

# DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 26 JANUARY 2021

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**On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950, India Wrote Her Destiny**

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**Happy 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day**



Har Pal Aapke Saath

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

LIC/AR/20-21/20/Eng

**WEATHER**

Max: 33.2°C  
Min: 18.4°C  
RH: 41%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Mist/haze in the morning. Max/Min temp. 33/18 °C

**COVID-19 COUNT**

CASES (+8,631)	DEATHS (+106)
1,06,76,963	1,53,608

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

(+148)	(+1)
TS: 2,93,401	1,590
(+56)	(+2)
AP: 8,87,066	7,149

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

9,99,60,697	DEATHS 21,43,258
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219	worldometers.info/coronavirus

**COUNTER POINT**

Foolproof security arrangements, sir... no threat even from tractors!

**Republic Day Regatta**

The National Flag stands tall as colourful boats line up in the foreground at Hussainsagar in Hyderabad ahead of the Republic Day Regatta being conducted by the Yacht Club of Hyderabad.

## Ministerial aspirants push to impress next CM KTR

### Senior MLAs, younger ones trying their luck

IREDDY SRINIVAS  
READY I DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

With the inevitability of the *de jure* rise and anointing of minister and TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao as the next Chief Minister of Telangana setting in, party leaders and ministerial aspirants have started die-hard efforts to get his attention and push for their Cabinet candidature. With a plethora of strategies, including media leaks, name dropping and trying to send feelers to the new leader of the state, everyone from TRS ministers to MLAs, MLCs and others are trying to stand apart as ministry-

worthy. Gossip is abuzz and grapevines are feeding all manners of "news" about who is in and who will be out. Amidst the intertwined emotions of insecurity and hope, TRS leaders are asking – "Am I in? Will I make it? What does KTR really want?" In the hot race are several senior MLAs and younger ones trying their luck for a Cabinet post in the upcoming 'KTR Cabinet' are also increasing their tryst with religious approval and promises to the divine for blessings. Sources close to Rama Rao concede, with a veneer of wilful doubt, that "indeed if the case is that he will become Chief Minister, there is scope for appoint-

ing two Deputy Chief Ministers in his Cabinet."

Senior TRS leaders are building bridges in their hearts from this only real statement of intent. Some argue that is a given that Rama Rao will have one deputy CM each from the BC and Dalit communities. Senior leaders, including health minister Etala Rajendar and Koppula Eshwar are betting and hoping they are appointed Deputy CMs.

Mahmood Ali, currently handling the ministry of home, leaders speculate, shall continue but chances are that the new CM will shuffle his department.

Justice Kaul observed,

### SC DISMISSES AP PLEA TO DEFER LOCAL ELECTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 25

The Supreme Court dismissed the AP government's plea to postpone the gram panchayat polls and cleared the decks for going ahead with the elections as per schedule. A division bench comprising justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy held a hearing on Monday.

Justice Kaul observed, "Ego problems between two authorities are causing all this lawlessness. The court will not be a party to it. Some decisions are political while some are administrative. We will not assume everyone's functions. Some decisions have to be taken by the SEC."

■ Page 5: KTR Cabinet unlikely to diminish

■ Page 5: Elections being held all over India: SC

## India, China troops clash near Sikkim

Army plays down incident as 'minor face-off'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

Amid their tense standoff in eastern Ladakh, Indian and Chinese troops were involved in a physical clash in the high-altitude Naku La region in Sikkim on January 20, an incident the Indian Army described as a "minor face-off" on Monday.

The Indian Army, playing down the incident, said it was resolved by local commanders and there was no use of weapons.

"It is clarified that there was a minor face-off at Naklu area of North Sikkim on 20 January 2021 and the same was resolved by local commanders as per established protocols. Media is requested to refrain from overplaying or exaggerating reports which are factually incorrect," said Indian Army.

"It is learnt that troops from both sides sustained minor injuries in the physical brawl in Naku La," a

MAHAVIR CHAKRA,  
WAR-TIME MEDAL,  
FOR SANTOSH BABU

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

Col. Bikumalla Santosh Babu, Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar who lost his life while fighting Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on June 15 has been awarded the second-highest wartime gallantry medal Mahavir Chakra posthumously on the Republic Day this year.

India had lost 20 troops in the fiercest clash with the Chinese.

■ Report on Page 7

PTI report said.

People familiar with the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in north Sikkim said the Chinese troops attempted to transgress into the Indian side of the frontier

in Naku La but were stopped by the Indian military personnel.

They said both sides brought in additional troops to Naku La following the brawl and the situation was under control so far.

It is also learnt that defence minister Rajnath Singh and the top military brass were apprised about the incident. The incident at Naku La became public on Monday hours after senior commanders of both the armies concluded a nearly 16-hour-long meeting in an attempt to defuse tension in eastern Ladakh.

Naku La, located at an altitude of 16,000 feet, is the same site where Indian and Chinese troops had engaged in a fierce clash in May last year days after a violent face-off between the two sides in Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh. Nearly 150 Indian and Chinese military personnel were engaged on May 9. At least 10 soldiers from both sides sustained injuries.

## Troops ready for threat: Prez

New Delhi, Jan. 25: President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday asserted that India's armed forces are "adequately mobilised" in a "well-coordinated" move to thwart any attempt to undermine national security, and recalled how its valiant sol-

diers foiled the "expansionist" plans by China in Ladakh last year. "Our national interest will be protected at all costs," the President declared in his address to the nation on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day during which he also said every Indian saluted

the farmers and sought to allay their fears over the three contentious farm laws. Kovind's remarks come amid the nine-month military standoff with China in Ladakh and the deadlock between the Centre and farmer unions over the farm laws. — PTI

### 15 lakh took vaccine in India

## 10k pvt health staff take jab

JAGTIJ DOC MLA  
IS FIRST TO GET  
COVID VACCINE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
JAGTIJ, JAN. 25

While many people in public life are hesitant to take the Covid-19 vaccination, following reports of side effects.

Fifteen lakh people across the country have taken the first dose in recent days. The state government said that five adverse effects were noted in private hospitals on Monday.

The vaccination programme has been going on briskly in undivided Karimnagar district.

There was palpable anxiety in the first week of the inoculation drive.

■ Page 6: Only 57% turnout in govt hospitals

■ Page 6: MLA took jab to boost health personnel

## SPB Vibhushan, Padma for Adivasi dance guru

Telangana got one honour. Dance trainer Kanaka Raju, 80, who has been struggling to keep the traditional Gussadi dance alive, was selected for Padma Shri in the art category. Raju is a native of historical Marlavai village in Jainoor mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.

■ Page 2: Marlavai village celebrates win

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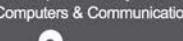
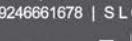


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## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana  
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Trayodasi till 1.08 am (Wednesday)  
Star: Ardra till 3.09 am (Wednesday)  
Varjyam: 10.43 am to 12.24 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 9.07 am to 9.52 am; 11.11 pm to 12.02 am  
RahuKalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm  
**HJRI CALENDAR**  
Jamadi- ul- Akhir 12,1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**

Fajr: 5.47 am  
Zohar: 12.39 pm  
Asar: 4.32 pm  
Magrib: 6.14 pm  
Isha: 7.24 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.08 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.49 PM**  
**MOONSET 4.46 AM**  
**MOONRISE 3.55 PM**

## IN BRIEF

## Two succumb to LPG explosion

**Hyderabad:** Two individuals who sustained injuries in the LPG gas blast earlier last week at Mirchowk succumbed while undergoing treatment on Monday. The deceased, Pantu, 18, and Balu, 25, were among the 10 persons who sustained burns in the blast on January 20 at their residence in Mirchowk, and were undergoing treatment.

## TS records 148 new Covid cases

**Hyderabad:** The state recorded 148 Covid-19 cases and one death on Sunday. The toll now stands at 1,590 and the caseload 2,93,401, according to the daily bulletin issued by the state health department.

Recording 35 cases, the GHMC contributed a maximum number of cases in 24 hours, followed by Ranga Reddy (11) and Karimnagar district (10). Other districts recorded new cases in single digits. As many as 302 people recuperated from Coronavirus between Saturday and Sunday, pushing the total number of recoveries to 2,88,577. The state now has 3,234 active cases, including 1,697 individuals in home or institutional isolation, it said.

## HEAT WAVES MAY CAUSE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

Mean temperature in India has risen by 0.7°C Celsius this year, which indicates there could be a rise in the number of heat waves, meteorologists said.

While global temperatures are already up by 1°C, the temperature rise in India indicates increasing heat waves. India had been the seventh most affected by devastating impact of climate change globally in 2019, reveals the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 released on Monday.

According to recent report by Germanwatch, a Bonn-based environmental organisation: "In terms of extreme weather events in 2019, India stands behind only Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Bahamas, Japan, Malawi and Afghanistan in the list of countries most affected by global warming."

"In general, Global Climatic Extreme Events (GCEE) start in summers. Their impact on the climate we are facing right now will become quite evident. There will a rise in temperature during summers," Dr R. Krishnan, senior scientist with Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) told Deccan Chronicle.

Another weather expert from University of Hyderabad said the rise in mean temperatures will pave way for a number of heat waves. "More heat means higher rate of evaporation. More water vapour in the air means heavier rainfall," he remarked, pointing out that heavy rains also means long dry spells.

## SEEDING | GLITCHES

## Ownership changes not effected in records

## Free water hits Aadhaar wall

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

The Aadhaar seeding to avail 20 kilo-litres of free drinking water per month has been progressing at snail's pace as thousands of consumers have transferred the ownership of their water connections.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has noticed that several consumers, despite changing the own-

## Freeze frame



Actress Surbhi Puranik takes a selfie with Rohan Gupta, regional marketing head of Samsung Mobiles, Hemant, category head, IT and mobiles, of Bajaj Electronics and Pavan, zonal sales head, Samsung Mobiles, at the launch of Samsung Galaxy S21 smartphone at the Bajaj Electronics showroom, in Hyderabad on Monday.

## Experts sense trouble in kids going to school

## Completing 70% syllabus in 90 days to be tough

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

The sudden switch to online classes was the first to take a psychological toll on students and now the shift back to physical classes, approaching exams and the pressure to complete 70 per cent syllabus in about 90 days will push students down the edge, child psychologists have cautioned.

Kids going to school, even with the consent of parents, could resist the sudden shift and some could even develop symp-

toms of anxiety, due to the fear of virus and a new system put in place at school campuses, psychology experts opined.

"It took at least four-five months for students to get accustomed to online classes, which eventually uprooted the normal schedule. This has also led to a sense of monotony and complacency in the home environment. To uproot them from the home atmosphere could lead to anxiety in some children, and lack of motivation to adjust to the school environment", said consult-

ant clinical psychologist Dr Srikanth Goggi.

Dr Motukuri Ramchander, Telangana Psychologists Association State President, echoed similar views, adding that it is upon the teachers to ease the mindset of the stu-

dents.

Amid the rush to complete a bulk of syllabus while racing against time, they should ensure that students are given psychological lessons to boost their motivational levels, he said.

He added that these tendencies are likely to

affect their performance in exams as well. He urged parents not to pressurise children into mugging lessons, and focus on easy study techniques.

Another psychologist, Dr Ramakrishna Tanikella, said that the parents, teachers and school managements will need to educate children on maintaining Covid protocol once schools reopen. "More than studies or exams, the importance at this point should be on keeping kids safe at school", he said.

## Doctor held for duping man of ₹41.98 lakh

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD JAN. 25

A doctor was arrested by the cybercrime police of Rachakonda on Monday for cheating a person to the tune of ₹41.98 lakh on the pretext of forex trading investment with the help of a Chinese national.

According to police, the 37-year-old accused, Dr Aditya Narayan Godbole, who got his MBBS from China, was a native of Indore.

Officials froze ₹11.50 lakh in his bank account following his arrest.

The victim, a resident of Nagole, noticed posts on Facebook regarding lucrative forex trading and upon responding, he was made to transfer ₹41,98,508 to the accused for investment in forex trading on his behalf, said Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat.

"The main accused in the case is Mao Zhibin, who is running a fraudu-

lent forex trading company from Vietnam and China, along with Annie Pierce alias Monica. She sweet talks the customers into investing huge funds. Dr. Aditya got acquainted with them while he was there in 2007," said the official.

As per the technical evidence collected, the police team from Rachakonda went to Indore and apprehended the accused. He was brought to Hyderabad and sent to judicial remand.

## Chief secy orders plan to ease licence permissions

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD JAN. 25

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar instructed officials to prepare an action plan to complete the process of reducing the compliance burden with regard to licence permission, inspections, filing returns, registrations, records and display requirements, in line with the directions of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

The Chief Secretary said that the Union department for promotion of in-

dustry and internal trade had shared certain laws and regulation pertaining to Telangana and requested to examine State acts and regulations in order to simplify the existing process of implementation of the same.

Rani Kumudini, special chief secretary (LET and F), principal secretaries Sunil Sharma (roads and buildings) and Jayesh Ranjan (IT) Ravi Gupta (home), secretaries Anil Kumar, and Sandeep Kumar Sultan were present.

## Ownership changes not effected in records

## Free water hits Aadhaar wall

ership of houses as far back as two decades ago, did not change their names on the water connection and this continued in the name of the first landlord who has sold the house.

As per the board, this has become a herculean task for them. Thousands of consumers are approaching it seeking a solution on Aadhaar linkage.

Till date, over 50,000 consumers reported to the board that they are facing such problems and that they will not be able to avail the scheme as the water board has made Aadhaar seeding mandatory.

Consumers would not be eligible for the free drinking water until the Aadhaar linkage completed. Board officials said that they would write to the government to provide a one-stop solution for such grievances. They said based on the government's reply, they would dedicate a day to resolve such grievances.

For the convenience of consumers, the HMWS&SB is operating a customer relationship management centre (155313) which functions in two shifts -- from 9 am to 9 pm.

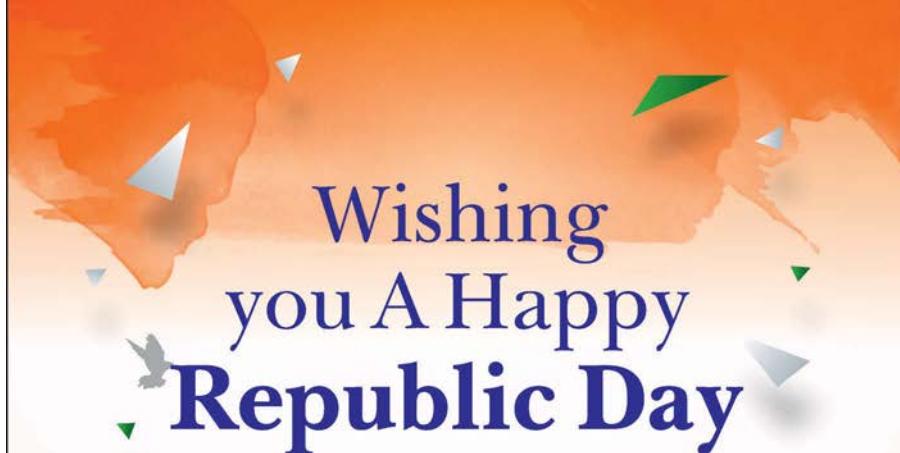
The approved rates of meters supplied by metering firms, including cost of meter, GST and fixing charges are ₹1,498 for 15-mm size pipelines and ₹2,147 for 20-mm size connec-

## DECCAN Chronicle

## Attention Advertisers

On account of Republic Day today (i.e. 26-01-2021) our Classified booking counter at Head Office 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad will remain open from 10.00 A.M. to 5.30 P.M.

MANAGEMENT



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## IN BRIEFS

**Nursery mela to be held from Jan. 28**

**Hyderabad:** The grand nursery mela of plants, flowering and fruit-bearing, will be held from January 28 to February 1 at People's Plaza, Necklace Road. A wide variety of gardening methods from terrace, vertical, hydroponic to kitchen and miniature, will be showcased in the exhibition.

A huge collection of exotic plants cactus, succulents, bonsai, adenium, indoor and outdoor plants will be presented.

**TRS MEMBER MEENA UPENDER WINS IN NEREDMET**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

TRS candidate Meena Upender Reddy won from Neredmet division in the GHMC elections. The newly elected corporator will take oath on February 11.

The election was put on hold since the authorities used a different marking on the ballot paper. However with the High Court's intervention, Upender Reddy was declared elected with a majority of 782 votes over her nearest rival Prasanna Naidu of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Counting of votes of this division was postponed on December 4, as 544 ballot papers had different markings other than Swastik. When the counting process was stopped, the TRS candidate was leading with 504 votes. The HC directed the State Election Commission to count the 544 votes, as they were more than the majority of TRS' candidate of 504 votes as it would influence the outcome.

As per the HC directive, when the 544 votes were counted, the TRS candidate got a final majority of 782 votes.

**GHMC LAUNCHES E-EPIC ON NATIONAL VOTERS DAY**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

With Election Commission of India (ECI) launching its Electronic Electors' Photo Identity Card (e-Epic) on the 11th National Voters' Day on Monday, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has alerted voters in its area about downloading their electronic voter ID card. e-Epic is essentially a Portable Document Format (PDF) version of EPIC, which is verifiable using an authentic and secure QR code reader application. From February 1 onwards, all electors within the GHMC area can download their e-Epic in case they already have their unique mobile number in e-electoral rolls. Otherwise, they can do their e-KYC before downloading their e-Epic.

In a press release, GHMC has informed all voters of Hyderabad district that they can download their e-Epic through <https://nvsp.in> or <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in> or through Voter Helpline Mobile app (Android/iOS).

The press release informed voters that GHMC officers and staff have taken a pledge in virtual mode on Monday to promote the theme – Making our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed".

**REPLY PUBLIC NOTICE**

This reply is to public notice published on page 4 of this newspaper on 26-01-2021 through Smt. P. Ram Reddy, Advocate, calling for objections in regard to sale transaction by Smt. Abbas Begum and others, legal heirs of Sri Mirza Hassan Ali Khan in respect of agricultural land measuring acres 42-21 guntas in survey No. 168, acres 14-03 guntas in survey No. 169, acres 14-03 guntas in survey No. 170 and acres 14-28 guntas in survey No. 171 of Ramoguda Hamlet of Nandigama village, Sangareddy mandal and district.

Our clients represent that late Sri Mirza Hassan Ali Khan, during his lifetime along with his children sold his share of property received under preliminary partition decree dated 15-12-1985 in O.S.No.84/1967 on the file of V Additional Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad and the same is reflected in the relevant documents Nos.4304, 4321 & 4327 of 1982 to M/s. Munoth Charitable Trust represented by Sri Bhawali Jain. There after Sri Mirza Hassan Ali Khan and heirs had no right in any land of said schedule.

Our client had purchased part of the lands covered under public notice under registered sale deeds bearing document Nos.2102/2009 and 2102/2009 from said M/s. Munoth Charitable Trust, who had paid the sum to the parties to preliminary decree. Hence, the said transaction is illegal, purchaser will not get legal or valid title and hence he cannot be entitled to proceed further.

Dt:26/01/2021 Hyderabad  
M/s. SHYAM S. AGRAWAL, Babita Agrawal  
L. Praveen Kumar & L. Pradhan Kumar, Advocates  
Hyderabad. 101, R.K.Residency, 3-6-237/1 Street  
No.13,Himayatnagar, Hyderabad - 500 029.  
Phones : 91-40-2532-2700, 988-567 3168

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby notified/informed that my client is intending to purchase the dry Agricultural land measuring Ac.9-34Gts., in Sv. No. 249 situated at Chevela Village and Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, from its absolute owner and possessor Sri Maheesh Malik S/o Surendra Chandra Malik R/o H.No. 1-2-8/3/1, Gagan Mahal Road, Domlalguda, Hyderabad and has paid substantial amount as advance to him.

If any person/institution has any claim, title, interest over the above said land or any objection for the proposed transaction, they are required to send their objections, if any, to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this publication, otherwise my client shall proceed with the proposed purchase of said land and get the registered sale deed/s executed in his favour from the said person. Any objections/claims received thereafter will not be valid and binding on my client.

J. KRISHNA MOHAN RAO, ADVOCATE  
403, 4th Floor, ABK Ollee Plaza, Rd. No. 11,  
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Mobile: 9949096000

**Exchanging old for new**

People wait in queue to get new ₹10 and ₹20 currency notes from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) office in Hyderabad on Monday in exchange for old notes.

— P. SURENDRA

**Malkajgiri MLA suspends corporator with 17 days to go**

**MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

Malkajgiri MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao suspended Neredmet corporator G.K. Sridevi, who has 17 days left to complete her tenure. Rao alleged that the sitting corporator and former division president Madhusudhan Reddy were involved in several irregularities, including land grabbing cases.

The TRS MLA assured that he would render justice to all those affected by the two and recover their land.

High tension drama prevailed on Monday morning as the Jawaharnagar police arrested Sridevi for obstructing the demolition of structures in Yaprak. Police said that it was only a preventive arrest for hindering the demolition drive taken up by GHMC.

The former Neredmet division president, who was sus-

pended from TRS, said that it was political vendetta. He said that Hanumatha Rao has been booking false cases against him. Reddy said that he will quit his business if Rao proves any land grabbing allegation made against him.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Rao said that he had earlier warned both Sridevi and Madhusudhan Reddy to stop their corrupt practises. He said that the two blatantly misused their powers.

"They have maligning the party image and I, as an MLA, suspended Sridevi", he said. Efforts to reach Sridevi were futile and her mobile was switched off.

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"They have maligning the party image and I, as an MLA, suspended Sridevi", he said. Efforts to reach Sridevi were futile and her mobile was switched off.

**HC gives nod to hold farmers parade in city****Parade today from Saroornagar stadium against farm laws**

**VUJJINI VAMSIDHARA I DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

The Telangana High Court has accorded conditional permission for the farmers' parade here on Republic Day on Tuesday with certain conditions.

Pasya Padma, state secretary of the Telangana Rythu Sangam, and another individual had approached the High Court via a writ petition in the form of a lunch motion seeking the court's intervention for permission to hold

**THE PETITIONERS** approached the police commissioner of Rachakonda on Monday with a revised application citing the new revised route map for the farmers' parade.

the "parade".

The petitioners approached the police commissioner of Rachakonda on Monday with a revised application citing the new revised route map for the farmers' parade.

The court directed the petitioner to hold the parade under the following conditions: (i) the gathering will not be of more than 300 vehicles; (ii) two-wheelers and four-wheelers are permitted; (iii) tractors not allowed; (iv) participants will gather at the Saroornagar Stadium at 2 pm and, from there, will head towards the Rajiv Gandhi Uppal Stadium and the parade will conclude at 5 pm.

Justice K. Lakshman directed the government to accord permission to hold

the parade on the outskirts of the city, keeping in view the Republic Day celebrations in the city and also the contention of the government side.

The state government cited intelligence inputs to say that if permission is accorded for the farmers' parade on Tuesday at Indira Park, there is a likelihood of disturbances.

The parade is planned on Tuesday in protest against the farm reform legislations and in support of the agitating farmers in Delhi.

**Centre, state neglecting farmers, alleges Jeevan**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

Senior Congress leader and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy has expressed worry about farm sector as well as farmers, stating that both central and state governments are being negligent about their welfare.

He said that KCR was aware of the efficiency and competence levels of his son and hence there was no possibility of Rama Rao being elevated to the top post. Speaking to media persons at the CLP office here on Monday, he alleged that it is only those aspiring for Cabinet berths who wish to see Rama Rao as Chief Minister. He said that if the son is elevated, it will be problematic for K. Jayitha, T. Harish Rao and MP J. Santosh Kumar.

The former MLA of Kodangal challenged Rama Rao about developments after he adopted the constituency. He said that he was ready to take political sanyas if Rama Rao can pinpoint any one developmental activity under him. He said the minister should visit Polapalli Yellamma temple and swear about developments in Kodangal.

He said that people had voted for TRS but who would become the CM is now a family issue. Revanth demanded Chandrashekhar Rao to rectify his mistakes and make Rasa mayi Balakrishna as the CM if democracy has to prevail in the state.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Aruna said that the government had not spent even 10 per cent of the ₹60,000 cr project cost. She said that changing the design of the project was causing severe injustice to farmers.

Aruna alleged that the Chief Minister was only interested in commissions in construction of the underground pump house. Aruna demanded the government to lift water from the Jurals project and sought to know how 12 lakh acres can get sufficient water with a single TMC.

She alleged that all projects undertaken in Mahabubnagar were pending, leaving the local farmers in anguish.

laws by the Central government. But after his Delhi visit, he has taken a U-turn and is now praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. The MLC accused the Chief Minister of saying the government will bear the losses suffered by agriculture markets in the state, while favouring rice millers. He demanded that the state government announce minimum support price for fine quality rice (sannadu), as promised by Chief Minister, even before farmers cultivate fine quality paddy.

He announced that he will be sitting on one-day hunger strike in support of turmeric farmers seeking MSP and Turmeric Board in Nizamabad.

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The minister pointed out that the NCDC been set up in Hyderabad it would have been more useful in the fight against the Corona and other diseases. He recalled that he had personally discussed with his cabinet colleague to establish the vital unit in Hyderabad.

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**KISHAN SEEKS LAND FOR NCDC UNIT IN HYD**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Monday wrote a letter to Chief Minister appealing for allocation of land to National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) as the Centre was keen to have such an office in Hyderabad. Reddy said that nod was given for NCDC in 2019 along with budget allocation but the state government has not yet provided land.

He said that the government has not responded to earlier communications seeking three acres of land.

The minister pointed out that the NCDC been set up in Hyderabad it would have been more useful in the fight against the Corona and other diseases. He recalled that he had personally discussed with his cabinet colleague to establish the vital unit in Hyderabad.

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**IN BRIEF**  
**Covid vaccine must for Hajis**

**Hyderabad:** Select Haj pilgrims will be administered the Coronavirus vaccine along with other regular vaccines. Sources said a draw to select the pilgrims is likely to be held next month.

Officials of the State Haj Committee said usually the process of draw starts on the completion of an agreement between the Indian and Saudi Arabia authorities. Normally, this agreement is completed six months before the commencement of Haj rituals. Officials said this agreement is likely to be signed on February 10.

There is an apprehension that Saudi Arabia may clear only 25-30 per cent of the strength that is normally associated with the annual pilgrimage. They said if there is further delay in completing the process, it will be very difficult to make arrangements, including for administering Covid and other regular vaccines.

**Polls being held all over India: SC**

**From Page 1**  
 He pointed out that elections were held in several parts of the country even during the pandemic. Kerala conducted elections though it witnessed a major spike. The court took a serious view of interveners like the AP Government Employees Federation, doctors and bureaucrats and opined that it was uncalled for. Government senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi argued that holding the elections were difficult as the government was preoccupied with Covid-19 vaccination programme and more than five lakh persons were to be vaccinated. He asked whether the government should allow its employees to conduct polls without undergoing vaccination. Rohatgi said Goa had deferred the polls for the same reason. He informed the court that polls could be held from March 1 considering that by the end of January, all healthcare workers could be vaccinated.

# Sharp reaction against Bombay HC judgement

**'Skin-to-skin' contact must to consider it sexual assault: Court**

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25**

Activists and women leader have unequivocally condemned a judgement by the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench which said groping a minor's breast without "skin to skin contact" cannot amount to molestation under POCSO Act but is an offence under IPC.

In her January 19 judgment, Justice Pushpa Ganediwala held that there must be "skin-to-skin contact with sexual intent" for an act to be considered sexual assault.

Kaumudi Nagarajou, founder and executive director of Learning Space Foundation, an organisation actively working towards prevention of child sexual abuse in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, said, "Justice Ganediwala has tackled such cases in the past with complete awareness and

Owaisi demanded that the Maharashtra government appeal against the decision. If it does not do so, the struggle being waged done to protect children from sexual offences will weaken.

He Tweeted: "Constrained to say that this is absurd."

that this is not the first time a judge has made such remarks. There is a lack of deep understanding of the POCSO laws among the judiciary."

Women's rights activist Girija Bodduvalli said: "The need is to revamp the entire system and instil basic understanding of gender sensitivity in the judiciary. We have been able to take a step forward with the police to some extent. But the judiciary has always been aloof."

She said "mere cramming" of the laws and technicalities would not do anymore. "At the time

sensitivity I wonder what could be the reason behind this blunder."

Women's rights activist Girija Bodduvalli said: "The need is to revamp the entire system and instil basic understanding of gender sensitivity in the judiciary. We have been able to take a step forward with the police to some extent. But the judiciary has always been aloof."

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## KTR Cabinet unlikely to diminish

**From Page 1**

Ali was Deputy CM in the first TRS government.

Some "data driven" leaders speculate that since social balancing will be crucial, Balka Suman or Guvvala Balaraju will likely get into the Cabinet as "strong representatives" from the SC group.

Ajmeera Rekha Naik and Atram Sakku are similarly making attempts from the Schedule Tribe category, believing the rumours that minister Satyavati Rathod will be dropped.

Some insiders say that while it will be the 'KTR Cabinet', the influence of Chandrashekhar Rao will be far from diminished,

and therefore ministers G. Jagadish Reddy and Niranjan Reddy, considered very close to the TRS supremo, are bound to be continued.

Analysts and leaders betting on sub-regional representation argue that since there has been only minister from Khammam, Puvvada Ajay Kumar, he is expecting to be continued but is striving to ensure that is indeed the case. Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, a former MP from Khammam and deemed a close associate of Rama Rao, may also get a Cabinet post, some speculate.

MLAs from the Ranga Reddy and Hyderabad are trying to get into the good

books of Rama Rao: Former minister Patnam Mahender Reddy, Quthubulapuri MLA K.P. Vivekananda and Khairatabad MLA Damam Nagender.

Warangal senior MLA Vinay Bhaskar is trying his luck, hoping Rama Rao will replace minister Gangula Kamalakar from Karimnagar. MLA Rasamayi Balakishan is also trying hard for a place in the Cabinet.

There are several aspirants in the race from Nizamabad district, including Bodhan MLA Shakeel, Amroor MLA A. Jeevan Reddy, Nizamabad Rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan, Kamareddy MLA Gampa Govardhan.

But since only one of them is likely to make it, the competition to appease the gods and please Rama Rao is increasing.

Former minister and Jadcherla MLA Laxma Reddy is betting on the caste composition and message that Rama Rao needs to send to the important community comprising the electorate.

With 15 to 20 MLAs trying to prove their luck, the season of political courting, and one-upmanship is just getting started. But as one leader put it bluntly, "except KTR, and Harish Rao, all other names are just that... speculation and hope."

# ESIC hospital develops powdered plasma

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 24**

designed, developed and pressed into service in the battle against Covid-19.

The powdered plasma, which will not require any special storage facilities, can be made readily available and has the additional benefit of prolonged storage, of up to three to five years without its quality being compromised. The new product, will be particularly helpful in assisting those who are immunocompromised or cannot take Covid-19 vaccines to various reasons.

According to Dr Madhumohan Rao, an adjunct faculty at the ESIC Medical College, and the head of R&D at NIMS Hospital, the lyophilized plasma is concentrated form of antibodies. This is very rich in antibodies and provides quick immunity to those who may require it, he said.

Dr V.R. Ravi, who heads Plasmakart, that part-

nored with ESCI Medical College in this project, said the plasma is converted into powder without damaging the content in the liquid plasma. It will take at least a year for everyone to be immunized. In the meanwhile, something is needed to protect people and the powder will fill this gap, he said.

The product was manufactured after the ethical committee of the medical college gave its permission, Dr Rao added.

Dr Madhumohan Rao said the next step will be to approach the Indian Council for Medical Research for permission for clinical trials with the powdered plasma.

Asked about the new product from the ESIC Hospital, dean Dr M. Srinivas said this was another step in the ESIC's commitment for prevention and treatment of Covid-19 disease.

## VP praises DRDO's work in boosting missile tech

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 25**

"I felt reassured about the security of the country given the tremendous progress made by DRDO scientists in developing missile technology," Naidu said.

He expressed confidence that DRDO experts will ensure that Atmanirbhav Bharat will attain a position from where the world will be Bharat Par Nirbhav (dependent on India).

Noting that the Akash missile system has recently been put into the negative list of items for import by the defence ministry, he called it a commendable achievement by the DRDO.

"It means that India is

now self-reliant in this kind of missile system and so the armed forces need not import similar missile systems", he said.

Referring to the limitations faced by India in having access to high-end missile technology of developed countries prior to the signing of Missile Technology Control Regime in 2018, he said that DRDO turned this crisis into an opportunity by developing a range of indigenous missile systems.

India, he said, was now trying to shift its status from being one of the largest importers of defence products to one of the top exporters of defence items.



**'We the people'** - With this spirit of the Republic, our large and diverse nation is striding ahead towards fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of the people. The collective power of 130 crore Indians today is connected to our national goals and is constantly strengthening our resolve to build a prosperous and self-reliant India.

- Narendra Modi



# CLASSIFIEDS

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**INDEPENDENT BUILDING** @Gachibowli Kundapur main road, Opp central mall, Beautiful glass & Marbles elevation, total 12000sqft sfp area, G+3 & 2bhk penthouse/ office, 2side roads, 2roads entrance, Automatic lift. Each floor 2750 sfp. Suitable for Software, Companies, Furniture, furnishing, Jewellery showroom/mall concept, hospitals, clinics. Clear title, for sale. Contact: 9502032226. (HYMM/2021/C06185)

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## SHORT TAKES

## COVID-19 CASES SHOW NO SIGNS OF LET UP IN KERALA

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JAN. 25

With 72,891 total active cases, 6,000 plus cases reported during the last five consecutive days and a test positivity rate of 12.48 per cent, the Covid-19 situation in Kerala continues to be worrying.

The state is recording the highest number of daily cases in the country at the moment. Ernakulam and Kozhikode districts have reported more than 1,000 cases daily over the past few days.

If the situation continues in this manner various affected districts might face shortage of ventilators and ICU beds. While schools (higher classes), colleges, cinema, theatres, bars have all started functioning, there is laxity in enforcing safety protocols.

The effective break-the-chain campaign that was witnessed in the state for many months, too has slackened now. Though a majority of people are wearing masks in public places, there is crowding in malls, shopping centres, social gatherings including marriages and parks which is a cause of concern.

But the government sources maintain that the situation is under control. Dr Mohammad Asheel who is part of the government's high level Covid management team, said the current cases in the state were on the expected lines. Unlike many other states, Kerala had delayed the peak of Covid-19 pandemic, due to stringent restrictions and effective infection control measures. This is one of the reasons that the state is continuing to report a high number of cases.

## STATES TOLD TO CHECK 'VACCINE RUMOURS'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

The Centre has asked state governments to "check vaccine rumours" and take penal actions against those indulging in spreading falsehood over the efficacy and safety of the Covid-19 vaccines.

"Such kind of rumour mongering, particularly by vested interests, can create unwarranted doubts among people at large, and there is, therefore, a need to check all kinds of unfounded scare-mongering relating to the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccines," Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has told the state governments. He added penal action may be taken against the persons or organisations found to have been indulged in rumour mongering under the relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

On Monday, the 10th day of the vaccination drive, close to 3.35 lakh healthcare and frontline workers got inoculated. So far more than 19.5 lakh people have got the jab. There were 13,203 fresh cases of Covid-19 detected in the last 24 hours and 131 deaths were reported.

As per Union health ministry, India's active caseload has fallen to 1.84 lakh and the share of active cases in the total positive cases has further shrunk to 1.73%. "A bulk of the active cases are contributed by merely two states. Kerala and Maharashtra alone account for more than 64.71% of the total active cases. Kerala accounts for 39.7% of the active cases whereas Maharashtra contributes 25% of the total active cases," the health ministry said.

## HIGHEST HONOURS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

The government on Monday announced the Padma Awards on the eve of the Republic Day. This year, the President has approved 119 Padma Awards. The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards. As many as 29 of these awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners, NRI, PIO and OCI while were 16 are Posthumous awardees and one transgender awardee.

The prominent awardees this year include former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe and singer S.P. Balasubramanian among the Padma Vibhushan recipients.

## Mahavir Chakra for Col. Santosh Babu

Babu led his troops against the Chinese attack in Galwan

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

Col Bikumalla Santosh Babu, Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar who lost his life while fighting Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on June 15, has been awarded the second-highest wartime gallantry medal Mahavir Chakra posthumously on the Republic Day.

India had lost 20 troops in the fiercest clash with the Chinese who also suffered casualties in the Galwan Valley.

Five soldiers have been given third highest wartime gallantry award Vir Chakra for their bravery in the Galwan Valley clash, out of which four are posthumously. 14 have been awarded Sena Medal (Gallantry) posthumously for their bravery against Chinese troops.

Those who have been awarded Vir Chakra posthumously are Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren (16 Bihar), Hav. K. Palani (81 Field Regiment), N.K. Deepak Singh (16 Bihar) and Sep Gurtej Singh (3 Punjab). Hav Tejinder Singh from three Medium Regiment has also been awarded with Vir Chakra

## PREZ APPROVES JEEVAN RAKSHA PADAK AWARDS FOR 40 RESCUERS

New Delhi, Jan. 25: President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the conferring of Jeevan Raksha Padak awards for meritorious acts of saving lives to 40 people, including a Kerala man who will be honoured with the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak.

Muhammed Muhsin (posthumous) of Kerala has been named for the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak.

Persons from all walks

of life are eligible for these awards, given for meritorious acts of human nature in saving the life of a person, the statement said. — PTI

for his bravery during Galwan Valley clash with PLA soldiers.

Colonel Babu was deployed in Galwan Valley (Eastern Ladakh) during Operation Snow Leopard on June 15 last year and was tasked to establish an Observation Post in face of the enemy.

"Organising and briefing his troops about the situation with a sound plan, he successfully exe-

cuted the task," said the citation. While holding the position his column faced stiff resistance from the adversary who attacked using lethal and sharp weapons along with heavy stone pelting from adjoining heights.

"Undaunted by the violent and aggressive action by overwhelming strength of enemy soldiers, the officer in true spirit of service before self, continued

to resist the enemy's attempt to pushback Indian troops," it said.

"Despite being grievously injured, Colonel Babu led from the front with absolute command and control despite hostile conditions to deter the vicious enemy attack at his position. In the skirmish that broke out and ensuing hand to hand combat with enemy soldiers, he valiantly resisted the enemy attack till his last breath, inspiring and motivating his troops to hold ground," it said.

Havildar Palani who has been awarded Vir Chakra (posthumous) was also deployed in Galwan Valley. On night of 15 June 2020, he was part of patrol of 16 Bihar tasked to establish an Observation Post. In a close hand to hand fight he fought valiantly and saved his subordinates from the aggressive action of the enemy soldiers. However, suddenly, the adversaries outnumbered and encircled him. With utter disregard to his personal safety, he stood bravely and tried to defend his comrades even when the enemy attacked him with sharp weapon injuring him seriously."

The two sides agreed to hold the 10th round of the Corps Commander level meeting at an early date to jointly advance de-escalation."

India and China on Sunday held the 9th round

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

In what seems to be a breakthrough, India and China on Sunday during Corps Commanders level talks "agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops" in the Eastern Ladakh, according to a joint statement issued by Indian army and PLA.

Both sides agreed to "hold the 10th round of the Corps Commander level meeting at an early date to jointly advance de-escalation."

India and China on Sunday held the 9th round of Corps Commanders level talks to resolve the military stand-off in the Eastern Ladakh. The meeting which started at around 11 am in Moldo on the Chinese side of LAC went for nearly 16 hours till 2:30 am.

"The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of the China-India border, and jointly maintain peace and tranquility."

The Indian delegation was led by 14 Corps commander Lt-General PGK Menon and also included a joint secretary from the external affairs ministry.

India and China have been involved in a military stand-off in Eastern Ladakh from last nine months where each side has deployed around 50,000 troops along with tanks and artillery.

Despite temperatures dipping to minus 30 degrees Celsius in the region, both India and China have maintained troops at forward posts

this winter at LAC in Ladakh.

Earlier in June and then in July, India and China had agreed to mutually move back from Galwan Valley, Gogra Post, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. However, it was only in Galwan Valley that both troops had moved back to some extent.

In Pangong Tso, the Chinese army had refused to move back from the ridgelines of Finger 4 and whole of Finger 5 to 8 area which it had illegally occupied in May. In Gogra Post and Hot Springs also there was no clarity on China's disengagement.

Besides, in Dapsang Plains Chinese troops have been preventing Indian army from patrolling.

China had been pushing India to vacate strategic heights which Indian army had occupied on the South bank of Pangong Tso in a surprise action in August.

This gives Indian Army a strategic advantage and checked Chinese army movement in the sector. China has been mainly interested in getting India vacated these strategic heights.

However, India's stand was that it will discuss disengagement of the whole Eastern Ladakh and not just few points.

## Pawar slams Modi over farmers' stir, asks do they belong to Pak?

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, JAN. 25

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of turning a blind eye towards the farmers' protest at Delhi asking "Do they belong to Pakistan?" He also slammed Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for not meeting the farmer's delegation in Mumbai.

Addressing a huge rally held at the historic Azad Maidan on Monday, Pawar said, "For the past 60 days, the farmers from UP, Haryana and Punjab are protesting near Delhi braving the cold, the sun and rains. But has the PM enquired about them? They (Centre) say they are only Punjab farmers. Are they from Pakistan? They are our own."

Pawar also lashed out at Koshyari saying Maharashtra has never seen such a Governor before.

"He has the time to meet Kangana (Ranaut), but not the farmers. It was the moral duty of the Governor to meet the farmers, who were seeking to submit a memorandum to him against the farm laws. But he did not even show the courtesy to remain in Raj Bhavan," he said.

However, the Governor's office clarified that the farmer leaders had been informed that Koshyari, having the additional charge of Goa Governor, had a pre-arranged programme to address the neighbouring state's Assembly and that the principal secretary would receive the delegation.



Farmers sit on tractors during their ongoing agitation against the Centre's farm reform laws, at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Monday. Thousands of farmers will enter the national capital on their tractors under heavy security on Republic Day, even as they announced a foot march to Parliament on February 1, when the annual Budget is presented, to press for their demands including a repeal of the three new agriculture laws.

## India, China to push for an early disengagement

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 25

"The two sides agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops. They also agreed to follow the important consensus of their state leaders, maintain the good momentum of dialogue and negotiation, and hold the 10th round of the Corps Commander Level Meeting on an early date to jointly advance de-escalation," it said.

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## DIDI WARNS OF BEFITTING REPLY TO HER 'INSULT'

RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC  
KOLKATA, JAN. 25

Branding the 'Jai Shree Ram' slogan as "religious fanatics" for "teasing" her in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre's Parakram Diwas celebration in Victoria Memorial, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday warned the BJP of her retaliation with a "befitting reply" to her "insult".

The Trinamul Congress supremo also made it clear that she would prefer to "slit her throat" by herself instead of bowing down to the saffron party. At Purshura in Hooghly she alleged, "Netaji belongs to all. When I attended the event on him, some religious fanatics and illiterate teased me in front of the PM. How dare they? They do not know me."

Warning the BJP of her retaliation, the angry CM said, "I will pay them back with a befitting reply through politics instead of guns. At the event I expressed gratitude on my part. Had they chanted Netaji, I would have given them a salute. Instead, they insulted Bengal and Netaji. Earlier they disrespected Rabindranath Tagore and Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar also."

She claimed, "As long as I live, I will fight keeping my head high. If I have to bow down, I will do it in front of the mass. Rather than bowing down to the BJP, it is better for me to slit my throat."

Describing the TMC turncoats as "thieves", Banerjee argued that they defected to the BJP to stash their ill-gotten wealth because they knew her party would not give them tickets this time to contest the polls.

Applications for grant of prior clearance for establishment of 2B-bars in terms of Telangana Excise (Grant of license of selling by Bar and Conditions of License) Rules 2005. The application fee is Rs. 1,00,000/- The last date for submission of application forms is dt: 08-02-2021. For further details log on to http://tsbc.tlanguana.gov.in.

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DIPRO NO: 942-OP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021 Date: 25-01-2021

Sd/ Executive Engineer, GHMC, Kukatpally Circle-24 Cell: 8970267558

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# DECCAN Chronicle

26 JANUARY 2021

## A time to introspect, and tackle crises with vision

This Republic Day, which comes at the end of our *annus horribilis*, the miserable year of 2020 during which the world was devastated due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic, has to be one in which we must summon fortitude and determination in the face of great adversity, rather than prepare for the celebration of any achievement, for there are none.

The aftershocks of China's continuing invasion of Indian territory in Ladakh have still to be dealt with. This invasion has shown that our guard was down — diplomatically and militarily. The great farmers' uprising — the biggest since Independence — to protest against three agricultural laws is still ongoing.

If steps are not taken on an emergency basis, this can spin out of control. We urge the government to be practical for the sake of the country and show flexibility and compassion, rather than rigidity or exhibit the coercive powers of the State.

The world has fast-tracked the established procedures of science to deal with Covid-19 on an emergency basis and vaccines have at last become available. In India, we are manufacturing an international brand as well as a home-made one.

These bring hope, but also uncertainties. It is too early to judge the outcomes of vaccination being administered under emergency protocols.

The best hope is that the available vaccines will at least not cause damage to the human body even if they don't prove wholly efficacious or effective against the virus. After millions of deaths the world over and in India more than one lakh, we also don't know whether or not to expect a second wave.

The role of the government in India has raised many questions. Proactively, the government imposed the world's most severe lockdown to contain the virus' transmission and prayed for the rest. Not placing faith in science at the start, it condoned the transfer of blame for the virus on a communal basis to the country's largest minority. An already fragile

social life was rendered more vulnerable. Due to some wholly irrational steps that were taken, the already battered economy now stands devastated. The rate of growth is at minus seven per cent, according to official data.

The hard-to-digest aspect of the government's response has been its stubborn refusal to release funds, except on the most perfunctory basis, to the vulnerable sections of the people and the economy in order to kickstart economic activity. This was the opposite of what other major nations did.

Ironically, in the pandemic period, the assets of billionaires in India have gone up 35 per cent, according to a recent Oxfam report, which refers to Covid-19 as the "inequality virus". At the same time, roughly 100 million Indians found themselves out of work. These were the seasonal workforce or workers in the informal sector, which is the biggest generator of employment outside agriculture.

The Budget is around the corner and the finance minister is on test. Will she take effective steps to ameliorate the conditions of the majority of the population or pay lip service to them while working principally for those who were the beneficiaries of the pandemic economy. The government must act as the first responder in any crisis. This Republic Day it must resolve to respond with vision and energy.

## Symbol of a noisy republic

The might of the Indian Republic and national pride will be reflected in the military precision of the traditional parade on New Delhi's Rajpath on Tuesday. Joining on this special day, as a democratic counterpoint to the State's pomp and pageantry, will be the solidarity of a collection of farmers fighting a battle against three contentious farm laws. A republic is defined as a system of governance that allows a country to be democratic. No great clash of principles, therefore, stands in the way of allowing this demonstration of the will of a section of the people. To keep the peace during the rally is, of course, the farmers' responsibility, while it's the State's duty to provide security.

There are multiple voices to be heard in a democracy and minor irritants like inspired campaigns, like the one the Delhi police is complaining of, said to be emanating from 300-plus Pakistani Twitter handles, shouldn't be allowed to disrupt the process of peaceful life. A nation that knows how to switch off the Internet for over a year in the Kashmir Valley due to fears of disruptive voices from across the border should be capable of taking on mischievous elements sprouting propaganda through social media disinformation. How long does it take to respond tactfully to those who are inimical to the idea of a diverse and pluralist democracy that is India?

The threat from the stoking of divisive tendencies by reviving the idea of "Khalistan" may be real enough, but history tells us that India has come through such threats without being too badly burnt. It should be no different this time, when it is important for rulers to be able to lend an ear to various voices and address problems that are real. As 20,000-plus tractors roll on New Delhi's Outer Ring Road on Tuesday, they may be symbolic of a noisy republic that we may have become in 70-plus years since January 26, 1950. That is no reason to be distracted from the task of listening to our own people.

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Aakar Patel

We have entered the 13th consecutive quarter of economic slowdown in India. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP), meaning the total value of services and goods produced in this country in the last 12 months, has shrunk in 2020-2021, compared to 2019-2020. We made less than we did in the previous year. To return to where we were in January 2020, it will take perhaps another year. Perhaps longer, we do not know.

The problem did not begin with the Covid-19 pandemic; it existed much before that. Growth began declining from January 2018 and has declined sequentially, meaning every quarter since then. The government has tried to tweak some of the numbers, something that Americans refer to as "putting lipstick on a pig", but to no avail. It is a sequential decline over three years. The India growth story is over and has been over for a few years now. You can make all the speeches that you want, you cannot argue against 39 straight months of slowing down.

Speaking loudly of competing with China and America but then

falling behind even Bangladesh's per capita GDP does not inspire confidence. The fact is that even without the lockdown we were in a crisis, a word that is used loosely but can be said to be accurate here. The government has no idea why the economy began to stall from January 2018. There are theories from the outside, but they are not discussed or debated in the government — who will tell the king that his rule is incompetent? Nobody, unless they want to lose their head (or at least their job), and so we continue to bumble on, along the same path that has brought us to this disaster.

The signs of our decay are all around us. Work that has left China because of Donald Trump's trade war and Covid-19 has not come to India but to Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Our neighbour has crept ahead of us in per capita GDP because its exports (powered by high-labour garments manufacturing) are growing, while ours have not grown since 2014. We have six years of zero growth in exports. It is also ahead because it has a much higher participation of women in

the labour force. In India, the patriarchy is more concerned about who Indians marry rather than why they are not working. India is the most dangerous place for women in the world. According to the Thomson Reuters Foundation's World's Most Dangerous Countries for Women, we were at fourth place in 2011 and then fell to last place in 2018, where presumably we still remain.

The low participation of women in the workforce has many complex reasons, but the failure of the State and indeed the inability of this current government to stop the slide further, is also responsible.

We have more of the same to look forward to in 2021. We will not see the economy pick up, but we will see more bombast from the government about how well we are doing. The enormous hole in the economy that was created in the first quarter of last year (April-June) because of the lockdown will have been filled over the last few months. When results for the same quarter of the year appear sometime in the middle of 2021, Prime Minister Modi will claim that we are the world's fastest growing economy

and pretend that the 25 per cent increase is not just the filing up of a hole he had himself created but some miracle he has delivered to the Indian economy. *The Economist* has reported that Mukesh Ambani's wealth rose 350 per cent in 2020 and Gautam Adani's rose over 700 per cent, but we are at record unemployment, which is hovering around the nine per cent mark. And it is not higher still only because many crore Indians have removed themselves from the job market.

Those who are not employed and are not actively looking for work are not considered unemployed. The real figure could be approaching 15 per cent, and perhaps even higher than that. On every conceivable metric that you can think of, from bank credit growth to automobile sales, the revelation is not only that there is no India growth story but there is a decline that has set us back years, perhaps a decade.

And yet the triumphalism carries on. The BJP won almost half the seats in West Bengal in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, and one will be very surprised if they do not win the Assembly election there later

this year. The amount of resources they have because of the electoral bonds and because of the broad support that Narendra Modi gets from Corporate India can't be matched by any other party and in fact can't be matched by all the other parties put together.

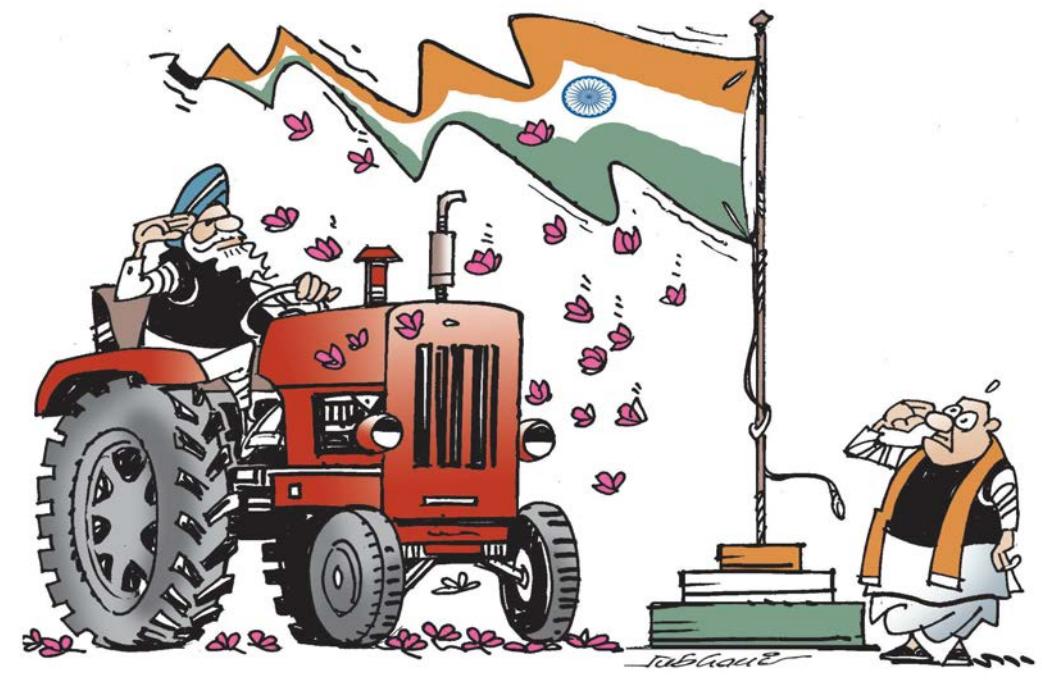
Another state will fall to the BJP, and if it doesn't this time then certainly it will the next.

Elsewhere, society has been torn apart, most likely in a way that cannot ever be repaired. I am not saying this out of despair, but one has to be realistic. This amount of poison being injected from the top cannot be detoxified without resistance and one sees no resistance to it.

On every parameter, from economic decline to national security failures to unemployment to social tensions, India will continue on the path that it has chosen for itself since 2014. But at least Narendra Modi will continue to be popular, making his daily sermons about how much better things are under him and how bad it was in the past.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Subhani



## Battle for Bengal: BJP to face hidden pitfalls

Shikha Mukerjee



ed attack on Mamata, the BJP's IT cell boss Amit Malviya was so rattled that he declared she had walked out of the event in a huff. To cover that up, the BJP's army of defenders declared that Netaji's birthday had never been celebrated in style in West Bengal. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact that the All India Forward Bloc's headquarters are in Kolkata is incontrovertible evidence that Netaji's birth anniversary was dutifully and faithfully observed every year. As the party set up by the leader in 1939, when he asked members to swear a blood oath to devote themselves to the cause of a militant freedom struggle, the Forward Bloc's small presence in West Bengal politics is nevertheless a meaningful one.

Armed with its brand and its scorecard in elections across India, the BJP is anticipating a tough fight to attain its goal of fusing the state with the main body of a saffronised Bharat, of reaching the point where it can claim that the nation is governed by one party. Yet, the seemingly closer it gets to pulling off an election victory in West Bengal, the more elusive its target appears.

Having already paid her homage to Netaji by hitting the streets in a 6 km walk and a rally where she demanded a list of changes in his name, Ms Banerjee was ready to checkmate the BJP and Modi. In doing so she heavily underlined the difference between celebrating Netaji and his vision and rigid ceremonial. Her celebrations were a bigger, noisier version of the usual para (local) events; Mr Modi's was entirely alien to the Bengali tradition. While the jury is inclined to believe that the homage to Netaji was debased by petty politics, the verdict will be delivered sometime in May, when the ballots are counted for the state Assembly elections.

If the BJP had studied the traditions of the celebration of Netaji Jayanti in West Bengal over the decades, it would have discovered the facts and stopped itself from inventing a fiction. In the scramble to and cover up the mistimed and misdirected

**Voters and their contradictory allegiances and primordial attachments are whimsical and wayward; none more so than the Bengalis.**

Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist based in Kolkata

## LETTERS

### REPUBLIC DAY

On the Republic Day, the basic principles and laws were put in place. Every year we celebrate it in a cheerful manner. Let Covid not disturb the gala. We hope the tractor rally is successful and farmers are given importance by amending laws. Let us celebrate with enthusiasm every year.

Sindhu  
Hyderabad

The Republic Day once again brings to mind the role of the Constitution in keeping our country lawful. Lack of awareness about the Constitution will make India seem like a dark night even if it is a bright day.

MD Tabrez Ahmed  
Hyderabad

### TRAFFIC CURBS

Yesterday while driving from Secunderabad to Khairatabad near the Traffic Police Station, the traffic was diverted all along. The police failed to lay barricades at Ranigunj to not allow traffic to proceed to Tank Bund. Many wasted time and fuel going round and round. If the traffic commissioner had planned the curbs earlier, people could have avoided the route.

M.P. Venkat Rao  
Secunderabad

### VACCINATION

Apropos the hype on vaccination nationally, a decisive victory will depend on its ability to prevent Covid. The vaccine is only a precautionary measure to ward off the virus. With the present guinea pigs, we may know only if it is safe without any side effects but not its efficacy. In fact, randomly selected patients too should have been given the vaccine to know its efficacy.

Thomas K.E.  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Giri's call to eschew violence

NEW DELHI, January 25 President V.V. Giri today appealed to the country's voters and political parties to eschew bitterness, violence or abuse of the human person in their election campaign.

Broadcasting to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day, Mr. Giri at the outset of his speech made a reference to the Lok Sabha elections and said that "our democracy is on the eve of yet another milestone in its progress".



**SHORT TAKES**  
**19 CHARRED  
BODIES FOUND  
IN MEXICO**

Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, Jan. 25: At least 19 charred corpses have been discovered in Mexico near the US border in an area where drug cartels often clash, the Tamaulipas state prosecutor's office said.

Police on Saturday found two burnt-out vehicles containing human remains on a country road near the town of Camargo. Preliminary investigations suggested the victims had been shot, then their bodies set alight. Because no bullet casings were found at the scene, police said it was possible the victims were killed in a different location.

Autopsies are underway, but identification of the corpses will be complicated due to their condition.

A prosecutor's office official said that an investigation has been launched to determine whether the victims were undocumented migrants.

**AID GROUPS WANT  
YEMEN REBELS'  
'TERROR' LIST OUT**

Dubai, Jan. 25: Twenty-two aid groups working in Yemen urged US President Joe Biden on Sunday to remove the warring country's Houthi rebels from a terror blacklist, saying it could put millions of lives at risk. The Trump administration's move against the insurgents had come into effect the day before Biden took office, to resounding criticism from experts, the United Nations and aid groups.

"This designation comes at a time when famine is a very real threat to a country devastated by six years of conflict, and it must be revoked immediately," said a joint statement Sunday by 22 groups.

"Any disruption to lifesaving aid operations and commercial imports of food, fuel, medicine and other essential goods will put millions of lives at risk."

The Iran-allied Houthi seized the capital Sanaa and much of northern Yemen in 2014, sparking a Saudi-led intervention the following year.

**SURROUNDED,  
U.S. POLICE CAR  
HITS CROWD**

Washington, Jan. 25: A police officer surrounded by a crowd in the US state of Washington struck and injured at least one person with his car as he sought to drive away, authorities said.

About 100 people and several cars were blocking an intersection, reportedly for an illegal car rally, on Saturday night in downtown Tacoma when police were called to the area.

After an officer in his car tried to clear the area, a crowd began hitting the vehicle's body and windows, Tacoma police said in a statement.

"While trying to extricate himself from an unsafe position, the officer drove forward, striking one individual and may have impacted others," the police said, adding that the person was taken to a hospital in unknown condition. Tacoma resident Sarah Jones told CBS she witnessed the scene that included a "mountain of people" being hit.

"I don't know if he panicked or what but his car was surrounded," Jones said.

**GREECE, TURKEY  
IN FIRST CRISIS  
TALK SINCE 2016**

Istanbul, Jan. 25: Greece and Turkey bowed to EU and NATO pressure on Monday and opened the first direct talks in nearly five years over their explosive eastern Mediterranean standoff.

The Istanbul meeting is not expected to make major headway after the two NATO neighbours' gunboats collided in August as their dispute over energy and borders threatened to spiral out of control.

But it adds to the positive tone Turkish President Recep Erdogan has been setting as he tries to repair damaged relations with Europe in the face of a potentially more hostile US administration under President Joe Biden.

And it could lay the groundwork for the eventual delineation of one of the world's most recently discovered regions of proven natural gas reserves. Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said over the weekend that Athens was entering the so-called exploratory talks "in good faith" — a comment echoed by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

## GOP opposes Don impeachment trial

### BIDEN TO DROP TRANSGENDER BAN IN MILITARY

Washington, Jan. 25: As the House prepares to bring the impeachment charge against Donald Trump to the Senate for trial, a growing number of Republican senators say they are opposed to the proceeding, dimming the chances that former president will be convicted on the charge that he incited a siege of the US Capitol. House Democrats will carry the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol late Monday evening, a rare and ceremonial walk to the Senate by the prosecutors who will argue their case.

They are hoping that strong Republican denunciations of Trump after the Jan. 6 riot will translate into a conviction and a separate vote to bar Trump from holding office again. But instead, GOP passions appear to have cooled since the insurrection. Now that Trump's presidency is over, Republican senators who will serve as jurors in the trial are rallying to his legal defense, as they did during his first impeachment trial last year. "I think the trial is stupid, I think it's counterproductive," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

He said that "the first chance I get to vote to end this trial, I'll do it" because he believes it would be bad for the country and further inflame partisan divisions. Trump is the first former president to face impeachment trial, and it will test his grip on the Republican Party as well as the legacy of his tenure, which came to a close as a mob of loyal supporters headed his rally cry by storming the Capitol and trying to

overturn Joe Biden's election. The proceedings will also force Democrats, who have a full sweep of party control of the White House and Congress, to balance their promise to hold the former president accountable while also rushing to deliver on Biden's priorities.

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8. Leaders in both parties agreed to the short delay to give Trump's team and House prosecutors time to prepare and the Senate to confirm some of Biden's Cabinet nominees. —AP

## Made in America' goods get US nod

### PIOS APPOINTED TO KEY ENERGY DEPT POSTINGS

Washington, Jan. 25: The Biden Administration has appointed four Indian-Americans to senior positions in the crucial Department of Energy. The administration appointed Tarak Shah as the Chief of Staff, making him first Indian-American to serve in that position.

Tanya Das has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Office of Science. Narayan Subramanian will occupy the position of Legal Adviser in the Office of General Counsel, and Shuchi Talati has been appointed as Chief of Staff in the Office of Fossil Energy.

"These talented and diverse public servants will deliver on President Biden's goal to tackle the climate crisis and build an equitable clean energy future," said Shah as the Department of Energy announced 19 senior-level appointments. —PTI

—PTI

## Kamala moves in to Blair House

Washington, Jan. 25: US Vice President Kamala Harris is temporarily staying at the historic Blair House here as her official residence is undergoing repairs, her spokesperson said. Across the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, Blair House is the official guest house of the US President. The official residence of the vice president is located within the Naval Observatory Complex and is about seven kilometres northwest of the White House.

The vice president's chief spokesperson, Symone Sanders, told reporters here on Saturday that Harris moved in on Thursday. Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, 56-year-old Harris made history on January 20 when she was

## US to re-impose travel ban, says White House official

Curbs applicable on non-US citizens who went to UK, Brazil, most of EU



A burnt out Covid-19 testing centre is seen after being set on fire in Urk, 80 kilometres (50 miles) northeast of Amsterdam. Dutch police have clashed with protesters demonstrating against the country's lockdown in the capital Amsterdam and the southern city of Eindhoven. —AP

## Dutch protesters, cops clash

Paris, Jan. 25: Clashes broke out in the Netherlands on Sunday as anti-curfew demonstrators protested against coronavirus restrictions, while France imposed new border controls with numerous countries under pressure to slow the spread of new variants.

France introduced a requirement for incoming travellers from EU neighbours to show a recent negative coronavirus test and Israel announced it would "close" its skies to almost all aircraft.

More than 25 million Covid-19 cases have been recorded in the US since the pandemic began, according to the Johns Hopkins University tally on Sunday.

The milestone was reached only five days after the US, the world's wealthiest and hardest-hit nation, recorded 400,000 deaths from the disease.

Biden has made fighting the coronavirus a priority and is pushing for Congress to approve a \$1.9-trillion relief package that would include billions of dollars to boost vaccination rates. The president, who was inaugurated on January 20, has said he wants 100 million people vaccinated within his first 100 days in office, and he has called for Americans to wear masks for 100 days. —AFP

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In

## Uganda court: End Bobi arrest

Kampala, Jan. 25: Uganda's High Court on Monday ordered security forces to end their confinement of presidential election runner-up Bobi Wine.

Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulani, has been under de-facto house arrest at his home

outside the capital, Kampala, since he returned from voting on January 14.

Heavily armed soldiers and police officers surrounding the property have blocked members of Wine's household, including his wife, Barbie, from leaving

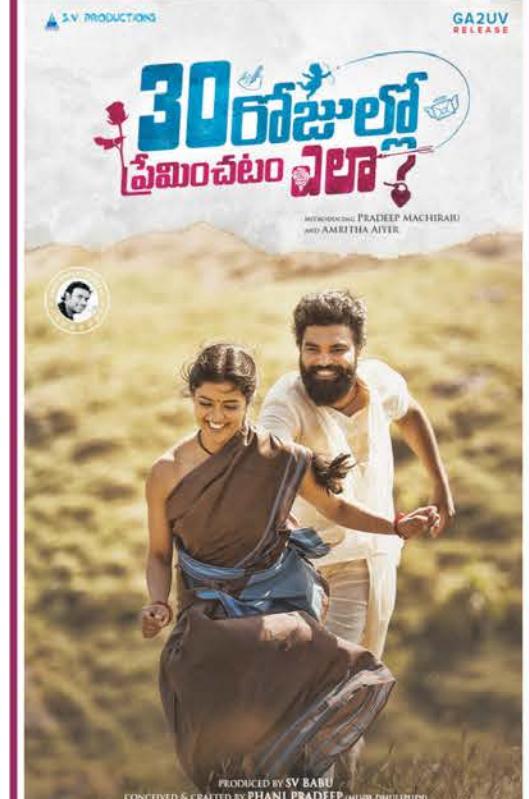
their compound. Last week the US ambassador to Uganda was also blocked from visiting the popstar-turned-politician, who won 35 percent of the vote according to official figures.

Sitting at the court's Civil Division in Kampala, Justice Michael Elubu ruled in favour of a petition lodged by Wine's lawyers asking for his release.

"The continued indefinite restriction and confinement of the applicant to his home is unlawful and his right to liberty has been infringed," Elubu said. —AFP

## CINEMA

**GRAND RELEASING ON  
29th. FRIDAY**  
INTRODUCING PRADEEP MACHIRAJU & AMRITHA AIYER



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(Enjoy 4k digital projection & dolby)  
RTC X ROADS

**MEGHA 70MM-DSNR**

**MALLIKARJUNA /  
BRAMARAMBA COMPLEX**

**MAHALAXMICOMPLEX**

**PRASANTH70MM-SEC'BAD**

**VENKATARAMANA KACHIGUDA**

**OAMB CINEMAS-GACHIBOWLI**

**PRASAD MULTIPLEX-NTR GARDENS**

**PVR FORUM MALL | CENTRAL MALL | RKPLEX**

**RK PLEX | INORBIT MALL | IRRUMMANZIL**

**GALLERIA | ICON CITY | MUSARAMBAGH**

**Cinepolis** | MANTRA | MANJEERA | SUDHA

**CCPL | DSL MALL**

**LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE-MOOSAPET**

**CINESQUARE | MCUBE | RADHIKA**

**RADHIKA | GPR MALL | SIVAGANGA**

**BIG Cinemas** | AMEERPET | SHAMEERPET

**INOX** | GVK | GSM MP MALL

**CINE PLANET** | PLATINUM

**NOMA TALKIES** | TIVOLI

**SANGEET 70MM-R.C.PURAM**

(Fully renovated with latest equipment)

**SRISSAIRAM 70MM-MALAKAJGIRI**

**SUSHMA 70MM VANASTALIPURAM**

**VYJAYANTHI NACHARAM**

**RANGA 70MM JEEDIMETLA**

**EESHWAR70MM ATTAPUR**

**BR HITECH70MM MADHAPUR**

**SREERAMULU MOOSAPET**

**SREERAMANA AMBERPET**

**ALANKAR70MM LUNGERHOUSE**

**AMBA70MM MEHDIPATNAM**

**NARTHAKI 70 ALWAL**

**SREEPREMA 70 TUKKUGUDA**

**KRISHNA 70MM ALIYABAD**

**GANESH 70MM SHAMSHABAD**

**SAIPOOJA70 SOORARAM**

**SRINIVASA 70-UPPAL**

**SREEPREMA70-TUKKUGUDA**

**VENKATESWARA70-GUMMADIDHALA**



**TARAKARAMA 70MM**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

**ARJUN70-KUKATPALLY**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**MEGHA70MM-6.15, 9.15PM**

**PRASANTH70MM-SEC'BAD**  
11.00, 6.00PM(2 SHOWS)

**OAMB CINEMAS** 10.45, 11.00, 1.45, 4.15, 7.15, 7.35, 10.00, 10.25PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS** **Sivaganga-11.15, 6.15PM**  
Gpr-10.40, 1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 10.00

**Radhika-10.50, 1.40, 4.30, 7.20, 10.00PM**

**Mcube-10.50, 1.40, 4.45, 7.20, 10.10PM**

**Cinesquare-10.40, 1.25, 4.20, 7.10, 10.00PM**

**Chinthal-11.15, 6.15** 10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20

**Prasad Multiplex-11.30, 2.00, 7.45, 10.15PM**

**Laxmikala Cinepride-11.30, 2.45, 6.15, 9.45PM**

**MJR Square-Narapally-10.55, 1.45, 4.35, 7.25, 10.20PM**

**PVR CINEMAS** **Central-1.30, 4.15, 7.00, 9.45PM**

**Inorbit-11.30, 2.15, 5.00, 7.45, 10.30PM**

**Icon-1.00pm, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15PM**

**Irrummanzil-12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00PM**

**Musarambagh-12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00PM**

**RK-02.45, 5.30, 8.15PM**

**INOX CINEMAS** **CCPL-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM**

**SUDHA-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM**

**DLS-12.30, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00PM**

**MANTRA-12.30, 6.35, 9.45PM**

**PLATINUM-10.00, 4.00, 7.00PM**

**L.B.NAGAR-11.00AM, 1.45PM, 7.40PM, 10.25PM**

**MIRAJ CINEMAS** **SHALINI-10.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30PM**

**BALANAGAR-11.00, 1.10, 7.20, 10.20PM**

**CHANDANAGAR-04.15, 7.15, 10.15PM**

**10.45, 1.30, 7.25, 10.20PM**

**AARADHANA-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**SENSATION-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**SAIPOOJA-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**SUPER70MM-11.00, 2.00PM**

**SRIDEVI R.C.PURAM-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15**

**SAMPOORNA-11.15, 2.15PM**

**SAIRANGA-6.00 & 9.00PM**

**SIVARANJANI-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**SIVASAKTHI70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE**

**Enjoy Coffee Break  
EVERYDAY IN hyderabad CHRONICLE**

## US dares China, warship sails on South China Sea

After Biden's inauguration, Beijing sent bombers into Taiwan ADIZ

Washington, Jan. 25: A US aircraft carrier group sailed into the South China Sea on a so-called "freedom of navigation" exercise, the first routine operation in the region under new President Joe Biden.

Led by the *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, the carrier strike group entered the area on Saturday, the US Indo-Pacific Command said, the same day Taiwan reported multiple Chinese jets and bombers had flown into its air defense zone.

"It's great to be in the South China Sea again, conducting routine operations, promoting freedom of the seas, and reassuring allies and partners," said Rear Admiral Doug Verissimo, commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine.

Beijing lays claims to nearly all of the South China Sea — despite Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam also saying parts belong to them.

China's foreign ministry spokesman called the routine US exercises a "show of force and not conducive to the peace and stability of the region".

The South China Sea is a strategic waterway and also believed to have valuable oil and gas deposits. Beijing has moved aggressively to turn reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes, angering nations which

Taipei, Jan. 25: Taiwan expelled nearly 4,000 Chinese vessels illegally dredging sand from its waters in 2020, authorities said on Monday, a more than six-fold increase on the year before as Beijing seeks to heap pressure on the democratic island.

China has taken an increasingly belligerent tone towards Taiwan under President Xi Jinping — especially over the last twelve months with Beijing's jets and bombers buzzing the island at a record rate.

But the waters surrounding Taiwan have become another hot zone.

Taiwan's coastguard on Monday said that it recorded a huge spike in Chinese sand dredgers illegally entering its waters. Up to November last year, it

also stake claims in the area.

The US operation comes days after Washington said its commitment to Taiwan is "rock-solid", the first comments from the Biden administration on the democratic island.

Taiwan split from China at the end of a civil war in 1949

● CHINA'S LEADERS view Taiwan as their territory and have vowed one day to seize it, by force if necessary.

expelled 3,969 vessels, compared to 600 in 2019 and 71 in 2018.

China's leaders view Taiwan as their territory and have vowed one day to seize it, by force if necessary.

It has increased economic and diplomatic pressure since Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, as she rejects the idea that the island is part of "one China".

Chinese jets made a record 380 incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) last year as analysts warned tensions were at their highest since the mid-1990s.

Beijing was infuriated by

Taipei's dramatically warming relations with Washington under former president Donald Trump who used the island as leverage as he feuded with China on a host of issues.

After the inauguration of US President Joe Biden last week — to which Taipei's de facto ambassador was invited — Beijing sent a fleet of jets and bombers into the ADIZ on both Saturday and Sunday.

That sparked the first statement on Taiwan from the Biden administration as it warned against China's "attempts to intimidate" the island would not upset Washington's "rock-solid" to an xx ally xx.

The same day a US aircraft carrier group sailed into the South China Sea on a "freedom of navigation" exercise.

—AFP

## CYCLONE EOLOISE RAZES MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo, Jan. 25: A tropical cyclone that hit central Mozambique this weekend has displaced thousands of people and caused severe flooding in an area battered by two deadly cyclones in 2019, response teams and aid agencies said.

Cyclone Eloise made landfall in the early hours of Saturday, bringing high-speed winds followed by torrential rain over the port city of Beira, capital of Mozambique's Sofala province, and the adjacent Buzi district.

Almost 7,000 people have been displaced and over 5,000 houses destroyed or damaged in the area, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday, citing preliminary government figures. National emergency response teams on Sunday confirmed six fatalities and 12 serious injuries — numbers expected to rise as the scale of the damage is fully assessed in coming days.

## N. KOREAN DIPLOMAT DEFECTED TO SOUTH: REPORT

Seoul, Jan. 25: A senior North Korean diplomat who was acting ambassador to Kuwait has defected to the South with his family, reports said on Monday.

Ryu Hyun

# WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 26 JANUARY 2021

## CINEMA

### SANKRANTHI HIT



## EU debates Navalny arrest

Calls for quick release of protesters, permission to dissent

Brussels, Jan. 25: European Union foreign ministers on Monday debated the 27-nation bloc's response to the arrest of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and a weekend police crackdown that saw thousands taken into custody during protests in support of President Vladimir Putin's most well-known critic.

"This wave of detention is something that worries us a lot, as well as the detention of Mr Navalny," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said as he arrived to chair the ministerial meeting in Brussels.

More than 3,500 people were reportedly taken into custody during the nationwide protests. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that "under the Russian constitution, everyone in Russia has the right to express their opinion and to demonstrate. That must be possible. The principles of the rule of law must apply there, too—Russia has always committed itself to that." He and other ministers called for the immediate release of the protesters.

Navalny was arrested earlier this month when he returned to Moscow

after spending months in Germany recovering from an attack in Russia with what experts have said was the nerve agent Novichok. In October, the EU imposed sanctions on six Russian officials and a state research institute over Navalny's poisoning, but there is little appetite to take new measures immediately. Borrell, the EU's top diplomat, is also planning a trip to Moscow and it's unclear what impact events will have on that visit.

On Sunday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian expressed concern about what he called Russia's "authoritarian drift. He told France-Inter radio that "all light must be shed" on Navalny's poisoning. "This was an assassination attempt," Le Drian said. The protests attracted thousands of people in major Russian cities, including an estimated 15,000 in Moscow. As they unfolded, the US embassy spokeswoman in the city, Rebecca Ross, said on Twitter that the United States "supports the right of all people to peaceful protest, free-

dom of expression. Steps being taken by Russian authorities are suppressing those rights."

The embassy also issued a statement calling for Navalny's release. Putin's spokesman said the statements interfered in the country's domestic affairs and encouraged Russians to break the law. — AP

## Samsung's Lee not to appeal against prison

Seoul, Jan. 25: Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong and prosecutors have decided not to appeal a court ruling that convicted him of bribing South Korea's former president for business favours, confirming a prison term of two and a half years for the country's most influential corporate leader, according to lawyers and court officials on Monday.

But Lee's legal troubles aren't over. He has been indicted separately on charges of stock price manipulation, breach of trust and auditing violations related to a 2015 merger between two Samsung affiliates.

The deal helped strengthen Lee's control over Samsung's corporate empire.

The bribery allegation involving Lee was a key crime in the 2016 corruption scandal that ousted Park Geun-hye from the presidency and sent her to prison. In a much-anticipated retrial of Lee last week, the Seoul High Court found him guilty of bribing Park and one of her close confidantes to win government support for the contentious merger between Samsung C&T and Cheil Industries, which helped strengthen Lee's control over Samsung's business empire.

The deal faced opposition from some shareholders who argued that it unfairly benefited the Lee family and only succeeded with the support of

a state-controlled national pension fund, one of Samsung's biggest investors. Lee had portrayed himself as a victim of presidential power abuse and his lawyers criticised the ruling. But after mulling his options, Lee decided to "humbly accept" the High Court's decision, his head attorney Injae Lee said. Prosecutors had sought a prison term of 9 years for Lee Jaeyong. In a statement released to the domestic media, they said the court was too lenient with Lee considering the severity of his crimes but they will not appeal because their biggest goal was to prove that the payments between Lee and Park were bribes. — AP

human rights activism and drew up an anti-discrimination bill last year that would ban favouritism based on sex, race, age, sexual orientation, disability or religion, but has yet to be put to a vote.

The incident happened following a dinner last month, and the party mounted an investigation after Jang reported it three days later.

"This is blatant sexual harassment without a doubt," deputy leader Bae Bok-ju told reporters.

"Kim, the perpetrator, has also acknowledged all allegations." South Korea remains male-dominated despite its economic and technological advances, and sexual abuse victims often face stigma, discouraging them from coming forward. But the country has seen a widespread #MeToo movement in the last few years. — AFP

## Pak Baloch dissident buried

Islamabad, Jan. 25: A 37-year-old Pakistani dissident from ethnic Baloch community and women right activist, who died in exile in Canada, was brought home and buried in her village in the restive Balochistan province amid tight security, officials said on Monday.

Karima Baloch, the political activist who campaigned extensively against disappearances and human rights violations in the troubled Balochistan province, was found dead in Toronto downtown waterfront on December 22. Officials said that her immediate family was present at the funeral on Sunday in the Tump village of the Keach

area of the restive province. Security was tight due to the fear of protest by Baloch nationalists who cherished her as their leader. Her supporters claimed on social media that the village was virtually sealed off so that people from other areas could not attend the funeral.

Security sources said that the mobile phone services were suspended in the area to avoid any mishap as militants often use it to carry out acts of sabotage. Karima was highly critical of Pakistan's security institutions like her fellow nationalists who alleged that the federal government was exploiting the mineral resources while keeping the region

impoverished. The charge is always rejected by the institutions. She was living in Canada where she was granted asylum in 2016.

Karima Baloch, a critic of the Pakistani government and powerful military, had campaigned extensively against disappearances and human rights violations in Balochistan. In 2016, she was named on BBC's list of 100 inspirational women. At 30, she was the first woman to become the leader of the Balochistan Student Organisation. She left Pakistan in 2015, after terrorism charges were levelled against her. Her family said she had been given death threats. Her sister told the BBC Urdu service last month that Karima's death was "not only a tragedy for the family, but also for the Baloch national movement". "She didn't go abroad because she wanted to, but because... open activism in Pakistan had become impossible," Mahgjan Baloch was quoted as saying by the BBC Urdu service.

"The death of activist Karima Baloch in Toronto, Canada is deeply shocking and must be immediately and effectively investigated. The perpetrators must be brought to justice without recourse to the death penalty," Amnesty International South Asia said. — PTI

## 9 CHINESE MINERS CONFIRMED DEAD, ONE MISSING

Beijing, Jan. 25: Nine more Chinese miners trapped underground for over two weeks have been confirmed dead, local government officials said on Monday, leaving one unaccounted for after a blast at the site.

A group of 22 were trapped hundreds of metres underground by an explosion at the Hushan mine in eastern Shandong province on January 10, with some relying on food and medicine delivered through long shafts drilled by rescue teams. Eleven survivors were finally brought to the surface on Sunday in a major breakthrough for a rescue operation that has captivated the nation. — AFP

## UN inspired to break new ground in policy research

### Jayati Ghosh on UN advisory board

New York, Jan. 25: Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh is among 20 prominent personalities appointed by the United Nations to a high-level advisory board that will provide recommendations for the UN Secretary-General to respond to the current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-Covid-19 world. Ghosh, 65, is a professor of economics at

University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has taught economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University for nearly 35 years and has authored several books. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) announced that the 20 "prominent personalities, globally renowned for their intellectual leadership in economic and social fields, will form the second United

Nations High-level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Economic and Social Affairs." Over the next two years, the board will strengthen the United Nations' thought leadership on sustainable development and reinforce its impact on policies at every level – from global to local, it said. Comprising a diverse group of experts from around the world, the board will closely collaborate with UNDESA to provide guidance and focused recommendations for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to respond to current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-Covid-19 world and to advance the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development. The first United Nations High-level

Advisory Board was established in June 2018 as a key element of the efforts to support the UN Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over the course of the last two years, the interventions and insights of the board greatly expanded the understanding of UNDESA of some of the most burning economic and social issues shaping the world. — PTI

## quick BITES

### INDICATORS %

Sensex	48347.59	-1.09
Nifty 50	14238.90	-0.93
S&P 500*	3,836.51	-0.13
Dollar (\$)	72.94	0.05
Pound Sterling (\$)	99.70	0.03
Euro (\$)	88.62	0.24
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	48,509 ▼141	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	55.51	0.18
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	5.954	0.25
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.060	-0.031

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

### RBI: No plan to pull out old ₹100, ₹10, ₹5 notes

The RBI refuted reports of withdrawal of old series of Rs 100, Rs 10 & Rs 5 currency notes. "With regard to reports in certain sections of media on withdrawal of old series of Rs 100, Rs 10 & Rs 5 banknotes from circulation in near future, it is clarified that such reports are incorrect," the RBI said in a tweet. While issuing new Rs 100 notes with base lavender colour in July 2018, RBI had said old notes would stay valid.

### Janakiram takes over as director of IDRBT



Prof. D. Janakiram has taken charge as the director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology. A Ph.D. from IIT Delhi, Prof. Janakiram has authored over 150 research papers and is the editor of six books. He was awarded the Boycast Fellowship in 1997, the IBM Faculty Award in 2007 and Yahoo Faculty Grant in 2009. He is a board member of IIIT Kurnool and senior member of IIIT Trichy.

### UBI completes IT integration of all Andhra Bank units

Union Bank of India said it has completed IT integration of all branches of erstwhile Andhra Bank with itself. In November, UBI had completed its IT integration with erstwhile Corporation Bank. The amalgamation of Andhra and Corporation banks with UBI came into effect from April 1. With this, the entire IT integration of erstwhile Andhra and Corporation Bank branches with UBI has been completed, it said.

### Larsen & Toubro Q3 net profit up 3% to ₹2,648 cr

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) posted a 3 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,648.33 crore for the December quarter. The increase in profit is largely attributed to higher profit from IT & IES segment and sale of commercial property in realty. PAT also includes gain on divestment of Rs 209 crore from discontinued operations for the December quarter, the company said in a regulatory filing.

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— PTI

## Budget may boost tap water for all plan ₹3-L cr piped water scheme in works

SIDDHARTHA SINGH

JAN. 25

India plans to spend Rs 3 lakh crore (\$41 billion) to ensure tap water is delivered to every household in the next five years, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The plan is still under discussion and is likely to be unveiled on February 1 as part of the government's budget for the year starting April 1, the people said, asking not to be identified as the proposal is not public.

The government plans to improve availability of water, modernise sewage treatment plants and better utilise the country's water resources, the people said.

The project will be part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jal Jeevan mission.

A finance ministry spokesman was not immediately available for a comment.

Agencies add: In the run-up to the 2019 general elections, Modi promised that piped water will reach all Indian households by 2024.

According to latest Jal Jeevan Mission estimates, 66.16 per cent of the country's 19.17 crore households in villages is yet to be provided with piped water.

Providing drinking water to the country's 1.3 billion people is a pressing issue, as about 200,000 Indians die every year



**UK-based charity WaterAid estimates that about 163 million people in India, or roughly 12 per cent of the population, do not have access to clean water close to home**

due to inadequate access to safe water and 600 million face high to extreme water stress, according to the Niti Aayog.

UK-based charity WaterAid estimates that about 163 million people in India, or roughly 12 per cent of the population, do not have access to clean water close to home.

Every summer water shortages tend to be more acute in large cities such

as New Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru.

The country has access to only about 4 per cent of the world's water resources, and farmers consume almost 90 per cent of the groundwater water available. Nearly 60 per cent of the irrigation for agriculture comes from ground water, mainly through electric water pumps.

Supplying clean drinking water to millions of poor people and reviving moribund irrigation projects were a key part of the Modi government's policies, since the country remains at the mercy of rain gods for drinking water and farming. The monsoon accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the annual rains needed to water farms and recharge aquifers and reservoirs.

— Bloomberg/Reuters

## FDI inflows into India up 13% in 2020: Unctad

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, JAN. 25



Foreign direct investment into India grew 13 per cent in 2020, bucking the global trend of 4 per cent decline. India and China were the only two countries among the top 20 recipients of 2019, which saw FDI growing in 2020, finds a report by UN's body for trade and development.

India saw FDI rising by 13 per cent to \$57 billion as investment in the digital economy continued, particularly through acquisitions. A notable deal was acquisition of 10 per cent stake in (Reliance owned) Jio platforms by Jaadhu owned by Facebook for \$5.7 billion, found Unctad.

Cross border mergers and acquisitions grew 83 per cent to \$27 billion. Infrastructure and energy deals also propped up M&A deal values in India. Indian IT firms like Wipro, Mastek and Tech Mahindra announced a rise in deals by 30 per cent, targeting European and other markets for IT services.

The growth in FDI inflows into India helped

South Asia witness a growth of 10 per cent to \$65 billion. Except for India, FDI inflows fell in other south Asian countries where investments are often tied to export-oriented apparel manufacturing, which suffered significantly due to slump in global demand.

China was the only other economy among the largest 20 recipients of 2019, which recorded a growth in FDI. The FDI inflows into China grew by 4 per cent to \$163 billion, making the country the largest recipient in 2020. The US was the second largest recipient with \$134 billion.

Globally, FDI fell 42 per cent to \$859 billion in 2020 from \$1.5 trillion in 2019. It was also 30 per cent lower than the invest-

ments in 2009 during the global financial crisis. The share of developing economies in global FDI reached 72 per cent, the highest share on record.

Developed countries saw heavy decline in FDI. Among the top recipients of the previous year, the UK and Italy suffered 100 per cent decline followed by Russia by 96 per cent.

Going ahead, in 2021 global FDI may remain weak, finds Unctad. Although the global economy is expected to initiate a hesitant and uneven recovery in 2021 and GDP growth and gross fixed capital formation and trade are projected to resume growth, investors are likely to remain cautious in committing capital to new overseas productive assets.

## TOYOTA SEEKS POLICY SUPPORT FOR E-VEHICLES

New Delhi, Jan. 25: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has sought simplification of laws to improve the ease of doing business, roll out of a scrappage policy and lowering of custom duties on imported vehicle parts in the Union Budget.

Spelling out its Budget wish-list on Monday, the automaker also sought policy measures to support production of electric and hybrid vehicles (xEVs). "We believe that focus on long-term growth and a further improvement in the investment climate are necessary for continued sustainable economic development," it said.

MICHELLE HENNESSY

HONG KONG, JAN. 25

"Social robots like me can take care of the sick or elderly," Sophia says as she conducts a tour of her lab in Hong Kong. "I can help communicate, give therapy and provide social stimulation, even in difficult situations."

Since being unveiled in 2016, Sophia—a humanoid robot—has gone viral. Now the company behind her has a new vision: to mass-produce robots by the end of the year.

Hanson Robotics, based in Hong Kong, said four

models, including Sophia, would start rolling out of factories in the first half of 2021, just as researchers predict the pandemic will open new opportunities for the

robotics industry.

"The world of Covid-19 is going to need more and more automation to keep people safe," founder and chief executive David Hanson said, standing surrounded by robot heads in his lab.

Hanson believes robotic solutions to the pandemic are not limited to healthcare, but could assist customers in industries such as retail and airlines too. "Sophia and Hanson robots are unique by being so human-like," he added. "That can be so useful during these times where people are terribly lonely and socially isolated."

Hanson said he aims to sell "thousands" of robots in 2021, both large and small, without providing a specific number. Social robotics professor

## Robot takes care of the sick and elderly, provides social simulation

## Mass rollout of Sophia the robot on cards



models, including Sophia, would start rolling out of factories in the first half of 2021, just as researchers predict the pandemic will open new opportunities for the

Johan Hoorn, whose research has included work with Sophia, said that although the technology is still in relative infancy, the pandemic could accelerate a relationship between humans and robots.

"I can infer the pandemic will actually help us get robots earlier in the market because people start to realise that there is no other way," said Hoorn, of Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Hanson Robotics is launching a robot this year called Grace, developed for the healthcare sector.

In addition, all eligible team members with greater than \$100,000 to \$500,000 in annual total compensation will receive a grant of 150-750 restricted stock units.

Moynihan also expects almost 97 per cent of employees who call as teammates will receive the delivering together award.

In addition, all eligible team members with greater than \$100,000 to \$500,000 in annual total compensation will receive a grant of 150-750 restricted stock units.

## PROFIT TAKING, BORDER CLASHES BRING SENSEX DOWN BY 530 PTS

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, JAN. 25

The Sensex fell 531 points, or 1.09 per cent, in a volatile session on news of clashes on the India-China border in the North Sikkim's Naku La area and profit taking in index heavyweight Reliance Industries. RIL shares fell over 5 per cent after its third quarter results. The Sensex closed at 48,347.59.

The clashes in Sikkim took place last week and have been resolved, reports added.

The market saw profit taking by institutional investors for the third consecutive session after the Sensex hit the 50,000-mark last week, ahead of the Union Budget on February 1.

The Nifty-50 fell 133 points or 0.93 per cent closing at 14,238.90. The broader market also fell with the BSE Mid-cap Index down by 1.14 per cent and the Small-cap, -1.15 per cent.

Foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs 765.3 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 387.6 crore.

"The short term trend of the Nifty continues to be weak. The consistent decline of the last three sessions could be hinting at the possibility of a reversal in the market," said Nagaraj Shetti, technical research analyst, HDFC Securities.

Profit taking was seen in all sectoral indices Healthcare and Metals. Major sectoral losers included BSE IT Index (-1.31 per cent), Power (1.41 per cent) and Oil & Gas (2.16 per cent).

"In India, the regulators

## Amazon seeks arrest of Biyani, halting of RIL deal

New Delhi, Jan. 25: US

online retailer Amazon has filed a petition in the Delhi High Court seeking detention of Future Group founders, including CEO Kishore Biyani, and seizure of their assets as it sought to block Future Group from selling retail assets to Reliance Industries.

Biyani had previously stated that he was forced to strike a deal with Reliance after help that the group sought from Amazon to wriggle out of piling debt burden wasn't forthcoming.

The petition by Amazon just days after the Future RIL deal received the nod from market regulator Sebi and bourses.

In the petition, Amazon has said the interim injunctions granted by the Emergency Arbitrator (EA) are enforceable under the Indian laws under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act as the order is deemed to be an order of the court and is enforceable under the Code of Civil Procedure.

Amazon has prayed that

the court issue an injunction against the respondents (Future Group), in light of the directions passed by the EA, from relying upon any approval granted by any regulatory body or agency in India arising out of any application initiated or pursued by the respondents, contrary to the directions in the order, including without limitation, the no objection granted by the Sebi and as also approvals granted by the BSE, NSE and CCI.

The interim ruling by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, which was valid till January 23, now stands extended till further modification.

"In view of the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal, the Order stands automatically extended for the duration of the Arbitration Proceedings," the petition said.

—PTI

## RBI says open to digital currency

Mumbai, Jan. 25: Amid

increasing popularity of virtual currencies in various parts of the world, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said it is open to exploring the possibility of a digital version of currency notes.

A host of private digital currencies, virtual currencies and cryptocurrencies has gained popularity in recent years, though Indian authorities remain sceptical about them.

"Nevertheless, the RBI is exploring the possibility as to whether there is a need for a digital version of fiat currency and in case there is, then how to operationalise it," the RBI said in its booklet on "Payment Systems in India — Journey in the Second Decade of the Millennium".

Central bank digital cur-

rencies (CBDC) is a legal tender. It is in the form of electronic currency, which can be converted or exchanged at par with similarly denominated cash and traditional central bank deposits. Innovations are changing the payments space rapidly.

"This has made central banks around the world to examine whether they could leverage on technology and issue fiat money in digital form," the RBI's booklet said.

—PTI

## BANK OF AMERICA GIVES PANDEMIC BONUS TO 97% OF ITS 1.7 LAKH STAFF



## SHORT TAKES

### Mouma among 6 to get Padma Shri

New Delhi: Veteran table tennis player Mouma Das was among six sportspersons who were awarded the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India on the eve of the country's 72nd Republic Day. Besides Mouma, basketball player P. Anitha, athletics coach Madhavan Nambiar, athlete Sudha Hari Narayan Singh, Deep Olympics gold medalist wrestler Virender Singh, and a legendary dwarf athlete KY Venkatesh have also been awarded the prestigious award in the sports category for the year. Every year, the award winners are announced on the eve of Republic Day. The Padma awardees are felicitated by the President of India. — PTI

### Football matches on Republic Day

Hyderabad: The Telangana Football Association is holding a veterans exhibition football match involving former international and national players at Delhi Public School at 7.30 am on Republic Day.

Some of the players in action are Venkateshwar Reddy, S.P. Palguna, Yedukondalu, Syed Arif, Raj Kumar, Ch. Srinivas Rao (Samuel), Eugene James, Prakash, Vincent Paul, P. Vijay Kumar, Zakir Hussain, K. E. Selucos and I. Roshan.

The Bolarum Sporting Club too is organising exhibition matches — Late Peter Thangaraj XI vs Late Bhaskar Reddy XI for Seniors footballers and Late Amar Chand XI vs Late George XI for Juniors Under 15 years — at Bolarum High School grounds, at which it will honour club stalwarts.

### Tarun, Chevika into 2nd round

Hyderabad: Top seeds Tarun Korar and Sama Chevika Reddy sailed into the second round of the AITA C7 Under-16 tennis tournament being held at Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Murtazuguda on Monday.

Tarun beat Harsha Perla 6-2, 6-2 while Chevika tamed Tribhuvani 6-2, 6-3.

#### THE RESULTS

**Boys singles:** Tarun Korar bt Harsha Perla 6-2, 6-2; Arnav Bishoyi bt Chris Hamilton Ross 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Thakur Arman Singh bt M. Hanock 6-0, 6-0; Mihir Parcha bt V. Dhiraj Reddy 6-1, 6-1; P. Sandilya bt Vivek Srikrish Reddy 6-2, 6-1; Nikhil D'Souza bt Farhan Akhtar 6-3, 6-0; Dandu Trishant Reddy bt Saddam Husain 7-6 (7-2), 6-0.

**Girls singles:** Sama Chevika Reddy bt Tribhuvani 6-2, 6-3; S. Kaavya bt Charithakshaya 6-2, 6-0; Dandu Laxmi Siri bt Sai Sahasra 6-3, 6-1; Pushiti Ladda bt Apara Kandhare 6-2, 6-1; Rishitha Basu Reddy bt Malvika Reddy 6-2, 6-0.

### Big fight ends in a stalemate

Hyderabad: The much-anticipated super bantamweight bout between Savio Michael and Vinod Vantedu ended in a draw in the Club Fights Pro Boxing event at the Lal Bahadur Stadium on Sunday night. Savio had to settle for a stalemate as the judges scored 39-36, 38-38, 37-39.

#### THE RESULTS

**Featherweight:** Singh bt Madunala Jayanth by unanimous decision — 40-36, 40-36, 40-36. **Super flyweight:** Banagaram Sai Kumar bt Mohd Zahed by TKO. **Super bantamweight:** Savio Michael drew with Vinod Vantedu — 39-36, 38-38, 37-39. **Super lightweight:** Clinton David drew with Gudimale Niraj — 38-38, 39-37, 37-39. **Super lightweight:** Nithin Raj bt Abhinav Kumar by unanimous decision — 40-36, 40-36, 40-36.

## Live on TV

### CRICKET

Pakistan vs South Africa: First Test, Day 1 from 10.30 am on Sony Ten 2 HD

**Big Bash League:** Melbourne Renegades vs Hobart Hurricanes from 10.40 am; Melbourne Stars vs Sydney Sixers from 2.20 pm on Sony Six, HD

**Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament:** Quarterfinals — Punjab vs Karnataka from 11.55 am; Tamil Nadu vs Himachal Pradesh from 6.55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

### FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Newcastle United vs Leeds United from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1; West Brom vs Manchester City from 1.45 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 1; Southampton vs Arsenal from 1.45 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select HD

### WWE

**Superstar Spectacle:** Bouts from 8 pm on Sony Ten 1, HD



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes (left) shoots over the wall to score from a free kick in their English FA Cup fourth round match against Liverpool at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday. — AFP

# BRUNO BLASTS REDS

## Fernandes gem knocks Liverpool out of FA Cup

Manchester, Jan. 25:

Bruno Fernandes' stunning free-kick inflicted more misery on Liverpool as Manchester United progressed to the fifth round of the FA Cup with a thrilling 3-2 win at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Firmino and Salah combined perfectly for the opener on 18 minutes as the Brazilian's pass opened up the United defence and the Egyptian provided a dinked finish over Dean Henderson.

United took just eight minutes to hit back. Rashford's raking cross-field pass just evaded James Milner and Greenwood did not look like a striker lacking confidence as he fired past Alisson Becker for his

first goal in 11 games.

Klopp has been forced to field two midfielders in Jordan Henderson and Fabinho together at the heart of the defence in recent weeks and the performance of 19-year-old Rhys Williams showed why the German has been reluctant to rely on his young centre-backs.

Williams failed to cut out Greenwood's through ball for Rashford three minutes into the second half and the England international composed himself before slotting past the advancing Alisson.

This time United's momentum was short-lived as Milner should have levelled for Liverpool when he spooned a glorious chance over from

close range, but quickly made amends by teeing up Salah to smash home his second just before the hour mark.

Both managers turned to their match winners off the bench for the final half-hour as Klopp first

turned to Sadio Mane before Fernandes made his entrance.

Trent Alexander-Arnold stung the palms of Henderson, who then saved twice from Salah as Liverpool's attack began to click back into gear.

But it was Fernandes who won the game with a brilliant free-kick 12 minutes from time. This week will be the first anniversary of the Portuguese's arrival from Sporting Lisbon that has transformed United's fortunes.

Fernandes's strike was a worthy winner of a thrilling tie as he used Pogba to unsight Alisson and fired the ball low into the Brazilian's left-hand corner.

— AFP

## SUAREZ BANG ON TARGET FOR ATLETICO

Madrid, Jan. 25: Luis Suarez scored a brilliant team goal as Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Valencia 3-1 on Sunday and move seven points clear at the top of La Liga.

After Real Madrid thrashed Alaves on Saturday, Barca had earlier followed suit with a scrappy win over Elche.

But Atletico were undeterred in the capital, as their considerable advantage was restored again, with a game in hand.

Suarez finished off a flowing move that had started almost on Atletico's goal-line before substitute Angel Correa capped another slick string of passes to end Valencia's resistance.

— AFP

## BARCA WIN WITHOUT MESSI

Barcelona won again without the suspended Lionel Messi as goals from Frenkie de Jong and Riqui Puig were enough to secure a scruffy 2-0 win over Elche.

De Jong poked the ball over the line just before half-time at the Martinez Valero, which would have proved a suitably scrappy winner before Puig came off the bench to head in a second late on.

Despite an uninspiring performance, Ronald Koeman will be relieved to see Barca make it two consecutive victories without Messi. — AFP

# Footballers die in plane crash

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 25: Four football players from Brazilian club Palmas died in a plane crash while traveling separately from the team after testing positive for the coronavirus, the club said.

The club's president also died in the crash after the plane suddenly plunged to the ground at the end of the runway while on take-off in the northern state of Tocantins, the team reported. The pilot also died.

The players were on their way to Goiania, in the central region of the country, to play a match against Vila Nova.

"The players were traveling in a private plane because they had tested positive for Covid-19," club spokesperson Izabela Martins informed.

Martins said that Sunday would have been their last day of isolation and that the rest of the team would travel on a commercial flight.

"The victims were identified as president Lucas Meira and players Lucas Praxedes, Guilherme Noé, Ranule and Marcus Molinari," the club said. The pilot was not identified. There were no survivors.

Palmas Futebol e Regatas was founded in 1997 and plays in Brazil's fourth division. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Tocantins fire officials reported that the twin-engine Baron model had a capacity of six occupants. When firefighters arrived at the crash site, 500 meters from the runway, the aircraft was being consumed by fire. At least two explosions were registered, according to the official report.

The Brazilian Football Confederation expressed its solidarity with Palmas' family members and the club's fans in an official note, and it ordered a minute of silence in all matches played Sunday as a sign of mourning.

In 2016, a plane crash killed 19 players of the Chapecoense soccer club. Chapecoense's plane went down en route to the club's first-ever South American tournament final in Colombia after it ran out of fuel near Medellin.

"Unfortunately, we know what this moment of pain is like and we wish that no other group had to feel the same," Chapecoense said in a statement. — AP



Four Palmas players and the club president have been killed after their plane crashed on take-off.

— TWITTER/BRASIL FOOTBALL

# Jaweed, Shreyas & Vinmukh best

## DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

M. A. Jaweed, C. Shreyas Reddy and Vinmukh emerged top performers in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-2 Division two-day league matches played on Monday.

Jaweed ran through the RJC line-up to bowl them out for a mere 130. The right-arm medium-pacer returned with fabulous figures of 7 for 47. In reply, Canara Bank made 131 for no loss for an emphatic win.

In another match, Eklayva CC beat Rushiraj by six wickets riding on two good performances. First, off-spinner Shreyas got six wickets while con-

ceding 35 runs as Rushiraj were bowled out for 163. Then, Vinmukh slammed an unbeaten 110 that came off 123 balls and included 20 boundaries as his side overhauled the target losing four wickets.

### Brief scores:

#### A-2 DIVISION (TWO-DAY)

■ RJC 130 in 42.2 overs (Anshul 47, Shrinjith 47, M. A. Jaweed 7/47 — 14-4-47-7) lost to Canara Bank 131 for no loss in 23.4 overs (Arvind Shetty 78 n.o., Nikhil 41 n.o.). Points: Canara Bank 5, RJC 0.

■ Rushiraj 163 in 57.4 overs (B. Sai Chandra 65, C. Shreyas Reddy 6/35 — 14-6-35-6) lost to Eklayva 165/4 in 39 overs (Vinmukh 110 n.o. — 123b, 20x4). Points: Eklayva 5, Rushiraj 0.



lent personal relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him.

"He is a man of great integrity and has the highest of work ethics. However, under current circumstances we believe it is best to change managers."

Former PSG boss Tuchel, who was abruptly sacked by the French champions in December, is in line to take over, reports said.

Chelsea are struggling in ninth place in the Premier League table, 11 points behind leaders Manchester United.

They have lost five of their past eight Premier League matches after a good start to the season.

— AFP

## Chiran digs deep to win on debut

### DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

The wind conditions at the Republic Day Regatta at Hussain Sagar continued to be poor but Race Officer Gautham Kankatla managed to squeeze in one race for the Sub Junior Green Fleet in which Chiran Deep Perelli of St Patrick's led from start to finish to clinch a win on his debut. He was closely followed by Daniel Israel of Valerian Grammar High School and Jampa Anna Arapu of Balamrai Government School.

Moutameen Mohammad of Udbhaba School Rasoolpura who was the winner at all the races at the recently concluded training had a bad last leg and finished fourth overall after trailing Chiran in second position for most of the race and then was pipped at the finish by Daniel and Jampa Anna who managed to catch a gust of wind he had missed.

A colourful fleet of 42 sailors had to paddle back to the Yacht Club of Hyderabad under dead wind conditions.



Riders pose with their mementos at the Telangana State Equestrian Association AGM at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC) in Aziz Nagar, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

# Young riders honoured

Hyderabad, Jan. 25: The

Telangana State Equestrian Association (TSEA) felicitated promising young riders at their 5th Annual General Body Meeting held at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC) in Aziz Nagar, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

Shashank Varma Kanumuri, who is ranked fourth in the world in his category for Dressage in 2021, represented India at the Asian Youth Championships and was the winner of Asian

Equestrian Federation Under 21 Dressage competition.

Also on the recognition list were Ananya Settipalli, Dhruv Kammili, Jaaveer Varma Kakarlapudi, Krishna Karthikeya Reddy Male, Krishnath Sahithi Male, Maansi Reddy Singireddy, Mohammed Ayaan, Sri Vatsankith Rama Varma Datla and Venkata Srisanth Kalavacharla, who won several national level medals over the last two years in

Dressage and Show Jumping events in respective categories. They received mementos from Chevella MP Dr Gaddam Ranjith Reddy, a horse rider and Equestrian during his college days.

TSEA president Col S. L. Reddy, secretary Maj. T. Swamy and technical vice-president Dr Kallam Chandra Sekhar Reddy addressed the members and updated them about the activities, plans and achievements.

## AMF eyes para athletes

### DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 25

In all 21 students, 12 boys and 9 girls in the age group of 6 to 20 years took part in the camp and were screened for archery, taekwondo, volleyball, powerlifting, athletics, shooting, table tennis, rowing, shotput, javelin and other sports. Most of the kids were extremely talented — two of the hearing-impaired students hit bullseye in every shot in shooting. About 60 per cent of the students did very well and the rest being a little weak, require rehabilitation. The selected students will be provided with equipment to train and will be groomed in the sport they show promise along with schooling, boarding and lodging by AMF.

"We want to make a splash at Asian Games 2022, the Paralympics 2024 and make the nation proud," says Aditya Mehta. In the past AMF athletes have won more than 90 medals at national and international events.

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