PSFC PF Trust
Short Description	Proposals from SEBI registered Portfolio/Fund/Investment Advisers who are interested in providing Portfolio/Fund/Investment Advisory Services to PSFC Provident Fund Trust, Patiala (Punjab).
Eligibility Criteria	As described in Request for Proposal
Last date of Bid Submission	09/02/2021 upto 12:00 Noon
Bid Opening	09/02/2021 at 12:30 PM in Room No. 201, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001

Tender specification can be downloaded from website www.pspcl.in tenders/request-for-proposal

The Proposal shall be submitted by the bidder in sealed envelope subscribed as "Proposal for Providing Portfolio/Fund/Investment Advisory Services to PSFC Provident Fund Trust".

Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSFC website: www.pspcl.in

C-3903020  
RFP No./P&A/P. No. : 75155/12/16/021/254 PSFC, Patiala

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# DECCAN Chronicle

30 DECEMBER 2020

## New strain demands a relook at measures

Reports of six returnees from United Kingdom testing positive for the new coronavirus strain are reason enough for the government and the people to be alert again against the threat of the pandemic. Covid-19 marking another deadly wave across the nation. Experts are of the opinion that the new strain spreads at a faster pace than the original variant, and hence the government must put in place stringent measures to stop its spread.

The government has already decided that the guidelines for surveillance, which were to be effective till December 31, will continue to be in force till January 31. This is welcome, but it must consider if this is enough. Schools and colleges across the country, as well as entertainment centres, are in the process of opening, though under strict controls. Mass transport systems, such as railways are also easing the controls, albeit slowly. The government must examine the option of pressing the pause button on the "unlock" process in view of the discovery of the new strain, taking, of course, the nation's economic interests, also into account. It must ensure that there is an aggressive contact tracing, isolation and treatment for all the affected in all the cases, unlike the way the country handled it when the virus arrived first time earlier this year. It must also consider relaunching the mass awareness programme it kicked off ahead of the festival season as the new strain could find the New Year festivities a perfect medium through which to afflict more people.

That the reports come at a time when India has been showing a regular decline in the number of new coronavirus cases offers no solace and no reason to us for lowering the guard. There is no case to be careless until scientists and manufacturers are ready with the vaccine and put in place a proper policy and mechanism. There is no reason to us for lowering the guard. There is no case to be careless until scientists and manufacturers are ready with the vaccine and put in place a proper policy and mechanism. There is no reason to us for lowering the guard. There is no case to be careless until scientists and manufacturers are ready with the vaccine and put in place a proper policy and mechanism.

Vaccination is going to be a massive process given that the government is considering vaccinating about 30 crores of the population. There are reports that a sizeable section of the global population is resisting the idea. That must be true for India, too, and it will necessitate another major public awareness campaign. There are already exaggerated reports about the after-effects of the vaccination flying thick and fast in mainstream, alternate and social media. The government must take early steps to ensure that such propagandists face the legal music. All its actions must be guided by the fact that the virus has not gone away and that it is making an attempt to make a virulent return. A stitch in time can save nine, so goes the saying.

## Just not cricket

Naming a cricket stadium after a politician-administrator is not new to India. But to have his statue erected as well as to have the personality honoured thus was Arun Jaitley, who was a leading BJP figure in his lifetime. In a country known for the celebration of death and birth anniversaries, it may have been par for the course to perpetuate the memory of a leader. In this case, enclums for a departed soul comes at the cost of the traditions of the great game of cricket, which has principally recognised sporting talent on the field.

Sports lovers grow up worshipping their heroes and, as they age they learn to respect athletes for their skills and for sweat and blood they shed to perform in a competitive environment. The administrator is a different breed. In India, most of them are attracted to the so-called honorary posts in sports admin because of perquisites and privileges. Furthermore, cricket is not only a social centre but also a key to the powerful inhabiting spaces in the corridors of politics and bureaucracy.

Politicians have been drawn to Indian cricket admin like moths to a flame. Many made sport their field, ruling like martians while basking in reflected glory as champions have to interact with them. This is one reason why Bishan Bedi, a cricketer famous for calling a spade a shovel, found his hackles rising with the decision to erect a 800kg statue for Jaitley who made himself a fixture at the Delhi & Districts Cricket Association.

An incensed Bedi has threatened to sue if his name is not removed from the stand honouring him and fetting his achievements in the game as a bowler of spin in a seductive arc with a graceful action that was poetry in motion. Jaitley, for all his intellectual attainments as a criminal lawyer with a gifted gab and the country's finance minister, had no claim to mastery of an art form. So why should his name adorn a sporting arena?

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

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## SHORT TAKES

## COURT GRANTS BAIL TO MAN IN DELHI RIOTS CASE

New Delhi, Dec. 29: A Delhi court has granted bail to a man in a north east Delhi riots case, saying there was no CCTV footage of the incident and the victim did not identify the accused when his statement was recorded the first time.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat granted relief to Osama on furnishing a bail bond of ₹25,000 with one surety of like amount in the case related to gunshot injuries received by one Rohit Shukla during the riots at Maujpur Chowk.

The court said the victim did not identify Osama when his statement was recorded in March but in another statement recorded in April, he identified the accused as allegedly being a part of the unlawful assembly.

"Rohit had given a statement on March 9, 2020 but had not disclosed about the identification of the applicant. However, he had given another statement on April 1, 2020 whereby he stated that on February 24, 2020 at about 1.30 pm there were two groups of people, who were shouting slogan and protesting against CAA and NRC. In the crowd, one Sonu Chikna and his brother Aatir and Osama and were shouting slogans," the court said.

"The crowd got violent and started stone pelting. Out of this crowd, one boy aged 24-25 years, having a red, curly hair wearing red color T-shirt and blue color pyjama and his mouth was tied with handkerchief, came out with pistol and tried to kill him. He also fired at the witness who received injuries in his left thigh and blood started oozing out. Thereafter, the boy ran away. There is also no CCTV footage of the said riotous incident," the court noted in its order passed on December 19.

## Control room set up to watch NY celebrations

Centre to coordinate with states to ensure norms are followed

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 29

Following the sharp increase in Corona cases during the Diwali festival, home ministry is clearly not taking any chances for the New Year celebrations. The Ministry has set up a centralised control room to co-ordinate with major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore among others to ensure that all safety and health protocols are strictly followed. Earlier on Monday, home ministry had extended the earlier issued Covid-19 containment guidelines till January 31.

Home ministry officials admitted that during the Diwali celebrations it was observed that people had become careless and it did not follow the health protocols which led to a sharp increase in number of cases particularly in big cities. Centre now clearly wants to avoid a repeat of the same and is thus closely co-ordinating with all metro cities and states to ensure all necessary "safety and health protocols are in place."

"We have learnt from the experience of the Diwali festival season when people had become extremely careless which led to a sharp increase in Coronavirus cases. Now we have asked states and those cities which record high footfall during New Year's to strictly follow all health and Covid protocols," a senior home ministry official said.

Earlier in its advisory issued to states on late



A medic demonstrates administration of Covaxin, an Indian government-backed experimental Covid-19 vaccine, to a health worker during its trials, at the Urban Primary Health Centre at Tezpur in Sonitpur district of Assam on Tuesday.

Monday evening, the ministry had said that, "while there has been a continuous decline in active cases in India, there is a need for surveillance, containment and caution due to a surge globally and the emergence of a new variant of the virus in the UK."

The ministry also asked the states and union territories to keep a strict vigil to prevent any rise in cases during the New Year celebrations and the winter season.

It also asked the states and UTs to actively sup-

port central authorities in the preparations for an expected vaccination drive.

"Accordingly, containment zones continue to be demarcated carefully; prescribed containment measures strictly followed within these zones; Covid-appropriate behaviour promoted and strictly enforced, and the standard operating procedures (SOPs) prescribed in respect of various permitted activities followed scrupulously," the MHA said.

## MUMBAI AIRPORT INTRODUCES EXPRESS TESTING

Mumbai, Dec. 29: The city's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Tuesday said it has introduced a new 24x7 Covid-19 testing facility, which gives test results in flat 15 minutes at a cost of ₹4,500.

Since its launch on December 15, CSMIA has witnessed an average of 30-35 such tests per day, CSMIA said in a release.

A total of 400 express tests have been carried out at the airport till December 28, which include passengers who had connecting flights to destinations outside Maharashtra, it said.

In compliance with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) standards, CSMIA is the first airport to adopt the express test method by Abbott ID Now, which is aimed at providing arriving passengers with quick and accurate diagnosis, CSMIA said in the release.

The round-the-clock testing facility option is available for all international arriving passengers at the airport at a cost of ₹4,500, CSMIA said. The rapid molecular testing technology by Abbott is a tool to help fight the pandemic by allowing fast, highly sensitive and accurate diagnosis, the private airport operator said.

## Rajini does a U-turn; says not going to join politics

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, DEC. 29

With just a couple of days left for the scheduled announcement on his new political party, actor Rajinikanth, citing health reasons, called off his entry into electoral politics on Tuesday through a statement issued on Twitter.

In a three-page statement, Rajinikanth said that he would do whatever good he could to people without contesting for the elections and that he considered his taking ill at the shooting of the film 'Annaathai' in Hyderabad as a warning from God.

Narrating the sequence of events, he said he went for the shooting despite the advice of doctors. Though the around 250

members of the film unit underwent tests for Covid-19 infection daily, maintained social distancing and wore face masks and shields, four of them tested positive, leading to the immediate cancellation of shooting.

"My test results were negative, but my blood pressure was not stable and constantly fluctuating. As per my medical conditions, I should not have constant fluctuations in blood pressure, as it would severely affect my transplanted kidney," Rajinikanth said.

If he were to start the party he would not be able to create the sort of revival he wanted only through media and social media campaigns, he said, adding, "I will have to meet people, attend meetings and go on campaigns

that would hamper my health."

In view of an expected second wave of Coronavirus infection, even though vaccines might be available soon, if he, who had been on immunosuppressants, took ill, it would put those accompanying him in his personal journey into trouble, both economically and emotionally, he said.

He sought forgiveness from members of Rajini Makkal Mandram and his fans, who have been expecting him to start a political party, for disappointing them.

## I won't raise white flag, give up fight, says Mufti

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, DEC. 29

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti, said on Tuesday that she won't raise a white flag but continue to fight against "injustice" meted out to the people of the erstwhile state and BJP's "gunda raj" over the country.

While speaking at a function held here to felicitate the PDP's newly elected District Development Councils

(DDCs) members, she said that their "resounding success" has come as a shock to those who had sought to write political obituaries of the party. "In their arrogance they thought by not allowing me to campaign, intimidating us and arresting our leaders, the PDP will not perform. Ours is not just a party but a movement which will never compromise its ideals and core political philosophy of dialogue and reconciliation," she said.

Emphasising that for the restoration of lasting peace in J&K dialogue was pivotal, she said, "We will not allow Kashmir to be a battle ground but work relentlessly so that J&K acts as a bridge of peace between India and Pakistan."

She renewed her and the party's "pledge" to fight against the rights and dignity of the people of J&K and asserted "No amount of coercion can force the people to submit to us. We will fight for our rights. We are not the ones who will raise white flags despite fatal blows being dealt to our identity, economy and livelihoods."

## WORD

## SHORT TAKES

## EXPLOSIVE KILLED 3 FRENCH ARMY IN MALI

Paris, Dec. 29: The French presidency said three soldiers were killed in Mali when an improvised explosive device hit their armoured vehicle.

The soldiers were participating in a military operation in the Hombori area of Mali's central Mopti province, part of a larger mission aiming at fighting Islamist extremists in Africa's Sahel region, the French presidency said in a statement on Monday.

Defense Minister Florence Parly said they were working "in an area where terrorist groups are attacking civilians and threatening the regional stability."

Parly said they were involved in a mission aiming at helping Mali to gradually be able to ensure its own security.

The defense minister did not provide further details.

France has more than 5,000 troops deployed in West Africa to help fight extremist groups as part of Operation Barkhane.

## GAZA MILITANTS FIRE ROCKETS OUT TO SEA

Gaza City, Dec. 29: Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a salvo of rockets into the Mediterranean Sea on Tuesday as part of a self-styled military drill aimed at preparing for a possible war with Israel.

The Islamic militant group Hamas has ruled Gaza since seizing power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. It has fought three wars and numerous smaller skirmishes with Israel since then. A fragile, informal truce has mostly held in recent years, with only occasional exchanges of fire.

Authorities in Gaza restricted movement along the main coastal road and barred fishing for the duration of the exercises, which were to continue for a period of 24 hours and included the use of aerial drones.

The drill was held by the Joint Command Room, which brings together a dozen militant factions but is dominated by Hamas.

## VP-elect takes the jab



Registered nurse Patricia Cummings administers the Covid-19 vaccine to Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris on December 29, 2020 at the United Medical Center in Washington, DC. — AFP

## More people hospitalised in UK than peak of first virus outbreak

London, Dec. 29: Official figures show more people are currently hospitalised with Covid in England than at the first peak of the outbreak in the spring.

There were 20,426 patients in hospitals as of Monday morning, the latest day for which figures are available — compared to the previous high of 18,974 on April 12.

However, case figures do not include Scotland and Northern Ireland, which did not report over the Christmas period.

"Many of us have lost family, friends, colleagues and at a time of year when we would normally be celebrating — a lot of people are understandably feeling anxious, frustrated and tired," said NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens.

"And now again we are back in the eye of the storm with a second wave of coronavirus sweeping Europe and, indeed, this

country."

Health trusts have been told to begin planning for the use of Nightingale field hospitals, the temporary facilities created during the first wave that have largely gone unused.

London and southeast England are currently bearing the brunt of the outbreak, with paramedics in the capital saying they are receiving up to 8,000 emergency calls each day.

London Ambulance Service said Boxing Day — December 26 — was one of its "busiest ever days".

A further 357 people testing positive for the virus were announced on Monday to have died, bringing the UK total to 71,109, the second worst toll in Europe.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been under fire for his government's handling of the pandemic.

## WHO: Be ready for worse pandemics

Johannesburg, Dec. 29: The Coronavirus has devastated lives and economies around the globe, but the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that worse pandemics could lie ahead, urging the world to get serious about preparedness.

"This is a wakeup call," WHO emergencies chief Michael Ryan told reporters at a briefing marking a year since the UN agency first learned of the new virus spreading in China. "This pandemic... has spread around the world extremely quickly and it has affected every corner of this planet, but this is not necessarily the big one," Ryan added.

"We need to get ready for something that may even be more severe in the future." While huge scientific progress was made to stave off the virus and develop vaccines at record speed, WHO senior adviser Bruce Aylward cautioned that the world was far from ready for the next pandemic. "We are into the second and third waves of this virus and we are still not prepared to deal with and manage those," he said. "While we are better prepared... we are not fully prepared for this one, let alone the next one."

Meanwhile, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa banned alcohol sales at the end of the mandatory public. — AFP

## Biden sees risk in transition stalling

Trump's Pentagon appointees giving hard time

Wilmington, Dec. 29: President-elect Joe Biden said that Donald Trump's appointees at the Pentagon were stalling on the transition and warned that the US faces security risks as a result.

After he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were briefed by their transition teams on national security, Biden said the political appointees at the Pentagon as well as the Office of Management and Enterprise had put up "roadblocks."

"Right now, we just aren't getting all the information we need from the outgoing administration in key national security areas(s)," Biden said after the briefing.

"It is nothing short, in my view, of irresponsibility," Biden said he was seeking a "clear picture" from the outgoing administration on the force posture of US troops around the world.

"We need full visibility into the budget planning underway at the Defense Department and other agencies in order to avoid any window of confusion or catch-up that our adversaries may try to exploit," Biden said.

Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election, which Biden won by some seven million votes and by 306-232 in the state-by-state Electoral College. The president has made unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud. The Trump administration has drawn concern

## Mike Pence sued to overturn Biden win

received 232.

The lawsuit focuses on Pence's role in the January 6 meeting of the electoral college, which would finalise Biden's victory over President Trump.

The last-ditch legal effort, filed on Sunday, came from Representative Louie Gohmert, an elected member of the House of Representatives from Texas, along with 11 Arizona residents who had been nominated by that state's Republican Party to serve as electors, The Hill reported.

They could sue a week before Pence is scheduled to preside over a joint session of Congress where the Electoral College votes for Biden and President Donald Trump will be tallied.

Electors have already cast their votes two weeks earlier. Biden received 306 electoral votes, 36 more than he needed to win while Trump

received 232.

The lawsuit focuses on Pence's role in the January 6 meeting of the electoral college, which would finalise Biden's victory over President Trump. The lawsuit challenges the 1887 Electoral Count Act, which dictates the "proper" role of Pence in announcing the results as a ceremonial one. The Dallas Morning News reported. The Republican Party's lawsuit, which was filed against Pence in his official capacity as vice president, asks a federal judge in Texas to strike down the law as unconstitutional. The Republican plaintiffs go further: They ask the court to grant Pence the authority on January 6 to effectively overturn Trump's victory in key battleground states.

Election law experts have dismissed the lawsuit's prospects for success.

Trump's new acting deputy secretary, Chris Miller, has said that the outgoing administration had agreed with Biden's people to pause briefings for the holiday season, an assertion that the incoming team called untrue.

## PAK FIGHTS FOR BASMATI IN EU WITHOUT LOCUS STANDI

Islamabad, Dec. 29:

While Pakistan is fighting a case in the European Union against the Indian move to get Basmati rice protected as its product, the commodity is still not registered as a local product in the country, according to a media report.

Laws require that before applying for registration of any product in the international market, it must be protected under the

geographical indication (GI) law of that country.

The Dawn reported that there are no rules of the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 2020 enacted in March this year and as yet, Basmati is not a protected product in Pakistan.

A rice exporter told the Dawn that exporters, particularly the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan,

an, had been urging the government since early 2020 to formulate the GI laws.

"The laws were finally passed in March this year but the authorities have not yet framed the rules of GI law. As a result many local exportable products cannot be registered anywhere in the world with Pakistani GI tagging," the exporter said.



SHORT TAKES

### Former NZ Test player Reid dead

**Wellington:** John F. Reid, who scored six centuries in 19 Tests for New Zealand including 108 in a famous win over Australia, has died. He was 64. His death after a long illness was confirmed on Tuesday by New Zealand Cricket. Reid's century against Australia at Brisbane's Gabba ground in November, 1985 was instrumental in New Zealand's win by an innings of 41 runs. He shared a then-record 225-run partnership with Martin Crowe (188) for the third wicket which helped New Zealand to 553-7 in their only innings. Richard Hadlee took 9-52 in Australia's first innings and 6-71 in the second to secure the win. Reid was an elegant left-hander known for his skill against spin bowling and the Brisbane innings, on a fast, bouncy pitch, proved his ability against pace. — AP

John Reid

### Sydney confirmed as third Test host

**Sydney:** Cricket Australia on Tuesday decided to retain Sydney as the venue for the third Test against India, ending speculation that the game could move to Melbourne because of stringent Covid-19 border restrictions that would have affected the players' movement for the fourth match in Brisbane. The third Test is to be held from January 7. The series is currently locked 1-1 after India won the second Test in Melbourne, which was placed on standby in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak in Sydney's northern beaches before Christmas. "Despite the many challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, I am delighted to say Cricket Australia remains on track to deliver the best international series as scheduled," Cricket Australia's interim CEO Nick Hockley was quoted as saying by 'cricket.com.au'. — AP

### Australia fined 40% of match fee

**Melbourne:** The Australian cricket team was fined 40 per cent of their match fee and penalised four ICC World Test Championship points for retaining a slow over-rate against India in the second Test, which concluded here on Tuesday. ICC match referee David Gurner imposed the sanction after Tim Paine's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration during the second Test, which the hosts lost by eight wickets. "In accordance with Article 2.2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fees for every over their side falls below in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement. — AP

### S. Africa hammer injury-hit Lanka

**Centurion, South Africa:** South Africa wrapped up victory by an innings and 45 runs shortly after lunch on the fourth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Tuesday. Sri Lanka, needing 225 runs to avoid an innings defeat, were bowled out for 180. Kusal Perera hit a spirited 64 off 87 balls for the tourists and debutant Wanindu Hasaranga slammed 59 off 53 balls. **AP Brief scores: Sri Lanka 396 and 180 (K. Perera 64, W. Hasaranga 59 L. Ngidi 2-38) vs South Africa 621.**

### Live on TV

**CRICKET**  
**Big Bash League:** Hobart Hurricanes vs Brisbane Heat from 14:35 pm on Sony Six  
**FOOTBALL**  
**Indian Super League:** Hyderabad vs Goa from 12:30 pm on Star Sports 2, 3  
**English Premier League:** Tottenham Hotspur vs Fulham from 11:30 pm; Newcastle United vs Liverpool from 1:30 am (Thursday) on Star Sports Select 1  
**WWE**  
**NXT:** Bouts from 6:30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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# IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

## India floor Aussies on Day Four of Boxing Day Test

**Melbourne, Dec. 29:** Hungry for redemption, India recorded a win for the ages under an inspirational Ajinkya Rahane, beating Australia by eight wickets in the second Test to level the three-match series 1-1 here on Tuesday. The target of 70 was never a big one but for a team that was bowled out for its all-time lowest score of 36 only 10 days back, one can't fault them if they played at the back of their minds.

Shubman Gill (35 not out) and skipper Rahane (27 not out) knocked off the runs in 5.5 overs to complete the victory. This was after the quartet comprising Jasprit Bumrah (2/64 in 27 overs), debutant Mohammed Siraj (3/37 in 21.3 overs), Ravichandran Ashwin (2/71 in 37.1 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (2/28 in 14 overs) showed maniacal consistency over a period of 100 overs on the flattest of decks, where extra bounce became their go-to weapon.

The talk was all about showing attitude, intent and character. One hour took the game away from us in Adelaide, but we still have a lot to learn," Rahane said in the post-match presentation.

Indian teams, since the turn of the new millennium, have had some memorable overseas victories but when the backdrop and context of this Test at the iconic MCG is recorded for posterity, Rahane and his magnificent bowling unit will find more than an honourable mention in the pages of history.

"Really proud of all the players, credit to our debutants Gill and Siraj. The way they showed character was amazing," Rahane said.

Australia captain Tim Paine had nothing to offer as an explanation for his side could not capitalise on the big chances. — PTI



Captain Ajinkya Rahane (right) and opener Shubman Gill embrace to celebrate India's victory in the second Test against Australia at the MCG in Melbourne. — AP

### SCORECARD

**Australia 1st Innings 195**  
**India 1st Innings 326**  
**Australia 2nd Innings (overnight 133 for 6):** Matthew Wade bow b Ravindra Jadeja 40, Joe Burns c Pant b Umesh 4, Marcus Labuschagne c Rahane b Ashwin 28, Steven Smith b Bumrah 8, Travis Head c Mayank Agarwal b Siraj 17, Cameron Green c Jadeja b Siraj 45, Tim Paine c Pant b Ravindra Jadeja 1, Pat Cummins c Agarwal b Bumrah 22, Mitchell Starc not out 14, Nathan Lyon c Pant b Siraj 3, Josh Hazlewood b Ashwin 10. Extras (lb-5, nb-3) 8. **Total (all out in 103.1 overs) 200.**  
**FOW:** 1-4, 2-42, 3-71, 4-98, 5-98, 6-99, 7-156, 8-177, 9-185.  
**Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 27-6-54-2, Umesh Yadav 5.3-0-5-1, Mohammed Siraj 21.3-4-37-3, Ravichandran Ashwin 37.1-6-71-2, Ravindra Jadeja 14-5-28-2.  
**India 2nd Innings:** Mayank Agarwal c Paine b Starc 5, Shubman Gill (not out) 35, Cheteshwar Pujara c Green b Cummins 3, Ajinkya Rahane (not out) 27. **Total (For 2 wickets, in 15.5 overs) 70.**  
**FOW:** 1-16, 2-19.  
**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 4-0-20-1, Pat Cummins 5-0-22-1, Josh Hazlewood 3-14-0, Nathan Lyon 2.5-0-5-0, Marcus Labuschagne 1-0-9-0.

### PRAISE APLENTY

To win a Test match without Virat, Rohit, Ishant & Shami is a terrific achievement. Loved the resilience and character shown by the team to put behind the loss in the 1st Test and level the series. Brilliant win. Well done TEAM INDIA.

— SACHIN TENDULKAR  
India great

What a win this is, absolutely amazing effort by the whole team. Couldn't be happier for the boys and specially Jinks who led the team to victory amazingly. Onwards and upwards from here.

— VIRAT KOHLI  
India captain

Hats off to Indian cricket team, what a fantastic game after playing poor cricket in Adelaide, you made us proud. Ajinkya Rahane, you and your team, proud of you, you didn't have your captain but you showed the way... carry on doing that, well done.

— KAPIL DEV  
Ex-India captain

Stunning response from India after the 1st Test, Australia's top order have been horribly exposed, some tough decisions required.

— TOM MOODY  
Former Australia player

## Cricket fraternity hail Rahane & Co

**New Delhi, Dec. 29:** The Indian cricket fraternity on Tuesday hailed the national team for the "resilience and character" it showed to redeem itself after the Adelaide debacle to win the second Test in Melbourne.

India, led by Ajinkya Rahane, levelled the four-match Test series 1-1 after defeating Australia by eight wickets in the second match at the MCG. Rahane led from the front with a match-winning 112 in India's first innings.

Star batsman Rohit Sharma, who will join the side in Melbourne on Wednesday after completing his mandatory quarantine, praised the team for showing composure in difficult times.

"Fantastic win for the Team India! The MCG Character and composure shown throughout the game was excellent to watch @bcci," Rohit tweeted.

However, former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi had a word of caution for the 'Men in Blue' and advised them to stay calm.

"(The) 36 all out was terribly 'freakish' but an 8wk

win is not ... I hope Indians can forget both ... one as a nightmare & the other as nothing to float on cloud nine ... still 2 more Tests to go. & plenty of work to do. stay calm Folks as yur Capt @ajinkyarahane88 & 'think' how to outwit OZ!," tweeted Bedi.

Former India batsman VVS Laxman singled out debutants Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj for special praise.

"Lot of positives from this win. Rahane led the side brilliantly, bowlers were relentless but the biggest positive is the performance of two debutants. Both of them were confident and not over-awed by the big occasion. Strength of Indian cricket is their strong bench strength," he tweeted.

Former India opener Virinder Sehwa also took to Twitter to praise the performance of Rahane and his team.

"A really special win at the MCG. Great Determination and great character. Rahane led from the front, the bowlers were terrific and Gill is chill," tweeted Sehwa. — PTI



Mohammed Siraj (second from left) is congratulated by teammates after dismissing Nathan Lyon on the fourth day of the second Test at the MCG on Tuesday. — AP

## Newbies Gill, Siraj impress Ajinkya

**Melbourne, Dec. 29:** India skipper Ajinkya Rahane on Tuesday singled out the debutant duo of Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj while commending the tremendous character shown by his side to turn it around in the second Test here for a series-levelling triumph.

Gill scored 45 and 35 not out in the game here while Siraj returned with five wickets, including three in Australia's second innings.

"I am really proud of all the players. I want to give credit to the debutants Siraj and Gill, the character they showed after the Adelaide loss was great to see," Rahane said after the match.

"Character was important for us, especially after losing Umesh in the second innings," he added, referring to the mid-match injury suffered by pacer Umesh Yadav.

Rahane said it is never easy for debutants to be consistently disciplined in their game but Gill and Siraj showed how it is done.

"Shubman, we all know his first-class career and in this game he has shown the intent to play shots at this level, has shown composure."

"Siraj has shown that he can bowl with discipline. It's really difficult for debutants to bowl with disci-

pline but that's where I think the First-class experience comes in handy," he said.

Asked what the team discussed before the match, Rahane said, "The talk was all about showing the attitude and intent on the field. As I said, character. Adelaide was about one hour that took the game away from us. Lots to learn for even now."

Rahane also acknowledged his own role as a leader, citing the five-bowler plan that yielded results.

"That worked well for us nicely. We were thinking of having an all-rounder and (Ravindra) Jadeja has been brilliant for us."

He also talked about the arrival of swashbuckling rookie opener Rohit Sharma for the third Test beginning January 7.

"We're excited about Rohit coming back. Spoke to him yesterday, he's waiting to join the team," he said. — PTI



Ravichandran Ashwin (right) celebrates after bowling out Josh Hazlewood during the fourth day of the second Test at the MCG in Melbourne on Tuesday. — AP

## Ashwin says Rahane brought calmness in dressing room

**Melbourne, Dec. 29:** Ajinkya Rahane brought calmness in the dressing room in the absence of regular captain Virat Kohli, spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said on Tuesday after India recorded an epic series-levelling win in the second Test, here.

Shot out for a record low score of 36 in their second innings in the lost pink-ball Test at Adelaide, India came into the blockbuster MCG Test with Kohli who is on paternity leave.

But the team under Rahane showed resilience to bounce back, effecting an extraordinary turnaround to level the four-match series 1-1.

"Getting bowled out for 36 was never going to be easy. We are quite a proud cricketing country and losing Virat was a bit of a setback," the star-off-spinner told 7 cricket.

"... but we stuck on really well. Jinks' calmness in the dressing room really provided us that stability to go out there

and express ourselves in this game."

Down 0-1, India received further setback after fiery pacer Mohammed Shami was ruled out because of a fracture to his bowling arm.

But Rahane's bold captaincy stood out from day one itself when he pressed in Ashwin in the 11th over with the ball still new, possibly to use the off-spinner's psychological upper hand over the Aussies batters in the pink ball Test.

— PTI

## MELBOURNE, INDIA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL VENUE AWAY FROM HOME

■ With fourth victory in 14 Tests at Melbourne Cricket Ground. It became India's most successful venue away from home.

■ Previously they had won three Tests each at Queen's Park Oval (Trinidad), Sabina Park (Jamaica) and at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo. No other team apart from England has won more than three matches at the MCG.

■ It was only third instance of teams coming back from 0-1

down to win the second Test in Australia in the last 50 years. The West Indies came back from 0-1 to win at the WACA, Perth in 1975-76. After that, it was New Zealand in 2011 in Hobart.

■ The last team that won back-to-back Tests at the MCG were Pakistan in 1979 and 1981, and before that India in 1977 and 1980.

■ No Australian batsmen scored fifty in this match. It is first time in 32 years when no Australian

batsman scored a fifty in a Test match at home. Incidentally, that was also at the MCG against the West Indies.

■ In the last thirty years, away from home, this has happened to Australia only three times.

■ Mohammed Siraj took 5/77 runs in the match. It was second best match figures for overseas debutants in Australia.

■ Sri Lanka's Asith Malinga (6/92) is the only bowler to have taken more than Siraj's five wick-

ets in such a scenario. Only four Indian pacers have taken more wickets on debut away from home than Siraj.

■ Marcus Harris' 70 in Sydney from home, this has happened only for an Australian batsman in last six Test matches between India and Australia in Australia. Since the start of 2016 there have been just two batsmen who have scored Test centuries for Australia against India — Steven Smith (three) and Glenn Maxwell (one). — S. PERVEZ KAISER



Indian coach Ravi Shastri (left) shakes hands with Australian coach Justin Langer at the end of the second Test at the MCG in Melbourne on Tuesday. — AP