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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 28 JANUARY 2021

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WEATHER

Max: 31.7°C
Min: 19°C
RH: 45%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning. Max/Min
temp. 32/18 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+12,159)	(+138)
1,07,01,427	1,53,862

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+147)	(+1)
TS: 2,93,737	1,593
(+111)	(+2)
AP: 8,78,828	7,152

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

10,10,87,195	DEATHS
21,74,702	CASES
219	worldometers.info/ coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Purvima till
12.42 am (Friday)
Star: Pushyami till 3.48 am
(Friday)

Variyam: 11.47 am to 1.23 pm
Durmiuhurtam: 10.36 am to
11.21 am; 3.06 pm to 3.50 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Jamadi- ul- Akhir 14,142 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.46 am
Zohar: 12.39 pm
Asar: 4.33 pm
Maghrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 7.24 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.09 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.48 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 5.49 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 6.23 AM

COUNTER POINT**SHORT TAKES**

IPL auctions on
Feb. 18 in Chennai

New Delhi: The IPL players' auction ahead of the 2021 edition will be held in

Chennai on February 18, the league organisers announced on Wednesday. The announcement was made via IPL's Twitter handle. "IPL 2021 Player Auction on February 18," read part of the post.

■ Report on Page 12

3 more Rafales leave for India

New Delhi: A third batch of three more Rafale fighter jets on Wednesday took off from France for a non-stop flight to India, in a boost to the strike capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) of the United Arab Emirates will provide mid-air refuelling to the three Rafale jets, according to the Indian Embassy in France.

Two farmers' unions pull out of agitation

Umbrella union of protesting farmers not to step back unless 3 farm bills are withdrawn

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

A day after the national capital witnessed unprecedented violence during the Republic Day tractor rally, two farmer unions — the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) — on Wednesday quit the ongoing protests against the contentious agriculture laws at Delhi borders.

AIKSCC leader V.M. Singh said his organisation is withdrawing from the agitation with immediate effect because the format of the protest is "unacceptable" to it. "We are discontinuing our agitation but our fight for the rights of the farmers will continue," he said.

Speaking about the violence, Singh said he and his organisation had nothing to do with the protest led by Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) president Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh said he too is withdrawing from the protest as he was pained to see the violence in Delhi.

"I am deeply pained by whatever happened in Delhi yesterday and am ending our protest."

Even after the two farmer unions withdrew from over two-month long protests, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella organisation of the agitating groups, made it clear that they will not call off their agitation until the three laws are withdrawn and a legal guarantee is assured on the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Union minister Prakash Javadekar said that the government had not shut the door on further discussions with farmer leaders on the new laws. The Centre has so far held 11 rounds of talks with the farmers.

19 held for R-Day attack, 25 FIRs filed

BHASKAR HARI
SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

A day after the national capital saw unprecedented violence during the farmers' Republic Day tractor rally, Delhi police commissioner S.N. Shrivastava said on Wednesday quit the ongoing protests against the contentious agriculture laws at Delhi borders.

The farmers' leaders named in FIR include Rakesh Tikait, Medha Patkar, Yogendra Yadav, Darshan Pal, Kulwant Singh Sandhu, Satnam Singh Pannu, Joginder Singh Ugra, Surjeet Singh Phool, Jagjeet Singh Dalewal, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Harinder Singh Lakhalvi, Gurmail Singh Chanduni.

The police chief also said by January 25 evening, it became clear that the unions were not keeping their word as they brought forward the aggressive elements who occupied the stage at protest sites and delivered provocative speeches.

He said that after five rounds of talks with the farmers' union regarding the tractor parade on R-Day, there was mutual agreement on the parade routes from Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders.



Farmers listen to their leaders speech during their ongoing protest at Tikri border, a day after the farmers tractor rally, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

Farmers blame antisocials for rally turning violent

Chandigarh, Jan. 27: Actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu is in the eye of a storm for being among the protesters who put up a religious flag atop the Red Fort on Republic Day.

Many farmers' bodies blamed him for inciting protesters to head towards the Red Fort during the farmers' tractor rally on Tuesday. They also accused 36-year-old Sidhu

of allegedly trying to defame the farmers' peaceful agitation against the agric reforms introduced by the Centre.

Sidhu, since he joined the farmers' agitation against the new farm legislation last year, has been considered by several farm bodies as an "agent" of the government.

However, Sidhu sought to defend the action at the

Red Fort, saying they did not remove the national flag and had put up the 'Nishan Sahib' flag as a symbolic protest. "Deep Sidhu is an agent of the government and he did it at the behest of the Centre to defame the farmers' agitation," said Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrialan.

— PTI

these gatherings will be subject to standard operating procedure (SOP) of the state and Union Territory concerned, the home ministry said. "Cinema halls and theatres have already been permitted up to 50 per cent of seating capacity. Now they will be permitted to operate at higher seating capacity, for which a revised SOP will be issued by the ministry of information and broadcasting in consultation with MHA," the guidelines said.

Swimming pools have already been permitted for use of sports persons. Now these will be permitted for use of all, for which a revised SOP will be issued by ministry of youth affairs and sports in consultation. Gyms have reopened several months back, as well as parks, and the reopening of swimming pools gives those keeping a fitness regimen another avenue to keep fit. For casual swimmers, this order comes just in time for the traditional opening of swimming pools ahead of the summer. Business to business (B2B) exhibition halls have already been

Pay panel for 7.5% hike, pegs retirement at 60

HRA reduced; max pay at ₹1.62 lakh; state sop on housing loan

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

The Pay Revision Commission (PRC), headed by former bureaucrat C.R. Biswal, has suggested a hike of 7.5 per cent on the basic pay. It also called for increasing the superannuation age of employees from 58 years to 60, which is a key promise made by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao during the last Assembly elections.

The committee recommended pegging the minimum pay at ₹19,000 and ₹1.62 lakh at the top end of the ladder. The new scale was evolved by merging the dearness allowance with basic pay as on July 1, 2018.

Among other changes, the committee has reduced house rent allowance (HRA) from 30 per cent to 24 in Hyderabad and to 11 per cent in villages besides other slabs from 17 to 13 per cent. It recommended retaining additional HRA in lieu of rent-free accommodation at 8 per cent of basic pay, but the monthly monetary ceiling has been increased to ₹2,500 from ₹2,000. The PRC has sought continuation of the existing practice followed by the Centre of sanctioning DA twice a year. The commission proposed a conversion factor of 0.0910 for sanction of DA from 1.1.2019.

It recommended encouraging employees to go in for house loans from commercial banks with the government suitably subsidising interest rates. Pending such an arrangement, increase in the quantum of various loans and advances has been recommended.

The committee suggested that the Child Care Leave (CCL) be enhanced from 90 days to 120 days in case of normal children and from 90 days to two years in case of disabled children on par with Central norms. This leave is granted with 100 per cent of salary for the first 365 days and 80 per cent of the salary for the next 365 days.

— PTI

Page 2: Leave to be given for work-related illness

Page 2: TS tries to underplay report

Page 2: HC had asked TS to file counter

Page 2: Employees unions burn the suggestions and tear copies of the PRC report in front of the State Secretariat on Wednesday.

— PTI

Employees unions burn the suggestions and tear copies of the PRC report in front of the State Secretariat on Wednesday.

Employees dub report 'miserly'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

There is widespread resentment against the pay revision proposals mooted by the C.R. Biswal Committee to the extent that employees dubbed the report as a 'pisinari' (miserly) report.

As soon as the Pay Revision Commission report went viral on social media on Wednesday morning, employees and teachers' organisations staged protests and some even tried to lay siege to the temporary Secretariat complex at BRK Bhavan here.

In several districts, employees organised protest programmes.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the phoenix-themed memorial for party supremo late J. Jayalalithaa amid a huge show of strength in Chennai while in Bengaluru expelled AIADMK leader V.K. Sasikala, a close associate of the former CM, was released after serving four years of imprisonment in a corruption case. Sources said she is likely to leave for Chennai in the first week of February.

Speaking to reporters, MLA T.T.V. Dhinakaran, Sasikala's nephew and founder of Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), said 'the release of Chinnama' (Sasikala) was the happiest moment for all of them.

"People in TN are eagerly waiting for her," he said. Sasikala is suffering from Covid and has to remain at the Victoria Hospital for another three days.

A large number of Sasikala supporters lined up outside the hospital, raised slogans in her favour and distributed sweets in celebration.

Back in Chennai, the memorial, also housing a digital museum, spread across 50,422 square feet, built at a cost of ₹80 crore, is expected to boost the morale of party cadre.

SC for 7th time junks TS pleas on Hafeezpet lands

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

The state government once again lost its cases on the Hafeezpet lands in the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The apex court dismissed the special leave petitions (SLPs) filed by the state government challenging the High Court directives in two different cases. One of the cases pertained to granting of building permission and the other to registration of properties in Survey Nos 78 and 80 of Hafeezpet.

On six earlier occasions, the apex court had dismissed the state government's contention of ownership of the Hafeezpet lands.

Deccan Chronicle had reported on Monday that

Reddy who had applied to construct a house in 300 sq yds. "We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned order," the Bench said while dismissing the SLP.

In another case, the government had approached the SC challenging the HC's interim order issued on October 1, 2019, directing the authorities concerned to delete Sy No. 78 to 80 from the prohibitory register. The HC made a clear observation that the copy of the gazette notification issued by TS on September 26, 2013, including Sy Nos 78 to 80 in the prohibitory register under Section 22A of the Registration Act was not furnished by the Special GP.

The Supreme Court division bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul dismissed the SLP filed by the government challenging the High Court order directing the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation to sanction building permission to one A. Shalivahanam

permitted. Now all types of exhibition halls will be permitted, for which a revised SOP will be issued by the department of commerce.

These gatherings will be subject to standard operating procedure (SOP) of the state and Union Territory concerned, the home ministry said. "Cinema halls and theatres have already been permitted up to 50 per cent of seating capacity. Now they will be permitted to operate at higher seating capacity, for which a revised SOP will be issued by the ministry of youth affairs and sports in consultation. Gyms have reopened several months back, as well as parks, and the reopening of swimming pools gives those keeping a fitness regimen another avenue to keep fit. For casual swimmers, this order comes just in time for the traditional opening of swimming pools ahead of the summer. Business to business (B2B) exhibition halls have already been

revised SOP will be issued by ministry of youth affairs and sports in consultation. Gyms have reopened several months back, as well as parks, and the reopening of swimming pools gives those keeping a fitness regimen another avenue to keep fit. For casual swimmers,

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SHORT TAKES

JNTUH ORDERS FULL PAYMENT OF SALARIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

After continued a struggle by the government teaching and non-teaching staff across the state, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTUH) has instructed managements and principals of affiliated colleges to ensure that full salaries are paid to the staff punctually.

The university gave strict instructions upon receipt of complaints to the Chancellor, TSCHE, department of higher education as well as the university, of non-payment of salaries or part payment of salaries to staff and faculty of various affiliated colleges. The university said that failing this, they will view the offence seriously and take action.

BJP JAMBAGH CORPORATOR ELECT BOOKED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

The Abids police of Hyderabad on Wednesday booked Rakesh Jaiswal, who was elected from the Jambagh division in the recent GHMC elections on a BJP ticket, for allegedly giving false statements with regard to the number of children.

The case was booked under Section 199 (false statement made in declaration which is by law receivable as evidence) of the IPC, said the police.

"He was booked on the basis of giving a false statement before the authority and used the false statement/declaration as evidence i.e. he suppressed that he has got three children whereas he stated he has got two children," added the police.

RENUKA'S PA GOES MISSING IN NAGARJUNASAGAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, JAN. 27

Nunna Ravi, personal assistant to former Union minister Renuka Chowdhary went missing in the Nagarjunasagar canal near Munner in Khammam on Wednesday. Ravi, 39, went to the canal for a swim with his friends, as they do everyday to swim against the current. When Ravi went missing in the waters, his friends called the police. It is suspected that Ravi might have been suffered a cardiac stroke while swimming. The police has deployed divers to try and find Ravi.

Hostel hunt takes a toll on students

Colleges feel the heat as rooms can no longer be offered on sharing basis

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Allocation of hostel space for students in colleges and universities is now an uphill task for managements. Two weeks ago, the government had advised officials to ensure hostel facilities for poor/tribal/BC/minority students. However, government-sector college hostels and university campuses have not got required attention.

With three days left for the reopening of colleges in the state, students arriving in the city from outstations are struggling to find accommodation. Several students from Osmania University, JNTU and Nizam College, among others, are forced to check into private facilities for stay. They were told that hostels are unavailable for six months in some cases for all students; and in other cases available only for final year students.

The minister assured the parents that schools will be operational with full adherence to Covid-19 guidelines and that it was safe for them to send kids to school. She said that

60% parents have given consent: Min.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy said 60 per cent of parents had already given their consent for their wards to attend schools from February 1. She said there were no rule requiring students to attend classes at school. They would be allowed to do so only with the consent of the parents.

She was speaking after a meeting with district education officers and district Intermediate education officers separately, as part of efforts to prepare educational institutions for the reopening of educational institutions.

The minister assured the parents that schools will be operational with full adherence to Covid-19 guidelines and that it was safe for them to send kids to school. She said that

managements of educational institutions with their monitoring committees have prepared an action plan for all institutions. Thermal screening would be done in every school, and said that any negligence in regular sanitisation of classrooms would lead to action.

The minister further urged schools to use only fresh rice and all other food items for the mid day meal scheme and to implement the scheme following the Covid-19 precautions.

On the syllabus to be covered in schools, she said that since 70 per cent of the syllabus has already been completed online, students will need to focus on the rest of the syllabus along with their doubts. The minister urged that steps be taken to boost morale among students during the upcoming tenth class examinations.

campus will not be open for the next six months. If PG students are called in for exams, they'll need a place to stay."

A student of civil engineering at Malla Reddy College said he will be paying an extra ₹3,500 per month for a private hostel beyond March," he said.

Another student at Osmania University pursuing PhD in Genetics, final year, said, "I managed to get an accommodation with two other girls near the university. We were told the hostels at the

experiencing the same difficulty. Colleges are feeling the heat also as rooms can no longer be offered on a sharing basis. The social distancing norms do not allow sharing.

However, TSCHE chairman Prof. T. Papi Reddy said all colleges and universities have been directed to provide hostels to students. "Eventually all colleges and universities will have operational hostels. The process will be completed in the next few days," he said.

Hundreds of students getting back to colleges after the long dry spell induced by Covid-19 are

Sticky drive



As a result of ongoing road work a pickup truck gets stuck in deep mud near Nagole, in Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Issue of UDID cards get delayed

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Multiple Sclerosis Patients (MSPs) in the city have been waiting for long to get their Unique Disability Identity Cards (UDIDs). This is mainly because the government uses a software, Sadarem (Software for Assessment of Disabled to Access Rehabilitation and Empowerment), which has a list of medical practitioners who can vet applications of the 200-odd multiple sclerosis patients. It, however, does not list any neurologist, who is empanelled to detect neurological disabilities.

Meena Gupta, chairperson of Multiple Sclerosis Society of India (MSSI), told *Deccan Chronicle*: "There are close to 150 MSPs who have filled in their disability form and sent the same. But only one or two of them have received a disability card.

The problem that most of them face pertains to percentage of disability the MSP has. This is the only way to get a UDID through Sadarem."

According to an MSP, who chose to remain anonymous, deciphering the amount or percentage of disability is a tough task. "The most common type of MS is relapsing-remitting form. During

times of remission, I would have no disability. But during relapses, the percentage could go up to 70-80 percent. In such circumstances, it becomes difficult to decide what the disability percentage is."

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, B. Shailaja, director, welfare of disabled and senior citizens department, said: "For people to get a UDID, they must first apply for Sadarem. Data from this software goes to government of India, which issues the identity cards."

However, to apply for the card, one needs a disability certificate, which spells the amount of disability one has. For this, MSPs are given a list of medical practitioners who can certify the level of disability. Unfortunately for MSPs, there is no neurologist, who is part of these practitioners.

"It is only a neurologist who can certify the amount of disability," underlined Meena Gupta. Even Shailaja, admitted that there are no neurologists in the group of medical practitioners as of now. "Earlier, only seven disabilities were listed for getting UDIDs. These have now increased to 21. We have to get medical experts, who can assist us with all of them," Shailaja added.

Woollen sales drop with increase in temperature

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Hyderabad: The state recorded 147 new cases and one death from Covid-19 on Tuesday, taking the caseload to 2,93,737 and the toll to 1,593, the state health department said on Wednesday. Only 16,486 samples were tested. The GHMC limits saw 32 cases while some districts had four to five cases and a few recorded no cases.

Every winter, these salesmen travel all the way from Nepal or Odisha or West Bengal to cities where their ware is a seasonal requirement.

This year, one reason for the fall in sales here was the absence of chilly weather conditions. With winter set for exit by now, these sellers are grim-faced and packing their bags to return home. The earnings this time, they say, were meagre.

Nepali sweaters are popular here. Families make these at their homes for the

whole year and sell them during the winter season.

Ramdiv Tappa, a Nepali by origin, is in this trade for many years. "I used to come along with my father before the start of winter season, set up our stalls, and put on display hand-

woven woollen sweaters, mufflers, kids wear etc. Years ago, these had good demand in Indian cities. Gradually, items imported from other nations started flooding the market. They are cheaper," he says.

This time, the traders have set up over 100 shops or other outlets in the surrounding areas. They cook food inside these shops with small stoves. For them, the three or four months' stay in the city is

always a memorable trip.

Sudhiraj Pani from Gajapati, Odisha, said: "My family is back home. As soon as the winter is over, I will return home. I miss my four children."

"Sales were low this year. Usually we fetched some three to four thousand a day. Most shopkeepers get the goods either on 'pay later' or 'pay half' basis, and settle the dues when they returned at end of the season. Many families are

dependent on the sales we make here," he said.

Kumood, another trader who set up an outlet near the state library said, "For the past 20 years, I have been putting up my shop at this place. Cold winters help us sell our stuff.

Temperature did not drop so much this year. The city felt the cold for a day or two. So sales were less. What we earn from here helps us feed our families year-long."

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IN BRIEF

Two killed in bike accident

Hyderabad: A woman was killed after a speeding biker crashed into her after losing control over the vehicle in Shamshabad on late Tuesday night. The two-wheeler, too, died later. According to the police, the woman, Sakri, 45, a labourer from Chinna Shapur, was walking towards Shamshabad when Shyam, 30, who was driving the bike in a rash manner, hit her on losing control of the vehicle. While Sakri succumbed on the spot, Shyam died while being shifted to hospital. Officials said it was yet to be ascertained if Shyam was drunk at that time. His blood samples will be sent to a laboratory for tests.

Husband booked over wife's suicide

Hyderabad: The Jeedimella police booked the husband and in-laws for alleged harassment after his 19-year-old wife died by suicide at their residence at Kalavathinagar on Wednesday. According to the police, the deceased, identified as B. Swapna, was married to Venkatesh in June last year and was living with her in-laws. Swapna ended her life when her husband was sleeping in the hall. Her parents alleged in the complaint that physical and mental harassment from her husband for dowry forced her to resort to suicide. "We did not find any suicide note. Relatives have lodged a complaint alleging dowry harassment, following which a case has been booked," police said.

CS ASKS FOR LIST OF PROMOTEEES BY JANUARY 31

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed all secretaries to speed up the process and complete the list of state government employees to be promoted by January 31.

The Chief Secretary held a detailed review on promotions with the secretaries at BRKR Bhavan and said it is one of the highest priorities of the government. He directed the secretaries to pay special attention to left over promotions for different categories. He asked the secretaries to hold meetings with their heads of department on promotions.

Those in attendance were Rani Kumudini, special chief secretary, labour employment training, principal secretaries Rajat Kumar (irrigation), Ramakrishna Rao (Finance), Vikas Raj (general administration department), Sunil Sharma (transport, roads and buildings), Sabyasachi Ghosh (youth and services), Ravi Gupta (home), Jitender, additional DG, and other officers.

STORMY END TO BHUMA FAMILY'S 26-YEAR REIGN

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, JAN. 27

In a major setback to the Bhuma family, for the first time in 26 years, they have lost control of Nandyal Vijaya Milk Dairy. A chairman has been elected from outside their stronghold, and this has led to tension on Wednesday. Police registered cases of kidnapping against former MLA Bhuma Bramhananda Reddy and outgoing chairman Bhuma Narayana Reddy as a candidate fielded from their camp turned hostile. This has paved the way for the election of YSR Congress Party candidate S.V. Jagann Mohan Reddy as Chairman of Kurnool District Milk Producers' Mutually Aided Cooperative Union Ltd.

Open-air gym at Uppal KV

K. Saseendran, deputy commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan regional office, Hyderabad, tries out the newly-installed equipment at an open gym inaugurated at Kendriya Vidyalaya-1, Uppal, in Hyderabad on Wednesday as school principal P. Srinivasa Raju looks on. The open gyms were established by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan at selected KVs for students of Classes 9 to 12 as part of the Centre's Fit India campaign. Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the first open gym in New Delhi on January 18.

POWER MINISTER BLASTS CONG, SAYS UTTAM MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Power minister G. Jagadish Reddy lambasted Congress leaders for their attempts to pick holes in the way Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is running the state government.

"We condemn the statements of Congress leaders about KCR and the government. The Congress leaders are not able to digest the development of Telangana," said Jagadish Reddy who held a press meet along with Rythu Samanvaya Samiti chairman Palla Rajeswar Reddy at Telangana Bhavan to caution the Congress leaders against their "continued attempts to trash development in the state."

The minister said, "According to official and unofficial reports, Telangana is the top-performing state. Water is supplied to all habitations under Mission Bhagiratha. In Nalgonda district, fluoride-related health issues have disappeared due to the supply of Bhagiratha water. This is proof of the success of Bhagiratha project."

Jagadish Reddy alleged that the Congress was bent on stalling development. "They are resorting to false propaganda. Use of water with fluoride content led to huge health problems. But, the Congress governments did nothing to change the scenario in the past six decades. We put an end to such a problem in the six years of KCR rule."

He said the Congress had filed 350 cases in courts against the Kaleshwaram project. All cases were dismissed. "Uttam Kumar Reddy does have a sense of shame. He is not able to appreciate the greatness of the Kaleshwaram project."

The minister said the Congress has no right to complain against the chief minister to the CBI. "The CBI knows all about the corruption of Congress leaders. As such, you must be ashamed of speaking against KCR. The government is implementing the Aasara pension scheme for the poor. Do you have any complaint about it? You mislead people about the Kaleshwaram project. You are standing in the way of development of Telangana state. Can you complain against Jawaharlal Nehru who constructed the Nagarjunasagar dam?"

Jagadish Reddy asked Congress leaders to control Uttam Kumar Reddy. "He keeps misleading the people about development. If he does not stop such false accusations, our cadre will teach him a lesson."

● **JAGADISH REDDY** alleged that the Congress was bent on stalling development.

● **THE MINISTER** said the Congress has no right to complain against the chief minister to the CBI.

Ahmed Balala submits detailed plan of proposed masjid

Proposed blueprint for the masjid to be built inside the Secretariat.

One of the participants at the meeting said home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, who along with Eshwar led the meeting, tried to convince the participants not to insist on laying the foundation stone immediately as debris was still not removed completely from the premises and the boundary wall of was yet to be constructed.

However, Balala

emphasised that the date needs to be fixed as there was increasing discontent in the community over the delay in reconstruction of the masjid. He said, "We stated that the work should start without further delay as the new masjid has been excluded from the new boundary of the Secretariat and there is no restriction in Islam to choose an astrologically appropriate

time for starting the work."

Balala said that if the government is facing any difficulty in finding engineers or contractors for construction or any financial crises, "our party is ready to provide engineers/contractors and bear the expenditures."

He said that ministers Eshwar and Talasani Srinivas Yadav had clarified that the Chief Minister wanted to fulfil his promise as early as possible and said there is no hurdle from the government side. The meeting then decided that the foundation stone will be laid on February 26.

The Chief Minister had visited the Secretariat site on Tuesday to inspect the works. Last Sunday, a joint action committee had held a 'Chalo Secretariat' protest demanding the reconstruction of the masjid as promised by the Chief Minister.

Cong questions TS for flouting SEC directives

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Congress leader G. Niranjan on Wednesday questioned why Telangana state government is not following directives of State Election Commission (SEC).

In this regard, he referred to SEC reportedly expressing its anguish to the principal secretary, municipal department, on January 25 – National Voters Day.

Niranjan reminded that the Election Commission had communicated in the letter its targeted dates for holding elections to the municipal corporations in Warangal and Khammam and six municipalities before

expiry of their term, as mandated under the Constitution. He pointed out that the SEC had also advised state government to complete delimitation of wards by January 15 and publish ward-wise electoral rolls by January 31.

In addition, the commission asked the government to finalise reservations by February 10, so that it could conduct elections in the first week of March.

"The State Election Commissioner has expressed its displeasure with the state government for not completing delimitation of wards as per targeted date. Hence, the commission is unable to prepare and publish the ward-wise electoral

rolls. Because of this, the entire election process is going to be delayed," the Congress leader pointed out.

He further stated that the tone and tenor of SEC's letter indicates that the state government is not extending its cooperation to the election commission in holding municipal elections on time, following the footsteps of AP government.

"Why is the state government, which has only organised GHMC elections, is hesitating to face municipal elections on time? We request the state election commission to approach the High Court, if the state government does not cooperate in organising timely polls," he added.

TS GETS PAT FOR FAST WORK ON NH TO NAMED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a video conference with chief secretaries of all states and took stock of the progress achieved in railway and highway projects, industrial corridors and Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Parivayojana.

The Centre acknowledged the progress in respect of four-laning of the Sangareddy-Akola-Nanded section of NH-161. The TS government achieved tremendous progress in land acquisition and disbursal, transport secretary A. Giridhar noted.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, principal secretary Sunil Sharma, secretary, health, Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi, Director, Drug Control Administration, Dr. Preethi Meena also attended.

the people, Jagga Reddy took a dig at the minister saying: "Jagadish Reddy once used to mix soda in whiskey for Chief Minister G. Jagadish Reddy for his remarks against former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He described Jagadish Reddy is a characterless person ineligible to speak about Nehru."

Maintaining that Nehru worked for the welfare of

T. Harish Rao of swindling ₹6 crore when earlier serving as irrigation minister and questioned: "Did Harish Rao try to pull down KCR's government after earning ₹5,000 crore through illegal means?"

Jagga Reddy also criticised MLC Palla Rajeswar Reddy and minister Sabitha Indra Reddy. "While the latter joined TRS to escape CBI inquiry, the former chanted KCR's name for personal benefits", he remarked.

The Congress MLA accused TRS government of giving ₹3 lakh crore to Krishna Reddy managing director of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL). He questioned how Megha Krishna Reddy could earn ₹30,000 crore in just six years. He pointed out that Krishna Reddy used to travel in a Maruti car, but now his situation is entirely different. He

wondered how all major projects like Kaleshwaram and Mission Bhagiratha could be handed over to MEIL.

Jagga Reddy asserted that once the Congress comes to power, it would expose corruption and financial frauds indulged in by TRS government with regard to irrigation projects. He charged bureaucrats in the state with becoming puppets of TRS government.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF Sri. C. THOMAS MUNRO

'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints' Psalms 116:15

Memorial service on 28th Jan 2021 at 10 am

Taba Banquet Halls, APB Commercial Complex, KPHB Colony, Hyderabad-85.

Inserted by: Wife: Chandra Leela Thomas & Daughter: C. Marlyne Meno, cell: 9912760110

(S/2021/D01132)

Sardarni. Mahendar Kaur Wasu

W/o. Late Sardar. Dr. Singhji Wasu

If we could build a highway, And

memorials a lane. We walk right up

to Heaven and bring you home again

Mr. & Mrs. Gurdeep Singh Wasu MADHUSHALA

(S/2021/D01133)

OBITUARY

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

With profound sadness the family members of Mr. VICTOR ISPANHI announce his sudden demise on Saturday, 23rd January at the age of 72. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, children, grandchildren & siblings. The funeral service will be held on Friday, 29th January at the farm in Wargal village.

RSVP: +918501002266 / +918884681444

We request those attending to adhere to all the Govt. guidelines of Covid-19 norms.

(S/2021/D01134)

SHRADHANJALI**RAMESH KUMAR BATRA**

Founder of S.R. Automobiles
Feelkhana, Hyderabad

DOD: 16-01-2021

We will always miss you.

Inserted by:

**Smt. S.K. BATRA (Wife),
AND
ALL FAMILY MEMBERS**

(S/2021/D01126)

SHRADHANJALI

R.V.L. NARASIMHAM
S/o Late R. Dasarath

DOB: 14-11-1957 DOD: 26-01-2021

Inserted by:

Dr. Ennadiisetty Nagender - Son-In-Law
Dr. Ennadiisetty Lakshmi - Daughter
Shallaja - Daughter-in-Law &
Grand Daughters & Family

(S/2021/D01131)

REMEMBRANCE

Late. Mr. MYADAM KISHANRAO
A great man & a sincere friend.

Who stood with us in our happiness & in our grief. May God rest your soul in peace.

Wife & Daughter of
Late. Col. Mansoor Yar Khan

(S/2021/D01130)



Rev. B.D. Samuel
DOB: 31.10.1950 DOD: 28.01.2020

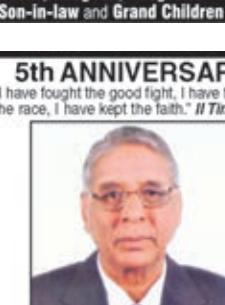
It has been a year already, but not a day passes without thinking about you.

We love and miss you dearly.

Prayer Meeting will be held on 28.01.2021 at 11 am at our Residence in Vanashalaipuram.

Inserted by: Mrs. S. Subhashini Samuel,
Children & Granddaughter Evelyn
Ph.: 9000107007, 9943970520

(S/2021/D01129)



Mr. K. Anand
DOB: 02.01.1945 DOD: 28.01.2016

"Your fond memories are always fresh in our hearts."

Inserted by:
Mrs. Surya Anand & Family
Ph: 040-27961242

(S/2021/D01119)



R.V.L. NARASIMHAM
S/o Late R. Dasarath

DOB: 14-11-1957 DOD: 26-01-2021

Inserted by: R. RAMADEVI - Wife,

R. VIKRAM SIMHA - Son,

P. PAVITHRA - Daughter-in-Law,</p

IN BRIEF

Woman's body found in Lake

Hyderabad: The body of an unidentified woman was found in the Kattamalsamma Cheruvu in Suraram on Wednesday. Dindigul police said the woman, who is suspected to be in her forties, was found by the locals. A CLUES team was sent to the spot while the police have registered a case of suspicious death.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DARGAH YOUSUFAIN PERSIST

ATHER MOIN I DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Allegations of wrongdoings and financial mishandling continue to be made against the management of Dargah Yousufain, particularly with respect to permissions being given for setting up of shops over graves that dot the area around the dargah.

As per official documents, till 2014, 96 small shops were allowed to be set up over the graves, which by 2018 increased to 104 and to 129 a year later. Currently, there are 167 shops selling various items to the faithful. While the shopkeepers are expected to pay rent that has been agreed upon by them and the Wakf Board, it is reliably learnt that many are not doing so. There are also allegations that several of the shops that have come up over graves, have done so illegally.

Enquiries with Wakf Board officials revealed that they were instructed not to collect rent from the shopkeepers. The chairman of Wakf Board was not available for comment as he was reportedly 'busy' in some meetings.

Previously, Mutawalli Mohammed Faisal Ali Shah, was suspended on charges of corruption in 2014 by the Board that held him responsible for the poor upkeep and cleanliness of the graveyard around the dargah, as well as siphoning off money from the hundis and rents from shopkeepers. And when the Board appointed a new mutawalli, Moulana Syed Hasan Shabbir, it retained financial powers.

Mohammed Abrarullah, a devotee, said he had written to different government authorities with documentary evidence highlighting the corrupt practices in the dargah, but no action has been taken so far. He said after removal of the previous mutawalli, 70 shops appeared inside the dargah. "Islamic teaching preaches us to venerate the graves, it even prohibits sitting on graves, but Wakf Board authorities have allowed the shopkeepers to run their business," he said.

Abrarullah also claimed that the first floor of the masjid and Sama Khana inside the dargah were alienated to a supplying company on rent, and said there was a need to constitute a high-level inquiry to expose the irregularities.

WILD MENACE

Villagers unsure over funds for culling operation

Sarpanches happy with boar GO

Activists: Order fraught with risk

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

The newly minted honorary wildlife wardens, all the village sarpanches, are reported to be a happy lot with the government order that give them the power to order the killing of wild boar that attack and damage crops in their villages. But there is also a sense of disappointment that the order, issued on Tuesday, has no information as to where the money to hire shooters, and the subsequent cost of burying the culled wild boar, will come from.

The sarpanches say that the government should have included instructions to the district collectors, or to the panchayat department or to the forest range officers to release the funds for a culling operation in a village. Or there should have been instructions saying one of the three will make the payments to the shooters.

"There is no clarity on this issue. Now that everyone knows that a sarpanch can take a decision on getting rid of wild boars that are attacking crops, they will all ask us to take action. And they will expect that we take quick decisions," Saritha Tirupati Reddy, sarpanch of Manigila village in Peddamanadai mandal of

Wanaparthi district, said. "The cost of getting a shooter who is approved by the forest department to

the village, the expenditure incurred by him for the shooting etc., will work out to anywhere up to ₹10,000 a

day. This will put us in a spot as we expect multiple demands from farmers for culling boar that attack their fields," she told Deccan Chronicle. This is the season when most farmers plant groundnut, a crop that the boars can destroy in a single night over a few acres, she added.

In Kumaram Bheem-Apisabadi district, Pale Sudhakar, sarpanch of Agarguda in Penchikalpet mandal, said the order was the most useful one so far in the farmers' battle against wild boar. He recalled how he had led a protest last September with 200 villagers demanding that the forest department do something about the wild boar depredations.

"The forest officers keep

telling us that our village in the forest, and that we are in the land that belongs to wild animals. Sometimes they tell us even the air belongs to the forest and are very dismissive of our problems," he said.

"Whenever there is wild boar damage to crops, they say they will give ₹1,200 per acre as compensation. It costs ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 per acre of cotton, which the boars raid to eat the cotton bulbs when they are raw. What use is ₹1,200 to us against what we actually spend," he asked.

Covid-19: Steep rise in mental health issues

AHA advises cardiologists to 'treat a patient as a whole'

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Mental health issues due to the Covid-19 crisis saw a major spike since last year and this will impact cardiovascular health and result in more cases of heart diseases and strokes.

The Covid-19 global scene reinforced the view that physical diseases too are induced by problems of mind. In a statement, the American Heart Association has advised cardiologists to look not only at heart ailments in their physical form but also in terms of the psychological problems that the pandemic could induce. "Treat a patient as a whole," the AHA has advised.

Depression, chronic stress, anxiety, anger, pessimism, and dissatisfaction about one's life are all associated with potentially harmful biological responses. Prolonged feelings of depression and anxiety can lead to irregular heart-rates and rhythm. Some of the affected have complained of stomach ache, ulcers and lack of interest in food.

The stress incurred in the form of job loss, finan-

STEPS TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY MENTAL HEALTH

- Work-related stress causes 40 per cent increased risk of people developing – or dying due to – heart problems.
- Negative thinking, smoking, low levels of physical activity, unhealthy diet, overweight and not taking prescribed medications are also responsible for heart ailments.
- Psychological therapy and mind-body programmes like meditation, mindfulness, stress management, cognitive behaviour therapy, yoga, Tai-Chi are found to be of help to reduce stress.
- Psychological health also includes happiness, gratitude, sense of purpose and life satisfaction.

People with better mental health have positive social relationships and adapt to life's challenges.



cial stress, loss of family members due to the pandemic, all can lead to mental illness and this can also cause blood pressure, inflammation and reduced blood flow to the heart.

During the pandemic, those who come to doctors with problems of the heart have to be closely examined. It is important to not only understand their physical lifestyle -- too much sitting, alcohol intake, smoking and dangerous food habits, but also their psychological stress.

Says Dr K.K. Aggarwal, senior cardiologist: "A

look at psychological health, its well-being and mind-heart-body connection clearly show that mental health can positively or negatively impact health and (add to) risk factors for heart disease and stroke."

Earlier, depression was a serious concern, but now other stressors have been added as the pandemic has induced a compromised state of copingability for many people.

Dr Sri Ravi Shanker, senior consultant cardiologist at SLG Hospital, said, "We have to no longer focus only on coronary, myocar-

dial, valvular or electrophysiological pathology but also try and improve mental, emotional, psychological and overall well-being of those we care for."

Negative psychological states and processes of the mind adversely affect our heart's health. There is new evidence linking depression and cardiac mortality. For this reason, numerous mind-body interventions for one's well-being like medication, mindfulness, stress management and cognitive behaviour therapy are important.



Actor Anushka Shetty takes a selfie with participants of the first annual conference of She Pahi launched by Cyberabad police after presenting awards to officials at JRC convention, in Hyderabad.

— R. PAVAN

She Pahi drive to motivate women officers launched

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

The Cyberabad police launched its She Pahi initiative, which is aimed at bringing together its women personnel and motivating them.

The police also flagged off three Dial 100 vehicles to be handled by women for women. The event also saw the flagging off of a She-Shuttle, an addition to the existing fleet of seven buses that are free for women working in the IT corridor.

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said, "Nearly 60,000 women commute in these shuttles. We wanted to give a platform to the 750-plus women personnel of Cyberabad police to interact and motivate each other and this event is the first of such. It will be an annual event from now on," Sajjanar said.

Sajjanar additional DGP (women safety) Swati Lakra and others were present along with actress Anushka Shetty, the chief guest. Anushka Shetty called the cops the real stars. "Because of your efforts and hard work, we feel so secured and your sacrifices are supreme. I am privileged to be here amongst you," she said.

Experts call for end to superstitious beliefs

NAVEEN KUMAR I DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 27

Be it a cab driver from Uppal, who beheaded a three-month old girl as a 'nar-bal' to cure his sick wife or learned scholars in Chittoor, who were caught for the gruesome double murder of their daughters, anyone can fall prey to superstitious beliefs and do something so heinous that it leaves the world in a state of shock, opined a psychologist.

In India, indoctrination takes place at a young age, often followed by a lifetime of conditioning, said psychologists, adding that crimes are not just a result of superstition, but those beliefs also dictate the method sometimes.

The Chittoor double murder case is of shared psychotic disorder, where the couple was extremely superstitious, said Dr. Diana

Monterio, a city-based psychologist.

"Faith based beliefs are a very strong motivator for a person. We always want to hope for something better and if superstitions and beliefs are taught from a young age, one fails to develop cognitive flexibility and they will be unable to think. Delusion also plays a major part in such cases. In the Chittoor case, the couple reportedly asked the cops to let the bodies be at home for them to come back to life, which shows how strong their belief was," she said.

Though superstition is widespread and found in every corner of the world, years of ignorance has placed India in such a position that change of mentality and introduction of new laws are considered to be the last resort, opined a police official, adding that a superstition v/s science

approach might remove focus from the primary concern that the crimes are despicable, not because they are superstitious, but because they cause harm.

Experts and behavioral scientists believe that in times of uncertainty, apprehension and emergency, with no more ways around, people are inclined towards supernatural practices.

Dr Purnima Nagaraja, a mental health professional, said that superstition stems from fear and uncertainty.

"Most of them are devoid of logic and are handed down from generations. 'Babas' prey on vulnerable sections and instill in them a sense of fear. The couple was asked to sacrifice daughters for a 'greater good'. The baffling part is that they still won't see it as a crime as they completely believe what they did was right," said the doctor.

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DECCAN Chronicle

28 JANUARY 2021

China playing long game, be vigilant and prepared

The skirmish involving Indian soldiers on the Sikkim-China border last week is just another event in a decades-long chain featuring Chinese expansionism. It may seem incongruous that while Commander level talks have been going on that an incursion should take place. Place the event against a historical perspective and the reality hits home that more things change the more China remains the same. The skirmish may indeed be a minor face-off as the Indian Army described it but if it true that the casualties in terms of injuries was on a scale of five to one on the Chinese side, it might just have served the purpose in sending the message across to the territorially ambitious northern neighbour. India is prepared to hold its positions, at least wherever it is placed advantageously in terms of terrain and is capable of giving it back.

The gap between perceptions and reality is huge when it comes to India-China relations. While the political class might want 1.35 billion Indians to believe that not a square mile of territory has been surrendered to the

Chinese since the 1962 war, the truth is huge swathes of disputed land, which in India's eyes is its, has been progressively taken over. It would not be far from the truth to suggest that the Chinese have come in as much as 25 to 8 km in places along the LAC and at least 5 to 8 km in the Finger area north of Pangong Lake in Ladakh. Historically speaking, this can be blamed on the unbridgeable gap in perceptions of LAC rather than weaknesses in the regimes in New Delhi, which, since the times of Vajpayee's prime ministership, have taken a harder stance on India-China border issues.

The reality of China's expansionism is being reflected too often for comfort in most recent times, whether in Doklam in 2017, Galwan Valley in 2020 or in Naku La in Sikkim a week ago. The complaints of our people in Arunachal

Pradesh or Ladakh about Chinese soldiers and civilians using Indian roads to expand their presence across the LAC and taking over land they would normally use for grazing their yaks are real, so too whispers of villages coming up on what we perceive to be our side. There is no denying China's propensity to keep up the pressure on the 4,000 km border, ranging from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east and including on land bordering Bhutan and Sikkim.

Nothing could be more ideal than seeking peace through diplomacy and pursuing disengagement and de-escalation even if it means having to deal with a truculent neighbour whose deeds betray their words. Since recurring bouts of skirmishes cannot be ruled out, the way forward for India would be to keep continuously building and buttressing border infrastructure, particularly for the IAF whose capabilities are formidable, safeguarding areas around roads India has built and moving armour and men into strategic areas. All of this must serve eternal vigil about China while being prepared to shove it if comes to a push. Let us not for even a moment believe that China has changed.

Kerala must step up Covid fight

Kerala, which once led other Indian states in containing the pandemic, Covid-19, appears to have lost its way and is now lagging behind them in most parameters, excepting the mortality rate. At present, the state has about 71,000 active cases, which make about 41 per cent of the total active cases in the country. Its test positivity rate of 12.48 is the highest in the country.

There have been a lot of factors contributing to the steady spike in the number but experts are in unison pointing to the complacency people exhibit in following the Covid-appropriate protocol. It has been well-established that crowding, close contacts and closed spaces facilitate easy spread of the virus. With the restrictions on most events gone, the state has witnessed a spurt in events with people paying little or no attention to the rules of the "break-the-chain" campaign. Elections to the local bodies held in November and the festival season that followed did not help the situation either.

A key point is the low mortality rate that has taken the fear factor off the people's minds. The state has seen only 3,643 deaths due to Covid-19 as on January 26, thanks to the healthcare infrastructure it has created over the decades and the efficient mechanism it has put in place to treat the patients. The state has not yet reached a point where its facilities are overwhelmed though healthcare experts fear that outcome, should the trend continue unchecked.

The state government should act swiftly to contain the Covid spread, and even consider reintroducing some of the controls it has lifted. The state health minister is on record stating that the grassroots work undertaken by the local self governments helped contain the pandemic in the initial phases. The government should try and revive that spirit. With the elections to the state Assembly round the corner, it does not have much time to spare either.

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

Foreign assets on IRS radar as CBDT lobbies for more funds

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is strengthening its drive against unaccounted foreign assets and benami properties with a slew of steps. It has launched a new online facility to encourage informants to tip off tax sleuths on black assets abroad. Further, it has started creating special Foreign Asset Investigation Units (FAIUs) in its 14 directorates across the country. Already, sources say, some 70 investigators have been transferred to these units to kickstart their operations. Sources say that CBDT has also put in a request for more Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers. Since this requires additional resources, the CBDT has sought more allocation in the Union Budget to fund the drive. The FAIUs will function under director-general ranked income tax officers, and depending on how these units are grouped, they will also have directors, additional directors and sufficient support

staff to perform their mandated job. All these units will be directly monitored by the CBDT, though it is unclear at this stage how this will be achieved.

Sources also reveal that the CBDT is not averse to hiring the services of experts like data analysts and chartered accountants from outside the government if required. The FAIUs will also probe cases of Indian entities named in global tax document leaks, such as the infamous Panama Papers. It does appear that the IRS cadre, often eclipsed by the other more high-profile civil services, may get their moment in the sun.

DON'T KEEP VIGILANCE CASES PENDING, SAYS CVC

In a significant move, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has urged cadre controlling authorities, including the Union home ministry and the department of personnel and training (DoPT), to facilitate and approve vigilance

speculation is rife that Mr Arvind Sharma could be named the home minister or even deputy chief minister of UP. But many see a larger plan for Mr Sharma in UP politics.

clearance of IAS, IPS and IFS officers if the state government or relevant department fails to respond within three months on vigilance queries.

The communication from chief vigilance commissioner Sanjay Kothari also states that in all instances where the authorities fail to provide details of vigilance cases against babus within three months, the officers will be considered as clean and fit for promotion.

Sources say that this order is consequent to the commission discovering that often cadre-controlling authorities do not adhere to the

rule, leading to long-pending and unresolved complaints shown against the officers' names. Apparently, in some instances, even the concerned officers were unaware of a complaint pending against them!

If the CVC has its way, this could put an end to the many frivolous vigilance cases that are kept pending for months (and years in some cases) and give deserving officers their dues.

SHARMA TO SPEARHEAD MODI'S UP PLAN

The advent of Arvind Sharma, a former Gujarat cadre IAS officer and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trusted lieutenant, in the hurly-burly of Uttar Pradesh politics is being watched keenly. Mr Sharma recently joined the BJP after having retired as MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) secretary at the Centre. He is to join the state legislative council.

Speculation is rife that Mr

Sharma could be named the home minister or even deputy chief minister of UP. But many see a larger plan for Mr Sharma in UP politics. They feel that Mr Modi wouldn't depute his trusted ex-babu to simply become an MLC or minister. It is believed that Mr Modi will start the party's campaign for the 2022 Assembly elections through Mr Sharma. So, it is quite likely that Mr Sharma's role will be to help chief minister Yogi Adityanath's government implement government schemes in the state before the polls.

The move also reiterates Mr Modi's oft-seen penchant for introducing his trusted bureaucrats in politics. Retired bureaucrats and technocrat professionals are his first choice—bringing R.K. Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri and S.K. Jaishankar into politics is an example.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipcherian@Twitter.com Let's multiply the effect.

Subhani



As farmers lose ground, govt will take tough line



Parsa
Venkateshwar
Rao Jr

The Republic Day "tractor parade" mayhem at two points in Delhi on Tuesday is an episode in the two-month-long standoff between the Narendra Modi government and the Punjab farmers that is neither too big nor too serious. There are always moments in long-drawn agitations when unruly elements indulge in unseemly acts. An agitator placing flags of a Sikh gurdwara and of the farmers' union was indulging in a mindless prank, or the man driving the tractor into a police cordon was a man who had no sense. But this foolish episode has been blown out proportion by young television news channel reporters and anchors. Their innocence and ignorance were both amusing and touching to watch.

The significance of the fracas on Tuesday has more to do with the position of the farmers, who could proudly claim till then that theirs was a peaceful protest and they could sit on a high moral perch. Their inflexible stance carried a quixotic nobility about it. All that vanished by the afternoon of Republic Day as some of the agitation's senior leaders even apologised as they blamed the people who had turned into hooligans and they tried to say that the troublemakers were not from their fold. Of course, that defence is weak and unconvincing. And it will be hard for them to live down the avoidable clash with the police. But the farmers and their leaders have lost strategic ground as well. They cannot any longer speak with the courage and confidence they had before Tuesday. They may not be to blame for

the trouble and violence that erupted on the streets, but they cannot escape the moral responsibility. The more curious part in this showdown is that of the Delhi police and that of the Union home ministry, with home minister Amit Shah at the helm. The unintended consequences of Tuesday's clash with the agitators allows the government to corner the farmers and their leaders, and it also gives them the room to prosecute the suspected "Maoists" and "Khalistanis" who ran amok on the streets. There is an uncanny resemblance to what the police did in February 2020 during the communal riots in northeast Delhi. The Delhi police literally adopted the guerrilla tactic of allowing the protesters to unleash violence, and they used the violence to turn the tables on the agitators. In last year's riots, the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act stir was used to shut down the months-long peaceful protest at Shaheen Bagh. It remains to be seen whether Mr Shah will try to use Tuesday's violence to push the farmers back now that they are on the backfoot. But that is unlikely to happen as the principal leaders of Punjab's farmers aren't going to allow themselves to be distracted by Tuesday's developments; their eyes are focused on the repeal of the farm laws. Mr Shah may not have an easy time though he has ordered the deployment of paramilitary forces in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. It is, however, clear that Mr Shah will have more of a say in dealing with the agitation now.

Behind this political grandstanding by the government following

the confrontation

The Delhi police is to be blamed for its inept handling and lack of preparedness. The farmers too have lost the moral high ground as rogue elements ran amok on the capital's streets.

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

LETTERS

RED FORT BREACH

The unruly turn of events at Red Fort and hoisting of Sikh flag Nishan Sahib must be condemned. What needs to be analysed is if the farmer unrest is natural due to the unlawful agricultural laws or a cold-blooded vandalism inspired by Trump's supporters' desperate attempt on Capitol Hill on January 6.

Engineer Hasanat Safa
Mahbubnagar

We are pained to see the mismanagement of the tractor rally by Delhi Police. An enquiry must find the guilty and punish those responsible for the loss of face globally. All parties must condemn violence by forgetting narrow politics. Time to awake is now.

Dr Jaspal Singh Bhatia
Hyderabad

The ugly scenes in Delhi have brought shame to the whole nation. It has exposed that if the Bills are passed in a hurry into laws without thorough discussions in Parliament, it can lead to confusion, frustration and conflicts.

T. Kailash Ditta
Hyderabad

DRAINS AND FLOODS

Recently, the civil engineering department conducted a survey on the city floods for possible solutions to avoid disasters in future. The main reasons for inundation of houses were encroachments on the retaining walls of open drains, improper width and depth of drains and accumulation of huge silt, etc. Three months have passed since the floods and the concerned department is yet to commence the pilot project to modernise the city sewage system. It should be taken up immediately in colonies where houses drowned.

Surender Kumar Malla
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Four-party accord on 450 seats: Jana Sangh

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 28 A.B. Vajpayee, president of the All-India Jana Sangh, announced today "complete accord" among the Four-Party Front with regard to 450 out of 518 Lok Sabha seats.

Vajpayee, who was addressing a meeting at the Press Club here, said the leaders tried their best to narrow the gap with regard to the seats over which there was differences. All the parties will be free to field their candidates, he said.



IN BRIEF

No SC relief in 'Tandav' case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to interfere with the spate of FIRs filed against the producer, director, and actors of *Tandav* web series on Amazon Prime and asked them to approach the High Courts of the states where FIRs have been lodged for their quashing. Observing that the freedom of speech is not absolute but subject to restrictions, the bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah while dismissing the plea for the quashing of the FIRs said, "You want the FIRs to be quashed. But why can't you approach the High Courts?" While declining the plea for the quashing of the FIRs, the court, however, issued notice "limited to transfer and cladding of the FIRs with first FIR." Having issued notice on the transfer and cladding of the FIRs, the court made it clear that it will not come in the way of actor and makers of the webseries from approaching the concerned courts for anticipatory bail.

'COVAXIN WORKS AGAINST UK VARIANT TOO'

New Delhi, Jan. 27: Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech with ICMR has equivalent immunogenicity against the UK-variant and circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2 in India, ICMR said on Wednesday.

Its assurance has come at a time when scepticism is on the rise over the efficacy of both Covaxin as well as Serum Institute of India's Covishield, as they haven't completed their third phase trials.

A general feeling has emerged among people that the nation-wide inoculation is being done as a trial on them and as a result, there is a reluctance even within the medical fraternity over getting vaccinated.

Meanwhile, as India entered the 309th day since a nationwide lockdown to help curb the Coronavirus pandemic was implemented, there have been 1,06,89,527 confirmed cases, including 1,53,724 deaths.

JAWAN KILLED, 3 HURT IN IED BLAST IN J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JAN. 27

An Army jawan was killed and three others were wounded in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kulgam district on Wednesday morning.

The soldiers belonging to the Army's 24 Rashtriya Rifles were part of a road opening and area dominance party targeted by suspected separatist militants in Kulgam's Subhanpora area.

Meanwhile, a Srinagar resident shot and wounded by suspected militants last month died in a city hospital early Wednesday.

The police sources say the IED had been planted by militants in the premises of a roadside school at Subhanpora and was detonated when the soldiers reached the place for routine area dominance and road opening exercise.

TERRITORY | DISPUTE

Uddhav accuses K'taka of deliberately changing Belgaum's name

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
with agency inputs
MUMBAI, JAN. 27

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has demanded that the Marathi speaking villages at the border region with Karnataka be declared as a Union Territory. He has also threatened to make Belgaum a part of Maharashtra.

Thackeray accused the Karnataka government of deliberately changing the name of Belgaum despite the matter is in court and making the city deputy capital of the state.

"Looking at the atrocities of Marathi-speaking people in disputed border areas, our government will urge the Supreme Court to declare the disputed area



DESPITE THE matter being in court, the Karnataka government deliberately changed the name of Belgaum city. They made Belgaum the second capital where they also held an Assembly session. Maharashtra is following the rule of law but the Karnataka government does not.

UDDHAV THACKERAY
Maharashtra Chief Minister

as a Union Territory as long the case is in court," Thackeray said on Wednesday. "Despite the matter being in court, the Karnataka government deliberately changed the name of Belgaum city. They made Belgaum the second capital where they also held an

Power Committee constituted for the border dispute with Karnataka.

For decades, Belgaum has been the subject of a bitter dispute between the two neighbouring states.

Uddhav Thackeray had earlier claimed that the Karnataka government is "committing atrocities" on Marathi-speaking people living in Belgaum, Karwar, Nipani and also accused the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "siding" with neighbouring Karnataka, which has a BJP government in power.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said, "This matter is in the Supreme Court and this is our last option. When we have one option left then we have to prepare

for it very well, and we have to win it. If this is not done now, then I don't think it will happen anytime."

Earlier too, Thackeray in his recent tweet had backed incorporating Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka into Maharashtra. "Bringing Karnataka-occupied Marathi-speaking areas into Maharashtra will be a true tribute to those who accepted martyrdom in the boundary battle. We are united and committed towards it," he had said in his tweet.

Thackeray said a time-bound action plan is needed to win the legal battle and ensure the Marathi-speaking leadership and people in those areas of Karnataka remained united.

Farmers cancel Budget Day march

BJP blames Rahul Gandhi, Communists for instigating farmer unions for violent protests on R-Day

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

As cracks began to appear in their ongoing agitation against the agri laws, farmer unions on Wednesday cancelled their planned march to Parliament on February 1 when the Budget would be presented.

The decision by farmer unions came a day after massive violence during their tractor parade in the national capital that left nearly 400 police personnel injured.

The farmer leaders, however, alleged that there was a conspiracy behind Tuesday's incidents and demanded a probe.

They said their agitation against the farm laws will continue and public meetings and hunger strikes will be held across the country on January 30.

"The tractor parade was hit by a government conspiracy. Deep Sidhu is an RSS man. Police let him go after he hoisted a religious flag at Red Fort," farmer leader Darshan Pal, who has been accused by police of making inflammatory speeches, alleged at a press conference.

"We have cancelled our plan for a march to Parliament on budget day on February 1. But our agitation will continue and there will be public meetings and hunger strike across the country on January 30," Pal said.

Another farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal claimed that over two lakh tractors and lakhs of people participated in Tuesday's parade and "99.9 percent of the protesters were peaceful".

Meanwhile, blaming the Congress, in particular its leader Rahul Gandhi and the Communists for instigating farmers unions for violent protests witnessed on the Republic Day in the national capital and "defaming the tricolor" at the Red Fort, the BJP on Wednesday said the Congress used the same tactics to instigate people

against the amended Citizenship Act, asked them to come on roads against it and fanned riots and mayhem.

Claiming that the Narendra Modi government made "sincere efforts" by reaching out to farmer unions over the farm laws, held several rounds of meetings, even suggesting clause by clause discussion but farmer unions remained adamant on repealing the laws as "there was politics behind their demand."

Asserting that all those who instigated the violence will be brought to book and the nation will never forgive those who defamed the tricolor, Union minister and senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar said the Congress and the Congress ruled Punjab had been instigating farmer unions since day one against the laws and when there were statements and videos of some of them claiming "final match on the Republic Day" why did the Punjab government did not act against "habitual criminals" who were leaving the state to reach Delhi borders. He said no other state witnessed such protests by farmers as in Punjab.

Reading some of the tweets of Congress affiliated handles, Mr Javadekar said Congress members were supporting the violence by claiming that it was peaceful protest when police personnel were beaten up, mob was damaging barricades, flouting the agreed routes of their "tractor parade," damaging vehicles and defamed the tricolor at the Red Fort.

"Congress has been losing electorally politically, it is ejected, desperate and so are the Communists, who now only want that somehow they instigate people, create a situation where there is mayhem, there are riots, so that police is forced to act, lives are lost, public property is damaged so that they can do politics," he said.

Abhay, who is the younger son of INLD president and former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, drove to the state assembly complex with his supporters in his green tractor to submit his resignation.

"Abhay Chautala, who represents the Ellenabab constituency, came to me personally and tendered



Farmers ride on tractors during their ongoing protest against the Centre's new farm laws at the Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

Lone INLD MLA Abhay Singh Chautala resigns

Chandigarh, Jan. 27: Indian National Lok Dal leader Abhay Singh Chautala, who was his party's lone representative in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, Wednesday resigned as an MLA over the three new Central farm laws.

"I decided I cannot sit in the Assembly with those who bring resolutions favouring these laws," Chautala said, referring to the BJP-led government's earlier move of bringing in a resolution backing the Centre's three contentious farm laws.

In his resignation paper, Abhay has referred to two letters he had sent to the Speaker earlier this month, telling him that if the Centre failed to accept farmers' demand to repeal the new farm laws then his letters be treated as his resignation from the state assembly.

Abhay has said in his resignation letter that he was resigning as farmers' demands have not been met by the government, the Speaker told reporters here.

In his resignation paper, Abhay has referred to two letters he had sent to the Speaker earlier this month, telling him that if the Centre failed to accept farmers' demand to repeal the new farm laws then his letters be treated as his resignation from the state assembly.

The Speaker had not accepted Abhay's previous letters as his resignation on the grounds that "conditional letters" cannot be considered as such.

In the letter to Gupta,

Abhay, the 57-year-old general secretary of the INLD, had slammed the Centre for imposing the black laws" on farmers in an undemocratic way and said the farming community in the entire country is opposing these legislations.

After Abhay's resignation, the 90-member Haryana Assembly now has 40 MLAs of the BJP, 10 of ally JJP, 31 members of Congress and one MLA of Haryana Lokhit Party.

Seven members are Independents, out of whom five including Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala support the ruling combine.

Abhay's move to resign is likely to come as a boost for workers of the party, which has been out of power for over 15 years in Haryana and has suffered a series of electoral setbacks in recent times.

— PTI

9 HELD UNDER NEW ANTI-CONVERSION LAW IN INDORE

Indore, Jan. 27: Madhya Pradesh police have arrested the parents of a woman and seven other people under the state's new law which penalises religious conversions through fraudulent means, an official said on Wednesday.

Before the arrest of the accused, some Bajrang Dal workers on Tuesday created ruckus at a centre of the Christian community here, while alleging that many persons there were being forced for religious conversion.

Earlier this month, the state government promulgated the Freedom of Religion-2020 ordinance, which provides for 10 years in jail in some cases.

The state police last week also arrested a married man in Barwani and a mechanic in Bhopal in separate cases under the new law.

— PTI

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TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender Spn. No. 01/20-21 of DE/MP-/Hyd

Sealed bids are invited from eligible and experienced Bidders in sealed covers for the work of Re-routing of 4No's 33KV UG cables from 33KV GU SS for foot over bridge at St Ann's College, Tarnaka under DC Works in SD-V of Master Plan Division-I. Sale of tender slats on 28/01/2021 12:00 Hrs. Last date for sale of tender is upto 12:00Hrs 04-02-2021. Last date for submission of sealed tenders is upto 05-02-2021, 14:00 Hrs and tender opening is at 18:00 Hrs on the same day.

NOTE: 1. The Tender schedule is available in the O/o Divisional Engineer/MP/-1 Mint Compound/Hyderabad. 2. The details regarding cost of schedule is available on the website of TSSPDCL www.tsspdcl.agency/Phone: 9440183771, 9440183776. Sd/-DIVISIONAL ENGINEER MASTER PLAN, HYDERABAD

RO No: 1401-PPCL/AGENCY/ADVERT/1/2021

No. RE/GDS online/Cycle 3/2021 Dated at Hyderabad - 50001, the 27.01.2021

ADVERTISEMENT

Online notification for engagement of 1150 Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) Posts in Telangana Postal Circle was issued on 27.01.2021 in www.apost.in/gdsonline. Last date for receipt of applications through online is 26.02.2021. For further details and to apply please refer www.apost.in/gdsonline or www.indiapost.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Director (Recrt.)
O/o Chief Postmaster General,
Telangana Circle, Hyderabad-500 001

Department of Posts - INDIA
मुख्य पोस्टमास्टर बलाचारी, तेलंगाना मण्डिल, हैदराबाद - 01.
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF POSTMASTER GENERAL,
TELANGANA CIRCLE, HYDERABAD - 01

No. RE/GDS online/Cycle 3/2021 Dated at Hyderabad - 50001, the 27.01.2021

ADVERTISEMENT

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Sd/- Assistant Director (Recrt.)
O/o Chief Postmaster General,
Telangana Circle, Hyderabad-500 001

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Khanji Bhavan, 10-3-11/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
CIN L13101G1958G001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Tender Enquiry No: HO(Contracts)NISP/Maint/Inst/763 Dated:28.01.2021

NMDC Limited is a Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for Maintenance of Instrumentation Installation of RMHS, Cokeoven, By-product, Sinter Plant and respective auxiliaries for a period of 2 years for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh State.

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and for downloaded from NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in> Central Public Procurement portal <http://www.procure.gov.in>app & MSTM portal <https://www.mstcommerce.co.in>eprocurement from 28.01.2021 to 10.02.2021.

For accessing the bid document from MSTM portal, bidders to visit MSTM website and search Tender Event No. NMDC/H/03/20-21/E/T/789.

The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC website / CPP Portal / MSTM website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:

Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad. Fax No.+91-040-23534746, Tel No.+91-040-23532800. email: steelcontracts@nmdc.co.in

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

Corrigendum-1

Tender No. CE/COND-K/TN/2020/08, CE/COND-K/TN/2020/10 & CE/COND-K/TN/2020/11 published vide Tender Notice No. CON/2020/Dec/07; Dated: 22-12-2020. Please read as: Closing date of Tender is rescheduled on 26-02-2021. Details are available in www.ireps.gov.in.

Chief Engineer/Con-VI, Maligaon
Northeast Frontier Railway
(Construction Organisation)
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

— PTI

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	47,409.93
Nifty 50	13,967.50
S&P 500*	3,775.91
Dollar (₹)	72.91
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.07
Euro (₹)	88.60
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,421 ▲231
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.30
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.954
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.003 -0.037

* As of 8:30 PM IST

ByteDance cuts India workforce, unsure of future

China's ByteDance is cutting the size of its 2,000-plus India team and is unsure when it will make a comeback, the firm told employees in an internal memo, months after its popular TikTok video app was banned. The move came after India this month decided to retain its ban on TikTok and 58 other Chinese apps. "We initially hoped that this situation would be short-lived...we find that has not been the case," ByteDance said.

JLR appoints creative chief to board



Jaguar Land Rover appointed its chief creative officer Gerry McGovern to the board of management to help redefine the Jaguar brand as Britain's biggest carmaker reviews its strategy under new CEO Thierry Bollore. McGovern would be "developing the character, distinction and personality of each" brand and the role includes leading the design function at the marques, the firm said.

Reliance, Israeli firm in deal to sell breath test kit

Reliance Group has signed a \$15 million deal with Israeli company Breath of Health (BOH) to distribute the latter's swift Covid-19 breath testing system throughout India, a media report in Jerusalem said. Reliance will purchase hundreds of systems from the Israeli company in a deal valued at \$15 million and will use them to conduct millions of tests a month at a cost of \$10 million per month.

Ethanol-blending target brought forward by 5 yrs

India has preponed the target of achieving 20 per cent ethanol-blending with petrol by five years to 2024-25 as it looks to cut dependence on costly oil imports, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. "In 2014, less than 1 per cent ethanol was being blended with petrol against the target of 5 per cent. In the last sugar year, this ratio has reached 8.5 per cent and next year it is 10 per cent," he said at an event.

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■ Double-digit growth in HUL rural sales FMCG firms sight consumption rise

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JAN. 27

Revival of consumer sentiments, combined with festive season consumption, helped FMCG companies post impressive growth in revenues, volumes as well as profits in the third quarter. Health and hygiene products, food and refreshments and rural consumption supported the performance of fast moving consumer goods firms.

Hindustan Unilever's total sales grew by 20 per cent in the December quarter, while its domestic consumer business grew by 7 per cent. Sales volumes, excluding acquisition of GSK, grew 4 per cent. Health, hygiene and nutrition, which form 80 per cent of HUL's portfolio, grew in double digits. Foods and refreshments were up by 19 per cent. Rural market, which grew in double digits, also supported sales.

HUL's profit after tax for the quarter went up 19 per cent to Rs 1,921 crore against Rs 1,616 crore in the year-ago quarter. As the commodity prices had gone up, HUL made double-digit price hike in tea and a 2.5 per cent increase in skin cleansing products during the quarter.

"We are witnessing a consistent and all-round growth coming from all channels over the last two quarters and expect to continue with this growth trajectory. Most of our brands, including power brands and digital-first

brands in the healthcare segment are on their growth path," said Harsha V. Agarwal, director, Emami.

While rural markets continued to perform better, growth in urban markets also picked up. E-commerce grew by 3.5x and



"Good recovery in laggard parts, 80 per cent of portfolio grew in double digits, minimal margin compression, strong brand investments continue, which is the right strategy in our view," finds Edelweiss Securities.

Emami reported 36.6 per cent jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 202.17 crore for the third quarter as revenue from operations went up by 16.33 per cent. Revenue from operations grew on the back of a strong domestic volume growth of 15 per cent. Marico saw robust demand for more than 95 per cent of its portfolio amidst steadily improving consumer confidence.

Jyothy Labs reported an 18.23 per cent rise in consolidated net profit. Revenue from operations of the company was up 13.26 per cent. According to Jyothy Labs, revival of the consumer sentiment reflected in the company's performance across its brand portfolio.

"The performance of FMCG companies have improved sequentially along with volume growth. Discretionary spends are also recovering. We should expect better performance in the coming quarters," said Kaustubh Pawaskar, AVP, fundamental research at Sharekhan.

modern trade registered growth of 51 per cent during the quarter for Emami.

Marico reported a 13.04 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the third quarter while revenue from operations went up by 16.33 per cent. Revenue from operations grew on the back of a strong domestic volume growth of 15 per cent. Marico saw robust demand for more than 95 per cent of its portfolio amidst steadily improving consumer confidence.

The sharp fall led to a notional loss of Rs 2.62 lakh crore of investors wealth on Wednesday and over Rs 8.07 lakh crore in the last four days.

Investors are apprehensive of US Federal Reserve's next monetary policy move which will be known only on Thursday morning.

"Global cues were weak as investors got cautious about possible roadblocks to US stimulus plan and ahead of Fed policy announcement.

Absence of FII buying over last two days too added to the nervousness.

The foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs 1688.22 crore on Wednesday, much higher than the previous day.

This is the first instance of the benchmark indices falling for four days in a row since September 2020...markets have erased all gains for CY21 year to date and turned negative," said Siddhartha Khemka of Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

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Market gains of this month wiped out

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JAN 27

Profit taking ahead of the Union Budget, the outcome of US Fed meeting and monthly futures & options contracts expiry led to Nifty and Sensex falling for the fourth consecutive session and wiping out all the gains made this month.

The Nifty-50 closed below the 14,000 level at 13,967.50, down by 271.40 points or 1.91 per cent while the Sensex closed at 47,409.93, down by 937.66 points, or 1.94 per cent. The Sensex lost 2382.19 points, or 4.78 per cent, in the last four sessions.

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Govt plans ₹3 L cr spend to revive power utilities

SIDDHARTHA SINGH &
DEBUT CHAKRABORTY
JAN. 27

The government plans to spend Rs 3 lakh crore (\$41 billion) on a new plan to revive regional electricity retailers, people with knowledge of the matter said, after a previous attempt failed to stem losses at the utilities.

The spending would be spread over a few years and is likely to be unveiled on February 1 as part of the government's budget for the year starting April 1, the people said, asking not to be identified as the proposal isn't public. The plan for carrying out reforms for reducing losses of state distribution utilities was sought by the power ministry and is under discussion.

The government is focusing on turning around electricity distributors to ensure reliable power supplies, improving the financial health of generators and making the sector more attractive to foreign investors. The combined loss at the power distribution companies, mostly controlled by state administrations, jumped 69 per cent to Rs 49,620 crore in the year ended March 2019, the latest available data.

The spending would focus on upgrading infrastructure and technology of the ailing utilities to make them more efficient and reduce financial losses, according to the people. Under the plan, the central government would provide annual grants to states that meet targets set by



BUDGET MAY ADDRESS INVERTED DUTY STRUCTURE FOR STEEL GOODS

New Delhi, Jan. 27:

The government is likely to address the issue of inverted duty structure for certain steel products in the Budget to boost domestic manufacturing, sources said.

The import duty on key inputs for stainless steel—flat products—ferro nickel and SS scrap—is now higher than the import duty on final goods coming in from Free Trade Agreement partners.

Centre may consider removing customs duties on raw materials used for manufacturing certain flat-rolled products of stainless steel.

The import duty on key inputs for stainless steel—flat products—ferro nickel and SS scrap—is now higher than the import duty on final goods coming in from Free Trade Agreement partners.

revenue because of technical and commercial reasons, including loss of power supplies through theft, poor transmission infrastructure and inefficient billing and collection.

The plan will be a modified version of an earlier programme unveiled in 2015 to revive power distributors through restructuring of their debt. That attempt remained unsuccessful in making retailers profitable by March 2019.

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The plan will be a modified version of an earlier programme unveiled in 2015 to revive power distributors through restructuring of their debt. That attempt remained unsuccessful in making retailers profitable by March 2019.

Life insurers want GST cut to 12%

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, JAN. 27

Life insurance companies have called for a significant reduction in the goods and services tax (GST) to 12 per cent from the existing markup of 18 per cent. They argue that a financial product as critical as life insurance should have a low rate of GST to increase the penetration of life cover across the country.

"A financial product as critical as life insurance should have a reduced GST, and get exemption on stamp duty for mandated products, so that the costs are not increased for the end customer," said Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life.

"As per the GST norms, life insurance now falls under the slab of 18 per cent tax rate. Since insurance is an essential requirement of every individual for proper financial planning and protection, we believe that a reduction in GST to 12 per cent from 18 per cent or even lower is required," says Vighnesh Shahane, MD & CEO, IDBI Federal Life.

Besides, life insurers also want receipt of life insurance premia via the NRE account as an export service for GST reduction purpose.

"The government can clarify that the receipt of life insurance premium through the NRE account of an NRI, in Indian rupees, is permitted and qualifies as export of services for GST purposes. This will help save costs for NRIs, and in turn, boost the life insurance business". Deloitte said.

The industry has also asked for greater tax exemption for premium payers. "It would be an ideal time for the government to consider increasing the tax exemption limit for life insurance," Chugh said.

Banks turn cautious on retail loans

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, JAN. 27

customers and mortgage customers.

"The kind of stress we are seeing now is something which is unprecedented and therefore it is likely that there may be some slippages in MSME and retail," said Sanjiv Chadha, MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda at the earnings call, adding, "I am holding out caution. But we are well-positioned, as we have tightened underwriting. Around one per cent of our loan book is unsecured and more than 70 per cent of the retail loan book comprises home loans."

Similarly, private lender Axis Bank said 83 per cent of its loan slippages during the quarter came from the retail segment, particularly from self-employed

restructured Rs 9,600 crore of loans in the December 2020 quarter, 80 per cent of which was corporate loans.

"We do recognise the fact that going ahead some stress will play out in the MSME and retail loan book," Chadha added.

The bank on Wednesday reported a standalone net profit of Rs 1,061 crore for the December quarter on the back of lower provisions. It had posted a loss of Rs 1,407 crore in the same period last year. It reported provisions of Rs 3,957 crore in Q3 of FY21, down 45 per cent year-on-year. With proforma slippages (adjusted for the Supreme Court's interim order), gross and net NPA ratios would have been

9.63 per cent and 3.36 per cent, respectively.

On the same lines, Axis Bank's rise in slippages from the retail portfolio led to tightening of credit norms for retail loans. "We have been adding rigour to our credit underwriting process. Our focus is to grow in the secured lending space in the retail portfolio," said Sumit Bali, president—retail lending and payments at Axis Bank.

About retail loans turning bad, Puneet Sharma, CFO said, "These are accounts which were under moratorium between March and August."

Axis Bank's net profit stood at Rs 1,116.6 crore compared with Rs 1,757 crore a year ago.

Restructured Rs 9,600 crore of loans in the December 2020 quarter, 80 per cent of which was corporate loans.

RTS,S/AS01E is the first, and to date, the only malaria vaccine to have received a positive review by regulatory authorities in Europe, Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi.

Commenting on the development, Bharat Biotech chairman Krishna M. Ella said: "We salute the commitment by GSK, PATH, and partners, in developing a novel vaccine against malaria, a dreaded disease with more than 200 million cases worldwide. We are truly honoured to support this partnership and to provide global access to RTS,S/AS01E."

licensure on all rights pertaining to the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine. GSK will retain the production of the adjuvant of the vaccine (AS01E) and will supply it to Bharat Biotech. The RTS,S/AS01E malaria vaccine, developed by GSK for more than 30 years, and in partnership with PATH since 2001, is being pilot

ed in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi under the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme.

RTS,S/AS01E is the first, and to date, the only malaria vaccine to have received a positive review by regulatory authorities in Europe, Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi.

Commenting on the development, Bharat

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GRAND RELEASING TOMORROW

30 రోజుల్లో ప్రమాణం వెళ్లాడో?

SUDARSHAN 35
(Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby)
RTC X ROADS
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

MEGHA 70MM-DILSUKHNAGAR
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

MALLIKARJUNA 70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

MAHALAXMI COMPLEX
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

PRASANTH 70MM-SEC'BAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI
11.15 & 6.15PM(2 SHOWS)

OAMB
10.30, 10.55, 1.30, 1.45, 4.25, 4.40, 7.10, 7.45, 10.10, 10.35PM

PRASAD MULTIPLEX
11.45, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45PM

UPPAL-10.50, 1.45, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30
RADHIKA-10.45, 1.35, 4.30, 10.15PM
MUCBE-10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM

GPR-10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.35, 10.25PM
SIVAGANGA-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
SHA-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM
KOMPALLY-10.50, 1.45, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30

ASIAN CINEMAS
10.50, 1.45, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30PM

TIVOLI
11.00, 2.00, 4.45, 7.40, 10.30PM

FORUM MALL | CENTRAL MALL | RKPLEX
RK PLEX | INORBIT MALL | IRRUMMANZIL
GALLERIA | ICON CITY | MUSARAMBAGH

MANTRA | SUDHA-SHALIBANDA
CCPL | DSL MALL

AMEERPET SHAMEERPET
INOX
10.45, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45PM

BVK MULTIPLEX LBNAGAR
10.45, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45PM

PLATINUM GACHIBOWLI
11.00, 1.30, 4.45, 7.15, 10.30PM

BALANAGAR | CHANDANAGAR
DILSHUKNAGAR

SANGEET 70MM-R.C.PURAM
(Fully renovated with latest equipment)
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

SRISARAIM 70MM-MALAKAJGIRI
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

RAMAKRISHNA 35MM-ABIDS
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SUSHMA 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

VYJAYANTHI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

RANGA 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

EESHWAR70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BR HITECH70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREERAMULU
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

SREERAMA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

AMBA70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

VIJETHA70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SUPER70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREEPREMA 70
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

KRISHNA ALIYABAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

METRO70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

GANESH 70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15PM

SANTOSH IBPATNAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SAIPOOJA70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SRINIVASA70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ASIAN MUKUND
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

VENKATASAI
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

Maduro 'miracle' Coronavirus cure draws skeptics' ire

Supply chains vulnerable: UN

Caracas, Jan. 27:

Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro appears to be counting on yet another "miracle" to save his citizens from Covid-19, promoting a secretive solution with no published scientific evidence he claims will conquer the new Coronavirus.

"Ten drops under the tongue every four hours and the miracle is done," Maduro said in a televised appearance on Sunday. "It's a powerful antiviral, very powerful, that neutralises the Coronavirus." But his government has released no evidence. He even kept secret the name of the "brilliant Venezuelan mind" behind it, saying he needed to protect them. Scientists at home and abroad remained skeptical. The local National Academy of Medicine said it appeared to be derived from the common herb thyme. It's not the first time the Venezuelan leader has promoted a cure.

In October, he notified the Pan American Health Organisation that Venezuelan scientists discovered a molecule that nullifies the replication capacity of the new Coronavirus. He hasn't spoken of that development since.

He's also promoted a special herbal tea he claims can fend off the virus and other ailments.

Other leaders too have embraced solutions dis-

Covid type impacts."

Beasley told a World Economic Forum virtual panel.

"If you think you've had trouble getting toilet paper in New York, because of supply chain disruption, what do you think's happening in Chad and Niger and Mali and places like that?" Beasley stressed that the food supply system is "not broken" but that 10 per cent of the global population is in extreme poverty and need to be reached by suppliers and that the global pandemic exacerbated existing problems.

—AP

missed by scientific studies. Former US

President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro both stubbornly touted an anti-malarial drug despite repeated studies finding it ineffective and possibly dangerous.

The new Coronavirus hasn't hit Venezuela as hard as other South American countries such as Brazil, Ecuador and Peru, though many experts say that's likely because sanctions against Maduro's government have sharply

limited travel there.

Maduro said the treatment, which he called carvativir, has been under testing for nine months among Venezuelans ill with the Coronavirus. He said he plans to distribute it nationwide and to other nations as well.

Dr David Boulware, professor of medicine and an infectious diseases physician at the University

of Minnesota Medical School, noted the lack of scientific evidence.

—AP

N-treaty extension gets Russian nod

GEORGIA WAR: EURO COURT SLAMS RUSSIA

Beijing, Jan. 27: The Chinese government said Wednesday that actions like its warplanes flying near Taiwan last weekend are a warning against both foreign interference in Taiwan and any independence moves by the island.

Asked about the flights, Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said China's military drills are to show the nation's resolution to protect its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. "They are a stern warning against external interference and provocation from separatist forces advocating for Taiwan independence," she said at a regular briefing.

The vote came a day after a phone call between US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in which they voiced satisfaction with the exchange of diplomatic notes about extending the New START treaty.

They agreed to complete the necessary procedures in the next few days, according to the Kremlin. The pact's extension doesn't require congressional approval in the US, but Russian lawmakers must ratify the move.

Top members of the Kremlin-controlled parliament said they would fast-track the issue and complete the necessary steps to extend the treaty this week.

— AP

President

Salome Zurabishvili described the ruling as "historic," noting that Georgia was "recognised as a victim of this war and it is a great achievement for our country, our society, our history and our future."

Georgia's Minister Giorgi Gakharia also described the verdict as a landmark move, saying that "the case against Russia at the European Court of Human Rights has ended with Georgia's victory."

—AP

Raj Kapoor home owner opposes sale at govt's rate

Peshawar, Jan. 27:

The owner of Indian film legend Raj Kapoor's ancestral home in Peshawar has refused to sell the building at the rate fixed by the provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, saying the prime-location property has been severely undervalued.

Earlier in the month, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had approved the release of Rs 1.5 crore for Kapoor's ancestral home, with the aim to turn it into a museum in honour of the movie star Haji Ali Sabir, the present owner of the haveli,

in a chat with a private news channel on Wednesday, flatly refused to sell the property at Rs 1.5 crore. "Even half a Marla land in the area is not available for Rs 1.5 crore. How can I sell the six-marla property for Rs 1.5 crore?" he said.

Marla, a traditional unit of area used in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, is considered equal to 272.25 square feet or 25.2929 square metres. Sabir said the right valuation of the property is Rs 200 crore. Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, is situated in the fabled Qissa Khwani Bazar.

It was built between 1918 and 1922 by the legendary actor's grandfather Dewan Bahadur Sabir Ali Sabir, the present owner of the haveli, in a chat with a private news channel on Wednesday, flatly refused to sell the

property at Rs 1.5 crore. "Even half a Marla land in the area is not available for Rs 1.5 crore. How can I sell the six-marla property for Rs 1.5 crore?" he said.

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Under pressure from hard-liners, the Iranian government has long blocked access to many websites and social media platforms.

—AP

IRAN PREZ FLAYS MIN'S PROSECUTION

Tehran, Jan. 27: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday criticised Iran's hard-liner dominated judiciary over last week's prosecution of the country's telecommunications minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi was released on bail after he was summoned for prosecution. Judiciary officials cited his refusal to block Instagram and impose limitations on the bandwidth of other foreign social media and messaging systems.

Rouhani said improving the bandwidth of the Internet was done on his orders. "If you want to try someone, try me. It was my order," he said.

Under pressure from hard-liners, the Iranian government has long blocked access to many websites and social media platforms.

—AP

CINEMA

RELEASING TOMORROW



TARAKARAMA 70-KACHIGUDA
6.00 & 9.00PM(2 SHOWS)
ARJUN 70MM-11.30,2.30,9.30PM
ANJALI 70MM-9.00AM(ONE SHOW)
TIVOLI 70MM-11.15AM(ONE SHOW)
LAXMIKALA-11.30AM(ONE SHOW)
CINEPLANET-1.40PM(ONE SHOW)
FORUM MALL-2.00PM(ONE SHOW)
SRI SAI VISUAL HOUSE-9849153511, 9848028739

IN CINEMAS TOMORROW

ఎన్నక & Miss

WATCH PAID PREMIER SHOW
Big screen-7.15PM TODAY

AMB AMB CINEMAS-11.00AM
ASIAN CINEMAS CINESQUARE-10.20PM | MCUBE-1.25PM
RADHIKA-10.50AM | GPR-1.40PM
10.45AM 10.10PM NARAPALLY 4.30PM MOOSAPET 6.15PM
PVR FORUM-7.30PM CENTRAL-10.00PM
INORBIT-4.10PM | IRRUMMANZIL-4.40PM
GALLERIA-11.30AM | MUSARAMBAGH-10.00PM
Cinépolis MANTRA | SUDHA CCPL | DSL MALL BIG SCREEN 11.30AM
INOX GVK MALL-3.40PM | GSM-3.05PM MP MALL-4.35PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS BALANAGAR-5.15PM SHALINI-5.15PM CHANDANAGAR-12.45PM
NOMA TALKIES 11.30 READING LAMP CREATIONS RELEASE

SANDHYA 35MM
11.00am,2.00,6.00,9.00pm
MEGA 70MM
2 Shows : 11.15am & 2.15pm
VISHWANATH 70MM
11.45am,2.45,6.45,9.45pm
SRIKRISHNA ALIYABAD VENKATESHWARA
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
SRI LAXMI KARMANGHAT 12.00,3.00,7.00,10.00
PRASAD - Khaibabad - 1.45pm
AMB - Gachibowli - 1.20pm
PVR CINEMAS
FORUM MALL - Kukatpally - 4.40pm
ICON MALL - Hitech City - 7.25pm
CENTRAL MALL - Punjagutta - 3.30pm
INORBIT MALL - Cyberbad - 3.55pm
IRRUM MANZIL - 1.30pm
MOOSARAMBAGH - 9.20pm
GALLERIA - Punjagutta - 2.40pm
RK MALL - Banjara Hills - 2.25pm
ASIAN CINEMAS
CINEPLANET - Kompa - 4.35pm
CINESQUARE - Uppal - 4.45pm
M CUBE MALL - Attapur - 4.30pm
LAXMIKALA - Mosapet - 3.00pm,10.00pm
INOX
GVK MALL - Banjara Hills - 4.30pm
GSM MALL - Miyapur - 5.00pm
MP MALL - Kachiguda - 2.35pm
Cinépolis
DSL - Uppal - 7.05pm
MANTRA MALL - Attapur - 7.05pm
CCPL - Malkajgiri - 3.00pm
Balanagar - 4.05pm
Chandanagar - 1.00pm
Ameerpet - 7.05pm

RELEASING TOMORROW



DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K DIGITAL PROJECTION & DOLBY)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
ASIAN CINEMAS CINESQUARE-11.00,4.50PM
RADHIKA- 4.35PM | GPR- 11.30AM
MJR NARAPALLY- 1.35PM
MCUBE-10.45AM | CINEPLANET-11.00,7.00PM

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE-MOOSAPET
PVR FORUM MALL 5.00PM **TIVOLI** 1.50,10.20PM
INOX MP-7.35PM | GVK-2.55PM
GSM-11.15AM, 10.45PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS BALANAGAR-8.00PM
SHALINI-8.00PM 10.50AM
PVR INORBIT-10.00PM | CENTRAL-4.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-7.30PM
IRRUMMANZIL-7.30PM | GALLERIA-10.55PM
MOVIE MAX-9030161717

SANKRANTHI HIT
2nd WEEK
RED
SUDARSHAN35MM
(Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby atmos)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
MALLIKARJUNA 70-KUKATPALLY
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM
KONARK 70-11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM
SREERAMULU 70-MOOSAPET
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM
INJARA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI
11.30 & 6.00PM
ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-2.15,9.30PM
RADHIKA-1.00,4.30,7.40PM
MCUBE-1.20,4.15,7.40,10.30PM
SHA-2.45,9.45PM/GPR-10.50,1.40,7.20PM
CINESQUARE-10.40,1.35,4.25,7.35,10.35PM

7.15, 10.40PM 4.55, 7.50PM
OAMB 10.20,1.05,4.15 12.30,3.30,7.45,10.40PM 6.30,9.30PM
2.45,5.30, 8.15,11.00 10.50,2.00, 4.50,7.35PM
1.35, 7.40PM PLATINUM 10.30,1.00, 4.30,7.30,10.30PM
GOLD-10.05,1.10,4.45PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS BALANAGAR-9.45,1.00,7.30,10.40PM
SHALINI-10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40PM
CHANDANAGAR-1.00,3.30,10.30PM
INOX GVK-10.05,1.20,3.50,7.10,10.30PM
MP-11.00,2.50,6.15,9.40PM
GSM-10.45,12.15,2.10,3.45,6.45,7.15,9.45PM
MANTRA-10.45,12.45,4.10,7.35,11.0
CCPL-11.15,2.40,6.15,9.40,10.30PM
SUDHA-12.40,4.00,7.10,10.20PM
DSL-10.45,12.45,4.10,7.35,9.15,11.00PM
PVR FORUM-10.05,11.00,2.00,3.45,5.00,6.45
8.00,11.00PM
MUSARAMBAGH-12.10,3.45,4.40,6.45,9.45PM
GALLERIA-10.20,11.40,1.20,1.55,4.20,7.20,10.20
ICON-12.00,3.00,6.00,9.00PM
CENTRAL-10.30,1.30,4.30,7.30,10.30PM
INORBIT-11.00,2.00,5.00,7.00,8.00,11.00PM
IRRUMMANZIL-12.10,3.45,6.45,7.15,9.45PM
PVR RK-10.40,1.40,8.15,11.15PM
SRINIVASA 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SAIRAM 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 2.00, 6.00PM
SUSHMA 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

Enjoy
Coffee Break
EVERYDAY IN
hyderabad
CHRONICLE

Trump may be acquitted during impeachment trial

Democrats fail to garner enough support from Republican senators

Biden inks orders for racial equity

Washington, Jan. 27: Former US President Donald Trump is likely to be acquitted in his impeachment trial as the Democrats failed to garner enough support required from Republican Senators.

The Democrats who have impeached Trump in the House charging him with "incitement of insurrection," needs two-thirds of the vote for the Senate impeachment. Currently both the Democrats and the Republicans have 50 members each in the 100-seat Senate. The next step, as you all have reported and people watching at home know, is for the Senate to proceed with their trial. He's going to allow them to move forward at the pace and manner that the leaders

the presidency. This is for the second time in about a year that Trump is likely to be acquitted by the Senate. "I can't see how you get 17. I think that was a test vote," Republican Senator John Boozman said after 45 of the 50

Republican Senators voted for the motion that the impeachment trial of Trump after he left the presidency is unconstitutional.

The article of impeachment was delivered by the House to the Senate Monday night. "The next step, as you all have reported and people watching at home know, is for the Senate to proceed with their trial. He's going to allow them to move forward at the pace and manner that the leaders

in the Senate determine. And I can promise you that we will leave the vote counting to leaders in the Senate from now on," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

Republican Senator Kevin Cramer said the Senate should not be wasting its time holding another impeachment trial. "We do not have solid constitutional standing to impeach a former president, and even if we did, this is not the time to use it. As I have said repeatedly, President Trump's comments on January 6 were rash and ill-advised but I do not believe they meet the constitutional standard for impeachment," he said. —PTI



SUPER HIT
2nd WEEK
GOLDEN COMEDY SEE & ENJOY
TARAKARAMA 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.00,9.00PM
ARJUN 70-KUKATPALLY
11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM
MEGA 70MM-6.15,9.15PM
PRASANTH 70MM-SEC'BAD
11.00,6.00PM(2 SHOWS)
OAMB 10.45,11.00,1.45,4.15,7.15,7.35,10.00,10.25PM
ASIAN CINEMAS Sivaganga-11.15,6.15PM
Gpr-10.40,1.30,4.20,7.10,10.00PM
Radhika-10.50,1.40,4.30,7.20,10.00PM
Mcube-10.50,1.40,4.45,7.20,10.10PM
Cinesquare-10.40,1.25,4.20,7.10,10.00PM
Chinthal 10.40,1.35,11.15,6.15 4.30,7.25,10.20PM
Prasad Multiplex 11.30,2.00,7.45,10.15PM
Laxmikala Cinepride 11.30,2.45,6.15,9.45PM
MJR Square-Narapally 10.55,1.45,4.35,7.25,10.20PM
Central-1.30,4.15,7.00,9.45PM
Forum-11.30,2.15,5.00,7.45,10.30PM
Inorbit-11.15,2.00,4.45,7.30,10.15PM
Icon-1.00pm,3.45,6.30,9.15PM
Galleria-11.15,2.00,4.45,7.30,10.15PM
Irrummanzil-12.45,3.30,6.15,9.00PM
Musarambagh-12.45,3.30,6.15,9.00PM
RK-02.45,5.30,8.15PM
GVK 12.45,4:40,7:45,10:40PM
MP-10:40,4:30,10:30PM
GSM-11:00,3:30,7:15,10:40PM
CCPL 12.00,3.10,6.20,9.30PM
SUDHA 12.00,3.10,6.20,9.30PM
MANTRA 12.30,6.35,9.45PM
PLATINUM 10.00,4.00, 7.00PM 1.15,4.00,6.45, 9.30PM
L.B.NAGAR 11.00AM, 1.45PM, 7.40PM, 10.25PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS SHALINI-10.30,4.30,7.30,10.30PM
BALANAGAR-11.00,1.10,7.20,10.20
CHANDANAGAR-04.15,7.15,10.15PM

AARADHANA 10.45,1.30,7.25,10.20PM
TIVOLI 11.15,2.10,7.30,10.10PM
SENSATION 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
SAIPOOJA 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
SRIDEVI R.C.PURAM 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15
BHUJANGA 70 11.00,6.00PM
SIVARANJANI 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
SIVASAKTHI 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
MAHALAXMI 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
BR HITECH 11.00,2.00PM
SRIDEVI I.C.GUDA 11.00,2.00PM
AMBA 70MM 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30
RK35-ABIDS 6.00,9.00PM
SIVASAKTHI 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
ASIAN MUKUND 2.00,9.00PM
GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

DON SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY BY YOUTUBE

San Francisco, Jan. 27: YouTube has suspended Donald Trump indefinitely from the platform and said it will also prevent the former president's lawyer Rudy Giuliani from being able to monetize his clips, US media reported.

It comes a week after the social media giant confirmed it would extend a ban on Trump's channel - which has just under three million subscribers - joining other social media platforms in banning his accounts following the deadly January 6 Capitol riot.

The Google-owned firm has faced some criticism over its slow response following the violence in Washington, as well as the proliferation of conspiracy theories on the platform.

—AFP

Plot to attack Muslims: Two land in trouble

Singapore/Berlin, Jan. 27: A Singaporean teenager planned to attack two mosques in the city-state on the anniversary of a massacre of Muslim worshippers in New Zealand, authorities said Wednesday. A German woman has been charged with preparing a far-right attack and other crimes on allegations she was in the process of building a bomb to target Muslims and local politicians in Bavaria, Munich prosecutors said Wednesday.

The 16-year-old — picked up in December — made "detailed plans and preparations" to mount the attacks using a machete on March 15, two years after a shooting rampage in Christchurch by Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant, security officials said.

Tarrant was last year sentenced to life in prison without parole

—PTI

Auschwitz survivors' anniversary goes online

Warsaw, Jan. 27: Tova Friedman hid among corpses at Auschwitz amid the chaos of the extermination camp's final days. Just 6 years old at the time, the Poland-born Friedman was instructed by her mother to lie absolutely still in bed at a camp hospital, next to the body of a young woman who had just died. As German forces preparing to flee the scene of their genocide went from bed to bed shooting anyone still alive, Friedman barely breathed under a blanket and went unnoticed. Days later, on January 27, 1945, she was among the thousands of prisoners who survived to greet the Soviet troops who liberated the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Now 82, Friedman had hoped to mark Wednesday's anniversary by taking her eight grandchildren to the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site, which is under the custodianship of the Polish state. The Coronavirus pandemic prevented the trip. So instead, Friedman will be alone at home in Highland Park, New Jersey, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Yet a message of warning from her about the rise of hatred will be part of a virtual observance organised by the World Jewish Congress. Other institutions around the world, including the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial museum in Poland, Yad Vashem in Israel and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC also have online events planned. The presidents of Israel, Germany and Poland will be among those delivering remarks of remembrance.

—AP

SHORT TAKES

Paine remains Oz captain, Wade out

Sydney: Matthew Wade was axed Wednesday for Australia's Test series in South Africa after failing to fire against India, while under-pressure Tim Paine retained the captaincy. Wade played all four games in the tense 2-1 home summer series loss to India, including two as makeshift opener in place of the injured David Warner. But he managed just 173 from his eight innings, with some rash shots ultimately costing him his place in the side and seeing him replaced by Alex Carey as back-up wicket-keeper. Instead, Wade will join Australia's Twenty20 squad on their tour of New Zealand as vice-captain. Australia are due to play three Tests in South Africa. The tour was originally scheduled for February and March, but the dates have yet to be locked in due to concerns over Covid-19. — AFP

Stranded Bopanna waits for freedom

New Delhi: The hotel room wall is helping him get some practice and an online course keeping boredom at bay. Rohan Bopanna's build-up to the season-opening Australian Open has been far from ideal so far as he waits for his day of freedom — January 30.

Bopanna was on one of the three flights out of a total of 17 Tennis Australia-arranged chartered planes, that landed in Melbourne with positive cases on board. "If you test positive, you would be in hard quarantine but what we did not know that if someone on your flight tests positive then everyone also had to be in hard quarantine. That's what happened," Bopanna said. — PTI

Regd. No. HQ/SD/509/2021-23
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English test on card

Root & Co. arrive in Chennai to challenge India

Chennai, Jan. 27: Members of the England cricket team including captain Joe Root arrived in the city on Wednesday for the four-match series against India with the first two Tests to be played here.

Some of the Indian players and members of the support staff also landed in this southern city, airport sources said.

Root and Co flew in from Sri Lanka at around 10.30 am and headed to the hotel where members of the two teams will be put up as part of the bio-bubble, a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association official said.

The England team had on Monday completed a 2-0 series sweep of the Tests against Sri Lanka with Root slamming two big centuries.

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer had arrived in the city on Sunday and are in quarantine.

While a few Indian players including star batsman Rohit Sharma and Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane arrived on Tuesday night, some others like Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant, star of the series clinching victory in the Brisbane Test, reached on Wednesday morning.

Team coach Ravi Shastri flew in from Mumbai as did several other players from destinations across the country.

Skipper Virat Kohli is scheduled to arrive later on Wednesday.

The players of the two teams will be staying at Hotel Leela Palace in a bio-bubble as part of quarantine protocols and will undergo testing for Covid-19, the TNCA official said.

— PTI



The England cricket team and staff leave Colombo airport in Sri Lanka for Chennai on Wednesday. — TWITTER

Virat, Rohit top ODI rankings

Dubai, Jan. 27: India captain Virat Kohli and senior batsman Rohit Sharma retained their number one and two position respectively in the ICC rankings for ODI batsmen, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained at the third spot in the bowler's list.

Kohli, who had scored 89 and 63 against Australia

in his last two ODI appearance, has 870 points to his kitty.

Rohit, who missed the tour of Australia due to an injury and has not featured in any one-day game since the Covid-19 pandemic began, remained at the second spot, five points ahead of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (837).

New Zealand's Ross

Taylor (818) and Australia skipper Aaron Finch (791) round up the top five in the batsmen's list.

Ireland's Paul Stirling gained eight slots to reach 20th place after scoring 285 runs against Afghanistan which included centuries in the second and third matches.

Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi (70th to

66th), Rashid Khan (96th to 89th) and Javed Ahmad (103rd to 99th) have also gained in the rankings for batsmen.

Among the bowlers, Bumrah remained the best placed Indian, occupying the third spot with 700 points. Trent Boult (722) and Afghan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (701) occupy the top two spots. — PTI

Dada suffers chest pain, hospitalised

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JAN. 27

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who had suffered a 'mild' cardiac arrest earlier this month and underwent a stent implantation in one of his three arteries with blockages, was admitted to the Apollo Gleneagles Hospital on Wednesday afternoon after he reportedly felt a minor chest pain and dizziness again at home in the morning.

Wearing a blue jacket, Ganguly was however seen walking into the private hospital off EM Bypass near the Salt Lake stadium steadily after getting down from his car in the convoy which brought him through a Green Corridor, created by the Kolkata Police, from his Behala residence in South Kolkata. His wife Dona accompanied him.

Sourav "has come for a check up of his cardiac condition. There is no change in his parameters since his last hospitalisation and his vital parameters are stable," the private hospital stated, according to sources.

The BCCI chief has been kept under observation in a cabin under cardio-



Sourav Ganguly

gists Dr Aftab Khan and Dr Saroj Mondal and family friend Dr Saptarshi Basu.

This is the second time, Sourav, who has a family history of ischemic heart disease, fell ill in less than a month. On January 2 he was admitted to Woodlands Hospital after suffering a mild heart attack leading to a blackout during a fitness session on the treadmill at the gym of his residence.

Like the last time, Union home minister Amit Shah inquired about Sourav's health from BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya. Later, CAB chief Avishek Dalmitra and his elder sister and Bally MLA Baishali visited Sourav. Baishali said, "Sourav is keeping well. His medical reports are good."

GLITZY IPL AUCTION SET FOR FEB. 18 IN CHENNAI

New Delhi, Jan. 27: The IPL players' auction ahead of the 2021 edition will be held in Chennai on February 18, the league organisers announced on Wednesday.

The announcement was made via IPL's Twitter handle. "IPL 2021 Player Auction on 18th February," read part of the post.

The "mini auction" will take place following the first two Tests between India and England in Chennai. The series begins on February 5 while the second Test will be played from February 13 to 17.

The BCCI is also yet to decide whether the IPL will happen in India even though the Board President Sourav Ganguly has repeatedly asserted that everything possible would be done to keep the glitzy event at its home.

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