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WINDOWS



A health official administers polio drops to a newborn baby, at a government hospital in Agartala on Sunday

Govt may announce new scheme for revival of discoms

NEW DELHI: The Union government may announce a new scheme for cash-strapped and loss-making electricity distribution utilities to reduce stress in the sector and achieve the goal of '24x7 Power for All', a source said. The Centre in November 2015 introduced the UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) scheme for the revival of the debt-laden discoms. Under the scheme, discoms were envisaged to turn around financially within three years from signing agreements under it. In September 2019, Power Minister R K Singh had said that the Ministry of Power was working on UDAY 2.0 scheme. There were expectations that the scheme would be announced in the General Budget for 2020-21. Though Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech last year had said that taking electricity to every household has been a major achievement but the distribution sector, particularly the discoms, were under financial stress.

DU to open for final yr students from today

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University announced on Sunday that it will allow final year students at all its colleges with 100 per cent staff strength from February 1. The decision was taken after a meeting with the heads of the departments of the university and principals of colleges. "Only final year students, in small batches, are allowed to visit their respective colleges, centres and departments for their laboratory, practicals, skill, library and related activities, as per the discretion of the respective principal, director or head in line with the UGC guidelines and SOPs," it said in a notification



Cinema halls to operate at full occupancy from today

NEW DELHI

IN a major relief to moviegoers as well as the production houses waiting for the complete reopening of cinema halls, the Central government allowed film theatres and multiplexes to open at full capacity from Monday. The order to allow cinema halls at full occupancy came days after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued new guidelines permitting theatres to operate at a higher capacity.

In regard of the new order, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has



also issued a fresh set of guidelines and standard operating protocols (SOPs) for cinema halls and theatres to prevent the further spread of the ongoing coronavirus.

As per the SOPs by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, no film will be screened in the cinema halls falling in the containment zone area. The guidelines

SpaceX targets April 20 to launch 4 astronauts to space station

WASHINGTON: SpaceX is targeting April 20 for the launch of the second crew rotation mission for NASA that will launch four astronauts aboard a Crew Dragon spacecraft on a Falcon 9 rocket to the International Space Station.

It will be the first mission to fly two international partner crew members as part of the agency's Commercial Crew Programme, NASA said in a blog post.

NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur will serve as spacecraft commander and pilot, respectively.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Akihiko Hoshide, and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Thomas Pesquet will join as mission specialists. The mission will lift off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The crew is scheduled for a long-duration stay aboard the orbiting laboratory, living and working as part of what is expected to be a seven-member crew.



demanding the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, for their "mishandling" of the farmers' tractor rally and the resultant violence in Delhi, and alleged Kejriwal was also responsible for the present "state of ruin" in Delhi. The resolution noted that "the Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, had forcefully protested against the anti-farmer laws inside and outside Parliament and backed the farmers' agitation demanding the repeal of the laws which will be ruinous to the farm sector in the country, as the laws were intended to benefit a few rich corporate friends of the Modi government."

Delhi Cong passes resolution to make Rahul as party chief

NEW DELHI

AHEAD of organisational polls in the party slated for May, the Delhi Congress has passed a resolution calling for Rahul Gandhi to be appointed party President. Delhi Congress chief Chowdhury Anil Kumar moved the resolution, to request Rahul Gandhi to take over as the President of the Congress at the earliest.

He said, "Considering the disturbed and dangerous political situation in the country, Congress needs a dynamic and powerful leader like Rahul Gandhi at the helm, to lead the party forcefully, to counter the communal, authoritarian and undemocratic forces, trying to take the country on the path of destruction."

The resolution said that Rahul Gandhi has been waging a determined battle to "expose the misdeeds" of the Modi government, and his leading from the front as the Congress President was an urgent need to boost the confidence and morale of the Congress workers.

The two other resolutions



UNION BUDGET

RURAL POOR, FARMERS' PROGRESS TOP PRIORITY

NEW DELHI: Amid the coronavirus pandemic when the pace of manufacturing and services sector came to a grinding halt, agriculture and allied sectors in India have picked up pace as the country saw the strength of the farm sector.

The Union government also took care of a large population of the country related to agriculture and farming and enacted new laws to intensify the winds of improvement in the agricultural sector.

The Budget 2021-22 is going to be presented in Parliament on Monday, amid wrangling over agricultural reform.

In such a situation, it is expected that the Modi government, which claims to give priority to the progress of villages, the poor and farmers, will also give priority to agriculture and rural development in the upcoming Budget.

COUNTRY SADDENED BY INSULT OF TRICOLOUR: PM

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the country was saddened by the 'insult' to the Tricolour on Republic Day, referring to the religious flag incident at the Red Fort during the farmers' tractor parade.

In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' broadcast, Modi maintained that his government is committed to "modernising" farming and has been taking many steps.

"The efforts of the government will also continue in future," he said, amid intense protests by a section of farmers from states like Punjab, Haryana and UP near the Delhi border against three farm laws enacted by his government.

While recounting several developments in January this year, including India's remarkable come-from-behind series win over Australia in the recent Test series, Modi made a brief reference to the farmers' tractor rally on Republic Day which witnessed incidents of violence.

"Amidst all this, the country was saddened by the insult to the Tricolour on January 26 in Delhi. We have to infuse times to come with new hope and novelty. Last year, we displayed exemplary patience and courage. This year too, we have to work hard to attain our resolves. We have to take our country forward at a faster pace," he said.



'Over 100 missing since Jan 26 tractor rally'

MORE than 100 persons have been reported missing since the tractor rally taken out in Delhi on the Republic Day, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha said on Sunday while expressing deep concern over the issue.

"We are now trying to compile information about these missing persons, after which the issue will be taken with authorities. A committee has been constituted which includes Prem Singh Bhangu, Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala, Av-

tar Singh, Kiranjit Singh Sekhon and Baljit Singh," the leaders of the conglomeration of more than 40 farmers' unions said at a press conference at Singhu on the Delhi-Haryana border.

The Morcha also issued a number to gather information about the missing persons, on which the caller can register the full name, address, phone number and any other contact number and since when the person is missing.

'Nab those who insulted Tricolour'

NEW DELHI: Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that the country is saddened after the Tricolour was insulted on Republic Day, Bharat Kisan Union (BKU) chief Rakesh Tikait said the whole country loves the national flag and the government should nab those who insulted it.



Scribes' arrest: Police action condemned

NEW DELHI

MEDIA bodies on Sunday condemned the police action against two journalists who were picked up during the farmers' protests at Delhi's Singhu border for allegedly misbehaving with police personnel.

They said such crackdowns impinge on the media's right to report freely and interferes with its right to freedom of expression. Freelance journalist Mandeep Punia and Dharmender Singh (with Online News India) were detained by Delhi Police last evening for allegedly misbehaving with personnel on duty. While Singh was later released, the police arrested Punia on Sunday. The Indian Women's Press Corps, Press Club of India and the Press Association demanded Punia's immediate release and said no journalist should be disturbed while carrying out their duties at any place. "Such crackdowns impinge on the media's right to report freely and interferes with our right to freedom of expression, and freedom of the press as guaranteed by the Constitution of India," the bodies said in a joint statement. They said Punia has been reporting on the present farmers' agi-



Mandeep Punia

tation right from the beginning and his arrest "is part of the government crackdown on journalists to prevent them from doing their job independently and freely." "Punia is a young freelance journalist who contributes to The Caravan and Junputh. The Delhi Police used brutal force while picking him up (on Saturday) and did not share his whereabouts to other media colleague entire night," the media bodies said. They said the copy of the FIR against Punia was issued only this morning. Four IPC sections -- 186 (voluntarily obstructing public servant in discharge of his duties), 353 (assaulting or using criminal force on a public servant in execution of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to a public servant in the discharge of his duty) and 34 (acts done in furtherance to common intention) have been pressed against him, they said. Police had earlier said they placed barricades at the border following the violence on Friday to ensure that no one could get through. However, some people including the journalist were trying to remove the barricades, the police had alleged, adding the scribe also misbehaved with the police personnel there.

'Tejas Mark II to roll out next year'

NEW DELHI

A more potent version of the indigenous Tejas multi-role combat jet featuring a much powerful engine, greater load-carrying capability and next-generation electronic warfare system is expected to be rolled out next year and its first high-speed trials will start in 2023, according to Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd R Madhavan. He said the structural package and related work on the Tejas Mark II, which will have an array of superior avionics, was progressing well, and the production of the high-performance jet is likely to start around 2025.

Madhavan said the upgraded version will have a bigger fuselage, longer range, better maintainability, greater load-carrying capability, much stronger engine power and superior net-centric warfare systems. With an increase in range and payload capability, Madhavan said the new variant will be much superior to the Tejas Mark-1A, 73 of which are being procured by the Indian Air Force from the HAL under a Rs 48,000-crore deal that was approved by the government on January 13. "Tejas Mark II is likely to roll out by August-September of 2022. After that, the first flight will take some time. The first high-speed trial of the jet will start in 2023 and we expect the production to start somewhere around 2025," Madhavan told



PTI. Asked about the weapon package for Tejas Mark II, the chief of the state-run aerospace giant did not give a direct reply and said it will be decided at a later stage depending on the requirement and changing dynamics. Tejas is a single-engine and highly agile multi-role supersonic fighter capable of operating in high-threat air environments. The aircraft, manufactured by the HAL, is a potent platform for air combat and offensive air support with reconnaissance and anti-ship operations as its secondary roles. The Tejas Mk-1A will be equipped with an active electronically scanned array radar, beyond visual range missile, electronic warfare suite and air-

to-air refuelling system. On the next generation advanced multi-role combat aircraft (AMCA) project, the HAL chairman said the aim is to implement the project under the framework of a special purpose vehicle (SPV), also involving private sector players. India is working on the fifth-generation medium weight deep penetration fighter jet and the project is estimated to cost around USD 5 billion. Madhavan said the aircraft prototype is likely to be ready by 2026 and its production could start by 2030. He added that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is working on the project timeline.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



MADHURI DIXIT NENE
@MADHURIDIXIT

More power to @IndWomenRising a cinema collective supporting women creators & filmmakers... #Bittu by #KarishmaDevDube is a brilliant short film & after winning student Oscars, it's now in the running for the Oscars. Congrats & my best wishes to the team for this great feat



Andhra octogenarian who weaves sarees with paddy straw

SHARON THAMBALA

An octogenarian from Veerannapalem village in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district has mastered the art of weaving sarees from paddy straw.

"I use normal paddy straw to weave a saree. One saree takes nearly a year and half to produce," Movva Krishnamurthy told.

Originally hailing from Komarinenivariapalem village, the youngest in a family of five, Krishnamurthy studied only till standard 5 and dropped out from school to help the family in farming as they owned 20 cattle.

As part of their farming work, he came across ropes of various kinds that were deftly made by them, using gogunara, janapanara and others (plant straw materials).

Sometime around 1959, when Krishnamurthy was a teenager, two veterinarian doctors, Uma Maheshwar Rao and Ramachandra Reddy, visited his village and told him about competitions at a cattle show being organised by the state government in Veerannapalem.

"When they said that the competi-

tions will have attractive prizes, I asked them if they would reward any workmanship by hand? They said they hadn't thought on those lines but if he produces something impressive, the judges may give him some reward," said Krishnamurthy.

By then, the teenager had already gained a reputation for making excellent ropes using gogunara and janapanara and went ahead weaving two towels with paddy straw.

I use normal paddy straw to weave a saree. One saree takes nearly a year and half to produce

—Movva Krishnamurthy

Impressed by the paddy towels, the judges rewarded him with a prize and encouraged him to make farming tools or articles to compete in a state government animal husbandry event in Guntur.

Using metal, wood, coconut leaves, paddy straw and others, he made some farming tools and went to Guntur. Krishnamurthy's creations competed with another man's



tools and implements from Tenali.

Finally, the Tenali challenger's towels weaved out of janapanara won the top prize while Krishnamurthy settled for the second spot.



"After that competition, I decided I would make better weaves and settle with paddy straw as the material. From then on, I used to showcase my paddy weaves at many competi-

tions and won several top prizes," he said.

Krishnamurthy reminisced that he received an award from former chief minister N. T. Rama Rao in 1986 in the category of handicrafts.

Later, an organiser advised the farmer to make bigger weaves. Around 2005, Krishnamurthy thought bigger and weaved a full length saree, which earned him an award.

Krishnamurthy diversified into weaving a blouse and also a handbag and went on to win accolades at Bapatla agricultural college as well.

The farmer said his creations were also exhibited at Delhi and taken to the United States to be displayed at a museum.

"Not only useful for exhibitions, my sarees can also be worn," he says, clarifying that they would not be rough on the skin. He said Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and saree aficionado Nannapaneni Rajakumari wore his paddy saree once.

However, he said the paddy saree has to be dried in the shade after rinsing, adding that one his sarees was made more than 10 years ago. "The farming tools and imple-

ments which I crafted have completed 60 years," said Krishnamurthy, even as he gives away some of them for exhibitions.

Currently, Krishnamurthy is busy weaving a paddy saree, blouse and a handbag for an image made out of rubber to be displayed at an upscale showroom.

Though it only costs around Rs 100 to make a saree, which requires some thread to secure the edges and straw is freely available at the haystack, patiently sitting for hours together to carefully shred the choicest fibre from the straw is the major challenge.

"Two gentlemen, one from Eluru and another from Krishna, came to me to learn the craft but gave up once they saw the drudgery of shredding the straw with a blade as only a small portion of the straw will be useful," he added.

Krishnamurthy was also approached by some educational institutions to teach the craft but ultimately nobody turned up.

Even his children and grandchildren did not show interest in this unique craft as they went ahead to pursue other professions.

LATEST HAIR TRENDS

Who doesn't enjoy a good hair day or what about a good hair year? Sometimes all you need is a little inspiration when it comes to your hair. After an apocalyptic 2020 we all are seeking for ray of hope. Last year was full of political unrest to record unemployment, unprecedented natural disasters and of course COVID-19. We are all hoping that 2021 offers a much-needed respite from the chaos. And after spending countless months stressing out over it all in quarantine, 2021 promises some interesting new beauty looks and some better than others too.

Shades apart

Life is too short for boring hairs so show off! Showing off of your iconic shades is the recent trend which many loves to experiment. It gives you bold look and the courage to have new things with firm approach.

Mullet haircuts

Your mood depends on how good my hair looks! We all will agree with this. To uplift your mood and look mullet is a perfect mood maker. The mullet is a statement. Women are finally ready with experiment with their hair, the New Year is a time for radical change, and we are here for it.

Wild wispy bangs

Curls run the world. If you are a curly haired person, then wild wispy bangs is best for you. Curls love a bunch of layering to add to their natural bounce, and wispy bangs refresh absolutely any haircut or length.



Blunt collarbone cut

One makes hair contact before eye contact. So, lady boss blunt collarbone cut is perfect for you. A lob that hits right at your collarbone is the most flattering length to do well in your career and looks good without any barrier.

Textured layers

Adding texture to naturally fine hair using layers, layers and layers, focusing midway down hair to the ends ensures you don't lose too much volume.

Extension

Invest in your hair; it is the grown you never take off. Growing out your hair is a jog, not a print, unless you take a shortcut with a set of extensions. Extensions are a great way to get past that awkward stage of a short haircut instantly.

Healthy hair

All you need is love and healthy hair. This is the era of health conscious made us realise that health is important and our utmost priority over any other thing and so for hair. Giving volume to your hair is similar to giving nutrition to a baby. Treat them good and feel good. This New Year resolution includes maintaining a good health to your mind, body, soul and hair.

(By Dinesh Arora, Founder and CEO, The Hair Palace Luxury Salon)

Portugal-based artist to exhibit works exploring the 'feminine'

An exhibition of paintings by Daniela Reis, based on the artist's own exploration of the 'feminine', will be on view at the website of the Indian International Centre in New Delhi from February 1-14 based in the artist's own exploration, reflection and experience of the 'feminine'.

The artist is the official painter of the former and the current president of the Portuguese Red Cross, Dr Francisco George and Dr Luis Barbosa whose portraits are in permanent exhibition in the Museum of the Portuguese Red Cross in Lisbon. She works with oil on canvas, oil on paper, enamel and digital painting.

Co-organised by Portuguese Embassy Cultural Centre, the online exhibition titled 'Not the whole body is flesh' is based on the lines by Portuguese poet David Mourao-Ferreira: "Not the whole body is flesh: it is also water, earth, wind, fire..."

The exhibition presents works that are part of a wider artistic production and thinking in the artist's own exploration based on the reflection and experience of the "feminine". In the search for it, for the differ-



ence and the alternate in what is a common territory of stereotypes and domination relationships. A provisional territory,



'NOT THE WHOLE BODY IS FLESH', THE ONLINE EXHIBITION BY DANIELA REIS, IS ON DISPLAY TILL FEBRUARY 14

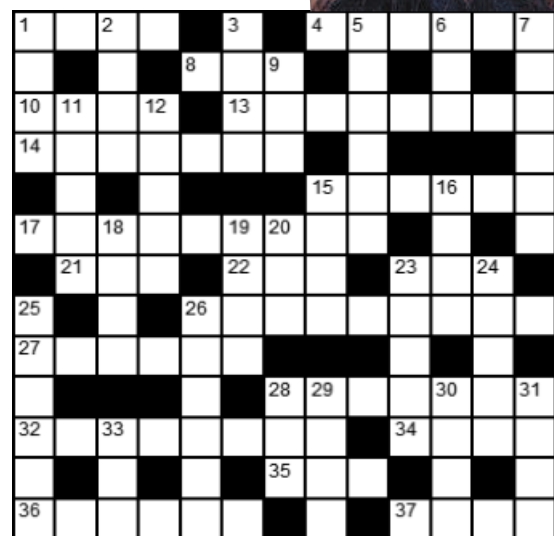
constantly updated. As the title suggests, it explores a side of the experience that goes beyond the immediate relationship with objects, physicality and the flesh itself.

"In general, I work in a series of paintings that are related through a thematic or at a more formal level like colour or construction of space. Each set of

works always arises from a curiosity and ends when another interest becomes more pressing," reads the artist's statement.

Daniela teaches private and public art classes in art history, painting, and drawing, and is engaged with personal projects and commissioned works in her studio.

"My material of choice is oil on canvas or on paper, yet I work on enamel and digital painting. I paint several pieces simultaneously. I plan my studio work little because my pace is guided by curiosity, urgency and pleasure. My paintings are strongly influenced by what I read and my personal experiences," she says.



SOLUTION TO JANUARY 30

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Candle fibre (4)
- 4 Symbol (6)
- 8 Health resort (3)
- 10 Look at (4)
- 13 States repeatedly (8)
- 14 Act of contrition (7)
- 15 Breed of gun-dog (6)
- 17 Ninth month of the year (9)
- 21 Lad (3)
- 22 Consume (3)
- 23 Chopping tool (3)
- 26 The warrior as per Indian caste system ? (9)
- 27 Outcast (6)
- 28 Wide flat pasta strips (7)
- 32 A flowering plant - "shop deal" anagram ? (8)
- 34 Indication (4)
- 35 Greenwich Mean Time (3)
- 36 A compound containing a halogen (6)
- 37 Third son of Adam (4)

Down

- 1 Insect (4)
- 2 Family (4)
- 3 Heroic story (4)
- 5 Homicide (6)
- 6 Destiny (3)
- 7 Wretchedness (6)
- 9 Had a bite (3)
- 11 One in the spotlight (5)
- 12 Beastly (5)
- 15 Bristle (4)
- 16 Car for hire (4)
- 18 Come out in a stream (4)
- 19 Network (4)
- 20 Exclamation of contempt (3)
- 23 Regions (5)
- 24 Regarding (5)
- 25 Spatter (6)
- 26 Knocked out in boxing match (6)
- 28 A lower limb (3)
- 29 Charitable gifts (4)
- 30 Bestow (4)
- 31 Egyptian symbol of life (4)
- 33 Comrade (3)

SUDOKU

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	2			8			5	
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	5	3						
3	7	8		6		4	1	
				2		5		
1		5	3		8	9		
9		4			3			
	4				5			

9	4	6	3	1	8	2	7	5
5	2	1	7	4	6	3	9	8
3	8	7	9	5	2	4	1	6
7	1	8	2	3	5	6	4	9
2	5	4	1	6	9	8	3	7
6	9	3	8	7	4	5	2	1
1	3	2	5	8	7	9	6	4
4	7	5	6	9	3	1	8	2
8	6	9	4	2	1	7	5	3

SOLUTION TO JANUARY 30

NEWS ROUNDUP

NEHA BHASIN ON VIVA: THEY ARE MY SISTERS

Singer Neha Bhasin says she and her former bandmates -- Pratichee Mohapatra, Mahua Kamat and Anushka Manchanda, might have issues on and off, but she considers them as her sisters.

The four singers and Seema Ramchandani were chosen as the winners of the show "Coke [V] Popstars" in 2002. Following their victory, they became a part of an all girls band Viva. Though Seema soon left the band, the other four stuck together for a while and gave hits like "Hum naye geet sunaye", "Chori chori" and "Yeh pyar nai to kya".

During lockdown, Neha, Pratichee, Mahua and Anushka came together for the 2020 version of their hit song "Jaago zara".

"Someone did a fun take on 'Jaago zara', then we started talking about it. Anushka suggested that 'Jaago zara' was a song that was ahead of its time. It was written by Javed sahab (Javed Akhtar), and composed by Salim-Sulaiman. She (Anushka) was like 'It seems like need of the hour. How about we just get together and do a home version and put it out there to put a smile on people's faces?' Though many people tried to get us together in the past, we somehow never agreed to it collectively," Neha told.

"I guess the lockdown was like a reminder of where we were as humans at that point and our love for each other will never end, we may have issues on and off but I think they are my sisters whom I started my career with. I share history with them," she added about her former band members.





NEW DELHI

The official told IANS that the animal was first caught on CCTV on January 27. Later, it was sighted near Ghumanhera

RP Mishra, a senior official in the Forest Department (Western Zone), who is also part of the patrolling team, said: "A video clip showing a leopard moving towards the Najafgarh village triggered panic among its residents. Three forest staff teams are doing round-the-

As to the possibility of leopard straying into Delhi, Mishra said: "The animal may have strayed from neighbouring states, but we are yet to receive any such information in this regard. We are regularly coordinating with the forest offi-

"Apart from making announcements on the loudspeakers, we have also distributed pamphlets and pasted

Replying to the possible whereabouts of the leopard at present, Mishra said, "It may be that the animal has moved away from this area but we are yet to get any concrete leads."

CHANDIGARH

Acting on a tip-off, the raids were conducted on the directions of Organised Crime Control Unit chief, Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh, at New Life marriage palace located at the outskirts of Banur, towards Zirakpur, near here. The arrested women were being used as bartenders and dancers, a Police Department spokesperson said.

PRAVEEN DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Pathak said, "We are prepared to fight by-polls. Several teams have been set up with different tasks for each. AAP workers will reach at every door and will tell the people presenting facts that how the city's municipal bodies have been financially weakened during BJP rule. We are taking the BJP as the main opposition

Pathak said, "In the last 15 years, the BJP has transformed the MCDs into a den of corruption and made them completely bankrupt. Due to the rampant corruption of the BJP today the MCDs have no money to pay the salaries of their own employees. Residents of the national capital are fed up with the corruption and they have made up their mind to give a strong response to the BJP." AAP leaders had earlier already announced that through these mohalla meetings, the party will tell people of each municipal ward of the city about financial mismanagement in MCDs in the last 15 years. The party has appointed nearly 600 speakers to address these mohalla meetings.

An aerial photograph showing a massive, sprawling settlement of colorful tents and makeshift shelters. The tents are packed closely together, covering a vast, flat, arid landscape. The colors of the tents are varied, including yellow, blue, red, and white. In the far distance, a range of low mountains or hills is visible under a clear sky. The overall impression is one of a large-scale, organized but temporary human habitation in a harsh environment.

View of tents placed for devotees on the bank of Ganga river during 'Magh Mela' festival, in Prayagraj on Sunday

NEW DELHI

Prior to Badal's arrival, Bharat Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait announced that no politicians will be given the microphone to speak on the main stage, claiming that he has received a notice for allowing political leaders to take up the stage and address protesters in the last few days.

Badal met Tikait for ten minutes near the protest site, and assured support to the protesting



Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal presents a sword to Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait at Ghazipur, in New Delhi on Sunday

Speaking to IANS earlier on Sunday, Tikait asserted: "We will not compromise under pressure. Once our farmer brothers are released and things are streamlined, we will talk to the government."

JHANSI

On Saturday, the police received a call from their counterparts in Madhya Pradesh's Morena, in-



In the late evening, the kidnappers took him to a lonely farm field, tied him up using iron chains and locks. They took him to a field and dumped him there. The motive behind the kidnapping is not known.

VARANASI

They also burnt posters of Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Sigh Tomar. Some students passing through the area raised objection over a poster with a slogan- "Na Modi, Na Yogi, Na Jai Shri Ram, Desh ko bachayega mazdoor kisan".




PRAYAGRAJ

The court has also directed the DGP to issue cir-




This order was given by a division bench of Justice Pankaj Naqvi and Justice Vivek Agrawal while hearing the petitions of Zeeshan, Balveer Singh Yadav and Dudhanath Singh on Saturday. According to the

The court said that neither politically nor socially,

"A premium Co-Living Space"

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Expectations galore as nation awaits Union Budget

The Budget halwa is ready to be served to the people. While halwa is a sweet dish, the budget halwa will have a mix of sweet and sour taste. The levels of sweetness and sourness will be known in the next few hours. As usual, the expectations from the public are high. To what extent it would be met is something that would unfold soon. The big question is: Will the first paperless budget be taxpayer-friendly as the common man hopes more so in the wake of the impact of the corona pandemic this financial year. The young and the old are keeping fingers crossed and are hoping against hope that the Modi government would provide certain tax benefits to employees. They are hoping that the Union Finance Minister will announce additional standard

deduction of Rs 50,000 from gross income. This will help in better availability of money with the people and this in turn will help in higher investments. This, experts say, is crucial for the revival of the economy. People want that under Section D, the deduction for medi-claim coverage for non-senior citizens should be increased from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 and for senior citizens from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 to help the taxpayer tide over any emergency health crisis like Covid-19. As far as the industry is concerned, the MSMEs are expecting some tax holiday or tax relief to start-ups so that it will encourage them to hire and retain talent which will further lead to an increase in employment. Similarly, the long-term capital gains from sale of listed equity shares and equity mutual funds up to Rs 1 lakh are exempted from tax. The expectation is that exemption limit would be increased to Rs 2 lakh. Industry experts believe the introduction of Debt Linked Savings Scheme will help channelise long-term savings of retail investors into higher credit rated debt instruments. A large population of senior citizens in India do not have the benefit of a pension scheme. Industry experts say, by introducing a universal pension programme with senior-friendly tax structures, the government can give financial freedom to that segment of the population. One thing is certain, the

budget will give high priority to R&D in pharma sector and medical infra sector so that the country can be better prepared to handle any future emergencies. The current deduction for capital expenditure incurred towards building and operating a hospital with at least 100 beds should be allowed to smaller facilities as well, to help build medical infrastructure. The Modi government, which claims to give priority to the progress of villages, the poor and farmers, is likely to give priority to agriculture and rural development in the upcoming Budget. According to the Economic Review 2020-21, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors can remain at 3.4 per cent. The agriculture and allied sectors recorded a growth rate of 3.4 per cent at constant prices during FY 2020-21. The government will also focus on the scheme to provide short-term agricultural loans to farmers at affordable interest rates. Other schemes of the agriculture sector, including the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme and the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, can also be given importance in this budget. Along with agriculture, the government will give prominence to the plans of the food processing industry, which will help in achieving the goal of doubling the income of farmers.

Post-Covid, emerging of new global vaidya

TARUN CHUGH

MANKIND is passing through a very difficult phase due to the outbreak of Covid-19. It has been perhaps the toughest challenge for humankind since the World-War-II. It has already been more than a year when the virus was first reported in China and since then has spread like a wildfire to all the five continents of the world.

The problems and challenges thrown up by the pandemic are unprecedented. Initial reports indicated that the developing countries like India with high population density would bear the major brunt of the corona pandemic considering factors like weak health and medical infrastructure and other factors like poor-hygiene, poverty and lack of resources to deal with this crisis.

The western media of course was very vocal in cautioning against the spread of the virus in India and was skeptical regarding steps taken by the NDA government to contain the virus. They even called India's crisis and response to the pandemic as a humanitarian-disaster. They were even predicting dooms day for India. Some critics went to the extent of undermining the government's response by alleging that the number of affected persons was not being disclosed by the government.

The entire exercise of the Centre to prevent the spread of the virus as well as to deliver the key health infrastructure like medicines, ventilators, PPE kits etc; was under cloud. Not only India's health care infrastructure was questioned but even the well-timed and well-executed lockdown was doubted since migrant workers and other sections of the society were hit hard. The world was observing with suspicion and curiosity how the second most populous country of the world would survive this pandemic.

It was indeed a daunting task for the government to fight the negative publicity and the challenge that pandemic had posed. The situation was war-like in which the countrymen and the world had to fight against an invisible enemy. It needed effective, tough and visionary leadership which could take decisions to save the countrymen from the clutches of this fatal pandemic. It also needed proactive steps and focused approach on the part of the nation instead of just relying on the systemic-methods and knee-jerk reactions. It also needed instilling a feeling of faith in the nation that together we could overcome this crisis. At operational level, countering corona needed three-pronged strategy; awareness, prevention and curative steps in case the virus affected our countrymen on a large scale



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The nation instead of just relying on the systemic-methods and knee-jerk reactions. It also needed instilling a feeling of faith in the nation that together we could overcome this crisis. At operational level, countering corona needed three-pronged strategy; awareness, prevention and curative steps in case the virus affected our countrymen on a large scale.

How the nation has sailed through the unprecedented crisis under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a history in the making. How India successfully fought this challenge and emerged with flying colours would surely be part of the syllabus of the top management schools like Oxford, Howard, Stanford in future. The nation has almost passed the storm of corona in the stewardship of the Karmyogi Prime Minister.

Right from the beginning, the government was so pro-active that even before the very first case of coronavirus was reported, almost every Indian was made aware about the preventive steps for corona through the use of phone-ringtone and other measures. In his address to the nation, the Prime Minister went for lockdown with the message 'Jaan hai toh Jahan Hai' (if you have life only then you survive). Life of the citizens was given priority over anything else. On the economic front, a slew of measures was taken to boost the reeling economy and also to give direct benefits to lakhs of poor labourers and needy following the lockdown. In his faith and reliance on make-in-India, the Prime Minister not only saw modern allopathic medicine as a way to treat the people but brought in the Ministry of AYUSH to play the role. This 'immunity-mantra' well projected by the Prime Minister soon became a buzzword which not only created immunity in the masses but also created awareness about Ayurveda. The health infrastructure came into focus with the maximum attention to the curative health-emergency like masks, hospitalisation, PPE-Kits, ventilators and oxygen cylinders. Every resource of the nation was diverted to this cause. Simultaneously, the Indian scientists were encouraged to develop a curative protocol and a vaccine.

The world is still gripping with this virus. On 26th January 2021, the USA reported 4,101 deaths and the UK has reported 1,631 daily deaths. Even with their highly developed healthcare infrastructure, the western countries are unable to handle this crisis. But for India, foresighted steps taken then by the government are paying high dividends. As of today, not only India is able to contain its virus-spread and bring down daily cases from nearly one lakh in September 2020 to below 9,100 per day with active cases falling below 1,74,000. The recovery rate is nearly 97% which is the highest among the most affected countries.

The only effective way to save the dying humanity from the tentacles of corona is a vaccine. One is reminded of the incident of "Lakshman-Murcha" in Ramayana, where Lakshman fell unconscious after being badly hit by Meghnath and was in a dire need of Sanjivani (medicine) to save his life. When everything was in gloom, Lord Hanuman, despite all the challenges of time and roadblocks, could find out and deliver the herb in time to save the dying Lakshman. Credit must be given to the team India led by Modi who encouraged Indian scientists to develop India's vaccine in a race against time. The India vaccine is not only safe and reliable but very cost-effective also. India is heading for the largest vaccination drive in the history of mankind wherein it aims to vaccinate its 1.3 billion population out of whom 2 million people have already been vaccinated. It has already trained 2 lakh vaccinators and 3,70,000 men-team to help with 29,000 cold storages.

India is seen as healer of the world be it export of preventive medicines like Hydroxychloroquine or curative Remdesivir or health care equipment like PPE kits, ventilators etc. India is now following its ethos of Vasudhaiva-Kutumbakam wherein it is giving doses of made in India vaccines to other countries. India has already gifted vaccine-doses to Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Morocco, Brazil, Seychelles etc. While China is blamed as a spreader of the virus, the world is hailing India as a healer. India has emerged as the physician of the world and has turned out to be a pharmacy of the world which is not only nursing its own population but the entire world.

(The author is National General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party. Views expressed are personal)

Contentious farm laws: Beyond the obvious

DR MOHAN KANDA

THE three laws recently passed by Parliament, relating to the farm sector, have generated a good deal of animated discussion in the country, between and amongst the various stakeholders, including the Central and the State governments, academic institutions, scientific and technological establishments, non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and, of course, armchair critics such as I, occupying a ringside seat, watching from a safe-distance!

While many sound opinions have been expressed, there has been no dearth of uninformed, if not irresponsible, analysis either, largely on account of the fact that the subject is virgin territory.

I, myself, have been wary of rushing in where angels fear to tread. But my reticence is now beginning to be equated, either to an inability to form an opinion, or the reluctance to express it. After all, I am supposed to be an expert on the subject!

I, therefore, wish to make a very loud and positive statement – namely, that I wish to say nothing! Because I have nothing to say. At least at this moment. It is early days yet. The jury is out.

And, mercifully, the whistle has been blown for a recess, and we have a year and a half in which sober consideration of the implications of the unfolding scenario can take place.

The laws, after all, have just been enacted. And, a great deal of confusion is in the air on account of the clash between politics behind the legislation on one hand, and even more politically motivated opposition on the other. The views of respected economists, persuaded by varying political philosophies, have not helped either. Thus, the need to allow the laws time to convert the promise and expectations into realisation, has been put on the backburner. I must hasten to add, at this stage, that I have the greatest respect for renowned economists such as Ashok Gulati and Amartya Sen. Only, I am unable to feel the need to offer any views on this at this juncture of time.

The laws mean well, and have the potential, albeit latent for the moment, to deliver the makings of a situation that can make come true what the farming community of the country has been dreaming of for a long time – access to the best possible markets, with no one coming in the way. And, of course, the benefit of the technology, administrative efficiency and the reach/network that only corporates can possess, especially when compared to the Central and the State governments.

For the potential of these laws to be realised, however, all the stakeholders, such as the Central and the State governments, the scientific and technological institutions, the corporate sector, the NGOs and CBOs, and the farming community itself, will need to prepare, and execute, a care-



fully drawn up plan of action, to put in place an enabling environment.

Many steps will need to execute that plan, such as promoting collective action by the farmers (through cooperatives, FPOs and arrangements such as contract farming), encouraging farmers to adopt appropriate technologies, strengthening the research and extension systems to generate and propagate technologies designed specifically to respond to market signals, organising support from financial services such as credit and insurance and facilitating the adoption by farmers' practices that ensure efficient storage, processing and transport to markets. The commodities produced by the farmers, in other words, need to become products before they reach the market.

It can be hardly gainsaid, in this context, as already pointed out in many quarters, that not only such steps could have been taken, but also the stakeholders afforded an opportunity to be better prepared for the situation, had the legislation been preceded by the customary preparatory stages, such as, for instance, reference to the Parliamentary Consultative Committee. That, however, is now water under the bridge.

In the immediate context, the corporates will certainly stand to benefit from the provisions of the laws. That should, in my opinion, cause no great concern. The important point is – there is a destination to be reached and we need to have the determination to travel to it, the perseverance and methodical manner.

So far as the issue of minimum support price (MSP) is concerned, I must record that I have never believed that arrange-

In the immediate context, the corporates will certainly stand to benefit from the provisions of the laws. That should, in my opinion, cause no great concern. The important point is – there is a destination to be reached and we need to have the determination to travel to it, the perseverance and determination to proceed towards it in a systematic and methodical manner. So far as the issue of minimum support price (MSP) is concerned, I must record that I have never believed that arrangement to be an effective solution to the issues the farming community faces, especially in relation to the economics and profitability of farming operations. Therefore, I am unable to appreciate the logic behind the demand for making it statutory commitment. MSP, however, has its advantages, especially in regard to rice and wheat, and has not only ensured a reasonable return to the producers, but also gone a long way in creating a sense of comfort from the point of view of the food security of the nation.

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Its abrupt withdrawal, therefore, is fraught with consequences which are highly avoidable. I therefore feel that it should be gradually faded out, in a sunset arrangement and, ultimately, the free play of market forces allowed take place.

It will, therefore, be proper, and desirable, for the Central government to make an announcement and soon, to the effect that MSP will continue and, thereafter, take steps to begin the process to of replacing it by a more sustainable arrangement in the long-term, which will ensure that the full benefits of efficient penetration of the best markets by the farmers are realised.

The rest, to plagiarise Shakespeare's Hamlet, should be silence, which I for one, have been resolutely observing! At least so far! Heard melodies after all, as Keats said, are sweeter than those unheard.

(The author is former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. Views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

Mamata's arrogance costs TMC dear

If the Ministers, leaders and members of the TMC are regularly trooping out into the BJP camp, it is only due to the despotic and repugnant ways of its supremo Mamata Banerjee. Consequently, desperate and wild, she is resorting to narrow parochialism in the name of Bangla culture, and is shattering the pan-Indian, if not global, ethos to which Bengali legends like Swami Vivekananda, Subhas Chandra Bose, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar, Rabindranath Tagore, Aurobindo Ghosh and Syama Prasad Mukherjee had immensely contributed. Thus, the belligerent Mamata Banerjee is dispossessing West Bengal of its due importance and place in the overall scenario of the country.

Smitha V, Hyderabad

Vivekananda, Modi visualised same idea of Hinduism

Even though, Swami Vivekananda is to be credited for shaping our secularism, he has also made an impregnable mark in various other sectors. Indeed, it is the religious farsightedness of Swamiji that has helped the policymakers to reimagine the idea of India and frame several crucial policies related to education and foreign

affairs. Swamiji is also the firm inspiration behind two popular most weapons of 21st century of our country namely cultural diplomacy and soft power politics. The present Prime Minister has also become a staunch supporter of the Vedantic concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and has been striving towards bringing the secret of oneness of everything as propounded by Swamiji. Not to ignore, it is the Prime Minister who has put forth several issues of universal relevance like the International Solar Alliance and the International Day of Yoga in front of the world order. Moreover, both Swami Vivekananda and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi visualised the same idea of Hinduism in which the light of knowledge falls more on a Moorkha and a Daridra enabling them to realise their true potential and also helps to contribute their lot for societal development but not the radical Hindutva as has been followed by many others in the society.

Satish Reddy Kanaganti, Tippiarthy, Nalgonda dist

Healthcare sector needs utmost attention

At last, the need to focus on people's health is receiving its attention, at least, in the Economic Survey tabled by the Finance Minister. In fact, Covid-19 has abjectly exposed all the faulty systems in the healthcare policy and programmes prevailing all over the world. Even in countries known as the developed ones, the healthcare system in vogue has miserably failed to address the crisis effectively.

Private sector is playing its dominant role in the healthcare sector. Having converted health as a commodity meant to be traded for profit and as an exclusive privilege of the affluent to access it the have-nots are destined to adjust with the public healthcare services that is lingering with insufficiencies in every sphere. The survey recommends 2.5 to 3% of GDP to be spared for healthcare sector. In a way, even the recommended quantum is too insufficient compared to the magnitude of even the barest minimum requirements. Moreover, besides increasing the quantum of allocation how the fund is likely to be utilised is yet another vital question. Because merely increasing the allocation does not solve the crisis. There are developed countries sparing more than 10% of their GDP to health. Even in these countries, Covid-19 has played havoc claiming lives, crippling livelihood and exposing the hollow systems. In India, the schemes introduced by States and the Centre as popular healthcare programmes have benefited private corporates in the field and the private insurance companies to reap good harvest. In crisis like Covid-19, these schemes had no role to play at all. Therefore, increasing the allocation substantially to health sector is an imminent need and investing in improving the public healthcare system is all the more important, which need to be borne in mind by all the concerned. After all, spending for enhancing the health status of the people is a viable investment as it enhances the productivity of the nation in turn.

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ATTACK ON TRS MLA'S RESIDENCE

KTR strikes a tough note, warns BJP of hitting back

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONDEMNING the attack by the BJP workers on the residence of party MLA Ch Dharma Reddy, TRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Sunday said that the BJP leaders cannot come out if the TRS workers lose patience.

The TRS leader urged the democracy-loving people to raise their voice on the physical attacks by the saffron party leaders. In a statement issued here, KTR said that in democracy there is no place for such attacks. "Unable to convince their version in democracy, the BJP was trying to show its voice by physically attacking the leaders of other parties. There is a need for the dem-



TRS LEADER URGES THE PEOPLE TO RAISE THEIR VOICE ON THE PHYSICAL ATTACKS BY THE SAFFRON PARTY LEADERS

- Says BJP leaders cannot venture out of their houses if the TRS workers lose patience
- Declares that TRS has strength to protect every worker of the party
- Reminds BJP that TRS is a party of movement

ocratic people to condemn the act by BJP leaders," said Rao.

Alleging that in the past also the BJP had made several attacks going beyond rational criticism in politics, Rama Rao said that the BJP's physical attacks were not at all good for Telangana politics. He said that the TRS would want Telangana pol-

itics to be value-based. The BJP should remember that TRS has strength to protect every worker of the party. "I want to remind them that if the patience of the party workers is exhausted, they will not allow the BJP leaders to come out of the house. We have already cautioned the BJP leaders stating that there is a limit

for patience. We are going forward as a responsible party. The BJP should not forget that TRS is a party of movement," said Rao. The people of the state and also the intellectuals should question the BJP leaders who are trying to create differences among the peaceful Telangana society.

Minister's call to strive for polio-free society

HYDERABAD

ENDOWMENTS Minister A Indrakaran Reddy on Sunday called upon the people to join hands with the State government to build a polio-free society. He made these remarks after launching universal pulse polio immunisation programme at the bus stand centre Nirmal district headquarters. He administered the polio drops on children who were less than five years of age.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that all children who were less than five years old should be administered polio drops to keep the deadly polio virus at bay. He said that the State government had set up the polio administration centers at all bus stands and crowded places of the State and added that the centers would be available for the next three days. He urged all the parents to bring their children to the centers and administer the drops.



TS sets eyes on Union Budget, expects funds for key projects

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ALL eyes are on the Union Budget 2021-2022 to be presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The Telangana government is curious about the allocations to be made to the Telangana State in the outlay.

The T State has hardly received special allocations in the last six years from the Centre despite making several pleas to the Union government. The State already submitted a charter of demands to the union finance minister recently.

In the recent pre budget meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, State government has requested the Centre the strict implementation of the 15th Finance Commission recommendations. The officials pointed out that Telangana had lost Rs 723 crore due to non-implementation of the recommendations in the current year and sought immediate release of the same. State Finance Minister T Harish Rao also drew the attention of the Union Minister the fact that the States were losing their share of funds due to the imposition of cess and surcharges.

The other demands pend-

Telangana State has hardly received special allocations in the last six years from the Centre

- State already submits charter of demands to the Union Finance Minister
- Centre urged to strictly implement the 15th Finance Commission recommendations
- CM to hold meeting after the presentation of the Union Budget with Finance Dept top brass

ing before the Centre were the allocation of special funds to Mission Bhagiratha, announce Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme as national project and sanction of railway coach factory and horticulture university.

After the budget presentation, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would hold a meeting with State Finance department officials and analyse the Central funds earmarked to the State.

Naidu strongly condemns attack on TDP leaders at Yadamarri

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP chief and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday condemned the attack made by the YSRCP leaders on the TDP leaders when they were going to file nomination at Periyambadi village in Yadamarri mandal in Poothalapattu Assembly constituency in Chittoor district.

Naidu decried the ruling party miscreants attacking and damaging TDP MLC Dorababu's vehicle. The YSRCP was resorting to these attacks out of frustration and despair over the rising unpopularity of its rule.

In a statement here, the TDP chief said that out of fear of losing the elections, the ruling party was indulging in mindless attacks and kidnappings. But the general public was determined to fight back the YSRCP's vicious plans. Unable to bring in development and growth, the ruling party leaders were trying all sorts of ulterior methods to retain supremacy and power. Naidu asserted that the people were thoroughly unhappy over the misgovernance of Chief Minister Jagan Reddy and they would stop his government's misdeeds by defeating the YSRCP supported candidates.

Naidu spoke to Rayadurgam TDP in-charge Kalva Srinivasulu and BN Halli gramra sarpanch candidate's husband Eeranna over phone. Eeranna complained that the YSRCP leaders kidnapped him and threatened to kill him if his wife went on to file her nomination.

ENTRY ROAD TO WARANGAL AT KARUNAPURAM VILLAGE

Planning Board VC finds design degrading, writes to Centre

Urges Union Minister for Road Transport to redesign the entry point to suit Warangal's rich culture and heritage



B Vinod Kumar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA State Planning Board Vice Chairman B Vinod Kumar on Sunday urged the Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to redesign the entry road to Warangal city at Karunapuram village in the Telangana-Bhopalpatnam-Chhattisgarh National Highway as it was belittling the dignity of the heritage city.

In a letter written to the Union Minister, Vinod said Warangal City was the second largest urban centre in Telangana, sprawling in an area of 406 sq km and having a population of more than 10 lakhs. The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) is one of the eleven cities with a rich culture and heritage in the country to have been cho-

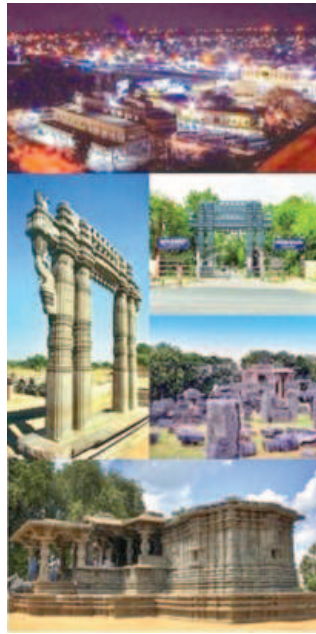


sen for the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojna (HRIDAY) by the government of India. It has also been selected as a 'SMART' city in the fast-track competition, which makes it eligible for additional investment to improve urban infrastructure and industrial opportunities under the Smart Cities Mission.

Vinod said the entry to Warangal city from NH-163 at Karunapuram village was provided through an underpass. While highway (overpass) is constructed 4-lane (7.5 m+7.5m), the approach to underpass is constructed as a carriageway width of six meters only. Normally the roads are

designed for a carriageway width of 7 metres taking into account traffic and safety. The curves and turning curves of approach roads at the junction are not designed properly keeping in mind the road safety. Further there are no proper directional signs for the drivers moving towards Warangal City from Hyderabad. Most of the times the drivers are missing the underpass entry and are forced to travel over the overpass causing a lot of hardships to them.

Vinod said that it was highly improper that the entry to such an important city had been provided through a very insignificant narrow underpass. This is belittling and di-



minishing the dignity and reputation of Warangal, the pride city of Telangana. This is causing enormous agony to the citizens, who richly loved and imbibed with this glorious city as capital of Kakatiya Dynasty, he said.

If the government can redesign the entire junction with Kakatiya Kalathoranam and an entry to the city over the suitable flyover which would not only accommodate heavy vehicular traffic but also matches with the dignity of Warangal city, he added.

Indian Coast Guard celebrates 45th Raising Day today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

FROM a modest beginning with just seven surface platforms in 1978, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircrafts in its inventory and it is likely to achieve a targeted force level of 200 platforms and 100 aircraft by 2025.

On Monday, the ICG is celebrating its 45th Raising Day. As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian coasts and enforcing the regulations within the Maritime zones of India. On an average, Coast Guard saves one precious life every second day at sea and has a credit of saving over 10,000 lives and apprehending 13,300 miscreants since its inception in 1977.

The deterrent patrols both at sea and air enabled seizure of contraband worth Rs 1,500 crore including 24 kg of gold and narcotics seized on the Eastern Coast and apprehen-



- It is the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world
- From a modest beginning with just seven surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircrafts in its inventory
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sion of more than 10 foreign fishing boats with about 80 miscreants operating in In-

dian EEZ in 2020.

Further, ICG is also collaborating with littoral countries

to combat transnational Maritime crimes and enhance maritime safety in its area of responsibility and in the region.

To harmonise maritime and civil aviation search and rescue mechanism, ICG conducted National Maritime Search & Rescue Board meeting which was followed by SAR exercise-2020 (SAREX-2020) to validate the existing mechanism to undertake mass rescue operation. A maiden seminar was conducted to enhance the effectiveness of Intelligence sharing among stakeholders. The service is also working in close coordination with the Central and state agencies to provide a robust coastal security mechanism.

The President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister congratulated the Indian Coast Guard on completion of 44 glorious years of yeoman service to the nation and appreciated the remarkable role played by the service in ensuring the nation's interests in the maritime zones of India.

Governor launches pulse polio programme

- Calls upon mothers to take their children below the age of 5 years to the nearest centre and get them administered with polio drops
- About 52.72 lakh children to be covered in the State

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

GOVERNOR Biswa Bhushan Harichandan launched the Pulse Polio Immunisation programme by administering polio drops to children aged below five years at a programme held in Raj Bhavan on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said pulse polio immunisation campaign has been launched with an aim to eliminate poliomyelitis (polio) in the country by vaccinating all children under the age of five years against the polio virus and to fight against the virus through a large-scale, pulse vaccination programme and monitoring for poliomyelitis cases.

He pointed out that around 52.72 lakh children of less than five years age are targeted for administration of polio drops in the State, as part of the drive to sustain polio eradication from the



Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan administering polio drops to an infant at the Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada on Sunday

country and as a result there has been not a single case of polio reported in the country since 2011.

The Governor appealed to all mothers to take their children below the age of 5 years to the nearest police vaccination centre to administer polio drops, even if

they have been vaccinated earlier.

Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary to Governor, A Md Imtiaz, Collector, Krishna district, Dr Devi, State Immunization Officer, other officers and staff members were present on the occasion.

Cop's *Jai Jawan Jai Kisan* slogan helped to control volatile situation

Mediation, as used in law, is a form of alternative dispute resolution mechanism to resolve differences between two or more parties with concrete results. Typically, a third party, the mediator, assists the parties to negotiate a settlement

ZAFAR ABBAS
NEW DELHI

It is said that effective dialogue can bring an end to a stalemate and lead the two parties to a reasonable settlement without confrontation.

This is where the role of 'mediators' becomes not just crucial but also necessary to handle a volatile or potentially volatile situation, which sometimes can have devastating repercussions. From small trivial marriage disputes to issues as serious as international bilateral relations are often handled effectively through 'mediation'. In the ongoing protests by farmers in the country over the three new central farm laws, despite a dozen-odd meetings, the deadlock between the government and the farmers persists and Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur

on Delhi-Haryana and Delhi-UP borders have remained protest hotspots since November 26 last year.

Though the protesters were offered the Buri ground in the Delhi outskirts by authorities for their peaceful protest, the proposal was put down by a majority as they moved back to Tikri and Singhu borders to stage their protest in biting cold. What followed was a massive buildup of protesters at the border areas as all efforts by authorities to find a resolution to the agitation and clear the roads failed.

So, does that mean there are not enough 'mediators' to resolve the conflict and built up trust between the two sides? Mediation is a



structured, interactive process wherein an impartial third-party assists the disputing parties to resolve points of conflict through the use of specialised communication and negotiation techniques.

Mediation, as used in law, is a form of alternative dispute resolution mechanism to resolve differences between two or more parties with concrete results. Typically, a third party -- the mediator -- assists the parties to negotiate a settlement.

On January 26, when the farmers held a tractor march inside Delhi, a video of Joint Commissioner of Police SS Yadav went viral on the social media wherein he was seen trying to calm down tempers between

police and protesting farmers as they reached the Mukarba Chowk. "Shanti se inko samjhao, warna ye hum logo ke upar se jayenge, maante ho? Jai Jawan Jai Kisan," he was heard saying in the video. He was seen raising his hand in the air as he raised the slogan 'Jai Hind'. This, to some degree, did help to control the volatile situation, which could have been worse otherwise.

In Shaheen Bagh protest, which later became the longest sit-in protest in India, predominantly by women, starting mid-December 2019 over Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Supreme court appointed senior advocates Sanjay Hegde, Sadhna Ramchandran and former bureaucrat Wajahat Habibullah as mediators to talk to the protesters. The interlocutors held multiple meetings, but failed to get fruitful results.

'Centre afraid of public support to farmers'

'Will honour PM's dignity but protect our self-respect: Naresh Tikait
Protest again gains momentum at Ghazipur, crowd swells up

GANDHINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Terming the ongoing farmers' protests against the three farm laws brought in by the BJP-led NDA government, as the biggest ever agitation and a direct fight of farmers against the corporates, noted agricultural journalist P. Sainath has said that the government is afraid of the wide support the farmers are receiving from all sections of society.

Sainath, the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award winner, asked for a special Parliament session to be held for the agrarian crisis and the farmers' welfare and requested that district committees be formed to put forth this demand.

The noted journalist, who has authored the book, 'Everybody Loves a Good Drought' asked the people to take a stand on the farmers' issue as ultimately the farmers were fighting for the public. "I ask, which side of the



Farmers during their ongoing protest against the new farm laws at Ghazipur

border would have Mahatma Gandhi stood, which side of the border do we stand? Is it on the side of the government that is favouring the corporates or the side where around 200 farmers are martyred for a cause which

affected us all?" asked Sainath.

The Congress on Sunday slammed the BJP-led Centre over the arrest of a freelance journalist from the Singhu border with party leader Rahul Gandhi saying those who fear

truth arrest honest scribes. Mandeep Punia was arrested from the Singhu border on Sunday for allegedly misbehaving with the police personnel on duty at the farmers' protest site there, officials said.

Farmer leader Naresh Tikait said that protesting farmers will honour the dignity of prime minister, but are also committed to protecting their self-respect, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government was just a "phone call away" for talks with them.

The farmers' protest in the Ghazipur area at Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border has gained momentum again as both the crowd and police deployment has swelled up. "People had started to pour in from January 28th night onwards. Before that, there were 2,000-3,000 people, which has now increased to more than 10,000," said Pawan Khatana, Bharat Kisan Union's Uttar Pradesh Member.

Doctored video of Kejri: 'AAP will take legal action against BJP'

NEW DELHI

AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday said that his party will take legal action against BJP for allegedly sharing a doctored video of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on social media.

A BJP spokesperson had tweeted a video claiming that Kejriwal has supported the three contentious farm laws. Addressing a press conference, Sisodia said, "The BJP knows that Kejriwal is the only leader with credibility and hence they have used his doctored interview to create a false impression among the people."

"This doctored video was created by selectively editing a long interview of Kejriwal and placing fake bytes in some places. The Aam Aadmi Party will not allow such machinations by the BJP and will take legal action against them," he said.

Sisodia claimed that since the BJP has "failed in all its machinations" against the farmers, they plotted a new scheme riding on Kejriwal's popularity.

"We pity the BJP's tactics who despite having their government at the Centre and in many states, have lost people's trust and hence have to use Arvind Kejriwal's doctored video to save the farm laws," he said.

Probe deaths due to vaccination: Experts to Modi government

NEW DELHI

PUBLIC health experts sent a letter to the Union Health Ministry on Sunday, demanding an investigation into the deaths of 11 healthcare and frontline workers following the Covid-19 vaccination.

India has seen a total of 11 deaths post the novel coronavirus vaccination.

The letter states, "Though the district or state officials have stated that none of the deaths are related to the vaccine, the reports of the district, state and National Adverse Events Following Immunisation Committees on the assessment of these deaths and other serious AEFIs have not been released."

"We would like to bring to

your notice that the 11 deaths meet the WHO's definition of a 'cluster' of serious AEFIs as given in its Covid-19 vaccines: safety surveillance manual



'when two or more AEFIs related in time, place or by vaccine occur'. (1) Guidelines for investigation of cluster AEFIs are given in the WHO's global manual for surveillance of adverse events following immunisation.

(2) AEFIs must be investigated urgently in order to issue warnings to people who should not take it due to contraindications, to correct errors, to reassure the public, as well as to identify potential serious problems in the vaccine," the letter stated.

WHO teams visit Wuhan food market

BEIJING

A World Health Organisation team looking into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic on Sunday visited a market known to be the food distribution center for the Chinese city of Wuhan during the 76-day lockdown last year.

The team members were seen walking through sections of the Baishazhou market -- one of the largest wet markets in Wuhan -- surrounded by a large entourage of Chinese officials and representatives.

The members, with expertise in veterinarian, virology, food safety and epidemiology, have so far visited two hospitals at the center of the early outbreak -- Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital and the Hubei Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine Hospital.

They also visited a museum exhibition dedicated to the early history of COVID-19.

The Geneva-based WHO said on Twitter last Thursday that the team plans to visit hospitals and markets like the Huanan Seafood Market, which was linked to many of the first cases. They also listed the Wuhan Institute of Virology and laboratories at facilities including the Wuhan Center for Disease Control.

The mission has become politically charged, as China seeks to avoid blame for alleged missteps in its early response to the outbreak.

Greta, Trump in race for Nobel Peace Prize

LONDON

RUSSIAN dissident Alexei Navalny, the World Health Organisation and climate campaigner Greta Thunberg are among those nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, all backed by Norwegian lawmakers who have a track record of picking the winner. Former US President Donald Trump is also among the nominees.

Thousands of people, from members of parliaments worldwide to former winners, are eligible to propose candidates. Nominations, which close on Sunday, do not imply an endorsement from the Nobel committee.

Norwegian lawmakers have nominated the eventual laureate every year since 2014, with the exception of 2019, said Henrik Urdal, Director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

"The pattern from recent years is quite stunning." The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which decides who wins the award, does not comment on nominations, keeping secret for 50 years the names of nominators and unsuccessful nominees. But nominators can choose to reveal their picks.

According to a Reuters survey of Norwegian lawmakers, nominees include Thunberg, Navalny, the WHO and its COVAX programme to secure fair access to Covid-19 vaccines for poor countries.

Thunberg was named as one of "the foremost spokespeople in the fight against the climate crisis", with the campaigning group she co-founded, Fridays for Future, also receiving a nod.

Navalny, nominated by Russian academics, was named for his "efforts for a peaceful democratisation of Russia" by Norwegian former minister Ola Elvestuen.



Mamata working towards serving her nephew: Shah

DUMURJALA

IN a stinging attack on West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday alleged that she is working towards serving her nephew Abhishek Banerjee in the state, and will have no one by her side by the time assembly elections are held. Noting that the TMC which boasts of the slogan 'Maa Mati Mansuh' (Mother, Land and people) actually indulges in extortion, corruption and appeasement, Shah exuded confidence of forming the next government in the State and take it to the path of development.

Abhishek took a dig at BJP leaders for "not being able to sing the national anthem properly" at a rally in Kolkata's adjoining Howrah Dumurjala stadium.

"Those preaching patriotism and nationalism can't even sing our national anthem correctly. This is the party which claims to uphold India's honour and pride. Shameful," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew said, sharing a video clip on his Twitter handle.

Calling this "anti-national" act, the leader of West Bengal's ruling party also demanded an "apology" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP.



People silhouetted against the setting sun at Broken bridge, in Chennai on Sunday

'China has deployed me to crush Baloch movement'

NEW DELHI

MAJOR General Ayman Bilal of the Pakistan Army has confessed to China's role and support in his deployment in Balochistan, Bangladeshi newspaper Daily Sun has reported. "China has deployed me here to crush the Baloch movement and has given me a six-month task," Maj Gen Bilal said.

"If the threat of FATF is averted, we will go inside Iran and take action. Iran is the biggest enemy of Pakistan which has a direct hand in the instability of Balochistan," said new IG FC South Balochistan, Major General Bilal at a special 'jirga' (meeting) at FC headquarters in Turbat with few notables including local agents of FC and intelligence agencies.

As per the report, Major General Bilal stationed in Ketch District has openly admitted to China's role in his deployment and assistance and other important matters.

In this special 'jirga' session of FC, Raheema Jalal, sister of Federal Minister for Defence Production Zubeida Jalal, Sardar Aziz, head of state formed death squad from Pedarak, Yasir Bahram, head of state death squad Nagor Dasht, Hasil Kolwahi and heads of armed groups who are working on state parole from Tump, Mand, Buleda, Zamuran, Dasht and Hoshap were also present.

Tobacco companies targeting teenagers

76 per cent students forced to watch tobacco advertisements

NEW DELHI

DESPITE the ban on advertising of tobacco products in our country, 76 per cent of school-college students are forced to watch advertisements of tobacco companies. Also, to entice the teenagers, these companies showcase their products specially between toffee-chocolate, etc. Experts caution that it increases the risk of addiction in adolescents.

Addressing a webinar on 'Tobacco Freemen: Challenges and Way Ahead' Dr. Uma Kumar, Professor at AIIMS and head of the Department of Rheumatology, said that tobacco companies that make products like cigarettes and gutka are specifically targeting teenagers.

Citing the latest survey 'Big Tobacco Tiny Tar-



It has been found that 75.9 per cent of such shops near schools and colleges have not only advertised tobacco products but they are showcased in a place where they have high visibility. Similarly, 72.32 per cent of these shops display tobacco products near candies and sweets to lure children

get' conducted in 25 cities of the country, she said that it has been found that 75.9 per cent of such shops near schools and colleges have not only advertised tobacco products but also they are showcased in a place where they have high visibility. Similarly, 72.32 per cent of these shops display tobacco products near candies and sweets to lure children.

Famous cancer specialist and Regional Director, HCG Hospital, Bangalore, Dr. Vishal Rao, said that the chances of addiction in adolescence are high. So these companies are specifically targeting them.

BJP leader and senior advocate of Supreme Court Aman Sinha said that the Central Government has made a great effort to remove the deficiencies in the Tobacco Control Laws and have

proposed several amendments in this regard. They would help in curbing consumption of tobacco by the youth.

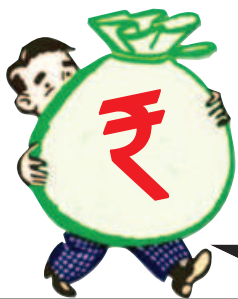
Youth leader and Maharashtra BJP spokesperson Shweta Shalini said that every day five and a half thousand teenagers in the country are getting addicted to tobacco products. Amendment of the COTPA Act is very important to end the conspiracies targeting these youth. This webinar was organised by SpeakIn.

According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Health, 14.6 per cent of adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15 in India use some form of tobacco.

The ministry has made the draft amendments to the COTPA laws public recently and has sought feedback from the people.

“The market’s not a very accommodating machine; it won’t provide high returns just because you need them

—Peter L Bernstein



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities



Markets take a breather as vaccine rollout begins

HC UPADHAY
HYDERABAD

WITH the Biden government now firmly comfortable on the saddle and world-wide Covid-19 vaccination programme underway, the global markets have, at last, heaved a sigh of relief. The global stock markets, too, have been emitting positive signals. Consequently, New York gold closed at \$1848.10 (per Ounce) while silver closed at \$26.98 (per Ounce). Platinum and palladium closed at \$1066 (per Ounce) and \$2,160 (per Ounce) respectively. Other economic parameters remained moderate. Brent closed at \$55.04 (per barrel) while Crude MCX oil was quoted at Rs.3,822 (per barrel). While Gold MCX stood at Rs.59,095 (per 10 gms), MCX Silver closed at Rs.69,712 (per kg), Copper MCX closed at Rs.595.85 (per kg). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 46285.77 and 13634.60 points. Leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were, US \$: Rs.72.91, British Pound: Rs.99.99, Euro: Rs.88.49, Singapore \$: Rs.54.89, Swiss Franc: Rs.81.87, Australian \$: Rs.55.72, Saudi Riyal: Rs.19.44, New Zealand Dollar: Rs.52.71, Kuwaiti Dinar: Rs.240.78, Omani Rial: Rs.189.39 and UAE Dirham: Rs.19.85, Japanese Yen: Rs.0.70, Hong Kong Dollar: Rs.9.40. According to the World Gold Council (WGC), imports of gold and demand for gold jewellery declined drastically during the year 2020. In local markets, standard gold (24 carats) declined by Rs.180 and closed at Rs.49,950 (per 10 gms). Ornamental gold too, followed the suit and was quoted in the range of Rs.45,700 – 45,800 on the closing day. Silver (0.999) appreciated by Rs.3,250 and closed at Rs.74,600 (per kg).

Market course hinges on Union Budget

Expectations high that Govt will find a balance between populism, reform and growth in Budget

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

SPOOKED by sharp selling from FIIs, negative global cues like continued Covid-19 infections that may delay the economic recovery in some key nations and speculative activities in the US market, markets witnessed one of the worst performances ahead of the Union Budget in the last 15 years during the last week. The BSE Sensex fell 2,592.77 points or 5.30 per cent to 46,285.77 and the Nifty 50 corrected 737.30 points or 5.13 per cent to 13,634.60. The Nifty Midcap 100 index declined 3.5 per cent and Smallcap 100 index was down 2.33 per cent. It is pertinent to observe that the NIFTY has come off around 1150-odd points from its high point, leading to a near-vertical decline from those levels.

FIIs turned net sellers on weekly basis for the first time since September last year, selling Rs 12,096.69 crore worth of shares in the week ended January 29. It is interesting to observe that DIIs were net buyers on the weekly basis for the first time in the last four months, net purchasing Rs 3,788.98 crore of shares last week. The previous week's intensity of net selling by foreign investors took many on the Street by surprise, and a below-par Budget could further accelerate profit booking from foreign portfolio investors as they look to momentarily trim their exposure to emerging markets amid concerns over vaccine rollout.

After the hype created by the FM that the Union Budget this time will be one of its kind in hundred years and inklings in the Economic Survey of a pro-reform Budget, expectations are high that the government will deliver a pro-cyclical stimulus to further strengthen the ongoing economic recovery. Murmurs of a likely new tax on the super-rich and cess on

corporate earnings to shore up the government's coffers have dampened some of the expectations.

Any changes with the STT or LTCG, or any such expenditure that may be viewed as wastefully increasing the fiscal deficit, will not be taken in a good way by the markets. The slightest of any positive development will see sharp pullbacks. The risk is that expectations are high that the government will find a balance between populism, reform and growth under a weak fiscal position.

After the Union Budget, RBI's Monetary Policy Committee will come out with its last bi-monthly policy for the current financial year on Friday. Markets expect status quo on the interest rate front. However, it would be important to see the commentary on domestic liquidity and its outlook on bond-buying to support government bond yields. The coming week is going to be one of the most eventful in the domestic market and will, therefore, likely be the most volatile one in recent months as investors will react to the Union Budget, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy and December quarter earnings.

Futures & options sector watch

Mirroring the weakness in cash markets and hustled by FII selling, derivative segment witnessed sharp sell off during the settlement week. Traders were seen locking profits at higher level ahead of the outcome of Union Budget 2021. After moving up by 28 per cent in last three series, Nifty was down 1 per cent in the series ended.

On other hand, market wide rollovers stood at 91.5 per cent compared to last two months market wide rollovers average

of 93 per cent. The option data suggests that the Nifty could trade in a wider range of 13,200 to 14,000/14,200 levels in next few sessions. In the event of Budget disappointment, the near term downside target to be watched for Nifty is around 13,050 (20-week EMA). Maximum open interest in Call options was seen at, 14,000, 14,200 and 14,500 strikes; while the maximum open interest in Put options



was seen at 14,000, 13,500 and 13,000 strikes. Call writing was seen at 14,200, 14,100 and 14,000 strikes, while Put writing was seen at 13,300, 13,100 and 13,000 strikes. Hefty open interest at 14,000 strike makes it as key psychological hurdle for Nifty. The Implied Volatility (IV) of calls closed at 23.85 per cent while that for put options closed at 25.79 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 24.29 per cent and is expected to remain volatile. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.41. In coming week markets are expected to remain highly volatile as tug of war among bulls and bears are likely to continue.

As stock futures positions have increased, stock specific approach is required. Sectors looking good in the Feb series by rollover positions are Auto, Banking and Capital Goods. Auto stocks, in-

cluding Maruti Suzuki, Ashok Leyland, Escorts, Eicher Motors, Tata Motors, Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto, would be in focus on the first day of February as automobile companies will release their January sales numbers. Industry sources predict that the growth in passenger vehicle, medium & heavy commercial vehicle and tractor segments to continue, but 2-wheeler segment may be weak in January.

for their hiring, productivity and scale challenges. Its services include temporary staffing (or temping), recruitment services, regulatory compliance services, retail learning solutions (RLS), institutional learning solutions (ILS), apprenticeship programme (NETAP), TeamLease Skills University and payroll processing. A Fortune India 500 company listed on the NSE & BSE, TeamLease has hired 17 lakh people over the last 17 years and has over 2 lakh open jobs every day. The company offers solutions to large, medium and small clients across the 3Es of employment (over 1.5 lakh employees), employability (over 2 lakh students) and ease-of-doing business (over 1000 employers). The company, in partnership with the Government of Gujarat, set up TeamLease Skills University (TSLU), India's first vocational university, at Vadodara. The company at present has nearly 200,000 associates/trainees in more than 6,600 locations and has till date given employment to over 1.7 million. Use corrections to buy for target price of Rs 4,500 in medium term.

Pix Transmissions Limited is engaged in the business of industrial rubber products. The company's geographical segments include domestic and export. The company offers its products in categories like transmission belts, powerware products and specials. Its specials product category includes laser guided pulley alignment tool, digital tension meter, belt length measure, pulley gauge and belt angle gauge. Its belt-manufacturing units and automated rubber mixing facility are located in Nagpur. Buy on declines for target price of Rs 425 in medium term.

(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)

Not just Union Budget, personal budget also matters



K Naresh Kumar

A financial plan helps us to define various goals, their timelines and the possible cash requirements while prioritising each of them

or the requirement of it.

There could be, however, some of the initiatives by the government, to either cool down or increase the consumption of a particular good or service, for instance, to boost infrastructure or home ownership by a larger population, the government may incentivize the new home buyers through some tax cuts, etc. Still, that can't be the only criterion for the going for a home purchase by an individual. That requires a great deal of judgement in terms of the budget, the current cash flows, a bit of forecasting on personal finances, the loan eligibility, etc. but it could certainly assist the decision making. For example, if the government increases the tax incentive from the current 2 lakh limit on the housing loan interest to about 3 lakh, would that become the necessary condition for bumping up the EMI or would one look at what percentage of the income is the EMI is actually taking up.

Even for that matter, purchasing an electric car can't be done purely as the government is doling out some inducement but if one is already looking at a car purchase, probably then. It further depends upon the usage pattern, the infrastructure (charging points, etc.) and the cost of ownership to make

a conclusion. What I'm trying to put across the rationale here is that despite how the government decides to make allocations for a year, we shouldn't be wholly making changes in our investment approach or saving configuration as our goals are certain irrespective of the government's yearly priority.

This is why financial planning is critical. A financial plan helps us to define various goals, their timelines and the possible cash requirements while prioritizing each of them. This assists us to take decisions as earlier planned and control the urge to act irrationally in between. However, it's not to be seen as an iron will that is impregnable or unamended, but it certainly gives a sense of direction and importance of each of the goals. More importantly, a financial plan builds in the discipline which helps to create corpus that help in taking advantage changes that are obtained like that we're witnessing through the budget.

Despite how the government decides to make allocations for a year, we shouldn't be wholly making changes in our investment approach or saving configuration as our goals are certain irrespective of the government's yearly priority

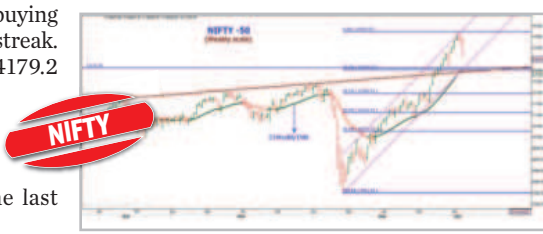
Also, we as investors should look at the budgetary priorities of the government to our advantage. For instance, if the government introduces an additional benefit of investing towards retirement, we need to double down on that to our advantage or if they have a medium to longer term push towards a particular sector(s), we could align our investment that also captures these modifications into our planning. So, rather than altering the investment thesis, we could tweak a bit or mould a corner of the investment to suit the evolving changes. On should remember, in many of our long-term goals, we would see about 15 to 20 such long speeches and so shouldn't be the prime consideration for our investment philosophy.

(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)

Nifty sends several bearish signals

Nifty forms a shooting star pattern on a monthly chart, which gives a serious cautions note for the investors

extremely negative. The prior swing low and the trend line support is at 13131. The 100EMA is placed at 12995. These are the important levels for next week for the market to be in the uptrend. In any case, it closes below 13131 decisively next week, the trend classified as a down trend as it makes a new lower major swing low. Interestingly, the 23.6 per cent retracement of March 2020 - January 2021 upswing is at 13044.



The benchmark index, the Nifty, lost 7.8 per cent from its lifetime high of 14754 on 21st January 2021. This is the highest fall points-wise and third-largest fall on percentage-wise since the March low. A fall above 10 per cent categorised as a correction. Now with the last six days of fall, the Nifty is giving many bearish signals. It closed below the 50DMA. The current distribution day count is five, which is higher. As it declined almost 8 per cent from its recent top and at a doorstep of a deeper correction. The overall market breadth is

The 12995-13131 zone is a confluence of support levels. The market may test these levels next week as long as it trades below the 13967. Interestingly, the trend line drawn by connecting the previous tops of September 2018, June 2019 and January 2020, is now may act as a support, which is at a similar level around 13000.

Another interesting historical is that every time the Nifty doubled from the lows, it corrected 25 per cent to 40 per cent in the last decade. The Nifty double from its October 2008 low of

2252 to 5690 in November 2010. Since then it corrected 28.5 per cent by December 2011 to 4531. Again from here, it doubled by March 2015 to 8269. Then corrected 25 per cent by February 2016. Then, almost double from here to 12430 on January 2020. Then corrected 40 per cent. Since March 2020 lows it again rose by 96 per cent. As the basics of technical analysis, say, the history repeats, so this time expect a correction of above 25 per cent. That means it is going to test the September 2020 low of 10800 levels. This is also 55 per cent retracement level of the current uptrend. As long as, the Nifty does not close above the prior week's high, this correction possible.

It is too early to call a bearish market. But the limitations on upside fundamentally and technically are visible. Even the budget has a limitation on the fiscal side and public spending. As I keep mentioning since the Nifty PE had reached above 30 levels. By the time the correction mentioned above of 10800, the PE levels also will reach to a reasonable level.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbhary@gmail.com)

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

WITH resistance level moving up by 1,000 points, while support level moved down by 400 points, the trading range for Nifty is getting wider amid volatility, according to the latest options data. The highest Call Open Interest (OI) addition is at 16,000 CE after the trading hours on Friday from 15,000 CE in the previous week. The highest Put OI build-up is seen at 13,600 PE as against previous 14,000 PE. The Open Interest in the NSE Nifty declined from last month. The February series began with OI close to 9.6 million against 11.8 million shares seen in the January F&O series.

However, the roll spread has come

under pressure as expected and Nifty February futures closed with just 30 points premium indicating some liquidation ahead of the Budget-2021. Ahead of the Union Budget, no major OI concentration is visible in Calls or Puts. As per the data from ICICI Direct.com, the Put base for the February series is placed at ITM 14,000 strike followed by 13,500 strike. On the higher side, immediate Call concentration can be seen at 14,500 strike for the monthly expiry.

Moreover, volatility has remained elevated near 24 levels throughout the week as selling pressure was experienced in emerging markets. The 16,000 strike has the highest concentration of Call OI followed by 15,000/14,000/15,500/15,100

strikes. The highest concentration of Put OI is at 16,000 strike followed by 15,000 strike, 15,500/15,100 strikes. Coming to the Put side, the 13,800 strike has the highest Put OI build-up followed by 13,600/13,500/13,200 strikes. Most index heavyweights recorded relatively low rollover as closure of positions was seen across the board. Analysts predict that fresh leverage positions would be formed post-Budget, which provides a further directional move. However, select auto and pharma stocks are witnessing continued short additions.

“Indian markets tanked down sharply in the week gone by as bears remained on front foot and dominated the Indian markets as Nifty

closed below crucial support level of 13,800 with a loss of more than five per cent week on week. Traders were also seen locking profits at higher level before the outcome of Union Budget 2021. However, Bank Nifty somehow managed to limit huge losses and closed the week with negative returns of nearly two per cent,” observed Bisht.

For the week ended January 22, 2021, BSE Sensex closed at 46,285.77 points, a net fall of 2,592.77 points or 5.30 per cent, as against 48,878.54 points. NSE Nifty declined by 737.30 points or 5.13 per cent and closed at 13,634.60 points from 14,371.90 points.

“In coming week markets are expected to remain volatile as a tug of

war among bulls and bears likely to continue. However, the 13,400-13,300 zone for Nifty will be a key support zone from technical front,” forecasts Bisht. The NSE's broad-based index Nifty witnessed a subdued settlement as investors resorted to book profits and it hampered down the index almost 1,000 points from the high. Further, FIIs turned sellers in the last few sessions and it created an extended selling pressure on the bourses. However, FIIs have bought more than Rs 23,000 crore in January till now, according to ICICI Direct.com.

After three consecutive blockbuster derivatives expiries for October, November and December, the NSE Nifty witnessed a roller-

coaster ride in January futures and options (F&O) series. It touched a lifetime high of 14,753 levels and thereon saw a sharp decline, registering a series-on-series loss of 1.37 per cent, according to data on Sharekhan.com.

Bank Nifty

The NSE's banking index Bank Nifty closed at 30,565.50 points, a net loss of 601.75 points or 1.93 per cent from 31,167.25 points. According to ICICI Direct.com, the overall bias for the Bank Nifty remains positive due to no major Call writing blocks, lower leverage positions and Put writing in private banks OTM strike. If Union Budget 2021 doesn't disappoint then fresh buying interest

could emerge in Bank Nifty and it could move towards its sizable Call base of 32,000 strike. Intraday short covering last Friday helped the index test its weekly highest Call base. Analysts forecast that a close above 31,000 would take Bank Nifty further high levels. For the main expiry, Call OI additions are visible in 32,000 strike followed by 32,000 points, whereas major Put OI concentration is placed at 29,000 strike, which remains the strong support area. While on the other hand Bank Nifty also after reaching a lifetime high at around 32,842, it showed a one way decline, registering a series-on-series loss of around 3.02 per cent with OI increased by 22 per cent, indicating a build-up of shorts in the index. However, Rollover in the Bank Nifty was bit on the lower side at 74.55 per cent compared to three-month average of 78.13 per cent indicating some of the shorts are left out.



VASCO (GOA)

HYDERABAD FC did their chances of making the Indian Super League playoffs a world of good with a 2-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC at the Tilak Maidan Stadium here on Sunday. Goals from Fran Sandaza (28th minute) and Joel Chianese (82) were enough to secure all three points for the Nizams and propel them to third place on the table.

Hyderabad made their intentions clear right from the start, winning a corner in just the fifth minute. The promising Asish Rai, who has enjoyed a break-through season, was the architect of the move, sprinting into the Chennaiyin box and finding Mohammed Yasir. After the latter's cross was put behind for a corner, Rai got another chance but sent his cross over.

Hyderabad kept attacking in the first quarter and they got their reward just before the half-hour mark

TODAY'S MATCH
Odisha FC vs Jamshedpur FC
at GMC Stadium in Bambolim
7.30pm

Fran Sandaza breaks the deadlock to give Hyderabad the lead in the 28th minute

Hyderabad keep playoffs hopes alive with win over Chennaiyin

when Sandaza broke the deadlock. After receiving the ball from a throw-in, the Spaniard found Joao Victor, who returned the favour with an excellent through ball. Sandaza was still under pressure from Deepak Tangri but shook off the defender by shifting the ball onto his other foot and slotting it into the back of the net.

Chennaiyin had a period of possession after the goal but poor passing in the final third meant nothing came of it. As the first half came to a close, Sandaza's goal was the only shot on target from either team.

Chennaiyin came out of the half-time break with a couple of changes -- Fatkhulloev and Edwin Vanspaul came on for Germanpreet Singh and Thoi Singh -- and the move looked to have paid off immediate dividends. Eli Sabia came up all the way from defence and found himself with a direct sight on goal. His powerful shot from outside the box looked to be going in, but instead struck the crossbar and bounced away.

The crossbar once again came to Hyderabad's rescue and this time, it was substitute Fatkhulloev's turn to rue what should have been a goal.

Hyderabad looked resigned to sitting back and defending as Chennaiyin went from being having less of the ball in the first half to dominating possession in the second. However, their lack of creativity and wastefulness in front of goal was on

ISL STANDINGS

CLUB	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Mumbai City FC	14	9	3	2	20	7	13	30
ATK Mohun Bagan	14	8	3	3	16	9	7	27
Hyderabad FC	15	5	7	3	20	16	4	22
FC Goa	14	5	6	3	19	14	5	21
NorthEast United FC	14	5	6	3	19	18	1	21
Chennaiyin FC	15	3	7	5	11	16	-5	16
Bengaluru FC	14	3	6	5	17	19	-2	15
Jamshedpur FC	14	3	6	5	13	17	-4	15
Kerala Blasters FC	15	3	6	6	19	25	-6	15
SC East Bengal	14	2	7	5	12	18	-6	13
Odisha FC	13	1	5	7	13	20	-7	8

show once again -- with ten minutes left in the game, they managed just a single shot on goal.

They soon paid for that when Hyderabad put the game beyond all doubt with a second goal. Chianese, who had replaced goal-scorer Sandaza early in the second half, was played through by another excellent pass from Victor. Chianese had only a narrow target to aim at, but he found the back of the net with ease. (ANS)

RESULTS

Hyderabad FC beat Chennaiyin FC 2-0
ATK Mohun Bagan beat Kerala Blasters FC 3-2

Gill blazes to National Rally Championship title

COIMBATORE

GAURAV Gill was in blazing form at the wheels of his Mahindra XUV as he and navigator Musa Sherif showed immense skills and patience to win the Rally of Coimbatore on Sunday and again emerge national champions.

By winning two legs on tarmac in Itanagar last month and coming to the leafy environs of Kethanur -- 40km outside Coimbatore -- where the rally stages were situated, Gill showed he was also the king on gravel.

From Saturday to Sunday afternoon, Gill had a lot of problems. From Stage 1 on Saturday till the end of Stage 6 on Sunday, his rally machine was not in best shape.

The car was in "limp mode" where he was not able to drive at the maximum speed he wanted on a demanding surface where gravel, hard pieces of stone and rock lit up the proceedings.

There were twists and turns, cars kicking up dust which made the two days of rallying action a joy to watch. "I am extremely happy to win three rallies in a row



and become national champion for the seventh time," said Gill.

"I knew I was not able to push beyond 100 or 105kmph in dirt. I had to drive technically and ensure I finished. I must thank Hardy Sir (Sanjay Sharma) of JK

Tyre for being ever supportive. We have won the championship and this is pure joy," he added.

Between Gill and Musa, the duo have participated in 63 rallies together, with 39 rally finishes, 38 on the podium and 36 wins. (ANS)

Buffalo worth ₹1.5 lakh for 'best' wrestler at women nationals



AGRA

WHILE young cricketers like T Natarajan, Shardul Thakur, Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj get awarded with SUVs for their stellar performance in Australia, wrestlers have to make do with buffaloes. With more physical strength probably needed to pin down opponents on a wrestling mat than to hurl a 156 gram cricket ball, it makes sense to gift them an endless supply of protein.

So it comes as no surprise that a buffalo worth Rs 1.5 lakh will be given to the "best athlete" at the National Women Wrestling Championship in Agra. According to Dronacharya Awardee Mahavir Prasad, a committee has been set up to decide the best wrestler of the

event that concludes on Sunday.

"On the final day of the National Women Wrestling Championships in Agra, a local sports enthusiast expressed his desire to give buffalo worth Rs 1.5 lakh to the best athlete of the event; this was announced by WFI chief (Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh) on the public address system," Prasad told IANS.

"The athlete might not be able to transport the buffalo back home but could get cash award of Rs 1.5 lakh," he added.

On Saturday, Haryana teenager Sonam Malik shocked 2016 Olympics bronze medallist and her senior statemate Sakshi Malik 7-5 to win gold in the 62kg weight category. Madhya Pradesh's Pushpa and Haryana's Manisha won bronze medals in the 62kg category. (PTI)

Asian champion Divya suffers shock first round loss

AGRA

ASIAN champion Divya Kakran, who endured the COVID-19 infection a couple of months back, suffered a shock defeat to Uttar Pradesh's Rajini in a 68kg category first-round bout of the senior Women's National Wrestling Championship here on Sunday.

Divya, who won gold at the Asian Wrestling Championship in February last year, lost 6-8 to Rajini in the first round. Rajini went on to win the silver medal. Haryana's Anita took the gold while Raunak Gulia of Delhi and Ritu Malik of Railways won a bronze each.

In 53kg, Maharashtra's Nandani clinched gold while Mamta Rani of Delhi bagged the silver. P Bidyarani of Manipur and Pooja Jaat of Madhya Pradesh won a bronze each. In 59kg, Railways' Sarita won the gold while the silver went to Sanju Devi of Haryana. The bronze medals were claimed by Neha of Delhi and Anjali of Haryana.

Another Railways wrestler, Nisha, won the 65kg gold while Monika of Rajasthan clinched the silver. Punjab's Jaspreet Kaur and Nikki of Railways won a bronze each.

Railways dominated the 76kg category as well with Kiran winning the gold while the silver was claimed by Rani of Himachal Pradesh. The bronze medals went to Pooja of Haryana and Kajal of Uttarakhand. Haryana occupies the top spot with 200 points, ahead of Railways (163) and Delhi (119). (PTI)

Messi's 555mn euros deal biggest in sports history

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi's contract with Barcelona is worth up to 555 million euros (\$673 million) over four seasons, thus making his deal as the biggest signed by any athlete in sports history, says a report.

According to Spanish newspaper El Mundo, Messi would receive a maximum of 55,52,37,619 euros (\$67,39,19,105) over four seasons, if a series of conditions were met.

The Spanish daily said it had access to the document Messi signed with Barcelona in 2017, which included fixed incomes and variables that could reach nearly 138 million euros (\$167 million) each season.

Messi's 30-page contract, accessed by the newspaper, included a signing-on bonus of 11,52,25,000 euros for accepting the renewal and a "loyalty" bonus of 7,79,29,955 euros.

According to the newspaper, Messi has already earned 51,15,40,545 euros with five months still left to run on the deal which comes to an end this June.

The 33-year-old has been with the Catalan club for nearly two decades but had asked to leave at the end of last season after growing disappointments with events on and off the pitch at Camp Nou.

Gaudium Sportopia Athletics Annual Meet kicks off



HYDERABAD

THE Gaudium Athletic Track & the First Edition of the Gaudium Sportopia Athletics Annual Meet, being jointly hosted by the Gaudium Sportopia, Hyderabad District Athletic Association and the Khel Udaan initiative, was formally inaugurated by chief guest Jayesh Ranjan, President, Telangana Olympic Body, on Saturday at the sprawling 27-acre campus of The Gaudium institution which houses The Gaudium School Sportopia and Artopia.

Also present on the occasion was National Badminton Coach and guest of honour Padma Bhushan P Gopichand, Rajesh, President, Hyderabad District Athletic Association, Ramesh, Dronacharya Awardee and Sports Coach at Telangana Sports Authority of India and Kirthi Reddy, Director, The Gaudium.

Over 350 students from across various Schools in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy District are participating in the one-day Annual Athletics Meet.

The competitions are being

held in the categories of 30m run and standing broad jump for below 8 years-Boys and Girls; 50m run, standing broad jump and basketball throw for below 10 years-boys and girls; 60m run, 300m run and 600m run for below 12 years boys and girls; 60m run, 300m run and 600m run for under 14 years boys and girls; 100m run, 400m run, long jump and 1km run for under 16 boys and girls; 100m run, long jump and 2km run for seniors boys and girls and 1km run for veterans both men and women above 40 years of age.

Gopichand stated, "Sportopia is an initiative that aims to balance quality education with good sports by providing the best of infrastructure and coaching to young children. The science behind the efforts and the teaching makes it the destination of choice. Khel Udaan is an initiative that aims to foster the spirit of sports and build better human beings of children. This athletics meet is a good platform for children and others to start off on this journey."

Levante end Real's LaLiga title hope

MADRID

REAL Madrid's slim chances of winning the LaLiga title this season took a heavy blow as they were beaten 1-2 at home by Levante in their latest encounter. Saturday's result leaves Real Madrid seven points behind league leaders Atletico Madrid, who have two games in hand and just a point ahead of Sevilla, who won away to Eibar earlier in the day, reports Xinhua news agency.

NEW DELHI

FORMER Australia captain Ian Chappell reckons India will start as favourites in the Test series against England owing to a quality pace attack with plenty of depth and a top order that is more consistent than the visitors'.

What should also bolster the home team is the addition of captain Virat Kohli to a strong batting line-up and their incredible recent triumph in Australia. "India will start as favourites after an exhilarating victory over Aus-

Noble beat Saint Sai

HYDERABAD: Noble Cricket Club defeated Saint Sai by 43 runs in HCA A-2 Division 2-Day League Cricket played at Y Sportz Grounds, Rampally, Hyderabad. Chasing 412 runs in the stipulated 90 overs Saint Sai made 368/8. Krishnakant Tiwari (3/65) was pick of the bowler for Noble CC. The 2-Day League Cricket is being organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association.

Earlier, banking on S Dharmik's 102 Noble made a massive 411 runs in 87 overs. Krishnakant Tiwari played the role of second fiddle with 80 runs. Ambarish scored patient 75 runs while Captain Ashwin Sooraj made swashbuckling 50 runs to ensure the total cross 400 plus mark.



Brief Scores:

Noble Cricket Club: 411 all out in 87 overs (S Dharmik 102, Ambarish 75, Krishnakant Tiwari 80, Ashwin Sooraj 50; Rajshakar 3/70, Hanumu Nayak 3/86) beats Saint Sai : 368/8 in 90 overs (Rajshakar 102, Tayyab 74, Shivamani 85 ; Krishnakant Tiwari 3/65, Hussain 2/60, Ashwin Sooraj 2/74).

‘India are favourites, England’s top 3 inconsistent’

tralia, overcoming all obstacles. When you add the name Virat Kohli to the batting order, the team suddenly assumes a bulletproof cloak," Chappell wrote in his column for 'ESPNcricinfo'.

"In also adding the names R Ashwin, Hardik Pandya and Ishant Sharma to the list of available players, India take on an unbeatable appearance."

The big-ticket series starts in Chennai on February 5. Chappell feels India's formidable top order may tip the scales in favour of the home

team, despite England's 2-0 sweep of Sri Lanka recently. "...The availability of a premium player in Ben Stokes who, like (Hardik) Pandya, provides all-round ability and selection flexibility, albeit at a higher level than the Indian, is a big plus. And Jofra Archer adds substantially to the quality of an already strong pace attack. However it's the top of the England order, where another returning

player, Rory Burns, will reside, that the scales tip in India's favour.

"India's top three feature an impressive Shubman Gill, a talented but flawed Rohit Sharma and the inimitable Cheteshwar Pujara, which places them well ahead of England's top order." He says it will add a lot of pressure on Joe Root if the duo of Dom Silbey and Rory Burns falls. "Dom Silbey possesses the grit and determination required for success at the highest level but there are questions about his technique against the best international bowlers. (PTI)