

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 17 JANUARY 2021

## WEATHER

Max: 30.02°C  
Min: 17.08°C  
RH: 58%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning.  
Max/Min temp. 30/18 °C

## WORLD | 5

**Laschet elected to lead Merkel's party**

## SPORTS | 7

**Kerala's Azharuddeen is new T20 hitman**

## TABLOID

**Family-held biz show resilience, flexibility**



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## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (+15,886)  
DEATHS (+202)

1,05,57,646 1,52,288

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+249) (+1)

TS: 2,91,367 1,575

(+114) (+0)

AP: 8,85,824 7,139

### CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,46,15,966

DEATHS 20,24,117

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219

worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana

Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Chavithi till 8.10 am

Star: Purvabhadra full day

Variyam: 12.58 pm to 2.40 pm

Durmuhurtam: 4.29 pm to 5.14 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Jamadi-ul-Akhir 3,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.46 am

Zohar: 12.36 pm

Asar: 4.27 pm

Maghrib: 6.08 pm

Isha: 7.19 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.59 AM

MOONSET TODAY 9.57 PM

## COUNTER POINT



My WhatsApp chats were leaked to my wife!

## SHORT TAKES

### ₹1,000 crore seed fund for startups

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the launch of ₹1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund' to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas. Addressing the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit', Modi exuded confidence that the growth of startups will help in generating jobs and improving lives of people in the region.

### WhatsApp delays privacy policy

**New Delhi:** WhatsApp has decided to delay the roll-out of its new policy update to May 15 after massive criticism from users globally, including India, over concerns that data was being shared with its parent company Facebook. The move assumes significance for users in India given that the country is among the biggest markets for WhatsApp with over 400 million users.

## INSIDE

**NATION... PAGE 4**  
'Pak pushing militants even during winter'

**WORLD... PAGE 5**  
UN's 1st step to elect next chief by Jan. 31

# Vaccine will give decisive win: PM

## Health minister Vardhan sees 'beginning of end' for Covid after nationwide vaccine launch

VINEETA PANDEY WITH inputs from agencies  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 16

India on Saturday launched the world's biggest vaccination drive in which about three crore healthcare and frontline workers, including security forces, will be the first to get vaccinated against the deadly Covid-19 virus which has infected over 1.05 crore people and claimed 1.52 lakh lives in nine months.

According to initial reports, over 1.91 lakh people were inoculated with Covaxin and Covishield vaccines at 3,351 session sites across India on Day 1. The Union health ministry said there were no cases of post-vaccination hospitalisation so far but reports said that in Maharashtra, where 14,000 people received the first dose of the vaccine, 14 people reported adverse effects. Officials and doctors are currently studying the cases and it is not known which vaccine they received.

Launching the world's biggest vaccination drive against novel coronavirus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that the vaccination campaign of this scale is unprecedented in the history of mankind while Union health minister termed it the "beginning of the end of COVID-19".

"World hasn't seen a vaccination drive of this level ever," Mr Modi said. He said that there are only three countries — India, USA and China — who have the population of more than 30 crore. "This scale of vaccination campaign has never been attempted in history and this shows India's capability," PM said.

"These vaccines will ensure a decisive victory for India against coronavirus," Modi said.

Expressing "tremendous relief, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "We have won the battles against polio and smallpox. Now we have reached the decisive phase of winning the war against coronavirus. This is the beginning of the end of Covid. Vaccine will be remembered like a Sanjeevani for clinching the victory over Covid."

Expressing gratitude to frontline Corona warriors, PM said they are getting priority as those "who need the vaccine the most will get it first." Frontline workers, were among the first people to get injected with the vaccine.

**■ Page 2: Junior health staff comes forward to get jab**



**THIS SCALE** of vaccination campaign has never been attempted in history and this shows India's capability.

**NARENDRA MODI,**  
Prime Minister

## DETERMINATION OF SELF-RELIANT INDIA, SAYS SHAH

**Bhadravathi (Karnataka), Jan. 16:** India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fought the most successful battle against coronavirus in the world, and with the beginning of the vaccination drive, the country has taken the fight against the pandemic to a final stage, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday. "The whole world for about a year has been fighting against Covid, many people have lost lives. This was probably one of the toughest fights that humanity has fought, using knowledge, innovations and mutual cooperation," Shah said. Speaking after laying the foundation stone of a new battalion campus of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) here, he said he was happy to state that India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership has fought the most successful battle against Covid-19 in the world. —PTI



S. Krishnamma, a woman frontline worker, gets the first Covid-19 vaccine in Telangana state at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad on Saturday, in the presence of Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana health minister Etala Rajender and Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

# Modi cites poet Gurajada to deny politicians early shot

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

Any vestigial hopes of elected representatives that they could cut the line and get the Covid-19 vaccination on priority effectively ended on Saturday, the first day of the nationwide vaccination drive that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched. Modi put paid to even the remotest of hopes that many political leaders harboured of breaking the queue, by declaring that the first priority was and

would be vaccinating healthcare workers who were the frontline defence against Covid-19.

For good measure, he quoted from *Desamunu Preminchumanna*, the famous Telugu playwright Gurajada Appa Rao's extremely popular poem, to drive home the message of the importance of putting the interests of others ahead of one's own.

Modi, during his nationally televised address, quoted the verse that goes: *Swantha laabhamu kontha manuko, poruguvaaani*

*ki thodupadavoi, desamantay matti kadoi, desamantay manushuloi*. Translating it for non-Telugu speaking audiences across the country, Modi said: *Yaani, hum doosron kay kaam aayen, yeh niswardh bhaav hamaaray bheetar rahna chahiya*.

This message was clearly heard very loudly by everyone, particularly in Telangana, a state which had requested the Centre to include elected representatives in the frontline workers category and vaccinate them on priority by

giving them the same importance as that of healthcare workers. At Gandhi Hospital where he launched the vaccination drive, health minister Etala Rajender, who had first broached the subject of elected representatives getting the vaccine first, during a video conference some days ago, said that following Modi's suggestion he had decided not to take the vaccine on Saturday as planned.

**■ Page 2: KTR: Politicians will honour PM's advice**

**■ Page 2: Health minister lauds health staff**

# Vaccine drive turns Bharat Bio 'Phase 3' trial

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

The administration of 55 lakh doses of Covaxin, the Bharat Biotech vaccine ordered by the Centre as part of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, could well mean that a massive government mandated trial is underway for the vaccine that is yet to officially complete its Phase III trials.

When its "emergency use" was approved by the government, it was done

under "clinical trial mode".

What this meant became evident on Saturday when those receiving the vaccine in several states according to media reports, were asked to sign a consent form agreeing to be part of such a clinical trial.

In the consent form, Bharat Biotech says the vaccine is being offered in a clinical trial mode and that in Phase I and II of the trials the vaccine demon-

strated ability to produce antibodies to Covid-19.

"However, the clinical efficacy is yet to be established and it is still being studied in phase 3 clinical trial," the form read.

Telangana state Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said that Covaxin was not used in the state on Saturday, and Serum Institute of India's Covishield was administered to frontline workers.

He had said on Friday

said that anyone receiving Covaxin will be monitored closely for seven days after vaccination.

When a reporter asked him if Covishield recipients too would be monitored like Covaxin recipients, he said as per the existing protocol, this was not required.

Elsewhere, managing director of Bharat Biotech International Ltd., Suchitra Ella tweeted: "Covaxin & Bharat Biotech is truly humbled &

honoured to be of service to the nation & the fraternity of all first responders of Covid who have served public health."

A PTI report from Delhi said health workers who got their first shots of Covaxin at AIIMS were made to sign the consent form that promised compensation in case of a "severe adverse event" related to the vaccine.

"The compensation for a serious adverse event will

be paid by sponsor (Bharat Biotech) if the SAE is proven to be causally related to the vaccine, the form read.

Authorities said in case of any adverse event, the affected person will be provided medically-recognised standard of care in the government-designated hospitals, according to PTI.

The recipients were given a factsheet and a form to report adverse effects within seven days.

## TURNING | POINT

### Union wants members who are not aligned with any political party

# Farmers seek new panel on laws

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC**  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 16

Two days ahead of the Supreme Court's hearing on the ongoing farmers' agitation, a farmers' union on Saturday urged the top court to withdraw the three members of the committee set up by it on January 12 to resolve the impasse over the three contentious farm laws and appoint members who are impartial, not aligned with any political party and have the trust and goodwill of the farmers.

The plea by Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lokshakti) also sought the presence of a former top court judge on the reconstituted committee.

The plea seeks the

removal of three members — Dr Parmod Kumar Joshi, Ashok Gulati, and Anil Ghanwat — in its reply to the Centre's application filed on January 11 seeking to stop the agitating farmers from taking out a tractor kisan rally at Delhi's Ramlila ground on Republic Day.

Bhupinder Singh Mann, national president of Bhartiya Kisan Union and All India Kisan Coordination Committee, has already recused himself from the committee stating that he cannot go against Punjab and its farmers agitating against the laws. The BKU (Lokshakti) is part of the Kisan Ekta Morcha heading 40 farmers unions holding protests at Delhi borders for over 50 days.

**● THE PLEA** seeks the removal of three members — Dr Parmod Kumar Joshi, Ashok Gulati, and Anil Ghanwat — in its reply to the Centre's application filed on January 11 seeking to stop the agitating farmers from taking out a tractor kisan rally at Delhi's Ramlila ground on Republic Day.

Seeking the removal of three members, BKU (Lokshakti) has said in its petition that all three of them have in no uncertain terms supported the three farm laws saying that they have opened up opportuni-

ties for the farming sector and must be implemented.

The court had on January 12 issued a notice on the Centre's application seeking to injunct the agitating farmers from taking out a rally on Republic Day.

BKU (Lokshakti) has sought dismissal of the Centre's application. Referring to the support to three farm laws by Dr Joshi, Mr Gulati and Mr Ghanwat, the reply filed by advocate A.P. Singh on behalf of BKU (Lokshakti) says that their presence on the committee is in the teeth of the two principles of natural justice — "Nemo iudex in causa sua" meaning that no one should be made a judge in his own cause, and "Audi

alteram partem" — the rule of fair hearing.

"It is important to mention here with great regret that the principle of natural justice is going to be violated by making these persons as members of the committee... How they will hear all farmers on equal parameters when they have already supported these laws," the petition said.

On Delhi Police seeking injunction against the farmers' proposed tractor rally, the reply says that the New Delhi district area where Republic Day parade takes place is already under prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC that bars the gathering of more than five people.

# Kurnool airport gets DGCA nod

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
KURNOOL, JAN. 16

The Director of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted licence to Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation (APDCL) to open Kurnool airport (Orvakal) for public use.

With this development, the last hurdle for commencement of commercial operations has been cleared, said an Airport Authority of India (AAI) official. Indigo Airlines has been selected as private operator under UDAAN-4 scheme and there are plans to operate flights to Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Bengaluru from February or March, a source said.

The airport is 350 km from Vijayawada and 360 km from Bengaluru. The nearest major international airport is Hyderabad, which is about 200 km away.

The Orvakal airport is spread over 970 acres and is at a distance of 20 km from Kurnool. It has four parking bays. The airport can operate the ATR-72/ Q-400 category of aircraft. For fire-fighting and rescue operations, the airport has two Rosenbauer airfield crash fire tenders (ACFTs) and an ambulance besides an Advanced Air Traffic Advisory System (AATAS).

**■ Page 2: Long lease to build hangar, infra**



## SHORT TAKES

## TS RECORDS 249 FRESH COVID-19 CASES, ONE DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

Telangana state registered 249 new Covid-19 cases and one more death from the disease on Friday taking the caseload to 2,91,367 and fatalities to 1,575.

As per the Covid-19 bulletin issued by the state health department on Saturday, 28,953 tests were conducted on Friday of which 25,962 were in government labs and 2,991 in private labs. While 417 persons were declared as recovered from the disease on Friday, the state had 4,273 active cases.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 54 cases, compared to 18 in Warangal Urban, 17 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 11 in Mancherial and 10 each in Karimnagar and Ranga Reddy districts.

## LONG LEASE TO BUILD HANGAR, INFRASTRUCTURE

From Page 1

The successful bidder will get a long-term lease for construction of hangar, building, facilities and other infrastructure.

Given the increase in air traffic at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports, the scope for running flight training operations at these airports is becoming difficult, and given the proximity of Orvakal to both these locations, the possibility of setting up these facilities at Kurnool is advantageous to all sides, aviation sources said.

## KTR: POLITICIANS WILL HONOUR PM'S ADVICE

From Page 1

At the Urban Primary Health Centre at Tilaknagar in the city, minister K.T. Rama Rao said that though, as political representatives, "We should have been the first to take the vaccine in order to give confidence to the people about the vaccines. But the Prime Minister said elected representatives and political leaders should take the vaccine later. We will honour his suggestion and we will take our vaccine along with everyone else. Whenever our names come up in the list, we will take (the vaccine)."

Incidentally, Puducherry had also made a request similar to that of Telangana state to the Prime Minister earlier.

## 9 FACE ADVERSE VACCINATION REACTIONS IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 16

On the first day of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, 19,108 healthcare workers were given the Covishield vaccine by 8.30 pm and nine cases of adverse events following immunisation were reported on Saturday.

State health authorities administered the vaccination in 332 session sites and covered 19,108 persons against the target of 31,570. They said the Centre had given them the target to administer the vaccine at 143 session sites to 14,300 persons and they had crossed it.

On the other hand, the health authorities reported cases of AEFI (adverse event following immunisation), one each at Vijayawada and Anantapur, two in Nellore and five in Kurnool.

In Anantapur government hospital, a woman health worker identified as Akhila developed giddiness soon after administration of the Covid-19 vaccine and started vomitings. She was immediately given medication and she recovered. The authorities admitted her in the hospital and kept her under observation as a precautionary measure.

In Nellore district, a woman nurse developed giddiness after administration of Covid-19 vaccine at the community health centre at Kota. At Kavali, a doctor developed giddiness after getting the vaccine at the area hospital. Both of them returned to normal after some time.

In Kurnool district, five healthcare workers in different cases developed nausea after getting the vaccine at a primary health centre at Nannuru all through the day.

In Vijayawada government hospital, a woman sanitation worker, Radha Krishna, developed giddiness and fainted soon after taking the vaccine.

## First volunteer took jab to set example

Was apprehensive of taking vaccine at first but was convinced by doctors, says Krishnamma

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

Over 3,500 frontline healthcare workers in government hospitals were administered the Covid-19 vaccine on Saturday. The vaccination campaign began simultaneously at various locations in the state where ministers and other public representatives were present.

Frontline workers who received the vaccine at different places in the state told *Deccan Chronicle* that they did not experience any side-effects after the vaccine.

Dr Ajitha, assistant professor of general surgery, Osmania General Hospital, who was among the first to be administered the vaccine, said, "I have not felt any side-effects or weakness since I got the vaccine. Even though there is a lack of confidence among people with regard to Indian vaccines, it is our duty as frontline workers to instill confidence among the public, so everyone is safe and healthy".

A doctor at the Government Chest Hospital said that she was relieved after taking the vaccine and that the facilities provided were well thought of.

"We were given the shot in a room set up for the vaccine administration, after which we were taken to an observation room where we were told to stay for some time to watch for side-effects or dizziness. Thankfully, all healthcare workers received the vaccine well," she said.

S. Krishnamma, a sanitation worker, became the first person in the state to be administered the vaccine. She took the vaccine at Gandhi Hospital amid cheers by those present, including Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy and health minister Etala Rajendar, at the Gandhi Hospital.

"I was a little apprehensive earlier, but my hospital superintendent assured me and so I decided to take the vaccine. Like myself, I know that a lot of people and even the staff here are scared. I can be an example for them to not be scared, and come forward," said Krishnamma. She also said she did not have any health complaints after taking the vaccine and appealed to all to receive the vaccine with courage in order to protect one's health.

The vaccination drive on Saturday took place at 144 centres in the state with 30 people each slated to receive the vaccine shot. The state government has invited the participation of public representatives in the programme to spread awareness among people.

● **A DOCTOR** at the Government Chest Hospital said that she was relieved after taking the vaccine and that the facilities provided were well thought of.

## Jr health staff comes forward to get jab first

From Page 1

The Prime Minister recalled with sensitivity and empathy, the initial feeling of helpless confusion among the people of the country when people could not attend to their near ones who got infected.

"This disease rendered the infected isolated and alone, when sick children were separated from their mothers and old parents were forced to battle the disease all alone in hospitals. Even the departed relatives who lost the fight could not be given proper send off. Such a memory saddens us even today... The frontline warriors brought hope in an environment of despondency and fear, and today, by vaccinating them first, the country is acknowl-



(Left) Blood pressure of doctors and other staff of Osmania General Hospital being monitored after the Covid vaccine was administered on Saturday. (Right) Doctors and other members wait for their turn for the Covid vaccine in King Koti hospital.



NIMS hospital staff takes a shot of Covid-19 vaccine on the first day, in Hyderabad on Saturday.



A doctor being administered Covid vaccine on the first day of vaccination drive at Chest hospital, in Hyderabad on Saturday.

## Health officials thank TS citizens

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

The health department on Saturday thanked the people of the state saying it was because of cooperation from everyone that the government could control Covid.

In Telangana state, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and health minister Etala Rajendar had guided the department and provided every possible assistance in the fight against Covid-19. Dr Srinivasa Rao thanked all the doctors, nurses, support staff and others for making the battle against Covid-19 possible.

Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao and Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy, addressing a press conference, said that from March 2 last year, when the first Covid-19 case was found

edging their contribution with gratitude," said a visibly emotional PM. He said India is guided by a human-centric approach in its vaccination campaign and cautioned people to keep their guard up and follow vaccine protocol.

In Delhi's AIIMS, sanitation worker Manish Kumar was the first to be administered the vaccine in the presence of Dr Harsh Vardhan and senior officials. AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria and NitiAayog member (health) Dr V.K. Paul were also given shots of Bharat Biotech made Covaxin.

SII's Adar Poonawala posted his video of taking the Oxford-AstraZeneca-SII vaccine Covishield. "It brings me great pride that Covishield is part of this

historic effort and to endorse it's safety and efficacy, I join our health workers in taking the vaccine myself," Mr Poonawala said.

However, fear and apprehension prevailed over the vaccines that are yet to prove their efficacy.

Manish Kumar, the first person in Delhi to get the vaccine shot, said: "Many of them (staff members) were scared. So, I went to my seniors and said I should be given the vaccine first."

I wanted to prove to my colleagues that there is no need to be scared... My wife even asked me not to take the vaccine. I told her it is just an injection. After taking the dose, I asked my mother to tell my wife that I am safe."

## 11 FACE MINOR JAB REACTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

There were only some extremely minor reactions to the Covid-19 vaccines administered in the state on Saturday, the first day of the vaccination drive, state health authorities said. Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said that of the 3,530 doses delivered to beneficiaries during the day, there were only reports of 11 instances of some redness or itching at the injection site on the arms.

The state has set up infrastructure to deal with any cases of adverse reaction but it wasn't needed on Saturday.

## Health minister lauds health staff

From Page 1

Speaking after the launch at Gandhi Hospital, health minister Rajendar said doctors, nurses, sanitation workers put their lives on the line every day to save the lives of those infected with Covid-19.

"The Prime Minister was overcome with emotion during his address to the nation on the occasion. These are the persons who should get the vaccine first," he said. All categories of people will be vaccinated as per protocol," he said and profusely complimented doctors and other medical staff for battling the disease over the past 10 months.

Addressing the media, Dr Srinivasa Rao, along with Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy, said the acceptance of the vaccination was 95 per cent on Day 1 which shows that the people



(Left) Blood pressure of doctors and other staff of Osmania General Hospital being monitored after the Covid vaccine was administered on Saturday. (Right) Doctors and other members wait for their turn for the Covid vaccine in King Koti hospital.

## NO VACCINE DRIVE TO BE HELD TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

There will be no Covid-19 vaccination drive on Sunday, state health authorities said on Saturday. The drive is scheduled to resume on Monday.

On Saturday, Day 1 of the drive, all the recipients of the vaccine had an experience similar to voting in an election, in that the index finger on the left hand was marked with indelible ink.

The authorities expected, on Sunday, to take stock of how Day 1 of the vaccination drive went, and make preparations for increasing the number of centres and beneficiaries at each centre, up from Saturday's 30 each at each centre.

## PVT HOSPITALS CAN VACCINATE STAFF IN COMING WEEKS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

Private hospitals should be able to begin vaccinating their staff in the next few weeks, Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said on Saturday.

For the general public, there will be clarity in the next couple of days or so as to when they can begin registering on the Co-WIN app for receiving the vaccination, he said.

"We have a total of 1,213 vaccination session centres in the public sector while 179 such centres will be at private hospitals. Once we receive more doses, vaccination at private hospitals will be rolled out," he said.

Private hospitals should understand that the delay is because of the graded and careful roll-out of the vaccination. "From Monday we will increase the number of centres, the number or people vaccinated each day and this will keep increasing as the days go by," he added.

## Owaisi inspects vaccination drive

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, the Hyderabad MP, and BJP Goshamahall legislator T. Raja Singh on Saturday separately visited the Osmania General Hospital and inspected the arrangements for the Covid-19 vaccination drive.

Owaisi oversaw the launch of the vaccination drive at the hospital. He also interacted with resident medical officers and doctors and requested them to conduct the vaccination drive smoothly.

Raja Singh also interact-

ed with doctors at the OGH. Speaking to the media later, he said the administration of Covid-19 vaccine was being held like a festival across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the entire country is under threat of Covid-19 and the vaccine would help the people combat the pandemic. He urged people not to worry about side-effects and come forward to take the vaccine.

He witnessed the administration of vaccines on the first day at ENT Hospital and District Hospital, King Koti as well.

## Covid jab proudest moment for our country: Governor

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

"Last year was like the year of pandemic, this New Year is like the year of protection," Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan declared on Saturday as she launched the vaccination drive at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in the city on Saturday.

Dr Tamilisai said that the launch of the vaccination drive was the proudest moment for the country. This, she said, was not mere vaccination but the country giving thanks to frontline warriors for

their selfless services since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. The Governor visited NIMS along with her husband, renowned nephrologist Dr P. Soundararajan. She presented flowers and appreciation letters to those who received the vaccines and thanked them for their service.

Dr Tamilisai urged journalists to take all precautions and adhere to preventive norms to be safe till they get complete vaccination, as they are among those in society striving hard to take the message to the people for their wellbeing.



IT minister K.T. Rama Rao is seen with doctors at the Tilaknagar Urban Primary Health Centre.

## Hyderabad is vaccine hub of the world: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN 16.

Municipal administration and urban development Minister K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday said the start of the vaccination programme marks the beginning of the end of Covid-19.

Speaking at the Tilaknagar Urban Primary Health Centre here, after witnessing the inoculation programme, Rama Rao said the start of the vaccination drive had ushered in a great deal of hope that humanity will survive the threat. It marks the start of the final chapter in the battle

● **THE START** of the vaccination drive had ushered in hope that humanity will survive the threat.

against the Coronavirus, he said.

Hyderabad, Rama Rao said, is the vaccine hub of the world and one of every three vaccines given anywhere in the world is manufactured in the city. This is a matter of great pride, he said.

Rama Rao was accompanied by district collector Sweta Mohanty, commissioner of Hyderabad police Anjani Kumar and MLA Muta Gopal.



## OTHER STORIES

## GWMC APPROVES SPORTS CLUB IN WARANGAL

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 16

With an estimated cost of ₹ 5 crore, a sports club has been approved by the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) council during the general body meeting on Saturday.

The club will be set up in division six will have shooting and other sports facilities on par with the international standards to encourage local talent towards sports.

As part of the meeting, the council has discussed 95 agenda items and 24 table items, of which, the council has approved 380 developmental works with a layout of Rs 155.11 crore.

Mayor Gunda Prakash Rao said developmental works worth around Rs 700 crore are in progress. He said the efforts to supply daily household drinking water from Ugadi are in full swing and the trial run would be conducted on February 25. He said that modernisation of filter beds at Desaipet, Bhadrakali and Wadepally will be taken up. Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar arrived at the meeting by bicycle, encouraging public representatives to lead the eco-friendly activities in the city. He asked all the members to come on bicycles to attend the next general body meeting. Speaking during the meeting, he stressed the need to construct two open auditoriums in the city.

Municipal Commissioner Pamela Satpathy urged the sanitation workers to influence the 9 lakh residents in the city in avoiding the use of plastics and disposing of garbage.

Parkal MLA Challa Dharma Reddy, Deputy Mayor Khaja Sirajuddin and corporators were present among others.



Mayor Gunda Prakash Rao tests a rifle that would be used at the sports complex to be set up soon in Warangal on Saturday.

— DC

## Vaccination begins on a bright note in Nizamabad

Ajay, a sanitation worker, is given the first dose of vaccination

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY,  
JAN. 16

All-round fanfare marked the commencement of Covid-19 vaccination programme across the undivided Nizamabad district on Saturday.

Elected representatives, political leaders and officials in large numbers took part in the programme at Government General Hospital (GGH) here. Ajay Kumar, a sanitation worker at GGH, was given the first dose of Covishield vaccination.

Minister for roads and buildings, V. Prashanth Reddy said that coordination between state and Union governments would help make a success of the programme. There is no need to fear the Covid-19 vaccine as it was intensively tested before getting an approval, he said.

Prashanth Reddy said that in the first phase of Part-A medical and health staff of government and private hospitals and ICDS staff will get the vaccination. In Part-B, police, revenue officials will get the vaccine, he explained. Around 23,000 frontline warriors will get the vaccine in Nizamabad district, he said.

Nizamabad urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta, MLCS D. Rajeshwar Rao



Minister V. Prashanth Reddy inaugurates Covid-19 vaccination programme at Government general hospital in Nizamabad on Saturday. MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta and MLCS D. Rajeshwar Rao and Akula Lalitha are also seen.

— DC

## 1,147 STAFF VACCINATED IN ADILABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JAN. 16

The first dose of Covid-19 vaccine was given to identified 1,147 front line warriors. Among them were doctors and medical staff and municipal sanitary staff in the erstwhile Adilabad district on Saturday.

The vaccine was administered at 11 centres in the erstwhile Adilabad district

and local MLAs. The minister took part in administering the first dose of covid vaccine to the front line warriors.

No side effects and complications have been noticed among the people who got the first dose.

Minister Allola Indrakar Reddy was present at the government hospital where the first dose was administered.

## BJYM stages protest for Modi picture

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 16

Unhappy with the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo from the banners set up at the vaccination centres, BJP leaders staged protests at several centres against the ruling TRS government in Warangal.

The banners contained the photos of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Health minister Etela Rajender, Panchayat Raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Tribal welfare minister Satyavathi Rathod.

BJP activists tore up the banners and questioned the rationale behind not putting up the prime min-



BJP leaders tearing Vaccination promoting banners set up by state government at MGM hospital in Warangal on Saturday.

— DC

ister's photo since he was responsible for providing the vaccine to all the people in the country free of cost. BJYM Warangal Urban district president Siddam Naresh Patel, who

staged a protest at the MGM hospital in Warangal, said the state government is not giving due credit to the central government providing the vaccine. "Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is giving a vaccine, which costs between ₹1000 to ₹1500, for free. The district collectors should have been well aware that the PM's photo should be displayed in the banners. The GWMC Commissioner too must answer why the photo was not displayed. We demand the setting up of the PM's photo in the banner throughout the vaccination process. We condemn such an attitude from the state government," he said.

Meanwhile, the vaccination process took place without any adverse events or side effects on those who were administered in the 21 centres in erstwhile Warangal.

## Cong SC cell slams KCR for not fulfilling promises

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JAN. 16

Leaders of Congress party SC Cell, on Saturday, heavily came down on the state government and Chief Minister K.Chandrasekhar Rao for failing to implement the promises made to the Dalits.

A large number of Dalits came from Adilabad district took part in the rally taken out in the town before they stage a dharna in front of the building of the SC Corporation.

The Congress party state SC Cell president Preetham and district president Lingampalli Chandraiah said the state government has failed to implement the distribu-



Nagarigari Preetham

tion of 2BHK apartments and three-acre land under Dalit Basti in the agency areas.

Dalit leaders demanded the state government announce a special package for the development and welfare of the Dalits living in agency areas instead of the distribution of three-acre lands.

Dalit leaders made it

clear that they are not against the Adivasis and their rights but many leaders are trying to create differences between these two communities living in harmony in the agency areas.

TPCC state general secretary Gandrath Sujatha and DCC in-charge president Sajid Khan and ZPTCs Charulatha, Ganesh Reddy and senior leaders Bharath Chowhan, and Munigela Narsing and others were present.

## GANGAPUTRA COMMUNITY LEADERS BURN TALASANI EFFIGY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JAN. 16

On Saturday, the Gangaputra community leaders alleged that Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav was creating differences between Gangaputra and Mudhiraj communities and burnt the Minister's effigy at Vinayak chowk.

The Gangaputra community leaders and activists took out a small procession to Vinayakchowk from their community building and raised slogans against Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

The leaders alleged that Ministers are creating differences between the two communities sanction of welfare schemes.

## RASTA ROKO IN NIZAMABAD

**Nizamabad:** Hundreds of Gangaputra (fishermen) staged a protest in Nizamabad on Saturday against minister Talasani Srinivas remarks against their community. Gangaputra sangam district and town committees took out a rally in the town and staged rastaroko at NTR crossroads. They displayed fishnets and their professional tools to mark their protest. Gangaputras said that stage government is trying to disturb their profession by encouraging others. The traffic police diverted the vehicular traffic during the protest.

## TWO KIDS DROWN IN JAMPANNA VAGU

**WARANGAL:** Two children drowned in the Jampanna vagu at the Medaram shrine in Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district, on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Mendu Jahnavi (10) and Hemanth (8), children of Mendu Sampath Reddy hailing from Reddygudem village, adjoining Medaram village. The children, pla-

ying near the bathing ghat, accidentally fell inside the stream. The villagers who saw the children crying for help ran to save them, but they had already drowned as they did not know how to swim. The villagers retrieved the dead bodies and informed the police. A case was registered, and the bodies were shifted to Mulugu area hospital.

## QUARREL OVER CELLPHONE, GIRL DIES BY SUICIDE

**NIRMAL:** A young girl has reportedly committed suicide by consuming pesticide after quarrelling with her brother over a cell phone in Eggaram village in Bhainsa mandal on Saturday. According to sources, Vasantha, 17, has reportedly asked her brother Satish who was playing with the cell phone to give her for some time for which brother rejected. She was disappointed over the issue and took the extreme step when she was alone in the house. The local police registered a case and investigating the incident.

MRF  
SALE OF

NEAR PRIME COMPOUND RUBBER (Hard &amp; Soft Grade)

MRF, a leading tyre manufacturing company is interested in sale of Near Prime Compound Rubber (Hard & Soft Grade) at its plant located at Ankenpally (Telangana). Interested parties may respond confirming their interest in participating in an E-Auction with in 7 days to:

Vice President - Materials  
**MRF LIMITED**  
114, Greams Road, Chennai - 600 008.  
Email: [santhoshkumar.r@mrfmail.com](mailto:santhoshkumar.r@mrfmail.com)

## Trackers live in fear as Tiger still remains elusive

PILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS I DC  
KOMARAM BHEEM  
ASIFABAD, JAN. 16

Not only villagers in the interiors but even some animal trackers are fearing a threat to their life from the tiger, after they were deployed in the deep forests to track the animal's movement over a 30-km radius between Bejjur and Penchikalpet mandals.

The animal trackers are getting confused as the tiger, which has already

killed two persons last year, is frequently changing its directions, which is not normal behaviour. One of them said he spotted a tiger sleeping just five metres away in the bushes while he was tracking its movement a week back. It woke up on sensing his presence and escaped before he could call for reinforcements.

They lament that although they carry traditional weapons like a long knife to clear the bushes and also for self-defence, they do not have sophisticated weapons despite the perils from the wild animals.

Another said they were under constant stress because the tiger could jump on them from any corner and any time, especially in the nights.

Each forest beat officer, along with six watchers or animal trackers, keeps track of the tiger's movement in the deep forests either in a vehicle or on foot.

Due to signal problems, talking to fellow-trackers on mobiles is ruled out and walkie-talkie sets cannot be given to everyone, said one. District forest officer Shantharam said that they will double the

installation of existing 120 trapping cameras to track the tiger movement and collect the data twice a day. He said a total of 150 forest staff is engaged in trapping operations.

He said they been instructed to go for sealing borders in order to restrict the tigers' movement inside Telangana territory because it would be difficult to catch the animal once it enters Maharashtra.

Made Madhukar from Papannapet village said that they wish that the animal is trapped soon so that they can leave a sigh of relief.

He said that forest officials are not allowing them to go to their own agriculture lands that are located close to Kandi Bheemanna temple forest area where tiger trapping operations are underway.



Animal trackers and watchers carry out drills at Tiger trapping operations site in the forests near Papannapet village in Bejjur mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Saturday.

— DC



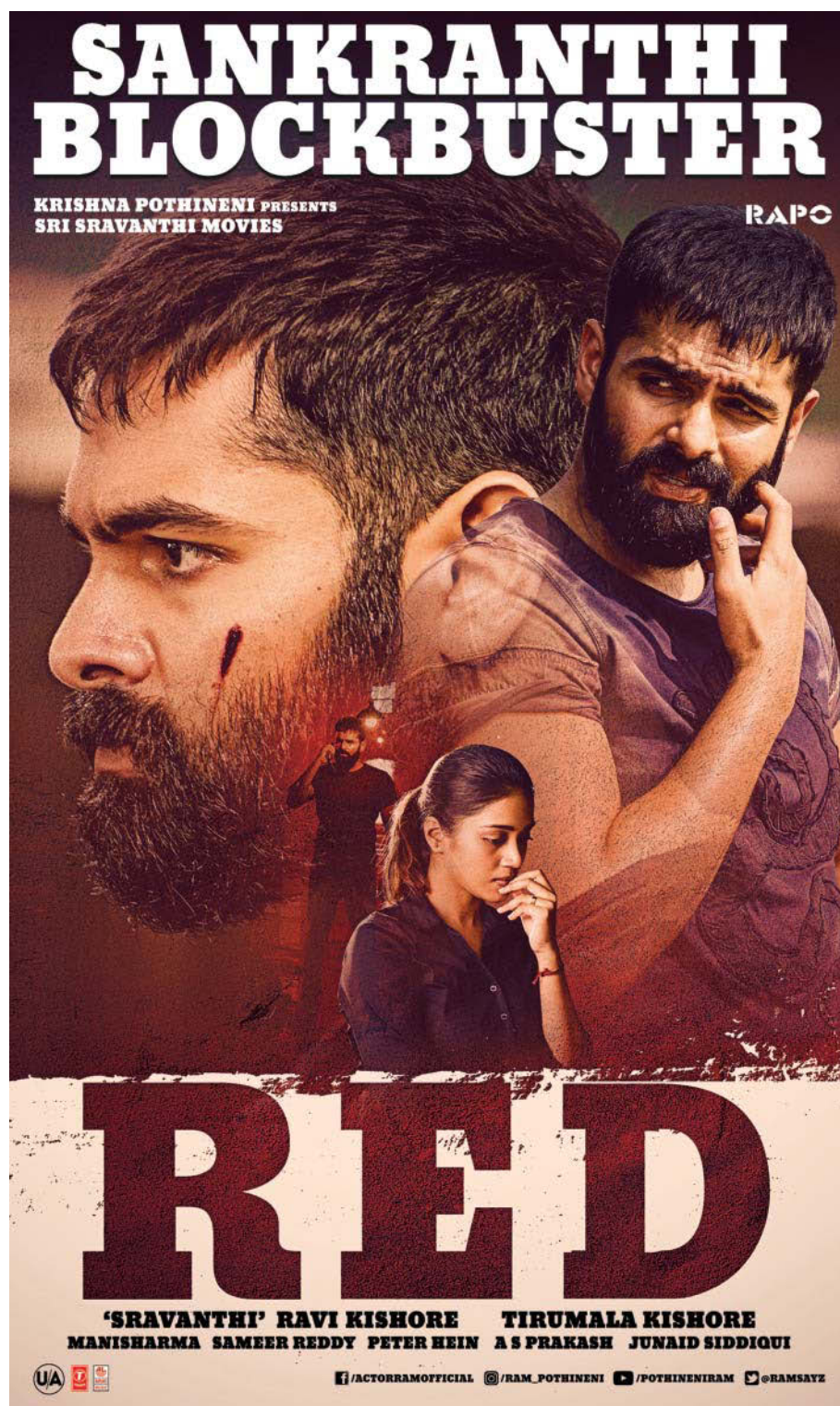
An animal tracker carries a traditional sickle type weapon and a torchlight.

— DC

Municipal Administration Department  
Mangalagiri Municipality  
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Roc.No:1187/2020/E1 Dt:12-01-2021  
Online Tenders are invited through e-Platform from the eligible contractors for following work.  
NIT No:40/UTO/2020-21 Estimate Cost : Rs.580.00 Lakhs  
No.of Works: 7 Works  
Name of the Work: Mangalagiri Municipality - Construction and Renovation of YSR Urban Health Clinic Buildings under Special Grant Funds.  
Download Starting Dt : 16-01-2021 11.00 A.M onwards  
Download Ending Dt : 01-02-2021 11.00 A.M  
Bid Submission Closing Dt : 01-02-2021 02.00 P.M  
Technical Bid Opening Dt : 01-02-2021 04.00 P.M onwards  
Price Bid Opening Dt : 02-02-2021 04.00 P.M onwards  
For other details please visit the website <https://apcprocurement.gov.in/> and any further information required on above subject may be obtained from the Municipal Engineer (Ph: 9849907303), Mangalagiri Municipality.  
(Sd/-) K.Hema Malini  
COMMISSIONER,  
MANGALAGIRI MUNICIPALITY

**ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
(Incorporated under the State Financial Corporation Act, LXIII of 1951)  
**MANCHERIAL BRANCH:** Plot No.414, Block No.4,  
Janma Bhoomi Nagar, Mancherial, Phone:08736 252567  
Head Office: 5-9-194, Chirag Ali Lane, P.B.No:165, Hyderabad - 500 001  
9866512501, 040 - 23201646, 23202550, 23202551, Fax : (040)-23202972  
e-mail [tsfc-gen@tsfc.in](mailto:tsfc-gen@tsfc.in) URL: [apscfc.com](http://apscfc.com)  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**  
Appendix IV under the Act - rule - 8(1)  
Whereas, the undersigned, as the Authorized Officer of the A.P. State Financial Corporation under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec.13(2) read with rule of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 21.10.2020 calling upon the borrower M/s BRK Industries, Represented by its proprietor Smt. Bhukya Latha, W/o Sri Bhukya Reddy Naik, Aged about 40 Years, R/o H.No. 1-194, Maruthi Nagar, Mancherial, Mancherial District and also owner of the property/sureties to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31.98 lakhs (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs and Ninety Eight Thousand only) as on 30.09.2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers/ surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/owners of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sec.13 (4) of the said Act read with rule-8 of the said rules on this 12th day of January 2021.  
The borrowers/surety of the property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Andhra Pradesh State Financial Corporation, Mancherial Branch for an amount of Rs.31.98 lakhs and interest thereon, costs etc.  
**Description of the Immovable Property**  
1) All that unit Land admeasuring 1352 Sq yards in Sy.No.147/10 as per Online Pahanli situated within the Limits of Mancherial, Mancherial, Adilabad District (Presently Mancherial District) belongs to Smt Bhukya Latha, W/o Sri Bhukya Reddy Naik, Aged about 40 Years, R/o H.No. 1-194, Maruthi Nagar, Mancherial, Mancherial District and bounded by : East : 40' Road, West : 30' Road, North : Naia and South : Plot No. 17 belongs to Sri Ramesh.  
2) All that Residential House bearing Nos. 1-194 & 1-195 admeasuring 215 Sq.yards in Sy.No. 278 situated at within the Limits of Mancherial, Mancherial, Adilabad District (Presently Mancherial District) belonging to Sri Bhukya Reddy Naik, S/o Sri Bhagya Naik, Aged about 48 years, R/o H.No. 1-194, Maruthi Nagar, Mancherial and bounded by : East : Open Plot belongs to Sri Narsaiah, West : Open Plot belongs to Sri Pochiah, North: H.No. 1-193 belongs to Sri Mallia Reddy and South : Road.  
Date: 12.01.2021. Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER  
Place: Mancherial. A.P. STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION





IN BRIEF

## BIHAR ROPES IN ‘BICYCLE GIRL’ AS AMBASSADOR

Patna, Jan. 16: The Bihar government has chosen ‘bicycle girl’ Jyoti Kumari, who had pedalled 1,200 km from Gurugram to Darbhanga taking her injured father on the rear carrier during the nationwide lockdown, as the Brand Ambassador for an anti-drug abuse programme, an official said.

The state government has selected the 15-year-old “real life hero” to sharpen its campaign against the use of narcotic drugs and intoxicants by youths, Dayanidhan Pandey, Director of Social Security Directorate said on Saturday.

“We could not have got any better choice than the girl who displayed exemplary courage to fight the adversity. Youths are falling prey to drugs and she will inspire them against the practice,” he said.

The official visited the girl’s village in Darbhanga on Friday to appoint her as the brand ambassador of the programme and also gave a cheque of ₹50,000 to her.

Kumari will be propagating the central government’s National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction for 2018-2025 in Bihar: The programme formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.

## BJP NAMES SHAHNAWAZ ITS MLC CANDIDATE

New Delhi/Patna, Jan. 16: Former Union minister and BJP’s national spokesperson Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain was named by the party on Saturday its MLC candidate from Bihar.

The announcement marks Hussain’s return to electoral politics, albeit to the state level, for the first time since 2014 when he lost the Lok Sabha election from Bhagalpur. He was not given ticket in the 2019 polls.

In the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, he had held the civil aviation portfolio among other charges.

The party also named six more candidates for the legislative council polls in Uttar Pradesh.

They are Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Govind Narayan Shukla, Salil Bishnoi, Ashwini Tyagi, Dharmveer Prajapati and Surendra Chaudhary.

Polling for 12 legislative council seats in Uttar Pradesh and two in Bihar will be held on January 28.

The win of BJP candidates in these seats is all but certain owing to the party’s strength in respective state assemblies.

Two MLC seats in Bihar have been vacated after the elections of former state minister Vinod Narayan Jha to the assembly from Benipatti seat in Madhubani district and of former deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi to Rajya Sabha.

## PLEA SEEKS FIR AGAINST MUNDE

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 16

A petition has been filed in Bombay High Court against the Maharashtra social justice minister and NCP leader Dhananjay Munde claiming he hid facts in affidavits before the election commission of India.

The petitioner has sought registration of an FIR against Mr Munde, who has been embroiled in controversy over allegations of rape of a woman.

In his petition, social activist and president of Rashtriya Bhrashtachar Virodhi Janshakti Hemant Patil sought an FIR should be registered under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code against Mr Munde alleging that Munde suppressed material facts pertaining to his family in the election affidavit submitted along with his nomination paper for 2019 State Assembly Election.

The petition claimed that the minister has hid information pertaining to his two children in an affidavit filed during the assembly elections. Therefore, it should be directed to file an FIR against Munde.

Mr. Patil has also claimed that in the affidavit in the year 2019, Mr Munde had mentioned that he has only two daughters. But he has hidden it from the Commission in an affidavit that he also has a son and a daughter from a live-in relationship partner.

## THERE SHOULD BE NO POLITICS OVER VACCINE, SAYS UDDHAV

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 16

Differences within the MVA government in Maharashtra came to fore over the Covid vaccination drive in the state. While state health minister Rajesh Tope said the Centre has provided inadequate supply of vaccines to Maharashtra, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said there should not be any politics over the vaccine.

Mr Thackeray kick-started the Covid vaccination drive at the BKC centre on Saturday. While speaking on the occasion, he allayed the talks of Maharashtra receiving step-motherly treatment from the Centre in the supply of Covid vaccine.

The quota of Covid vaccine has been fixed by the central health department, so it is not right to doubt their intention. Just as all people in Maharashtra are equal to me as a Chief Minister, it should be the same for the Prime Minister, he quipped.

Mr Thackeray expressed confidence that the supply of vaccines will increase after the rise in its production. The vaccines of couple of other companies are in the final stage. Once they are approved, the supply will increase, he added.

However, Mr Tope reiterated that Maharashtra has received less number of vaccines from the Centre. He said, “Maharashtra needs nearly 17.5 lakh doses of vaccines including the buffer stock. Of them, we have received only 9.72 lakh doses. It means the Centre has supplies only 55 per cent of stock.”

On the first day of the vaccination drive, 28,500 people were inoculated in Maharashtra.

In the state, the vaccine will be given on a priority basis with the first group having health care workers.

## NO. OF DOLPHINS IN CHILIKA LAKE INCREASES

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 16

Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon Chilika has emerged one of the best suitable places for rare Irrawaddy dolphins. The population of dolphins in the lake has increased to 156 in 2020 against 150 in 2019, Chilika Development Authority authorities informed on Saturday.

The increase in the number of the dolphins came to the light after the CDA recently conducted the annual survey on the biodiversity of the lagoon, which is the largest lake along the east-coast of India.

The CDA authorities said that the present distribution range of Irrawaddy dolphins is only in Asia, from Chilika to Indonesia.



A medic administers the first dose of Covishield vaccine to 87-year-old Dr. Asha Singhal, after the virtual launch of Covid-19 vaccination drive by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at South Mumbai Nair Hospital in Mumbai, on Saturday.

# Delhi docs say no to Bharat Biotech shot, want Covishield

## RML docs say Bharat Biotech vaccine is still undergoing stage III trials

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN 16

Dissent and controversies have started erupting with the first shot of the Covid-19 vaccines in India.

In Delhi, the resident doctors of government-run Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML), demanded they be administered Covishield (by Oxford-AstraZeneca-SII) and not the Covaxin (by Bharat Biotech)saying the Oxford vaccine has completed all three stages of trials as required under protocol while by the Bharat Biotech vaccine is undergoing stage-III trials.

Apart from India, Covishield has also got

emergency use authorization in the United Kingdom, Argentina and Mexico.

The union government, however, tried to underplay apprehensions saying a lot of work had gone into the development of both products and both vaccines are safe.

The Prime Minister asked people stay away from rumours and propaganda as these made-in-India vaccines have been approved for emergency use only after the scientists and experts were fully convinced about their safety and efficacy.

“Indian vaccine scientists, medical system, Indian process and institu-

tional mechanism in this regard is trusted globally and this trust is earned with a consistent track record,” the PM said as he pointed out that 60 per cent of children world over receive life-saving vaccines which are made-in-India and pass through stringent Indian scientific tests.

“We have come to know that the Covid vaccination drive is being conducted by the hospital today. Covaxin manufactured by Bharat Biotech is being preferred over Covishield manufactured by Serum Institute in our hospital. We would like to bring to your notice that the residents are a bit apprehen-

sive about the lack of complete trial in case of Covaxin and might not participate in huge numbers, thus, defeating the purpose of vaccination. We request you to vaccinate us with Covishield, which has completed all stages of the trial before its roll out,” the Residents Doctors’ Association of RML said in a letter to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, Dr AK Singh Rana, who himself took the Covaxin shot on Saturday.

At the RML hospital, a security guard was the first one to receive the shot.

Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari too raised

questions over the emergency use approval granted to Covaxin alleging it was done without due process.

“As vaccine roll out begins, it is all a bit puzzling. India has no policy framework for authorising emergency use. Yet, two vaccines have been approved for restricted use in emergency situation,” Mr Tewari tweeted. “COVAXIN is another story -- Approvals sans Due Process,” he added. (sic)

Covaxin was also used in AIIMS, Delhi where its Director Dr Randeep Guleria and NITI Aayog member (health) Dr VK Paul took the shots.

## BIRD FLU CONFIRMED IN 9 MAHA DISTRICTS

New Delhi, Jan. 16: The Centre on Saturday said bird flu in poultry has been confirmed in nine districts of Maharashtra, while culling operation in poultry is underway in one district each in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The viral disease has been confirmed in crow in Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, while in pigeon, brown fish owl and Heron in Delhi. However, the Centre requested state governments to “rethink” their decisions to impose ban sale of poultry products and allow sale of poultry items sourced from the non-infected areas/states. In India, bird flu is spread mainly by migratory birds coming into India during winter months. -PTI

# ‘Pak pushing militants even during winter’

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 16

Intelligence agencies have cautioned security forces that Pakistan was trying to push militants from across the border even during the winter season.

According to intelligence reports, China was providing winter clothing and other heavy duty equipment to Pak Army which in turn was giving the same to militant groups to facilitate their infiltration into India even during winter.

According to the intelligence report, “it was extremely surprising that militants were trying hard for infiltration during the winter season also. This is unusual since during the winter season due to the heavy snow it becomes very difficult to move through mountain passes. But it seems this time the militants are well-equipped in terms of high altitude clothing, good quality equipment like glasses and other snow gadgets which is suspected to have been provided by the Chinese Army to Pak security agencies.”

In view of the sustained operations launched by the Indian Army in the Kashmir Valley, militants are facing an acute shortage of both men and material.

With more than 250 militants killed last year terror outfit are in desperate need for further reinforcements.

Further due to harsh winter and heavy snow it becomes extremely difficult for security agencies to conduct patrolling in high altitude regions along the Indo-Pak border due to which more mili-

## MP: SECURITY GUARD FIRST TO GET VACCINE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 16

Hari Deb, a security guard of J P Hospital in Bhopal, on Saturday got the first shot of Covid-19 vaccine in Madhya Pradesh.

42-year-old old Deb was administered the vaccine in the J P Hospital Centre here immediately after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended his vaccine address.

Mr Deb was presented a bouquet by senior officials of the state health department on the occasion.

“I feel good. I feel elated that I have been chosen to get the first shot in the state”, Mr Deb told reporters.

Similarly, in Chhattisgarh, sanitary worker of Dr B R Ambedkar hospital in Raipur, Tulsi Tandi became the first recipient of Covid-19 vaccine in the state.

## ODISHA: DRIVE STARTS WITH CLASS 4 STAFF

DC CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 16

Biranchi Nayak, a 51-year-old Class 4 employee of Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar, received the first shot of Covid-19 vaccine. After Biranchi, the director of the Capital Hospital, Dr Laxmidhar Sahoo, was administered the vaccine.

Odisha’s Covid-19 vaccination drive was formally launched from Capital Hospital in the presence of senior officials of the state government.

“I’m feeling quite well now. I did not experience any adverse effects or uneasiness. This vaccine has given me newfound confidence to serve the patients coming to this hospital with more dedication,” said Biranchi.

# TWO J&K COPS RECEIVE AWARDS

Jammu, Jan. 16: Two policemen received ‘Jeevan Raksha Padak’ awards on Saturday for saving the lives of civilians during ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir in March 2018.

Selection Grade Constable Maqsood Ahmad in Poonch district police and Follower Zakir Hussain of sixth battalion J&K Armed Police (JKAP) were awarded ‘Jeevan Raksha Padak 2019’ by the Union Home Ministry last year.

Poonch Deputy Commissioner Rahul Yadav and Senior Superintendent of Police Ramesh Kumar Angral handed over the awards to the policemen in a function at Dak Bungalow, Poonch, the police official said. -PTI

tants close to the border areas are trying to infiltrate into India.

“It is clear that China is now assisting and supporting both Pak Army an ISI by providing them resources in terms of arms, ammunition and equipment which in turn are being supplied to the militants. But we are extremely cautious in the border areas and even our security personnel are well equipped to ensure that no one takes advantage of the harsh weather to infiltrate across the border,” a senior security official added.

## ANNUAL | EVENT

## The 51st edition of IFFI kickstarts, it will run till January 24

# IFFI not just govt’s responsibility: Centre

Panaji, Jan. 16: Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar on Saturday urged the film industry and other sectors to collaborate with the government in organising the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the annual film extravaganza, Javadekar said there is a requirement of active participation from non-government sectors in such events.

“Every year, IFFI is organised by the central government and Goa government. Why? There should be participation from the film industry and other industries as well.

“Just because it’s the government’s responsibility to ensure thriving atmosphere and promotion of arts and culture, doesn’t mean the government should do everything,” Javadekar said in his address.

He also extended an invitation to private players, hoping for their participation in the future editions of the festival.

The 51st edition of IFFI kickstarted here on Saturday after it was postponed in November 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will run till January 24. The ceremony was held at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium here.

The festival is being

● **SPEAKING AT THE opening ceremony of the annual film extravaganza, the I&B minister said that there is a requirement of active participation from non-government sectors in such events.**

organised in a “hybrid mode”, where delegates can participate and watch films and events virtually.

Javadekar said the hybrid edition, which will also have physical screenings, is a testimony to the festival’s ability to adapt to changing times.

“Films will be screened across seven theatres, but the online access will be

there for all the delegates. Newspaper circulation was affected due to Covid, but their digital engagement grew massively.

“So these are changing times of evolving technology which we are benefiting from,” he added.

Javadekar also announced that the Indian Personality of the Year Award will be conferred to veteran actor-filmmaker Biswajit Chatterjee.

The honour aims to celebrate film personalities for their exemplary contribution to cinema.

The 84-year-old actor, known for featuring in films like *Bees Saal Baad*, *Night In London* and *April Fool*, would be presented the award at the National



## SHORT TAKES

## UN'S 1ST STEP TO ELECT NEXT CHIEF BY JAN. 31

United Nations, Jan. 16: The UN General Assembly and Security Council are expected to take the first step toward electing the next head of the global organisation this month. Assembly President Volkan Bozkir said Friday that he and Tunisia's UN Ambassador Tarek Ladeb, the current council president, hope to send a letter before January 31 asking the UN's 193 member nations to submit any candidates to challenge Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The former Portuguese prime minister and UN refugee chief, whose five-year term at the helm of the United Nations ends on December 31, said in letters to Bozkir and Ladeb on Monday that he will seek a second term. The General Assembly elects the secretary-general on the recommendation of the 15-member Security Council where the five permanent members have veto power; so their support is crucial. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson immediately announced his support for Guterres, but there has been no word yet from The United States, Russia, China and France.

## PALESTINIAN POLLS: FIRST IN 15 YEARS

Gaza City, Jan. 16: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree Friday, setting parliamentary and presidential elections for later this year in what would be the first vote of its kind since 2006, when the Islamic militant group Hamas won a landslide victory.

Elections would pose a major risk for Abbas' Fatah party and also for Hamas as both faced protests in recent years over their inability to reconcile with one another, advance Palestinian aspirations for statehood or meet the basic needs of those in the territories they govern.

Fatah and Hamas have been publicly calling for elections for more than a decade but have never been able to mend their rift or agree on a process for holding them, and despite Friday's decree, it remained far from clear whether the voting would actually be held.

Elections could also complicate President-elect Joe Biden's plans to restore aid to the Palestinians and to revive the peace process with Israel. The 2006 election victory by Hamas, which is considered a terrorist group by Israel and Western countries, led to heavy international pressure being placed on the Palestinian Authority.

## LASCHET WILL LEAD MERKEL'S PARTY

Berlin, Jan. 16: Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right party on Saturday chose Armin Laschet, the pragmatic governor of Germany's most populous state, as its new leader — sending a signal of continuity months before an election in which voters will decide who becomes the new chancellor.

Laschet defeated Friedrich Merz, a conservative and one-time Merkel rival, at an online convention of the Christian Democratic Union. Laschet won 521 votes to Merz's 466; a third candidate, prominent lawmaker Norbert Röttgen, was eliminated in a first round of voting. Saturday's vote isn't the final word on who will run as the center-right candidate for chancellor in Germany's Sept. 26 election, but Laschet will either run for chancellor or will have a big say in who does. Merkel, who has been chancellor since 2005, announced in late 2018 that she wouldn't seek a fifth term. She also stepped down from the CDU leadership.

The decision ends an 11-month leadership limbo in Germany's strongest party after outgoing leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who had failed to impose her authority on the party, announced her resignation. A vote on her successor was delayed twice because of the coronavirus pandemic. There had been no clear favorite going into Saturday's convention, but the election of Merz would have marked at least a symbolic break with the Merkel era.

Laschet will have to work to strengthen party unity — something Kramp-Karrenbauer struggled with. Laschet, 59, was elected in 2017 as governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, a traditionally centre-left stronghold. He governs the region in a coalition with the pro-business Free Democrats.



A demonstrator holds a QAnon flag and a poster reading Freedom during a protest against virus restrictions at the Maria Theresien Platz in Vienna, on Saturday. — AFP

## Defamation suit: Nix Don

New York, Jan. 16: Justice Department lawyers asked a federal appeals court Friday to replace President Donald Trump with the United States as the defendant in a defamation lawsuit brought by a woman who says he raped her in the 1990s.

The lawyers filed papers in an appeal of a lower-court Manhattan judge's ruling denying the substitution in a lawsuit brought by E. Jean Carroll, a columnist who in a June 2019 book described her encounter with Trump at an upscale Manhattan department store. The book excerpt prompted Trump to deny the allegations and question Carroll's credibility and motivations in a statement from his White House press office, comments in an Oval Office interview and statements

to the media as he boarded a helicopter for Camp David, the lawyers said.

Carroll subsequently sued Trump, alleging defamation. They said the statements fell within the scope of his employment as president because Carroll was, in effect, questioning his fitness to hold public office and thus statement had to be made, even if they were later deemed to be defamatory.

If the substitution was allowed, US taxpayers would be responsible for any payout that might result in the litigation.

Carroll's attorney did not immediately comment on the government filing. Carroll has alleged that she and Trump recognized one another when they randomly spotted each other at the luxury store.

— AP

## Biden names PIO to WH post

Washington, Jan. 16: US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed Indian-American community and economic development expert Sameera Fazili to a key White House position. Fazili has been named as Deputy Director, National Economic Council at the White House, the Biden-Harris Transition announced on Friday.

The National Economic Council coordinates the economic policy making process and provide economic policy

advice to the US president. Fazili is currently the Economic Agency lead on the Biden-Harris Transition. She was earlier posted at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta where she served as the Director of Engagement for Community and Economic Development.

Fazili is the second Indian-American appointed to a key position in the incoming Biden administration.

— PTI

## PENCE CALLS HARRIS, OFFERS FULL CO-OPERATION

Washington, Jan. 16: Outgoing United States Vice President Mike Pence has called his soon-to-be successor Kamala Harris to congratulate her and offer his full co-operation in the transition of power, according to multiple media reports said.

However, there has been no communication between outgoing President

Donald Trump and president-elect Joe Biden, which is unprecedented in recent memory.

"Vice President Mike Pence telephoned Vice President-elect Kamala Harris Thursday to congratulate her and offer his belated assistance — filling a leadership role, said the reports.

— PTI

## After vaccine, 23 die in Norway, 10 in Germany

Probe finds fever, nausea, diarrhoea caused fatalities

London, Jan. 16: Norway has launched a probe after 23 elderly patients died following their immunization with the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine against Covid-19.

"It may be a coincidence, but we aren't sure," Steinar Madsen, medical director of the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NOMA), told the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

"There is no certain connection between these deaths and the vaccine."

Two Covid-19 vaccines, Comirnaty, from BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna, are being used in Norway.

The agency has investigated 13 of the deaths so far and concluded that common adverse reactions of mRNA vaccines, such as fever, nausea, and diarrhoea, may have contributed to fatal outcomes in some of the patients.

"There is a possibility that these common adverse reactions, that are not dangerous in fitter, younger patients and are not unusual with vaccines, may aggravate underlying disease in the elderly," Madsen was quoted as saying.

"We are now asking for doctors to continue with

## Travel corridors closed in the UK

London, Jan. 16: All travel corridors in place between the UK and some regions will be temporarily closed from Monday as part of efforts to curb the spread of the new deadly Coronavirus variants from countries such as Brazil and South America.

United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Friday evening that passengers coming to the UK from anywhere must now have proof of a mandatory pre-departure Covid-19 test taken at least 72 hours earlier and self-isolate for

at least 10 days on arrival. All passengers will continue to be required to fill in locator forms, with the fines in place for a breach in any of the lockdown conditions starting at 200 pounds.

"To protect us against the risk of as yet unidentified new strains, we will also temporarily close all travel corridors from 0400 hrs on Monday. Following conversations with the devolved administrations, we will act together so that this applies across the whole of the United Kingdom," said Johnson.

— PTI

the vaccination, but to carry out extra evaluation of very sick people whose underlying condition might be aggravated by it."

The Paul Ehrlich Institute in Germany is also investigating 10 deaths shortly after Covid-19 vaccination in that

country.

In a statement, Pfizer said: "Pfizer and BioNTech are aware of reported deaths following administration of BNT162b2. We are working with NOMA to gather all the relevant information."

"All reported deaths will

## CHINA COVERING UP COVID ORIGIN, CLAIMS POMPEO

Washington, Jan. 16: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo alleged Friday there were Coronavirus-like illnesses among staff at a Chinese virology institute in autumn 2019, casting further blame on Beijing as health experts arrived in the country to probe the deadly pandemic's origins.

The top US diplomat in a statement urged the World Health Organisation team that landed Thursday in Wuhan, where Covid-19 was first detected, to "press the government of China" on the "new information."

— AFP

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## NOTICE



## DECCAN Chronicle

17 JANUARY 2021



Ranjona Banerji

Off the beaten track

### How life got in the way of my one true calling

An autorickshaw driver in Jaipur a couple of years ago asked me, “Hope you don’t mind my asking but are you a writer?” A shop salesperson looked at my execrable handwriting and commented, “You must either be a writer or a doctor”.

So, clearly, something gives me away.

The problem is that I’m not THAT sort of a writer. Not the sort that everyone around me wants me to be. I’m not the sort of writer who spent the Pandemic lockdown carefully crafting my creative skills and honing my “talent” so I could write that exemplar novel, that series of high philosophy essays to understand humanity, that definitive book on the state of the nation.

Maybe I do want to be that writer. As an adolescent, like most others, I wrote those poems. Emotions crystallized in show-off nonsense from studying literature. The ones you really should find and burn before you burn so no unsuspecting young relative clearing your remains gets traumatised. I do confess then that I did have those dreams (have? had?), that so many have of being a “writer”. Of giving voice to that mandatory (what do you mean you don’t have one) book inside me. But is that really me, babe?

Okay I lie and exaggerate. I do have one book to my name. A definitive experience of researching and exploring India’s contemporary history, a labour of love for this country of ours and our journey as a nation. But that was in 1997. It was a co-authored and co-edited experience with Ayaz Memon, plus some 50 illustrious contributors. And today, it is out of print.

Also, at the turn of this century, I did sit down to write that novel. I made a space that was my own, surrounded by other people’s books. I rejigged my computer to give it more juice, I bought lots of A4 paper. Whatever the equivalent of lots of sharpened pencils in this digital age. Or as digital as it was then.

And I wrote, some 80,000 words. I greatly enjoyed myself. I laughed uproariously at my own jokes in case no one else would. I made up some characters and I based others on real-life people with I hoped enough tweaks just to make them unrecognisable. In some cases, I was quite happy to be vindictive assuming people I had forgotten to stay in touch with had also forgotten me. I did not follow all those publisher’s rules about flow charts and Autocad drawings to make an architectural model for my novel with as much work in the fake structure as in the real thing just to satisfy some management-brained “editor”. Did Jane Austen do that? Pah! Who on earth was anyone to tell me what to do?

Aah, arrogance. Because by then my characters got lives of their own and became uncooperative, as a well-known writer had warned me would happen. They just hared off in their own directions, far away from even my deliberately free-flowing structure. I contemplated murder of a few as my only option. I asked for advice from writer friends and writer critics and got plenty, both good and bad. The whole thing was on the verge when it was no longer fun...

And just then, life dropped a massive distraction into my life. Boy did I jump to it!

I still have the files, Manuscript 1, 2, 3 et cetera. I last looked through them 10 years ago. They seemed increasingly childish every time I took a re-look. Frankly, homicide of all the characters seemed like the only option. To spare myself the guilt, I did nothing. Which maybe is the same thing.

So that’s my career as a “writer”. I mean I am a writer. But not that kind of a writer. My admiration and respect for real writers has grown manifold. For their dedication and doggedness. For talent and their deep reserves. I salute them, the writers and their books, those I have read for ages, those I still do. Isn’t the human imagination fascinating? I read some. I review some. I collect some.

And then I stick to my type of writing. Short commentaries where 1,000 words seem like an imposition and 500 are about perfect. That’s me. The hack writer.

I take solace in this T.S. Eliot story.

“Don’t you think most critics are failed writers?” asked a fan-friend. Yes, said Eliot: “And so are most writers”.

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjona.

Subhani



### Why Akali Dal’s voice is missing in farmers’ stir



Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

It was on the day the farm bills were passed in the Lok Sabha that the Akali Dal’s Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union minister for food processing, announced her resignation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Cabinet in September 2020. She said her party was opposed to the bills, and that the government went ahead without heeding the protest of her party. But the Akali Dal then, and in the past three months since, did not state the specific reasons for their opposition to the farm legislation. The resignation of Ms Badal seemed to be an expression of despair rather than defiance. After leaving the government and the ruling National Democratic Alliance, neither the BJP nor the Akalis have attacked each other.

The BJP had attacked the Congress, and the Congress government of Amrinder Singh in Punjab, for opposing the farm laws as an act of hypocrisy. Home minister Amit Shah initially blamed the “Khalistanis” for fomenting the agitation, but later both Mr Shah and his party have refrained from targeting “Khalistanis” fearing the trouble it may unleash.

But television news channels supporting the Narendra Modi government have tried to build a counter-narrative that the Congress was using the “Khalistanis” to subvert the farmers’ agitation as it once did in the late 1970s and early 1980s to outflank the Akalis in Punjab’s politics. It is a line of argument that the Modi government and the BJP would still be wary of using because of the uncertain fallout and the stance of the Sikh diaspora’s political lead-

ership in places like Britain and Canada.

The information and broadcasting ministry had recently issued a 188-page booklet, enumerating the many things that Prime Minister Modi and his government have done for the Sikhs, indicating as it were that the government sees the ongoing agitation as that of Punjabi Sikhs and not as that of farmers per se. But it appears the Sikh outreach through the booklet did not evoke any positive response.

The Akalis, who have been the major political voice of the Sikhs, have not been in the forefront of the agitation now that they walked out of the government and the NDA on the very same issue. It is not clear what the equation is between the Akalis and the leaders of the farmers’ unions.

The farmers’ spokespersons told a Hindi television news channel that the farmers were not opposed to Mr Modi nor to the BJP, and that as a matter of fact they (farmers) had voted for the BJP. So, it has been made clear that if the Centre repeals the laws, the farmers will remain with the government.

It is this stand of the farmers that might be

**That even ostensibly farmers’ parties like the RLD and Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, and INLD and the Jannayak Janta Party in Haryana, can’t take the farmers for granted is evident in their unflattering electoral performance in the past few years**

**The Akalis, who have been the major political voice of the Sikhs, have not been in the forefront of the agitation now that they walked out of the government and the NDA. It is not clear what the equation is between the Akalis and the leaders of the farmers’ unions.**

holding the Akalis back from entering the fray and declaring their opposition to the Modi government. They may still be looking to return to the NDA and to the government once the stand-off between it and the farmers ends.

It is of course standard practice that political parties do not usually spearhead the agitation of a section of society though they would support it from the outside.

The farmers too need to keep political parties out to keep the legitimacy of their cause and avoid being accused of being pawns in the hands of the Opposition political parties.

It is indeed the case that both Akalis and the Congress in Punjab would like to support the farmers’ agitation and expect in return the vote of the farmers at election time.

If the impasse is over, and the Modi government manages to reach an agreement with the farmers, the Akalis might stand to gain. If, however, the impasse continues, there is the possibility that the Akalis might want to join hands with the Congress, as the Shiv Sena and the Congress did in Maharashtra, to oppose the BJP. At the moment, despite the silence and invisibility of the Akalis, there might be an active back channel between the Akalis and the BJP.

There is also the danger, as far as the Akalis are concerned, that if the BJP makes a peace deal

with the Punjab Sikh farmers, Mr Modi and Mr Shah, who are forever on the lookout to expand the BJP’s footprint, may absorb the Sikh constituency and the Akalis may be left high and dry. This was this strategy that backfired for the BJP in Maharashtra when it tried to undermine the Shiv Sena.

It looks like the farmers are confident that they can argue their own case, fight their own cause, and don’t need to depend on political parties. It is the parties who need to woo the farmers. That even ostensibly farmers’ parties like the Rashtriya Lok Dal and Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, and Indian National Lok Dal and the Jannayak Janta Party in Haryana, can’t take the farmers for granted is evident in their unflattering electoral performance in the past few years. It is then reasonable to infer that the BJP would want to carve out its own farmers’ constituency.

Akali Dal leaders have held on to their belief that they represent the Punjabi constituency, taking advantage of the Sikh identity of Punjab’s farmers. The Sikh element in Punjab’s politics simply cannot be wished away. The BJP, on its part, will have a problem in balancing its Hindutva politics with that of the Sikh minorityism of the Akalis.

The farmers themselves have kept the protest as a farmers’ issue, pure and simple. They kept the ideologies of all stripes at bay. They are pressing on the simple issue of seeking repeal of the three farm laws. Economic experts explain the protest as anti-rational. The farmers, however, believe that their demand is rational too. The Akalis’ obligation at this point is to argue the case of the farmers so that the entire country knows that the farmers are not being obtuse and obdurate.

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

#### LETTERS

##### VACCINATION

If politicians, ruling or in the Opposition, do not take the Covid-19 vaccine now, at least top ministers should come forward to pull up their sleeves for the shot. Otherwise, it will send the wrong signal to public. I request all ministers and politicians to take the vaccine first to assure the public that it is safe.

Krishna Kumar Tumuluru  
Hyderabad

After months of struggle we have got a vaccine against Covid. Even though we have to take precautions after vaccination, I thank scientists, doctors, police, sanitation workers who were on the frontlines during the pandemic.

R. Aswini  
Nagarjuna Sagar

Today as Indians we can be proud of the vaccine roll-out. We have to salute the tireless efforts of our scientists who made this possible. It is a golden day in the history of our pharmaceutical industry. We are also proud of Hyderabad’s Bharat Biotech for producing Covaxin.

D. Lakshmi Narayan  
Hyderabad

##### AP TEMPLE ATTACKS

The TD and BJP cadres who attacked temples in AP should be punished (*TD, BJP activists behind temple attacks: AP DGP, DC, Jan. 16*). They wanted to destabilise the YSRC government. TD supremo Naidu should clarify whether he will shield his party-men or not. He must expel them immediately and apologise. The BJP must follow suit. Let us leave religion-based politics. All citizens have an equal right to practice the religion of their choice.

Dr Polepaka  
Hyderabad

##### RAM TEMPLE FUNDS

The apex court which has directed the government to form a trust to construct the Ram temple in Ayodhya should take a note of how Sangh organisations are collect funds for the purpose (*President, CMs contribute for Ram Temple fund, DC, Jan. 16*). When the BJP government is promoting digital payments, why are RSS/VHP cadets seeking donations as if they are collecting “chanda” for Ganesh festival?

N. Nagarajan  
Secunderabad

Email your letters to [info@deccan-mall.com](mailto:info@deccan-mall.com), [editor@deccanmail.com](mailto:editor@deccanmail.com). You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### City to be airlinked with Nagarjunasagar

HYDERABAD, JANUARY. 16 Linking of Hyderabad with Nagarjunasagar and a service between Hyderabad and Aurangabad were accepted in principle by the Indian Airlines and Civil Aviation Department.

Disclosing this, the Minister for Tourism, Mrs. Roda Mistry, said the service between Hyderabad and Aurangabad, attracting vast tourist traffic, could materialise in six months. Lighting of Aurangabad airport to facilitate night landing around that town would be done by the Civil Aviation Department.

Mohan Guruswamy



### An important lesson from India’s history for PM Modi

The fortunes of India had irrevocably changed on May 29, 1658, when two Indian armies clashed on the dusty fields of Samugarh, near Agra. India’s history changed forever. Aurangzeb’s victory over his brother Dara Shikoh marked the beginning of Islamic bigotry in India that not only alienated the Hindus but also the much more moderate Sufis and Shias as well. Aurangzeb’s narrow Sunni beliefs were to make India the hotbed of Muslim fundamentalists, long before the Wahabis of Saudi Arabia sponsored the fanatics of the Taliban and the Islamic State. It was not only a battle for the very soul of India.

Aurangzeb’s victory here and other successful campaigns resulted in the creation of the greatest and biggest imperial India till then. But the seeds of India’s collapse were sowed.

In 1620, India had the world’s greatest national income, over a third of it, and was its greatest military power as well. It was the envy of Europe. The European traders came to seek Indian

goods for their markets. But no sooner was the iron hand of Aurangzeb no more that his imperial India began to disintegrate. The iron hand that ruled by dividing rather than uniting and that sought to impose a hierarchy by theological preferences gave rise to much discordance. But for Aurangzeb, Shivaji Bhonsle might have remained a minor western Indian feudatory? There are important lessons to be learnt from all this for those who rule and seek to rule India.

The weakening central rule and profit seeking peripheral kingdoms allowed European trading posts to be established. Weakening regimes led to the trading posts raising armed guards. Soon the overseas trading companies began warring each other and with so many minor states now free to make their destinies joining hands with one or the other it was the Europeans who got gradually got established. The Anglo-French wars of the Carnatic were fought by Indian armies beefed up by trading company levies. The East India Company of the British ultimately prevailed and the

French, Dutch, Portuguese and Danish got reduced to pockets.

A hundred years later, in 1757, the era of total foreign supremacy over India began when the East India Company’s troops drawn from South India and officered by English company executives defeated the army of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah at Plassey (Palashi) in Bengal, with the now usual mix of superior drilling, resolute leadership and a bit of treachery. At a crucial time, Mir Jaffar and his troops crossed over. India lay prostrate before Robert Clive.

Within a decade, on August 12, 1765, Clive obtained a firman from the then Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam, granting the dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha to the Company. A Muslim contemporary indignantly exclaims that so great a “transaction was done and finished in less time than would have been taken up in the sale of a jackass”. By this deed the Company became the real sovereign ruler of 30 million people, yielding a revenue of four million sterling. The John Company grew from strength to

strength, and by 1857 the Grand Mughal was reduced to his fort conducting poetry soirées. It was the golden age of Urdu poetry.

The events of 1857 led to the formal establishment of India as a directly ruled colony of the British empire. It was yet another epochal event. India changed, for the better and for the worse. Once again India absorbed from outsiders, as it absorbed from the Dravidians, Aryans, Greeks, Persians, Kushans, Afghans, Uzbeks and all those who came to seek their fortunes here. The British were the only ones who came to take away its vast wealth in a systematic manner. The wealth taken from India to a great extent financed the Industrial Revolution in England.

From then to another epochal year ending with seven took ninety years. In 1947, India became independent. Its GDP is now the world’s third biggest. In a few decades it could conceivably become its biggest. But have we learned any lessons from history?

Given its abject failures on the economic front, the BJP/RSS regime in

New Delhi is now pushing India towards a Hindutva nationhood, by seeking to victimise a minority for the perceived wrongs and slights of the past. An intolerant religion can never be the basis of nationhood and national unity in India. The legacy of Aurangzeb tells us that. Aurangzeb had created the greatest empire that India had seen since Ashoka the Great. But it didn’t take very long for it to dissipate. In the hundred years that followed, a foreign mercantile company gained control over all of India.

The BJP under Narendra Modi might keep gaining electoral dominion over all or most of India. But has he learned any lessons from history? Does he want to become the Hindu Aurangzeb? What is worrisome is that we know well that history is not Narendra Modi’s forte.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.



## SHORT TAKES

## Covid clouds over Oz Open

**Melbourne:** Three coronavirus cases have been detected among charter flights carrying tennis players, coaches and officials to Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open, health authorities and tournament organizers said on Saturday. A total of 47 players from the two affected flights arriving from Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi are now in a strictly enforced 14-day quarantine without the ability to leave their hotel rooms even to practice. The Australian Open is scheduled to start February 8. Health authorities said two positive Covid-19 cases emerged from a charter flight from Los Angeles and Tennis Australia said there was a third positive case from a flight from Abu Dhabi. The cases from Los Angeles involved an aircrew member and a passenger who was not a player. — AP

## Pandya brothers' father no more

**Vadodara:** India cricketers Hardik and Krunal Pandya lost their father Himanshu, who died on Saturday after suffering a heart attack. He was 71. "Krunal, who was leading Baroda in the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy, left the bio-bubble created for the tournament to be with his family," association secretary Ajit Lele said. Hardik is not playing the national T20 tournament as he is preparing for the white-ball series against England. He has also left Mumbai, where he was training, for Vadodara. Himanshu had played a key role in the success of his cricketer sons. India skipper Virat Kohli and legendary Sachin Tendulkar, led the cricketing fraternity in condoling Himanshu's demise. — PTI

## Lanka dig in after Root double ton

**Galle, Sri Lanka:** Joe Root completed his fourth double century for England on Saturday but insisted it will mean nothing if his side cannot overcome a defiant Sri Lanka in the first Test. The England captain made 228 of his team's 421 all out — 26 runs short of his brilliant 254 career best against Pakistan at Old Trafford in 2016. But Lahiru Thirimanne led Sri Lanka's stubborn resistance, hitting an unbeaten 75 while Kusal Perera made 62 as the home team reached 156-2 in their second innings. After their disappointing 135 in the first innings, they need another 130 to reach England's total. Root's 321 ball innings with a six and 18 fours dominated the day. — AFP

**Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 135 & 156/2 in 61 overs (Thirimanne 76\*, Perera 62) vs England 421 in 117.1 overs (Root 228, Lawrence 73).

## Adilabad to play Warangal for title

**Hyderabad:** Adilabad Rural and Warangal Urban entered the finals of the TCA Telangana North East Cup U-14 T20 cricket tournament. In the semifinals played at the Indira Priya Darshini Stadium in Adilabad, Adilabad Rural defeated Adilabad Urban by five wickets while Warangal Urban beat Warangal Rural by 67 runs. Sathwik Rathod hit 67 not out but in a losing cause for Adilabad Urban while Yuvaraj Singh's 4 for 27 turned the game for Warangal Urban.

**BRIEF SCORES**

- Adilabad Urban 169/2 in 20 overs (Sathwik Rathod 67 n.o., Hiranya Dokwi 31) lost to Adilabad Rural 170/5 in 15.5 overs (Anas Syed 48, Bhavesh 3/32)
- Warangal Urban 158/5 in 17 overs (Rithwik 60, P. Pradyum 37 n.o) bt Warangal Rural 91 in 16.2 overs (Yuvaraj Singh 4/27).

## Live on TV

## BADMINTON

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

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Sheffield United vs Tottenham Hotspur from 7.30 pm; **Liverpool vs Manchester United** from 10 pm; Manchester City vs Crystal Palace from 1.30 am (Monday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

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## OPENING WOES

Rohit, Shubman fail to give India strong start on Day Two

**Brisbane, Jan. 16:** Rohit Sharma's indiscreet shot selection pegged India back after rookie bowling attack restricted Australia to 369 on a rain-curtailed second day of the fourth Test on Saturday.

With heavy thunder-showers preventing any play in the post tea session, India ended the day at 62 for 2.

Rohit was elegant as ever in his 44 off 74 balls before Nathan Lyon in his 100th Test enticed him to come down the track but the half-chip-half-loft was safely pounced by Mitchell Starc in the deep.

India also lost Shubman Gill (7) who edged one off Pat Cummins to Steve Smith. Cheteshwar Pujara (8) and Ajinkya Rahane (2) added only two runs in the 6.1 overs before the break.

There were six boundaries from Rohit but he did not fiddle at deliveries in and around the off-stump channel even as Cummins and Josh Hazlewood bowled a testing spell under overcast conditions.

The shot of the session was an on-drive off Cummins which came after a streaky boundary through the slips in the same over. Another delightful stroke was an off-drive off Cameron Green as 49 runs were added for the second wicket.

There wasn't much swing on offer but the pace off the track has increased compared to the first day and it only helped that the Australian pace attack is a more well built one with average speed being at least 6-7 kmph more than their Indian counterparts.

Pujara, at the other end was playing his usual 'grinding out' game but it didn't look too arduous till Rohit kept the scoreboard ticking at the other end. It wouldn't be an over statement to say that among all top order batsman across both sides, Rohit looked the most comfortable and till his dismissal never looked like being troubled by the four-pronged attack. — PTI



Washington Sundar (centre) is congratulated by teammates after taking the wicket of Australia's Nathan Lyon on the second day of the fourth Test at the Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday.

— AP

## SCORECARD

**Australia first innings (overnight 274/5):** David Warner c Rohit Sharma b Mohammed Siraj 1, Marcus Harris c W. Sundar b Shardul Thakur 5, Marnus Labuschagne c R. Pant b T. Natarajan 108, Steven Smith c R. Sharma b W. Sundar 36, Matthew Wade c S. Thakur b T. Natarajan 45, Cameron Green b W. Sundar 47, Tim Paine c R. Sharma b S. Thakur 50, Pat Cummins lbw b S. Thakur 2, Mitchell Starc not out 20, Nathan Lyon b W. Sundar 24, Josh Hazlewood b T. Natarajan 11. Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-6, wd-5) 20. **Total (all out in 115.2 overs) 369.**

**FoW:** 1-4, 2-17, 3-87, 4-200, 5-213, 6-311, 7-313, 8-315, 9-354.

**Bowlers:** Mohammed Siraj 25-10-66-1, T. Natarajan 24.2-3-78-3, Shardul Thakur 24-6-93-3, Navdeep Saini 7.5-2-21-0, Washington Sundar 31-6-89-3, Rohit Sharma 0.1-0-1-0.

**India 1st innings:** Rohit Sharma c M. Starc b N. Lyon 44, Shubman Gill c Smith b Cummins 7, Cheteshwar Pujara batting 8, Ajinkya Rahane batting 2. Extras (nb-1) 1. **Total (For 2 wkts, in 26 overs) 62.**

**FoW:** 1-11, 2-60.

**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 3-1-8-0, Josh Hazlewood 8-4-11-0, Pat Cummins 6-1-22-1, Cameron Green 3-0-11-0, Nathan Lyon 6-2-10-1.

## Indian bowlers impress McDonald

**Brisbane, Jan. 16:** Australia's assistant coach Andrew McDonald on Saturday praised the highly inexperienced Indian bowling attack for the final Test and singled out Washington Sundar, saying the young off-spinner filled the shoes of Ravichandran Ashwin "quite well".

Hit by a barrage of injuries through the series, India picked debutants Washington (3/89) and medium pacer T. Natarajan (3/78) in the

playing eleven on Friday. The duo was travelling with the squad as net bowlers.

"I thought they (the Indian bowlers) were very consistent. I thought Washington Sundar in particular was disciplined and fill that role of Ravi Ashwin quite well and kept it tight and was able to take some key wickets on the way," McDonald said at the virtual post-day press conference after Day Two.

"So, for me I suppose, he

is a bowler who controlled well the tempo of the game and I think it stood out for me."

McDonald, who also coaches in the IPL, was also impressed by Natarajan.

"...Natarajan shaped the ball early, there is lot (to like) about him, left-arm swing bowler, no doubt he is inexperienced but has enough played first-class games to be play his first Test on this tour, (that) is a great achievement, so I think they held their

own," the 39-year-old said. The left-arm pacer had impressed in the limited overs leg of the tour after making the Indian team at the back of a stellar IPL. "They (Indian bowlers) applied pressure throughout the innings and they made (it) difficult for ourselves. Times when we felt we would get on the top, they were able to bounce back and get key wickets at crucial times. It was great arm-wrestle, so full credit to their attack." — PTI

## Sharath sets tune-up camp for paddlers

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

Achanta Sharath Kamal, World No-32, took an initiative for the benefit of a group of budding table tennis players to beat Corona pandemic blues. The nine-time national champion organised a 15-day camp in Chennai to maintain the rhythm of the players as doors are getting opened for national and international tournaments.

The camp, from January 3 to 18, is going on under the director supervision of Sharath and it is effectively supported by Rajath Kamal and also Muralidhara Rao (national coach) and Srinivasa Rao (Dronacharya

awardee), at the SDAT AKG academy in Chennai. Well-known fitness trainer Ramji Srinivasan too has been a great help for players.

Hyderabad's S. Fidel R. Snehit, current youth (U-21) national champion, Gujarat's Manav Thakkar (World No.1 in Youth), Manush Shah of Gujarat (India No.3 in the youth category) and Bengal's Arjun Ghosh (India No.6 in the men's section) and three budding players from Tamil Nadu got a chance to take part in the camp.

"As far as I remember, this is the first camp which was mentored by the current world top ranking Indian player for the benefit of the prospec-



Achanta Sharath Kamal (left), SFR Snehit (right) and other table tennis players pose after a session at the SDAT AKG-academy in Chennai.

tive champions. It is going really well," Achanta Srinivasa Rao said. "Following a national camp organised by the

TTFI in Sonapat in November-December last year, the players were eager to have another full-fledged session. The main

target of the camp is to help us get into a match mode keeping in mind that the National Championships are scheduled in February and Olympic qualifiers are in March in Qatar," Sharath said adding that the training sessions helped all the players improve their skill set, agility, strength and technique in preparation for the tough tournaments that are coming up on the circuit.

Snehit on his part was thrilled. "It is a wonderful camp. I thank Sharath anna for giving us an opportunity to spend time with him. He shared a lot of knowledge. Such mentoring plays a vital role in our progress. It is a memorable experience," he said.

## All eyes are on Kerala's Azhar

**Chennai, Jan. 16:** Kerala's Mohammed Azharuddeen wouldn't have set out on the arduous journey to emulate the Mohammed Azharuddin of Hyderabad, if not for a cricket-crazy elder brother and a die-hard fan of the former India captain.

From his name to his career option, everything to do with Azharuddeen was decided by Kamaruddeen. The journey continues, though.

While the first step towards fulfilling his family's dream was taken when he was chosen to represent Kerala in 2015, he shot into the national limelight recently with his 37-ball 100 in the domestic T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Mumbai.

"I have met him like twice or thrice. Once in my hometown and once in Hyderabad when we were there to play Ranji Trophy and he was the head coach of Hyderabad. I shared the story of how I was named after him with Mohd Azharuddin sir," Azharuddeen said.

"To be frank, like my elder brother, I did not follow Azharuddin sir. I have just watched a few videos of his on Youtube," the Kerala stumper added.

The 26-year-old from Thalangara in north Kerala's Kasaragod town, known for its love for cricket rather than football, said the blistering knock would have surely pleased his brother Kamaruddeen, who had changed his youngest brother's name from Ajmal to Azharuddeen after his birth.

Azharuddeen has seven brothers and all are big-time cricket fans. "My family is a cricket family. I have seven elder brothers. Everyone has played cricket. Obviously they follow the game when I play. Even if they don't watch, they used to follow the scorecard," he says.

About his memorable



Mohammed Azharuddeen

knock against Mumbai, which was the third fastest T20 ton by an Indian batsman, Azharuddeen said he had not made any special preparation prior to that.

The player's game was affected after he was dropped down in the batting order by former coach Dav Whatmore.

"I am an opener. After Dav Whatmore came as coach he made me a middle-order player. I came down the order due to team requirements. It was not a good slot for me. I just requested the coach (Tinu Yohannan) to allow me to bat in the right slot, which is opening.

"I like to hit straight. One of my strengths is hitting straight. I am good at hitting straight, against fast bowling and spin bowling. It was a true wicket (in the game against Mumbai) and I batted with confidence," he added.

Asked if he was looking forward to the IPL auction scheduled next month, Azharuddeen said he was not too worried about it. "I am in a good zone. I am not worried about the IPL auction or something. I am just concentrating on our fourth match against Andhra," he said.

When asked about his goals, Azharuddeen mentioned playing in the IPL and scoring hundreds in Ranji Trophy. — PTI

## Hyderabad lose 4th round to TN

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

Hyderabad lost to Tamil Nadu by seven wickets in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament fourth round match played in Kolkata on Saturday.

Electing to bat, Hyderabad made 152 for 7 in the stipulated overs thanks to useful knocks by B. Sandeep (41) and Sai Pragnay Reddy (30). However, Tamil Nadu rode on the brilliance of N. Jagdeeshan (78) and Dinesh Karthik (40 n.o) to finish the match with three balls to spare.

In another match, Assam pulled off an upset 13-run win over Bengal in a Elite Group 'B.' Bengal opted to field and saw the talented Riyan Parag (77) help Assam put up a fighting 157 for 5 in 20 overs. The visiting team restricted Bengal to 144 for 8.

In Vadodara, Baroda continued their winning run by claiming a 60-run victory over Maharashtra.

This is Baroda's fourth win on the trot in the league stage after having defeated Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in their first three outings.

Put in to bat, Baroda rode on stand-in skipper Kedar Devdhar's stroke-filled unbeaten 99 off 71 balls to post a competitive 158 for four. Medium pacer Atit Sheth (4/17) then wreaked havoc to scuttle out Maharashtra for a meagre 98 and give his team four full points. — PTI

## BRIEF SCORES

Hyderabad 152/7 in 20 overs (Sai Pragnay Reddy 30, B. Sandeep 41, B. Aparajith 2/22, Warrior 2/24, M. Ashwin 2/40) lost to Tamil Nadu 155/3 in 19.3 overs (N. Jagdeeshan 78, Dinesh Karthik 40 n.o). **Points:** Tamil Nadu 4, Hyderabad 0.

Baroda 158/4 in 20 overs (Kedar Devdhar 99 not out, 28; Taranjitsingh Dhillion 2/30) lost to Maharashtra 98 in 16.5 overs (Nausaad Shaikh 3/2; Atit Sheth 4/17, Ninad Rathwa 3/21).

## Board should look into India's alarming rate of injuries



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

What an extraordinary Test series this is turning out to be! After India lost the first match from a potentially winning position in a 'freak' hour's batting that saw them being bowled out for an abysmal 36, a white-wash by Australia looked the likely outcome, more so with Virat Kohli and Mohamed Shami (for different reasons) no longer available.

What's transpired since has been straight out of Ripley's Believe It Or Not. Shrugging off the trauma of the sensational col-

lapse at Adelaide, India went on to win the second Test in a remarkable turnaround. Perhaps even more amazing was the manner in which the third was saved, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant, Hanuma Vihari and Ravichandran Ashwin batting out the last day against all odds.

By the time the fourth match started, India's squad was severely depleted, resembling a battalion of the 'walking wounded' in a war zone.

Eight key players were out of commission, Kohli was on paternity leave.

Shami, and K.L. Rahul too were already back in India because of injury. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Vihari, Ravindra Jadeja and Umesh Yadav were still in Australia, but all *hors de combat*.

This made picking the playing XI excruciating easy at one level, excruciating at another: few players to choose from, yet how to assemble the best combination to fight the Aussies?

The batting, despite Kohli not being there, was not as badly dented as the bowling. Having rightly decided be on the attack rather than defend (difficult, given the players available), the big question was whether to play two spinners and three pacers, or four pacers and a spinner.

The history of matches at the Gabba, where fast

bowlers have been more successful, swung the mandate in favour of Thakur and Natarajan to join Siraj and Saini. For the spinner's slot, Washington Sundar was preferred over Kuldeep Yadav to shore up the batting.

This meant India's bowling attack had a collective experience of four Tests (Siraj 2, Saini 1, Thakur 1) and two debutants (Sundar and Natarajan) when they took the field at Brisbane! I can't think of a less experienced bowling attack since representing independent India.

India's performance so far at Brisbane has been admirable. The rookie bowling attack has handled the pressure well, shown fine skill and restricted Australia to 369. It's not a small score, but nowhere near 450 that Tim Paine was expecting after

choosing to bat first.

Had Rohit Sharma, after a sparkling 44, not been seduced into indiscretion by a delivery that Lyon held back cleverly seeing the batsman jump out of the crease, India would have been on equal terms with Australia going into the third day. Now Australia are a nudge ahead.

However, with Pujara and Rahane at the crease, Pant, Agarwal and Sundar to follow, there is quite a lot of batting to come. If India survive the first session without too much damage, this Test could be heading for a tantalising finish too.

Where grit, tenacity, commitment and character are concerned, India's performance in this tour has been outstanding. Nevertheless, the number of players that have been

injured is aalarming. It is abnormal, and in many ways have hurt the team's prospects.

Kohli's unavailability after the first Test was known in advance, as was Rohit's unavailability for the first two Tests. There is not much that could be done with Shami and Jadeja suffering fractures either. But what of the others?

Umesh and Vihari have done in their hamstrings, Bumrah has an abdominal strain, Ashwin a sore back, and Saini limped off the field on the first day at Brisbane with an ankle problem that may see him not take any further part in the match.

Remember, Ishant Sharma and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar, two seasoned fast bowlers, could not make the cut after getting similarly

injured during the IPL. What are the factors causing so many Indian players — compared to those from any other country — to suffer such injuries?

Is it work overload, training regimens that don't match individual physique, players not being attentive about their own fitness, poor assessment and treatment of niggles (by sports medicine experts attached to the Board) which then flare up into serious problems? Or are there other reasons?

This situation needs to be inquired into. The BCCI would do well to have a committee of experts study the issue and come out with a white paper on how to lick it. There are long term implications of the problem which must not be lost in the acclaim over the heroic performances in Australia.





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