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Those applying as scientists are required to be active researcher in a university or a research centre or in the private sector, with a practical experience of not less than 10 years. They also should have significant contributions in the scientific field such as winning a prestigious scientific award or securing substantial funding for their research in the past 10 years.

NEW IRRIGATION PROJECTS ACROSS KRISHNA, GODAVARI

TS wakes up to Centre's call, to submit DPRs for funds

PATAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

THE State government has begun to take measures to avail Central funds for irrigation projects. As insisted by the Centre, the government has directed the concerned officials to submit DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) of all irrigation projects taken up on the Krishna and the Godavari rivers to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry.

It may be mentioned here that the Union Jal Shakti Minister shot off letters to the Telangana government two times on the delay in the submission of the DPRs to the Centre after the Apex Council meeting held with the Chief Ministers of two Telugu States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in October last year. Taking into consideration the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh government's strong objections on the projects taken up by the Telangana State government, the Union Ministry was demanding the submission of DPRs of all new projects.

The projects taken up in the Krishna Basin are - Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS, R Vidyasagar Rao Dindi LIS, Bhakta Ramadasu LIS, Water Grid Projects under Mission Bhagiratha, Tummilla Irrigation Scheme, Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy LI S, Jawahar Nettekpadu LIS and Alimineti Madhava Reddy Srisailem Left Bank Canal.

On the Godavari, the Telangana



Projects taken up in the Krishna Basin

- ▶ Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS
- ▶ R Vidyasagar Rao Dindi LIS
- ▶ Bhakta Ramadasu LIS
- ▶ Water Grid Projects
- ▶ Tummilla Irrigation Scheme
- ▶ Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy LIS
- ▶ Jawahar Nettekpadu LI S
- ▶ Srisailem Left Bank Canal

Projects taken up in the Godavari Basin

- ▶ Godavari LIS Phase-3
- ▶ Sita Rama LIS
- ▶ Kanthanapally Sujala Sravanthi Tupakulagudem
- ▶ Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project
- ▶ Three barrages on Lower Penganga Project
- ▶ Inter-basin water transfer from Ramappa Lake to Pakhal Lake
- ▶ Kaleshwaram Project (third TMC component)

government has constructed Godavari LIS (lift irrigation scheme) Phase-3, Sita Rama LIS, PVN Rao Kanthanapally Sujala Sravanthi Tupakulagudem, Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project, three barrages on Lower Penganga Project, inter-basin water transfer from Ramappa Lake (Godavari basin) to Pakhal Lake (Krishna basin), Warangal district and Kaleshwaram Project (third TMC component).

"Along with DPRs, the govern-

ment would also submit a report on expenditure incurred on the projects so far. In all, nearly Rs 2 lakh crore was spent on the projects by the TS government since 2014," a senior official said adding that the State had been demanding the release of special funds to the projects including Mission Bhagiratha and Kaleshwaram. The Centre would come to know how much money is being spent on the projects and challenges faced by the government to mo-

bilise the funds to complete the projects. Under the AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme) which is also called as Pradhanmantri Krishi Sanchaya Yojana, the government would also get additional funds through submission of the DPRs to the centre, he said.

"The State would be free from the burden of huge requirement of funds once the Centre makes allocations under AIBP to certain projects", he added.

TS BIE announces Inter exam fee schedule

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TS BIE) on Saturday announced the due dates schedule for payment of exam fee for the Intermediate Public Examinations to be conducted from April this year. First and second year regular students, failed candidates (general and vocational) and attendance exempted private candidates (without college study for humanities groups) can pay the exam fee till February 11, the Board said in a press release.

The exam fee can be paid with a late fee of Rs 100 from February 12 to 22 and with a late fee of Rs 500 from February 23 to March 2. The exam fee with a late fee of Rs 1,000 can be paid from March 3 to 9. The exam fee will be accepted with late fee of Rs 2,000 from March 10 to 16, the release said.



CPI national general secretary indisposed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HIMAYATNAGAR

CPI national General Secretary D Raja fell ill in CPI National Council meeting at the State party headquarters in the city. He was immediately rushed to the nearby corporate hospital and provided required medical treatment. His health condition is stable and doctors kept a close watch on the fluctuating blood sugar level in the hospital. It is reported that Raja suffered food poisoning. As a result, he was indisposed.

Earlier, participating in the council meeting, the CPI leader came down heavily on the Union government for not addressing the farmers' demands against the newly introduced farm laws. CPI senior leader S Sudhakar Reddy held Prime Minister Narendra Modi responsible for the current unrest among farming community and the violence unleashed in the national capital New Delhi on the Republic Day. The left party also demanded the Centre to find solutions to the financial crisis hit the entire country post the lockdown.

Revanth dubs KCR as 'cheater of farmers'

He alleges that CM KCR, who is supposed to stand by the side of farmers, is siding with the PM on the issue

ARMOOR

CONGRESS party MP A Revanth Reddy Saturday came down heavily on the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao and said that the CM would remain in the history as the cheater of the farmers for not extending his support to the ongoing farmers' agitation. He alleged that while 18 Opposition political parties had extended their support to the farmers' agitation, CM KCR did not do so and preferred to extend his support of the PM of the country Narendra Modi on the issue.

He was addressing a public meeting at Armoor in Nizamabad district on Saturday. Senior leaders, including former minister & ex-Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Mohammed Ali Shabbir, MLC T Jeevan Reddy and other senior leaders also addressed the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion he made it clear that they would continue the ongoing Rajiv Rythu Bharosa protest programmes till the withdrawal of the contro-



TPCC working president and MP A Revanth Reddy receiving representations from leaders of farmers association during public meeting at Armoor in Nizamabad on Saturday

versal laws by the Central government. He made it clear that the farmers of the country were fighting against the farm laws of PM Narendra Modi. He alleged that CM KCR, who is supposed to stand by the side of the farmers were siding with the PM on the issue.

Targeting BJP MP from Nizamabad D Aravind on his

promise of establishment of a turmeric board, he alleged that Aravind who had promised to establish the board within five days of becoming the MP, had failed to do so even after two years of his election. Reddy said that the Congress party would extend complete support to the ongoing protest programmes of the farmers.

TS govt releases ₹1,500 cr road bills

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: In spite of financial constraints, the Telangana State Government has come to the rescue of the road contractors who have been waiting for the release of pending bills since the beginning of 2020-2021 financial year. The government on Saturday released Rs 1,500 crore for payments to the agencies engaged in the road development projects and another Rs 250 crore to clear the bills pertaining to the construction of government buildings this year.

The decision to release funds was taken by the government following several pleas made by the Telangana Builders Associations to clear the bills and address their monetary hurdles to continue in the profession.

State Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy said that the government would earmark more funds to road development in the next financial year aiming to strengthen the road network in the State.



Teachers seek 45 pc fitment, stage protest at BRKR Bhavan

ADARSHNAGAR

A team of TPUS teachers Saturday staged protest at the Secretariat against 7.5 per cent pay hike. The group agitating teachers have staged a dharna, at BRKR Bhavan here and demanded 45 per cent fitment by the government.

Earlier the police took them to custody. They shouted slogans against the PRC report for recommending only 7.5 per cent fitment. They said that the PRC

report has made a false recommendation to give only 7.5 per cent fitment. During corona period all have suffered losses and fitment gas to be 45 per cent they said.

The teachers, employees and staff are staging protests in this regard for the last three days. They asked Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhara Rao to take a call to meet their demand. They hoped that KCR government will accept their demands and give 45 per cent fitment.

The government is yet to take a call as Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held final talks with employees' associations in this regard. He said that the demands of the employees on PRC will be apprised to the Chief Minister to take a decision.

Minister Srinivas Goud said that the PRC report is not final and more can be expected. KCR government will give more fitment he said and persuaded the agitating employees on the PRC row.

Burglars break into TRS MLA's quarters

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BURGULARS decamped with 14 tolas of gold and Rs 10,000 in cash from the official quarters of a TRS MLA from a highly secured area in the city the MLA Quarters at Hyderguda.

The government has allocated flat number 305 to TRS Malkajigiri MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao. Rao's relative Amarnath Babu's family has been residing there for some time. Amarnath has lodged a complaint with the police alleging that there was a theft in his flat on Friday. However,

Decamp with 14 tolas of gold and Rs 10,000 in cash from highly secured area

the police, who are inquiring about the case, have been maintaining secrecy on the theft.

Doubts are being expressed as to how the thieves could enter into a highly secured area. It is learnt that some utensils were also missing from the house of driver of Amarnath Babu in the

past. It is said that the flat was locked from outside. The police are suspecting that there must be a hand of some known persons in the theft. The police are suspecting the role of driver as his phone has been switched off. Interestingly, there were no CCTV cameras inside or at the entrance of the MLA quarters. The government had newly constructed the quarters at Hyderguda. With the theft reported in a highly secured area, higher police officials including the police commissioner visited the MLA quarters. The police authorities took the fingerprints at the quarters and are inquiring into the case.

FTCCI wants Centre to simplify tax system

Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry says that Indian tax system continues to be complex with multiple rates at various levels of production and distribution

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) has demanded the Union government to introduce simplification of tax system and moderation of tax rate and also incentives to MSMEs in the Union Budget 2021-2022 to be presented on February 1 by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha.

The FTCCI said in a statement that Indian tax system continued to be complex with multiple rates at various levels of production and distribution. The various slabs for income tax as well as indirect taxes need to be moderated. Compliance mechanism also needs to be simpli-



fied. For new entrants, the complex and cumbersome taxation system is acting as huge deterrent, the Chambers Joint Director (marketing and

PR) G Vinod Kumar said.

MSME sector should be given top priority in this budget as they are worst affected due to corona pan-

demical and incentivise them. The coverage of the MSMEs needs to be widened to incentivize manufacturing in hitherto un-incentivised areas such as agro MSMEs, he said demanded that the government to include tax exemption for companies making products in India.

Referring to the allocations to Telangana, the FTCCI said that in the last two budgets the State has received a raw deal with no major projects approved and allocated funds. There are many railway projects that were pending where detailed surveys were done yet works did not begin. Vinod demanded allocation of funds for development of infrastructure in Kakatiya Mega Textile Park set up in Warangal and also sanction

Turner Board at Nizamabad.

Pak to send spl plane to China to receive first tranche of anti-Covid vaccine

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN will send a special plane to China on Sunday to bring back the first batch of the 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine that Beijing has promised to provide to its close ally. The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), during a meeting

here on the strategy of vaccine administration, said on Saturday that the country is geared up for the vaccination programme. "The forum was apprised that a special plane will fly to China tomorrow (Sunday) for transportation of the first tranche of vaccine," according to a statement from the NCOC.

The move comes after Pakistan For-

eign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on January 21, following a call with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, had announced that China will provide 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines to Pakistan by January 31. He said that Beijing had asked Islamabad to send an airplane to get the vaccines. Pakistan has approved two foreign anti-COVID vaccines as of now, including

the Chinese Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine, for emergency use in the country. All necessary measures have been put in place for vaccine storage at Islamabad and distribute the vaccine to various federating units particularly to Sindh and Balochistan provinces, the statement said. The vaccine nerve centre has been established at the NCOC with provincial and district level vac-

cine administration across the country for vaccination in a systematic manner, it said. Pakistan plans to provide vaccines to frontline health workers and elderly people in the first phase. Meanwhile, the number of Covid-19 cases in the country has reached 543,214 after 2,179 new infections were reported in the last 24 hours, according to the ministry of National

Health Services. Another 65 patients died in this period, taking the number of COVID-19 deaths to 11,623 while some 2,111 patients were in a critical condition. Also, 498,152 people have recovered so far, which means that the number of active patients was 33,439. The authorities performed 41,435 tests in the last one day. It showed that the positivity rate was 5.25 percent (PTI)

BARC scientific officer kills self after tiff with wife

MUMBAI: A 37-year-old scientific officer at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) allegedly hanged himself to death at his residence in suburban Trombay following an argument with wife over feeding their children, a police official said on Saturday. The incident took place on Thursday and the deceased has been identified as Anuj Tripathi, he said. "On Thursday morning, Tripathi had a heated argument with his wife at their residence in Anushaktinagar over the issue of feeding their children. He later went to the bedroom and hanged himself from the ceiling fan using a towel," senior inspector Siddheshwar Gove of Trombay police station said. His wife and some neighbors later rushed him to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead, he said. (PTI)

UP govt to build over 1,000 new Ganga aarti sites

LUCKNOW: Aiming to turn Uttar Pradesh into a major religious tourism destination, the state government is going to build 1,038 new Ganga aarti platforms along the river in Bijnor and Ballia districts. Ganga Aarti has been one of the most mesmerising attractions for people coming to the state for religious purposes. An official spokesman said on Saturday that the government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is going to build 1,038 new aarti platforms from Bijnor to Ballia districts, turning them into major spots of religious tourism. The Chief Minister has decided to take Ganga aarti to a whole new level in the state, the spokesman said. According to the plan, which is being executed in cooperation with the Tourism department, the new aarti sites will be constructed in the villages falling in a radius of 5 kilometres of the Ganga river from Bijnor to Ballia. (PTI)

Team of forensic experts visits Red Fort to collect evidence

NEW DELHI

A team of forensic experts on Saturday visited the Red Fort to collect evidence in connection with the violence that broke out at the iconic monument on Republic Day. Thousands of protesting farmers had breached the monument on January 26 after deviating from their tractor rally route triggering a conflict with the police. The Crime Branch of Delhi Police is investigating the matter and several teams have been formed to identify the culprits. The force has termed the vandalisation at the fort as an "anti-national act". "A team of forensic experts visited Red Fort and it is collecting evidence," an official said. The protesting farmers had clashed with police during the tractor parade called by farmer unions to highlight their demand for repeal of the Centre's three farm laws. Around 50 police personnel were injured. Many of the protesters, driving tractors, reached the Red Fort while some of them hoisted religious flags on its domes and the flagstaff at the ramparts, where the national flag is unfurled by the prime minister on Independence Day. On Friday, the Delhi Police had issued an appeal in leading newspapers asking people to share any evidence or information about the violence. (PTI)

IIM, Lucknow to study CRPF jawans' stress, find solutions

NEW DELHI

EXPERTS from IIM Lucknow will undertake a study and find solutions to the occupational "stress and strain" suffered by CRPF personnel that leads to extreme instances like suicides and breakdown of family support system.

CRPF Director General A P Maheshwari signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the subject of "domestic empowerment" with Archana Shukla of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow in the capital city of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.

Initially, a pilot project will be conducted by some chosen experts of the premiere management institute at Central Reserve Police Force locations in and around Lucknow and this is expected to be followed by a full-length research on the issue. "Consequent to the report on this pilot project, a strategy will be formulated for fine-tuning the broad framework, under which a full-fledged research will be conducted, to evaluate and assess the responses and, accordingly, propose, configure and facilitate the way forward," a CRPF spokesperson said.

The about 3.25 lakh personnel strong force is the mainstay for anti-Naxal, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations apart from various law and order



duties, and as per official estimates over 95 per cent of its strength remains on operational deployment at any given point of time. The force says these hard duties have led to consequent stress and strain among the personnel, which not only affects them but also their families.

"It is the first-of-its-kind study by outside expert agency to study first-hand impact on soldiers and their families owing to prolonged deployment in high risk areas that are non-family stations and suggest further measures," Maheshwari said on his official Twitter handle. The MoU underlines the necessity for having such an evidence-based study that, as per the DG, would lead to mental

strengthening as well as domestic empowerment, besides other policy derivatives.

"Ideally speaking, families of CRPF personnel should act as a safety valve, for release of pent-up emotions, and be a veritable pillar of support. Long separation from their respective families, due to families staying in their respective home towns further compounds the problem.

"Even if some personnel are keeping their families at stations where they are posted, invariably separation still occurs due to the nature of duties, which involve frequent movements, deployment among others," the statement in the MoU said. It adds that housing satisfaction in the

Temple for MGR, Jaya opens in Tamil Nadu

MADURAI

A temple dedicated to AIADMK icons, M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa, was unveiled near here on Saturday by Chief Minister K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam. In a grand function, the temple, a large multi-pillared hall with life size bronze statues of MGR and Jayalalithaa was opened by Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, the top AIADMK leaders who performed an 'arti'.

Amid chant of hymns, priests poured holy water on the finial - which had similarities to a pot-on the dome like structure over the roof. The shrine, an initiative of Revenue Minister RB Udhayakumar who is also the AIADMK wing 'Amma Peravai's' secretary, is located on a 12-acre site at T Kun-

nathur in Madurai District. The statues of both Jayalalithaa and MGR feature statues of a lion and the shrine was thrown open for the public. A large number of party workers gathered for the event and in their address, Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, hailed the two late leaders and recalled the welfare measures initiated during their tenures. Palaniswami appealed to cadres to work cohesively and win the Assembly elections due in a few months for continuance of 'Amma's' government.

He recalled the opening of a phoneix themed memorial (in the site of Jayalalithaa's mausoleum) at the Marina beach in Chennai and declaring her residence in the state capital a memorial. (PTI)



Sasikala will be discharged today: Hospital

BENGALURU

EXPULSED AIADMK leader V K Sasikala will be discharged on Sunday from a hospital here, where she was undergoing treatment for COVID, an official bulletin said. "Sasikala Nataraajan has completed 10 days of treatment today. She has been asymptomatic and maintaining saturation without oxygen since 3 days. As per protocol, she can be discharged from the Hospital," Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute said in an official bulletin. "The team of doctors attending to her have taken the decision that she is fit for discharge and she will be discharged tomorrow... with advice of home quarantine," it said. Sasikala was set free on Wednesday by authorities after she completed four years imprisonment in a jail here in a case of disproportionate assets. (PTI)

VAGARIES OF NATURE



A tree lies across a small creek after a heavy snow fall in the Taunus region near Frankfurt, Germany

'New CM for Karnataka after Ugadi'

BENGALURU

SENIOR BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Saturday once again harped about leadership change in Karnataka, saying a new Chief Minister will assume office after Ugadi on April 13, the day the state celebrates New Year. The Bijapur city MLA, who has been openly critical of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa for some time now, even indicated that the new CM will be from

the northern part of the state. "I will not go with open hands seeking a Minister's post here onwards. I have said one of our own will come in place (of CM) who can give the Minister's post.

I have said that someone from north Karnataka will come.. it will happen... wait and watch," Yatnal told reporters in Vijayapura "...this will be very soon, as you (media person) said Ugadi... for new year, new (CM)."

The former Union minister has for some time now repeatedly been speaking out against Yediyurappa and his style of functioning.

He had in October said that Yediyurappa would not remain Chief Minister for long and the high command had decided that his successor would be from the north Karnataka region. He had also recently indicated the possibility of historical changes in the state after Sankranti.

Kumartuli artisan creating country's largest reclining Buddha

SOUDHRITI BHABANI
KOLKATA

COUNTRY'S largest reclining Buddha statue which will be 100-feet long is being made in Kolkata. It is expected to be installed on the occasion of Buddha Purnima this year in Bodh Gaya, its sculptor Mintu Pal told IANS.

The work on the statue is on at the Nainan Bandhab Samiti ground in Baranagar's Ghoshpara area. The statue will be installed in the temple of Buddha International Welfare Mission in the Bihar holy town.

"We started work in March 2019 but after that we had to put it on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Four months we lost because of that. We resumed operation once again in November last year

and we are hopeful the statue will be ready before May 26," Pal said.

He said that it would take three more months to complete the whole fibreglass structure.

"At least 22-artisans are currently involved in the work. We have made concrete base and developed an iron and steel-based structures at the venue as the statue would be permanently installed at Bodh Gaya," he added.

Pal, who is from Kolkata's famed potter's town Kumartuli, had created a 80-feet tall fibre-glass Durga idol at De-shapriyo Park Ground in south Kolkata in 2015. Over 40 artists had been involved in the project and it took over two months to finish it.

Over Rs 50 lakh was spent on the Durga idol alone. The Durga idol was

made in parts and put together and it was also touted as the World's tallest such idol.

Similarly this time around, each part of the reclining Buddha idol is being made separately and they would be taken to Bodh Gaya and put together, Buddha International Welfare Mission's founder secretary Ariyapala Bhikkhu told IANS.

"We want the installation work to be done this year itself. We have plans to inaugurate the statue on the occasion of Buddha Purnima. But that depends on the work," said Ariyapala.

He claimed that the reclining Buddha statue will be the largest in the country.

"The statue will be carried to Bodh Gaya in parts and installed there by Mintu Pal and his team of artisans only," he added. (IANS)



UNANIMOUS ELECTIONS

SEC warns on ‘forcible’ consensus



State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar addressing a press conference in Kadapa on Saturday

- Warns that those found responsible for such elections will be grounded and confined homes whatever position they hold
- Says coercive ‘unanimous’ elections are against the spirit of democracy and deprive the poor and downtrodden of power
- Fondly remembers his association with YSR during whose rule he served as Finance Secretary

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADAPA

STATE Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar warned of stringent action against those responsible for forcible unanimous elections in panchayat elections.

Ramesh Kumar, who was in the district to review the election

arrangements, addressed media here on Saturday. He said that to prevent coercive unanimous elections, the commission had set up ‘shadow teams’ to monitor everything at ground level.

If anyone is found guilty of engineering forced unanimous election, they would be grounded and confined to their home in whatever position they were.

“Forcible unanimous elections pose a grave threat to democracy as they are against the spirit of Constitution. Such trends tend to deprive downtrodden communities of power,” he observed.

Referring to the numerous attempts to get the panchayat elections postponed through petitions, Ramesh Kumar said he was not afraid of anyone and would not compromise on conduct of polls as he was guided by the Constitution. “Will it be possible to have Parliament or Assembly without competition of political parties? Then why you are opposing panchayat elections? It is not correct to oppose the High Court and Supreme Court decisions on these matters. This attitude ultimately pose a grave danger to democracy and rule of law,” he said.

Expressing happiness over con-

ducting a review in Kadapa district, the SEC recalled that the crucial turn in his career occurred after he worked as finance secretary to the government led by Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy. “It is with the blessings of YSR I was promoted to render service in Raj Bhavan for seven years. That led to my appointment as State Election Commissioner. YSR was a remarkable political personality as he always respected Constitution and constitutional bodies. He used to take my opinions over crucial issues on finance matters instead of bluntly dismissing suggestions,” he recalled.

The SEC disclosed that he would make field visits again to the districts during elections time. He lauded the district collector Ch Harikiran for taking steps for smooth and fair elections.

District collector Harikiran said that elections were being held for 793 Panchayaths as against 807 as 14 panchayaths were under court disputes. He said 54 static surveillance teams and 74 flying squads were set up to ensure smooth and fair elections. District SP K K N Anburajan said that 21 check posts were arranged to restrict the entry of liquor and money in to the dis-

Ramesh asks CS to see poll code is observed

- Ministers barred from using govt vehicles in rural areas
- Collectors told to issue caste certificates to candidates without delay

AMARAVATI

STATE Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar wrote a letter to chief secretary Aditya Nath Das on Saturday asking him to see that the Model Code of Conduct was observed in the areas where panchayat elections were being conducted. He said code already came into force in rural areas.

The SEC said the ministers visiting the village should not use government vehicles or officials. The advisors to the government who hold Cabinet rank shall also be forbidden from using official vehicles to go to party offices during the course of elections and should not use government facilities to hold press meets.

Meanwhile, the SEC issued a circular to district collectors directing them to make arrangements to issue caste certificates to contesting candidates on fast track. The SEC asked the collectors to consider the existing caste certificates possessed by the candidates for filing nomination without insisting on fresh certificate.

The commissioner conducted a meeting on Saturday with district election observers.

Botcha accuses SEC of crossing Lakshman Rekha

- Taking a serious exception to a letter written by State Election Commissioner Ramesh Kumar to the Governor against him and others, he says it shows the State ‘in poor light’
- Claiming that ‘unanimous elections’ will ensure self-rule, the Minister accuses SEC of ‘inciting’ villagers against unanimous polls

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE State Election Commissioner (SEC) should be impartial and not take sides, minister for municipal administration and urban development Botcha Satyanarayana said.

Referring to the letter written by the SEC N Ramesh Kumar to the state Governor, the minister pointed out that the SEC had shown the state government in poor light in the letter. “It is unfortunate that the SEC has chosen to write a letter to the AP



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana speaking at the press conference in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

Governor. Subsequently, we moved a motion on violation of privileges against the SEC,” the minister told the media.

Assuring that the state government is cooperating with the State Election Commission, Satyanarayana said, “The government is cooperating with the SEC for the panchayat elections as required by the Supreme Court. This itself is a proof that the government is behaving in a responsible manner,” he reiterated.

Further, the minister said only unanimous elections will ensure self-rule at the grassroots level. However, he said it is unfortunate that the SEC is ‘inciting’ the voters in villages and exhorted the people not to get carried away by the SEC’s statements. “It is Ramesh who’s crossing the Lakshman Rekha,” he added.

He expressed his disappointment that the SEC’s move is more towards supporting ‘someone’.

Ambati flays SEC’s district tours

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP Sattenapalle MLA Ambati Rambabu said that State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar’s tour to districts is part of TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu’s agenda. He took exception to the SEC making political remarks.

Addressing a press conference at party central office at Tadepalli on Saturday, Rambabu alleged that Ramesh Kumar and Naidu had conspired to take revenge on Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and YSRCP leaders. Ramesh wants to show his gratitude for Naidu, who appointed him as State Election Commissioner by conducting polls before his retirement. On the comments made by Ramesh Kumar on former chief minister Y S Rajashekar

Reddy during his tour in Kadapa district, Rambabu said that Ramesh Kumar ordered to cover the statues of YSR due to election code but says he has a special place for YSR in his heart.

He said that there was no need for him to mention the CBI case during his tour which looks like blackmailing and terrorising the leaders.

The MLA said that any election commissioner would wish for transparent and fair elections and also supports unanimous elections that create a healthy environment. But, Ramesh is encouraging party-based elections that create chaos, while the government is rooting for unanimous polls without any party base. He alleged that the SEC was being vindictive towards the government and misusing his constitutional powers.

CS questioned over failure to remove Prakash

AMARAVATI

STATE Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar wrote a letter to chief secretary Aditya Nath Das on Saturday on his failure to remove principal secretary, GAD, Praveen Prakash as per the directions of the commission.

The SEC said that the chief secretary has no discretion on implement the SEC orders as it would be judged as deliberately disobeying commission’s orders. The SEC said that the High Court is seized of the

matter in a contempt in CC No:132/2021 which is pending before it for non compliance.

Meanwhile, in response to complaints lodged by YSRCP, the SEC issued a notice to TDP on release of manifesto for panchayat elections.

The SEC directed the TDP state general secretary M Venkata Raju to reply on the complaint lodged by YSRCP to enable the SEC to take an appropriate action.

The commission asked the TDP leader to submit his reply before February 2.

YSRCP forcing ‘unanimous’ polls: Uma

AMARAVATI

FORMER minister and TDP senior leader Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao on Saturday slammed the Ministers, YSRCP MLAs and leaders for using ‘arm twisting’ tactics to prevent the rival candidates from contesting the panchayat elections in villages all over the state.

Uma Maheswara Rao said that the YSRCP supporters were visiting rural areas and creating fear psychosis in order to ensure ‘forced unanimous elections’ for the political benefit of their own party. As part of this, the ward members and sarpanch candidates were being asked to visit the police stations and get clearances which was unethical and violative of the Model Code of Conduct. Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader deplored that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and his advisors were conspiring to suppress the upcoming leadership in the villages. They were scheming to deny the fruits of Gandhiji’s Grama Swaraj in rural areas.

Farmers’ stir regains momentum

Continued from P1

Addressing the protesters in Ghazipur, BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, whose emotional appeal had galvanised farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to flock to the protest site, said they have fought this battle for over two months now, and “they won’t relent or retreat”.

“The movement was and is strong,” BKU’s Meerut Zone president Pawan Khatana said, a day after tens of thousands of farmers from politically sensitive western Uttar Pradesh had gathered in Muzaffarnagar to participate in a mahapanchayat in a massive outpouring of support for the Bharatiya Kisan Union-led protest.

Pankaj Pradhan, 52, head of Chauraura village in Bulandshahr, who arrived in the afternoon along with seven other people to Ghazipur border protest site, became emotional, recalling the night of January 28.

“We were all awake, watching Tikait ji crying, some were glued to TV sets, others on mobile phones, and we all felt restless. I was moved to tears too, and women too got emotional. But, his tears touched a chord with everyone, and made them connect stronger to the movement,” he said. Farmers also came from Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and other parts of Uttar Pradesh, many of whom addressed the crowd at the protest site.

Till now, the agitation was seen as mainly being led by Punjab-based farmer unions. A multitude of green-and-white caps, symbolic of the unions spearheading the battle, union flags and the tricolour, planted on tractors, dotted the highway. On various tractors and camps, photos of legendary farmer leaders such as Chaudhary Charan Singh and Mahendra Singh Tikait have been put up.

Khatana, who is at the demonstration site with Tikait, said there has been continuous support for the “peaceful protest” against the farmers’ demand for removal of the new agri laws.

APTDC mulls weekend package to ‘Puligundu’

V PRADEEP KUMAR
TIRUPATI

THE AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC), Tirupati Division has been contemplating new tours aiming at the student community. During the post-Covid pandemic, the Corporation has been running with losses as the activities were severely affected along with so many other sectors.

During the unlock period, it has been slowly restoring the activities besides planning new initiatives duly following the Covid protocols. In this direction, it wants to operate a weekend package for trekking to Puligundu which is located at 18 km from Chittoor. It is a dual rock mountain with a height of about 1,000 feet from the ground and resembles Siva Linga. This has become a crazy point for trekking for youth though it is not an easy task. Given the fact that Tirupati has become a hub for educational institutions with six universities and other professional colleges of national importance, APTDC wants to tap the opportunity and plan various packages.

Speaking to The Hans India, the Divisional Manager of APTDC M Giridhar Reddy also said they have been planning one-day trips for college students to visit Talakona waterfalls and Horsley Hills. The modalities are being planned and to be implemented soon.



APTDC DVM M Giridhar Reddy

The APTDC has also submitted proposals to excise department open bars in its Haritha hotels. Soon after getting clearance they will be opened in all hotels in the division while they already have one bar at Horsley Hills. The DVM said that TTD has restored the Rs 300 ticket quota to APTDC. From January 4 itself, they are getting 1,000 tickets per day which they use for their tourists coming over here under various packages. Currently, around 700 tourists are visiting Tirupati-Tirumala utilising the packages. The darshan ticket quota was not restored till December last after the reopening of temple for devotees in July. To a question, he said the Haritha Srinivasam hotel in Tirumala has also been attracting visitors contributing around Rs 2 lakh revenue for the Corporation. They want to renovate it further for the convenience of the pilgrims. The transport wing now has been resumed completely and there is around 50 per cent occupancy during weekdays and 90-100 per cent during weekends.

Make MSP a right for farmers: Vijayasai

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

YSRCP Parliamentary Party leader V Vijayasai Reddy here on Saturday demanded that the minimum support price (MSP) be made an enforceable statutory right for farmers irrespective of who procures food grains from them, be it the government or private entities.

Voicing concern over the farmers’ distress at the all-party meet called for by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Vijayasai said a national farmers commission should be constituted on the lines of the National Commissions of BCs, SCs/STs.

He also demanded a national discussion on the desecration of temples and amendment to the laws to give harsher punishments to those who resort to the acts of up to 20 years of imprisonment. Referring to the incidents that had rocked the state in recent times, he alleged that CCTV evidence pointed to the involvement of the TDP leaders in the attacks on temples in AP.



- At the all-party meet chaired by PM, YSRCP Parliamentary Party leader suggests formation of national farmers’ commission on the lines of National Commission for BCs, SCs/STs
- Calls for Special Category Status for AP in the current Budget session itself

He said a zero-tolerance policy against desecration of religious places must be adopted by the country and Section 295 of IPC be amended to increase punishment from 2 to 20 years for the culprits.

Referring to the long-pending demand of Special Category Status for the state, the YSRCP Rajya Sabha member said consid-

ering the unique situation of Andhra, SCS must be given to it in this Budget session itself. It was important to do so considering the double-whammy of the pandemic and the inherent disadvantaged position of AP in comparison to other states. The 15th Finance Commission had left the mandate to decide on SCS to the Union government,

he added.

He demanded interlinking of rivers as a national project and distribution of water between states on the basis of geographical area.

Vijayasai Reddy sought the shifting High Court of Andhra to Kurnool from Amaravati as part of the three capitals plans of the state government. The principal bench of the AP High Court must be moved to Kurnool, he said.

A separate railway zone for Andhra, a revised bill for 50 per cent reservation of women in legislative Assemblies, legislative councils, both houses of the Parliament and at all elected and nominated posts under the central and state governments and sufficient time to regional parties to speak in the Parliament were the other demands he made.

Stricter criminal procedure laws for rape convicts in terms of no-parole and no-furlough, national universities in Visakhapatnam were the other points he raised.

YSRCP rule blamed for rise in migration from AP

- TDP senior leader Kaluva Srinivasulu says Jagan has made many promises but has done little to mitigate the plight of poor
- Strongly opposes alleged cancellation of 20 lakh ration cards

AMARAVATI

FORMER minister and senior TDP leader Kaluva Srinivasulu on Saturday demanded the Jagan Mohan Reddy government to explain why the migration of workers to other states had increased enormously in the past 20 months of YSRCP rule.

Srinivasulu blamed the ruling party leaders for the unprecedented suffering of the poor people because of the unfulfilled promises and countless betrayals by the Chief Minister. Lots of promises were made in the name of the

‘Navaratnalu’ but nothing was done to mitigate the hardships of the common people. Addressing a press conference at TDP state office at Mangalagiri, the TDP leader called upon the people to realise the need to save democracy and bring in development in villages by electing the TDP-supported candidates in these elections. All the YSRCP top leaders were enemies of the poor and the downtrodden people. They turned blind without taking any steps when AP stood out as the worst-hit state where the construction workers and migrant labourers faced near starvation, he added. He strongly objected to the government removing over 20 lakh ration cards which ran contrary to the Chief Minister’s statements on a massive public welfare under his rule. The promised increase was not given in pensions. The government subsidies were reduced for essential commodities. As a result, the prices of sugar, dal and other commodities shot up and imposed an additional burden of Rs. 750 crore on the poor families in the state, he pointed out.

Padala Aruna quits TDP

The two-time MLA says party has been ignoring her

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GAJAPATHINAGARAM
(VIZIANAGARAM)

TWO-TIME legislator and former minister Padala Aruna resigned from the TDP on Saturday. Aruna, who was elected to Assembly on TDP ticket from Gajapathinagaram constituency between 1989-1999 and served as minister for women and child welfare in Chandrababu Naidu cabinet, has been maintaining low profile for the past few years as she felt that the party had been ignoring her.

Aruna tried for MLA ticket during the last election but failed. She even openly expressed her agony before media. Announcing her resignation from TDP, Aruna said that the party had been intentionally ignoring and insulting her. The party high command had not taken her seniority



and experience into consideration and given a suitable post in the party. “So I don’t have another option than quitting the TDP,” she said. She wrote a letter to party national president N Chandrababu Naidu informing her decision. She said that she would take a decision on her future after consulting with her supporters.

We need a dispassionate debate on occult practices

It is extremely disgusting to read about the parents brutally killing their two daughters in Madanapalle strongly believing that some supernatural power would bring them back to life. What is more astonishing is that the ghastly act was committed by well-educated parents who have a long association with educational institutions. This certainly is not an isolated incident. Such acts with an occultist angle had been reported in different parts of the country in the recent past.

The occurrence of such shocking incidents calls for a dispassionate debate about the prevalence of irrational and obscurantist practices driven by superstitions and the absence of competent laws to prevent them. It might be necessary to enact a superstition (prevention) Act to inculcate scientific temper among the people and to usher in a progressive society that marches ahead in the truly scientific path shown by our great ancestors such as Varahamihira, Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Brahmagupta, Sushruta, Charak, Rammanujan and Abdul Kalam.

We live in the scientific age and India is making rapid strides in S&T promising to become a superpower in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in the near future. However, it is regrettable that in a country having the distinction of brilliance in many sectors, a major part of its populace continues to wallow in ignorance and superstitions. One wonders that all our efforts to inculcate scientific temper have not been able to achieve the desired objectives even after 73 years of Independence. Should we believe that our people have developed distrust in



science even as they believe everything they read on social media. This shows that scientific temper has not permeated in our society to have a decisive impact on the national psyche.

The term 'scientific temper' was first used in India by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1948. It is a way of thinking critically and rationally, the ability to question what is told to us, and not be satisfied with the answer just because it is uttered by some persons of authority. Even before Nehru, a number of social reformers, scholars and scientists advocated the need to instil a spirit of scientific enquiry in the society. In 1981, a statement of scientific temper was issued by a group of individuals which was revised in the Palampur declaration.

The concept of scientific temper was the basis for the scientific policy resolution of the Government

of India adopted by both Houses of Parliament. It was an expression of India's faith in science and the role that S&T could play in national development. In 1976 Article 51A(h) was incorporated in the Constitution which states 'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to develop the scientific temper, humanism and a spirit of inquiry and reform'.

The need for scientific temper need not be overemphasised in a country like ours where myriad dogmas and superstitions prevail. But it still remains elusive. Hence, science popularisation is the need of the hour. However, the transformation to a society guided by scientific enquiry is not going to be easy as the general public is not seemingly interested in knowing scientific phenomenon and reading science. science popularisation can best be achieved by demonstrating it among the people.

Going back into science in history, Galileo, the father of modern science, climbed to the Leaning Tower of Pisa and from the top, he dropped two spheres of different masses and demonstrated that both hit the ground simultaneously. He thus disproved Aristotle's theory of gravity (which states that objects fall at speeds proportional to their mass).

Further, innovative methods such as dance, song and skit might be used to take science to the people. Creation of knowledge-literature in Indian languages needs to be encouraged. People's science organisations which have been doing remarkable efforts for science communication for scientific temper need to take their activities more to the rural areas.

— Dr ER Subrahmanyam, Amalapuram

Mamata's blunder

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, commander of the Indian National Army was a great freedom fighter and is above politics. Further, he was sectarian in his views and despite sharp differences with Mahatma Gandhi, he fondly addressed Gandhi as the 'Father of the nation'. Though his 124th anniversary celebrations at Kolkata's Victoria Memorial got off well by prime minister paying glorious tributes to Netaji and highlighting his dreams to see a strong India, yet unsavoury developments taking place as chief minister Mamata Banerjee was about to address the gathering had resulted in Mamata sticking to the ground by refusing to speak on the solemn occasion.

However what marked the celebrations are songs and dances by a group glorifying Netaji's sacrifices and prime minister's speech peppered with Netaji's quotes in Bengali reminding the greatness of the man whose teachings are not only relevant even today but are a source of energy to every youth to imbibe them to make the nation proud and strong. However, in the context of present day politics in Bengal where TMC and BJP are bitter rivals, it is most unfortunate that an important event was marred with chief minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee reacting angrily to chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' by a section of crowd on the plea it was an unwanted political slogan not befitting the event.

Howsoever, one may try to find fault with Mamata, none can deny that BJP tried to use the occasion to usurp the legacy of Bose. In the same breath, Mamata Banerjee feeling that she had been humiliated by 'Jai Shri Ram' chant is also ridiculous and far from the truth. In short, the turn of events casting a shadow on the celebrations and sparking a bitter political row is only to usurp one of India's revered personality Netaji's legacy ahead of polls and nothing else. Moreover, what was distressing that both Modi and Mamata did not appear to bring out substantive issues and problems relevant to the state to honour Bose's legacy and instead resorted to political gimmick to reap political mileage. After all, violence and appeasement politics is the order of the day in present day West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee's rule, staying away from giving a speech by her on an important event is a blunder and an insult to the Netaji whose landmark trial in 1945 set a trend catalysing patriotic fervour had soldiers belonging to Hindu, Muslim and Sikh facing the charge of treason.

— K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

Farmers are integral part of nation building

This refers to the well analysed article "New leaders, the need of the hour in India" (THI 30 Jan) by Ramu Sarma. To begin with, the political class stand depends on where they sit. It's not clear why you and others in the media are giving so much importance to Rahul Gandhi who can be termed as a person non-grata. As for farmers' issues, the rich and poor farmers are well aware that neither ruling or opposition party is going to really look into the problems faced by them and resolve them.

The farmers, unlike political leaders are more serious in nation-building and it's the same farmers were toiling every day during countrywide lockdown and the government was able to take credit for bumper crops and in fact it was farmers, the PM was able to announce over the TV free distribution of basic food items to the needy. This announcement was widely used by PM Modi in every election rally. The farmers are out in the street not because of some political party or the other, they see something wrong with new which in fact helps the big corporates who have been generously donating for the party in power.

Today farmers, unlike corporates, are in street and are being branded as anti-national Khalistani, party Tukde Tukde gang and so on because they rarely fund the political party in power now or some other party in past. As for finding a solution for the problem, the parties on the other side have been demanding relook at the law which was hastily cleared in RS using voice vote. The ruling party after realising that farmers are indeed unhappy went for a gimmick of "Farmers Outreach Program" after the bill was passed instead of reaching out to them before framing the new law and they are facing the consequences now.

With the situation going out of control, one finds they are now attempting to bring in so-called "locals" to attack the farmers in the Delhi border. This can lead to serious situations as the farmers even go away from the site, it can take different shapes which can go out of control. As for a boycott of the President's address, if the first citizen just for once showed the courage of the Queen of England who has more than once called the PM to her palace and advised to relook laws which saw upsurge of difference in that country.

The people of India have

given a mandate to BJP to rule differently and not like Congress. If they follow what Congress has done then, why do we need BJP and Modi. Like Congress now, BJP has more experience of fishing in troubled waters and if Mrs Gandhi can be faulted (rightly so) so also the opposition parties then which include the present ruling party



in different avatar hijacked students agitation then and from 2011 onwards using Anna Hazare movement. The new leaders from either BJP or Congress would be of no use to India. India needs leaders who are not connected with present set of political dispensation.

— N Hariharan, New Delhi

ARE WE ACTUALLY A MOBOCRACY?

This writeup refers to the editorial on 'Pitiable state of democracy' (THI Jan 30). This is presented by touching many vital aspects that degrade our well laid democracy. Democracy is not only the best but the best. On this basis our Constituent Assembly had adopted, enacted and given to it three independent organs such as executive, parliament and judiciary and equated it with that of Bible, Bhagavad Gita and Koran. Soon after India became independent, our democratic values started deteriorating on account of surging selfish motives for power and pelf inspite of the nation advancing to new heights in science and technology.

A political thinker said 'as civilisation advances, man decays morally and ethi-

have to question ourselves whether democracy has failed us or we have failed the democracy.

As a matter of fact, judiciary is also no exception as the nation witnessed in many cases. Politicians and rich are getting bails from courts within hours and days. Common man has to wait for longer time. Court cases are not disposed of for years together. I cite one known example. About 64 lakh employees covered under Employees Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS-95) are running after governments and courts for the past two decades for their pension hike as most of them are drawing around Rupees one thousand static pension and are leading a life much below the poverty line. Listed dates are incessantly adjourned by Supreme Court every time. Their case was listed on Jan 25, 2021, posted to 25th, again posted to 29th and further posted to Feb 25, 2021. There are many matters that courts are delaying. Justice delayed is justice denied. People are losing faith on judiciary also. Supreme Court worries that criticism on courts is growing. This is not an untrue statement. Democracy is also widely called as mobocracy. Illiteracy, ever increasing population, lack of social awareness, utter failure to contain corruption, not so efficient leadership are some of the key issues in downplaying of democratic values. India is a rich country with poor people and Japan is a poor country with rich people as the saying goes. Indiscipline plays vital role in our democracy. If this trend continues without setting right of devouring maladies, India will remain as a developing country forever. Trust the three pillars of the Constitution will safeguard its norms in order to fortify our democracy.

— Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

Solution elusive for flooding woes

Recently the civil engineering department had conducted survey on the city floods to come out with possible solutions to avoid disaster in future floods. The main reasons for inundation of houses in the last October floods are due to encroachments on the retaining walls of open nallahs, improper width and depth of nallahs and accumulation of huge silt etc. Already three months passed from October floods so far the state government and concerned department have not come out to commence the pilot project to modernise and manage the city storm water and sewerage system.

The residents who are living in low lying areas are afraid to face the future floods if government failed to set right the present condition of drainage systems. As announced by the government the strategic nala development programme should be taken up immediately in the colonies where hundreds of houses drowned in the last floods.

— Surender Kumar M, Hyderabad

Dubious role of Congress party exposed

Reference your editorial 'Congress' support to Delhi violence ridiculous' (dated 29th January, 21). Right from start Congress was behind these protests. Punjab Govt gave them free hand and money to destroy 3000 mobile towers where not a single arrest was made, now the people who had incited and participated in the violence had run back to Punjab. Congress is doing untold damage to the fabric of Indian democracy by openly supporting the rioters and justifying their actions.

Farmers have been led to believe that once these laws become operational, businessmen like Ambani or Adani will take over their farming and they would be servants to them. False narrative has been spread systematically by opposition parties and farmers especially in Punjab took the large bite. Question foremost in people's mind is why Punjab farmers are so incensed and have misunderstood while rest of the country farmers are largely peaceful? Telangana had supported these bills. Punjab

politics is dominated by farmers lobby and Akali Dal supreme Sukhbir Singh Badal and his brother in Law Majithia had deep interests in farming and aaratiyan business.

Akali Dal pulled out of govt to take centrestage but Punjab CM Amarinder Singh outfoxed them. With BJP hardly a force to reckon with in Punjab, farmers were fed vested agenda and all kinds of misinformation was spread. It became do or die situation for them. They had three major objections in the bills and when Govt agreed to tweak them, Congress felt that that agitation will die down so the demand to repeal the bills was strategically put forward. Knowing fully well that Govt would never repeal those bills.

Repealing means govt is defeated and henceforth working of govt could be jettisoned by hired mobs and vested parties to



undermine governance. Farmers whose ranks have been infiltrated by Khalistani and Pakistani stooges wanted this rally to provoke police to resort to firing but home ministry's strict instructions not to open fire have frustrated their plans.

All kinds of anti-India lobbies

inside and outside were ready to sell narrative that Indian govt is anti-farmer and killed innocent farmers. But the fact was otherwise, videos showing farmers brutally attacking security forces have frustrated their plans. Lutyen's lobby went into overdrive in falsely claiming and

tweeting that a farmer had been killed in police firing and farmers vows to avenge his death. But CCTV footage led to suspension of one journalist Rajdeep Sardesai and forfeited one-month salary. Farmers have lost the plot and Congress have lost its face.

Congress and other opposition parties have not condemned this violence and desecration of Lal Quila thus putting them into same league of rioters and in cahoots with anti-nationals. Their desperation to dislodge Modi have blinded them. They should learn something from Republicans who condemned Capitol violence and many senators broke the party line to vote against Trump. Nation comes first for them. Indian opposition and especially Congress have done themselves and wrapped themselves in shame and ignominy.

India's thrust at changing archaic laws and bringing in

changes in line with times have been seriously opposed by forces inimical to India's growth efforts.

Fire at Serum India, at Apple's plant and vandalism at Amazon facility are all for the same purpose. China and Pakistan are behind these activities to keep India embroiled in domestic issues and undermine its ability to come up as vital supply chain link to the world.

China Govt had signed MOU with Congress party which has no parallels in the world where an Govt signs MOU with some opposition party of some other nation. Congress has been seriously compromised and now by siding with rioters, they have dug up their own grave.

Mahatma Gandhi wanted to disband Congress party after independence, now the way it's behaving Rahul Gandhi may ensure it's banned for anti-national acts.

— Ashok Goswami, Mumbai

PAST AND PRESENT

My experience with Corona

K S S PILLAI

THE hullabaloo caused by the coronavirus reminds me that I too had a Corona once. Not the dreaded virus, but a second-hand Smith Corona portable typewriter, my most cherished possession at that time, bought from a friend for a princely sum of Rs.450.

Those were the days when manual typewriters were an integral part of every office. Since offices preferred typewritten applications, and normally every application needed to be attached with copies of documents attested by a gazette officer, there used to be one or two typists outside those dealing with the general public. Those typists who could draft applications for their illiterate or semi-literate clients were in great demand. They also got hectic business at the beginning of the academic year as schools and colleges asked for several documents from those seeking admission. There would be a number of typists with their 'standard' typewriters, plying their trade in small cubicles nearby, and sometimes even on street corners. There was no dearth of onlookers either, watching in wonder the speed with which the typist's hands flew over the keyboard, without even looking at it.

Since photocopying machines had not yet appeared in the country, typists used to take up to five copies on thinner sheets of paper with carbon papers. The machines usually had a black-and-red ribbon, making it possible for the first copy a



little colourful. Though there were aids like correcting inks, and special rubber, great care was taken to avoid mistakes, as correcting all copies was a time-consuming task and it spoiled the look of the typed page.

I had a friend near the local sessions court, earning his livelihood by typing for the litigants. Since every page was charged for, the margins on all four sides used to be wide, as was the distance between two lines.

Things had undergone a sea-change when I visited his workplace some years after his death. His son had taken over the job, but the old typewriter was nowhere to be seen. In its place were a computer, a printer, and a photocopying machine. He was happy he could type on a computer which had fonts of different shapes and sizes. With several

other features available on the computer, his job had become easy. An added feature was that the work did not make any sound, as did the typewriter.

Standing there, I remembered the past, when typewriting institutes were much sought after. Most youngsters in Kerala used to join an English typewriting and shorthand institute after passing the SSLC examination, equivalent to the present day's standard XI. The idea was to go to north India in search of a job as a stenographer or typist. Our small town also had such a famous institute, run by a retired army officer with impeccable command of the English language. The training at the institute came in handy when, years later, I became a college teacher, and typed my question papers on a typewriter of the college, or on my Smith Corona in the comforts of my home.

Miyawaki forests turn new rage in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PROF Akira Miyawaki , the noted botanist from Japan, turns 93 on Friday, but his “Miyawaki model”, presented in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Earth Summit in June 1992, has become a rage in Kerala with the state government and private players developing these forests which could be cultivated even in a small area. In the 1994 Paris climate summit also this proposal was a major hit.

It was MR Hari, Managing Director of Invis multimedia, who set out to meet Prof Akira Miyawaki of the Yokohama National University in Japan to get a personal feel on this type of forests and to understand about it in person.

Kerala now has 1.6 acre land of “Miyawaki model ” in the state spread across 10 districts with minimum of 10 cents and maximum of 20 cents of land.

Miyawaki who won the “Blue Planet” award - one of the most prestigious awards in environment conservation after accepting the award at the age of 78 has said “I want to cultivate plants and trees for 30 more years, I want to create forests of live and nothing else”.

The first Miyawaki forest in Kerala became operational three years ago and it was at the property of MR Hari in Puliarakonam, a 15-km drive from Thiruvananthapuram city. The forest was in 3 cents of plot and in this three cents of land a variety of 500 plants, trees, creepers have formed in this forest.

Hari, while speaking to IANS, said: “The trees touched 30 ft in height in three years and I had to prune these trees as their branches could fall in heavy winds and create problems. This is not in line with the Miyawaki idea of not cutting the branches but I had to make certain changes for practical purposes”.

He further said, “This forest has slowly started growing with insects and large numbers of birds coming in and finding this as their habitat and it’s a great feeling. More than that the environment in the surrounding areas has improved much and we could directly feel it”.

According to the Miyawaki theory, 162 plants can be cultivated in 1 cent of land and these plants will shoot straight up instead of towards side for sunlight. In three years these trees will grow 30 feet, and in 20 years this will have the tone and tenor of a 100-year-old forest.

Kerala Tourism has now taken up the project of Miyawaki Forests after the success of Hari’s project at Puliarakonam. A consortium of Natures Green Guardian foundation, Organic Kerala Mission society and Cultural shoppe are promoting Miyawaki forests for state tourism department.



Miyawaki forest is one of the flagship programmes of Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K -DISC), a state government body. The organisation’s first project was in Chalai government girls high school which was implemented on January 29,2020 commemorating the 92 birthday of Akira Miyawaki. In a year ,the area has grown into a good forest.

Prof Miyawaki’s student, Prof Fujiwara, was present during the planting of the seeds and saplings.

K -DISC is now planting Miyawaki forests at 12 places in 10 districts of the state.

Shakeela KT, Miyawaki Project Coordinator and Assistant Programme officer of K- DISC told IANS

that the organisation has implemented the project in 12 places in 10 districts in the past one year. “After this we will be monitoring the environmental and climate changes in the area after these forests have come into being and we will be studying in detail on the quality of air in the atmosphere, quantity of oxygen, ground water situation and pollution in water and air.”

Environmental activists are on cloud nine following the success of Miyawaki forests in the state.

Hari, who runs a You Tube channel on Miyawaki Forests, said: “I am receiving two to three enquiries per day from people who are interested to implement the project in their lands. State tourism department is also satisfied that the people of the state are taking up the cause and this could be the best tribute to the great plant botanist on his 93rd birthday.” (IANS)

B ARAVINDA REDDY

IT was a cold night on 7 June 1893 at Pietermaritzburg railway station in Natal, South Africa. The wind was howling and making an eerie sound. The howling of the wind was suddenly shattered by the thundering sound of an incoming train .The train stopped for a moment at the station and as it started streaming away from the station, the doors of the first class compartment opened briefly and a man and his luggage were violently pushed out of the compartment .The man fell on the platform.

With lot of pain the man slowly got up and made his way to the waiting room of the railway station to spend the night as there was no other train for the night from the station .The man was thrown out from the first class compartment for the indiscretion he was travelling in the first class reserved only for white people. He was a brown man and he was not allowed to travel in a first class compartment with white people even though he purchased first class ticket. The brown man was Mohandas Gandhi .“It was winter. The cold was bitter. My overcoat was in my luggage but I did not dare to ask for it lest I should be insulted again. So I sat and shivered” Gandhiji was to reminisce in his autobiography about his night experience at the Pietermaritzburg station.

The hurt seared into his psyche like a burning coal on his skin. Instead of being consumed by anger and shame he ploughed his anger at the system that sanctioned apartheid and denied civil rights for the coloured people. During his stay in South Africa Gandhiji organised mass civil right movement and secured basic civil rights for non- white people. After his return to India in 1915,Gandhiji saw the same unjust white rule over Indians. He led a mass freedom movement to secure independence for India.

During the decades of struggle Gandhiji never asked for revenge against his tormentors even though he was jailed unjustly several times by the British Raj.Gandhiji’s strategy was “Hate the sin ,love the sinner” This on the surface appears to be innocuous but on the flip side is a brilliant plan. Instead of fighting the enemy physically when you are

OF HURT AND FORGIVENESS

Gandhiji never asked for revenge against his tormentors even though he was jailed unjustly several times by the British Raj. Gandhiji’s strategy was ‘Hate the sin, love the sinner’



weak ,by questioning his moral rights you are weakening him mentally. Next story is not about an ordinary man.

He was the son of God. He was to be crucified on the Cross for his blasphemous teachings .As he was being led away to the Cross ,Jesus was serene like deep sea. There was no hint of anger or hatred on his face. He was to undergo the cruelest punishment possible. But what did Jesus say? Luke, one of the four evangelist ,records the last words of Christ in the Bible. “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”. What did the words of Christ do? They invigorated the faith with new energy and led it on a path of love and compassion. The third story is about a master.

The master was sitting under a tree taking to his disciples. A person barged in and in a split second spat on the face of the master. The intrusion created angry commotion . But the teacher was rock- like. He slowly wiped the spit from his face and calmly asked “What next? What do you want to say next?” The intruder expected a violent reaction from the great teacher. But on seeing a serene god like figure, the trespasser was speechless.

The disciples of the master were enraged. They wanted to beat up the aggressor. The teacher slowly raised his voice and said “He has not spat on me .He has spat on his idea of me because he does not know me at all. He has spat on his own mind “The master in the story is Gau-

tama Buddha . The enduring takeaway from the story is that most of the time people are ignorant and do not mean what they do. We should dump our past baggage and carry only a light load of the present to lead a happy life. The following story is a contemporary story

Dr Edith Eva Eger is an American clinical psychologist She is a survivor of concentration camps at Auschwitz in Poland set up by Nazi Germany to exterminate Jews from Europe. She saw her own mother and thousands of Jewish men , women and children being sent to their death in gas chambers. She herself lived under constant threat of starvation and death. Despite the horrors she kept her mental balance. After her liberation she migrated to the USA and struggled to earn a living. By sheer grit and hard work she learned English and earned a Ph.D in Clinical Psychology. She became a famous psychiatrist helping number of people to wriggle out of their psychic traumas .

She has the following to say on hurt and forgiveness in her book ‘Choice’: “It is easy to make a prison out of our pain of our past. At best revenge is useless. It can’t alter what was done to us. It can’t eradicate the wrongs we have suffered. It can’t bring back the dead. At worst revenge perpetuates the cycle of hate.”

The four stories give us varied perspectives about how to treat hurt. Many of us in our daily life get hurt . Close friends cheat ,Bosses insult .Strangers rob ,family members cheat us out of our property or out of the blue a disease can strike us. Should we get bogged down by our hurts or bounce back. Many people believe that pain of hurt or loss dims over time But Dr Eger has a different take on this.” Time doesn’t heal. It is what you do with your time. Healing is possible when we choose to take responsibility ,when we choose to take risks and finally when we choose to release the wound to let go of the past or the grief.” Bury the past hurt , walk in the present moment and do some thing positive about the issue related to the past hurt. This is the path leaders who are hurt walk on.

(B Aravinda Reddy is a former IAS officer. Views expressed are personal)

India need to keep their guard up

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

THE unimaginable Test series victory against Australia has brought immense joy for the millions of Indian cricket followers and fans. This is quite understandable as India showed both resilience and toughness in the way they played the last two Test matches in Australia. The rear-guard action in drawing the third Test and the positive mind-set in bringing about an incredible victory in the fourth match was a good example of it. The most interesting aspect of it all was that the daring performances were without their most dependable and accomplished teammates.

Victory such as this before the next series is something a team has to be wary of as the expectations from their well-wishers seem to always rocket skywards. The Indian side will need to be very careful not to get too confident and complacent and will need to keep their guard up.

The four-Test match series against England starting on the February 5 in Chennai is very crucial not only for India but for England too. Both sides are very strong contenders to qualify for the World Test Championship final to be held in England in June. That’s why there will be that extra pressure on both teams in the way they approach the matches.

The England team may have a slight initial advantage, solely because they have played two Test matches in Sri Lanka. The wickets to bat and bowl on there are very similar to what they will play on in Chennai. India, on the other hand, have had a long tour of Australia and both their batsmen and bowlers will need to adjust quickly to their home conditions. One takes it for granted that a cricketer will automatically attune to the conditions in which he has grown up. This is not always the case as playing in different conditions bring in changes in the way the mind and feet work, and it does not become the default way in which the body automatically responds.

In the past, many Indian cricketers travelled to England to play club cricket during the off-season. It took them time to get used to the conditions on their return. I was a member of the Indian



World Cup and Test side in 1979. We were away for nearly four months and on our return were to play Australia in a week’s time. The visitors were more at home with the conditions having played a few warm-up games.

The present Indian side has just three days in which to practice before the first Test match and, therefore, one hopes that they can adjust by then. The difficult part for the batsman is the low bounce and this is similar for the bowlers as well.

The England side has a very good bowling attack. Although India is nicely equipped with a good pace attack, a green wicket would not be an option especially with James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Stuart Broad, and Ben Stokes in England’s armoury. England off-spinner Dom Bess and their left-arm spinner Jack Leach have had a successful Sri Lanka tour and so, along with their pace bowlers, they have a very balanced attack.

England’s batting, one feels, is a bit brittle in Asian conditions and will depend on Joe Root, Stokes and Jos Buttler. They will miss Jonny Bairstow, who has

been rested as per the new rotating policy been implemented by the English board.

One of India’s biggest issues will be the return of Virat Kohli. He will be back to lead a side that has done well during his absence. He will be under a lot of pressure as regards his captaincy, as the success of Ajinkya Rahane in his absence, is something that will rankle his mind subconsciously. He will have to not only establish his position as India’s leading batsman but also as their astute leader.

The other area of concern will be India’s bowling line-up. The return of Ishant Sharma may result in Shardul Thakur being dropped from the playing XI. Thakur was one of the stars of India’s victory, both with the bat and the ball. The Indian policy of bringing an established player back in the side on their return will sadly result in Thakur or Mohammed Siraj sitting on the sidelines.

Spinners play a major part in India. Although Ravichandran Ashwin will lead the attack, the absence of Ravindra Jadeja will be felt until his return. The toss

up for a place will be between Kuldeep Yadav and one of the new superstars of India, Washington Sundar. With the latter’s success, India will most likely go in with two off spinners. Although, Axar Patel, the Gujarat left-arm spinner is in the squad, one feels it is unlikely that he will play.

India have a big challenge in hand as England in their last encounter did get the better of them. England have three outstanding cricketers in their fold. The world’s leading all-round cricketer, Stokes, one of the best batsmen in Root, and bowler Archer. This trio is a threat to any side that plays them.

India have a formidable batting line-up with Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Kohli, Rahane and the new hero, Rishabh Pant, to bolster them. The euphoria of the win against Australia will need to be put aside and India will need to come out with all guns blazing. Else, England could steal a march over them.

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former Test cricketer. Views expressed are personal)

India makes great strides on research front

PROF D NARAYANA RAO

ANY country that has made advances in prosperity has invariably depended on science and technology. England became a world power because of the industrial revolution. The USA became a superpower because of its technology. In Indian context, science and technology is the driving force for the economic development and national security.

Indian bio-tech companies have captured the vaccine field and within a short time, became the vaccine makers for the world. In the last two weeks, we have supplied the vaccine Covishield to 14 countries. Likewise, our scientists and technologists developed Covaxin.

India is designing, developing and launching communication and remote sensing satellites which brought a sea-change in communication networks. In India, the data is provided at the cheapest rate of less than 20 paise per GB. This data availability came handy for online classes during the pandemic. Otherwise, the pandemic would have delayed the learning process of several crores of students.

India has launched a mission to moon known as Chandrayaan. One of the defining moments in India has been the roaring successful launch of India’s Mars Orbiter Mission. Now, we are planning Gaganyaan, sending humanoids to space.

In the new millennium, India is progressing as a major economic power in the world and the significant achievement would not have been possible but for the effective harnessing the power of science and technology by our scientific community. Our scientists have placed us at the forefront of the world in certain areas.

The societal expectations from science and technology are increasing. Thus, the scientific community has the responsibility to cope up with these expectations. Indian science and tech-

Research Day observed at SRM University-AP



Universities and industries need to synergise their resources in specified areas such that both the industries and the universities can get greatly benefitted

nology need to be made more vibrant.

More focus needs to be laid on the quality of research done in the universities. Universities and Institutions in the country need to encourage translational research, which leads to development of products with societal applications. The Universities have to do greater collaborative research with other institutions so that their joint efforts deliver the expected results.

Universities and industries need to synergise their resources in specified areas such that both the Industries and the Universities can get greatly benefitted. The attitude of the industries that we can just borrow the technology and innovations needs to be dispensed with. High risk,

high gain research will encourage the scientists and faculty members to take up work in areas of significant interest either to the Government or to the Industry.

Innovations in Science and Technology are integral part of the long-term growth and dynamism of any nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi firmly believes that our future will be secure and our global leadership will sustain only when we produce the next generation of world class scientists, technologists and innovators. New technologies in the domain of advanced materials and nano-technology, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Virtual Reality, Augmented Virtual Reality, Quantum Computing, Bio-technology and pharmaceuticals and others will be the key drivers of growth.

Research Day in SRM-AP There is a dire need to emphasise the pride and prestige associated with research to make the students feel honoured and excited for their scientific pursuits. Thus, the Research Day is being organised in SRM University-AP every year to provide an opportunity for the students to showcase their burning aptitude for research. Also, the Research Day provides an opportunity for the students to get a comprehensive knowledge on the diverse research activities being carried out in the University.

The second edition of the Research Day was conducted on January 30 at SRM University – Andhra Pradesh. After a review and screening, 217 abstracts were accepted for presentation by the students, research scholars and faculty members. These papers were presented in a few parallel sessions. The best adjusted papers would be rewarded with gold and silver medals on Research Day.

(The author is Pro-Vice-Chancellor of SRM University-AP, Amaravati)

Heritage Foods reports ₹26-cr Q3 net

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

CITY-BASED Heritage Foods Ltd posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 26 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020, a steep upswing of 122 per cent from Rs 11.71 crore for the same third quarter a year ago.

During the quarter, its total revenues stood at Rs 604.92 crore, a fall of 10 per cent from Rs 672.42 crore it clocked in the same period a year ago.

The EBITDA was at Rs 77.92 crore as compared to Rs 34.12 crore for the third quarter of the previous fiscal, registering a growth of 128.37 per cent. The EBIT-DAMargin improved by 781 basis points to 12.88 per cent as against 5.07 per cent in previous year for the same period.

Brahmani Nara, Executive Director, Heritage Foods, said: "We are delighted to report good set of numbers during the quarter. We are excited to share that, we have further strengthened our valued added products basket by launching probiotic curd and Ashwagandha Milk loaded with ayurveda properties," she added. The total cash flows from sale of stake in Future Retail would be used to reduce the debt and further strengthen our marketing efforts, she added.



Brahmani Nara, ED,
Heritage Foods Ltd

Higher GDP growth rate will revive 'animal spirits': CEA

NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser KV Subramanian on Saturday said the country would witness revival of 'animal spirits' of private enterprises with the economy staging a 'V-shaped' 11 per cent growth in the next fiscal year beginning April.

The Economic Survey 2020-21 presented in Parliament on Friday expects the growth rate to rebound sharply from an estimated record contraction of 7.7 per cent in the current financial year on account of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I think next year with an 11 per cent growth rate, that is anticipated. Private sector moves in when they see opportunities," Subramanian said when asked about the revival of 'animal spirits' in private investment.

The expression 'animal spirits' was coined by celebrated economist John Maynard Keynes to refer to investors' confidence in taking action in terms of investment. Subramanian, the lead author of the Economic Survey, also made a case for strong counter-cyclical measures to encourage private investment.

Observing that there are business cycles in the economy and there are peaks and troughs, he said, when the economy is doing really well, private sector is also doing very well and it's time for the government to step back and consolidate its fiscal position.

"But when the economy is not doing well, it's in a trough, the private sector therefore is not doing very well, the void that is left on consumption, investment etc, the government moves in and fills that void," he said in an interview.

Most of the domestic companies have been shying

KV Subramanian makes a case for strong counter-cyclical measures to encourage private investment



away from making investments but rather busy in deleveraging their books for the past few years. As a result, the responsibility of capital formation has largely fallen on the government's and state-owned firms' shoulders. Even during the pandemic, PSUs have undertaken capital expenditure (capex).

To encourage fresh investment from the private sector, the government in September 2019 cut corporate tax to one of the lowest in the world. In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government slashed corporate tax rates up to 10 percentage points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year-low growth with a Rs 1.45-lakh crore tax break.

Base corporate tax for existing companies has been reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent; and from 25 per cent to 15 per cent for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2023. Emphasising the role of infrastructure spending in the economy, he said, these measures will reinvigorate demand in the economy. That is why the government is emphasising on capital expenditure, especially infrastructure, he said.

Demand revival essential for economy to take off

Budget should focus on direct benefit transfers, small businesses, health and education

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

This year's Budget is being presented in unusual times. A pandemic has engulfed the globe for the past year and caused untold havoc to the health of millions. In addition, it has created an economic downturn even worse than during the 2008 financial crisis. In this country, the positives right now are that the economy seems to be slowly getting back to normal while the rates of the Covid virus have gone down significantly. Besides, the vaccination drive is expected to cover a sizable amount of the population over the next six months. In this scenario, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman needs to present a Budget that will revive demand and growth while giving a helping hand to those at the bottom of the pyramid.

The stimulus measures announced last year had a focus largely on the monetary side with credit flows sought to be given a boost. It is now time, however, for a more direct approach to stimulate demand. This should be through direct cash transfers to the accounts of the poor who have been worst affected by the pandemic. It becomes even more imperative in the light of the latest Oxfam report that highlights growing global inequities as a result of the pandemic. The report said the wealth of Indian billionaires increased by 35 per cent during the lockdown. In contrast 12.2 crore people lost jobs, of which 75 per cent were in the informal sector. In this scenario, it is clear that direct benefit transfers are needed immediately to support the most vulnerable group including those who have fallen out of the jobs market.

Another critical area needing more attention is small and medium business. The package unveiled last year for this sector was simply not enough to rescue companies struggling from loss of income and having to cut the workforce to resume even curtailed



The outlay on health not only has to be stepped up sharply but the focus needs to be on improving basic facilities in small towns and rural areas

operations. The economic revival now being witnessed appears to be an impetus largely from bigger corporates. These had the resources to bear the stresses and restrictions due to the lockdown, unlike smaller entities. The services segment especially the hospitality sector including hotels and small restaurants also continues to be badly hit. This sector encompasses millions of small enterprises with a vast number of formal and informal workers. The entire small and medium business segment is estimated to employ 110 million workers but many have either closed down or reduced their work force. A natural consequence is that the CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) data is showing job losses at an all-time high in recent months despite the apparent economic recovery.

The package of measures for this sector announced last year was largely in terms of providing fresh credit to units which had taken loans. Small industry associations complained they continued to face bureaucratic hurdles in availing of the new facility while those in the tiny and micro segment had been left out altogether. The next sector that must be put on high priority is healthcare. The need to ensure better healthcare amenities for all has come to the fore during pandemic. It is now abundantly clear that the

health of the economy is linked to the health of the general public.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has exposed the shortfall in the country's healthcare infrastructure. Even in the big metros, it became difficult to find beds during the peak of the crisis. Luckily the Covid virus did not penetrate too far into rural areas as the state of the primary health care system in these areas is abysmal. This is despite the fact that India has a thriving pharmaceuticals industry and is even a major drugs exporter. The lack of infrastructure is largely due to the low spending on health which is only about 1.5 per cent of GDP as against 5 per cent for China and 7 to 8 per cent for European countries. The outlay on health not only has to be stepped up sharply but the focus needs to be on improving basic facilities in small towns and rural areas. And finally, the Budget must pay special attention to education. Here too spending as a percentage of GDP is only around

2.8 per cent. This is another area where many lacunas have been exposed during the pandemic.

The need for online learning has laid bare the fact that most children here do not have digital education facilities. In other words, India may be touted as a software superpower, but the majority of schoolchildren do not have access to mobile phones, televisions or laptops to help them through the learning process. The reliance on mid-day meals as a source of nutrition has also emerged starkly as many states found closing schools was affecting the health of children.

The forthcoming Budget thus needs to make a shift in its development targets. Health and education, in a break from the past, need to be accorded higher priority than ever before instead of being mentioned in passing in the annual financial exercise. Small business also needs to be given its rightful due in the light of its huge role in providing employment to the masses. And finally, it would be in the fitness of things if direct cash transfers are made to the poorest of the poor to compensate them for the hardships of the pandemic. The Finance Minister thus needs to take adopt an innovative approach to the Budget this year as the country is in unprecedented times owing to the bleak shadow of the Covid virus.

Failure a stepping stone to success

Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts



Viiveck Verma

THE world around us relentlessly celebrates success and deplores failure. Failure is seen as necessarily bad and is associated with all sorts of negative definitions. Under this convenient and superficial judgement, we overlook how failure is essential for genuine success. People may heedlessly promote narratives around success, but it is important to realise that success seldom provides a space to reflect, learn and grow. Failure, on the other hand, I can undoubtedly claim, holds enormous potential for learning, wisdom and resurgence, and can serve not only as an opportunity for reorientation but also, as a precondition for remarkable success.

In the Indian context, that some of us may be familiar with, particularly, failure is barely embraced. From a very young age, people are incessantly interrogated about grades, marks and accomplishments and it continues well into adulthood. Debacles lead to people being branded as unsuccessful and being relegated to the margins. Consequently, the fear of failure runs amok, and curbs innovation, experimenting and creativity. Such a culture around failure inevitably leads to curbing of individual potential and self-defeatism. Therefore, a cultural renegotiation is necessary that enables us to look at how failure can be dealt with in emancipatory and empowering ways.

To start thinking afresh, we must dismantle the binary that irrevocably declares success as good and failure as bad. Success is obviously a goal sought most commonly, but consistent success leads to complacency, arrogance and a lack of self-reflection. Success also is incredibly difficult to sustain and thus, a glamour-stricken perspective on life, while enjoying success, is inevitably myopic. Failure,



Debacles lead to people being branded as unsuccessful and being relegated to the margins. Consequently, the fear of failure runs amok, and curbs innovation, experimenting and creativity

despite how devastating it might be, holds dual possibilities - either, we can let failure, as a negative occurrence stagnate us, or, we can treat it as an opportunity to reinvent and a stepping stone to astounding destinations. It is thus, important to scrub negative connotations off failure and look at it with renewed optimism.

A 2019 *Forbes* article reports how in a study conducted by Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, that tracked works by scientists, researchers who failed to secure a research grant immediately (the failure group) were 6.1 per cent more likely to publish high-impact papers than the ones who did (the success group). This simple finding highlights how our conventional understanding of failure happens to be painfully superficial. Failure is not an absolute condition, or the end of the world, and has silver linings which can be utilized for resounding success.

A quote by Winston Churchill beautifully captures the nuances success and failure is marked by:

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

This is starkly true and worth considering in times where success is made into a compulsory marker of individual and social worth. Cursors look at the biographies of illustrious politicians, actors, scholars and several important figures are enough to reveal how their success stories were often preceded by long periods of struggle and strings of setbacks.

However, it is perseverance and learning which made, and in any context, makes all the difference. The question to ponder in this regard is how to make the most of a circumstance of failure and ensure a smooth movement to success.

The keywords here are learning and resilience. I firmly believe that no textbook can teach you what failure can teach you. From my experience, examining the question from a standpoint of entrepreneurship, I can assert that in entrepreneurial ecosystems, places that lead, such as Silicon Valley "celebrate failure". *RocketSpace* reports how Jeff Bezos, founder-CEO of Amazon, like many startup founders, made massive mistakes in the beginning, such as over-estimating demand for toys on Christmas, which

led to Amazon giving away 50 million toys due to space constraints. However, despite such setbacks, Amazon triumphed and its success story is unknown to none. Founders of LinkedIn and Canva, mentioned in the same article, undertook similar journeys, but initial failures did not bog them down.

Thus, failure is not bad but not learning from failure is. On a similar note, failure must be responded to with resilience, instead of despondence. It is taking failure in your stride and not giving up that determines how rewarding the future will be. To quote Robert T Kiyosaki in this context,

"Winners are not afraid of losing. But losers are. Failure is part of the process of success. People who avoid failure also avoid success."

Failure is essential to know what did not work. Therefore, the only sure-shot way to ensure a worthy success is to objectively look at a failed endeavour and take away knowledge which can fashion a success story out of it. There are no shortcuts or easy journeys to great accomplishment, and failures have to be seen as bristling with opportunity and potential for success rather than the opposite of it. We truly learn when failure pushes us to difficult but necessary realizations, and thus we cannot truly succeed if we have not failed.

Failure and success, thus, should not be looked at as mutually exclusive, as failure provides ample scope for fortitude and creating success in its wake. What we need is stoicism towards life, which offers both failures and successes. While we must remain humble and rooted when success comes to us, failures should be opportunities for introspection and learning.

It is a key to allow you the space to both succeed and to fail and not look at either as ends of the world. The point of human endeavour is to not limit our lives due to events but to keep on marching ahead, taking risks and leaving footprints behind.

Failure is part of this human trajectory, and must be embraced as a stairway that leads to remarkable possibilities and achievements.

(The author is founder, Upsurge Global, and Senior Advisor, Telangana State Innovation Cell)

QUIZ NO.
158

HANS BIZ QUIZ

UNION BUDGET 2021

1. Total Expenditure - (Revenue Receipts Recovery of Loans Other Receipts). Which component of the Union Budget do you arrive at?

- a) Current Account surplus
- b) Budget surplus
- c) Fiscal deficit
- d) Surplus capital account

2. Which head of the Union Budget do you get if we subtract the component "Grants in Aid for creation of capital assets" from "Revenue Deficit"?

- a) Net Revenue Deficit
- b) Gross Revenue Receipts
- c) Effective Revenue Deficit
- d) Non-debt Capital Receipts

3. Which tax component brings the second least share of the government's revenue after Customs duty?

- a) GST
- b) Corporate Tax
- c) Income Tax
- d) Excise Duty

4. On which day, RK Shanmukham Chetty presented the first Union budget of independent India?

- a) August 31, 1947
- b) September 26, 1947
- c) October 9, 1947
- d) November 26, 1947

5. Which Finance Minister's budget caused MNCs such as Coca Cola to pull out of India?

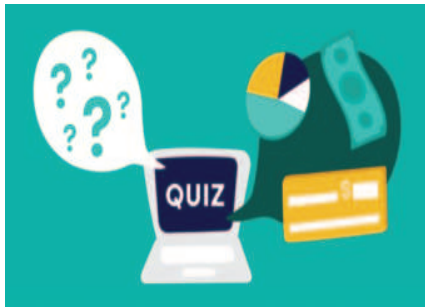
- a) Morarji Desai
- b) H M Patel
- c) R Venkataraman
- d) Charan Singh

6. Pranab Mukherjee was the first Rajya Sabha member to present the Union Budget. Which FM first prepared budget papers in Hindi as well?

- a) T T Krishnamachari
- b) John Mathai
- c) C D Deshmukh
- d) Madhu Dandavate

7. Rajiv Gandhi's budget introduced

The Hans Biz Quiz has been compiled by **Sunil Dhavala**, CEO, The Third Umpire Media. He had held senior management roles at Bertelsmann, NGC, Fox Broadcasting, Star TV and others. He is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade



Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT). Which FM's budget introduced MODVAT that allowed set-off of duty paid on raw materials against final products?

- a) Pranab Mukherjee
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Jaswanth Singh
- d) Sachindra Chaudhuri

8. Yashwant Sinha's budget introduced software exports and promoted India as a significant software hub. Which Finance Minister's budget introduced the concept of source-based taxation?

- a) C. Subramaniam
- b) Morarji Desai
- c) Charan Singh
- d) HM Patel

9. Chidambaram always quoted 'Thiruvalluvar,' a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher's poems in most of his budget speeches. Which is levied by the government with specific purposes until the government gets enough money for that purpose?

- a) Toll
- b) Surcharge
- c) Special assessment tax
- d) Cess

10. "We need touch policies or the country's economy's betterment," who said while quoting Shakespeare from his Hamlet - "I must be cruel only to be kind?"

- a) Pranab Mukherjee
- b) Rajiv Gandhi
- c) Indira Gandhi
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru

KEY

1C 2C 3D 4D 5B 6C 7B 8A 9D 10A

No Ranji Trophy this season, after 86 consecutive years



NEW DELHI

AFTER staging Ranji Trophy for 86 consecutive years since its inception in 1934-35, India's premier first class cricket national championship will not be held for the first time in 2020-21 domestic season. Interestingly, in a letter addressed to all its affiliated state associations dated January 29, the Indian cricket board is mum on not organising the Ranji Trophy this season. It merely says that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to conduct the Vijay Hazare Trophy 50-over tournament and Senior Women's One Day tournament after the completion of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tourney.

The president of a state association said that all the indications of the BCCI not being keen on staging the Ranji Trophy had been there for a long time.

"The writing on the wall was there since Day One, that the BCCI would not hold the Ranji Trophy this season. It is sad and unfortunate that the Ranji Trophy will not be played. It is a sad news and a sad day for Indian cricket followers," he told IANS.

"BCCI secretary Jay Shah's letter to the states doesn't mention the words 'Ranji Trophy' even once. But he spoke to the states on phone and said that the Ranji Trophy would not be held this season. It is, however, not there is black and white," he said referring to the letter.

In a smart move, and clearly to deflect the blame for not organising the Ranji Trophy from itself, the BCCI asked its affiliates to give their opinion of whether to hold the Ranji Trophy or the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The BCCI, however, has not made this 'poll' public, so no one knows how many of its affiliates wanted the Ranji Trophy to be organised.

"It was extremely important for us to ensure that women's cricket takes place and I am happy to inform you that we are going to conduct the senior women's one-day tourneys simultaneously with the Vijay Hazare Trophy and follow it up with the Vinoo Mankad U-19 Trophy. This has been decided after having received your feedback on the domestic season 2020-21," Jay Shah said in his letter.

Winners List					
Season	Winner	Runner-up	Season	Winner	Runner-up
1934-35	Bombay	Northern India	1977-78	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh
1935-36	Bombay	Madras	1978-79	Delhi	Karnataka
1936-37	Nawanagar	Bengal	1979-80	Delhi	Bombay
1937-38	Hyderabad	Nawanagar	1980-81	Bombay	Delhi
1938-39	Bengal	S Punjab	1981-82	Delhi	Karnataka
1939-40	Maharashtra	Utd Provinces	1982-83	Karnataka	Bombay
1940-41	Maharashtra	Madras	1983-84	Bombay	Delhi
1941-42	Bombay	Mysore	1984-85	Bombay	Delhi
1942-43	Baroda	Hyderabad	1985-86	Delhi	Haryana
1943-44	Western India	Bengal	1986-87	Hyderabad	Delhi
1944-45	Bombay	Holkar	1987-88	Tamil Nadu	Railways
1945-46	Holkar	Baroda	1988-89	Delhi	Bengal
1946-47	Baroda	Holkar	1989-90	Bengal	Delhi
1947-48	Holkar	Bombay	1990-91	Haryana	Bombay
1948-49	Bombay	Baroda	1991-92	Delhi	Tamil Nadu
1949-50	Baroda	Holkar	1992-93	Punjab	Maharashtra
1950-51	Holkar	Gujarat	1993-94	Bombay	Bengal
1951-52	Bombay	Holkar	1994-95	Bombay	Punjab
1952-53	Holkar	Bengal	1995-96	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
1953-54	Bombay	Holkar	1996-97	Mumbai	Delhi
1954-55	Madras	Holkar	1997-98	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh
1955-56	Bombay	Bengal	1998-99	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh
1956-57	Bombay	Services	1999-00	Mumbai	Hyderabad
1957-58	Baroda	Services	2000-01	Baroda	Railways
1958-59	Bombay	Bengal	2001-02	Railways	Baroda
1959-60	Bombay	Mysore	2002-03	Mumbai	Tamil Nadu
1960-61	Bombay	Rajasthan	2003-04	Mumbai	Tamil Nadu
1961-62	Bombay	Rajasthan	2004-05	Railways	Punjab
1962-63	Bombay	Rajasthan	2005-06	Uttar Pradesh	Bengal
1963-64	Bombay	Rajasthan	2006-07	Mumbai	Bengal
1964-65	Bombay	Hyderabad	2007-08	Delhi	Uttar Pradesh
1965-66	Bombay	Rajasthan	2008-09	Mumbai	Uttar Pradesh
1966-67	Bombay	Rajasthan	2009-10	Mumbai	Karnataka
1967-68	Bombay	Madras	2010-11	Rajasthan	Baroda
1968-69	Bombay	Bengal	2011-12	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
1969-70	Bombay	Rajasthan	2012-13	Mumbai	Saurashtra
1970-71	Bombay	Maharashtra	2013-14	Karnataka	Maharashtra
1971-72	Bombay	Bengal	2014-15	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
1972-73	Bombay	Tamil Nadu	2015-16	Mumbai	Saurashtra
1973-74	Karnataka	Rajasthan	2016-17	Gujarat	Mumbai
1974-75	Bombay	Karnataka	2017-18	Vidarbha	Delhi
1975-76	Bombay	Bihar	2018-19	Vidarbha	Saurashtra
1976-77	Bombay	Delhi	2019-20	Saurashtra	Bengal

"As you are aware, we have lost a lot of time and consequently, it has been difficult to plan the cricket calendar on account of the precautions that are necessary for the safe conduct of the games," he wrote.

Shah said that details of the tournaments, including dates and venues, would be communicated later. With the 2021 IPL set to begin in April, only a two-month window was available for the BCCI to conduct domestic tournaments.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your support. It has been heartening to see the outstanding quality of cricket on display during the course of the tournament and the coming of age of quite a few youngsters. We are keenly looking forward to an exciting final game," Shah said.

"The preparations for the England tour of India (Senior Men) which commences on the 5th February onwards, are in full swing and there is a lot of excitement around it after the historic tour of Australia where, as you are aware, the team had performed miraculously under extremely trying circumstances," he said.

The final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will be held between Tamil Nadu and Baroda on Sunday in Ahmedabad. The tournament started on January 10 and the group stages were conducted in bio-secure venues in Bengaluru, Kolkata, Vadodara, Indore, Mumbai, and Chennai. The knockout stages were held in Ahmedabad behind closed doors.

The tournament was the first to be conducted in the 2020-21 domestic season that had been truncated due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Shah in an earlier letter to state units had asked for their feedback on which tournaments need to be conducted after the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and a decision for the same was to be made by the BCCI after the group stage of the tournament. (IANS)

ment around it after the historic tour of Australia where, as you are aware, the team had performed miraculously under extremely trying circumstances," he said.

Hyderabad FC look to consolidate place in top 4 in face off against Chennaiyin

VASCO (GOA)

HYDERABAD FC are looking to cement their place in their top four while Chennaiyin stand a chance at getting closer to a playoff spot when the two teams face each other in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak Maidan on Sunday.

A win will help Hyderabad overtake FC Goa and get closer to ATK Mohun Bagan who play later that day. For Chennaiyin, three points is exactly what separates them and their opponents in the day's early kickoff.

Current form would favour Hyderabad who are on a six-match unbeaten run. But coach Manuel Marquez will be worried by the fact that four of those six games ended in draws despite Hyderabad arguably looking the better team. He believes the solution is simple -- his strikers need to take their chances more.

"The team needs to score [from] the chances, that is very clear. But the most important thing is to have these clear chances. I think that it's true that the team plays good football that is attractive to people. But in football, the most important thing is the final score," said Marquez.

A welcome return to form for striker Aridane Santana should help solve part of their problem. Santana had four shots on target in their last game and was instrumental in the comeback against Bengaluru FC.

For Chennaiyin, the match represents an opportunity to not just close the gap, but to make amends for a poor performance in the reverse fixture. "It's not just a game against a team that we are three points behind. We played really bad football against Hyderabad in the last game and we have to change

RESULT

Mumbai City FC lose to NorthEast United FC

1-2

this. Professional football is always about results.

Sometimes we have bad days but I don't want to see them lose without heart, without will, without spirit," said Chennaiyin manager Csaba Laszlo.

Like his opposite number, Laszlo will be hoping for an improved display upfront. Chennaiyin have struggled to score all season. Their tally for the season (11) is the lowest in the league. Their goal conversion rate of 6.01 percent is the lowest in the history of the league. Unless those numbers improve, it is hard to see Chennaiyin's play-off push getting off the ground. (IANS)

ISL STANDINGS												
CLUB	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS				
Mumbai City FC	14	9	3	2	20	7	13	30				
ATK Mohun Bagan	13	7	3	3	13	7	6	24				
FC Goa	14	5	6	3	19	14	5	21				
NorthEast United FC	14	5	6	3	19	18	1	21				
Hyderabad FC	14	4	7	3	18	16	2	19				
Chennaiyin FC	14	3	7	4	11	14	3	16				
Bengaluru FC	14	3	6	5	17	19	2	15				
Jamshedpur FC	14	3	6	5	13	17	4	15				
Kerala Blasters FC	14	3	6	5	17	22	5	15				
SC East Bengal	14	2	7	5	12	18	6	13				
Odisha FC	13	1	5	7	13	20	7	8				

TODAY'S MATCHES

Hyderabad FC vs Chennaiyin FC at Tilak Maidan Stadium 5pm

ATK Mohun Bagan vs Kerala Blasters FC at Fatorda Stadium 7.30pm

World Tour Finals: Tai to face Carolina in final

BANGKOK: Chinese Taipei world No.1 Tai Tzu Ying will face Spanish Olympic champion Carolina Marin in the women's singles final of the BWF World Tour Finals in Bangkok on Sunday.

Tai beat South Korea's An Se Young 21-18, 21-12 while Marin beat Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-13, 21-13 in their respective semi-final matches on Saturday.

Defending champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia cruised to the men's doubles final as they beat Korean pair Choi Solgyu and Seo Seung Jae in their semi-final match, 23-21, 21-13. They will face Chinese Taipei's Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin, who beat England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy 22-20, 21-17.

Lee and Wang had won the two Thailand Open tournaments this month.

The women's doubles final will be an all-Korean affair, with Lee So Hee-Shin Seung Chan and Kim So Yeong-Kong Hee Yeong. (IANS)

Bopanna ties up with Ben for Australian Open

MELBOURNE

INDIAN tennis star Rohan Bopanna's search to look for a partner for the men's doubles competition at the Australian Open ended on Saturday as he tied up with Japan's Ben McLachlan for the season's first Grand Slam.

Bopanna had originally paired with Joao Sousa but the Portuguese contracted coronavirus virus, forcing them to pull out. Bopanna, who served a 14-day hard quarantine after arriving in Melbourne on January 16,



informed that Ben and he were in the same boat.

"I got lucky there. Unfortunately Ben's partner Raven Klassen had to

pull out and Ben was looking for a partner, so we finally decided to commit and sign up together. I am looking forward to see how it goes. Definitely was not easy to find partners, happy to have found one," Bopanna told PTI.

Australian Open will begin on February 8 under strict COVID-19 protocols. Apart from Bopanna, India will have Divij Sharan in the men's doubles event while Sumit Nagal will compete in the men's singles on a wild card. Ankita Raina is waiting to find out if she gets 'lucky loser' spot in the women's singles. (PTI)

U-16,U-19 Juniors State Championships soon

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Cricket Association Under 16 and Under 19 Inter Districts State Championship leagues and knock outs are scheduled to begin in February. The knock outs will be held at LB Stadium.

All the concerned district's units are requested to coordinate and apply the below procedure of selections and organising the districts teams respectively. Age Group BCCI Format Rules will be applied to all players considered for selections.

Each district unit needs to publish in newspapers and local TV by official press statement and also provide proper selection facilities between February 2 to 5. All the Districts teams will be announced on or before February 6.

The selected teams can participate in the State Championship to be held from February 9 to 22. Top performers will be considered for the State Camp which will select the State teams from Feb 22 to 25.

U16 Venues Zone Wise:

South - Mahabubnagar; North - Adilabad/Nizamabad; East - Warangal; Central West - TKR.

U19 Venues Zone Wise:

South - Nagarkurnool/Achampet; East - Bhadrachalam; North - Adilabad/Nizamabad; Central West - Zaheerabad.

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