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HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 19 JANUARY 2021

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WEATHER

Max: 29.2°C
Min: 19.4°C
RH: 51%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 29/19°C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (+10,800) DEATHS (+141)

1,05,71,658 1,52,588

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+206) (+2)

TS: 2,91,872 1,579

(+81) (+1)

AP: 8,86,066 7,141

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,56,83,835

DEATHS 20,43,728

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Shasti till 11 am

Star: Uttarabhadra till 9.55 am

Varijyan: 11.16 pm to 1.03 am (Wednesday)

Durmuhuram: 9.06 am to 9.51 am; 11.09 pm to 12.01 am

Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Jamadi- ul- Akhir 5,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.47 am

Zohar: 12.37 pm

Asar: 4.28 pm

Maghrib: 6.10 pm

Isha: 7.21 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.04 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.10 AM

MOONSET TODAY 11.33 PM

COUNTER POINT



Forget Bihar...
now our priority is
Assam and Bengal!

SHORT TAKES

Man held for fake
GST invoices

New Delhi: GST officers have arrested one person for operating 46 fake firms and passing on fake input tax credit worth ₹82.23 crore, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

The officers of Central Goods and Services Tax Commissionerate, Delhi East, unearthed a network of fictitious firms being used to generate and pass on fake ITC.

3 killed in J&K encounter: IGP

Srinagar: The three youths killed in a gunfight with security forces in Lawaypora last month were involved in militancy, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said on Monday and added that police will soon convince their parents of it with concrete evidence.

Clogged roads



Two cranes try to lift a container truck which broke down on the Begumpet flyover causing a massive traffic jam from Panjagutta to Secunderabad on Monday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

State postpones Covaxin roll-out

Decision after staff refuses to take vaccine that is on trial

WOMAN HOSPITALISED AFTER JAB

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A quickly planned rollout of Covaxin, a Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by the city-based Bharat Biotech, was on Monday equally quickly pulled back without any explanation by the state health department authorities.

Covaxin was to become a matter of pride for the state and the government, being a 'Made in Telangana' vaccine.

The launch of the Covid-19 vaccination on January 16 began with people get-

ting after she developed severe reactions. The woman's was the first such case of severe reaction vis-a-vis the Covid-19 vaccine in the state that started on Saturday.

■ Full report on Page 2

ing after she developed severe reactions. The woman's was the first such case of severe reaction vis-a-vis the Covid-19 vaccine in the state that started on Saturday.

At the State Vaccine Depot in Koti in the city.

Late Monday morning, the health department issued an invite to the media saying there would be a "roll-out" of a Covid-

vaccine at the office of the Director of Public Health at Koti in the afternoon. The guests of honour were to be health minister Etala Rajendar and IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao.

While the invite did not mention Covaxin being rolled out, it is self-evident this was the agenda as Covishield had been rolled-out and was being used across the state for vaccination of healthcare personnel.

■ Page 2: Staff were uneasy over clinical trials

Mamata challenges rebel Adhikari on his home turf

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JAN. 18

In a move that is being seen as a masterstroke to avenge Shubhendu Adhikari's desertion of his party and joining the BJP, Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced that she would contest the forthcoming Assembly polls from Nandigram, adding that she will also try to contest from her home constituency, Bhowanipore, which elected her in 2011 and 2016.

Mr Adhikari is the MLA of Nandigram in East Midnapore.

In her first visit to Mr Adhikari's home turf after his induction into the BJP, Ms Banerjee said that Nandigram is "lucky" for her since her movement against forcible land acquisition there ousted the Communist regime a decade ago.

Soon after her announcement, Mr Adhikari vowed to ensure her defeat in Nandigram.

Ms Banerjee told a TMC rally, "Nandigram is a lucky place for me. If I contest here... how is it? It is my wish. I was thinking of it because I love the place... Our victory in the Assembly polls will start from here. It is a reincarnation of Nandigram. I will field a good candidate in Bhowanipore which is also a place of my affection. It is like my elder sister while Nandigram is the younger one. I will contest polls from both the constituencies, if I can."

Showing scant respect to a directive from the Supreme Court, the Ranga Reddy district administration has been sleeping over holding survey of some parcels of land situated in the controversial survey number 80 of Hafeezpet in the city. The apex court had on December 16 last year directed the collector of Ranga Reddy district to undertake a survey as early as possible, and complete it in four weeks. The revenue authorities' inaction to resolve land disputes, or at least honouring the verdicts of honourable courts, including the Supreme Court, is

leading law and order problems. It is this inaction on part of the district administration that has led to a spurt in land grabs and related crimes in the city," a senior police official said. "Take this specific case of three parties engaged in border disputes," he said, adding that the revenue

department can easily resolve the fight by conducting a survey, as per court orders.

A border dispute between the three parties, one having a land in survey number 80 of Hafeezpet (Greater Golkonda Estates) and two others in survey number 97 of Kondapur (Kolla Madhava Reddy and V. Satyanarayana Rao) landed before the High Court two years ago.

The division bench comprising Justices M.S. Ramachandra Rao and T. Amarnath Goud did not agree with the state government's contention that

KCR set to open Yadadri temple

To perform yagam to declare temple city open

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is preparing to inaugurate the Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha temple at Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district in February.

TRS sources said that K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who is a devout Hindu, had decided to perform yagnams next month at the Yadadri temple, including *maha yagnams* like Sudarshana, Chandi and Rajashyamala yagnams.

As per the direction of Chief Minister's Office, the Yadadri Temple Development Authority (YTDA) is completing all pending temple works, including civil works, finishing laying of other roads and different building work to prepare the temple for a formal opening.

Several days ago, minister of roads and building V. Prasanth Reddy conducted a review meeting with the YTDA officials about ongoing works and instructed them to fasten the works and complete all pending jobs.

Mr Reddy particularly enquired about the con-

KCR HAS reportedly decided to invite several dignitaries, including President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and Chief Ministers of all states for the inauguration

struction of Pushkarini and the VVIP guest houses to complete and ordered the maintenance of a daily report on the progress of works.

Officials of YTDA said that the Chief Minister is likely to visit the Yadadri temple in the last week of this month to personally inspect ongoing complete works for the inaugural. Chief Minister Rao would also hold a meeting with officials of all departments concerned about the inaugural session and the conduct of yagnams at the temple.

Mr Rao has reportedly decided to invite several dignitaries, including President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M.

Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and Chief Ministers of all states for the inauguration of the Yadadri temple city.

Recently, the Chief Minister also discussed the preparations for the conduct of the three major yagnams with Tridiand Chimma Jeeeyar Swamy.

Party leaders recalled that Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao had performed several yagnams at his farmhouse before and after the formation of Telangana state.

They also revealed that Rao had conducted the Aayuta Chandi yagam in December 2015. For the realisation of a separate Telangana state also, Mr Rao had invoked the gods with two major yagnams in 2006 and 2009 — the Sahasra Chandi Yagam.

The Yadadri Temple Reconstruction Project, which has been going on for almost five years now, at an estimated cost of ₹1,200 crore is located on 2,000 acres and has reached the final stage.

■ Page 2: Yadadri works to be over this month

SC lets Delhi cops decide on Jan. 26 farmers' protest

PARMOD KUMAR and SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

Haryana to encourage more people to join the "kisan tractor march" in large numbers.

There are indications the tractor rally may also figure in the tenth round of negotiations on Tuesday between the farmers and Central ministers. The two sides have failed to reach any understanding in nine rounds of talks over the repeal of three Central farm laws.

In the Supreme Court, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde on Monday said the Delhi police was at liberty to invoke its powers under the law and it has the power to deal with law and order situations.

"Who should be allowed and the number of people to enter are all matters of law and order, to be decided by the police. We are not the first authority," Chief Justice Bobde said.

Farmers have started organising mock rallies in parts of Punjab and

JAGAN TO VISIT DELHI TODAY, TO MEET SHAH
DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 18

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy would visit New Delhi to meet Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

The CM will hold discussions with Shah on matters like the Amaravati land scam wherein top names from the judiciary are said to be involved.

Sources in the CMO said the AP government had sent a request to Shah for an appointment to discuss several issues. The CM would be accompanied by advocate-general S. Sriram.

The visit gained significance also as AP is witnessing a series of attacks on temples and desecration of idols, and DGP Gautam Sawang had blamed those from the Telugu Desam and the BJP for their suspected roles to whip up religious sentiments.

Notably, when BJP leaders led by AP party chief Somu Veeraju went to visit the temple at Ramateertham in Vizianagaram district for a study of the scene where the idol of Lord Rama was vandalised, the police had blocked their way.

The BJP leaders raised a hue and cry over the police action and pointed out that the government had allowed YSRC MP V. Vijayasai Reddy, some ministers and even Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu to visit the spot.

PALANISWAMI TO MEET MODI AHEAD OF POLLS

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR and D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 18

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami's scheduled visit to Delhi on Monday, ostensibly to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Jayalalithaa memorial and to discuss plans for the state, led to tongues wagging in the political circles. The grapevine had it that he has gone to explain to Modi the difficulties in allowing Dhinakaran-led AMMK merge with the AIADMK.

Mr Adhikari is the MLA of Nandigram in East Midnapore.

In her first visit to Mr Adhikari's home turf after his induction into the BJP, Ms Banerjee said that Nandigram is "lucky" for her since her movement against forcible land acquisition there ousted the Communist regime a decade ago.

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Parent nod must to attend school

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18**

ALTHOUGH MINIMUM attendance was not compulsory for this academic year, those attending classes physically must submit consent letters from their parents. The Minister reminded them of the Chief Ministers appeal to private schools to only collect tuition fees, and exempt all other fees.

cials were told.

Although minimum attendance was not compulsory for this academic year, those attending classes physically must submit consent letters from their parents. The Minister reminded them of the Chief Ministers appeal to private schools to only collect tuition fees, and exempt all other fees.

Parents of school children have to produce consent letters if their children are attending physical classes from February 1, when schools reopen for students from ninth standard onwards.

Education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy was speaking to the media after a meeting with officials here on Monday. She made it clear that the Covid protocol should be followed by all students and teachers.

With classes to resume physically, all precautions and sanitisation works have to be accomplished by January 25, the offi-

cial temperature, pulse and BP recordings were normal, and the oxygen saturation was 100 percent in room air (without oxygen). Dr Rao said she was stable and responding to treatment.

Meanwhile, about 82 per cent of those who signed up for the vaccine turned up to take the jab on Monday. Director of Public Health G.

Srinivas Rao said 335 vaccination "sessions" were conducted on Monday in the 33 districts.

IN BRIEF

Vaccine for SCR medical staff

Hyderabad: South Central Railway's frontline medical staff started receiving the Coronavirus vaccine on Monday. A vaccination camp started at the SCR central hospital at Lalaguda. SCR General Manager Gajanan Mallya was present during the administration of the vaccination. The hospital has received 593 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine and will be administered to health workers of the units of Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Chikalguda, Kachiguda and Moula Ali. The first phase will last six days.

HC DIRECTIVES ON MBA, MCA COUNSELLING

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The Telangana High Court on Monday gave two days to Telangana State Higher Education Council (TSHEC) and convener of ICET to take a decision on conduct of special counselling for admissions into MBA and MCA courses for the 2020-21 academic year.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Abhishek Reddy, made it clear that on failing to get any response from the authorities, it would issue directions about specific dates in order to help students awaiting their degree supplementary exam results.

A student had filed a petition before the High Court stating that most of the students were losing the opportunity of getting admissions in MBA and MCA due to non-declaration of results of the supplementary exams.

Most of the students secured good scores and ranks in ICET, but they could not participate in counsellings conducted earlier, for want of degree results, the petitioner submitted.

ARMY HOLDS RECRUITMENT RALLY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The Army said 4,114 candidates had reported for enrolment in the recruitment rally under the unit headquarter quota that commenced on January 4 at 1 EME Centre, Secunderabad. They would be put through physical fitness test and medical examinations.

The rally is being held with Coronavirus precautions in place, and candidates are being admitted only after thermal screening and submitting a Covid-negative certificate. Wearing masks, observing physical distance and sanitising hands frequently is being ensured at the rally site.

The recruitment is being held for the posts of Soldier technician in aviation, general duty, tradesman wings and and outstanding sportsmen (open category).

The civil administration and police are providing necessary support for crowd control and traffic management on the main road, the Army said.

WAKF PROPERTIES ENCROACHED, ALLEGES SALEEM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Wakf Board Chairman Mohammed Saleem on Monday along with MIM MLAs Kausar Mohiuddin and Ahmed Pasha Quadri and Wakf Board and revenue department officials visited the various Wakf properties and observed that major parts have been encroached upon.

They inspected the Dargah Subrabuddin at Langer Houz, Toli Masjid and Jamia Masjid, Kulsumpura, the graveyard at Ziauguda and Masjid Hannan Khan and Mannan Khan at Police Quarters.

Saleem said Toli Masjid has an attached property of 27 acres and 30 guntas while the graveyard at Ziauguda has 16 acres.

Major parts of these Wakf properties have been encroached upon.

He directed the Board's officials to conduct a joint survey of these properties with revenue officials and take necessary action against encroachers and lodge criminal complaints.

The Wakf Board Chairman instructed the officials to prepare a detailed report on encroachments and ensure eviction of the illegal occupants.

Commemorating the Guru

Devotees participate in a colourful procession to mark the 354th birth anniversary celebrations of the tenth and last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, from the Central Gurudwara Sahib, Gowliguda, on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

Tenants won't get free water**Aadhaar, Customer Account Number link to check fake beneficiaries**

MADDY DEEKSHITH DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Free drinking water supply scheme in the city will only benefit landowners, not their tenants. This is owing to Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board decision to link Aadhaar numbers to Customer Account Numbers (CANs) and weed out beneficiaries owning multiple houses in the city.

As a result, consumers residing in rented houses will be unable to avail of the offer. For people living in apartments, the board will consider individual occupancy certificates of flats. Flat owners will have to fix water meters at their own cost. If a person owns more than one house, free drinking water will be available only to the specific house s/he is staying in.

be the same for individual houses and domestic houses in slums.

Preliminary estimates by the HMWS&SB reveal that of about 24 lakh families residing in the city, only six lakh consumers can utilise the scheme once fake beneficiaries are weeded out. The rest will be charged as per the regular water tariff. The name on the Aadhaar card and the HMWS&SB bill has to

placed sources in the Water Board, the free drinking water facility can be availed only by homeowners. If a person owns more than one house, free drinking water will be available only to the specific house s/he is staying in.

Once the Aadhaar is linked to CAN, the software will match names of all family members and make them ineligible to get free drinking water.

Preliminary estimates by the HMWS&SB reveal that of about 24 lakh families residing in the city, only six lakh consumers can utilise the scheme once fake beneficiaries are weeded out. The rest will be charged as per the regular water tariff. The name on the Aadhaar card and the HMWS&SB bill has to

● **FOR PEOPLE** living in apartments, the board will consider individual occupancy certificates of flats. Flat owners will have to fix water meters at their own cost. If a person owns more than one house, free drinking water will be available only to the specific house s/he is staying in.

be the same for individual houses and domestic houses in slums.

With regard to buildings managed by societies and resident welfare associations (RWAs), a consumer can procure a letter from the society or RWA authorising the registration of Aadhaar number of the nominated person (a member of the society / RWA) against their CAN. As

Aadhaar authentication and meter fixing is expected to take time, bills will continue to be issued to those eligible under the scheme from April 1.

Official data prepared by the HMWS&SB reveals that 1.96 lakh consumers residing in the city slums do not have meters. They will continue to get free drinking water. Consumers will benefit to a total extent of ₹4.78 crore per month. However, for the facility, the 7.87 individual domestic consumers will have to fix 2.2 lakh water meters, which would save them ₹6.91 crore a month.

According to the Water Board details, 24,967 domestic apartments and bulk connections have to fix 17,192 meters for saving ₹8.23 crore per month.

Overall 10.08 lakh consumers have to fix 2.37 lakh meters within the GHMC limits, which will help them save overall ₹19.92 crore a month in water bills.

Individual domestic consumers will have to bear the cost of fixing water meters installed for availing free 20 kilolitres of water. Consumption above 20 kilolitres will be charged as per applicable tariff with effect from December 2020. Domestic apartments (multi-storied apartment complexes) and domestic bulk consumers will have to bear the cost of installing their meters.

The board will indicate shortly to consumers parameters required within the water meter that is to be fixed at their own cost.

Narsing Rao, Telangana fighter, dead

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Burugula Narsing Rao, senior Telangana armed struggle leader and Communist Party of India (CPI) member, passed away on Monday morning. He was 90.

Narsing Rao was admitted to a corporate hospital after he tested positive for Covid-19. He died owing to complications arising out of the disease.

Hailing from a village in Mahbubnagar district,

Narsing Rao was born into a political family. He was active in politics right from his student days. He played a vital role in fighting against the Razakars during Nizams' rule. He also fought for separate Telangana during the 1960s.

He was the nephew of Burugula Ramakrishna Rao, the first Chief Minister of the erstwhile Hyderabad State. He was the president of Nizam College Students Union when Hyderabad state

merged with the Indian union.

Narsing Rao's name figures in the generation of leaders from Telangana who saw it all — the Razakar movement, police action, Telangana armed struggle, formation of Andhra Pradesh and movement for a separate Telangana of 1960 which became resurgent after 2000.

Condolences with regard to the passing of the CPI leader have poured in from all over, including

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. "Rao's death is an irreparable loss to the state," the Chief Minister observed, recalling the role paid by the late leader in Telangana armed struggle and the separate Telangana movement.

The Chief Minister said that Narsing Rao's demise is an irreplaceable loss to Telangana state.

He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to members of the bereaved family.



Air Marshal R.D. Mathur honours an officer at the Air Force Station Hakimpet on Monday.

— DC

All aircraft at Hakimpet IAF station operational

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Air Force Station (AFS) Hakimpet has achieved the unique distinction of having all aircraft on its inventory serviceable and flying simultaneously.

Against this backdrop, Air Marshal R.D. Mathur, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, visited the sta-

tion on Monday. On arrival, Air Marshal Mathur was received by Air Officer Commanding, AFS Hakimpet, Air Commodore A.S. Minhas.

Air Marshal Mathur interacted with flying Instructors of the Fighter Training Wing (FTW) and Helicopter Training School (HTS).

He appreciated their sustained efforts in maintain-

ing a healthy flying environment, their professional competence and urged everyone to sustain the same.

The Air Marshal lauded the achievement of 100 per cent serviceability of helicopters and Kiran Mk-I/IA aircraft by the station.

He flew both the Chetak and Kiran Mk-I/IA during his visit.

they could live together. According to their plan, Devi let Babu inside the house on Thursday night and the duo tied up Laxman and strangled him," police said.

When questioned, Devi told the cops that Laxman died in his sleep of natural causes.

A case was initially booked under Section 174 (suspicious death) of the CrPC. Laxman's brother noticed ligature marks on the neck following which police launched an investigation.

Police said that Devi suggested that Babu could eliminate Laxman and

Land acquisition for skyway over

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The GHMC has completed 100 per cent land acquisition for Shaikpet flyover, the second longest skyway in the city. Located at OU Colony, work on the flyover is progressing at a brisk pace. It will be thrown open to the public by September this year.

After completing land acquisition, the civic body has completed 71 of the 74 piers.

This apart, 53 pier caps of the 72 on the flyover and 35 superstructure slabs out of 73 too have been completed. Corporation authorities have asserted that the 2.8-km, six-lane flyover will be completed in September against the deadline of December. About 60 per cent of work on the flyover has been completed.

● **ROAD FROM Rethibowli to Gachibowli** is an Intermediate Ring Road with heavy thorough traffic from core areas like IT Hub, Hitec City and Financial District.

● **OVER THE stretch from Seven Tombs (Shaikpet) to Whisper Valley Junction, right of way** is not available due to presence of many structures, including religious, on either side. Flyover will help avoid these structures.

A senior GHMC official said a majority of works could be executed at three times the normal pace because of lockdown. It also meant no inconvenience to road users, apart from avoidance of traffic congestion or diversion issues.

Class VI boy set on fire by father

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

his studies," said the police.

The drunk father picked up a can of turpentine oil, which was kept for the school's renovation, and emptied it on the boy before setting him on fire with a beedi. "The boy's mother tried to douse the flames while he tried to run and fell in a nearby ditch," the police said.

The boy was rushed to Gandhi Hospital for medical attention and is undergoing treatment. He has more than 50 per cent burns and his condition is said to be critical. Following a complaint from his elder sister, a case was booked against the by the KPHB police and an investigation was launched.

Man get 7-yr jail for killing wife

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

daughter. They were staying at Meghna Kuteer Apartment in Goutham Nagar, Malkajgiri, where the husband worked as a watchman and the wife as domestic help. They often quarrelled over family matters, following which Chantamma had decided to move to their native place with their daughter but her husband was against it," said the police.

The two quarrelled and the husband picked up an electric sump motor and hit his wife in the face. She sustained heavy injuries and died on the spot.

Woman, lover arrested for killing her husband

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A 67-year-old man was convicted by a local court on Monday for murdering his wife in 2018 and sentenced to undergo seven years in prison.

According to the Rachakonda police, the accused, Venkata Ramana, killed his wife Chantamma, 55, on the night of July 26, 2018, following a quarrel between the two.

"The couple, hailing from East Godavari district, moved to Hyderabad for the treatment of their 22-year-old disabled

Laxman, who was working as a security guard, had set up a juice stall in November 2019 and employed Lal Babu for work. Babu, a married man, and Devi got acquainted and started an illicit relationship. About six months ago, Babu's wife passed away and he stopped working at the juice stall but kept meeting Devi to continue their affair," the police said.

The deceased, Laxman Jha, and his wife Khusbu Devi were residents of Rajnagar Maktha in Khairatabad, the police said.

Police said that Devi suggested that Babu could eliminate Laxman and

they could live together. According to their plan, Devi let Babu inside the house on Thursday night and the duo tied up Laxman and strangled him," police said.

When questioned, Devi told the cops that Laxman died in his sleep of natural causes.

A case was initially booked under Section 174 (suspicious death) of the CrPC. Laxman's brother noticed ligature marks on the neck following which police launched an investigation.

The bulletin also said that the total recoveries stood at 2,86,244 and 4,049 patients are under treatment. It said that 21,893 samples were tested on Sunday, taking the total to 74,83 lakh.

The number of tests stands at 2.01 lakh per 10 lakh population. The Greater Hyderabad

Telangana records 206 fresh Covid-19 infections

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area again had the most cases at 45, followed by Karimnagar and Ranga Reddy districts at 17 and 16 respectively.

The case fatality rate was at 0.54 per cent, against 1.4 per cent at the national level. The recovery rate was 98.07 per cent.

SHORT TAKES

CONGRESS LEADER A. CHANDRASEKHAR JOINS BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Congress senior leader A. Chandrashekhar, a former minister, joined the BJP on Monday at a public meeting in Vikarabad district headquarters.

BJP state affairs incharge Tarun Chugh, party state president Bandi Sanjay, BJP OBC president Dr K. Laxman, party vice-president D.K. Aruna and secretary Satya Kumar welcomed Chandrashekhar into the party.

After the joining ceremony Chandrashekhar stated that he was impressed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development of the country. Telangana state can develop only under the leadership of Modi, he said, and expressed the hope that the BJP will come to power in the state in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The leader alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had failed to fulfil the promises to the poor. There is no development in Telangana state but the Kalvakuntla family has developed in the state with huge money and lands.

THREE HELD FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS, 50KG GANJA SEIZED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JAN. 18

The South Zone Task Force apprehended a gang of three men who were smuggling 50 kg of marijuana in the city on Monday.

Police said the accused, Shaik Arif, 21, of Chanderayangutta, Mohd Ameer, 22, of Falaknuma and Syed Farukh, 27, a Maharashtra native, were smuggling the contraband from Visakhapatnam to Nanded. "Arif and Ameer are habitual offenders and were previously caught for similar offences by the city police here," said the police.

The trio and the seized contraband were handed over to Chatrinaka police for further investigation.

SHRC TAKES UP COPS BRUTALITY CASE IN JANGAON

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The National Human Rights Commission on Monday transferred the case of alleged police brutality and assault on a BJP leader in Jangaon to the State Human Rights Commission.

K. Karuna Sagar, a lawyer from Hyderabad, on the orders of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay, had lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission on the attack on BJP town president Pawan Sharma and four others in Jangaon on January 12 by Jangaon town station house officer D. Mallesh Yadav.

The NHRC, which investigated the incident, transferred the case to the state Human Rights Commission and ordered an inquiry.

THE NHRC, WHICH INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT, TRANSFERRED THE CASE TO THE STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND ORDERED AN INQUIRY.



Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy addresses media in Huzurnagar Municipal Council meeting in Hyderabad on Monday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

Uttam: Land-grabbing is TRS hallmark now

TPCC chief sees TRS cadre hand in high-profile cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

● THE CONGRESS leader said that the Bowenpally kidnap case, in which former minister of AP Akhila Priya has been named as the main accused, was more complicated than it was being presented by Hyderabadi police. "There is more to it than the land dispute," he said.

high-profile cases of land grabbing, involving top TRS leaders, have been hitting the headlines ever since K. Chandrashekhar Rao became the Chief Minister.

He said that Keesara MRO Nagaraju was caught red-handed by officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau while accepting a bribe of ₹1.1 crore.

The TPCC chief also pointed out that a video recording of minister Ch. Malla Reddy had gone viral on social media wherein he admitted that all land grabbers were TRS leaders.

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by Hyderabad police. "There is more to it than the land dispute," he said.

Earlier, addressing the Council meeting, Reddy spoke about the widening of Huzurnagar main road. He said the road should have proper road dividers and central lighting. He pointed out that the Ring Road, 100-bed government hospital and Government Degree College, were all sanctioned and built at his initiative when he was an MLA. He said he would speak to the district collector and ensure stringent action against corrupt officials in the municipality.

Owaisi taunts Modi: Is China Prez getting a 'housing sop'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

MULTIPLE fronts including Naku La (Sikkim), Ladakh & Arunachal (sic)."

He said the Prime Minister had refused to tell the country about the status of the land in Chinese control. The Prime Minister made "no demands on China to return our land and did not make a military effort to take back control from China. He did not even make efforts to avenge the deaths of our brave soldiers killed by China," Owaisi said.

no other PM has remained silent while China takes over Indian territory on

BioAsia kicks off on Feb. 22

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JAN. 18

emerged as an important global meeting to deliberate on the opportunities, challenges and solutions for the life sciences sector. Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, "the 2021 event will have relevance more than ever," Rama Rao said.

The event will provide a platform to deliberate on topics of paramount importance, essentially centered around dealing with Covid-19 and preparing for new realities of healthcare,

Ranjan said. Nagappan is the 2021 event, which is being held online for the first time, will have a wider global reach.

"We are anticipating participation of about 30,000 life sciences professionals from around the world," the BioAsia CEO said.

The event will be organised in partnership with the Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) and Ernst & Young LLP.

Following a few electoral successes, of coming to power in the state. The TRS will win the Nagarjunasagar by-election "200 per cent," they said.

Pointing out that TRS leaders and elected representatives had resigned from the post for the sake of the statehood movement, they said that Union minister G. Kishan Reddy had fled from Hyderabad.

They said that BJP state in-charge Tarun Chugh did not have the courage to visit his home state Punjab because he feared the wrath of farmers. None from BJP can point fingers at the Chief Minister because Rao has been won-

ning the hearts of the people by implementing people-friendly measures to their utmost satisfaction.

They warned BJP leaders against crossing the limits and stated that the people would teach befitting lesson in the days ahead.

MLC Raju said the Make in India Scheme was "false". Even the logo was made outside the country, he claimed and added, "This is the situation of the BJP." He said the BJP was playing politics on the Ram Mandir. "What relation does the BJP have with the Ram mandir when the Supreme Court gave a verdict to start construction of the temple," he asked.

● THE DELAY in the release of Central grants under the backward region development scheme also figured in the meeting, post the Covid lockdown.

TRS dubs Make in India 'false', claims logo was designed abroad

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

TRS leaders on Monday alleged that BJP was a "mafia party" as 26 Union ministers, including home minister Amit Shah, and 172 MPs from the party were facing criminal charges. Most of the MPs are out on conditional bail.

Given this obnoxious background, state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar has no moral right to criticise Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and the TRS, said ruling party MLAs Gade Kishore and Saidi Reddy along with MLC Shambipur Raju during a press conference here.

They alleged that the BJP leaders were playing with people's sentiments and their lives while Pragathi Bhavan embodies the state's progress and developmental activities. They challenged Sanjay for a discussion on development. They said the BJP leaders had not brought a single praise for the state from the Centre. The TRS leaders said that the Narendra Modi government was yet to bring black money stashed in foreign banks despite making tall claims. Instead, Modi has been protecting bank cheats and fraudulent characters.

They told the state BJP leaders not to daydream,

MP Arvind alleges TRS trying to allot 630 acres to My Home

NARENDER PULLOR | DC NIZAMABAD, JAN. 18

Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind said that My Home group owner J. Rameshwar Rao will be prosecuted in the lands issue soon. He alleged that the TRS government is trying to allocate 630 acres of land to the My Home Group. The MP alleged that in the

alleged illegal mining by the My Home Group, CM K. Chandrashekhar Rao would be jailed in the future as he holds the mining portfolio.

Minister K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao will be jailed for their irregularities, Arvind said. The BJP MP came down heavily on the TRS at a press conference in Nizamabad on Monday. Arvind alleged that the

Kalvakuntla family was "looting" the state. Another movement is necessary to overthrow the TRS government, Arvind said.

Arvind said that BJP state president Bandi Sanjay was a real patriot and Kalvakuntla family members were traitors. The BJP is sticking to its charges against the TRS, Arvind said.

WHY CAN'T BJP

PUT KCR IN JAIL: JEEVAN REDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Senior Congress leader and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy wondered what was stopping the BJP from putting Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao in jail.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Reddy alleged that the Union and state governments were playing with the lives of farmers with regard to minimum support price. He wanted to know if the state BJP leaders did not have the responsibility of coming to the aid of farmers and resolving their problems. He accused Chandrashekhar Rao of failing to honour his promise by not procuring fine quality rice.

The Congress leader wanted to know why the Chief Minister did not discuss the minimum support price for farmers when he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah in the national capital.

He wondered why the state government did not oppose the new agricultural laws, and why a resolution was not passed in the Legislative Assembly.

Meanwhile, in a separate press conference, AICC secretary S.A. Sampath Kumar said that they will take out a protest in front of Raj Bhavan on Tuesday.

OBITUARY
I fought a good fight. I finished my race. I kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4: 7

REDDYPOOGU DEVAVARAM
Born: 18 June 1931
Slept in the Lord: 18 January 2021
Fondly Remembered By:
Daughters & Family Members

OBITUARY
Mr. MEIYUR DAMODARAN
Expired: 11.01.2021
Retired Andhra Bank Officer
Nadapur: 6:00 PM, 20.01.2021
Karamdiram: 8:00 AM,
Bansilalpet, 21.01.2021
Inserted by: Mrs. DEEPA DAMODARAN
(S/2021/D01093)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.
-Psalm 112:6
KRUPA S D ISSAC W/O. S D ISAAC
Inserted by:
FAMILY MEMBERS
Son: 9885440966

7th ANNIVERSARY
Singari Dasharath Mudraj
DOB 05-11-1958 DOD 19-1-2014
your memories are always remembered in our heart forever
Wife : Singari Shanthabai
Grand Childrens and Family Members
301, Vigneshwara Appartment, Market Line, Khairatabad

IN LOVING MEMORY
4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
N.S.J. DEVADATHAM
DOB: 13.05.1933 DOD: 19.01.2018
"So loved so missed in our hearts you will always be"
Inserted by:
Mrs. PARAN JYOTHI DEVADATHAM
(S/2021/D01093)

CONDOLENCE
P.L. GNANESHWAR RAO
We could never imagine that we can ever live a moment without you, but four years have already gone by... though not with us, yet you always be in our hearts.
"ALWAYS IN OUR MIND FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS"
From: FAMILY MEMBERS
93268 99999 / 9885071549
In grief: Late Shri S. Brijkumar, Mrs. Rita Brijkumar & family

CA-3508

KCR TO VISIT KALESHWAR PROJECT TODAY

Hyderabad, Jan. 18: Chief

Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao will visit the Kaleshwaram project on Tuesday. He will reach the Medigadda barrage by helicopter at 10 am and conduct a review along with officials. The water level at Medigadda has reached one hundred feet. After a gap

of five months, the water level in Kaleshwaram has started rising again.

The Medigadda barrage was built above the Pranhita confluence area at Godavari at Kaleshwaram. The barrage is 1.67 km long and designed to lift water by reverse pumping.

31st ANNIVERSARY
And the dead in Christ will rise first. I Thessalonians 4:16
+ + +

"Precious" in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints. Psalm 116:15

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

N.S.J. DEVADATHAM
DOB: 13.05.1933 DOD: 19.01.2018
The wonderful memories we made, the love and happiness we shared together will remain treasured in our hearts forever.
— Prajeep Joshi (son) Sudheela (daughter), Meenakshi Deepa (daughters-in-law), Grace, James, Lucy, Brighty, Megan, Vivian (grandchildren)
Inserted by: S. RAJESH (SON) & Family Members. Ph: 9840851366

MEMORIAL SERVICE
For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
-Phi.1:21
+ + +

B.S.MARY
Born: 18 June 1931
Memorial Service Today (19-01-2021)
at 7 pm at Sr. No. 58, Seetaram Nagar,
Near Safiquada Railway Station, Hyd.
Ph: 984994206, 9848438484

CONDOLENCE
Mr. Rajendra Kumar
S/o. Late Raja Tarmakdas Kishandas (DOB : 25-09-1949 - DOD : 16-01-2021)
You will be remembered in our hearts forever.
In grief: Govindan Shah, Amrit Shah,
Virendra Shah & Family
Haridwar Group of Hotels
Scoops & Cream Stone Ice Creams

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.
-Psalm 112:6
KRUPA S D ISSAC W/O. S D ISAAC
Inserted by:
FAMILY MEMBERS
Son: 9885440966

OBITUARY
BURGULA NARSING RAO
Freedom Fighter, Teacher, Thinker, Social Activist
14th March, 1932
18th January, 2021
Remembered by:
Dr. Mangatha - Wife
Malavika Melkote - Daughter
Ajay & Vijay - Sons
9885180017 | 7702220119

16th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Late Mr. BARIGELA DEVADANAM
DOB: 02.02.1925 DOD: 19.01.2005
Inserted by
Wife, Children & Grand Children
(S/2021/D01092)

50th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Late HAZRATH ALHAJ MOULANA MOHAMMED MAROOF
Ex-President Jamiat-Ul-Ulema (A.P.)
Founder:
M/s Maroof Arms & Ammunition Factory
DOD: 19.01.1971
Daughters, Son-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law & Grand Children.
Inserted by:
Sons, Daughters, Son-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law & Grand Children.
Ph: 9440410414
(S/2021/D01086)

IN BRIEF

Digvijay donates for Ram temple

Bhopal: Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Singh on Monday donated ₹1,11,111 for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya through Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singh sent a letter to the Prime Minister, with the cheque to Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Khetra Trust, appealing him to ensure that inflammatory speeches were not made by the volunteers during collection of funds for construction of Ram temple from the people. The former chief minister said he was sending the cheque through the Prime Minister for deposition at the proper place since he was not aware of the right address to send the cheque. He also demanded for public audit of the funds raised earlier by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

ODISHA CONG CHIEF ATTACKED, BJP BLAMED

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 18

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik on Monday said he was attacked by some miscreants with BJP affiliations attacked his vehicle on Sunday night at Keonjhar.

"The attack on me, my security personnel late on Sunday night was a handiwork of the BJP. Members of the saffron party's youth wing carried out the attack. This is a clear case of political vendetta and desperation of Odisha BJP," Patnaik alleged.

He said that the miscreants thrashed his driver and personal security officer (PSO) and damaged his car.

"I have lodged a police complaint. I was shocked to know that the miscreants were members of BJP's state youth wing. This is a clear case of political vendetta and desperation of Odisha state BJP. Congress is raising relevant issues in the state and speaking out against the policies of BJP, which is desperately trying to get a foothold in Odisha. Congress is the biggest hurdle for them," he tweeted.

MEDIA TRIAL HINDERS JUSTICE: HC ON SSR PROBE

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, JAN. 18

The Bombay High Court on Monday held that a media trial during the investigation of any case violates programme code under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act and does have an impact on the probe.

While passing order on a bunch of petitions filed by former police officers, activists, lawyers and NGOs, seeking restrain order for electronic media in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, also observed that Press Council of India (PCI) guidelines will apply to electronic media along with print media till the time electronic media frame their own guidelines.

The court had asked the Centre on October 29 last year as to why it should not frame guidelines on media coverage of sensitive criminal matters and ongoing investigations, and whether "excessive" reporting by the press amounted to interference in the administration of justice under the Contempt of Courts Act.

BORDER ROW**India says it takes necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty****Report: China has built village in Arunachal**

New Delhi, Jan. 18: In a cautious reaction to a report that China has built a village in Arunachal Pradesh, India on Monday said it keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on the country's security and takes necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The ministry of external affairs said India has stepped up the construction of border infrastructure, including roads and bridges for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens.

The response from the ministry came when asked about a report by NDTV channel, saying China has

constructed a new village in the disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh and it consisted of about 101 homes. The news channel said the report is based on satellite images accessed exclusively by it.

"We have seen recent reports on China undertaking construction work along the border areas with India. China has undertaken such infrastructure construction activity in the past several years," the MEA said.

"In response, our government too has stepped up border infrastructure including the construction of roads, bridges etc, which has provided much needed

connectivity to the local population along the border," it added.

The ministry also asserted that the government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh.

"Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all the necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said.

In its report, NDTV showed two images of the area where it said the village has been set up.

According to the channel, the first image dated August 26, 2019 did not show any human habitation but the second one of November 2020 shows a row of structures.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it. India and China are locked in a bitter border row in eastern Ladakh for over eight months.

The army as well as the Indian Air Force have been maintaining a high state of operational readiness along the entire stretch of the LAC with China including

in the Arunachal sector in view of the eastern Ladakh stand-off. India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in order to resolve the eastern Ladakh row, but no significant headway has been made for its resolution.

Earlier this month, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat visited various forward posts near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and reviewed India's operational preparedness.

He also visited several key installations including "forward most air maintained" posts in Dibang Valley, Lohit sector and Subansiri valley, according to the Army. — PTI

Two people were reported dead; Govts deny deaths connected to jabs

**DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs**

NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

As India intensified its vaccination drive against Covid-19, 580 persons were found to have Adverse Effect Following Immunisation (AEFI) with seven needing hospitalisation in the last three days. Two people were reported to be dead following the Covid-19 shots — a 52-year-old ward boy working in a Moradabad (UP) hospital, and a 43-year-old man in Bellary (Karnataka). However, both central and state governments denied that the death in Moradabad had any connection to the vaccination while the post-mortem of the second person is yet to be conducted.

Since Saturday, a little over 3.81 lakh health, sanitation and frontline workers have been vaccinated out of which over 1.48 lakh were immunised on Monday.

"Post-mortem by a board of three doctors revealed death due to cardiopulmonary disease (pockets of pus in lungs, enlarged heart) and is not related to vaccination," Union health ministry official said about the death of the 52-year-old ward boy Mahipal Singh. However, the family of Mahipal Singh man alleged that his condition deteriorated after the jab.

Mahipal Singh was given a vaccine shot on Saturday. His family said he had minor pneumonia, cold, cough and fever before the vaccine, but his condition deteriorated after the jab and he was breathless. He died the next day.

However, the Uttar Pradesh government said the man died due to septicemic shock and cardiac arrest and the death was not related to the Covid-19 vaccination.

"An adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) committee probed the death of the man in Moradabad. The cause of death was septicemic

Opposition came after two medical colleges in the state witnessed a poor 40 per cent turnout on the first day and the officials feel that the use of the "contentious" Covaxin is one of the reasons for many health workers not turning up.

In Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital in lower Assam's Barpeta, only 27 of the 100 listed beneficiaries came for vaccination.

Chief medical officer Milind Chandra Garg said that the cause of death was a cardiac problem. He added that some employees were suffering from fever after taking

tion, while at Tezpur Medical College and Hospital, only 52 of the 100 listed beneficiaries turned up.

Leader of Opposition in the Assam Assembly Debabrata Saikia told reporters that the doctors in Delhi and Tamil Nadu are reluctant to take the vaccines as Covaxin has been given the nod for political gains as elections for the five states are due in

spring.

"The vaccine rollout has been done hurriedly without complete trial.

The Centre has done it to reap benefit in polls. It is sad that the vaccination has become a political game as the inoculation drive kicked off without efficacy data and other considerations. Human life can't be compromised in pursuit of private profit and political gains," said Saikia.

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Of the seven people needing hospitalisation, three are from Delhi, two in Karnataka, and one each in Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

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The second person who died on Monday too was vaccinated on Saturday. The cause of his death, as per Union health min-

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DECCAN Chronicle

19 JANUARY 2021

Tejas decision a good one, but much more left to do

In a historic decision, the Cabinet Committee on Security on January 13 approved the country's largest-ever indigenous defence deal when it cleared the procurement of 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk 1-A — ten of which are to be trainers — for the Indian armed forces from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd at an approximate cost of ₹47,000 crore, closing the circle that began with the commissioning of the LCA project in the 1980s.

The first rollout is expected in 2023-24, and then on 16 aircraft are to be manufactured every year on present reckoning. To start with, the indigenous content is to be 50 per cent, to be stepped up to 60 per cent within a short time-frame. HAL would be outsourcing the job to more than 550 domestic vendors.

This gives us an idea of the technological and economic spinoffs of the LCA programme for the Indian economy as a whole, going beyond the military aspect of acquiring a fighter jet at home which is billed as the workhorse of the future for the Indian Air Force, filling the gap left by the hoary MiG-21s of Soviet manufacture, which have been phased out.

The good news is that the LCA Mk-2 version with a bigger engine is in its design stage and is expected to be ready for trials next year.

If high-level efficiency is ensured in the production of the Tejas Mk 1-A by HAL, the country will make valuable savings of foreign exchange spent on importing costly fighter jets from Western sources. What's more, in time, the Tejas will be ready for export too. Some countries are said to have evinced an interest. The realisation of sale will, of course, depend on a host of political, strategic and economic considerations, and the prospect of readying the fighter for export will potentially add to India's strategic muscle and offer a certain latitude in dealing with the world.

The Tejas Mk1-A — a fourth-generation fighter — is a single-engine, lightweight, highly agile, all-weather, multi-role fighter aircraft capable of air-to-air refuelling. It has Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile capability, and updated avionics and flight control software. The good news is that the LCA Mk-2 version with a bigger engine is in its design stage and is expected to be ready for trials next year. As of 2019, the IAF is committed to procuring 324 Tejas MK1-A fighters of different variants. That signifies the workhorse role visualised for this sophisticated fighter.

The domestic manufacture of the Tejas Mk 1-A is a signpost of enormous value, although it has been more than three decades in the making, starting from the conception stage when the Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) was set up in 1984. The ADA designed Tejas in collaboration with Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC) of HAL.

To find true liberation from imports in the strategic sphere of fighter aircraft manufacture, it is now crucial to look at the propulsion aspect for upgrade. India's LCA is fitted with the GEP-404 engine. In the wake of the 1998 nuclear test, the United States had held up the supply of these engines. It is therefore important to return special focus to the development of the indigenous Kaveri engine, which has been in the works for decades. To achieve cent per cent indigenous content, radars and avionics will also need to be manufactured domestically. Only a country that can grow its own food and has the ability to defend itself can ultimately avoid being at anyone's beck and call.

WhatsApp: A lot to explain

The Mark Zuckerberg-acquired WhatsApp is throwing up as many headaches as its parent Facebook these days because netizens are getting smarter about their data privacy. In an impetuous push to monetise data out of WhatsApp, the popular messaging platform, Facebook got into a tangle that saw millions of individual users and groups sign off and download apps like Signal and Telegram that are less intrusive of personal territory like online data. It may have come as a shock to most Internet users that an app promising end-to-end encryption, and which routinely declines law enforcement enquiries with the excuse that it has no access to user chats, should talk of sharing user data with Facebook.

It is largely true that netizens sign off much of their rights over prized personal information when they sign on to social media platforms and the like. Big Tech has never been averse to building up their businesses and making money out of a large number of users running into millions. The leaks of personal data from breaches by hackers or emanating from sheer carelessness of the machinery that is supposed to ensure security of data have not stopped people from their modern-day existence in an inter-connected world. The advantage is very much with those who keep data as citizens seem to have no rights in the absence of a regulatory framework to govern the Internet.

A parliamentary committee has summoned Facebook and Twitter officials to question them on the misuse of social media and online news platforms, but it is a long-drawn process that might not lead to foolproof measures to safeguard citizens' rights. Big Tech may have done signal service to the world in cutting off the communication of hate propaganda by maverick users like Donald Trump, but it must do a lot more to earn people's trust that it will not recklessly monetise their online presence by compromising their privacy. No algorithm has been invented yet that exposes the cavalier ways of the giants of the new economy. It is up to Internet users to be most discerning in signing on.

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Subhani



Thoughts on democracy as Trump exits, finally...

Sunanda K.
Datta-Ray

Reflections

Not long before Donald Trump became the first-ever American President to be impeached for a second time — this time with a real possibility of conviction — his daughter Ivanka chose to remind the world of the close ties between her father and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The opening and closure in record time of a study centre in Gwalior that exalted Nat-huram Godse, the killer of Mohandas Karan-mchand Gandhi, also occurred almost simultaneously.

It is the legal action against Mr Trump by America's senators and congressmen that grips the world's attention. The impeachment proceedings threaten to overwhelm President-elect Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan to end a "crisis of deep human suffering" by speeding up the supply of coronavirus vaccines and financially helping Americans who are still struggling with the economic disaster caused by the grim pandemic. It even distracts notice from the contradictions, if not crisis, of democracy that Mr Trump's rantings and ravings have unwittingly highlighted. For it should never be forgotten that 74 million Americans voted for the man who now seems bent on destroying the edifice on which he stood.

While he is believed to have broken many constitutional norms during his four years in the White House — including trying desperately hard to thwart the peaceful transition of power to his legitimately elected successor — millions of Americans had endorsed his excesses. The January 6 rioters who stormed the US Capitol

Even those who concede that Mr Biden obtained more votes can ask if that invalidates the views of 74 million Americans.

A similar question arose in 2000 when George W. Bush defeated Al Gore by winning 271 electoral votes, one more than a majority, despite Mr Gore receiving 543,895 more votes nationally.

Many Americans did not regard it as a satisfactory outcome, but they accepted it without protest.

The flag goes back to 507 BC when the Athenian Cleisthenes introduced demokratia, or "rule by the people". From demos, "the people," and kratos, or "power". Setting aside

the claims of Vaishali, Athens was the first democracy for the Western world. But it was a far cry from the universal adult suffrage which we identify with democracy today, and which can be indistinguishable from mob rule. In the middle of the 4th century, for instance, Athens boasted about 100,000 citizens (sons and daughters of citizens), some 10,000 metoikoi, or "resident foreigners", and 150,000 slaves. Only male citizens above 18 were a part of the demos, meaning only about 40,000 people could participate in the democratic process.

Around 460 BC, under the rule of the general Pericles (generals were among the only public officials who were elected, not appointed), Athenian democracy began to evolve into an autocracy (Herodotus' "the one man, the best") which eventually led to Mao Zedong's concept of "people's democratic dictatorship". The premise was that the party and the State represented the people and acted on their behalf to preserve the "dictatorship of the proletariat", and save the government from collapsing into a "dictatorship of the bourgeoisie", or liberal democracy. Mao famously used the term on June 30, 1949, commemorating the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

However, not all democracies are killed by Army coups or declarations of emergency. Many are destroyed from within. The urge to perpetuate a particular group's stranglehold on power or the plea that a mere head count does not adequately reflect the mood and temper of the people explains opportunistic

Given the association with a man who is widely accused of desperate attempts to subvert democracy, it's a compliment the Prime Minister of an India that is still proud of being the world's largest democracy could have done without.

However, not all democracies are killed by Army coups or declarations of emergency. Many are destroyed from within.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

ARROGANT ROHIT

Instead of expressing regret for his irresponsible batting, Rohit Sharma had the temerity to state that playing in that manner was his role in the team (*Rohit's dismissal underlines lack of judicious shot selection, DC, Jan. 18*). The BCCI needs to take such shocking remarks seriously and pull him up. The money he earns by playing for India does not merit such irresponsible shots. The junior players had to bat with great care to pull the team out of the mess. The BCCI better drop him from the series against England.

C.B.V. Reddy
Medchal

MILLSTONE

Once the US troops leave Afghanistan, the Taliban will surely take the country back to the stone age (*Afghan: Get US to stay on, DC, Jan. 18*). Indian assets and investments are already targeted by Haqqani with aid from ISI, Pakistan. Not only in self interest, but also in the global interest, the US is duty bound to protect the country. Otherwise, to prevent Afghanistan from being a global terrorist hub, it is better for UN to depose a peace keeping force.

P.H. Hema Sagar
Secunderabad

ROUTINE CAMPAIGN

BJP is adopting its 'routine' campaign. It habitually brands opponents as corrupt and anti-national. (*Expose KCR failures, graft: BJP to cads, DC, Jan. 18*). Having all investigating agencies under it, they fail to be specific on corruption charges against opponents.

B. Raghunatha Rao
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

PM to begin election campaign in State

HYDERABAD, January 18

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will inaugurate tomorrow the election campaign of the Ruling Congress in Andhra Pradesh at Rajahmundry in the rice-rich district of East Godavari.

Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy left by air this morning for Vijaywada en route to Rajahmundry to receive her.

Aakar Patel

I was being interviewed for my book and was asked a question unrelated to it — Why does Hindutva hate Jawaharlal Nehru so much? It is an interesting question and has two parts to the answer. To know it, we must first understand what Nehru was and what he wanted.

Before Independence, Nehru wrote a series of works through which he aligned himself to India as a civilisational entity of the sort that the Rashtriya Swayansevak Sangh also approves of. He traces the modernisation to its origins in the Indus Valley Civilisation (discovered only a few years before he wrote *Glimpses of World History* and only 15 or so years before he wrote *The Discovery of India*) to the periods of the first and second millennia after Jesus Christ.

But having acknowledged that India was ancient, Nehru sought also to align it to the modern world and the era he was a part of and the future that he saw for all mankind. To that end he used the State as an instrument to modernise the country. Nehru based his strategy on two things — heavy industry and higher

education. India had limited resources but these two would get priority.

You could argue about whether the strategy was good, bad or indifferent, but it would be difficult to say that he did not execute what he sought out to do. Having determined that he was going to modernise this civilisational entity he set about doing it because Nehru was not only a man of vision (you could argue with him about whether your vision was better) but also a man of action.

He began building institutions, including some which are today called "navratnas", but were then nothing and needed to be built. Some such examples are Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (1964), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (1956), Steel Authority of India (1954), Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (1964), Indian Oil Corporation (1959), Isro (formerly INCOSPAR) 1962, Department of Atomic Energy (1954), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (1954). And then Nehru set up the Indian Institutes of Technology (1951), the Indian Institutes of Management (1961), the National Institute of Design (1961), and the

Sahitya Akademi (1954).

The list goes on and on. Why were all these set up? They were set up because they were the means through which Nehru determined India would be modernised. He inherited a pre-modern economy, where the vast majority of production lay in agriculture and that agriculture was being largely managed by farmers whose means of farming had changed very little for over a thousand years.

Nehru did not inherit a trillion-dollar economy. He had to figure out how to get India there. The problem is that nobody in the world of Hindutva has any vision — good, bad or indifferent — when compared to Nehru, and that includes our Prime Minister. He can offer us statements like "\$5 trillion economy" but he does not say, because he does not himself know, what needs to be done to get us there. More important, he does not know what the State needs to do differently to get there. You can only build institutions if you can think of what to do with them. The reason that Narendra Modi has not built institutions while Jawaharlal Nehru was

so prolific is because Mr Modi does not have even Nehru's starting point.

Nehru had said: Heavy industry and higher education! What does Narendra Modi say? If the answer to that is difficult for you to come up with, it is because there is no answer. This is the first reason that the BJP and Hindutva adherents hates Nehru: Jealousy.

The second reason is that Nehru was not a fraud nationalist. He was a real one. He did not only name India, he fought against it. Nehru lost because Nehru fought. And he fought because he could not bear the thought of surrendering any land of his precious India.

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar said at the Ramnath Goenka Lecture on November 14, 2019 that Nehru should have accepted Zhou Enlai's offer on the border dispute during Zhou's 1960 visit to India. What was that offer? That India should accept the Karakoram range as the Sino-Indian boundary. This is where the Line of Actual Control exists today. But this was not acceptable to Nehru. He wanted the border much further into Tibet.

And he was willing to fight for it. He may have lost, yes, but he did not give up India's claim.

This is unlike Mr Modi, who has not only given up the claim, but is also unwilling even to name the opponent for fear of what China might do. This is the second reason that the BJP and Hindutva hate Nehru. He was a nationalist who exposed thoroughly their own fraudulent nationalist credentials.

The name Nehru is used far too loosely in today's times without much understanding of what he really stood for because we have not explained his thinking in simplified terms.

He is not only much superior to whatever came after him, particularly as we see now in a period of economic collapse and national security failures, but he is a model for modernity. He died more than 55 years ago but is still spoken about and his legacy is all around us today. Of how many Prime Ministers, and that includes this current one, will we be able to say that?

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

Nehru a model of modernity... Why his vision & legacy endures



IN BRIEF
CBI grills Bengal IPS officer

Kolkata: West Bengal IPS officer Tathagata Basu faced marathon grilling by the Central Bureau of Investigation for around six hours on Monday after he appeared at its anti-corruption branch office in Kolkata, responding to the summons in the high-profile coal smuggling case. Though Mr Basu is posted as the deputy commissioner of police at the Chandannagar Police Commissionerate at present, the summons were related to his previous tenure as the superintendent of police of Hooghly. According to sources, he was questioned by the CBI sleuths about his knowledge about the illegal trade. His statement was recorded before he was allowed to go. Mr Basu's appearance before the CBI however in sharp contrast to the move of two more IPS officers: Kallol Ganai, the inspector general (Intelligence branch) of the state police and DC of the Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate; Angshuman Saha who have prayed for relief from appearance.

Farmers' stir: NIA to summon more people for probe

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

Dismissing allegations that it was specifically targeting the farmers' agitation, National Investigation Agency (NIA) sources claim the investigation agency will issue notices and summon to some more people in the coming days from Punjab in connection with an anti-terror case it had registered last month.

The NIA has issued notices to more than 40 persons, mostly from Punjab who are in some way connected to the ongoing farmers' agitation. These people have been summoned to be examined as witnesses in connection with a case lodged by NIA against a pro-Khalistan outfit, the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

The NIA officials argue that the notices have nothing to do with the farmers protest and presence of these people was required to investigate certain details related to the SFJ case.

These notices have been issued to a cross section of people ranging from farmer and religious leaders to local businessmen and journalists. They have been summoned under Section 160



Farmers during their ongoing protest against new farm laws at Singhu Border in New Delhi on Monday. -PTI

Shahnawaz, Sahani file nominations

Patna, Jan. 18: BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain and Bihar minister Mukesh Sahani on Monday filed their nomination papers for by-elections to two seats of the state legislative council.

Hussain, the party's national spokesman, and Sahani who heads NDA constituent Vikassheel Insaan Party, were accompanied by a host of leaders of the ruling coalition including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CMs Tarishwar Prasad and Renu Devi and state BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal.

It may be recalled that polling is scheduled on January 28 though with

'Tandav' makers issue apology

Security stepped up outside offices of Saif Ali Khan and Amazon Prime in Mumbai



BJP workers stage a protest against Amazon Prime over its web series *Tandav*, at Bandra in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

New Delhi/Lucknow, Jan. 18: Faced with an FIR, the fear of arrest and loud calls for a boycott for its alleged depiction of Hindu deities, the cast and crew of Amazon Prime Video's starry political saga *Tandav* on Monday issued an unconditional apology if their fictional show had unintentionally hurt sentiments.

A day after the Information and Broadcasting Ministry sought an explanation from Amazon Prime Video and BJP MP Manoj Kotak wrote to minister Prakash Javadekar trouble escalated for the Ali Abbas Zafar directed thriller with an FIR against its makers in Lucknow and several politicians and others adding their voice to the 'ban *Tandav*' chorus.

As security was stepped up outside the offices of its star Saif Ali Khan and Amazon Prime in Mumbai, a four-member team of the Uttar Pradesh police left for the city and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's media advi-

ces said the makers will have to "pay a price for hurting religious sentiments" by depicting Hindu gods in an objectionable manner. UP Police has left for Mumbai, that too in a car. There are strong sections in the FIR. Remain prepared, (you) will have to pay a price for hurting

religious sentiments,"

Tripathi said in his tweet in which he tagged director Zafar, producer Himanshu Krishna Mehra, writer Gaurav Solanki and actors Saif Ali Khan and Zeeshan Ayyub.

At the end of a tense day that saw debate escalate around the show, which

balances intrigue in Delhi's corridors of power and touches on current issues such as student unrest and farmer protests, the cast and crew of *Tandav*, which literally translates to 'dance of destruction', issued a statement in a bid to defuse the situation. — PTI

Shivraj demands ban on web series

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 18

MAHA BJP MLA CALLS FOR BOYCOTT

Mumbai, Jan. 18: Maharashtra BJP MLA Ram Kadam on Monday urged people to boycott new web series *Tandav* for allegedly mocking Hindu deities.

In a tweet, Kadam said, "Seems like they are proud of or don't regret their demeaning act of mocking or targeting our Hindu Gods." I urge all Hindus to boycott Amazon's products, be it their shopping site or content platform, he said. — PTI

Chouhan met Union information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi to place his demand, saying that the web series sought to denigrate Hindu deities. Meanwhile, state medical education minister Viswas Sarang wrote a letter to Javadekar demanding to frame laws for censorship of films released on OTT platform to deny misuse of the platform by vested interests'. — PTI

SHABIR SHAH TO FACE TRIAL UNDER UAPA

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN. 18

Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday gave sanction for prosecution of jailed separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah under stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for allegedly instigating people against the sovereignty and integrity of India.

The case pertains to a speech made by Mr. Shah outside the Valley's northern township of Sumbal about six years ago. According to the local police, the separatist leader had on March 28, 2015, after the conclusion of Friday prayers, addressed a public gathering during which he also raised slogans against the sovereignty and integrity of India. Mr. Shah who heads J&K People's Democratic Freedom Party is currently lodged at Delhi's Tihar jail. He was arrested in July 2017 in a money laundering case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHO OWNS HAFEEZPET LANDS? And What Does Media Report? Bringing Out Truth in Public Domain.

Some sections of media lies! No surprise. Certain TV journalists are notoriously corrupt and resort to blackmail "journalism". It is not even yellow any more, but stark black dark. Not surprising again. Some so-called TV "anchors" spread lies, spearhead smear campaigns with the twin objectives of increasing TRPs through sensationalism filled with lies, falsehood and fake news, and use it to try to blackmail business. We have decided to speak out and reveal certain truth.

Let us go back in time to understand truth about Hafeezpet village, commonly known as Survey No 80, a land tract of about 484 acres.

On June 2, 1964, a man named Khabeeruddin Khan (Defendant No.9) gave up all legal rights over his property by selling his decretal rights to Nawab Khazim Nawaz Jung and H.E.H. Nizam (reference: registered deed bearing document No.1360/1966). Similarly, a lady named Munneerunnissa Begum (Defendant No.34) sold her decretal rights vide document No.1978/1966, on July 5, 1966.

As per the hon'ble court orders in C.S. No.14 of 1958, the lands in Hafeezpet village were declared as private patta lands of Nawab Kursheed Jahi and lawfully allotted to Khazim Nawaz Jung and H.E.H Nizam.

The Government made a claim on these lands, but it was rejected by several courts, and finally by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on seven different times in various orders (reference: orders in SLP.C. No.10622-23 of 2000, SLP.C. No. 22420 of 2011 and lastly SLP.C. No.13659 of 2020 on December 16, 2020).

As per the apex court orders, registered purchasers from Legal Representatives of Defendant No.157 were declared as the "FINAL DECREE HOLDERS" of 50 acres in Survey No. 80 of Hafeezpet village. Multiple final decrees have affirmed the ownership to the same owners, who purchased the land legally, complying with every single law of the country.

Even the vexatious claims of the Wakf Board (through a Wakfnama) alleged to have been executed by Munneerunnissa Begum on January 1, 1955 without any signature, hilariously claiming that finger and thumb prints of both hands of the lady have been burnt badly accidentally, but she signed and thumb impression was affixed 11 years later on a registered sale deed on July 5, 1966 was legally dismissed beyond doubt.

The land was notified in 2014, contrary to law, in violation of Section 36(8) and Sec.4 of the Wakf Act. The original copy of Wakfnama was not produced before court in spite of court orders. The Wakf claimed Munneerunnissa Begum was allotted only Ac.800 guntas.

There is injunction subsisting against Wakf Board granted by the Wakf Tribunal in I.A. No.68 of 2019 in O.S. No.17 of 2019. The High Court in I.A. No.1 of 2018 and I.A. No.3 of 2020 in WP. No. 20707 of 2018 on September 16, 2020 suspended the notification.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court remanded the case to High Court for final disposal within two months.

In another order, the Hon'ble High Court in WP. No.4408 of 2019, confirmed by Hon'ble Supreme Court, gave final decree on survey of lands. Hence, Wakf Board too has no legal right over Hafeezpet lands.

There is no notification issued by the Government under Sec. 22-A of the Registration Act with regard to Hafeezpet lands. A notification on June 29, 2013 issued by District Collector only

called for public objections. This notification was set aside by the Court and an order was given to land registration authorities to entertain sale deeds, without entertaining that notification.

With such a clear legally established ownership, fought for rights by the rightful owners over decades, including against the government, and won in Hon'ble Supreme Court, we are not going to allow certain dark sheep in the TV business to attempt to malign us.

Legally, we assert our moral rights that no one in the media or public domain, including print media, electronic media, private general public can telecast any false news, untruths or fake news or even send or share any messages electronically, including on Social Media or Mobile Phones, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, websites, or any messaging services like WhatsApp, Signal or a chat, or any other means of communication on Hafeezpet lands survey no. 80 as it would be illegal and violating Hon'ble Court orders.

If any false news, information is published, telecasted or shared, concerned person(s) will be liable personally for all costs and consequences thereon, including civil and criminal action that we will initiate.

In particular, my client (Dr. P.S. Prasad) specifically instructs Mr. Ravi Prakash, former CEO, TV9, who is out on bail in another matter, who blocked my client's number, and hence forced us to notify him through newspaper advertisements and press releases, via this public notice, as per your last conversion with my client Dr. Prasad.

Mr. Ravi Prakash is trying to blackmail my client by threatening to publish false news against my client in this matter, and another similar matter of (so-called scam) Miyapur land, which is pending in Supreme Court for its final decision on the title and ownership since 2003.

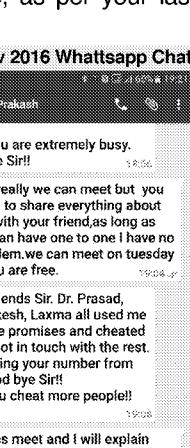
Previously too, before Mr. Ravi Prakash was fired as CEO of TV9 for financial fraud and other misdemeanors well known in public domain, Mr. Ravi Prakash has tried to mudsling against Dr. Prasad, though his name was not even mentioned in the FIR, let alone finding him guilty in the above matter.

You have, in the past, when Dr. Prasad refused to surrender to your blackmail efforts, mischievously telecasted fake news regarding the case registered in USA, though it was held by Courts that there was not even any *Prima facie* evidence to find him accused or guilty of any charge.

False and mere accusations don't mean any person is an accused, and everyone is innocent, unless otherwise proved guilty. Violating this basic canon of justice, your vendetta and mudslinging is proved beyond doubt. Instead, allegations have to be proved beyond doubt – a statement you so hypocritically made in your own personal fraud case of TV9, but refuse to respect it for others.

**P. PRATAP & N.M. KRISHNAIAH
Advocates**

Cell Nos.9885207575, 9848071797



19th Nov 2016 WhatsApp Chat

Sir,

I think you are extremely busy.

Good bye Sir!

Not really we can meet but you want to share everything about me with your friends as long as we can have one to one I have no problem, we can meet on tuesday if you are free.

I've no friends Sir. Dr. Prasad, PVN, Suresh, Laxmi all used me with false promises and cheated me. I'm not in touch with the rest. I'm blocking your number from now. Good bye Sir!

I wish you cheat more people!

Type a message

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SHORT TAKES
SAMSUNG CHIEF JAILED OVER FRAUD CHARGES

Seoul, Jan. 18: Billionaire Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong was sent back to prison on Monday after a South Korean court handed him a two and a half-year sentence for his involvement in a 2016 corruption scandal that spurred massive protests and ousted South Korea's then-president.

In a much-anticipated retrial, the Seoul High Court found Lee guilty of bribing then-President Park Geun-hye and her close confidante to win government support for a 2015 merger between two Samsung affiliates. The deal helped strengthen his control over the country's largest business group. Lee's lawyers had portrayed him as a victim of presidential power abuse and described the 2015 deal as part of "normal business activity."

Wearing a mask and black suit and tie, Lee was taken into custody following the ruling. He didn't answer questions by reporters upon his arrival at the court. Injae Lee, an attorney who leads Lee Jae-yong's defense team, expressed regret over the court's decision, saying that the "essence of the case is that a former president abused power to infringe upon the freedom and property rights of a private company."

He didn't specifically say whether there would be an appeal.

Biden all set for busy 1st week

As swearing-in ceremony nears, security increased in Washington

FBI screens troops ahead of US Prez inauguration

Washington, Jan. 18: President-elect Joe Biden's top advisors on Sunday outlined his plans to tackle the nation's multiple crises while balancing the impeachment trial of Donald Trump, as an historic inauguration week opens in the United States.

Washington was under the watch of thousands of National Guard troops and ringed with security barriers ahead of Biden's swearing in on Wednesday, in a nation still rattled by the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

Pro-Trump protests planned at state capitols nationwide got off to a quiet start with only small groups of armed demonstrators gathering in states including Ohio, Texas, Oregon and Michigan.

"The events of the past few weeks have proven just how damaged the soul of America has been and how important it is to restore it. That work starts on Wednesday," Biden's incoming chief of staff Ron Klain said.

"We're inheriting a huge mess here, but we have a plan to fix it." As the president-elect prepares to take power in a city where only two weeks earlier Trump supporters launched a vio-

lent attempt to overturn the election, Biden faces overlapping crises: not only the pandemic but a struggling economy, climate change and racial tensions.

Biden wants the Congress to act quickly on a massive, \$1.9-trillion stimulus package to revive the economy, and he plans a blitz to accelerate America's stumbling Covid vaccine rollout. His target of seeing 100

million doses of

Coronavirus vaccine injected within his first 100 days in office is "absolutely" achievable, top US scientist Anthony Fauci said on Sunday.

"The feasibility of his goal is absolutely clear, there's no doubt about it," said Fauci, who will be Biden's chief advisor on the virus, as he was Trump's.

But the coming Senate impeachment trial — an

pound in a war zone, with most of the downtown area blocked off, security fences topped by razor wire and about 25,000 National Guard troops deployed to the capital.

In a recent letter to all US troops, the Joint Chiefs of Staff told service members the January 6 riots were "inconsistent with the rule of law" and said troops "must embody the values and ideals of the nation."

VP-ELECT HARRIS TO RESIGN FROM HER SENATE SEAT

Washington (Delaware), Jan. 18: Vice president-elect Kamala Harris will resign her Senate seat on Monday, two days before she and president-elect Joe Biden are inaugurated. Aides to the California Democrat confirmed the timing and said Gov. Gavin Newsom was aware of her decision, clearing the way for him to appoint fellow Democrat Alex Padilla, now California's secretary of state, to serve the final two years of Harris' term.

Padilla will be the first Latino senator from California, where about 40 per cent of residents are Hispanic. Newsom announced his choice in December, following intense lobbying for the rare Senate vacancy from the nation's most populous state. Harris will give no farewell Senate floor speech. The Senate is not scheduled to reconvene until Tuesday, the eve of Inauguration Day. — AP

Facing Biden, Erdogan tries to mend ties with EU

Ankara, Jan. 18: Facing a potentially hostile US administration, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is trying to break his isolation by mending EU relations, torn by what the bloc views as his bellicose foreign policy.

Ties between Ankara and Brussels have plunged to a nadir not seen since Turkey formally opened talks to join the bloc in 2005, a process which is now frozen.

And while Erdogan speaks of turning "a new page", the list of European grievances is long.

Most recently, Brussels began drawing up a list of sanctions over Turkey's hunt for natural gas in the eastern Mediterranean, which Europe counters by pointing to Turkey's grim record on human rights.

But older suspicions

Erdogan's direct military interventions in the Syrian and Libyan conflicts raised hackles in Europe, while his vocal backing of Azerbaijan in the six-week Nagorno-

Artsakh war upset Armenia's allies across the West.

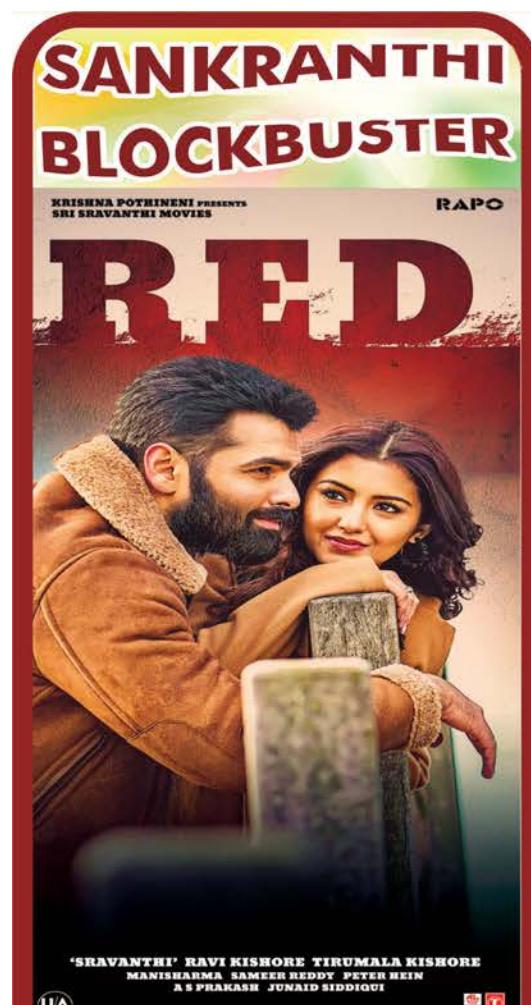
Erdogan's threats to send millions of Syrian and other refugees Turkey is hosting to Europe if the bloc fails to provide more funding are a constant menace.

And he has made the animosity personal by attacking French President Emmanuel Macron's treatment of Muslims, which Europe counters by pointing to Turkey's grim record on human rights.

Some believe this stand-off is unsustainable for Erdogan.

"Ankara cannot afford an escalation with both the US and Europe, especially with an economy this fragile," a European diplomat said. — AFP

CINEMA



SUDARSHAN 35MM

(Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby atmos)

11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

TARAKARAMA-KACHIGUDA
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

MAHALAXMICOMPLEX
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

MALLIKARJUNA 70MM
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

KONARK 70MM-DILSHUKNAGAR
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

MANJU 70MM-SECUNDERABAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREERAMULU 70MM-MOOSAPET
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

RAMAKRISHNA 35MM-ABIDS
11.15, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI
11.30 & 6.00PM

SUSHMA 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SRIDEVI CH.GUDA
11.15, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15

SAIRANGA 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

JYOTHI R.C.PURAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SRI SAIRAM 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SENSATION SUNSHINE
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

VYJAYANTHI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SUPER 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

VJETHA 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GANESH 70MM-11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

VENKATESWARA 70MM-GUMMIDHALA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GANESH 70MM-11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

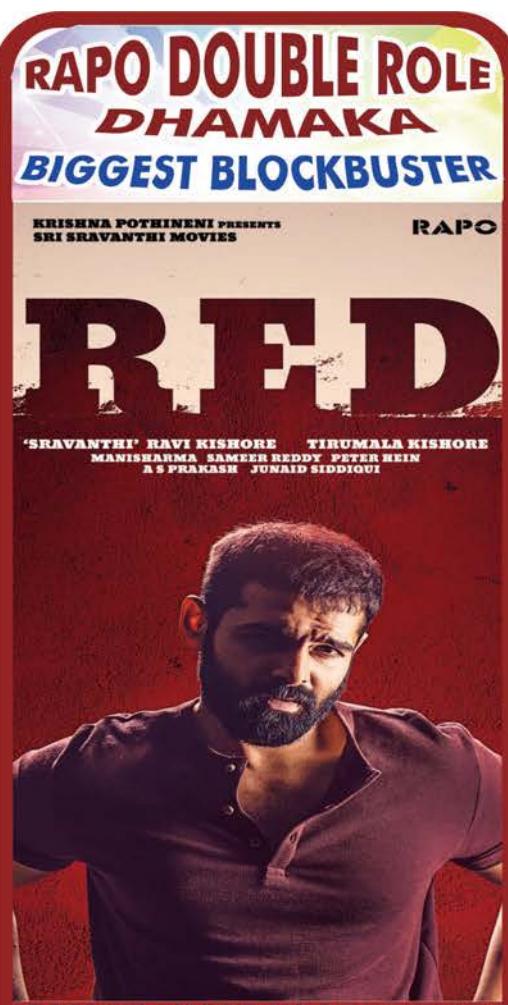
VENKATASAI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

MUKUND 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GANESH 70MM-11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

VENKATESWARA 70MM-GUMMIDHALA
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GANESH 70MM-11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00



SUDARSHAN 35MM

(Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby atmos)

11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

TARAKARAMA-KACHIGUDA
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

MAHALAXMICOMPLEX
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SIVAGANGA 10.30, 1.20, 4.10, 7.00, 9.55PM

RADHIKA-10.30, 1.20, 4.10, 7.00, 9.55PM

GPR-10.20, 1.40, 4.40, 7.40, 10.40PM

MCUBE-10.30, 10.35, 1.40, 4.40, 7.45, 10.45PM

CINESQUARE-10.30, 10.50, 1.35, 1.45, 4.10, 4.50, 7.25, 7.40, 9.50PM

PLATINUM-10.15, 1.15, 4.10, 4.15, 7.15, 7.50, 10.15

10.15, 1.30, 4.15, 7.15, 7.30, 10.25PM

AMB CINEMAS-5.00, 7.45, 10.30PM

TIVOLI-10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.45, 10.45PM

MJR-10.30, 1.40, 4.40, 7.40, 10.35PM

PLATINUM-9.00, 10.00, 10.10, 12.45, 2.30, 3.35, 5.15, 8.00, 10.00, 10.50PM

SHALINI-10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.45, 10.45PM

CHANDANAGAR-11.45, 3.15, 6.45, 10.00

BALANAGAR-9.00, 10.00, 12.15, 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 11.00

GVK MALL-11.10, 12.10, 2.35, 3.30, 6.00, 6.55, 9.30, 10.20PM

MP MALL-9.10, 12.30, 3.50, 7.10, 10.30PM

GSM MALL-10.10, 12.25, 1.50, 2.35, 3.50, 5.25, 7.15, 9.00, 10.00, 10.40PM

MANTRA-11.00, 12.30, 2.30, 3.35, 6.00, 7.20, 9.25, 10.45PM

CCPL-10.30, 12.00, 3.30, 6.50, 7.20, 10.20PM

SUDHA-11.15, 12.30, 3.35, 6.5, 15.7, 20, 10.45PM

DSL-11.00, 12.30, 2.30, 3.35, 6.00, 7.20, 9.25, 10.45PM

MANTRA MALL-11.15am, 2.45, 6.15, 9.45PM

CCPL-11.15am, 2.45, 6.15, 9.45PM

SUDHA - Shalibanda 11.00am, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM

BVK MULTIPLEX-L.B Nagar 10.30am, 1.15, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30PM

Balanagar-9.05, 12.20, 7.20, 10.40

Chandanagar-12.30, 7.30, 10.15PM

S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur 10.00am, 1.05, 7.45, 10.50PM

PLATINUM - SLN 9.50am, 4.25, 10.40PM

TALLURI - ECIL 11.15am, 2.15, 6.00

Ameerpet 10.30am, 4.35, 7.35PM

TALLURI - ECIL 11.15am, 2.15, 6.00

Ameerpet 10.30am, 4.35, 7.35PM

TALLURI - ECIL 11.15am, 2.15, 6.00

Ameerpet 10.30am, 4.35, 7.35PM

TALLURI - ECIL 11.15am, 2.15, 6.00

Ameerpet 10.30am, 4.35, 7.35PM

ALLARI NAARESH COMEDY HANGAMA

Presents
AK ENTERTAINMENTS

23 SATURDAY JANUARY

OAMB AMB CINEMAS-GACHIBOWLI

Cinesquare-Uppal
Mcube mall-Attapur
Radhika-Kapra | Sivaganga-Dsnr
GPR-Kukatpally

Gold Ameerpet Cineplanet Kompally

Prasad's Kairatabad PLATINUM Gachibowli

INOX Banjara Hills | Kachiguda
Madinaguda

MIRAJ Chandanagar | Balanagar
Dilshuknagar

PVR RK Plex | Inorbit | Forum mall
Central | Musarambagh | icon city
Irrummanzil | Next Galleria

Cinepolis CCPL | Mantra | Manjeera
DSL mall

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

GRAND 2nd WEEK

THANKS HYDERABAD

Ek Mazedar LOVE STORY With HYDERABADI TADKA

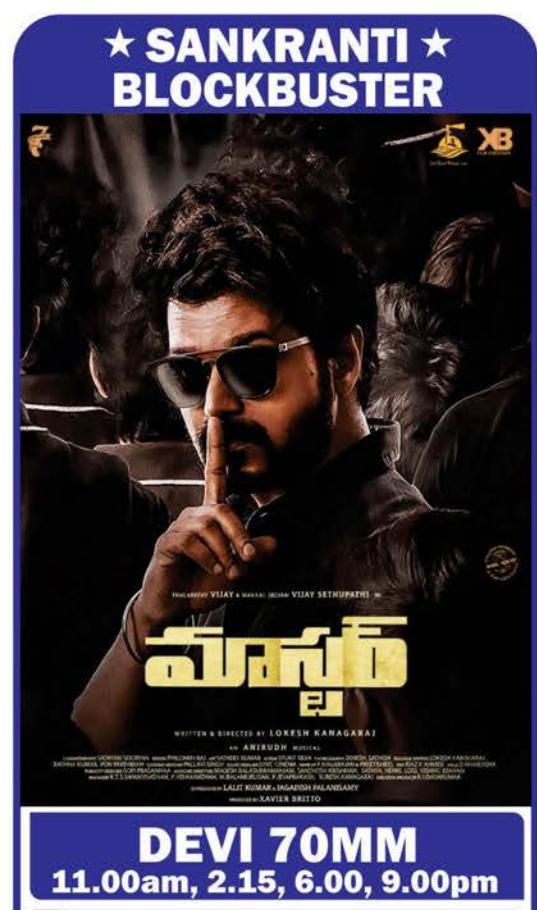
Bolo Hau
Say Yes To Love!

Directed By Tarun Dhanrajir

ON POPULAR PUBLIC DEMAND
FROM 22nd Friday

METRO 70MM
BAHADURPURA

SRI SAI VISUALS 9849153511



DEVI 70MM
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairtabad
11.15am, 1.45, 4.45, 10.45pm

AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli
12.35pm, 3.40, 7.15, 10.00pm

TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad
10.00am, 1.15, 4.20, 7.35, 10.50pm

FORUM MALL - Kukatpally I
11.15am, 12.50, 2.50, 6.25, 10.00pm

CENTRAL MALL - Punjagutta
9.55am, 1.05, 4.35, 7.40, 11.15pm

GALLERIA MALL - Punjagutta
10.10am, 11.15, 2.50, 6.25, 10.00pm

INORBIT MALL - Cyberbad
10.10am, 1.20, 4.45, 7.40, 11.20pm

MOOSARAMBAGH
12.00pm, 3.35, 7.10, 10.45pm

IRRUM MANZIL
11.00am, 2.35, 6.10, 9.45pm

ICON MALL - Hitech City
3.05pm, 6.40, 10.15pm

RK - Banjara - 1.00pm, 7.45pm

GPR MALL - Kukatpally
4.25pm, 7.20, 10.40pm

M CUBE MALL - Attapur
10.20am, 1.20, 4.35, 7.25, 10.40pm

CINEPLANET - Kompally
10.25am, 1.20, 4.20, 7.25, 10.45pm

CINESQUARE - Uppal
10.35am, 1.20, 4.30, 7.25, 10.30pm

MJR SQUARE MALL - Narakapally
10.20am, 1.20, 4.30, 7.25, 10.40pm

LAXMIKALA - Mosapet
10.45am, 2.20pm, 6.15, 9.50pm

RADHIKA - Kapra - 10.15, 7.20pm

SHIVA - Dilshuknagar - 2.15 & 6.00pm

SHA - Chintal - 2.15 & 6.00pm

GVK MALL - Banjara
10.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 10.30pm

GSM MALL - Miyapur
10.30, 11.15, 2.30, 6.00, 6.30, 9.00, 10.30pm

MP MALL - Kachiguda
10.00am, 1.35, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00, 10.00pm

MANTRA MALL - Attapur
2.50pm, 6.50, 10.50pm

DSL MALL - Uppal
2.50pm, 6.50, 10.50pm

SUDHA - Shalibanda
10.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 10.30pm

CCPL - Malkajgiri - 11.30, 2.00, 6.00pm

Balangar - 10.20am, 2.10, 6.00, 9.50pm

Chandanagar - 10.30am, 6.30pm

S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur - 11.45, 4.10, 6.55pm

PLATINUM - Mallapur
9.00am, 12.25, 6.30, 7.15, 10.40pm

BVK - Mallapur - 10.15am, 4.25pm

TALLURI - Eci X Road - 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

Ameerpet - 10.00am, 1.15, 4.20, 10.45pm

DEVI 70MM
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

MAHALAXMI - Kothapet
11.00am & 2.30pm

SHIVA PARVATHY 70MM
11.30am, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45pm

RAJDHANI COMPLEX
11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

VENKATARAMA
11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30

AMBA 70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

SRI KRISHNA 70
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SRIDEVI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GANESH 70MM
2 Shows : 2.00, 9.00

RANGA 70MM
2 Shows : 11.00, 6.00

TAMIL VERSION

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairtabad
7.45pm

AMB - Gachibowli - 4.25pm

FORUM MALL - Kukatpally I
1.25am, 4.25, 7.30, 11.05pm

GALLERIA MALL - Punjagutta
1.00pm, 4.45, 7.35, 11.10pm

INORBIT MALL - Cyberbad
12.35pm, 6.40, 10.15pm

MOOSARAMBAGH-11.15am, 3.00, 5.35pm

IRRUM MANZIL
12.25am, 7.10, 10.45pm

CENTRAL - Punjagutta 4.20, 11.10pm

ICON - Hitech - 11.30am, 3.25pm

RK - Banjara - 4.35pm, 11.15pm

GVK MALL - Banjara
10.20am, 5.30, 9.30pm

GSM MALL - Miyapur
10.20, 2.20, 6.20, 10.20pm

MANTRA MALL - Attapur
10.10am, 2.10, 6.10, 10.10pm

DSL MALL - Uppal
10.10am, 2.10, 6.10, 10.10pm

SUDHA - Shalibanda
2.20pm, 9.55pm

CCPL - Malkajgiri - 3.20, 10.45pm

RADHIKA - Kapra 4.00pm

Balangar 3.35pm

Chandanagar 2.30pm

S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur - 3.20, 10.30pm

WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD |
TUESDAY | 19 JANUARY 2021

Navalny decries 'mockery of justice' in airport arrest

Questions how court session can be held inside police station

EU chief demands Navalny's release

In a video posted by his team from inside the hearing, an incredulous Navalny said he did not understand how a court session could take place at a police station and why no one had been notified until the last minute.

Russia's criminal code, Navalny said. "This is ultimate lawlessness."

In another video, Navalny called for the hearing to be open to all journalists, after only pro-Kremlin media were allowed to attend.

"I demand that this procedure be as open as possible, so that all media have the opportunity to observe the amazing absurdity of what is happening here," he said. About 100 people, mostly journalists, had gathered in the snow outside the police station and several police vans were waiting nearby with their engines running.

Russia's FSN prison service said on Sunday that it had detained Navalny, 44, for violating the terms of a suspended sentence he was given in 2014, on fraud charges he says were politically motivated. —AFP

The Russian authorities must immediately release him and ensure his safety. Von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, also repeated Brussels' call for an independent investigation into an attempt on Navalny's life.

against Russian President Vladimir Putin's government following the latest arrest.

But von der Leyen did not address what would be a decision for the EU member states, saying simply: "We will monitor the situation closely."

"We also continue to expect a thorough and independent investigation on the attack on Alexei Navalny's life," she said. —AFP

3 million in lockdown as Covid rises in China

France, UK boost vaccine campaign

Paris, Jan. 18: France and Britain on Monday joined a growing list of nations starting mass vaccinations for all elderly citizens as the UK began demanding all arrivals quarantine to try and halt the spread of a new Covid-19 variant.

The French drive aims to cover all people over 75 and comes after Brazil and India, which figure among the worst-affected countries, administered their first doses over the weekend.

More than 19 million people across China's northeast are now barred from leaving their homes, and in some cases can only apply for permission to go grocery shopping once every three days.

Authorities have traced over a hundred infections in Jilin province to an asymptomatic travelling salesman from neighbouring Heilongjiang, where authorities last week declared a state of emergency.

The salesman had travelled to two different cities, now locked-down, and given health-care workshops to middle-aged and elderly residents, according to local officials.

An investigation has been launched into the health care centres that hosted the workshops to determine whether their operations constitute illegal business activities.

Health care workshops which sometimes market products claiming to boost "longevity" have been accused of preying on vulnerable groups in China, particularly the elderly.

The People's Daily, a state-run newspaper, ran a commentary on Monday lambasting the workshops as "risking lives for money under the guise of caring about the health of the elderly".

Lockdowns were also extended across other areas of China's northeast over the weekend, including one district of Harbin, currently hosting a popular ice sculpture festival that is usually a big draw for tourists.

But local authorities partially lifted lockdowns in two cities in Hebei province outside Beijing — which has accounted for the majority of cases in recent weeks — though some 12.5 million are still being told to stay home.

Meanwhile, just 25 doses have been given in one lowest income country. Not 25 million, not 25,000; just 25," he said.

"I need to be blunt. The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure — and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and economic suffering." —AFP

WHO demands fair access to jab

Geneva, Jan. 18: The world is on the brink of a "catastrophic moral failure" if rich countries hog Covid-19 vaccine doses while the poorest suffer, the head of the WHO said on Monday.

Health Minister Olivier Veran said more than one million vaccinations are being targeted by January and between 2.4 and 4 million by February.

France had earlier offered vaccinations to residents of retirement homes and health workers on the frontline. Britain on Monday extended its own vaccination campaign to people over the age of 70, after first attending to over-80s, and frontline health workers and care givers.

Since the inoculation campaign began on December 8, more than 3.8 million people have received a first dose of vaccine in the UK.

Growing concerns over different strains of the virus have prompted governments to tighten curbs and stem a global death toll that has already crossed two million since the pandemic first emerged in China just over a year ago.

Russia is also due to start mass immunisations on Monday using its homegrown Sputnik V vaccine while Britain imposed a 10-day isolation and negative Covid tests on all travellers.

—AFP

KRACKIFIED BLOCKBUSTER
2nd WEEK

SAPTAGIRI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

BRAMARAMBA 70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45pm

RAJADHANI COMP-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

METRO 70MM-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

SENSATION SUNSHINE-6.15, 9.15pm

OAMB 10.00, 12.40, 4.15, 7.00, 10.25pm

SWC 10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

TIVOLI 10.05, 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.40pm

MALLAPUR 4.20, 7.30, 10.40pm

PVR INORBIT-10.10, 1.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50pm

FORUM MALL-10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40pm

IRRUMMANZIL-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30pm

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 3.25, 6.35, 9.45pm

GALLERIA-10.00, 1.30, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30pm

ASIAN RADHIKA-10.40, 1.40, 7.35, 10.40pm

UPPAL-10.45, 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.20pm

MCCUBE-10.15, 1.20, 4.20, 7.05, 10.20pm

CHANDANAGAR-4.00, 10.30pm

BALANAGAR-3.25, 6.40, 9.55pm

INOX GVK-11.15, 2.15, 2.50, 6.25, 10.00pm

MP-11.35, 3.10, 6.45, 10.20pm

GSM-11.45, 1.30, 3.00, 5.15, 6.30, 9.15pm

CCPL-11.40, 3.10, 6.40, 10.30pm

MANTRA-11.30, 3.05, 6.40, 9.15pm

SUDHA-10.45, 2.50, 6.20, 9.40pm

DSL-11.30, 3.05, 6.40, 10.15pm

INURA VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATHI COMPLEX
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15pm

ANJALI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

SRI LATHAR C PURAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

MAHALAXMI COMPLEX
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

LAXMISHAMSHABAD
2.30 & 6.30pm

ARADHANA 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

BHUJANGA 70MM
2.00, 9.00pm (2 SHOWS)

FROM 22nd JAN SREEPREMA-TUKKUGUDA

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	48,564.27	-0.96
Nifty 50	14,281.30	-1.06
S&P 500*	3,768.25	-0.72
Dollar (₹)	73.28	-0.31
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.18	0.49
Euro (₹)	88.47	0.27
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,332▲117	0.24
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	54.87	-0.42
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	5.957	-0.52
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.087	-0.92

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Maruti Suzuki increases prices of most vehicles

Maruti Suzuki India said it has increased the price for select models by up to Rs 34,000 to offset adverse impact of rising input costs. The new prices are effective from January 18. While the company did not specify the models, according to dealer sources the price hike impacts most of its models, but select variants of certain models have been left untouched in price hike. Last month, Maruti said it would hike prices from January.

Cure.fit acquires US-based digital fitness firm Onyx



Health-tech startup Cure.fit said it has acquired California-based fitness company Onyx. The company, however, did not disclose the value of the deal. Cure.fit's acquisition of Onyx is a step towards improving its computer vision technology for its at-home fitness product and expanding its international business, a statement said. Onyx specialises in body tracking technology and personalisation of workout feedback.

Skootr leases over 3.25-L sq ft space in H'bad

Managed office space operator Skootr has inked the largest office space leasing in this segment in Hyderabad for catering to large multinational clients wanting customised office space. Rajat Johar, country head, Skootr said, "With the Covid-19 outbreak, employees' priorities have changed to health, safety and hygiene. This has led to occupiers shifting their base from Grade B assets to Grade A office space." He added that Skootr provides 'space as a service.'

IRFC IPO: Retail portion oversubscribed

The initial public offering of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) was subscribed 65 per cent on the first day of subscription on Monday. The offer received bids for 80,89,30,700 shares against 1,24,75,05,993 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE. The category reserved for non-institutional investors was subscribed 9 per cent and retail individual investors, 1.25 times.

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■ Import of appliances, furniture, EV parts to get costlier Budget may raise duties by 5-10% to aid local mfg

AFTAB AHMED & MANOJ KUMAR
NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

The government is considering hiking import duties by 5-10 per cent on more than 50 items, including smartphones, electronic components and appliances in the upcoming budget, three government sources privy to the discussions told Reuters on Monday.

The move to increase import duties is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-reliant India campaign that aims to promote and support domestic manufacturing, said the sources, who asked not to be named as the discussions are not public.

One of the sources said

FOCUS ON SELF-RELIANCE

- Customs duty hikes part of revenue raising and Atmanirbhar Bharat plan
- Govt seeking additional revenue of about ₹120,000 crore-₹21,000 crore from duties
- Duty hikes could hurt Swedish furniture maker Ikea and electric vehicle maker Tesla

the government was seeking to target additional revenue of about Rs 20,000 crore-₹21,000 crore from the moves, as it looks to shore up revenue amidst the pandemic slowdown.

Two of the government sources also said the duty hikes could impact furniture and electric vehicles, potentially hurting the likes of Swedish furniture maker Ikea and Tesla,

which is planning to launch its cars in India this year. Both Ikea and Tesla executives have previously expressed concerns about the steep duty structure their products already face in India.

The list of items likely to attract steeper duties is set to include appliances such as refrigerators and air-conditioners too, three of the sources said.

The sources said the proposals may still be tweaked further before they are finalised.

India has in recent years taken a series of measures that industry executives say discriminate against foreign companies. Government officials say such taxes are essential to promote India as a destination for local manufacturing and to support domestic businesses.

"This is part of revenue raising and Atmanirbhar Bharat plan," said one of the government sources.

Last year, India raised import taxes on a wide range of products such as footwear, furniture, toys, electrical and electronics items by up to 20 per cent.

—Reuters

Beware of tricky January, budget moves of mkt

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JAN. 18



Sensex and Nifty-50 fell close to 1 per cent for the second session in a row on profit taking amid negative global cues, though foreign portfolio investors were still buying shares.

The Sensex closed 470 points down at 48,564 while the Nifty-50 closed 152.40 points lower at 14,281.30. The broader market fall was even sharper with the BSE Mid-cap Index down 2.01

per cent and BSE Small-cap Index 1.89 per cent.

"The news of fresh Covid cases in China has spooked the markets across the globe, including India, as participants are worried about global economic recovery," said

Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking.

It's time to remain cautious as the January-February period has seen big market falls in the past—the biggest fall after a sharp rise took place on January 21, 2008—and later between 2015 and 2018 the market saw sharp falls post-Union Budget.

With little headroom for the government to present a popular budget, profit taking before budget day cannot be ruled out.

"Unusual strength in the dollar index and sustained run up in the commodities have battered the sentiment of the equity market. It has triggered selling in commodities and the Nifty Metal Index closed 4.57 per cent lower," said Shrikant Chouhan, analyst-equity technical research, Kotak Securities.

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 650.60 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 42.51 crore.

Total to buy 20% in Adani Green for \$2.5 bn

BAIJU KALESH, MANUEL BAIGORRI, FRANCOIS DE BEAUPUY & P.R. SANJAI
JAN. 18



Total SE has agreed to a \$2.5-billion deal that includes a minority stake in India's renewables major Adani Green Energy Ltd, as it expands its efforts to diversify beyond oil.

Paris-based Total will acquire 20 per cent of Adani Green, take a board

seat and add a 50 per cent stake in a portfolio of operating solar assets with capacity to transmit 2.35 gigawatts of power to consumers, the company said on Monday in a statement.

"India is the right place to put into action our energy transition strategy based on two pillars: renewables and natural gas," Total CEO Patrick Pouyanne said in the statement.

The deal is the third in a week for Total in the renewable area, following the acquisition of a French biogas producer and of a stake in a large US solar portfolio. The French oil and gas giant and its European peers are increasingly investing in clean power and renewable fuels amid mounting pressure from investors, governments and consumers to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

—Bloomberg

LEXUS DRIVES IN SEDAN LS 500H NISHIJIN AT ₹2.22 CR



MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, JAN. 18

Japanese luxury car maker Lexus, the arm of Toyota, on Monday introduced a new variant of its flagship sedan LS, called the Lexus LS 500h Nishijin priced at Rs 2.22 crore at New Delhi showroom while the entry level variant the LS 500h costs Rs 31 lakh less at Rs 1.91 crore.

The brand has given the LS 500h a few crucial updates across the range. Although priced higher, it rivals the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, Audi A8L, and the BMW 7 Series.

The new LS 500h Nishijin variant has interiors crafted with an expression of style and comfort, featuring a unique collaboration involving traditional Japanese crafts.

It is inspired by the path of the moonlight on the sea, a rare phenomenon witnessed for a few days before and after a full moon.

Lexus India president P.B. Venugopal said the new Nishijin variant and improvements to the flagship model have been introduced following positive response of the LS 500h in India.

"These upgrades keep in line with the sophistication and craftsmanship of the Lexus LS 500h flagship luxury model," he pointed out.

These will deliver optimum performance with cutting-edge technologies, while keeping in mind the environmental benefits and the comfort, Venugopal said.

There is no change to the engine. It continues to pair a 3.5-litre petrol engine with an electric motor, generating an output of 358PS.

WhatsApp rival Hike goes off the air in India

SARITHA RAI
JAN. 18



Hike, the messaging app backed by SoftBank Group Corp. that aimed to compete against WhatsApp in the world's second-most populous country, shut down and vanished from app stores on Monday.

The startup valued at \$1.4 billion in a 2016 funding round announced its app was going off the air earlier this month without explanation. The app started by billionaire-family scion Kavin Bharti Mittal has failed over several

years to displace Facebook Inc's rival app as India's go-to venue for social media and mobile communications. The country remains WhatsApp's largest market globally.

Hike, backed also by Chinese WeChat-operator Tencent Holdings Ltd, has in recent years ventured into adjacent areas such as no-frills phones and expanded even into spheres such as mobile entertainment.

On January 6, Mittal—son of Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman of Bharti Airtel Ltd—announced the closure of Hike StickerChat.

Its demise coincides with a growing global backlash among technology experts, privacy advocates, billionaire entrepreneurs and government organisations against WhatsApp's new

policy of reserving the right to share user data with the broader Facebook network.

Over the past year or more, Mittal has steadily diversified Hike into social and virtual-mobile products. His company will continue to develop its Vibe social media app and work on a new gaming product called Rush, he wrote on Twitter.

"India won't have its own messenger," Mittal wrote. "Global network effects are too strong (unless India bans Western companies)." —Bloomberg

'Looking at a single metric of value or P/E is not a fair way to judge the market'

NUPUR ACHARYA
JAN. 18

A record price-to-earnings valuation for Indian shares shouldn't act as a deterrent for stock investors, according to Radhika Gupta, the head of Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd.

Gupta, the only female chief executive officer of a major asset manager in India, says it's "risky to be underweight equities" at a time when local stocks remain "heavily" driven by liquidity. Her firm, which oversees Rs 46,500 (\$6.3 billion) in assets, is putting its money to work: an Edelweiss balanced fund that invests in both

stocks and bonds has boosted its equity allocation to about 75 per cent, from just 30 per cent in March.

"Looking at a single metric of value or P/E is not a fair way to judge the market at a point when domestic economic activity is bottoming out, and you have such high liquidity," she said. "We are buyers of businesses. We are looking at corporate earnings, the domestic economy, flows and risk appetite."

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex has rallied around 90 per cent from its low during the March swoon in 2020, hitting fresh records on the way.

The rally fuelled by central bank liquidity and incessant foreign inflows has the gauge trading at 23 times its 12-month forward earnings. That's versus a five-year average multiple of 19 times.

Gupta's optimism is at odds with rising concern among many market watchers that stock prices in India have run ahead of themselves as the economy braces for its biggest annual contraction in records going back to 1952.

Last week, the Reserve Bank of India also warned about the rally, citing a widening "disconnect" between certain sections of the financial mar-

kets and the real economy.

The RBI will also start draining cash from the banking system as it seeks to revert to normal liquidity operations from pandemic-imposed emergency measures.

Gupta, on the other hand, points to improving

corporate earnings and the strength shown in recent months by high-frequency economic indicators such as exports, automobile sales and manufacturing output amid an uptick in consumption. Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg have revised up 12-month estimated earnings for Sensex members by about 20 per cent since a trough in July.

"A lot of the uncertainty surrounding markets has ebbed," she said. "The second quarter was good for company earnings led by margin expansion, the tail risk for banks has been contained and a couple of government

reforms in the pipeline tell you that the downside risk isn't very high."

Foreigners continue to pile into Indian stocks, having bought a net \$2.2 billion in two weeks in the new year, after pumping in \$23.4 billion in 2020. That was the most since 2012.

"Vaccines and the low interest environment that we are in could be a very good thing for emerging markets" like India, said Gupta. "We are hoping to see a scenario of better-than-expected performance for the corporate sector. With lockdowns opening up, we expect revenues to come back."

—Bloomberg

Chip shortage forces Ford to advance plant shut down

New Delhi, Jan. 18:

The global shortage of semiconductors will impact production of US auto major Ford's plants in India in the coming months, even as the company advances a scheduled week-long shutdown to this week at its Chennai factory, according to a company official.

Ford India, which has two factories at Chennai in Tamil Nadu and Sanand in Gujarat, expects the issue, which is affecting the entire automotive sector, to continue for at least through the first half of 2021.

"The global semiconductor shortage will impact vehicle production at Ford's Chennai and Sanand plant in the coming months," a Ford India spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson further said, "In Chennai, we have pulled ahead a down week to this week due to a supplier part shortage connected to the global semiconductor shortage."

The company is working closely with suppliers to address production constraints tied to the global semiconductor shortage and working to prioritise key vehicle lines for production, making the most of its semiconductor allocation.

"This issue is affecting the entire automotive sector and expected to continue for at least the first half of 2021," the spokesperson added.

Ford India exports a significant portion of vehicles produced from its two plants. In December 2020 its production was down 42.96

per cent at 6,943 units.

The company's domestic sales were at 1,662 units, down 45.06 per cent from the year-ago month, whereas its exports were at 6,992 units, a decline of 53.83 per cent from December 2019.

In the FT interview, Duesmann said Audi will "do everything we can to keep it below 10,000 [fewer models produced] for the first quarter." The supply challenge came as Audi saw unexpected rise in demand for cars, largely due to a rebound in China, he said.

—

SHORT TAKES
72 tennis players
in Oz quarantine

Melbourne: The number of players in hard quarantine swelled to 72 ahead of the Australian Open after a fifth positive Coronavirus test was returned from the charter flights bringing players, coaches, officials and media to Melbourne for the season-opening tennis major.

That means they won't be allowed to leave their hotel rooms or practice for 14 days, creating a two-speed preparation period for the tournament. Other players in less rigorous quarantine will be allowed to practice for five hours daily.

Australian Open organisers confirmed late Sunday that the latest case involved a passenger on the flight from Doha, Qatar to Melbourne who was not a member of the playing contingent. But all 58 passengers, including the 25 players, now cannot leave their hotel rooms for 14 days.

There were already 47 players, including Grand Slam winners, in hard quarantine after three positive tests were returned from a charter flight that arrived from Los Angeles and one on a flight that departed Abu Dhabi. Some players have expressed anger at being classified as close contacts merely for being on board those flights with people who later tested positive. — AP

Japan PM says
Olympics on track

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed on Monday to get the pandemic under control and hold the already postponed Olympics this summer with ample

Coronavirus protection. In a speech opening a new Parliament session, Suga said his government would revise laws to make anti-virus measures enforceable with penalties and compensation.

Early in the pandemic, Japan was able to keep its virus case-load manageable with non-binding requests for businesses to close or operate with social distancing and for people to stay home. But recent weeks have seen several highs in new cases per day, in part blamed on eased attitudes toward the anti-virus measures, and doubts are growing as more contagious variants spread while people wait for vaccines and the Olympics draw closer.

Suga said his government aimed to start vaccinations as early as late February. "In order to restore sense of safety, I will get the Coronavirus pandemic under control as soon as possible," Suga said. Suga pledged to achieve the Olympics as a proof of human victory against the Coronavirus. — AP

Metz roar to
peg back Lyon

Paris: Lyon's long unbeaten streak ended and it wasted a chance to keep first place in the French league after a 1-0 home loss to Metz.

Lyon was unbeaten in 16 games but was stunned by Belgian forward Aaron Leya Iseka's injury-time winner for mid-table Metz.

Defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, which won on Saturday, is level on points with second-place Lille and leads on goal difference after 20 rounds.

They are two points ahead of third-place Lyon.

Lyon forward Karl Toko Ekambi had a goal ruled out following a video replay in the 74th minute, moments after fellow forward Maxwell Cornet hit the post.

Earlier, Canada forward Jonathan David struck an injury-time winner as Lille rallied to beat Reims 2-1.

Lille had lost its previous home game and fell behind to winger Arber Zeneli's goal late in the first half.

Meanwhile, in Sunday's other games, Strasbourg beat Saint-Etienne 1-0, while Nantes and Lens played to a 1-1 draw. — AP

Live on TV

BADMINTON

Thailand Open: Round of 32 matches from 7:30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

CRICKET

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament: Haryana vs Kerala from 11:55 am; Mumbai vs Andhra Pradesh from 6:55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Big Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Brisbane Heat from 1.45 pm on Sony Six, HD

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Hyderabad vs Odisha from 7:20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

English Premier League: West Ham vs West Brom from 11:30 pm; Leicester City vs Chelsea from 1.45 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

RED DEVILS ON TOP

Man U remain English leaders despite Liverpool draw

London, Jan. 18: Manchester United held onto top spot in the Premier League after Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker forced them to settle for a 0-0 draw, while Manchester City powered into second place with a 4-0 rout of Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Alisson saved well from Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba in the second half, but neither side deserved to win.

United are two points clear of second placed Manchester City, who have a game in hand, and third placed Leicester.

Champions Liverpool are a further point back in fourth.

United are top after the New Year for the first time since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013 thanks to nine wins in a 12-match unbeaten run.

Leaving Anfield unscathed is a solid result as they chase a first title in eight years, but United might feel it was a missed opportunity to pile pressure on injury-hit Liverpool given their recent struggles.

It is the first time these two old foes have been involved in a title race together since 2009.

But there was little feel of a seismic encounter as both teams largely played with the handbrake on an empty and silent Anfield.

Liverpool are well short of the dynamic form that carried them to the title last season and the Champions League in 2019.

Jurgen Klopp's team have now gone four league games without a win and are without a goal in their last three top-flight matches.



Edinson Cavani (right) of Manchester United reaches for the ball during the English Premier League match against Liverpool at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool, England, on Sunday. The match ended in a goalless draw. — AP

es. The draw at Anfield was the perfect result for City, who took advantage at the Etihad Stadium with their fifth successive league victory.

City scored in the 26th minute, when Kevin De Bruyne's majestic cross with the outside of his foot picked out John Stones and the defender headed his first Premier League goal for City. City,

unbeaten in their last 15 games in all competitions, doubled their lead 11 minutes into the second half when Ilkay Gundogan curled into the top corner.

Stones struck again in the 68th minute, blasting home after Ruben Dias' header was saved, and Raheem Sterling made it four with an 88th minute free-kick.

Tanguy Ndombele's

stunning strike sealed Tottenham's 3-1 win at Sheffield United.

José Mourinho's side took an early lead through a rare goal from Ivory Coast defender Serge Aurier.

Harry Kane's 19th goal of the season increased Tottenham's advantage before half-time.

David McGoldrick got one back for bottom of the

Lauri towers as Bulls bully Dallas

Los Angeles, Jan. 18: Lauri Markkanen scored a team-high 29 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls overcame a historic triple-double from Luka Doncic to beat the Dallas Mavericks 117-101 on Sunday.

Garrett Temple scored 17 of his 21 points in the first half as the Bulls snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Bulls shot 50 percent in the first half and led by 19 points at one stage, en route to a 67-52 lead heading into the third quarter.

Slovenian sensation Doncic finished with 36 points, 16 rebounds and 15 assists to record his 29th career triple-double to pass Michael Jordan and move into 15th spot on the all-time list.

Doncic shot 11-of-18 from the floor in the first half. He finished with six three-pointers.

Doncic became only the fourth player in NBA history to record at least 35 points, 15 rebounds and 15 assists in a game and the youngest to do so. Oscar Robertson did it five times.

The Bulls had six players in double-figure scoring as their bench outscored the Mavericks reserves 61-22. Chicago's ball movement was outstanding and their defense compiled a season-high 14 steals.

Kristaps Porzingis added 20 points and eight rebounds for Dallas in his third game back since recovering from offseason surgery on his right knee.

NEW YORK KNICKS
BOSTON CELTICS

Elsewhere, the New York Knicks snapped their five-game NBA losing streak in emphatic style, holding the host Celtics to a season-low total in a 105-75 win.

Julius Randle scored 20 points and pulled down 12 rebounds and RJ Barrett added 19 points and 11 boards for the Knicks, who spoiled the season debut of Celtics All-Star guard Kemba Walker, absent from the first 11 games with a left-knee injury.

Jaylen Brown led the Celtics with 25 points but his efforts went in vain. — AFP

SELECTION TRIALS TOMORROW FOR HYDERABAD HOCKEY SIDE

Hyderabad, Jan. 18: Hockey Hyderabad is conducting district selection trials to pick the senior boys team at Mudfort Hockey Ground in Secunderabad from 6 am on Wednesday. Selected players will represent Hyderabad in the 5th Senior Boys Inter-District Hockey Tournament to be held at Sangareddy from February 5 to 7. All players must bring either voter ID, nativity Class X memo, Aadhaar or birth certificate at the time of registration. For further details, contact Hockey Hyderabad secretary Alphonse Lazarus on phone number 9849887595.

Top order



G. H. Vihari (left), India's hero in saving the recent third cricket Test in Sydney against Australia, poses after being felicitated by Telangana State Minister for IT and Municipal Administration K. T. Rama Rao (second from right) alongside badminton player Sree Krishna Priya Kudaravalli (right) and Kudaravalli Sri Lalith at the Pragathi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday. Vihari returned home from Australia after being ruled out of the ongoing fourth Test due to a hamstring injury he suffered while batting in the penultimate match of the series at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Bilbao beat Barca to bag Super Cup

Madrid, Jan. 18: Lionel Messi was sent off for the first time playing for Barcelona as Athletic Bilbao stunned the Catalans to win the Spanish Super Cup on Sunday, a dramatic final finishing 3-2 after extra time.

Moments before Bilbao's momentous triumph was confirmed, Messi threw an arm at Asier Villalibre, who had earlier scored a 90th-minute equaliser in normal time to deny Barca victory.

Antoine Griezmann's double looked to have sealed the trophy but Oscar de Marcos netted the first goal for Bilbao post which Villalibre intervened before Inaki Williams' fabulous strike three minutes into extra time proved decisive.

Messi shook off a thigh problem to start in Seville and was required to play all 120 minutes as Barcelona attempted to take the game to penalties.

Instead, the 33-year-old Argentine superstar lost his temper at the end of a combative contest, reacting to a late challenge from Villalibre by swiping his hands across the back of his opponent.

It meant a first ever red card for Messi in 753 appearances for Barcelona, to go with his two reds for Argentina in 2005 and 2019.

Messi's anger will take some of the limelight away from Bilbao, who had already denied the competition a Clásico final by beating Real Madrid in the semi on Thursday and now have completed the set. — AFP



Athletic Bilbao's Mikel Balenziaga (left), Iker Muniain (centre) and Oscar De Marcos pose with the winner's trophy after defeating Barcelona 3-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final at La Cartuja stadium in Seville on Sunday. — AFP

Inter jolt for Juventus in Italy

Milan, Jan. 18: Inter Milan shocked champions Juventus 2-0 to move level on points with Italian league leaders AC Milan on Sunday, boosting their hopes of first league title since 2010.

Arturo Vidal got his head to a Nicolo Barella cross in the 12th minute for his first league goal for Inter Milan against his former club.

Barella added the second seven minutes after the break as Inter claimed a first victory over Juventus since September 2016, ending a series of seven matches without a win.

Inter are equal on 40 points with local rivals Milan, who travel to Cagliari on Monday, with Juventus seven points behind the top two in fifth.

Cristiano Ronaldo looked to have broken through for the away side after 11 minutes but Federico Chiesa was ruled offside in the build up.



Wojciech Szczesny cleared, and the Polish keeper also denied Barella before punching the ball off Lukaku's head at full stretch.

A superb Alessandro Bastoni through ball to Barella paid off in the 52nd minute, with the pacy Italy midfielder shaking off Gianluca Frabotta and Giorgio Chiellini to blast home with a 2-1 win over Freiburg.

Pirlo made a triple change just before the hour with Weston McKennie, Federico Bernardeschi and Dejan Kulusevski coming off the bench.

But Inter keeper Samir Handanovic was rarely threatened, clearing a McKennie header on 61 minutes, and a Chiesa effort three minutes from time.

In Naples, Lorenzo Insigne scored twice and Lautaro Martinez spurning the chance to score on the rebound.

Omnipresent midfielder Barella created another chance for Lukaku which

LEWA SCRIPTS RECORD AS BAYERN WIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Top two seeds sailed through the first rounds of the boys and girls categories in the All India Tennis Association C7 Under 14 tournament being held at the Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Moinabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

In matches played on Monday, girls top seed Laxmi Siri Dandu defeated Asin Kommineni 6-3, 6-2; Y. poopitha bt Aastha Mann 6-2, 6-1; Manav Sival bt Neeravi Kotari 6-3, 6-3; Rahul Lokesh bt C. Arunmani 6-2, 6-3; Shashank Sai Prasad bt Abhinav Goud Putta 6-0, 6-3; M. Srivant Reddy bt Saei Sanotsh 7-5, 6-1; V. Dhairaj Reddy bt P. Varshit Sai Sri Varma 6-2, 6-2; V. Thirumurugan bt Rohan Karthik Vunnan 6-1, 6-2; Ahan Shetty bt Tejas Singh Bhatia 7-5, 6-0; Siveeti Bala Prasad bt Vedant Gundu 7-5, 7-6 (7-4); Murali Koushal bt Rudranish Raj 6-0, 6-1.

THE RESULTS
Boys Under 14 singles: Anish Jain bt Mannan Agarwal 6-0, 6-2; Praneel Eswar bt Vivek Srikrishna 6-3, 5-7, 10-6; Showrya Syamala bt B. Satvik Reddy 6-3, 6-1; Hrishik Dyuthi 6-1, 6-3; M. Princy bt P. Tejasvi 6-3, 6-2; Sanvi Singh bt K. Chandana Reddy bt Neethu Enja 6-1, 6-1; Rithika Kakalamudi bt Esha Konidlapudi 6-1, 6-2; Ch Malvika Reddy bt Nysa Sharma 6-1, 6-2; Tribhuvani Chennamshetty bt V. Keerthika Reddy 6-4, 6-1; Sahasra bt Sai Ananya Varanasi 6-4, 6-4; Ika Raju bt Mehak Kapoor 6-0, 6-1.

Arturo Vidal (right) of Inter Milan scores his side's opening goal against Juventus during their Italian league match at the San Siro stadium in Milan on Sunday. Inter Milan won 2-0.

— AFP

And Chilean Vidal made no mistake for last season's Serie A' runners-up two minutes later off Barella's perfect cross.

Romelu Lukaku then forced a save from Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny on 24 minutes, with Lautaro Martinez spurning the chance to score on the rebound.

In Naples, Lorenzo Insigne scored twice and Lautaro Martinez spurning the chance to score on the rebound.

Omnipresent midfielder Barella created another chance for Lukaku which

Wojciech Szczesny on 24 minutes, with Lautaro Martinez spurning the chance to score on the rebound.

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SHORT TAKES
Chandrasekhar suffers stroke

Bengaluru: Former India cricketer B.S. Chandrasekhar has been hospitalised after suffering a stroke but is recovering well and is set to be discharged in the next couple of days, his family said on Monday. The 75-year old legendary former leg-spinner complained of "tiredness and fatigue" on Friday evening and his speech became a "little bit cluttered", his wife Sandhya Chandrasekhar Bhagath said, describing the health scare as a "very, very minute stroke". "Chandra is recovering very well, and he will be back home on Wednesday or Thursday," she said. On advice of doctors, the Mysuru-born Chandrasekhar was admitted to the Aster RV Hospital, where he was kept in the emergency care unit for observation. — PTI

Eng win opening Test in Lanka

Galle, Sri Lanka: Jonny Bairstow and Dan Lawrence held their nerve in a 62-run unbroken stand to guide England to a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday on the fifth and final morning of the series-opening Test.

England ensured they didn't have any more hiccups in erasing the remaining 36 required on the last day after Sri Lanka had set up a tricky 74-run target on a turning wicket. England had slumped to 14/3 late on the fourth evening, included a crucial run-out of their captain Joe Root for just 1, before Bairstow and Lawrence combined to usher the tourists to 76/3. Bairstow remained unbeaten on 35 and Lawrence finished 21 not out. — AP
Brief scores: Sri Lanka 135 & 359 vs England 421 & 76/3 (Bairstow 35 not out)

Draw would be worse: Ponting

Brisbane: Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting feels a drawn Test series against a severely depleted India will be a worse result for the hosts than the loss they suffered at home in the Border Gavaskar Trophy two years ago. "I think a drawn series will be worse than the loss a couple of years ago," Ponting told cricket.com.au. — PTI

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NEWBIES STING

Siraj's five-for and Shardul's 4/61 keep India in contention

Brisbane, Jan. 18: Indian pacers Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur produced another inspirational effort in adverse circumstances but India were set a challenging target of 328 by Australia as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy headed towards an exhilarating finale in the fourth Test here.

The target is a tricky one and the Indian batsmen would get a fair idea whether to go for it by lunch on the final day, which is Tuesday. This was after Siraj and Thakur combined to share nine wickets while dismissing Australia for 294 in their second



innings. Siraj (19.5-5-73-5) punched way above his weight with his maiden five-wicket haul but couldn't prevent hosts from posting an imposing target for his team in only 75.5 overs of the second innings batting.

At stumps, India were 4 for no loss with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill at the crease.

The highest target chased at Brisbane is 236 and that was seven decades ago which is an indicator why this Australian ground can be equated with Fort Knox. The home team hasn't lost a game here since 1988.

Thakur's dream Test match also got better with figures of 4/61 and a match haul of seven wickets. The most poignant moment was his apparent joy when he took the catch to help Siraj pip him to the coveted five-for landmark. The possibility of rain adds to the excitement and the changing weather did affect the contours of Australia skipper Tim Paine's facial expressions which exhibited relief and despair in equal measures. — PTI



Paceman Mohammed Siraj (right) points to the sky to pay tribute to his father who passed away recently in India while the bowler was on national duty in Australia, as he celebrates taking his fifth wicket with Mayank Agarwal on the fourth day of the fourth Test against Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane on Monday. — AFP

Mum's call did wonders for Siraj

Brisbane, Jan. 18: Mohammed Siraj revealed how a phone call with his mother and the memory of his late father spurred him on to a five-wicket haul in the final Test against Australia on Monday.

Siraj, playing only his third Test, ably deputised for the injured Jaspit Bumrah in Brisbane, where India need a draw to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with the series locked at 1-1.

It has been an emotional series for Siraj, who lost his father in November and welled up with tears during the national anthems in Sydney.

"I am very thankful that I got five wickets. It was a very tough situation for me because I lost my dad recently," said Siraj.

"I called up home and I felt strong after talking to them and to my mother. She motivated me to feel strong. So I was mentally strong and my focus was to make sure my dad's

SIRAJ'S MAIDEN 5-WICKET HAUL IN TEST MATCHES

- Mohammed Siraj recorded the best bowling in Tests by taking 5/73 against Australian in the fourth Test.
- The right-arm medium pacer from Hyderabad also became the 18th Indian to take five wickets in an innings in Australia.
- Kapil Dev holds the Indian record of taking the highest number of five-wicket hauls in Australia. He claimed five-wicket hauls in 21 innings of 11 Test Down under.
- Siraj's previous best bowling was 3/37 on debut in the second Test of the series at Melbourne.
- Shardul Thakur also recorded his best bowling after taking 4/61 on Monday. His previous best was 3/94 in the first innings of the fourth Test.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

dream comes true."

Siraj's father died on November 20 as India prepared for the start of their tour.

'CRACKS ON GABBA CAN BE CONFUSING'

Siraj sounded a word of caution about the cracks on the Gabba surface creating confusion in the mind of the batsmen that there are cracks on the pitch but our batsmen are prepared for this. We will come to know only tomorrow," Siraj said.

— Agencies

SCORECARD

Australia 1st Innings: 369
India 1st Innings: 326
Australia 2nd Innings (overnight 21/0): Marcus Harris c Pant b Thakur 38, David Warner lbw Washington Sundar 48, Marnus Labuschagne c Rohit b Siraj 25, Steven Smith c Rahane b Siraj 55, Matthew Wade c Pant b Siraj 0, Cameron Green c Rohit b Thakur 37, Tim Paine c Pant b Thakur 27, Pat Cummins not out 28, Mitchell Starc c Navdeep Saini b Siraj 1, Nathan Lyon c Mayank Agarwal b Thakur 13, Josh Hazlewood c Thakur b Siraj 9, Extras (b-5, bl-2, w-2, nb-4) 13, Total (all out in 75.5 overs) 294.
FoW: 1-89, 2-91, 3-123, 4-123, 196-5, 227-6, 242-7, 247-8, 274-9, 294-10.
Bowling: Siraj 19.5-5-73-5, T Natarajan 14-4-41-0, Sundar 18-1-80-1, Shardul 19-2-61-4, Navdeep Saini 5-1-32-0.
India 2nd Innings: Rohit batting 4, Shubman batting 0. Total (for no loss in 1.5 overs) 4.
Bowling: Starc 1-0-4-0, Hazlewood 0.5-0-0-0.

Kolkata, Jan. 18: Unbeaten Baroda saw off the challenge of Hyderabad via a super over in an Elite Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Monday.

Jharkhand

restricted

Hyderabad to 139/8 in 20

overs, with Vikash Singh and Vivekanand Tiwari picking up three wickets each.

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ALI TROPHY

Jharkhand defeat Hyd in super over

KARODA GO INTO KNOCKOUTS UNBEATEN

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