

Womenia

Is your kid undergoing eating disorder this pandemic?



TEJAL SINHA

There's a new concern emerging among some pediatricians and health officials. School closures plus a freeze on many organized sports could send kids on a downward health spiral. A lot of children have become more concerned of their physique which basically means that there is an eating disorder.

Dr Purnima Nagaraja, Mental Health Professional, Dhriti Wellness Clinical shares, "There are kids who are eating abnormally low calorie counts and doing fad-diet diets. They are mostly terrified of going out as their social life has been going down, the time they spent outside have been changed. The time when they used to play at their game hours are not their due to which not only the kids but all of us have gained weight."

It's far too easy for kids and teens to fall into the trap of bad dieting and anorexia and bulimia are real threats. Especially since kids are home all day, typically spending more time online. Many

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR KIDS

- Stop nagging
- Spend time with them
- Play games and do activities
- Work and wait: take time off; if the child is unable to attend online class ask them to take a break.
- Be emotionally available for them.
- Parents have to be friendly rather than being authoritative
- Re-assure that their body is okay
- Encourage them to take online activities
- Create happy memories
- If any negativity, make them understand that they have a secure background
- Iron out the differences

individuals are relying on social media and other unreliable sources for information.

It's an issue heightened by an increase in depression and anxiety health professionals are seeing among kids and teens during the pandemic. These unchecked emotions are also leading to binge eating, which is notably dangerous due to a lack of activities and school sports.

She adds, "All of us wish to have perfection. There are magazines and ads that show perfect models,

due to this kids especially the teenagers have started intermittent fasting, eating at almost starvation level which started making the kids feel that they have gained weight which leads to eating disorders like Bulimia Nervosa and Anorexia Nervosa."

According to her, not only the kids are getting anxious and but also the parents are getting anxious with the news about the novel cause and other new relevant facts which is the talk of the town.

"These days there are huge so-

It's far too easy for kids and teens to fall into the trap of bad dieting and anorexia and bulimia are real threats. Especially since kids are home all day, typically spending more time online

cial media fatigue of reading many facts. Student's especially the teenagers are the ones who are the most effected with their online classes and exams that are coming in. Due to this they have started experimenting with their diet and their physique," she adds.

When it comes to the parents there is a lot of parental paranoia especially with the girls like 'you have become so fat'. No parent would like to body shame their child but it is the anxiety within them that they are forced to do. The child might be facing Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) or any other disorder.

Look for the signs

To help protect your children, look for these signs:

First, are they experiencing extreme weight loss or weight gain? Are they frequently skipping meals or refusing to eat? Or maybe they're eating abnormally large amounts of food in one sitting.

Be sure to also look at their behavior away from the table. Are they isolating from family and friends? Spending a lot of time in that room.

Are they spending a lot of time again on social media and just not really connecting the way they used to with other people.

Don't be afraid to seek professional help if some of the signs are there. A lot of times parents don't even know what to do when they do find out. They don't know who to turn to.

Skincare benefits of hemp

Hemp oil contains vitamins, minerals, and amino acids which improves skin's health

Hemp is one of the most talked about ingredient in the beauty industry. When it comes to skincare the many benefits of hemp or hemp seed oil makes it's a hero ingredient. It contains a very little cannabinoid, a compound often used for therapeutic purposes and help in soothing the skin and relieving inflammation. Along with essential fatty acids, hemp oil contains vitamins, minerals, and amino acids which improves skin's health. Nowadays the buzzy ingredient is taking over the world of beauty and skincare, from hand cream and facemask to body oil, creams and cleansers, there is an array of hemp-infused products popping up in beauty supply stores everywhere.

Plabita Sharma, beauty training manager, The Body Shop India lists down the top five benefits of hemp induced skincare products:

Food for sensitive to super dry skin

One of the many benefits of hemp induced skincare product is that it has been found to have significant soothing properties. Its substantial skin-soothing and skin-normalizing effects can help minimize issues related to skin sensitivity, dryness including redness and reactivity. Since all skin types are affected daily by environmental stressors, hemp seed oil soothing mechanism can help and keep everyone's skin in check.

Rich in antioxidant

Hemp seed oil is a rich source of antioxidant and helps in promoting repair and rejuvenation of skin. It can also protect the skin from environmental damage, such as over-exposure to sunlight which can accelerate premature sign of aging like fine



lines, dark spots and more.

Promotes clearer skin

Acne is a most common concern for oily skin however incorporating a skincare product enhanced with hemp oil could mean the difference between pimple-ridden skin and a clearer complexion. Hemp oil is perfect for most skin types as it can moisturize without clogging your pores. It can even help to balance out oily skin, hydrating it and regulating the skin's oil production. Dryness can also cause your skin to overproduce oil, which in turn, can stimulate acne. Hemp oil can prevent dry skin without clogging pores. This helps reduce acne that's caused by excess oil.

Improved collagen production

Hemp seed oil has an ability to improve collagen production, it contains vitamin C which is important in collagen synthesis. Increased collagen results in increased skin elasticity and decreased appearance of fine lines and wrinkles

Natural humectant

Just like other skincare oils, hemp seed oil also has ultra-nourishing capabilities. But what really sets this ingredient unique is its ability to lock in moisture. This oil contains polyunsaturated fatty acids, vitamin E and amino acids. When applied topically, these components moisturize the skin and help it to retain moisture.



Lack of compliments top reason for female infidelity: Survey

PUJA GUPTA

The lack of compliments and acts of kindness from their spouses is the top reason for female infidelity, reveals a study.

The survey was conducted by dating app Gleeden on over 11,000 female users* and according to their responses, 84 percent women complain about their partners not giving them

enough attention and compliments whereas 61 percent admit that lack of compliments cause their discussions and tension within the couple. Further, 77 percent of respondents admitted that this behaviour is the primary reason which brought them to stray away from their married life.

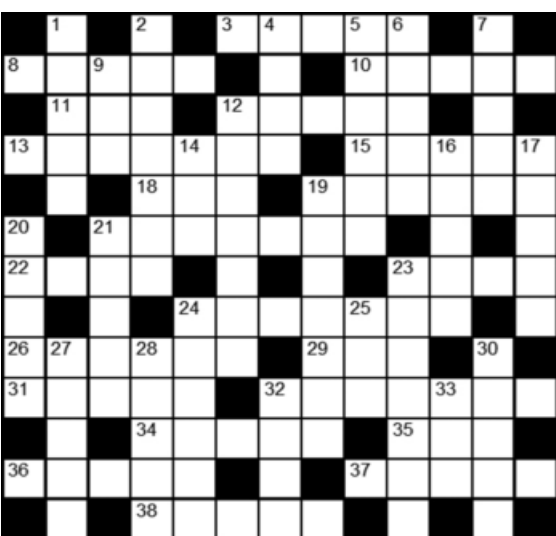
The survey added that 82 percent of the respondents stated

that they need to feel appreciated and valued in their relationship, lack of which forces them to look elsewhere. For 76 percent, the lack of compliments undermines their ability to feel desirable and seductive. Lastly, 42 percent find it hard to feel sexually attracted and aroused towards someone who doesn't feel the same way, forcing them to look for love outside

the relationship.

The Journal of Sex Marital Therapy supports these revelations that an inattentive partner can have a devastating impact on a woman's interest in the relationship. It states that women who regularly receive compliments from their fiancé, husband or boyfriend about their looks are more sexually fulfilled than others.

The findings reveal 84 per cent women complain about their partners not giving them enough attention and compliments whereas 61 percent admit that lack of compliments causes discussions and tension within the couple



SOLUTION TO JANUARY 19

CROSSWORD

Across

- In Latin, that is (2,3)
- The destruction of tissue (5)
- Get ready (3,2)
- Brother of Kush (3)
- Pelvic bones (5)
- Of marriage (7)
- Drops (5)
- Large container (3)
- Impart gradually (6)
- Twisting out of shape (7)
- Fall short (4)
- Sailor's greeting (4)
- Angrily or crossly (7)
- Part of the eye (6)
- Polish off (3)
- Characteristic spirit (5)
- Cheese on toast (7)
- River nymph (5)
- Floor covering (3)
- Eat heartily (3,2)
- ___ in: Entered data (5)
- Prison rooms (5)

Down

- Islamic Supreme Being (5)

Across

- Restoration to life (7)
- Distribute cards (4)
- Powerful (6)
- Sporting sides (5)
- All together, musically? (5)
- Scoundrel (3)
- Mountain range in Central India (7)
- Road gunk (3)
- Needing to scratch (5)
- Kills or bumps off (5)
- In place of (7)
- Previously (5)
- The extent of something from side to side (5)
- Changed (7)
- Mad (6)
- Hearing organ (3)
- Moral values (5)
- Classical Greek style (5)
- Big cat (5)
- Train track (4)
- Purchase (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JANUARY 19

NEWS ROUNDUP

Shilpa Shetty doesn't believe in aging stereotypes

Actress Shilpa Shetty says she does not believe in the stereotyping people face once they cross a certain age.

Shilpa writes on her Instagram, "Ageing is a process we have absolutely no control over. But, stereotyping what you can and cannot do just because you have crossed a certain age is something I don't believe in. The years add a lot of wear & tear to the bones, nerves, & muscles but, consistently taking care of ourselves is important. The body may have reached a certain age, but if you are young at heart then the world is your oyster."

Shilpa shares these three simple rules:

- Eat right
- Exercise regularly
- Smile and laugh more often

The actress also shared a video that captures her jumping on a trampoline with son Viaan. The video has a message that reads, "Ageing is inevitable, but how you want to age is a



choice." She shared the post with hashtags: #ShilpaKaMantra, #SwasthRahoMasRaho, #ExerciseWell, #EatClean, #SmileMore, #StayHappy, #YoungAtHeart and #AgeIsJustANumber.

On the work front, Shilpa is all set to return to the screen after 13 years with two releases, "Hungama 2" and "Nikamma". Directed by Sabbir Khan, the action-packed romantic comedy film "Nikamma" also features Abhimanyu Dasani and Shirley Setia. "Hungama 2" also stars Paresh Rawal, Pranitha Subhash and Meezan. The film is a follow-up of Priyadarshan's 2003 slapstick hit, "Hungama".



NEW DELHI

THE Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that the Delhi government is a habitual offender in causing pollution in the Yamuna river.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Vineet Saran was hearing a suo moto case pertaining to the issue of remediation of polluted rivers.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing CPCB, contended before the bench that the department is in

the middle of collecting data on various factors associated with pollution in Yamuna and it will be filed very soon. "Delhi is a habitual offender for pollution in Yamuna," Bhati submitted before the top court.

Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, amicus curiae in the matter, submitted before the bench that as on January 18, the water quality is excellent, as the ammonia content is 0.3 ppm, and insisted if this can be maintained consistently. Praising the Haryana government, Arora submitted, "They have brought ammonia to a good level the acceptable point is 0.9 ppm." She

emphasised this is a matter of drinking water for Delhi.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, representing Haryana government, submitted that petition filed by Delhi Jal Board was not maintainable, as there were many facts which are in dispute. The Chief Justice replied, "What is the problem in making an order that the present levels must be maintained?"

Divan urged not to make this observation, as problems connected with water pollution emerge from Delhi. He added that Delhi government is wrong on pinning the blame on Haryana. The bench gave one

week's time to Haryana to file a counter to Delhi Jal Board's plea.

The bench also directed the committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on river monitoring to submit its report to the court and made it a party in the case.

On January 13, the Supreme Court had said pollution-free water forms the basic right under the constitutional framework and took suo moto cognisance on the issue of contamination of rivers by sewage effluents.

The top court said "We deem it appropriate at this stage to

start with the issue of contamination of river Yamuna." The observation from the top court came on a plea by Delhi Jal Board citing increased ammonia levels in Yamuna due to discharge of pollutants. The top court observed that the plea highlights an issue of great significance and consequence not only for general public but all living beings dependent upon open surface water.

The bench said the right to clean environment and further, pollution-free water has been protected under the broad rubric of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21.

18 rescued after boat capsizes in Ganga

MIRZAPUR

EIGHTEEN people were rescued after their boat capsized in river Ganga near the Ram Gaya Ghat here on Tuesday morning, police said.

Four of them had to admitted to Vindhayachal Community Health Centre, Inspector Sheshdhar Panday said. A government spokesperson in Lucknow said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials of the district to rush to the spot and ensure proper relief and rescue.

The people on the boat were on their way to Bhadohi district on the other side of the river to work in agriculture fields when it capsized, Panday said. Locals and boatmen acted promptly and rescued all of them, the inspector said, adding that four of them were in serious condition and were admitted to the health centre.

CBI seizes ₹2.04 crore more in rly bribery case

NEW DELHI

THE CBI seized more than Rs 2 crore on Tuesday during follow-up searches in bribery cases involving senior Northeast Frontier Railway officers, taking total seizures to Rs 4.43 crore in last three days, officials said.

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) official said here that the agency officials seized Rs 2.04 crore during searches at the office of ABCI Infrastructures Ltd in upscale Kailash Colony in south Delhi.

Besides cash, the CBI also seized several other things from the premises. The official said that certain items were removed by company officials and concealed at other place in Delhi.

The official said that CBI searches were carried out on Tuesday at several locations in Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur.

In the last two days, the CBI has arrested five persons from different locations.

On Sunday, a 1985-batch In-



dian Railway Engineering Service officer Mahendra Singh Chauhan, posted as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/Construction in NEF Railway in Assam's Maligaon, was arrested from Guwahati. Private person Indra Singh and ABCI Infrastructures employee Bhupendra Rawat were arrested on Sunday from Dehradun with the bribe money.

On Monday, the CBI arrested Deputy Chief Engineer Hem Chand Borah and Assistant Executive Engineer Laxmi Kant

Verma from Assam's Guwahati.

The arrests came after the CBI registered a case against Chauhan, Borah, Verma, ABCI Infrastructures Pvt Ltd Director Pawan Baid, Rawat, Singh and other unknown persons under the IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act.

During earlier searches at 26 locations, including in Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura and West Bengal, Rs 2.39 crore was seized, including the bribe amount of Rs 1 crore that was changing hands in Dehradun.

Gurugram: Veterinarian booked for death of 2 dogs

GURUGRAM

THE Gurugram police have booked a veterinary doctor and a compounder for negligence that led to the death of two pet dogs belonging to a resident of Sector-56 here.

Doctor Rahul Dangi and compounder Anup Singh of 'ARD pet hospital' were booked following an order of a local court.

The complainant Anees Rahil of Sector-56 in Gurugram, who was also the owner of the dogs, said that on May 2020 she had visited the pet hospital located in the same area after her female dog's health deteriorated. "At the hospital, Dangi told the woman that her dog is undernourished and would recover soon. Later the dog was referred to 'Animalia Veterinary Policy clinic' Sector-47 for ultrasound and X-rays. Thereafter the pet was admitted to the doctor's hospital for further treat-



ment," the complainant alleged.

On 25 May 2020, the complainant brought her male dog after it seemed to be unwell.

"The dog was later taken to the same hospital where the compounder Anup Singh was taking care of the animal," the woman told the police.

As the woman reached home,

the hospital authorities called her up to inform her that both her pets had died.

The complainant alleged that while claiming the dogs' bodies, she was shocked to notice that the animals were wrapped in a plastic bag, despite breathing. She called for help but her pets passed away in the meantime.

TV journalist Nidhi Razdan files plaint with Delhi Police

NEW DELHI

DELHI Police's cyber crime cell will investigate a complaint received from senior TV journalist Nidhi Razdan who has said she was a victim of a phishing scam in which she was given a fraudulent offer of a position of Associate Professor at the Harvard University.



Razdan filed the complaint with the Delhi Police on Monday regarding commission of cognisable offences including forgery, cheating, identity fraud and impersonation by unknown accused against her.

Earlier, she had filed a similar complaint with the Jammu and Kashmir Police on January 16 when she was in Srinagar. A senior Delhi Police officer said that an investigation would be undertaken

on the basis of the complaint which was filed at a police station in South East district.

A series of emails exchanged with those behind the alleged scam as well as other documents connected with the matter have been enclosed with the complaint. Her lawyer Shri Singh said Razdan had received an email in December 2019 containing a purported offer from Harvard University for teaching journalism. Thereafter, she resigned as Executive Editor of NDTV last June.

However, she had come to know last week that a series of emails and forged documents sent over a period of one year

were an elaborate scam to dishonestly and fraudulently cause loss to her, Singh said. Razdan has urged the cyber crime cell to undertake a detailed and thorough investigation to trace the accused and register an FIR in this regard.

She has also asked Harvard University to register a complaint with the FBI or other relevant authorities to investigate this crime, according to the lawyer.

Delhi riots: 'Not given access to charge sheet in jail despite orders'

NEW DELHI

SEVERAL accused, booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a north-east Delhi riots case, claimed before a court here on Tuesday that they have not been given access to the charge sheet in jail despite its orders.

Some of the other accused, who have got the access to it, sought the court's directions to the jail authorities for a uniform time limit, preferably more than an hour a day, for reading the bulky 18,000-page charge sheet on the computer system in prison. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat has put up the matter for further hearing on February 2. During the hearing held through video conferencing, accused Khalid Saifi, Shifa Ur-Rehman, and Shadab Ahmed claimed that the charge sheet has been uploaded in the jail computer as per the court's orders but they have not been given access to it.

"Police officials have uploaded the charge sheet in the computer but the jail authorities have not given me access to it," said Saifi who is lodged in Mandoli prison. Rehman, lodged in Tihar jail, said the prison authorities did not inform him till date that the charge sheet has been uploaded and he can get read it. Suspended

AAP Councillor and co-accused Tahir Hussain claimed he has not been able to read the charge sheet as the computer system was always occupied. Hussain also sought that he be given access to a pen drive containing the charge sheet so that he can go to the library and read it. The court even expressed displeasure when it came to light that all the accused were not being given a uniform time slot for reading the charge sheet.

Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid submitted he had been given three hours some day while one hour the next day for reading the charge sheet. "Besides the availability of computer system and the fact that it varies from jail to jail, it also depends on the official on duty as to for how much time we will be given access to the computer. It is my request that some standard time can be provided, which is more than an hour a day as the charge sheet is about 18,000 pages," Khalid claimed.

While JNU student Sharjeel Imam claimed he has been given two hours to read the charge sheet, former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan said she was given one hour and Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha said he has been given access to the computer for half an hour only.

SULTANPUR

AAM Aadmi Party MLA Somnath Bharti on Tuesday accused the Uttar Pradesh government of fighting political battles by lodging fake FIRs with the help of police and asked it to stop the alleged practice.

"There is no place for violence in democracy. Political fights should be fought through political means and not through fake FIRs and taking the help of police and hiding behind them," Bharti, a former Delhi government minister, told reporters while coming out of Ahmat jail here following his release on bail in two cases.

The two cases -- one in Rae Bareilly and another in Amethi -- were registered against Bharti on charges of making "objectionable remarks" against UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and state's hospitals.

"I am being released from jail after 200 hours. I want to tell Yogi ji that even if he keeps me in jail for 200 days, I will still go from house to house, from locality to locality in Uttar Pradesh to present the Kejriwal model of governance and its achievements



ments on issues of education, water, power health, security," Bharti said.

"We have set up a model in Delhi and the people of Uttar Pradesh also have the right to get benefits similar to those being extended to the people in Delhi. We will ensure that people here get similar rights," he said.

Attacking the UP CM, Bharti said, "There is an undeclared emergency in the state and he has gone even beyond the Congress. There is an attempt to gag the voice of everyone."

Bharti said on behalf of the AAP, it was his promise that he would apprise the people of the Kejriwal model of governance versus the Adityanath model of governance.

He said his party will contest the coming zila panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Law student held for objectionable post on Modi, Yogi

GORAKHPUR

THE Gorakhpur police have arrested a 24-year-old law student for allegedly uploading offensive post against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on social media. The accused, Arun Yadav, had allegedly morphed the faces of Modi and Adityanath in a video and then uploaded it on Facebook.

The Gorakhpur University has also suspended Yadav, a first-year law student and formed a disciplinary committee to look into the matter.

The police spokesman said that they came to know about the post two days ago and on inquiry found that that video was uploaded on the Facebook account of Arun Yadav.

"We found that the accused had morphed faces of the two leaders in an objectionable manner. He was arrested from a village in Chauri Chaura area," said the spokesman.

Yadav has been booked under IPC section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 469 (forgery for purpose of harming reputation).

Going for vaccination is personal decision, people's confidence will get boosted: Jain

NEW DELHI

WITH a low turnout of healthcare workers on the first two days of the COVID-19 vaccination drive, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said the exercise is voluntary and a matter of "personal decision" for people whether to get a shot or not, but all efforts are being made to boost their confidence.

Nearly 3,600 healthcare workers were inoculated in Delhi on Monday, a further dip in the figures compared to that on the opening day of the immunisation drive, with sources saying just eight medical staff got the jabs at AIIMS. "The target of the day in Delhi was 8,136, and 3,598 got vaccinated, which is 44 per cent of the targeted figure," he told reporters. Jain reiterated that this is a voluntary exercise and people



are making their own decisions, as it's the initial phase. Asked if statements made by a few political leaders raising doubts over its efficacy and safety, could be a factor, he said, "No. Going for vaccination is a personal decision, and has nothing to do with what political statements have been made about it."

Under the nationwide mega vaccination drive launched on Saturday, a total of 4,319 (53 per cent) health workers against a target of 8,117 were administered the vaccines at 81 centres across the city. The sharp fall had come after one severe and 50 minor cases of AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) were re-

ported on Saturday. On Tuesday, 26 cases of AEFI, were reported, including two severe ones. One of them had to be hospitalised. According to the Union Health Ministry officials, the person was sent to Max hospital at Patparganj. Jain said a doctor of LBS Hospital has to be hospitalised after AEFI.

When asked if AEFI was a factor in low turnout on the second day, the city health minister said, turnout of nearly 50 per cent is "not very low" and coronavirus situation is also under control in Delhi. "It's initial days of the drive, and it will take time, but people's confidence will be increased, and it will pick up. As a government, we are also taking all the steps to push up their confidence level," he said. Asked if technical issues with CoWIN app were also a factor,

he said the app is "creating hurdles" at times.

"Sometimes, it is not working, and it has not stabilised yet," Jain said, adding, there is no plan to do the job manually. At the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital, only 12 healthcare workers got vaccination on Monday, compared to 32 on day one, as per data shared by officials. No one showed AEFI at this site, a senior official said. At Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, the number for Monday stood at 20, nearly half of the figures on day one -- 45, officials said. Delhi recorded 161 COVID-19 cases on Monday, the lowest in nearly nine months with a positivity rate of 0.32 per cent. "The fresh cases and active cases, both have come down a lot. Seems, the situation is lot under control now in Delhi," he said.

SWR'S BIKE RALLY



On the occasion of 158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, which is also observed as National Youth Day, the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Rovers of SWR took out a bike rally on Monday from Rail Soudha. The purpose of the rally was to create awareness among the public on the use of masks and to protect oneself and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The rally was flagged off from Rail Soudha by P. Ravi Kumar State Chief Commissioner BSG & PCME/SWR/UBL, and Alok Kumar, Vice President BSG & PCPO/SWR/UBL

Will Indian IT benefit from Biden presidency?

As the President-elect of the United States Joe Biden is all set to be sworn in as the 46th President of the world's largest economy, the Indian IT industry is pinning high hopes on a liberal immigration and work permit policy. And this is not surprising given the Donald Trump administration's series of moves, making it difficult to move IT engineers to work on onsite projects in the US. Trump and his administration pursued 'America First' policy to revive the industrial sector and expand the technology segment. These policy moves were aimed at generating jobs for local citizens in the US.

Under Trump's presidency, the country brought in several administrative measures to discourage temporary work visas such as H-1B and H-2B among others. Firstly, the administration increased the fees for non-immigrant visas apart from delaying the process for approval. As the Covid pandemic roiled the globe, the Trump administration restricted foreign nationals to

come on work visas till December last year in the first phase. On the verge of the New Year, this restriction was extended by another 90 days till March 31 of 2021.

Taking another parting shot affecting green cards, H-1B, and other similar work visas, the Trump administration this week raised the wages by approximately 30 per cent across the board. It means the Indian IT firms now have to cough up higher wages for employees working in the US. No wonder, the rejection rates of H-1B visa applications shot up during these past years. The US Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) data showed that except for Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), visa denial rates were higher than the average denial rate of 21 per cent for the first three-quarters of the fiscal.

Against this backdrop, Biden's presidency is being eagerly awaited as hopes are building up for reversing some of the past decisions. Experts are of the opinion that

norms with regard to wage hikes and higher visa application fees are likely to be reversed by the Biden administration. This optimism stems from the fact that Biden was always liberal towards immigration norms as reflected in his tenure as the vice president under the Obama administration.

As Obama's presidency is considered as the golden period for immigration, the Biden administration is expected to follow this legacy. Even Biden's campaign promised to ease norms for allowing talented individuals to work in the US. At a time when the global economy is badly bruised by the ongoing Covid pandemic, the revival of the US economy hinges on the faster growth of its multi-national corporations (MNCs). And these MNCs require Indian talent for putting them back on the growth trajectory.

Hopefully, the Biden administration will be mindful of this fact, which can benefit both the US economy and the Indian IT industry. But the billion-dollar question is whether it will happen. It's not easy to pursue pro-immigration policies in the US given the growing racial divide as reflected in the recent attack on Capitol.

PIOs to rule roost in White House

PAYAM SUDHAKARAN

AMERICANS' Indophilia has a long history. Ever since the famous Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, in his pursuit for India way back in 15th century, landed in America, the names of the two largest democracies in the world have been linked. However, hidebound Republicans apparently detested Indians and Indian culture and encouraged racist pigs to ridicule, offend and often assault Indian immigrants in the US.

Leaving that apart, liberal Americans' love for Indian culture was evident in the works of renowned writers including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman and others. India's great spiritual philosopher Swami Vivekananda's electrifying speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 received standing ovation for several minutes and still remain a landmark in India's cultural history.

Enchanted by his erudition, Harvard University offered him the chair of Oriental Philosophy, and the University of Columbia the chair of Sanskrit.

Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru had thousands of admirers in the US. In fact, Mahatma Gandhi's emphasis on non-violence and his unique method of fighting British rule through Satyagraha attracted attention of the American people. US leaders like Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt were great inspiration for Indian freedom fighters.

Things have come a long way since then and today White House has many heavyweights with Indian roots. Kamala Devi Harris, Vivek Murthy, Gautam Raghavan, Mala Adiga, Vinay Reddy, Bharat Ramamurti, Neera Tanden, Celine Gounder, Atul Gawande... and the list is long. They are – almost two dozen of them – going to be part of the inner circles of the White House' A-team.

Republican Senator David Perdue, a trusted aide of outgoing President Donald Trump, laughed at the name of Kamala Harris just ahead of presidential elections on November 3 last year apparently with the impression that the Indian-origin Vice Presidential candidate might never make it to the mighty White House, but had to sit baffled as his derisive remarks on the Indian name of one of the most powerful woman in the country led to a mammoth fundraising in Georgia.

In what comes as a historic development in American history, two dozen Indian names make it



In what comes as a historic development in American history, two dozen Indian names make it to the Who's Who of the White House. Unable to digest the hard realities happening around, a violent mob, ardent supporters of power-hungry and warmongering Trump, attacked the Capitol building in Washington DC on January 6, making a mockery of democracy while Democratic party led by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had won both the Georgia Senate seats, thus transferring America's balance of power to the hands of Democrats. When Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were administered the oath of office, they were in fact ushering in a new era in American politics, where the team of a steady mix of Indian Americans were being build up in the commanding corridors of the White House. The members of the team have inspiring success stories across a wide range of subject matter expertise including medicine, economics, digital communications and storytelling

to the who's who of the White House. Unable to digest the hard realities happening around, a violent mob, ardent supporters of power-hungry and warmongering Trump, attacked the Capitol building in Washington DC on January 6, making a mockery of democracy while Democratic party led by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had won both the Georgia Senate seats, thus transferring America's balance of power to the hands of Democrats.

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It sounds like you are in Indian Parliament as these names are so Indian - Gautam Raghavan, Vivek

Murthy, Mala Adiga, Vinay Reddy, Bharat Ramamurti, Neera Tanden, Celine Gounder.

Jokes are doing round in American political circles as to how to pronounce these names properly. However, these leaders with Indian lineages are proud of their names. Kamala Harris, in her memoir 'The Truths We Hold' rightly put it like this: "First, my name is pronounced 'comma-la', like the punctuation mark. It means 'lotus flower', which is a symbol of significance in Indian culture. A lotus grows underwater, its flower rising above the surface while its roots are planted firmly in the river bottom."

It may be remembered that during the Democratic National Convention in August 2020, Kamala Harris introduced herself to America in these words, "There's another woman, whose name isn't known, whose story isn't shared. Another woman whose shoulders I stand on. And that's my mother - Shyamala Gopalan Harris."

However, these changes, for Indian diaspora, are most hearty ones. Over the years, they have been facing the wrath of white racists silently as the Republican leaders are high on hatred of browns and blacks. There have been reports of several attacks on Indians, some fatal, by haters of Indians. There was even a group of fanatics called Dotbusters, referring to bindi worn by Hindu women on their foreheads.

The loathing may be because the Indian-Americans are the highest-earning ethnic group in the United States. Indianness is very much visible in the US streets – people, food, festivals and culture. And the amount of bigotry is such that in February 2017, the house of an Indian man in Colorado, was egged, smeared with dog faeces and vandalised with racist slogans. And we cannot forget the brutal murder of a man from Telangana Srinivas Kuchibhotla by a rogue racist and a navy veteran in a bar in Kansas. The 30-two-year-old aviation engineer shot dead while his col-

league Alok Madasani managed to survive. Just within a fortnight, a Sikh man was attacked outside his home in Kent, Washington, while he was washing his car.

It may be remembered the outgoing President's nationalistic rhetoric actually triggered panic among immigrants. It can't be a strange coincidence that those Indians who supported Trump in the run-up to the 2016 election were a motley group right-leaning American Hindus who heaped generous donations and conducted elaborate prayer ceremonies to placate the gods in favour of the Republican chauvinist. They belonged to the same clan of Indians with Hindutva agenda back home in India who perceive Islam as their enemy.

It is true that due to their divergence of security and strategic interests, both India and the United States have expressed serious differences on several international issues, but history has a lot to say about the respect and camaraderie the leaders of both the nations shared since centuries.

During the time of John F Kennedy, Indo-US relations became very cordial. His successor, President Johnson continued the rapport by setting up the Tarapur Atomic Plant and by supplying a large quantity of food grains to enable India to fight over the acute shortage caused by the severe drought in 1966-67. In 1978, President Carter paid a goodwill visit to India to register and restore American sympathy and amity for India.

Two Indian Americans – Har Gobind Khorana of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar of the University of Chicago – have been awarded the Nobel Prize, in medicine and physics respectively. In fact, NASA's premier X-ray observatory is named after Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar - the Chandra X-ray Observatory.

And, in 1997, Dr Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian American to fly in the US space shuttle, adding a new glittering chapter to the history of the Indian American community. More recently, Indian American astronaut, Sunita Williams, achieved the world record for the longest space flight by a female astronaut, 195 days.

Indian music, dance, art, literature cuisine, and films are widely appreciated by Americans. The brains behind the major development in the fields of science and technology in America today undoubtedly are the ones who flew down from the land of unity and diversity. Yes, now they are having a say in American politics too!

BJP'S NEW STRATEGY IN BIHAR



Sushil Modi's exit, Shahnawaz's entry

MANOJ PATHAK

AFTER the recent Bihar Assembly election, the BJP - a major constituent of the ruling NDA in the state - has been constantly re-booting its political strategy in the state.

Now the latest move by the saffron party has sprung a surprise as it declared Union minister Shahnawaz Hussain as its candidate for the Bihar Legislative Council. There are now indications of far-reaching preparations over this move by the BJP.

Earlier, former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi had been nominated to Rajya Sabha by the BJP while Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi were appointed Deputy Chief Ministers. In the BJP, Sushil Modi is seen as a supporter of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

BJP sources also believe that after the emergence of the NDA as the largest block in Bihar, the party is trying to come out of the shadow of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. On one hand, Sushil Modi has been sent to the Rajya Sabha and the BJP's Muslim face Shahnawaz Hussain is to be sent to Bihar.

Political experts believe the BJP has made a far-reaching political move by sending Hussain to Bihar. This move by the BJP is also being seen as a pressure tactic against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Analyst Manikant Thakur says the BJP has sent a clear message to Nitish Kumar to either toe its line in Bihar or accept a major post at the Centre.

But BJP leaders are not saying anything openly on the changes in the party's political strategy. A BJP leader said that the party has now made up its mind to do politics in Bihar on the 'front foot'. Some people also believe that the BJP is working on a plan to strengthen its hold in the Seemanchal region by projecting Shahnawaz Hussain as the party's Muslim face while the opposition RJD is also trying to create a dent in the BJP by eyeing the Muslim vote bank.

With the arrival of Shahnawaz Hussain, the BJP will get a boost in Bihar and send a positive message among the Muslim community as his political image is of a young, fiery and trustworthy leader. BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said that whatever decision is taken by the party's top leadership, all the party leaders and grassroot workers accept it readily.



Strawberry cultivation to empower Jhansi

JHANSI which is well-known as the land of valour is all set to write a new chapter and strawberry cultivation would play a pivotal role in transforming the region. The land of Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh is most suitable for the cultivation of strawberries and to promote its cultivation, a 'Strawberry Festival' is being organised in Jhansi.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would inaugurate the 'Strawberry Festival' from January 17 to February 16. During this festival, the cultivation of strawberry would inspire people to take it up throughout Bundelkhand, including Jhansi.

According to Jhansi District Collector Andra Vamsi, farmers could

Strawberry cultivation has been started for the first time in Bundelkhand. This region was never known for fruits. Jhansi district is known for its production of pulses, oilseeds and ginger. For the first time, two families in Jhansi without any help from the state government have successfully achieved the feat of cultivating strawberries

earn better income through strawberry cultivation. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is personally taking a keen interest in the development of Bundelkhand, which is one of the backward areas of the state.

The CM said strawberry cultivation has been started for the first time in Bundelkhand. This region was never known for fruits. Jhansi district is known for its production of pulses, oilseeds and ginger. For the first time, two families in Jhansi without any help from the state government have successfully achieved the feat of cultivating strawberries. These families with the help of drip irrigation and sprinklers cultivated strawberries in the region showing that strawberries could be grown in Jhansi and Bundelkhand. If strawberry cultivation gets a boost in Jhansi, farmers would get a new source of earning a better income.

According to the Jhansi District Magistrate, when the two families in Jhansi cultivated strawberries, we drew inspiration from them and decided to organise the 'Strawberry Festival' in Jhansi. DM Andra Vamsi explained that people would be encouraged to cultivate strawberries by organising workshops during the Strawberry Festival. The people would be told how to cultivate strawberries and how it will increase their income.

Strawberry cultivator Happy Chawla told IANS that 1.5 acres have been used for sampling. It would produce an estimated 10,000 kg which would be available at a rate of Rs 100 per kg in the market. If the strawberries are produced and sold properly, then the farmers would get a fair price for their produce and earn a handsome profit.

According to Gaurav Garg, an expert on strawberry cultivation, strawberry farming could end the plight of farmers in Jhansi and Bundelkhand. One kilogram of strawberries from a strawberry plant is available for nearly Rs 70 to Rs 80. The strawberries grown in Jhansi have the same taste as the famous strawberries of Mahabaleshwar. If strawberry cultivation was encouraged in Jhansi and Bundelkhand, it would be in the interest of farmers.

A victory which will be savoured forever!



AFTER the match-saving innings by Vihari and Ashwin at the Sydney test, yet another record partnership in the first innings by Shardul and debutant Sundar helped post a fighting total after India was struggling at 186 for 6 in the Brisbane test clearly reveals that India has a good depth in both batting and bowling departments. After Siraj and Shardul restricted Aussies by splendid bowling in the second innings, India was set with a formidable target.

However India team batting sensibly through brilliant display by Gill, Pujara and Pant finally breached the Australian fortress by scripting a historic and stunning test and series win. As India's memorable show in the midst of abuse and injury against Aussies in Australia reveals India's depth in both batting and bowling, it will go down in the annals of Indian test history as one of the greatest wins. In short, India team under Rahane showing guts throughout helped India lift the Border-Gavaskar trophy, congratulations to boys for carving an epic win at Gabba which will be deeply etched in the memory of all lovers of cricket and fans alike for generations.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

II

THE victory of Indian cricket team in fourth test match against Australia at its own turf, and claiming the series is amazing. The team has tasted victory for the first time at the Gabba stadium after thirty two years, despite the absence of crucial players. All the team members, especially Rishabh Pant, Pujara and Gill have exhibited the streaks of superior skills, team spirit, grit and perseverance to come out as a winning team. Kudos to the team India.

Dr D V G Sankararao, Nellimarla

III

IT is heartening to note that Team India has retained the Border-Gavaskar trophy by winning the Brisbane test with three wickets in hand, clinching the series by 2-1. With an inexperienced team, with no star players to mention, this feat is really marvellous. It is really historic. Sundar, Natarajan, Thakur & Siraj are all assets of Team India. This win is a reward for tolerance of the Indian team and its people, despite racial discrimination abuses faced by our players on and off the ground. Hope more fascinating cricket is in store for the Indian cricket lovers in future.

Sravana Ramachandran, Chennai

IV

ON 19th December 2020, the Indian cricket team capitulated for 36 all out and even the ardent supporters had written off the team as non-performers on overseas conditions. Exactly after one month on 19th January, 2021 we saw thunder down under and Rahane's team saw the renaissance of Indian cricket. The transformation of the game and its total change all seen during the pandemic under the bio bubble conditions. After the first test set back and the abject surrender at Adelaide, the played with a different captain and fresh set of players all saw a great comeback and in Brisbane we were all bemused and bewildered at our youngsters performing at the highest level.

C K Subramanian, Mumbai

V

WHAT a stunning comeback by Indian test team, they turned the tables against the Kangaroos and won series with 2-1 lead. What started as impossible even to draw the match playing full day proved to be the victorious one to India. All are shocked and elated at the chiselling performances of the Indian stars that too on a foreign pitch. All deserve a big 'hurrah' for winning the series against Australia in style.

Ramakrishna M, Kakinada

CM nudges babus to speed up Sitarama lift irrigation works

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAYASHANKAR-BHUPALPALLY

TAKING inspiration from the speedy completion of Kaleshwaram Project, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has instructed the officials of the state Irrigation department to complete the works of Tupakulugudem and Dummugudem barrages of the Sitarama Project. “The government wants to complete all these projects quickly and put an end to the farmers’ hardships once and for all,” said the CM, while visiting the Medigadda barrage in Bhupalpally district. “We have taken up construction of Kaleshwaram project as a Yagnam. Thousands of workers toiled all-round the year during the hot

- Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao visits Medigadda barrage in Jayashankar-Bhupalpally district
- Says the government will complete all projects quickly and put an end to farmers’ hardships



temperatures and the officials have solved the issues like land acquisition, crossings etc for the smooth construction of the project. I am very happy that the project, which is of immense help and need to the farmers, has become

operational. It is a matter of satisfaction that the dreams of Telangana farmers have been realised and a solution to the drinking water problems is reached,” the CM said. He expressed happiness and satisfaction over the com-

pletion of Kaleshwaram project and the water being pumped uninterrupted as planned. The CM congratulated the Water Resources Department officials, working agencies and officials from other departments for their efforts in completing the project on a fast track. “The Telangana farming community has faced hardships for decades. We have resolved in the initial stages that once Telangana State is formed, farmers should get adequate water supply for two crops and that will be the result of getting Telangana State. We have planned a strategy for constructing a barrage at a point after river Godavari and Pranahita joins so that more water for more time can be pumped,” he said. Ministers, legislators, officials and local leaders were present.

MLA holds meeting with zonal authorities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIKARABAD

MLA Methuku Anand organised a meeting with public representatives and zonal level officials at Chintakunta village of Dharur zone in Vikarabad constituency on Tuesday. The MLA visited all the wards in the village and inquired about the problems faced by people with regard to acquiring ration card, pensions, drinking water, roads and canals. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the locals and people’s representatives have highlighted various problems which would be solved as soon as possible. The MLA later instructed the authorities concerned to resolve the issues as early as possible. Sarpanch Vijaya Lakshmi, MPP Vijaya Lakshmi, ZPTC Sujatha, AMC chairman Ramulu, PACS chairman Venkat Reddy and others accompanied the legislator.

Chugh tars KCR in graft paint

KCR deceiving people in the name of Bangaru Telangana, charges BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SANGAREDDY

BHARATIYA Janata Party national general secretary Tarun Chugh accused Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of deceiving people in the name of ‘Bangaru Telangana’, and indulging in large-scale corruption and promoting nepotism. Speaking at a meeting held Mahila Morcha members here on Tuesday, Chugh said the Bangaru Telangana was only for the Chief Minister and his family members. He slammed the KCR government for failing to fulfil the promises it made during the elections. “In the corruption-ridden government of KCR, unemployment has been increasing and he has failed to give two lakh jobs as promised during the elections. He is only concerned about the employment of his family members and has rehabilitated his daughter as MLC after she lost the Nizamabad Lok Sabha seat,” he mocked. Adding that people of Telangana were frustrated with the



“He is only concerned about the employment of his family members and has rehabilitated his daughter as MLC after she lost the Nizamabad Lok Sabha seat,” BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh

TRS government and its lop-sided policies, Chugh said that people were looking towards the BJP as an alternative to the pink party. Chugh exhorted the women wing of the BJP to disseminate information about pro-poor policies and programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government which the KCR government had failed to implement. Expressing satisfaction at the manner the BJP has been making inroads in the State, he

said the party workers must fan out in corners of the State to take the PM’s message of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’ to people so that no section of the society feels left out in the saga of development. Party Mahila Morcha state president Geetha Murthy, former MP Vijaya Shanthi, State vice-president and former MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, former State president of Mahila Morcha Akula Vijaya and others attended the meeting.

All TTD Veda Pathashalas to be under SVV varsity

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TO have a better development of Vedic studies and academic progress, all the TTD veda pathashalas will be brought under the umbrella of SV Vedic University, said TTD executive officer (EO) Dr K S Jawahar Reddy. During a review a meeting on Vedic studies in his chambers at TTD administrative building here on Tuesday, the EO said all the six Veda pathashalas of TTD would soon be brought under the jurisdiction of the SV Vedic University. A committee will be set up to frame guidelines on eligibility, selection process, admissions, syllabus, courses and, certification etc. Required for the students of Veda Pathashalas.



Chief Minister reviews the progress in implementation of Jagannanna Thodu, YSR Cheyutha and YSR Bima at his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday

JAGANNANA THODU, YSR CHEYUTHA, YSR BIMA CM orders completion of loan disbursements by end of March

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday directed the officials to prioritise Jagannanna Thodu, YSR Cheyutha, YSR Bima schemes and complete the loan disbursement process for the programmes being carried out under these schemes by the end of March. During a review meeting on these schemes, the Chief Minister instructed the authorities to focus on the selection of beneficiaries for various employment creation programmes under YSR Cheyutha scheme by continuing the best practices and ensure to cover more number of people in the second tranche of the scheme. He told the officials to encourage the beneficiaries in investing the money provided by the government to improve their livelihood rather spending on personal needs. Further, the Chief Minister directed the officials to make arrangements for providing animal feed and medicines for the beneficiaries of Jeevakranti scheme upon placing orders through Rythu Bharosa Kendras and look into the possibility of

geo-tagging along with the unique ID number for the cattle supplied under the scheme. Even if the beneficiaries want to sell the cattle, it should be done through RBKs. He approved proposals by the officials to fill the vacant posts of veterinary surgeons in the department of animal husbandry and to set up a new toll-free number for treating the cattle and asked them to revamp the veterinary hospitals on the lines of Naadu-Nedu scheme. On YSR Cheyutha, he stressed the need to examine the implementation of the scheme by conducting a study on the steps to be taken to implement it more transparently and their impact on transforming the beneficiaries’ lives. He instructed the authorities to provide scheme for all those eligible, by weeding out the ineligible ones and asked the banks to extend loans for eligible beneficiaries in connection with the Jagannanna Thodu scheme. The Chief Minister also stressed on creating prominence to the retail shops that were setup with the government aid and told to tag Cheyutha beneficiaries to the top companies in their field.

In regard to YSR Bima, the Chief Minister directed the officials to accelerate the selection process of beneficiaries of the insurance scheme by coordinating with bankers and make sure to benefit all the eligible. Also, he told the officials to review the implementation of YSR Bhima fortnightly. Meanwhile, the officials briefed on the AP Amul project to the Chief Minister, which is currently being implemented in 3 districts Prakasam, Chittoor, Kadapa. The officials informed that AP Amul project will be extended to Guntur and West Godavari districts in the first week of February and would be expanded to other districts across the state by March 31, 2022. Ministers Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy, Seediri Appalaraju, special chief secretary Poonam Malakondaiah, principal secretary for panchayat raj and rural development Gopalakrishna Dwivedi, AP Dairy Development Cooperative Federation managing director A Babu, special commissioner of Labour department G Rekharani and other officials were present in the review meeting.

JEE, NEET SYLLABUS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED

Unlike previous years, this time the candidates will have the option to leave out some questions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE syllabus of JEE and NEET will remain unchanged for the year 2021. However, unlike previous years, this year the candidates will have the options to leave some questions in JEE and NEET examinations. The syllabus for JEE (Main 2021) remains same as the previous year. But the students will be given choice to answer 75 questions (25 questions each in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics) out of 90 questions (30 questions each in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics). In JEE (Main) 2020, there were 75 questions all of which had to be answered by the candidates (25 questions each in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics). The exact pattern for NEET (UG) 2021 is yet to be announced. However, in view of reduction of syllabus by some boards across the country, the NEET (UG) 2021 question paper will also have options on the lines of JEE (Main).

Ram temple fund drive by TRS MLA raises eyebrows

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



AT a time when the TRS and BJP leaders are at loggerheads in the State, the ruling party MLA from Andole, Chanti Kranti Kiran, participated in the rally to collect funds for construction of Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya, which has garnered attention from political circles. The MLA took part in the rally organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad that has been drumming up donations under the ‘Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Mandir Nirman Nidhi Samarpan Abhiyan’ for the construction of the temple. The locals were surprised to see the MLA taking part in the rally and also seeking funds. Apart from this, he has donated Rs 11,111 towards the cause. Sharing a photo of the bike rally on social media, the MLA said, “I have participated in a bike rally organised by my Hindu brothers in the constituency to collect funds for the Sri Ram temple in Ayodhya. Everyone should come forward to donate for the construction of the temple.” Meanwhile, the political analysts opined that there has been an effort from the ruling party leaders to project themselves as true Hindus in order to gain people’s support

- TRS MLA takes part in VHP rally to raise funds for Ram temple
- Political analysts opine that the ruling party leaders are trying to project themselves as true Hindus in order to gain people’s support

ect themselves as true Hindus. The BJP has been going aggressively on the Hindu plank and it has fetched good results for the party in the recently held GHMC elections. It may be mentioned here that recently party leader and daughter of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, K Kavitha, took part in the Bhogi celebrations held at the Bhagyalakshmi temple near Charminar.

Kodali Nani-Uma war of words sparks tension

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TENSE situation prevailed for several hours in Gollapudi village on the outskirts of Vijayawada city on Tuesday morning when police arrested former minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao when he tried to stage a protest at NTR statue against the remarks of civil supplies minister Kodali Nani Venkateswara Rao alias Nani against him and party chief N Chandrababu Naidu.

It may be recalled that Kodali Nani warned Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao over his comments on YSRCP government and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and made some harsh comments against both Uma and Naidu. In protest against the remarks, Devineni Uma dared the minister that he would stage a protest against him at NTR statue in Gollapudi and if courageous enough, the minister can stop him.

Following Uma’s proposed fast, a large number of police cordoned off the area near his house since early morning and detained him when he came out of his residence and forcibly took him in a van towards Ibrahimpatnam. On receiving the information, several TDP activists led by former MLA Tangirala Sowmya blocked the road to prevent the police from taking away Uma to an unknown destination. Later, the police changed their route and shifted him to Veeranki Locks police station in Krishna district. He was later released in the evening. After returning to Gollapudi, the former minister performed ksheerabhishekam to the NTR statue. On the other hand, minister Kodali Nani alleged that Devineni Uma had tried to stage protest fully knowing that the police would not allow him. He again dared the TDP leader for a public debate on the implementation of manifestoes of both the YSRCP and TDP. Reacting to the developments, TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu condemned the arrest of Devineni Uma and demanded his immediate release. He criticised the government for arresting TDP leaders only for questioned it on behalf of people and described the arrest nothing but violation of human rights. Naidu said that the YSRCP MLAs and ministers were threatening officials and people. He pointed out that police had failed to arrest the minister Kodali

- Police arrest Devineni Uma when he tries to stage protest against the ‘obscene’ comments of Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Nani

- TDP cadres block road, later stage stir at police station demanding his release
- TDP chief Naidu and other leaders condemn arrest of Uma for just questioning the govt



Police arresting former Minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao near NTR statue in Gollapudi in Vijayawada on Tuesday
Hans Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

neni Uma had tried to stage protest fully knowing that the police would not allow him. He again dared the TDP leader for a public debate on the implementation of manifestoes of both the YSRCP and TDP. Reacting to the developments, TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu condemned the arrest of Devineni Uma and demanded his immediate release. He criticised the government for arresting TDP leaders only for questioned it on behalf of people and described the arrest nothing but violation of human rights. Naidu said that the YSRCP MLAs and ministers were threatening officials and people. He pointed out that police had failed to arrest the minister Kodali

Nani who threatened to attack Uma physically but arrested Uma who tried to stage a protest. He demanded action against the minister for his unruly and obscene comments. TDP state president K Atchannaidu also condemned the arrest of Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao saying that the YSRCP leaders were resorting to personal accusations and attacks. Former MP Konakalla Narayana Rao and TDP national spokesman K Pattabhiram too condemned the arrest of Devineni Uma. Former MLA Tangirala Sowmya staged protest at Pamidimukkala police station along with TDP cadres demanding the immediate release of Devineni Uma.

- Party chief says CM and Ministers are behind unchecked hooliganism
- Claims that more than 2,000 farmers committed suicides, 400 atrocities have been committed on women and physical attacks have taken place at 1,350 places in 20 months

Weavers’ leader Nandam Subbiah was lured to the spot and then murdered just for exposing corruption in house sites. Constable Gurunatha Reddy, who exposed irregularities in Gandikota compensation, was killed in the temple where gram sabha was held. A Jana Sena activist met with a suspicious death after questioning YSRCP MLA of Giddalur in Prakasam district,” the former chief minister said.

State turned into a hub of violence, alleges TDP

AMARAVATI

TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday slammed the YSRCP government for turning Andhra Pradesh into a hub of violence by resorting to a series of murders, suicides, suspicious deaths, atrocities and what not. Naidu deplored that the Chief Minister and the ministers were not behaving like elected people’s representatives but were perpetrating mindless rowdiness to terrify all sections of people. Even the people were publicly questioning the behaviour and attitude of the ruling party MLAs, he added. Addressing a video confer-

ence of the party leaders in Tirupati parliamentary constituency, the TDP chief said that over 2,000 farmers committed suicides in just 20 months, 400 atrocities were committed on women and physical attacks were made at 1,350 places. Over 16 TDP activists were murdered. Gangi Reddy was murdered at Tamballapalli. Dalit youth Om Pratap was dead under suspicious circumstances in Punganur. The TDP chief said that the otherwise peaceful Chittoor and Nellore districts were also witnessing attacks and atrocities. The YSRCP leaders have made it their daily ritual to take the lives of the people. Over 15 miscreants launched an attack with knives on TDP leader Venkatesh

in Sullurupeta on Monday. One MLA was threatening the district SP directly in a public meeting and during the SP for a public challenge. Another MLA’s constant harassment caused a woman MPDO to sit in a dharna at midnight in front of the police station itself, he said. Naidu asked how a ruling party MLA could shamelessly state that he was encroaching 7 acre government land. Now, a foul-mouthed minister was threatening to storm into the residence of the Opposition leader to beat him up, he said. “An SI who raided the gambling den of the minister committed suicide. There is a suspicion whether it was a murder or a suicide or a suspicious death.

Biden picks transgender woman as assistant health secretary

President-elect enters the White House today with the top challenge to lift the country from the devastation of a raging pandemic that has killed more than 3,98K Americans. We're ready to do the work, and we've got a lot of work to do: Vice President-elect Kamala Harris

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden has tapped Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine to be his assistant secretary of health, leaving her poised to become the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the US Senate.

A pediatrician and former Pennsylvania physician general, Levine was appointed to her current post by Democratic Gov Tom Wolf in 2017, making her one of the few transgender people serving in elected or appointed positions nationwide. She won

past confirmation by the Republican-majority Pennsylvania Senate and has emerged as the public face of the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Dr. Rachel Levine will bring the steady leadership and essential expertise we need to get people through this pandemic — no matter their zip code, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability — and meet the public health needs of our country in this critical moment and beyond," Biden said in a statement. "She is a historic and deeply qualified choice to help lead our administration's health efforts." A

Biden plans to unveil a sweeping immigration bill on Day One of his administration, hoping to provide an eight-year path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people living in the country without legal status, a massive reversal from the Trump administration's harsh immigration policies

graduate of Harvard and of Tulane Medical School, Levine is president of the Associa-



tion of State and Territorial Health Officials. She's written in the past on the opi-

oid crisis, medical marijuana, adolescent medicine, eating disorders and LGBTQ medicine.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead for Joe Biden when he will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday, saying "it is not going to be easy." Biden enters the White House on January 20 with the top challenge to lift the country from the devastation of a raging pandemic that has killed more than 398,000 Americans and thrown millions into economic distress. "We're go-

ing into Wednesday knowing that we're ready to do the work, and we've got a lot of work to do. It's not going to be easy," Harris told reporters at Martha's Table in Anacostia here on Monday, observing the National Day of Service. Every year on the third Monday in January, Americans honour the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who in the 1950s and 1960s organised non-violent protests for Black equality and voting rights. The holiday traditionally features people commemorating King's work by participating in community service projects.



Court rejects Indrani's plea for dress code exemption in jail

MUMBAI

A special CBI court here on Tuesday rejected the plea of Indrani Mukerjea, a prime accused in the Sheena Bora murder case, seeking exemption from wearing the uniform prescribed for convicts in prison despite she being an undertrial. Mukerjea is lodged at the Byculla women's jail here since her arrest in the case in 2015.

Last month, Mukerjea told the court that though she was an undertrial, jail authorities were asking her to wear a green sari, the uniform meant for convicts. Subsequently, Mukerjea submitted an application through her lawyer seeking exemption from wearing this uniform. However, special judge JC Jagdale rejected her plea. Sheena Bora (24), Mukerjea's daughter from an earlier relationship, was allegedly strangled in a car and her body was disposed of in neighbouring Raigad district in April 2012. The murder came to light in 2015 and the Mumbai police arrested Indrani Mukerjea, her driver Shyamwar Rai and former husband Sanjeev Khanna.

Biggest ever ration racket busted in Indore

INDORE

IN the ongoing campaign against mafias in Madhya Pradesh, the Indore administration has claimed to have busted the biggest ration racket in the state so far.

Bharat Dave, the kingpin of this racket, has been arrested by the Indore police. The administration has registered 12 FIRs and named 40 accused, with possible action against many others under the National Security Act.

Sources said complaints have been coming in Indore for a long time about the scam. Indore collector Manish Singh got 12 ration shops investigated, and the facts which came out were shocking. It was found that there were major irregularities in providing ration to the poor from ration shops as about 50,000 ration card holders were cheated.

Sources said the investigation also revealed that influential persons have taken one or more ration shops in their name or in the name of family members and are selling ration directly in the market. The racket has spread everywhere in the state.

Sources claim that several big businessmen are involved in this racket and the kingpin Bharat Dave was nabbed.

Kerala: 17 held for rape of minor girl

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

SEVENTEEN men have been arrested and 30 cases registered under the POCSO Act for rape of a minor girl in Kerala's Malappuram district.

The girl was also abused twice earlier.

The station house officer of Pandikkad police station, Mohammed Haneefa while speaking to IANS, said "There are a total of 30 cases under Pandikkad, Karuvarekkundu and Vandoor stations in Malappuram district on sexual abuse and assault of the minor girl".

The officer said, "16 cases are at Pandikkad, 13 at Karuvarekkundu, 1 at Vandoor. 16 people have been arrested in Pandikkad and 1 at Vandoor".

The girl who is now 17 years old, was earlier abused four years ago when she was just 13 years old and she was lodged at Nirbhaya home since 2016. Again she was subjected to sexual abuse in 2017 when she started staying with her relatives.

The issue came to light when she went missing from the home where

she was living with her brother and his wife. Her father is no more and her mother is an invalid.

Malappuram Child Welfare Committee (CWC) chairperson Shajesh Bhasker said "The girl has been again released to her relatives as there was no allegation against any of them. All the accused are outsiders."

The case is being investigated by a police team led by Perinthalmanna Deputy SP with Circle Inspectors of Pandikkad, Vandoor and Karuvarekkundu police stations.

There are 44 accused in the cases of sexual abuse which had taken place over a span of four years.

Meanwhile, A 13-year-old Dalit girl has been allegedly raped by a man who then tried to bury her alive in a pit in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday evening following which the 35-year-old accused was arrested, and the girl, whose condition is serious, has been referred to a hospital at Nagpur in neighbouring Maharashtra, they said.



(the giver and the receiver) will have to go to jail," he said.

"This process should start, but this process will not start because the prime minister may have given the informa-

tion," he alleged. Addressing a press conference here, Gandhi said, "The law will take its own course, but I have an observation. This was top-secret information, this was not provided to anybody else."

'ROP'-ING IN TO VOTE!



Villagers cross the Beas river on a improvised cable rope bridge after casting vote during the second phase of Himachal Pradesh Panchayat elections, in Kullu district on Tuesday

Tandav makers agree to make changes

MUMBAI

THE cast and crew of Amazon Prime Video series Tandav on Tuesday said they have decided to implement changes to the political drama to address concerns.

Tandav, a nine-episode political thriller starring Bollywood A-listers Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, started streaming last week but the show landed in a huge controversy over its depiction of Hindu deities. At the centre of the row is a scene with Zeeshan Ayyub, in the role of college student Shiva, playing the

Hindu god Mahadev in a theatre production.

In an official statement, the team reiterated that they had no intention to hurt anyone's sentiments.

"We have utmost respect for the sentiments of the people of our country. We did not intend to hurt or offend the sentiments of any individual, caste, community, race, religion or religious beliefs or insult or outrage any institution, political party or person, living or dead.

"The cast & crew of Tandav have made the decision to implement changes to the web series to address the concerns raised towards the same," the statement read.



India to supply coronavirus vaccines to six countries

NEW DELHI

INDIA on Tuesday announced that it will supply COVID-19 vaccines under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles from Wednesday. The Ministry of External Affairs said India will supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner keeping in view the domestic requirements. It said India is awaiting confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius for supply of the vaccines. In a statement, the MEA said India has received several requests for the supply of Indian-manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries. "In response to these requests, and in keeping with India's stated commitment to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the COVID pandemic, supplies under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will begin from January 20," it said.

Pondy CM, ministerial colleagues stage dharna

PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and his ministerial colleagues staged a dharna here on Tuesday, protesting 'denial' of permission to meet Welfare Minister M Kandasamy, who has been on an indefinite strike against Lt Governor Kiran Bedi over alleged non-clearance of certain project files.

The Chief Minister was on his way to meet Kandasamy, along with health minister Malladi Krishna Rao, revenue minister M O H F Shah Jahan and Vaithilingam, MP, when they were stopped by central police personnel on duty outside Raj Nivas and reportedly denied permission to meet him.

Protesting against this, they squatted on the road and heated arguments ensued between Congress workers accompanying them and the security personnel.

Later the CM told reporters that he would leave for Delhi on January 21 or 22, along with Kandasamy, to meet the President, seeking his intervention on the matter.

Kandasamy on Tuesday shifted the venue of his eight day old dharna from outside the Assembly premises to the front of the Raj Nivas.

1989-90 genocide: Kashmiri Pandits to move SC again for probe

A bench headed by then Chief Justice Khehar on July 24, 2017, had declined to entertain a review petition filed by the Pandits. "More than 27 yrs have passed since then. No fruitful purpose will be served as there will not be any evidence at this juncture"

NEW DELHI

IT has been 32 years since hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits were killed as part of ethnic cleansing in the Kashmir Valley, and their wounds remain raw as justice eludes many in the community who lost their loved ones. Seeking justice for the community, Roots in Kashmir, an organisation representing the displaced Pandits, will move the Supreme Court next week seeking a probe into the genocide.

A bench headed by then Chief Justice J.S. Khehar on July 24, 2017, had declined to entertain a review petition filed by the Pandits. The top court had noted that in-

stances referred to in the petition pertained to 1989-90 and more than 27 years have passed since then. No fruitful purpose would be served as there will not be any evidence at this late juncture, it had said.

"We are filing a curative petition with a hope that the courts will appreciate that it erred in 2017. That it opened Sikh riot cases much older than the Kashmiri Pandit genocide," said Amit Raina of Roots of Kashmir.

The organisation has argued that the top court on August 21, 2017, reopened and ordered further investigation into 241 cases closed by the SIT in connection with anti-



Sikh riot cases and "this amounts to discrimination". Raina contends that the top court formed the Mukherjee Commission to probe Netaji's death, then why can't investigations be ordered into Kashmiri Pandits' genocide.

He insisted that it will be significant step in the fight for justice for the community members, who have been pursuing this matter relentlessly to send the perpetrators to the jail. On January 19, the community observes every year as "holocaust day". "We will also be reminding the apex court that the case against JKLF chief Yasin Malik for kidnapping Rubaiya Sayeed in 1989 and killing of 4 IAF officials in 1990

should also be reopened," said Rahul Mahanoori, a senior member in the organisation.

Against the backdrop of revocation of Articles 35A and 370, the organisation feels the situation is conducive to reopen the investigations.

Neal Pandita, 15, who is the coordinator of Roots in Kashmir, said she is hopeful that the top court will deliver justice to our community.

"It is a large community with half a million people who are eager to get justice for their family members, comrades, who had been killed in the name of genocide, ethnic cleansing," she said.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.64	South	
Euro	93.12	African Rand	5.57
UAE Dirham	21.93	Hong Kong Dollar	10.87
Thai Baht	2.8	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	103.64	New Zealand Dollar	54.75
Australian Dollar	59.23	Saudi Riyal	21.47
Canadian Dollar	60.35	Swedish Krona	10.07
Swiss Franc	85.61	Singapore Dollar	57.81

DELHI WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Vivo expands Y-series

SMARTPHONE brand Vivo has expanded its Y-series line-up with the launch of VivoY20G. The product is priced at Rs 14,990 for 6GB+128GB storage variant and features an AI Triple camera-setup that provides enhanced photography capabilities, massive 5,000mAh battery with 18W fast charge technology. The Y20G will be available in two attractive colors - obsidian black and purist blue - on Vivo India E-store, Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm, Tatacliq, and across all partner retail stores. Its Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) offers 98 per cent more power, higher image quality and stronger performance. The processor also incorporates the hyper engine game technology that speeds up game load time and provides a seamless gaming experience.

Forevermark unveils report

Forevermark, the diamond brand from the De Beers Group, unveiled its Spring summer trend report for 2021 with the trends like Diamond Rain, when translating rain's allure into diamond jewellery and diamonds are cut such as pears, marquise and squares to replicate the stunning fluid droplet from rain. Twist & Shine Life's unexpected twists and turns teach people to be adaptable and agile. They come with silhouettes based on sculptural twists that thrill from every angle. "The trend Diamond Rain showcases the strength, beauty and rarity of diamonds that inspire us to look forward, just like the ability of rain to refresh and revive. Together, these marvels of nature symbolize our hopes and dreams." Said Federica Imperiali, Head of New Product Development at Forevermark.

Luminous declares winners

Luminous Power Technologies declared winners of its month-long virtual contest 'Super Singer 2' on Tuesday. The event was organised to engage with the vast dealer network. The company received more than 16 thousand song entries on the Luminous app from dealer-network of Luminous across India. Rohit Kataria, the owner of Kataria Music Academy, Jaipur, Rajasthan has helped the company to short-list best 20 entries and 10 finalists among them were selected by Usha Uthup to perform at the 'Super Singer' gala event and she announced the winners in a live gala music event organised by Luminous. Usha Uthup said: "I am honoured to be a part of this soulful and energetic music contest. I extend my gratitude towards Luminous that has chosen music to connect with its extended family during these difficult times."

Tide forays into India

Tide, the UK's leading business banking fintech, has chosen India for its first overseas foray with a test launch slated for the first quarter of 2021. Tide has already incorporated a local subsidiary for the launch with the India CEO & commercial team being based out of Gurgaon, and a second office in Hyderabad. The India business will be led by Gurjodhpal Singh, previously a senior executive at PayU, India's leading PSP business. Oliver Prill, Tide CEO, said: "India, with 63 million SMEs is home to one tenth of all SMEs globally and the second largest startup ecosystem worldwide with an entrepreneurial culture. The considerable commercial opportunities, and the fact that Tide's management team has had extensive experience in the market."

Markets soar as bulls back in action on stimulus hopes

Sensex gains 834 pts, Nifty rallies 239.85 pts; HDFC twins, RIL lead charge

MUMBAI

REVERSING two days of heavy losses, the Sensex posted its biggest jump in almost four months on Tuesday as investors returned to buying mode amid expectations of fresh stimulus in the US and other economies.

A recovering rupee and persistent foreign capital inflows further buoyed sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex soared 834.02 points or 1.72 per cent to close at 49,398.29. It was its biggest single-day gain since September 25, 2020, when it had climbed 835 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rallied 239.85 points or 1.68 per cent to finish at 14,521.15. Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 6.77 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, HDFC, L&T, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma and NTPC. HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank accounted for almost half of the benchmark's gains. Only three Sensex components closed in the red - Tech Mahindra, ITC and M&M, shedding up to 0.54 per cent. Global equities were on an upswing after US President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for treasury secretary, former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen batted for more measures to fight the recession and avoid an even worse downturn. In

Investor wealth zooms ₹3.41L cr

Investor wealth grew by Rs 3.41 lakh crore on Tuesday as markets made a dashing comeback after two days of losses. The 30-share BSE Sensex soared 834.02 points or 1.72 per cent to close at 49,398.29. Following the upbeat sentiment, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped Rs 3,41,846.01 crore to Rs 1,96,19,149.34 crore.

Focus on commodities, pharma stocks

KUMUD DAS MUMBAI

THE market has formed complete reversal formation by closing above the highest of the previous day, which was at 49,122. Today, all the sectors closed in positive territory. The market breadth was extremely encouraging. Unusual focus should be on Commodities and Pharmaceutical stocks surge in the Hang Seng helped other Asian markets to trade higher. Along with Asian markets, today's performance of US markets would decide the next course of action for our markets. The market is heading for 49,600 levels, which is a crucial hurdle point for the market. On the decisive break of 49,600 levels, it would result in retesting of 49,800 levels, which is an all-time high-level. On the downside, 49,100 and 48,800 would be major supports. "The focus should be on Commodities and Pharmaceutical stocks," Shrikant Chouhan, EVP, equity technical research at Kotak Securities.

STOCK PICKS

● RADICO - Above 523 with a target of 532 and Stop loss of 516. It is on the verge of a breakout.

● ACC - Above 1720 with a target of 1755 and Stop loss of 1690. It has a support of 55 DMA.

● OBEROIRLT - Above 590 with a target of 600 and Stop loss of 580. It has reversed from the support.

● CIPLA - bove 827 with a target of 840 and Stop loss of 815. It is trading in an upward trending channel.

● INDIGO-Above 1676 with a target of 1695 and Stop loss of 1660. It is trading in an upward trending channel.

(Source-CapitalVia)

‘Iron ore price hike taking heavy toll on RINL’

SANTOSH PATNAIK VISAKHAPATNAM

THE steel increase in iron ore prices by mining major NMDC Limited will cast a huge burden on Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, popularly known as Vizag Steel. "NMDC has increased iron ore prices by 100 per cent i.e. doubled in recent months...this has a huge burden on steel producers like RINL," according to a recent tweet by Katam SS Chandra Rao, joint secretary, Steel Executives' Federation of India (SEFI).

RINL, which has a production capacity of 7.3 million tonne per annum from its shore-based integrated steel plant here, is the only major steel producer without captive mines-a demand which remained unanswered for several decades due to a variety of reasons. RINL has an agreement with NMDC to source lion's share of its iron ore requirement from Bailadila mines in neighbouring Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. Rao told Bizz Buzz that Vizag Steel did

not have captive mines for iron ore and coking coal. Both the materials are not only major raw materials for iron and steelmaking but also have a high impact on cost of production.

RINL/Vizag Steel, one of the best steel plants, has been suffering due to lack of captive iron ore and coal mines. RINL's raw material cost is 63 per cent of total cost whereas that of SAIL's and TATA's is 48 per cent and 35 per cent respectively (both companies have their captive mines), he informed.

He stated that RINL was losing about Rs800 crore to Rs1000 crore per annum exclusively on account of lack of iron ore. Though RINL has been performing well, only on account of high input cost on material, it was faced with a liquidity crunch. "Non-allotment of captive iron ore mines since long time, captive investment of more than Rs 30,000 crore as per the Government of India Steel Policy (Expansion to 6.3 mt, and 7.3 mt by modernisation), dumping of cheap steel products from China and global crisis, the plant has gone into deep financial crisis since 2016," he stated.

Vizag Steel does not have captive mines for iron ore and coking coal. Both the materials are not only major raw materials for iron and steelmaking but also have a high impact on cost of production

—Katam SS Chandra Rao, joint secretary, SEFI

People seek cut in petrol, diesel prices

DEEPIKA PASHAM HYDERABAD

WHAT do Hyderabadis expect from the upcoming Union Budget 2021-22 slated to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmal Sitharaman on February 1? Given the chaos that people went through in the past several months due to the once-in-a-century Covid-19 pandemic, people are expecting a lot from the forthcoming Budget. But cut in prices of petrol and diesel, tax sops to those investing in startups, crop loan waiver for farmers and enhanced allocation of funds for infrastructure, seem to top their Budget wish list.

"I have been part of a startup investment platform in the UK and had an opportunity to invest in early-stage companies. In the UK, local nationals can claim up to 50 per cent investments or £100,000 per tax year that is why it is hugely attractive among startup investors. What is the incentive for Indian HNIs to invest in early-

stage startups and risk their hard-earned money? None," pointed out Major Sunil Shetty, founder, MyStartup TV. The central government claimed that India is home to world's third largest, but it should provide more tax incentives to attract investors, he told Bizz Buzz. "The only way to attract investments into early-stage startups from high net-worth individuals (HNIs) is by giving them tax incentives, especially by offsetting their losses against their income from other sources. This will motivate HNIs to take risks and support early-stage

entrepreneurs," he reasoned. Ever-rising prices of petrol, diesel and LPG are also taking financial toll on people. Cut in these prices will obviously bring much-needed relief. "The whole nation is waiting for the Budget to see whether any reliefs will be provided in the Budget. Inflation is high, petrol, diesel and LPG rates are going up even though global crude oil prices have moderated long back, it's high time the Centre reduces prices of fossil fuels at the earliest possible," demanded Rana Ashish, a PhD student from Osmania University.

He also battled for more funds for education and healthcare besides more jobs for unemployed youth. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised 2 crore government jobs for the unemployed youth in 2014. But the promise did not translate into reality so far. Food delivery apps and e-commerce sites provided more employment opportunities than the Indian government," he said.

Property consultant Anarock acquires ApnaComplex

NEW DELHI

HOMEOWNED property consultant Anarock has acquired society and apartment management platform ApnaComplex from Bengaluru-based NestAway Technologies for around Rs 100 crore. Anarock announced the deal late Monday but did not disclose the deal value. Over 22,000 apartment societies are using the ApnaComplex platform in over 80 cities across India. NestAway Technologies is a leading rental housing operator funded by Goldman Sachs, Tiger Global, UC-RNT Fund, IDG India, Chiratae Ventures and InnoVen Capital.

Anarock group had said in a statement that it had acquired a 100 per cent stake in ApnaComplex. According to market sources, Anarock has acquired ApnaComplex for around Rs 100 crore. When contacted, Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said the platform has an annual revenue of around Rs 6.5 crore. He refused to comment on the deal size. "From buying and selling

homes to managing and maintaining them, real estate digitalisation is now a root concept. ApnaComplex is a pioneer in providing housing societies and households with a reliable and trustworthy tech platform for managing their properties." "We are clear that the business will run independently and with a distinctive culture that the technology world demands," Puri said. The company is ready to invest aggressively in this platform to bring in the required product features and hire key talent. "Our acquisition rationale is to extend innovative features and tech upgrades for homeowners, residents, society managing committees, as well as facility and security management teams," Puri said.

DICCI to start biz facilitation centres

HYDERABAD

THE Dalit Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) will start Business facilitation Centres across India in all State headquarters, according to Ravi Kumar Narra, the newly elected National Working President for DICCI. About the future course of action programme and the progress made by DICCI so far, which was set up in 2015, Ravi Kumar Narra said presently DICCI has 7 Business facilitation centres and this will be scaled up to 30 by April 14, 2021 on the Birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Ravi Kumar said that DICCI has 30 chapters all over the country including Jammu and Kashmir and North East with 10,000 member-entrepreneurs. He said DICCI today has emerged as the active player in national and state level industrial policy making bodies.

With a tag line of "Be Job Givers," DICCI wants to motivate SC ST youths to enter the business and industry sector as entrepreneurs and to carve their own niche.

Krishna: Hub of agri, aqua-based industries

MD AMEEN VIJAYAWADA

WITH vast rich delta land, 111-kilometre coastline and situated in the heart of the State, Krishna district is well known for the poultry industry, aqua cultivation and automobile industrial units.

The rich Krishna delta helps cultivation of agriculture and horticulture crops that promote agro-based industries and food processing units. Poultry is one of the most important industries in the district with a poultry population of 157,83,526. Chicken and eggs are exported to West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Bihar and other States from Krishna district. The poultry industry provides livelihood to several thousand farmers. Fish and prawn cultivation is one of the important sources of livelihood in the district.

Krishna district stood first in aqua cultivation in the State with fish and prawns cultivated in nearly 70,000 hectares mainly in the eastern parts. It has won the national award in 2019 as one of

the top three districts in the country in aqua cultivation. Prawn and fish feed manufacturing units are providing livelihood to several thousand workers.

Automobile industries

The district is also known for automobile units. The Jawahar Industrial Autonagar in Vijayawada is famous for body-building units. Buses, trucks and containers are built by expert technicians in the autonagar. Transport operators from across the State come to Jawahar Autonagar for building bodies of vehicles.

Four cement factories operate in Jaggaiahpet, while the western Krishna region is home to stone-crushing units. With rich delta area, the district also has hundreds of rice mills. Dairy units also provide livelihood to a large number of farmers. Krishna district is the transport hub of Andhra Pradesh with 25,000 trucks operating from here. Being centrally located in the

areas in the district. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (APIIC) has developed industrial estates and autonagars in Vijayawada, Gudivada, Machilipatnam, Jaggaiahpet, Nuzvid, Mallavalli in Bapulapadu mandal and Veerapaneni Gudem in Gannavaram mandal, said V Murali Krishna, Zonal Manager, APIIC, Vijayawada. He said Ashok Leyland unit in Mallavalli industrial park was set up in 75 acres and an industrial park in Veerapaneni Gudem, Gannavaram mandal, was set up in 86 acres.

BIZZ TAKE

On various investment opportunities in districts

ANDHRA PRADESH

K R I S H N A

DELHI WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021



India thunder Down Under

BRISBANE

"I think a drawn series will be worse than the loss a couple of years ago," former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting said on Monday. However, the Indian team on Tuesday went one step further as they came out with one of the best Day Five batting performances to beat Australia by three wickets in the fourth and final Test at The Gabba in Down Under, thereby winning the four-match Border-Gavaskar series 2-1.

Chasing a mammoth target of 328 on the final day of the match, that too at a venue where Australia had not tasted defeat in last 32 years, India rode on brilliant half centuries of Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and Cheteshwar Pujara to register one of India's most historic win in Test cricket.

When India scored the winning runs, Pant remained unbeaten on 89, alongside Navdeep Saini at 0.

Resuming the day at 4/0, Australia entered favourites and gave India an early blow as Rohit Sharma got out after scoring just seven. Sharma edged one behind to Tim Paine off the bowling of Pat Cummins at team's score of 18.

However, Gill and Pujara then shared a brilliant 114-run partnership during the course of which both collected runs at a brisk pace. While Gill was the more aggressive batsman of the duo, Pujara batted in his usual self, coping numerous blows on his helmet and hands but not giving up. Gill, who scored his second half century, looked all set to register his maiden, well-deserved Test hundred before he got out for 91 against Nathan Lyon -- who was playing his 100th Test.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who came in next, looked positive right from the word go and shared a quick 35-run stand with Pujara.

Rahane, after contributing with 24 off just 22 balls to India's total, however got out caught behind against Pat Cummins.

India then sent in Pant, instead of Mayank

Agarwal, clearly signalling their intentions of going for the win.

Pujara and Pant stitched a 61-run partnership before India's batting mainstay got out after playing a gritty, magnificent knock of 56 runs, which came off 211 balls.

Agarwal (9 off 15) then added 37 runs and once again put India in the ascendency. However, the right-handed batsman got out at team's score of 265, with India still needing 63 runs to win.

Washington Sundar, who had scored valuable 62 runs in the first innings, then came out all guns blazing and scored quick-fire 22 runs before getting bowled by Lyon, with India still needing 10.

Shardul Thakur, India's unlikely batting hero in the first innings having scored 67 runs, then got out after scoring just two. However, the work was almost done by then and Pant fittingly scored the winning boundary as India became the first team to beat Australia at The Gabba in over 32 years.

India had scored 336 in their first innings in reply to Australia's 369. The visitors then bowled out Australia for 294 in their second innings, thus setting themselves a target of 328.

The hosts had won the first Test of the series in Adelaide, while bowling out India with the pink ball for their lowest Test total of 36. The Rahane-led side, however, registered a stunning comeback in Melbourne, winning the Boxing Day Test by eight wickets. The third Test then ended in an epic draw in Sydney. India, under Virat Kohli, in 2018-19 tour of Australia, had become the first Asian team to win a Test series Down Under.

(GANS)



Indian players Rishabh Pant and Mohd Siraj celebrate after defeating Australia by three wickets

2-0 win over Eng may seal India's spot in WTC final

BRISBANE

INDIA on Tuesday moved to the top of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) standings -- both on percentage points and points -- following their remarkable 2-1 series win over Australia in the four-match Border-Gavaskar series. New Zealand are at the second spot with 70 percentage points and 420 points while Australia are at the third spot with 69.2 percentage points and 332 points.

The top two teams qualify for the WTC final match in June at Lord's, London. India now have 71.7 percentage points won and 430 points. Percentage points determine the final placings rather than total points won after a change to the points system owing to the Covid-19 disruption of the global cricket schedule.

"India on top. After the hard-fought win at the Gabba, India move to the No.1 spot in ICC WTC standings. Australia slip to No.3," ICC tweeted after India's historic win in Brisbane on Tuesday.

India now only need to win the upcoming home four-match Test series against England, beginning February 5, with a 2-0 margin to seal a spot in the WTC final. If they lose one Test against England though, they will need to win three matches.

New Zealand have no series scheduled till June.

For Australia, the series defeat has dented their chances heavily of making the top two. They will need 89 points from the three-Test series against South Africa -- which is yet to be confirmed -- to go past the Black Caps and seal the second spot in the WTC standings. That can only happen if they win at least two Tests and draw the third, in which case they will get 93 points from the series, as per ESPNcricinfo. Now, the Tim Paine-led Australia will have to hope that the series against the Proteas goes ahead and they win that at least by a 2-0 margin, or hope that India drop some points against England. England first need to win the second Test against Sri Lanka, starting Friday, and then beat India 3-0. Even a 2-2 drawn series will not be enough for England to go past India and finish among the top two on the WTC.

Meanwhile, India have also displaced Australia to claim the second spot in ICC Test Rankings. The Kane Williamson-led side sit at the top of the podium.

"India displace Australia to become the new No.2 in the ICC Test Team Rankings," ICC tweeted.

POINTS TABLE						
AS ON 19 JANUARY 2021						
	PCT (%)	POINTS	SERIES	WIN	LOSS	DRAWN
INDIA	71.7	430	5	5	3	1
NEW ZEALAND	70.0	420	5	7	4	0
AUSTRALIA	69.2	332	4	8	4	2
ENGLAND	65.2	352	5*	9	4	3
SOUTH AFRICA	40.0	144	3	3	5	0
PAKISTAN	39.7	166	4.5	2	5	3
SRI LANKA	19.0	90	4*	1	5	1
WEST INDIES	11.1	40	3	1	5	0
BANGLADESH	0.0	0	1.5	0	3	0

ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP (2019-2021)

INDIA'S OVERSEAS TEST SERIES WINS

1. 1967-1968:	NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA	(INDIA 3-1/4 MATCHES)
2. 1970-1971:	WEST INDIES VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/5)
3. 1971:	ENGLAND VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/3)
4. 1986:	ENGLAND VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-0/3)
5. 1993-1994:	SRI LANKA VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/3)
6. 2000-2001:	BANGLADESH VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/ ONE-OFF)
7. 2003-2004:	PAKISTAN VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-1/3)
8. 2004-2005:	BANGLADESH VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-0/3)
9. 2005-2006:	ZIMBABWE VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-0/2)
10. 2005-2006:	WEST INDIES VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/4)
11. 2006-2007:	BANGLADESH VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/2)
12. 2007:	ENGLAND VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/3)
13. 2008-2009:	NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/3)
14. 2009-2010:	BANGLADESH VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-0/2)
15. 2010-2011:	WEST INDIES VS INDIA	(INDIA 1-0/3)
16. 2015-2016:	SRI LANKA VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-1/3)
17. 2016-2017:	WEST INDIES VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-0/4)
18. 2017-2018:	SRI LANKA VS INDIA	(INDIA 3-0/3)
19. 2018-2019:	AUSTRALIA VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-1/4)
20. 2019-2020:	WEST INDIES VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-0/2)
21. 2020-2021:	AUSTRALIA VS INDIA	(INDIA 2-1/4)

FINAL DAY SCOREBOARD

Australia 1st Innings 369

India 1st Innings 336

Australia 2nd Innings 294

India 2nd Innings

Rohit Sharma c Paine b Cummins -----7

Shubman Gill c Steven Smith b Lyon ----91

Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Cummins ----56

Ajinkya Rahane c Paine b Cummins ----24

Rishabh Pant not out -----89

Mayank Agarwal c Wade b Cummins ----9

Washington Sundar b Lyon-----22

Shardul Thakur c Lyon b Hazlewood -----2

Navdeep Saini not out -----0

Extras: (B-18, LB-8, NB-3) -----29

Total (7 wickets, 97 overs) -----329

Fall of Wickets: 18-1, 132-2, 167-3, 228-4, 265-5, 318-6, 325-7.

Bowling: Mitchell Starc 16-0-75-0, Josh Hazlewood 22-5-74-1, Pat Cummins 24-10-55-4, Cameron Green 3-1-10-0, Nathan Lyon 31-7-85-2, Marnus Labuschagne 1-0-4-0.

BCCI announces ₹5 crore bonus for Team India after series win

BRISBANE

THE Indian cricket board (BCCI) on Tuesday announced a Rs 5 crore bonus for the Indian team following their three-wicket win over Australia in the fourth Test at the Gabba that helped them seal the Border-Gavaskar series 2-1.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah made the announcement in tweets after the end of the match. Just a remarkable win...To go to Australia and win a test series in this way...will be remembered in the history of indian cricket forever..Bcci

announces a 5 cr bonus for the team „The value of this win is beyond any number...well done to every member of the touring party...“ said Ganguly in his tweet.

"EVERY SESSION WE DISCOVERED A NEW HERO. Every time we got hit, we stayed put & stood taller. We pushed boundaries of belief to play fearlessly but not carelessly cricket. Injuries & uncertainties were countered with poise & confidence. One of the greatest series wins! Congrats India," said legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar.

The hosts had won the first Test of the series in Adelaide, while bowling out India with the pink ball

for their lowest Test total of 36. The Rahane-led side, however, registered a stunning comeback in Melbourne, winning the Boxing Day Test by eight wickets. The third Test then ended in an epic draw in Sydney.

Virat Kohli, team's regular captain, also lauded the performance of the team and tweeted: "WHAT A WIN!!! Yessssss. To everyone who doubted us after Adelaide, stand up and take notice. Exemplary performance but the grit and determination was the standout for us the whole way. Well done to all the boys and the management. Enjoy this historic feat lads. Cheers."

India beat Chile 4-2 in junior women's hockey

SANTIAGO (CHILE): An inspiring performance in the last quarter of the match saw the Indian junior women's hockey team score thrice inside the last nine minutes to register a 4-2 win over the Chile junior women's team at the Prince of Wales Country Club in their second encounter of the tour.

A brace from Gagandeep Kaur (51', 59'), and a goal each from forwards Mumtaz Khan (21') and Sangita Kumari (53') on Monday evening ensured India's victory after goals from Amanda Martinez (4') and Dominga Luders (41') had put Chile ahead.

The match started with Chile putting pressure on the Indian defence and earning themselves a penalty corner in the fourth minute, which was converted by Amanda Martinez to goal.

Rivals Kerala, Bengaluru eye to turn fortunes around

GOA



DURING a normal Hero Indian Super League season, this fixture would have been one of the most heated clashes in the league due to the passionate rivalry between the two sets of fans. Whether it be at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kochi or the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, supporters of both sides would have thronged to the stands in numbers.

No fans will be present at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim here, when Kerala Blasters take

TODAY'S MATCH

Kerala Blasters vs Bengaluru FC at GMC Stadium Bambolim 7.30pm

RESULTS

Hyderabad FC draw with Odisha FC 1-1

on Bengaluru FC on Tuesday. But the sheer importance of the fixture for two teams desperately trying to turn their season around means that it will lack none of the edge.

Kerala will be looking to put behind them, the disappointment of conceding an injury-time equaliser to SC East Bengal. This inability to hold leads has been a recurring feature of Kerala's season so far -- they have lost ten points after scoring the first goal, the most by any team in the league.

"Bengaluru FC are a good team, they have got good players," said Kerala coach Kibu Vi-cuna.

Ishant, Pandya in squad for Tests against England

NEW DELHI: Experienced fast bowler Ishant Sharma and all-rounder Hardik Pandya have been included in India's 18-member squad for their first two Tests against England, starting on February 5 in Chennai.

The squad was picked in a meeting that the Indian selection committee led by Chetan Sharma held on Tuesday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said.

Ishant had been ruled out of India's Test series in Australia, which concluded on Tuesday, as he was recovering from a side strain. Pandya, meanwhile, played in the ODI and T20I series in Australia. He last played a Test match in September 2018 against England in Southampton.

Sindhu, Srikanth make impressive starts, Sameer stuns world no. 10 Lee at Thailand Open

BANGKOK

PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth notched up straight-game wins, while Sameer Verma shocked world no. 10 Lee Zii Jia as Indian shuttlers made impressive starts at the Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament here on Tuesday.

A week after being sent packing by Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the first event of the Asia leg, world champion Sindhu showed great discipline and focus to see off world no. 12 Busanan 21-17 21-13 in the women's singles opener.

In men's singles, former world no. 1 Srikanth, who had withdrawn ahead of the second round last week due to a calf muscle pull, seemed to have recovered completely as he decimated another Thai player Sitthikom Thammasin 21-11 21-11 in 37 minutes.

But the highlight of the day was the lion-hearted performance by world no. 31 Sameer, who stunned eighth seed Lee 21-17 21-25 21-19 in a thrilling opening match.

Olympic hopeful Saina Nehwal, however, bowed out after losing 17-21 8-21 to former world champion and home

favourite Ratchanok Intanon in a lop-sided contest. Saurabh Verma, brother of Sameer, also was knocked out, going down 16-21 11-21 to fifth seed Anthony Ginting of Indonesia, while Parupalli Kashyap retired at 0-3 against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

The win against Busanan took Sindhu's head-to-head count against the Thai to 11-1. The only time the Indian lost to the Thai player was at the Hong Kong Open in 2019. "It was a good game and I'm very, very happy. This win was very important for me in this tournament because at last week's tournament, I went out in the first round," Sindhu said after the match.

"So this win today was important, because even though in the first game it was tight, I didn't want to make it easy," she added. Sindhu will face either Korea's Sung Ji Hyun or Soniia Cheah in the second round. Sindhu opened up a 8-6 lead in the opening game but Busanan managed to turn the tables, gaining a 13-9 advantage at one stage.

The Indian slowly erased the deficit and moved to a 18-16 lead before earning the bragging rights. After the change of sides, Sindhu seemed more determined as she zoomed to a 7-2 lead before entering the break with a 11-5 advantage.

Sindhu reached 19-8 with five straight points. She then mistimed a shot and Busanan produced a cross-court smash. Sindhu also lost a point at the net. But Busanan eventually hit wide to hand seven match points to Sindhu and the Indian sealed the contest with a powerful smash. (PTI)