

me has always been consistency. I've always believed in scoring runs each time I walk out to bat - whether it's in domestic or internationals, it never mattered.

"As long as I get an opportunity to bat, it has to be counted, and that has given me a lot of experience and exposure to work on my game over the years, with the changing standards of women's cricket and to stay relevant on the international circuit."

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PRANITHA SUBHASH
@PRANITHASUBHASH

Happy Birthday

@Tej_AnanthKumar ma'am.
May you continue to inspire ☺



Styling your jewels effortlessly

Every woman is likely to have jam-packed jewellery boxes with variety of jewellery passionately collected through the years. But every time you open your box full of magic, you are as confused as you're thrilled by it. Every piece seems to either to go with your outfit or none of them does while every jewellery piece is stunning. And in a hurry, you again go with your favourite jewellery that you have been carrying every other day.

Create layers with rings, necklaces and bangles

Experiment with contrasting lengths, shapes, textures and colours to make appealing layers with rings, necklaces, bangles and even in some cases earrings. If you're layering necklaces then go for different lengths to draw the eye up to your face. Different shapes, colours and textures will often work a treat. For bangles and bracelets you can pretty much create an arm party of different pieces which will flash and jangle as you move. Rings can be mixed, matched and stacked in all sorts of interesting combinations.

Carefully consider your earrings

Don't you find it can be all too easy to forget about your earrings? However, your earrings are usually in the field of vision for anyone who is talking to you, so they are important. You should aim to choose earrings to frame your face and complement your hair, eye colour and skin tone. If you have long hair a great tip is to select a colour or metal finish which is more likely to be visible, depending on your hair colour.

Don't forget to actually change your earrings

It can be so easy to wear the same pair of earrings for days or weeks on end. Or maybe you almost never change them. But remembering to change up your earrings is a great way to add interest and style to your look day to day. It's also a great opportunity to give your favourite pair of earrings a good clean. You can make changes to your earrings subtly and simply by wearing a variety of small stud earrings day to day. Or you can add some sparkle and movement with some dangle earrings, depending on your outfit.

Experiment with the sin of mixing metals

There's no need to stick to all sterling silver jewellery or all gold jewellery. Think about pendants which contrast with the colour of chain they are attached to, rings that combine different metal colours or layered necklaces or bangles in different metals to add vibrant interest and colour to your outfit.

Work out how to accessorise to complement your clothing while dressing

Before you start dressing have a think about what you most want to wear to wherever you're going. You might decide you really want to wear a specific piece of jewellery to an outing; in which case you should choose your clothing and other accessories to work with it. Otherwise, you might pick the outfit first and then match the jewellery and accessories to it. Either way works and if you've spent some time getting the combination right you should look stylish and well put together.



#ChooseToChallenge: Challenge the world to bring in change

ASKARI JAFFER

TODAY'S women are successful, goal-oriented and bold enough to conquer the world. She has the power to perform many tasks and successfully deliver exemplary results in her job role.

While women have achieved massive success, what still prevails is sidelining her in taking risks, not giving her significant projects or judging her potentials. Women are still considered amongst the weaker section of society due to the society's age-old customs and traditional mindset.

Vrutika Dawda, Director at IdeateLabs, a digital marketing agency that is committed to creating path-breaking strategies and creative solutions for brands. Vrutika is actively involved in the company's Corporate Affairs, Corporate Finance, Legal and Compliance among others, while she also looks after the overall business operations. She is a self-driven, growth-oriented professional-turned-intrapreneur with an ability to turn challenges into opportunities. Her ability to achieve beyond what is imagined possible is the defining force in her leadership.



Vrutika Dawda, Director, IdeateLabs, was recently listed amongst IMPACT Digital Power 100, Adgully's Women Disruptors Awards 2021. She spoke about how to standing up and fighting inequality is the need of the hour

With a deep-rooted interest in numbers, she began her professional journey as a math professor for various private coaching classes post which she made a career shift into the finance industry. Before her stint with IdeateLabs, Vrutika worked at Reliance Infocomm and was responsible for automating and setting up internal processes for procurement of Broadband Products and Services. At GroupM, Vrutika was the core team member for the Specialist Units (all non-print) and was the lead in setting up the Commercial and MIS processes, as

well as automating multiple functions that were traditionally manually driven.

Vrutika Dawda shares, "Time has arrived for all the women out there to challenge tolerating societal taboos and not remain a silent spectator. Challenge has the power to change the world and bring in transformation. One can change the complete outlook and perception by challenging and standing firm to it. As women, we must step forward and raise a voice against all the inequality and bias we encounter in our routine lives. It is essential to understand that

if we don't speak up for ourselves, no one else will."

So how can we challenge the world to bring in change? Vrutika shares, "The answer is straightforward; all it needs is an action-oriented approach to bias, talking about your success and celebrating it, appreciating other women achievers, and helping each other during challenging situations. A woman for women is a very crucial factor that matters the most. What needs to stop immediately is calling out names to other women, judging her based on her choices, pulling legs to attain success, passing negative comments, or demeaning her."

Practice makes one perfect. Hence, it's essential to implement them in our daily lives.

"Raising awareness on gender inequality is crucial. It is the first step towards change. Standing up and fighting inequality is the need of the hour. Unless women do it, things will remain constant, and the restrictions or gender-based bias will continue forever. Women need equal opportunities, equal job titles, equal compensation, respect, and a positive outlook towards their capabilities," adds Vrutika.

She says, "Though it seems to

be simple, it is not that easy. Change is time-consuming and involves a lot of consistent efforts. Sticking to our decisions is of utmost importance. On the professional front, the organization has to give equal chance and frame policies that are gender neutral. Women must get equal opportunities to be in leadership positions, take risks, drive huge teams, innovate, and deliver the best results."

Challenging stereotype is a grizzled battle. Many strong men and women have played an important role in changing lives, improving women's living standards, and questioning the status quo. Continuing with these actions further with much more dedication and vigour will further improvise conditions.

Many women are still struggling to breathe freely and are burdened to follow what is instructed. There are many crimes and violence that women are subjected to. In order to stop these evils of society, it is critical to raise our voice. Report complaints, take immediate actions, and ensure severe punishment are given to the culprits and justice is served.

Let us all #ChoosetoChallenge and make this world a better place to live in!

Sameera Reddy on life lessons, kids learn through equal parenting

PUJA GUPTA

Sameera Reddy never fails to delight us on her social media with a sneak-peek into her parenting world. The mom-of-two believes in the power of both parents sharing equal responsibility when it comes to raising their children and understanding how it shapes their personality, growth and development.

Today, more and more parents believe in the importance of being equally involved and Sameera vouches for the positive impact on their holistic development.

"In our household, we ensure we contribute equally to our kids' well-being, meet their needs and spend quality time with them. Kids are very observant and just by watching us; they imbibe social, cognitive and behavioural values that groom them as human beings. As parents, it's important to be good role models and through our actions, bring out the best in our little ones!" shares Sameera.

As an outspoken mom, Sameera has always gone the extra mile when it comes to lending her voice on important topics, be it motherhood, ageing or family connections. The celebrity recently took to Instagram to open up about equal parenting, and how it goes

a long way in bringing up children in a loving environment.

"Children always look up to parents for comfort, love, support and direction. They want to be like us, do what we do and learn the most from us as they notice every little thing. This means, we as parents have a responsibility to teach them important values like teamwork, togetherness, love, kindness and respect by parenting as equals.

Equal involvement from both parents shows the child that sharing is caring. "When we take turns to drop the children to school or their classes, our children learn that they are never alone. If either one of us is unavailable, the other one takes up that responsibility, demonstrating to our children how important it is to have the other's back," shares Sameera.

"The other thing kids learn from equal parenting is how crucial teamwork is to success. The family is one soul, which works together as a team - these principles prepare our children for life's challenges," she adds.

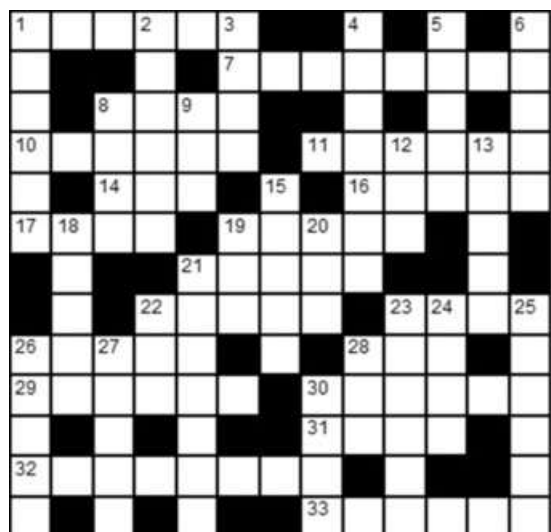
As children grow up, we shape them in the best of our values and hope that they carry them forward along with their own learning experiences. "Your kids will come to appreciate your teachings and help them when they grow up. However,

I truly believe that with equal parenting, we are preparing our children to become kind-hearted and responsible adults who can conquer any situation in their lives."

Joining the Pampers #ITakes2 movement in support of equal parenting, Sameera penned a lovely caption which read, "I loved this 'It Takes 2' video because the new generation of parenting wherein the dads of today feel so connected, and want to participate in all aspects of the journey is something that really resonated with me, and I wanted to share this with you. Right from day 1, Akshai, my husband has been such an integral part of Hans and Nyra's birth! He is an amazing hands-on hubby and a super father! I thought changing diapers would be challenging initially, but Pampers has made it such a breeze for both my baby and me. Nothing gives me more joy than being with Akshai and both my kids in the most beautiful phase of my life, Motherhood."

"For us, #ITakes2 to raise and nurture a child and it is important for a father to be an equal partner contributing towards his child's growth and development. I am also proud to be joining hands with Pampers in its vision of caring for the healthy, happy development of every baby," she says.

As parents, it's important to be good role models and through our actions, bring out the best in our little ones- Sameera Reddy



SOLUTION TO MARCH 12

CROSSWORD

Across

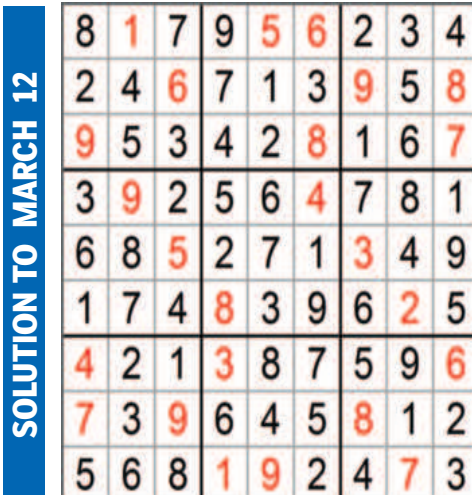
- 1 Of lemons (6)
- 7 Launch time (4,4)
- 8 Castro's land (4)
- 10 Less distant (6)
- 11 Watched (6)
- 14 Before marriage (3)
- 16 Repairs (5)
- 17 Frozen treats (4)
- 19 As yet (2,3)
- 21 Is wearing, in a way ? (3,2)
- 22 Honour a debt ? (3,2)
- 23 Fossil fuel (4)
- 26 Started (5)
- 28 Fashionable or stylish (3)
- 29 "Be sure" anagram for the god of the underworld (6)
- 30 Riding school (6)
- 31 Mythical sea monsters (4)
- 32 Scorns or scoffs at (8)
- 33 A mental suffering (6)

Down

- 1 Ostentatious (6)
- 2 Employs again (6)

- 3 Old time Russian ruler (4)
- 4 Overseer (7)
- 5 Twelve of anything (5)
- 6 Urges with a stick (5)
- 8 Geometrical shape (4)
- 9 Hive dweller (3)
- 12 Of a female (3)
- 13 Drug used to treat Parkinson's disease (1-4)
- 15 "No bus" anagram for a ship's officer, in short (5)
- 18 Cloak, conceal or shroud (5)
- 19 Declare or utter aloud (3)
- 20 Dandy (3)
- 21 Sacred langur (7)
- 22 Tavern (3)
- 23 Agree (6)
- 24 Lyrical poems (4)
- 25 Remain hidden (3,3)
- 26 Rosary pieces (5)
- 27 Farmyard birds (5)
- 28 Deface (3)
- 30 Rock plants (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO MARCH 12

NEWS ROUNDUP

KATRINA KAIF TELLS YOU HOW TO BE HAPPY

Want to know how to be happy? Check out actress Katrina Kaif's Instagram account! The actress posted a stunning picture of herself and doled out words of wisdom on how to attain happiness.

In the picture, the actress looks beautiful in a white sweater. She has teamed this up with blue jeans, minimal make-up and open hair.

"If u want to be happy, ... be . Leo Tolstoy," she captions the post.

Meanwhile, Katrina was recently spotted shooting alongside actor Salman Khan in Mumbai. This led to fans speculating whether the two were filming for Tiger 3.

Besides this, Katrina has two film releases lined up for the year. She will be seen in Sooryavanshi and Phone Booth. She shares the screen with Akshay Kumar in Sooryavanshi. The film has been directed by Rohit Shetty.

Phone Booth has been directed by Gurmmeet Singh and also stars Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi.



Haryana Budget gives major fillip to Health, agriculture

PURNA SINGH
CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday presented a deficit Budget of Rs 1.55 lakh crore for the financial year 2021-22 with no provision of tax.

Presenting the Budget estimates in the Assembly here, Khattar, who also holds the finance portfolio, proposed a Budget of Rs 1,55,645 crore, an increase of 13 per cent over the previous fiscal's Budget of Rs 1,37,738 crore.

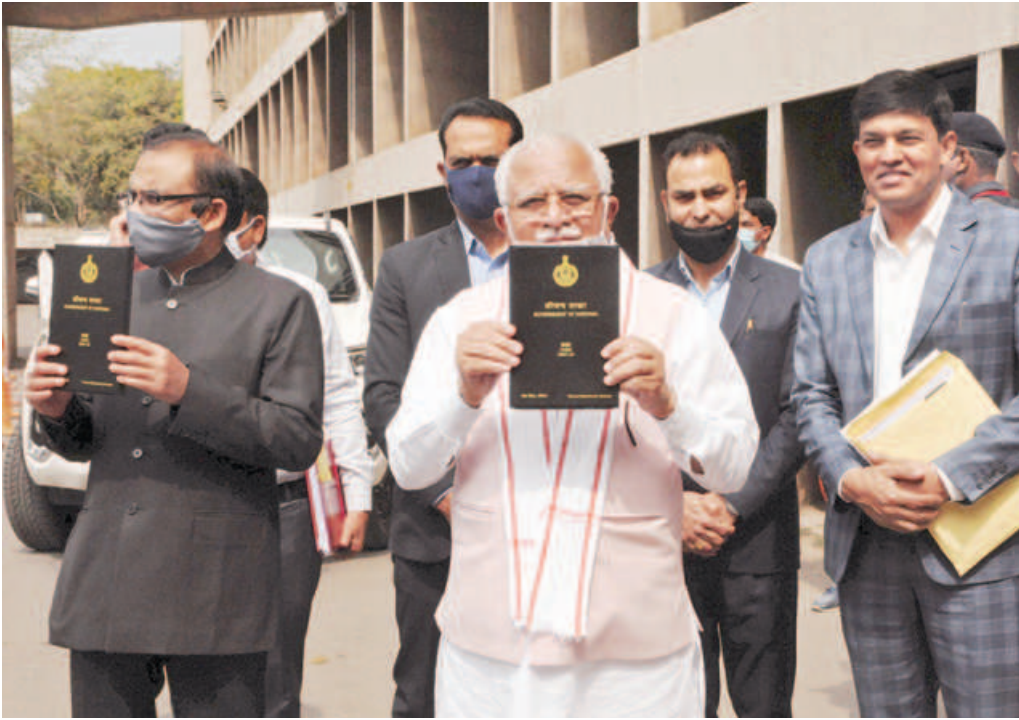
Presenting his second Budget, the Chief Minister said that the Covid-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges and "taught us several lessons".

"It is important for the Budget to prioritise specific sectors that are key to leverage a rebound in the economy, particularly in times of crisis. We have identified health, agriculture and infrastructure as key priority areas that need to be focussed on for recovery and resurgence," he said.

Khattar also announced free education from class IX to XII for all categories in the government schools. He is also aiming to achieve a minimum of one lakh job linkages for the youth in the private sector in the coming fiscal.

Amid farmers' protest against the three Central farm laws, the Chief Minister said that his government is committed to doubling the peasants' income and ensuring their well-being.

He also announced a slew of schemes to aid soil health and crop choices, crop residue man-



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar arrives to present the state's budget for the financial year 2021-2022 in the state assembly, in Chandigarh on Friday

agement, crop diversification, zero budget farming, organic and natural farming and procurement.

The Chief Minister launched the 'Mukhyamantri Antyodya Parivar Utthan Abhiyan' scheme for the poorest one lakh families in the state.

Despite the year-long pandemic, the Budget estimates for FY 2021-22 indicates an increase of Rs 10,084 crore in revenue expenditure as compared to the revised estimates of FY 2020-21.

As per the FY 2021-22 Budget estimates, the revenue deficit is estimated to be at Rs 29,193 crore

(3.29 per cent of the GSDP) as compared to Rs 20,856 crore revenue deficit in the current fiscal.

The state's debt liability is likely to go up to Rs 229,976 crore as on March 2022 from Rs 199,823 crore as on March 2021, constituting 25.92 per cent of the GSDP.

To reduce air pollution from stubble burning by the farmers, Khattar proposed a comprehensive management plan for its management on site and at other locations.

Steps have been initiated to install 100 compressed bio-gas and bio-mass plants for utilisation of crop residue in association with

the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, he said.

There is a proposal to establish a new milk plant in the southern part of the state that will cover the NCR with a packaging capacity of three lakh litre per day, extendable to five lakh litre.

The Chief Minister said the government is considering a proposal to bring a policy for performance-indexing of the municipalities at municipal corporation as well as municipal council or committee level so as to create a positive atmosphere of healthy competition among these bodies.

Hindu Mahasabha activists held for doing puja in Taj premises

AGRA (UTTAR PRADESH)

THREE Hindu Mahasabha activists, including a woman, were arrested while trying to offer prayers on Taj Mahal premises.

They were caught by CISF personnel and handed over to local police, which booked them under IPC section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on the ground religion, etc) at Tajganj police station.

The three activists, Meena Diwakar, provincial chief of the organisation, district in-charge Jitendra Kushwaha and one Vishal Singh entered the monument's premises and offered water, which they carried in a bottle, to Lord Sun near a central tank. On the occasion of Maha Shivratri on Thursday.

They were caught by CISF personnel when they were going to offer prayers before the main mausoleum.

Later, Hindu Mahasabha activists staged a protest outside the police station and demanded their release. Tajganj police station in-charge Umesh Tripathi said that Kushwaha and Vishal have been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days. Diwakar was issued a notice as she fell ill and was taken to S.N. Medical college for treatment.

This was the second such incident in the last three years. In November 2018, a group of women activists performed puja in the mosque, located on the Taj Mahal premises.

The organisation claims that Taj Mahal was originally a Shiva temple and was called Tejo Mahalaya. (ANS)

Akhilesh, Jayant to address Kisan Mahapanchayat on March 19

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and RLD Vice President Jayant Chaudhary will jointly address a Kisan Mahapanchayat at Bājna in Mathura on March 19.

This will be the first time when the two leaders will share the stage in support of farmers' agitation. SP and RLD have been in alliance since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and though the results did not favour either of the parties, they have continued their relationship.

According to RLD national spokesperson Sunil Rohata, Jayant and Akhilesh will jointly address the gathering at Mathura which promises to be one of the biggest in recent times.

Ahead of the Mahapanchayat, Akhilesh will address a party training camp that begins in Mathura on March 17. (ANS)

DELHI RIOTS

Stay on search warrant against advocate Pracha extended

NEW DELHI

A court here on Friday extended the stay on the search warrant against advocate Mehmood Pracha, who is representing various accused in the Delhi riots cases, till March 19 after he moved the court against the recent second raid on his office.

On Tuesday, Pracha alleged that the Delhi Police raided his office in southeast Delhi's Nizamuddin area. He said that around 100 police personnel came to raid his office about 12.30 p.m.

The search warrant was procured by the police from the court on March 4 to seize the computer with primary evidence as identified on the previous search.

The court had directed the

search proceedings be video-graphed. The investigating officer was directed to carry out the search in the presence of a senior police officer within two weeks of issuance of the search warrant.

On Friday, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma of the Patiala House Court sought a reply from the investigating officer as to how the police wants to retrieve the targeted data from the lawyer's office computer without creating any "evidentiary vulnerabilities" with regard to his clients' data. The Delhi Police's Special Cell had raided the premises of Pracha in December 2020 in a case related to alleged use of forged documents as genuine in judicial records in a Delhi riots case. (ANS)

No religious structures will be allowed on public roads, roadside: Uttar Pradesh govt

LUCKNOW

THE Uttar Pradesh government has directed that any structure or construction of religious nature that has come up on public roads and pavements since 2011 should be removed immediately.

No structure or construction of religious nature should be allowed on public roads, streets, pavements and by the roadside, a Home department release issued here said, adding that "if any such structure/construction has come up on January 1, 2011 or after, it should be removed immediately."

These instructions have been issued by the government in compliance with the order of the high court, the release said.

The release said all senior administrative and police officials at district level have been told that if any religious structure/encroachment had been done on public road including highways before January 1, 2011, it should



be shifted to the land offered by the followers of that religion or private land proposed by the persons responsible for its management which shall belong to their community within six months or will be removed.

It also states that in case of divi-

agation or disobedience of these instructions, the officials concerned will be personally held responsible. Disobedience of these orders will be taken as deliberate contempt of orders of the high court, which will be considered as criminal contempt, it said. (PTI)



South Western Railway celebrates International Women's Day

NEW DELHI

SOUTH Western Railway Head Quarters on Friday celebrated 'International Women's Day' at Chalukya Railway Institute at Hubballi. Ajay Kumar Singh, General Manager of South Western Railway was the Chief Guest and Sujata Singh, President of SWR-WWO was the guest of honour.

Ajay Kumar said that it is a day to celebrate womanhood. Women are the finest creation of God. Women can excel in any field that they wish to. Women should realise their strength. Women have the capability to accomplish the work that they pursue with great determination.

RoopaSrinivasan, Principal Finance Advisor; Christine Borgohain, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, D. Mary Mani, Senior Clerk and Vijayalaxmi, Office Superintendent spoke on the occasion and brought to the notice of the women employees

about the various facilities, Acts and legislations related to women and also gave tips about how to manage professional and family responsibilities.

On the occasion, Sujata Singh, President of SWRWWO inaugurated a Gym-cum-Fitness Centre for Ladies at Chalukya Railway Institute. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions held as part of Women's Day Celebration.

P.K. Mishra, Additional General Manager; Alok Kumar, Principal Chief Personnel Officer; Hari Shankar Verma, Principal Chief Operations Manager; P. Ravikumar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer; Ramanujam, Principal Chief Safety Officer; Anil Pavithran, Principal Chief Commercial Manager; P.A. Rajashekhar, Principal Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer; Vilas K. Gunda, Principal Chief Medical Director, other Officers and staff were present.

Mayawati seeks high-level probe into 'attack' on Mamata Banerjee

LUCKNOW

BSP president Mayawati on Friday termed the alleged attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram "unfortunate" and sought a high-level probe into the incident by the Election Commission.

The BSP chief also urged the members of her party in the poll-bound state to remain cautious. On Wednesday, Banerjee alleged that she was attacked by "four-five men" in Nandigram, injuring her left leg, hours after she filed her nomination from the seat for the upcoming assembly polls. She has been hospitalised.

In a tweet in Hindi, Mayawati said, "West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee suddenly getting injured during the elections is very sad and unfortunate. I wish her a speedy recovery."

"At the same time, the Election Commission should take the matter seriously and conduct a high-level inquiry into this. This is the demand of the BSP."

In view of this incident, it is an appeal to all BSP candidates contesting the West Bengal elections, office-bearers and workers to remain cautious, she said in another tweet.

Earlier in the day, a Trinamool Congress delegation met the Election Commission and demanded a high-level probe into the alleged attack on Banerjee. The party delegation claimed it was not an "unfortunate incident" but a conspiracy. (PTI)

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK				JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, SCO-188-189, SECTOR 17, HUDA, TEHSIL-JAGADHRI, YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA-135003, INDIA.			
(A scheduled commercial bank)							
Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.: 10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.							
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS							
The below mentioned borrowers have failed to repay the loan and redeem the gold ornaments within the stipulated time in spite of several reminders. The Gold Jewellery/ ornaments pledged under the said loan accounts by the below listed borrowers will be sold in public/ Online/ private auction at our Branch premises on 22-03-2021 at 10.30 AM. Those willing to participate are requested to contact the branch. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day, the same will follow the subsequent days on the same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir. The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost. For any queries and terms and conditions contact branch. For details of branch address visit www.janabank.com .							
Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Gross Weight of Pledged Gold Ornaments	Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Gross Weight of Pledged Gold Ornaments
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2	30418730000672	Raj Rani Sharma / Dhani Ram	33.70	56	31268740000030	Himanshu Jangra / Ashok Kumar	56.77
3	30418730000695	Renu / Subhas	14.74	57	31268740000066	Vijai Choudhary / Mathura Choudhary	15.40
4	30418740000123	Hargyan Singh / Jagroop Singh	71.46	58	31268740000092	Sahil S / Suresh	10.05
5	30418740000136	Radha Kumari / Hari Singh	72.41	59	31268730000202	Vinod V / Jagdish Chander	55.40
6	30418730000531	Kiran Bala / Bhagi Rath Singh	16.17	60	31268730000228	Monika / Tara Chand	243.38
7	30418730000570	Gaurav Bisht / Raghubir Singh Bisht	46.68	61	31268740000155	RAM DHAN / Ram Gopal	33.25
8	30418730000593	Bebi Sharma / Udayveer Sharma	28.21	62	31268730000040	Akash A / Anil	7.72
9	30418740000685	Karam Gautam / Mewa Lal	28.88	63	31268730000050	Parkashi Devi / Laxman	3.95
10	30418740000774	Reema / Ramesh Chand	14.25	64	31268740000079	Harmeet Singh / Parkash Singh	43.11
11	30418740000787	Anil Shekhawat / Ghisu Singh	49.80	65	31268740000129	Sunita S / Shivbalak Tiwari	7.99
12	30418740000999	Kamlesh Sharma / Udho Ram	24.93	JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., NO. 14/78, 1ST FLOOR, MODEL TOWN, SAINI MARKET, BAHADURGARH, JHAJJAR-124507, INDIA.			
13	30418740000100	Gaya Prasad / Mahesh Chand	24.11	66	32038740000250	Rachna / SHAMBHU	15.00
14	30418740000188	Mukesh Kumar / Chiranjali Lal	10.75	67	32038730000231	Gagan Grover / Ahri Chand Grover	29.60
15	30418740000238	Surender Kumar / Shiv Kumar Ram	14.75	68	32038740000247	Meena Kumari / Darshan Lal	18.80
16	30418740000468	Narender Kumar / Harpal	17.20	69	32038740000020	Deepak Kumar / Jai Pal Singh	12.48
17	30418740000471	Babita / SHYAM LAL PREMI	28.28	70	32038740000072	Rachna / SHAMBHU	46.13
18	30418740000596	Laxmi Sharma / Ram Saran Sharma	128.36	71	32038740000132	Manju / TARA CHAND	13.43
19	30418740000601	Rajender Prasad / Ishwar Prasad	14.87	JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., 2ND FLOOR, SCO-216P, SEC-12-I, BEHIND ICICI BANK, URBAN ESTATE, KARNAL-132001, HARYANA.			
20	30418740000518	Pink / KARAN SINGH	30.39	72	33688730001607	Ashutosh A / Gurmeet Singh	5.85
21	30418740000531	Preeti / ROHTAS BAI SOYA	58.52	73	336887400000251	Monu Kumar / Dilbagh	7.99
22	30418740000570	Manju Saini / Kirashan Lal	19.55	74	33688740000086	Ranbir Singh / Data Ram	13.10
23	30418740000583	Ramesh Kumar / Chander Sain	33.17	75	33688730001251	Mamta Rani / Har Kumar	19.87
24	30418740000620	Harish Chander / Ganesh Dass	61.52	76	33688730001277	Rohit Kumar / Muti Ram	11.80
25	30418740000633	Harish Chander / Ganesh Dass	29.86	77	33688730001471	Furkan / Wali Deen	28.06
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GF & 1ST FLOOR, TOWER 115, 2A /115, NIT FIRDABAD, FARIDABAD-121001, INDIA.				78	33688730001481	Deen Mohammad / Nanak	13.16
26	34038730002882	Indu Singh / Munji Singh	33.28	79	33688730001620	Anju Rani / Pram Chand	17.32
27	34038730002971	Vishal Mishra / Kashi Nath Mishra	45.25	80	33688740000225	Saroj Bala / Maghi Ram	17.59
28	34038740000191	Anjali Devi / Ravinder Jha	50.56	81	33688740000100	Urmila Shyam Kumar / Badama Ram	20.00
29	34038740000202	Chandra Jha / Shivkant	54.79	82	33688730001021	Sadash Shiv Kumar / Nathi Ram	8.63
30	34038740000152	Krishna K / Bihari Lal	23.88	83	33688740000188	Reetesh Virenderkumar / Mohan Lal	10.39
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND & 1ST FLOOR, PROPERTY BEARING NO. KHASRA NO. 1621/2, SCHEDULE ROAD NO-3, DELHI MATHURA ROAD NH-2, MAUJA ANANGPUR, FARIDABAD DISTRICT, FARIDABAD-121101, INDIA.				JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, PROPERTY NO. 68/10/2, KAPAL MUKHAN ROAD, CHOTA BUS STAND, BILASPUR, YAMUNA NAGAR, HARYANA-135102			
31	30208740000128	MANISH KUMAR DASS / Nathuni Das	29.92	84	31288740000198	Meera Varma / Khachermal	49.65
32	30208730002934	Nareesh / Lal Chand	6.69	85	31288740000290	Kamlesh / HORAM	51.23
33	30208730002819	Radha Rani / Jadish Soni	22.28	86	312887300000844	Rinku Na / Omi	13.20
34	30208730002861	Harnam Singh / Ram Din	29.47	87	31288730001185	Renu Devi / Jigdesha Paswan	21.13
35	30208730002986	Bhupender Singh / Devnarayan Singh	22.14	88	312887400001712	Babita Devi / Mange Ram	70.67
36	30208740000115	Nareesh Kumar / Dharam Pal	42.63	89	312887400001620	Bimla Devi / Sukhbeer Singh	34.15
37	30208730001552	Vipin Gupta / Nanhey Lal Gupta	2.93	90	31288740001662	Pooja / Brahm	30.27
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, BUILDING NO. 54/9, NEW RAILWAY ROAD, NEAR IDBI BANK, GURGAON-122001, INDIA.				91	31288740000515	Binod Prasad / Jage Prasad	128.60
38	33698730005393	Sonu S / Balwan	6.89	92	312887400000620	Sujan Khan / Rajjan Khan	22.07
39	33698730005281	Mohamad Aaski / Meharban Ali	4.85	93	312887400000719	Geeta Devi / Omprakash	9.44
40	33698730000401	Jitender Soni / Murari Lal	9.20	94	31288740000886	Satish / Murari Parcha	23.09
41	336987300004186	Himanshu Vashist / Mahesh Kumar	109.75	95	31288740000936	Satish / Murari Parcha	11.95
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, KHANA NO. 1005/1038, TEHSIL, GURGAON, PATAUDI-122503, INDIA.				96	31288740000923	Ishwar Chauhan / Smeey Singh Chauhan	11.81
42	46088730001396	Shivani Devi / Balwant Singh	25.23	97	31288740000962	Pawan Na / Satbir	37.70
43	46088730001433	Jall Singh / Desha Ram	6.94	98	31288740001314	Jai Bhagwan / Satvir	12.12
44	46088730001462	Sukhjeet Kaur / Mohinder Singh	19.45	99	31288740001327	Manju Devi / Tika Bahadur	14.24
45	46088730001663	Malik Singh / Ratna Ram	23.85	100	312887400001353	Ravi Kumar / Niranjana Singh	28.03
46	46088730001752	Sukhvinder Singh / Ram Kumar	48.64	101	312887400001416	Deepak Na / Hari Lal	43.24
47	46088730001854	Sukhvinder Singh / Ram Kumar	27.18	102	312887400001455	Veerwati Na / Balu	21.52
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, KHASRA NO.-150-151, PIPLI ROAD, OPP. CANARA BANK, NR. SYNDICATE BANK, KURUKSHETRA-136118, INDIA.				103	31288740001494	Aditya Tiwari / Triveni Tiwari	60.13
48	45268740000012	Sandeep Kumar / Harswaroop Singh	9.75	104	312887400001505	Yogesh Bhati / Subhash Chand	11.16
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, SCO NO-97, SECTOR-16, FARIDABAD-121002, HARYANA, INDIA.				JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., 1ST FLOOR, FCA-57, CHAWLA COLONY, 100FT ROAD, ABOVE IDBI BANK, BALLABHGARH, HARYANA-121004, INDIA.			
49	47918740000490	Ishro Devi I / Joginder Singh	22.55	105	32028740000143	Taranjeet Kaur / Pyara Singh	21.27
50	47918740000296	Amit A / Dharampal	15.27	106	32028740000195	Bindari / Ajmer Singh	18.59
51	47918740000092	Rakesh Kumar / Prabhat Singh	27.09	107	32028740000093	Renu / Lekh Raj	12.97
52	47918740000155	Seema Devi Nareesh Kumar / Rameshwar Dass	11.60	108	452387400000661	Ishwer Singh / Rohtash Singh	23.93
53	47918740000307	Hari Singh / Ravinder Singh	23.59	109	45238740000275	Umesh / Mooli Chander	9.48
54	47918740000362	Meena / VIKRAM SINGH	23.89	110	45238740000097	Laxmi Rani / Durga Prashad	10.67
				111	45238740000160	Naveen / Vijay Kumar	17.55
				112	45238740000223	Rahul / Ganga Ram	8.97
				113	45238740000236	Amnash Yadav / Jagmal Singh	79.92
				114	45238740000312	Munesh M / Ran Singh	19.21
				115	45238740000338	Mukesh Kumar / Shri Chand	27.50
				JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., 2ND FLOOR, SCO-216P, SEC-12-I, BEHIND ICICI BANK, URBAN ESTATE, KARNAL-132001, HARYANA, INDIA.			
				116	45288730000638	Shubham / Rajesh	10.05
				117	45288730000677	Shubham / Rajesh	14.96
				118	45288730000664	Pawan Sharma / Rajinder Sharma	17.83
				119	45288730000651	Devender Kumar / Shiv Datt Sharma	34.86
				120	45288730000740	Ravi Raj / Mamu Ram	8.36
				121	45288740000374	Sajpal Bhandari / Nareesh Bansal	57.52
				122	45288740000411	Sajpal Bhardwaj / Dharam Dutt	20.34
				JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GF & 1ST FLOORS, HUDA, SECTOR-12, SCO-06, NEAR MOTHER THERESA MARKET, PANIPAT-132103, HARYANA.			
				123	32058740000011	Kamta / Baru Ram	21.80
				124	32058740000034	Amit Kumar / Ram Gopal	18.10
				125	32058730000324	Harish Kumar / Krishan Lal	51.30
				126	32058730000630	Pardeep Pardeep / Ramchander	8.80
				127	32058730000706	Ashish Ashish / Balwan	3.60
				128	320587400000110	Nirmala Devi / Ganpat Singh	20.50
				JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND & 1ST FLOOR, SCF-197, CUE, HUDA COMPLEX, ROHTAK-124001, HARYANA, INDIA.			
				Place: Haryana		Sd/- Authorised Officer	
				Date: 13.03.2021		Jana Small Finance Bank Limited	

Fettering free thought

“Islamism-Leftism” is the new buzz word now. It is being variously used to describe liberal ideas in several countries where people opposing the government moves and policies that segregate people on the basis of religious practices. Frederique Vidal, France’s Minister of Education, recently denounced “Islamogauchisme” (Islamism-Leftism) and its “gangrene-effect” on France and called for an inquiry into France’s national research organization, the CNRS, and the university.

Several knowledge producers of great standing, scholars, activists and other intellectuals have been targeted by the Minister for questioning the racism and colonialism persisting in the country. The decolonial, anti-racist and anti-Islamophobia projects within the academy and on the streets were the subject of her criticism. The State perhaps feels chal-

lenged by the thoughts and hence an attempt is being made to suppress them.

This is, of course, common nowadays to several countries. Powers that be are unable to take criticism. No ruler is in a position to accept a critic of his actions. It could be safely assumed that the primary job of the governments across seems to be thought policing. The State’s intentions are found in the language it uses. The relatively new term “Islamogauchisme” reflects a much older convergence of right-wing, colonial and racist ideologies working in opposition to anti-colonial, anti-Islamophobia and anti-racism struggles.

Like India, France also feels that the “Islamogauchisme” is an import from the US and hence, a pervert thought. What she fails to comprehend is that this is not a thought. This is in fact, an anti-thought, opposing a wrong thought and

at best a question. But questions do make the rulers uncomfortable. Hence, all kinds of restrictions on even social platforms.

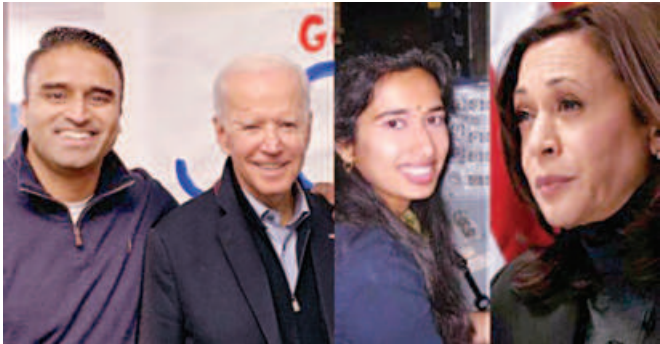
A movement is now picking up in France to oppose such colonial and racist ideas. The decolonial theory - Abya Yala - of Latin America or the postcolonial theory in India heavily drew from the works of French-speaking scholars of colour such as Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire and others as these progressive forces cite. As a statement issued by the anti-colonial and anti-racist scholars points out the attack on progressive and radical scholars and activists seeks to preserve “French exceptionalism”.

Inconvenient truths and the ground realities tend to get scrubbed up by those in power in their bid to “cleanse the country’s image”. Also, such efforts not only get denounced in the country of its origin but also outside. Free minds breathing in limited spaces tend to get united strongly across the world. Then comes another allegation of foreign conspiracy.

Conspiracy is what the government does and not what the intellectuals say.

Coming to France, the colonial mentality is manifest in France’s structures of governance, especially with regard to both citizens and immigrants of colour, as reflected in a barrage of laws such as: the law against wearing the veil; immigration laws; the Islamophobic law against “separatism” which has already shut down the CCIF (Collective against Islamophobia in France) and threatens all forms of autonomy; the law prohibiting filming of police brutality; the (now-repealed) law that mandated that colonialism be taught in only one State-sanctioned manner; rights-abusive and discriminatory counterterrorism laws; and others.

These measures seek to forcibly “integrate” suspect populations into permanently subordinate roles in French society. This is not new to the world, Brazil, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, the US, India and China...each one of them does practice it. Only the degree varies.



‘Indians taking over’ US

Biden spokesperson defends statement

ARUL LOUIS

US President Joe Biden’s spokesperson has defended his assertion that Indian Americans are “taking over the country” against criticism that it could play into the hands of racists.

Jen Psaki said on Thursday: “The President was just recognizing and honouring and valuing -- or this was his intention -- the incredible contribution of Indian Americans to science.”

asked by a reporter at her briefing in Washington about the criticism, she said that what he had said “was a reflection of his belief that Indian Americans have made a great contribution to the fabric of society, whether it’s science or education or the government and that was what he was trying to convey”.

Biden had told Swati Mohan, the NASA engineer who guided the Mars rover Perseverance to a soft landing on the Red Planet, during a virtual meeting last week, “It’s amazing. Indian of descent Americans are taking over this country. You, my Vice President, my speechwriter Vinay (Reddy). But I tell you what, thanks. You guys are incredible.”

For context, while Biden’s statement is taken as a compliment in India and by many Indians, in the ethnic cauldron of the US such comments are viewed with caution as they could lead to a backlash against Indian Americans, who are a minority.

For example, any such statements about Jews, however well-intentioned, are considered anti-Semitic as these claims have historically been used to foment violent attacks against them leading up to the Holocaust in Europe.

In the US, such assertions about Jews have led to physical attacks and institutional measures like elite educational institutions imposing quotas to limit the admission of Jews and are, therefore, considered anti-Semitic.

For context, while Biden's statement is taken as a compliment in India and by many Indians, in the ethnic cauldron of the US such comments are viewed with caution as they could lead to a backlash against Indian Americans, who are a minority. For example, any such statements about Jews, however well-intentioned, are considered anti-Semitic as these claims have historically been used to foment violent attacks against them leading up to the Holocaust in Europe

The US State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism includes “stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective -- such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.”

Criticising Biden, a right-wing publication RedState said that if former President Donald Trump had made such a statement about Indian Americans he would have been denounced as “racist”.

RedState said, “Show me one sane person who believes an unknown group of Indian Americans are immediately going to assume control of the federal government, or is stupid enough to believe Indian Americans are the majority of America.”

Trying to introduce context, Psaki said, “He was speaking to an Indian American woman who is, of course, a scientist and an important part of the NASA team.” She added, “And he also was, of course, recognising the incredible contribution of his own Vice President, Kamala Harris.”

Indians and other Asians are already facing a backlash in academia because of their outstanding performance. Many elite universities require them to score as much as 140 points more than Whites in the entrance exams while also rating them low on subjective evaluations like personality by marking them as less “widely respected” to lower their rankings.

Four Indian American organisations joined other Asian groups that sued Harvard University alleging that it violated the Constitution and Supreme Court rulings by discriminating against Asians in admissions.

A federal appeals court ruled against them last year and the groups plan to appeal to the Supreme court. In New York City, the former Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza campaigned against Asians accusing them of dominating the high-performing schools by outperforming them on admissions tests and tried to abolish the tests and created ill-will against them.

Asians have been subjected to violent attacks in the city and elsewhere in recent months by mostly other non-Whites. The situation got so bad in the New York that a special police unit has been set up to tackle anti-Asian violence.

In 2008, Biden faced criticism for the opposite reason. He had played into another stereotype of Indian Americans as low-level store employees when he said, “You cannot go to a 7-11 or Dunkin’ Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent.”

The business of politics hits a new low

IN MY OPINION

V RAMU SARMA

WHEELCHAIR to CM’s chair seems to be a well-scripted action plan of TMC’s political strategist Prashant Kishor. This reminds one of the minor attack on YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy at Visakhapatnam airport and the controversy and allegations that followed on Prashant Kishor.

Trying to play on sympathy factor is not new in India politics. We had seen in the past how N T Rama Rao had gone round the country in a wheelchair soon after he was dethroned by Nandendla Bhaskar Rao when the then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister was in US for heart surgery. The agitation that followed, the unity the opposition parties showed and the sympathy people had showered on NTR was historic. It forced the iron lady Indira Gandhi to restore NTR as chief minister. That was a genuine sympathy wave. Similar attempt by NTR later when TDP was split in 1995 by his son in law N Chandrababu Naidu did not work.

In the last elections, we have seen how the minor attack on YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy inside the airport lounge in Visakhapatnam played a role in garnering sympathy. Now it is TMC president Mamata Banerjee’s turn. She perhaps feels that sympathy would offset the damage her party had suffered politically till recently and would help her to get back into the chair of CM once again. Playing the sympathy card is not new for Mamata. In the past also she had suffered injuries during campaign and used it for gaining sympathy successfully.

Will the Bhadrakalok of West Bengal sympathise with Didi or will they look at this episode as one which is scripted by her political strategist, the results will show. It is natural that anti-incumbency would play a major role and more than that, she is being challenged by the BJP which is trying all the tricks it has up its sleeve to defeat Didi. At such a time the question is

will sympathy help her to sweep the polls or reduce the damage to her vote bank?

If we look at the way polls were held in the last seven decades politics has undergone total transformation. From dependence on policies, programmes, omissions and commissions of the government, catchy slogans and the charisma of the contesting candidates, elections have reached a stage where votes and voters have become a commodity.

About three decades back, money power started playing a role and in the last two decades money along with muscle power has been playing a major role. If we look at the 2019 elections, technology also seems to have got added to money and muscle power.

An impartial assessment of the polls held during last decade shows that the process of privatisation began with the BJP hiring the services of its political strategist Prashant Kishor.

From being a public health expert with mastery over building public opinion working for UNICEF in Africa to joining Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi’s team in December 2011 as an advisor and managing his prime ministerial campaign during 2013-14 to taking up the task of helping Mamata Banerjee save her regime against the onslaught of the Modi-Shah-led BJP campaign, Prashant Kishor has marked a special episode in Indian politics.

In Andhra Pradesh, Prashant’s trap that was set in the form of Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh halfway through Jagan’s padayatra accusing Naidu of going soft on the issue (even though BJP went back on its promise) helped YSRCP to win over the people.

Naidu who was caught off guard started mounting pressure on the BJP. Locking horns with the saffron party TDP MPs and Union Ministers Ashok Gajapati Raju and Y S Chowdhary resigned and in spite of a warning from BJP that Naidu was walking into the YSRCP’s trap, Naidu decided to part ways with the NDA and the stage was set for YSRCP victory.

Nevertheless, Kishor has emerged as one of the principal talking points in the state’s political sphere – be it with the moves he suggested for the TMC to turn the game around, or the attacks targeted at him by disgruntled leaders. Nearly 2,400 young men and women are working in various locations and on different as-



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pects across the state in association with Kishor’s organisation. His team is playing a major role even at block level.

The struggling TMC regained its confidence and got back into the poll battle with renewed energy as the public outreach programme named ‘Didi-ke Bolo’, or Tell Didi, as Mamata Banerjee is popularly known – became an instant success.

A good number of policy decisions were made on the basis of inputs received from the Didi-ke Bolo helpline. These include starting monthly allowances for eld-

erly people from the backward classes, and later also for people from the economically weaker section among the general castes, extending the benefits of the Swastha Sathi health insurance scheme to everyone and allowing the Centre’s PM Kisan scheme to be implemented in the state despite that state having its own, similar scheme.

The 2021 battle for Bengal between Modi and Mamata has reached the climax. Amit Shah who claims to be the principal of the college of strategies is leading the BJP’s Bengal campaign – in-

stead of the party’s national president J P Nadda – Kishor on the other hand is managing the TMC’s campaign but is also playing a key role in the TMC’s organisational changes.

However, PK has a tough job in ensuring that Didi is sworn in as Chief Minister once again as many of her trusted lieutenants had quit the party creating some ripples in the party. PK’s domination over party affairs is something which many are unable to accept. They allege that that the party was no longer under Mamata Banerjee’s control and that it had been taken over by a corporate agency. There is truth in it. This has come as an advantage for the BJP which is giving a tough fight to TMC. May be that is the reason why Mamata wants to gain sympathy and has announced that she will campaign on wheelchair.

The way politics are taking new twists and turns, elections are losing their importance. It is not enough to quote verses from Bhagavad Gita during speeches whether it be the Prime Minister or any other leader whether it be the speech on 75th anniversary of Independence or any other such occasion. What is required is honest electoral reforms which do not appear to be anywhere on the radar of the political parties in India.

Worst kind of allurements and division of voters is being done even for elections like MLC Graduate’s constituencies. These are the constituencies where only graduate voters vote and so-called professors and educationists contest. We are seeing such a scenario in Telangana where polls for two such constituencies are to be held on Sunday. The voters are categorised based on gender and their habits to dole out gifts. Male voters are given branded premium liquor and teetotalers are being given note for vote. Similarly, silver items and electrical appliances are being given to women. May be the next innovation will be dividing voters on basis of food habits, vegetarians and non-vegetarians.

When democracy stoops to such low levels and parties start saying all is well in war it is but natural that political parties which win and their strategists will be on their own ego trip and would start feeling that they can even make a lamp post win. What would Mahatma Gandhi have said if he was alive because, “Hey Ram,” would not be enough.

LETTERS

Well done, Shahidi!

THIS refers to the report ‘Shahidi becomes 1st Afghan to scale Mount 200’ (The Hans India, Sports Page, March 12, 2021). Kudos to Hashmatullah Shahidi for scripting a history by becoming the first Afghan batsman to score a double century in Test cricket. After being awarded the Test status by the International Cricket Council in June 2017 and playing their debut match against India in June 2018, the Afghanistan Cricket Team has been performing consistently well in the format.

From learning to play in the refugee camps, enduring unending war and fickle inclusiveness policies of the cricket world to reaching its zenith, the team’s journey has been inspirational. It will be interesting to witness them performing against the world class nations in the forthcoming years.

Tushar Anand, Patna

Was Mamata attacked or not?

THIS refers to the picture of Mamata Banerjee flashed in the media. The incident happened when she was returning after filing nom-

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ination papers in Nandigram. We have to feel sorry and hope that she will recover soon to campaign for the elections. This happened when news was going around the circles that ‘Dada’ (Sourav Ganguly) will be pitted against ‘Didi’. If it was politically staged just to attract sympathy to win over the elections, we have to feel sorry for the happenings. How can it happen to a Chief Minister who had Z+ security. Is it a political ‘master stroke’ directed by TMC political strategist Prashant Kishor to garner votes for TMC in coming assembly elections?

BJP president JP Nadda claimed that he was attacked by TMC party workers when he toured West Bengal a few months ago. It seems TMC is paying on the same coin with the BJP. If a leader having a stature as high as the Chief Minister of a state was being attacked so easily in spite of high security, what would happen to the common man in the state? But it remains to be seen whether it will garner a sizable amount of votes to ‘daughter of West Bengal’ as she may campaign on a wheelchair much to the discomfort of her political opponents or will it boomerang in the ensuing elections.

Mudslinging has already started from the parties regarding security lapses, claiming sympathy etc.,. Whatever happened has happened. Time will only answer these questions. All have to keep their fingers crossed till the counting of votes is completed and the results to be declared after casting their votes in assembly elections. An independent ‘neutral’ inquiry and its find-

ings before elections can only bring the facts to the fore and punish the culprits and at the same time not bestow undue advantage to any political party.

V Nagendra Kumar, Hyderabad

II

The contradicting claims of Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee reflects her embarrassment of losing power against BJP challenges. Her charisma and criticism of opponents is no more, as her early days in Congress and later setting TMC is on the wane. She is losing confidence as the leaders of her own party are jumping into BJP. Time has come for regional parties to think. Challenging a national party by a regional party becomes an uphill task as against 1980s or 90s. Regional parties should think on what is supporting the growth of BJP.

D Kishan Prasad, Thimmapur

Modi’s 75th Independence Day

It’s heartening to learn that in memory of Mahatma Gandhi’s historical Dandi march and to commemorate 75th Independence Day, a similar march is flagged off by the Prime Minister. To evoke the patriotic feelings among people and to remember the sacrifices of the freedom



fighters a seventy five week- long celebrations are planned from now. The salt tax of colonial regime that discouraged native people to produce, store and use local product had been taken to fight against and awaken people by Mahatma. That was real cry for atmanirbharta (Self-reliance). Now the government is thinking of privatising PSUs as far as possible and saying that to be in business is not business of the government. Can such moves bring the country towards self- reliance in real sense?

Dr D V G Sankararao, Nellimarla

Water woes

THIS refers to today’s news report, “China to build dam on Brahmaputra close to India border”, (The Hans India, March 12). To devise a plan to engage China on the issue of the

Brahmaputra dams, it is important to understand two fundamental issues. One, China’s geographical position (an upper riparian State) cannot be altered. Two, the Indian and Chinese approach towards water-related issues with the neighbours have followed different trajectories. While India, as an upper riparian neighbour, has always opted for a treaty-based approach with Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, China’s approach with 11 of its neighbours with whom it shares rivers, has been more unilateral.

Beijing uses water and dams as instruments of hard politics. Unlike India, Beijing has little respect for legal conventions – the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention is an example. India does not have a water treaty with China.

In this backdrop, India needs to refine its approach. While pushing China for seamless data-sharing on Brahmaputra-related aspects such as rainfall and water flow (irrespective of the politics of the day), New Delhi must strive to make water a core issue for bilateral dialogue along with the boundary matter.

At the same time, India must focus on building water storage capacities in the Northeast so that its needs are not compromised in case of a natural or man-made crisis; draw benefits from its own rivers; and focus on building a lower riparian coalition of Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar to lobby international support for recognising Tibet’s water as a common resource.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

3-year old missing case solved

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

POLICE have resolved a missing case, reported in 2018 at Yellandu police station, while investigating an attempt to murder case.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Sunil Dutt informed the media here on Friday that a team of police was formed to investigate murder attempt made on Mandala Ramu, TRS MP of Indira Nagar, on March 4 by some assailants at Yellandu.

Cops took three suspects into custody. During interrogation, the accused, Valipireddy Raj Kamal, K Kamal and Babu Raj Pasi, all residents of Yellandu, confessed that they had murdered a man, called D Vijay Kumar and buried his body in Rajiv Nagar burial ground in the town.

A case with crime number 135/2018 was registered at Yellandu police station following the disappearance of Vijay. Based on



SP Sunil Dutt speaking to the media in Kothagudem on Friday

their confession, the police exhumed the body and identified it with the help of his relatives and clothes he wore at the time of missing.

The arrested will be produced before the court and efforts were on to nab some others involved in the case, the SP said. He ap-

preciated the case investigating officer Manugur ASP P Shabarish, CCS Inspector of Police L Adinarayana, Yellandu CI B Ramesh and SI B Srinivas and Lakshmedeipalli SI K Anajaiah for solving the murder case.

Yellandu DSP Ravinder Reddy was present.

Elect committed leader Dr Cheruku Sudhakar: Manda Krishna Madiga

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

MRPS founder-president Manda Krishna Madiga stated that justice should be done to poor and committed man like Dr Cheruku Sudhakar, who has been fighting tirelessly for the reunification of social forces. It is the responsibility of Telangana society to send Sudhakar to legislative council, he added.

On Friday, the final day for campaigning, MLC candidate for Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal constituency Dr Cheruku Sudhakar along with Manda Krishna Madiga and Srikanth Chary's father Venkatachary participated in a bike rally in Nalgonda.

Speaking on the occasion, Krishna Madiga appealed to graduate voters of Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal constituency to cast their first preference vote to Dr Cheruku Sudhakar, who is the voice of the people. He said that it's the right time to give return gift to Sudhakar by electing him as the MLC, who played key role in Telangana movement and went to jail under PD Act.

Srikanth Chary's father Venkatachary stated that casting vote to Dr Cheruku Sudhakar is like honouring his son Srikanth Chary, who sacrificed his life for separate Telangana. He urged graduate voters of Warangal-Nalgonda-Khammam constituency to support Sudhakar in the MLC election to be held on Sunday (March 14).



MLC candidate Cheruku Sudhakar along with MRPS president Manda Krishna Madiga in Nalgonda on Friday

MLC candidate Cheruku Sudhakar urged the voters to support him to render valuable services to them and to raise the issues of graduates on the floor of legislative council. He fired salvos on Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for his irresponsible attitude towards unemployed youth and employees of government and private sectors. He criticised that the TRS leaders were giving wrong facts and figures regarding jobs created in the State in the past seven years. He appealed to the graduates it is right time to teach befitting lesson to CM KCR by voting for him in the MLC election.

Bhatti's 6-day cycle yatra concludes

KHAMMAM

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's six-day cycle yatra from Bhadrachalam to Khammam headquarter protesting hike in gas, petrol and diesel prices has concluded in Khammam on Friday. Thousands of party leaders and activists welcomed the cycle yatra at the entry point of Khammam town.

The cycle yatra began in Bhadrachalam on March 7 and covered 240 km in the erstwhile Khammam district. Bhatti's cycle yatra got good response from the public all the way in the district and he interacted with people and inquired about the problems they were facing.

During his yatra, Bhatti Vikramarka came down heavily against the Union and State governments for failing in controlling the increasing fuel prices. He also campaigned for the party candidate Ramulu Naik for graduate MLC elections.

At the concluding meeting at Khammam town on Friday, Vikramarka called upon the people to teach a fitting lesson to the ruling TRS and BJP in the coming graduate MLC elections.



Congress leaders welcoming CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in Khammam town on Friday

Singireddy seeks Anganwadis' support for TRS MLC candidate

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

AGRICULTURE Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy asked Anganwadi teachers to support TRS candidate Surabhi Vani Devi in the MLC elections, during Atmeeya Sammelanam at his residence here on Friday. If TRS wins the MLC elections from Mahabubnagar-Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy constituency, then the government will get additional encouragement and enthusiasm to do more for the welfare of graduates, unemployed and employees in the region, he added.

Addressing them, the Minister stated it was Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who upheld the self respect of Anganwadis and enhanced their salaries from Rs 7,500 to Rs 10,500. "Today Anganwadis are the real back bone of each and every village as they are protecting children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and the people by providing nutritious food and other healthcare



Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy speaking at Atmeeya Sammelanam with Anganwadi teachers in Wanaparthi on Friday

services on a regular basis. More than 70,000 Anganwadis in Telangana have benefited with the salary hike. Not just increased the salaries, but also filled vacant posts of Anganwadis,

assistants and ayahs," he said. Stating that Anganwadis are still facing several problems and issues, Niranjan Reddy assured the TRS government is committed to resolve all those, in a

phase-wise manner. Along with the Minister, Markfed Director Vijay, TRS Labor division president Vippaturi Vikram Reddy and others participated in the programme.

A year after first case, AP in 4th slot in Covid numbers

SURYA DESARAJU
AMARAVATI

A staggering 8,91,178 people were infected with the coronavirus disease in the state in 365 days since the state recorded its first case, an Italy returnee, on this day, March 12, last year.

The state now stands fourth in the country's Covid-19 chart behind Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka.

It averaged 2,441.58 Covid-19 cases per day in the last one year.

It was on March 12, 2020, the state reported its first Covid-19 case when a man who returned to Nellore from Italy tested positive. The second case was recorded a week later.

Through lockdown 1.0 (from March 24) to lockdown 4.0 (May 31), 3,668 coronavirus cases were registered in the state, at an average of 53.9 per day in 68 days.

The government authorities had attributed the exponential surge in Covid-19 virulence in AP to outsiders (people coming from other states and countries) after Unlock 1.0 but the last such cases (10) were reported on July 17.

In all, 2,461 people from other states and 434 foreign returnees tested positive for coronavirus after the Unlock (from June 1).

When it saw a peak in the months of August-September last year, Andhra Pradesh once ranked second in the country in total pandemic infections but the curve took a dip in subsequent months and seemed to have flattened, though there has been a little rise in cases once again in the last few days.

Health department officials, however, have not confirmed whether the state was heading for a so-called second wave now as the infection positivity rate was well below one per cent.

The government has spent about Rs 1,100 crore on Covid-19



...reports highest after 2 months

AMARAVATI

THE state reported 210 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Friday, the highest after two months, pushing the gross up to 8,91,388.

In 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday, 140 patients had recovered and one more succumbed in the state, the latest bulletin said. The number of active cases rose to 1,227 after a total of 8,82,981 recoveries and 7,180 deaths, it said.

Chittoor district reported 85 new cases, the largest single day addition in any district in close to two months, which took its active caseload to 431, the highest in the state

now. After a long gap, East Godavari district reported 41 cases in a day, taking its cumulative to 1,24,583, with 111 active.

Guntur added 18, Visakhapatnam 16, Krishna 14 and Anantapur 12 new cases, while the remaining seven districts reported less than eight cases each.

Krishna district saw one more COVID-19 fatality.

Krishna has 160 active cases now, the second highest in the state.

The state has so far completed 1.44 crore tests, at the rate of 2.70 lakh per million, with an overall infection positivity rate of 6.17 per cent.

care, including infra creation.

On August 1 last year, a record 12,750 Covid-19 patients had recovered in a day in the state.

The highest toll in a day (97 each) was reported on August 14 and 22 while a record number of 10,830 fresh infections were reported on August 26, the peak.

Government data revealed that between August 1 and 31, a total of 2,84,562 coronavirus cases were reported in the state, 2,53,912 patients had recovered and 2,562 died, which were by far the

largest numbers in a month.

The peak was so high in August last that the infection positivity rate shot up to 16.89 per cent.

From zero during the initial days of the pandemic, a record number of 88,780 tests were conducted in a day on November 1 as the state government ramped up required infrastructure, creating 150 laboratories in quick time.

More than 1.44 crore tests were conducted so far, that turned out an overall infection positivity rate of 6.19 per cent.

YSRCP says both welfare, development top priority

AMARAVATI

THE YSRCP on its 11th formation day on Friday said that "development" and "welfare" of the people of the state stand above all else for the party.

On the occasion, Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy hoisted the party's flag at its central office at Tadepalli.

He hailed the YSRCP's achievement since its inception, adding that the party has fared excellently in the recent panchayat elections.

YSRCP leader Dadi Veerabhadra Rao said: "The party has set a new record after it secured over 85 per cent seats in the recently held panchayat polls."

Meanwhile, party leader and MP Avinash Reddy hoisted the party flag at its auditorium in Kadapa district and also cut a cake to usher in the 11th year of the party's formation.

In Poranki in Vijayawada, YSRCP MLA Koluasu Parthasarathi celebrated the day by cutting a cake, which also witnessed a large gathering of the party cadres. In Chittoor district, panchayat raj minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy hoisted the party flag on its formation day.

Ramachandra Reddy said YSRCP flag has always found its place in the hearts of the people



YSRCP general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy along with Ministers and MLAs taking part in cake cutting on the occasion of party formation day at party central office in Tadepalli on Friday

- Party leaders and cadres cut cake and hoist party flag across the state
- Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy says YSRCP flag always find its place in the hearts of the people
- Leaders stress that Chief Minister has already fulfilled the promises he made to the people during elections

and underlined that the Chief Minister has fulfilled all the promises made to win their appreciation.

He also worked more development as well as voting for the welfare of the people, among party's top priorities.

In Visakhapatnam, YSRCP formation day was celebrated on a grand scale with the participation of several party cadres and lead-

ers, including MLA Adeep Raju, party city chief Vamsi Krishna, among others.

Raju and Krishna hoisted the party flag in the presence of former minister Paspuleti Balaraju, Rehman, Tainala Vijaya Kumar, Chokakula Venkat Rao and Chintalapudi Venkataramaiah. Raju added that Jagan Mohan Reddy had started the party for the welfare of the people.

Bank strike on March 15, 16

Continued from P1

The government has proposed to privatise two PSBs and one general insurance company in the financial year 2021-22. The government has already privatised IDBI Bank by selling its majority stake to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 2019 and merged 14 public sector banks in the last four years. Conciliation meetings – before the Additional Chief Labour Commissioner on March 4, 9 and 10 – did not yield any positive result, said All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) general secretary C H Venkatachalam in a statement.

Members of UFBV include All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE), All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) and Bank Employees Confederation of India (BEFI).

Special officers appointed for 4 civic bodies

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH the term of the local elected bodies of four municipalities end this month, the Telangana government on Friday appointed Special Officers to run the administration. Warangal (Urban), Khammam and Siddipet Collectors have been appointed as Special Officers to Greater Warangal and Khammam Municipal Corporations and Siddipet municipality. Additional Collector (Local Bodies), Nagarkurnool district, has been appointed as special officer to Achampet municipality. The term of the local urban bodies of Warangal, Khammam and Achampet would end on March 14 and Siddipet local body term would be expired on March 15, an official order said.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor,
Survey No.: 10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

The below mentioned borrowers have failed to repay the loan and redeem the gold ornaments within the stipulated time in spite of several reminders. The Gold Jewellery/ ornaments pledged under the said loan accounts by the below listed borrowers will be sold in public/ Online/ private auction at our Branch premises on **22-03-2021 at 10.30 AM**. Those willing to participate are requested to contact the branch. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day, the same will follow the subsequent days on the same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir. The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost. For any queries and terms and conditions contact branch. For details of branch address visit www.janabank.com.

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Gross Weight of Pledged Gold Ornaments
1	30838730000301	Santosh Santosh / Shiv Kumar	6.85
2	30838730000290	Kajal Kajal / Ramesh Singh	9.52
3	46168740000011	Paritosh Bohra / Jaideep Chand Bohra	19.82
4	46168740000040	Nagma Parveen / Mohiddin Khan	15.79
5	46168740000063	Ashish Goswami / Mahesh Chand Goswami	65.90
6	46168740000076	Ashish Goswami / Mahesh Chand Goswami	39.74
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., GROUND FLOOR, NO.74, RAJAPUR ROAD, SHRI RAM ARCADE, DEHRADUN-248001, INDIA.			
7	30868730000359	Anand Kumar / Satish	11.09
JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD., NO.65, 65(1-2) GOUND FLOOR, PURWA BALI, GANESH PUR, PERGANA AND TEHSIL-ROORKEE, HARDWAR DISTRICT-247667, INDIA			
Place: Uttarakhand Date: 13.03.2021		Sd/- Authorised Officer Jana Small Finance Bank Limited	

Color calibration bars and registration marks.

SCAN

Woman kills husband who had five wives

NAGPUR: A woman has been arrested here for allegedly killing her husband, a police official said on Thursday. Swati Laxman Malik (28), the accused, was the fifth wife of victim Laxman Ramlal Malik (65), a resident of Jaripatka, police said. According to police, Laxman had disowned his younger son from Swati as he suspected her fidelity. On Monday, Swati allegedly met Laxman at his friend's office where he was staying after leaving home. She tied her hands behind a chair and they had sex, after which she allegedly slit his throat with a knife. After learning from a cab driver that he had dropped Swati outside Laxman's place on Monday, police grilled her and she confessed to the crime, an official said. The two used to have disputes over money, he said. According to police, Laxman, who retired as sanitation worker from a hospital, did not get along with any of his five wives or his children. (PTI)

Kamal Haasan to contest from Coimbatore South

CHENNAI: Actor-turned politician Kamal Haasan would make his electoral debut, contesting from Coimbatore South constituency in the April 6 Tamil Nadu assembly elections. The Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) president made the announcement here on Friday, releasing the second list of his party's candidates. Remembering his late father Sreenivasan, Haasan expressed confidence that the people of his constituency would enable him to voice his views in the assembly by voting for him. "My father's dream was I should become an IAS officer and then enter politics. Though I could not realise his dream (of becoming an IAS officer), my party comprises many (former) IAS officers. That is a proud moment for us," he told reporters. (PTI)

India now an 'electoral autocracy'

NEW DELHI: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday said India is now an "electoral autocracy" in response to media reports on Swedish Institute's democracy report that downgraded India. "Modi-led government in India has used laws on sedition, defamation and counter terrorism to silence critics. India's level of liberal democracy registered a steep decline since its high in 2013. What a shame," he said quoting from the report. This comes after another global report by a US government-funded NGO, Freedom House downgraded India's status from "free" to "partly free" and claimed that "political rights and civil liberties have eroded in India since Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2014". The government has strongly rebutted the Freedom House report and called it "misleading, incorrect and misplaced", while asserting that the country has well established democratic practices. (PTI)

Toddy movement to contest TN polls

COIMBATORE: Seeking to tap and supply toddy, the Tamil Nadu Toddy Movement (TTM) has decided to field candidates against Chief Ministerial candidates of major political parties in the state. Accordingly, TTM state convenor L Kathiresan filed his nomination at Edapadi Assembly constituency, where incumbent Chief Minister K Palaniswami is contesting, the secretary of the movement S Nallasamy said. The TTM would also file nomination against DMK president and Chief Ministerial candidate M K Stalin at Kolathur in Chennai on March 15, he said. Toddy-tapping is banned in Tamil Nadu some three decades ago, even as it was allowed in other southern states, Nallasamy said. The issue would be taken to the court of the voters as a massive agitation as was done for the traditional sport jallikattu (bull-taming), he said. (PTI)

CORONAVIRUS INITIATIVE

Quad leaders set to roll out vaccine at historic summit

NEW DELHI

THE most significant among the deliverables envisaged in the historic summit of leaders of the Quad countries is a coronavirus vaccine initiative that will allow new manufacturing capacity to be added in India for export to the Indo-Pacific region, sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga at the first summit of the Quad leaders which will be held virtually this evening. Under the initiative to contain the coronavirus pandemic, it is envisaged that vaccines will be developed in the US, manufactured in India, financed by Japan and US, and supported by Australia, the sources said.

The leaders will also discuss regional and global issues of shared interest, and exchange views on practical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, they said. The summit will provide an opportunity to exchange views on contemporary issues such as post-pandemic recovery, resilient supply



President Joe Biden interacts during a virtual meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, from the State Dining Room of the White House on Friday

chains, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security, and climate change, they added.

According to the sources, the vaccine initiative will allow new manufacturing capacity to be added in India for exports to the Indo-Pacific region and it will not impinge on the country's existing manufacturing capacities. They said the pooling of individual capacities and strengths by Quad countries is aimed at expediting global vaccine delivery and it will help meet the demand-supply gap, focusing on the Indo-Pacific region.

They said India's role in the 'Quad Vaccine Initiative' will project and re-inforce the country's credentials as a trusted, reliable manufacturer and supplier of quality vaccines. "It will appreciably expand our 'Vaccine Maitri' effort. It will strengthen India's standing as the 'pharmacy of the world', as a critical node in global health supply chains, and as a selfless contributor to global health security," said a source.

The sources said the impact of the 'Quad Vaccine Initiative' on overcoming the pandemic will be noteworthy as the bloc's model

of enlightened, humanitarian and collective action through supply of vaccines will also offer a template for peace, cooperation and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

The genesis of the Quad lies in 2004 when the four countries formed a "core group" for a joint response to the Indian Ocean tsunami to undertake rescue and relief operations. In many senses, that pioneering effort still determines the core identity of Quad, and the instinct for collective welfare and security for the people of the Indo-Pacific. The salience of the Quad has run in parallel with the emergence of the Indo-Pacific as a key strategic region.

With a growing similarity of assessments about geopolitical dynamics in the region, in 2017, the Quad dialogue resumed at the official level. In November 2017, the four countries gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence. The four Quad member countries have been resolving to uphold a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific amid growing Chinese assertiveness in the region. (PTI)

'Cooperation between countries should not target third party'

K J M VARMA
BEIJING

AHEAD of the Quad summit on Friday, China said exchanges and cooperation between countries should contribute to mutual understanding rather than "targeting" a third party and refrain from "pursuing exclusive blocs". US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will attend the virtual summit, which is the first conclave of the top leaders of the Quadrilateral alliance, on Friday.

Known as the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue," representatives for the four-member nations have met periodically since its establishment in 2007. Asked for China's reaction to the Quad conclave, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "exchanges and cooperation between nations should contribute to the mutual understanding and trust among nations, rather than targeting a third party or damaging the interest of a third party."

"We hope that relevant countries uphold the principles of openness, inclusiveness and win-win results and refrain from pursuing exclusive blocs

and do things that are conducive to regional peace, stability and prosperity," he said. The meeting to be held virtually is expected to last about 90 minutes, during which all the four leaders would also lay out their vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, amidst China flexing its muscles in the strategically-vital region.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the



South and East China Seas. Beijing has also made substantial progress in militarising its man-made islands in the past few years. Beijing claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. But Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims.

In the East China Sea China has territorial disputes with Japan. The evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific region in the wake of China's increasing military muscle-flexing has become a major talking point among leading global powers. The US has been favouring making Quad a security architecture to check China's growing assertiveness.

Mumbai's 90% Covid-19 patients in past 2 months from highrises

MUMBAI

AS many as 90 per cent patients in Mumbai, who tested positive for COVID-19 in January and February this year, were residents of high-rise buildings, while the remaining 10 per cent were from slums and chawls, the city civic body has said. However, the situation has changed to some extent this month as the number of cases from slums are also going up, civic officials said. Of the total number of 23,002 people, who tested positive for COVID-19 in the first two months of this year, 90 per cent were residents of building and 10 per cent others from slums and chawls, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said in a release. "But we are now receiving a large number of patients from slums as well. Most of them are from middle and lower class background," a senior doctor of a civic hospital, who did not wish to be named, said. The number of coronavirus containment zones and sealed buildings in the city increased by 170 per cent and 66.42 per cent, respectively, from the beginning of this month, the civic body said. According to the BMC's COVID-19 dashboard, while the city had 10 containment zones and 137 sealed buildings on March 1, the number of containment zones increased to 27 and sealed buildings to 228 on March 10. The dashboard pointed out that of the 7.46 lakh people living in these zones, over 23 per cent were from slums and chawls, while the remaining 77 per cent were from sealed buildings. An assistant municipal commissioner said the number of COVID-19 cases from slums has certainly gone up, but it cannot be called a spike. Also the patients are scattered across slums and not concentrated in any particular pocket of the slums. Mumbai's coronavirus tally till Thursday night was 3,38,631, while the death toll was 11,515. (PTI)

Gurdeep Singh takes oath as Pakistan Senator

ISLAMABAD

GURDEEP Singh from the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party took the oath on Friday as a Senator, becoming the first turban-clad Sikh representative in the upper house of Pakistan's Parliament. Singh, from the party of Prime Minister Imran Khan became the first turban-clad Sikh representative from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan's Senate on March 3. He defeated rival candidates on a minority seat by a huge margin in the election to the upper chamber of Parliament.

Singh secured 103 votes in the House of 145 whereas Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur) candidate Ranjeet Singh secured just 25 votes and Asif Bhatti of the Awami Na-



tional Party received 12. Forty-seven other Senators also took oath on Friday. Senator Sayed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, who has been nominated as the presiding officer, administered the oath to the members-elect. They have been sworn in as Senators for a term of six years (2021-27).

After taking oath as a member of the Senate, Singh told PTI over phone that he would work for the betterment of the minority community in the country. He was confident that being Senator he

would have the opportunity to serve his community in a better way. Singh, who is in his late forties, also serves as vice president of the PTI's central minority wing. He hails from Swat district. He was previously elected as a Minority Councilor from Chakesar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2005.

Singh, belongs to one of the most influential Sikh families in the region. Following the Partition, his ancestors left India to settle in Chakesar. His father was a known grain trader. His sister was married to Sardar Soren Singh, who served as special assistant to the chief minister, during the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party-led government in the province. Sardar Soren was assassinated in Buner in 2016. (PTI)

EC should find out who were behind 'attack' on Mamata Banerjee: TMC

KOLKATA

THE Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Friday said the Election Commission of India (ECI) should find out the perpetrators of the "attack" on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a poll campaign at Nandigram on March 10. TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said that the "attack" was carried out by those who were "scared of her popularity". "We have raised a question about the responsibility and impartiality of the ECI. The commission has changed the DGP and ADG of state police. They can do so.

"But what about plugging loopholes in the proper security arrangements of a public figure like Mamata Banerjee?" Chatterjee asked. The TMC leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda lacked "basic courtesy to enquire about the health condition of the only woman chief minister in the country." Banerjee suffered injuries after she was allegedly attacked by unknown miscreants while canvassing in Nandigram constituency.



TMC supporters participate in a silent march condemning the alleged attack on West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram, in Nadia district on Friday

DMK names candidates for 173 seats

- To fight rival AIADMK in over 100 seats
- 61 seats to allies, with the Congress taking the lion's share of 25

CHENNAI

DMK president M K Stalin will seek a third term from his Kolathur constituency here for the April 6 Assembly elections while son Udhayanidhi will make his electoral debut this time, as the opposition party is pitted in a direct fight with arch-rival AIADMK in over 100 seats.

Nearly half of the 173 nominees were sitting MLAs representing various constituencies, according to the list released by Stalin at a press conference at DMK headquarters Anna Arivalayam here, on the day the nomination process started.

Udhayanidhi will fight from the Chepauk-Triplicane constituency, represented by the late J Anbazhagan who succumbed to COVID-19 last year. Udhayanidhi, an actor-producer, is a third generation politician from the DMK's first family, following the footsteps of his late grandfather and former DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi and father Stalin.

Stalin retained 79 sitting MLAs including seniors Durai Murugan, K N Nehru, K Ponmudi, MRK Panneerselvam, P Geetha Jeevan and Poongothai Al-



Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President MK Stalin visits the memorial of his father and late DMK chief M Karunanidhi before releasing his party's candidate list ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections, in Chennai on Friday

adi Aruna-- all former ministers, besides legislators such as TRB Raja, Anitha Radhakrishnan, S R Raja, M Subramanian and R Sakkarapani. Stalin said he will file the nomination on March 15 and embark on the next leg of the campaign. Since many of the parties including the Vaiko-led MDMK will be contesting on DMK's Rising Sun symbol, the lead partner will be effectively in fray in 187 seats, he added.

DMK has allotted 61 seats to allies, with the Congress taking the lion's share of 25. The DMK, out

of power since 2011, is eyeing a comeback by dethroning the ruling AIADMK and has stitched up a rainbow coalition comprising the Congress, the Left, MDMK, VCK and other smaller outfits, apportioning them a total of 61 of the 234 seats at stake.

The party will lock horns in what promises to be an intense political battle with the AIADMK in 122 seats, including that of Chief Minister K Palaniswami's Edapadi and his deputy O Panneerselvam's Bodinayakanur constituencies. While a relatively lesser known T

Sampathkumar will take on the chief minister on his home turf, popular local leader and former AIADMK MLA Thanga Tamilselvan will challenge Panneerselvam, who incidentally filed his nomination on Friday. Tamilselvan was one of the 18 AIADMK MLAs disqualified earlier for siding with AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran before he joined the Stalin-led dispensation. He had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Theni on AMMK ticket but lost to Panneerselvam's son OP Ravindranath.

Exuding confidence of a successful show at the hustings, Stalin said the list released by him today was not merely that of candidates but a "success list." "It should be presumed Kalaighnar (Karunanidhi) is contesting," he said about the polls that would be the first full Assembly elections to be held in the absence of both Karunanidhi and his rival, the late CM J Jayalalithaa. "The DMK is facing the polls with great confidence as it wants to provide a new dawn to Tamil Nadu which is suffering badly in the last ten years (of AIADMK rule)," he said. (PTI).

Woman foils man's bid to break open ATM, accused held

PALGHAR

AN alert woman foiled a man's attempt to break open an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) of a bank in Maharashtra's Palghar district, following which the accused was arrested, a police official said on Friday. The incident occurred at Valiv locality in Vasai early on Thursday, he said. "Around 3 am, the 26-year-old woman spotted the man tampering with the ATM. She immediately downed the shutter of the kiosk and called the police," the official of Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police commissionerate said. The police rushed to the spot and nabbed the accused, identified as Salim Mansuri, he said. He has been booked under IPC sections 379 (theft), 427 (mischievous causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and others, he added. (PTI)

SCARY SIGHT



Campers are seen from the opening of a tent as they watch Mount Sinabung erupting in Karo, North Sumatra, Indonesia. The 2,600-meter (8,530-foot) volcano unleashed an avalanche of searing gas clouds flowing down its slopes during eruption on Thursday.

BIZ BRIEFS

Mavcomm in SFURTI panel

Mavcomm Consulting said that it has been empaneled for the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI), an initiative by the Ministry of MSME. Technical agency empanelment has been done under MSME Technology Development Centre (PPDC), Meerut to provide technical and handholding support for SFURTI clusters. The company will identify potential clusters and manage related activities for SFURTI. Anand Mahesh Talari, Managing Director of Mavcomm Consulting, said: "In addition to our business focus, Mavcomm Consulting has been actively engaged in various activities that contribute towards nation's development. Our empanelment for SFURTI allows us to contribute to the growth of traditional Industry artisans and rural entrepreneurs."

CenterFresh's new product

Center Fresh, the brand from Perfetti Van Melle India, has launched Center Fresh Mints Clean Breath. The three-layer product is made using compressed mint technology with zinc lactate trapped in the central layer which is available in menthol eucalyptus flavor and clinically proven to offer intense cooling and freshness that lasts for 60 minutes. The product is available in butterfly shape and priced at Rs 1. Rohit Kapoor, Director Marketing, Perfetti Van Melle India, said: "As people begin to step out for work and other commitments, they will need to feel fresh and confident. Clean breath proposition offers fresh breath confidence for a prolonged duration to our consumers and the communication for this launch highlights this with a high stakes interview situation."

Women increasingly becoming drivers of economic growth

IN BANKING SECTOR, MANY WOMEN HAVE BROKEN GLASS CEILING

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

Women's contribution to the economic development of any country is enormous. The only difference is that the role of men is highlighted and that of women tends to remain unknown. In agriculture, for instance, much is being talked about farmers, but it was only on Women's Day that women farmers held a special demonstration as part of the current agitation on Delhi's borders. Similarly, there are large numbers of women in the industrial workforce, but little is known about their role in making sure factory operations run smoothly. There are some role models, however, that one cannot overlook and underline the fact that women are increasingly becoming drivers of economic growth.

One such person is Ela Bhatt who set up the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Gujarat that has gone on to become a template for women's co-operatives. The formation of women's cooperatives and self-help groups throughout the country has also become a testament to the fact that women are efficient at repaying loans as also in making their associations work efficiently. At the other end of the spectrum is billionaire entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar Shaw who demonstrated that a woman can set up a successful business venture based on biotechnology. There are other women in industry, but many are not rated highly simply because they are scions of entrenched business houses. This is strange given that most men heading these large conglomerates are also part of business dynasties. Yet these well-known persons are given their due as corporate change-makers.

One segment of the economy that has fortuitously had many women breaking the glass ceiling



is the banking sector. Many women have been heads of private-sector banks including Naina Lal Kidwai, Kalpana Morparia, Renuka Ramnath and Shikha Sharma. In the public sector, it was left to Arundhati Bhattacharya to become the first head of the State Bank of India (SBI). One of her lasting gifts to women working in the SBI was a two-year sabbatical leave policy for female employees to be used either for maternity or elder care. She also launched free vaccination against cervical cancer to all the bank's female employees.

While this is all good news, as far as the bulk of women's employment is concerned, there is considerable worry over the fact that female labour participation in the workforce has gradually declined over the past three decades. Female labour force participation (FLFP) fell from 30.3 per cent in 1990 to 20.5 per cent in 2019, according to World Bank data. In the case of men, however, it declined from a high of 84 per cent to 76.8 per cent. The reasons for this sharp fall in the case of women have not yet been accurately identified. It is presumed that one reason could be greater number of years spent in being educated and acquiring more skills. Another possibility could be that more women are being employed in the informal sector for which there is no accurate data available.

The situation has worsened

during the pandemic. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), which does regular studies on unemployment has found that the FLFP for urban women fell to 6.9 per cent in November last year. This may have improved over the last few months, but indicates a worrisome trend as urban women are expected to find greater job opportunities than in rural areas.

As far as the rural and agriculture sector is concerned too, it has to be accepted that women do as much work in the fields as men. In addition, they also do household chores, making their burden even greater. Research studies have shown that women's share of work on farms ranges from 33 to 50 per cent of the total manual work, though organic farming puts greater strain on women than conventional modes of farming.

It is interesting to note that the government has actually described the increasing role of women in this sector as the 'feminisation' of agriculture in a special note on this issue in the Economic Survey of 2017-18. This was attributed largely to the increase in migration to urban areas. As a result, women took on multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs and labourers. In fact, the Survey notes that globally there is empirical evidence that women have a decisive role in ensuring food security and preserving local agro-biodiversity. Not only those

rural women are now responsible for the integrated management and use of diverse natural resources to meet daily household needs. It was thus felt that the gender-based differentiation towards access to land, water, credit, technology and training needed to be addressed in some way. The positive aspect of this analysis is that policies are now being framed to improve the entitlements of women farmers.

While a great deal needs to be done to improve the status of women in the rural areas, urban areas have been shown greater penetration of women in the educated and highly skilled categories. Increasing numbers of women are seeking to enter technical areas like engineering and science as well as management. In addition, women are gradually entering into the arena of startup ventures though as yet men continue to dominate this space. A study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) found that only 5.9 per cent of women were the sole founders of startup ventures in 2018-19. At the same time, many women have been co-founders of startups along with men and several of these have been successful.

The biggest unicorn right now headed by a woman is Nykaa, which is growing by leaps and bounds during the pandemic as the demand for online cosmetics grew exponentially.

The role of women in business and the economy is thus rising rapidly over the past few decades. Some issues, however, need to be examined in detail such as the decline in FLFP as well as according women farmers an equal status in terms of access to resources. Women's Day on March 8 every year thus comes as an annual reminder that women of the country have come a long way since independence, but there is still a long road ahead to achieve their full potential.

Inflation hits 3-month high of 5.03% in Feb

NEW DELHI

RETAIL inflation rose to a three-month high of 5.03 per cent in February mainly on account of higher food prices, government data showed on Friday. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation stood at 4.06 per cent in January. The previous high was witnessed at 6.93 per cent in November 2020.

The rate of price rise in the food basket accelerated to 3.87 per cent in February, as against 1.89 per cent in the preceding month, as per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Inflation in the 'fuel and light' category remained elevated at 3.53 per cent during the month vis-a-vis 3.87 per cent in January. The inflation print in 'oil and fats' segment moved up to 20.78 per cent from 19.71 per cent. For fruits, it grew to 6.28 per cent from 4.96 per cent, while in case of vegetables, the rate of deflation was softer at (-)6.27 per cent against (-)15.84 per cent in the preceding month. Among others, milk and products, pulses and products, and eggs had inflation prints at 2.59 per cent, 12.54 per cent and 11.13 per cent respectively. The corresponding rates were 2.73 per cent, 13.39 per cent and 12.85 per cent in January.

For health category, the rate



Industrial production contracts 1.6% in Jan

Industrial production re-entered the negative territory by contracting 1.6 per cent in January, mainly on account of the decline in output of capital goods, manufacturing and mining sectors. The output of the manufacturing sector - which constitutes 77.6 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) - shrank by 2 per cent in January, as against a growth of 1.8 per cent during the same month last fiscal, as per data released by the government on Friday.

of price rise was higher at 6.33 per cent as against 6.02 per cent and for 'transport and communication', it rose to 11.36 per cent from 9.32 per cent in January.

Sandeep Malhotra, CEO, IF-FCO Kisan Sanchar, said, "Consumer price index has inclined up, primarily on account of food prices, particularly edible oils in-line with trends exhibited in international market."

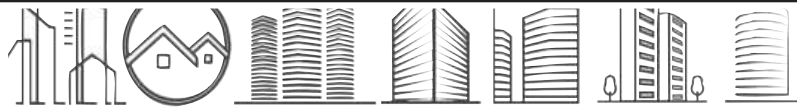
Mkt snaps 3-day rising streak as RIL, banks drag

MUMBAI

SNAPPING its three-session rising streak, equity benchmark Sensex tumbled 487 points on Friday as investors offloaded RIL, banks and auto stocks amid a lacklustre trend overseas.

After gyrating 1,283 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index ended 487.43 points or 0.95 per cent lower at 50,792.08. The broader NSE Nifty tanked 143.85 points or 0.95 per cent to end at 15,030.95. Bajaj Auto was the top

loser in the Sensex pack, falling 3.10 per cent, followed by Maruti, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement. Index heavyweight Reliance accounted for most of the index's losses. Only four Sensex constituents closed in the green - PowerGrid, Titan, ONGC and Infosys, rising up to 2.28 per cent. During the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex advanced 386.76 points or 0.78 per cent, while the Nifty rose 92.85 points or 0.62 per cent.



REAL CORNER



Housing sales likely to drop 34% in FY21

A sharp K-shaped recovery expected in FY22 in India due to rise in demand

NEW DELHI

HOUSING sales in volume terms is likely to decline 34 per cent this fiscal across India because of the Covid-19 pandemic but demand is expected to rise in 2021-22 from a weak base, according to India Ratings and Research.

The agency expects the residential real estate sector to stage a sharp K-shaped recovery in the next financial year. "The overall floor space sold is likely to increase by 30 per cent YoY (year-on-year) in FY22 after a 34 per cent YoY decline in FY21," it said in a statement.

The agency emphasised that the overall sales in FY22 could still be around 14 per cent below FY20 level. The total residential floor space sold in India remained largely stagnant at 326 million square feet in 2019-20. The floor space sold declined 41 per cent YoY in the first nine months of this fiscal year, the rating agency said, and expected 34 per cent fall in the entire 2020-21.

India Ratings noted that Grade I players (large real estate firms) have managed to buck the trend. Their market share expanded to 15.6 per cent in the first nine months of this fiscal year as they



Grade I players (large real estate firms) have managed to buck the trend. Their market share expanded to 15.6 per cent in the first nine months of this fiscal year as they managed to report a 4.3 per cent YoY increase in sales despite the pandemic

managed to report a 4.3 per cent YoY increase in sales despite the pandemic. India Ratings said the recovery will likely be dominated by Grade I players, whose sales are likely to grow by 49 per cent YoY in FY22, after a 14 per cent YoY increase in FY21. "India Ratings and Research expects the performance of the residential real estate sector to improve in FY22 from a weak base cur-

rently. Grade I players are likely to see a surge in growth from a moderately strong base, while non-Grade I players are likely to see a reversal of the sharp decline experienced in FY21," the agency said.

India Ratings said that lower interest rate on home loans is likely to improve the affordability of house ownership. India Ratings and Research is a fully-owned subsidiary of the Fitch Group.

Demand for luxury housing goes up Delhi

NEW DELHI: The demand for luxury housing properties in the national capital has improved in the last six months on low prices and home loan interest rates, but there is a need to reduce stamp duty to give a further boost, according to industry experts.

Addressing a webinar on luxury housing market of Delhi-NCR, India Sotheby's International Realty CEO Amit Goyal said the circle rates in Delhi should be rationalised as market prices are 30-40 per cent lower than the circle rates.

Rahul Bhargava, Joint General Manager, HDFC Ltd, Anubhav Jain, CEO, Silverglades Group and Ravinder Singh Ahuja, CA, Founder RS Ahuja & Co also participated in the webinar. "In the last 8-9 years, property prices have only come down. So, it's high time that the circle rates are rationalised now. I wish there is a stamp duty cut, just like how it was done in Maharashtra and some other states. Even internationally, countries such as the UK and Malta did the same," he said in a statement.

Maharashtra and Karnataka governments have reduced the stamp duties on registration of properties. Last month, the Delhi government had reduced the circle rates of residential, commercial and industrial properties by 20 per cent for the next six months, but industry players made a case for further rationalisation.

Cement industry likely to grow 13% by volume in FY22

Set to hit a decadal high volume with an expected revival in demand from the infrastructure, urban housing sectors

NEW DELHI

THE cement industry is set to hit a decadal high volume growth of 13 per cent in the next fiscal, helped by an expected revival in demand from the infrastructure and urban housing sectors, according to Crisil Ratings.

The increased sales volume will counterweigh the impact of rising power and fuel costs on cash accruals and will keep the credit outlook of cement makers stable, the rating agency said. "While volume growth will rebound, higher cost of sales would weigh on cement profitability next fiscal," it said. Rising prices of raw materials such as diesel, pet coke or coal, and polypropylene bags may push up cost by Rs 150-200 per tonne, it said adding that freight, power and fuel constitute almost 55 per cent of the total cost of sales of cement. "Increasing share of infrastructure and urban housing means a higher proportion of sales will be from the cost-conscious non-trade channels. That would translate to marginally lower net realisation for cement companies," the agency said.

Commenting on the report, Crisil Ratings Director Nitesh

Jain said demand from the hinterland, which was a saviour for the cement industry in the pandemic impacted FY21, should sustain on the back of higher rural incomes. "Higher spends on infrastructure development would be in line with the 26 per cent increase in budgetary allocation for infrastructure in the Union Budget 2021-22. That, coupled with pent-up demand in urban housing, will drive volume



growth," he said. Operating profits could moderate by Rs 200-250 per tonne next fiscal due to higher cost and lower net realisation, said Crisil Research Director Isha Chaudhary.

However, cash accruals won't be affected as higher volumes will offset the impact of lower profit margins, she added. "Higher cash accruals will keep the net debt to EBITDA ratio salutary at 1.4-1.5 times next fiscal, despite an increase in capital expenditure," Chaudhary said.

While talking about the pandemic impacted FY21 for the cement industry, the report said it would have a volume decline of up to 2 per cent. "The swift recovery after a 31 per cent contraction in the first quarter this fiscal should limit the volume decline to just 1-2 per cent for the full fiscal," it said. Companies had slowed down Capex and chose to conserve cash amid demand disruption. Besides, ample liquidity and strong balance sheets have cushioned the impact of the pandemic on the credit profiles of cement companies.

"Incremental rural demand has offset the slump in urban housing and infrastructure. The demand rebound should spur expansion plans and the CAPEX run rate could return to the Rs 12,000-14,000 crore annual run rate from next fiscal," it said. The report also added that timely release of funds for key housing and infrastructure projects as announced in the budget for the next fiscal will be crucial for the anticipated demand growth. Moreover, any resurgence of Covid-19 cases could derail economic recovery and will therefore bear watching, Crisil added.

England win by 8 wkts

Iyer bats well but India sweats to reach 124/7 in first T20

AHMEDABAD

ENGLAND defeated India by eight wickets in the first T20 International of the five-match series, here on Friday. Jason Roy then smashed 49 off 32 balls as England overhauled the 125-run victory target in 15.3 overs.

Earlier, Invited to bat, Indian batsmen struggled to score freely before Shreyas Iyer showed the way with a dogged 67-run knock that took the hosts to 124 for seven in the stipulated 20 overs.

The home batsmen never got the momentum going in the series-opener as England's pace-heavy attack, led by

Mark Wood, used the extra bounce effectively to trouble them.

Most of the Indian batsmen went for flashy shots when placement would have served them well. The track had varied pace and required patience from batsmen. Iyer though gauged the nature of the pitch quickly and adjusted his game accordingly, playing a sensible innings that helped them cross the 100-run mark.

Laced with eight boundaries and a six, and coming off 48 balls, it is Iyer's best T20 knock. He fell in the last over.

England surprised India by opening the attack with leg-spinner Adil Rashid, who was not only economical but also dismissed Virat Kohli (0) after KL Rahul (1) dragged one back onto his stumps from

Jofra Archer (3/23).

Feeling the heat, Shikhar Dhawan - who got the opportunity since Rohit Sharma has been rested -- attempted to break the shackles with a flashy shot off Wood but completely missed the line to see his timber disturbed.

In-form batsman Rishabh Pant (21) was prompted to number four. He struck the ball clean, which included a reverse-flick off Archer for a six, but the England bowlers kept it tight for the home team, which was tottering at 34 for three in eight overs.

Pant and Iyer added 28 runs for the fourth wicket before the former hit one straight to Jonny Bairstow off Ben Stokes.

That brought Hardik Pandya to the crease, who true to his style, looked for some big hits but could not do much.

The visiting players wore black armbands in memory of former cricketer Joey Benjamin, who died Wednesday. (PTI)

England bowler Ben Stokes (2 from left) celebrates with teammates the wicket of India's Rishabh Pant during the first T20 at the cricket stadium in Sardar Vallabhai Patel Sports Enclave, Ahmedabad on Friday



SCOREBOARD

India	
Shikhar Dhawan b Mark Wood	4
KL Rahul b Jofra Archer	1
Virat Kohli c Chris Jordan b Adil Rashid	0
Rishabh Pant c Bairstow b Stokes	21
Shreyas Iyer c Malan b Chris Jordan	67
Hardik Pandya c C Jordan b J Archer	19
Shardul Thakur c Malan b Jofra Archer	0
Washington Sundar not out	3
Axar Patel not out	7
Extras: (W-2)	2
Total: (For 7 wkts in 20 Overs)	124
Fall of Wickets: 2-1, 3-2, 20-3, 48-4, 102-5, 102-6, 117-7.	
Bowling: Adil Rashid 3-0-14-1, Jofra Archer 4-1-23-3, Mark Wood 4-0-20-1, Chris Jordan 4-0-27-1, Ben Stokes 3-0-25-1, Sam Curran 2-0-15-0.	
England	
Jason Roy lbw b Washington Sundar	49
Jos Buttler lbw b Chahal	28
Dawid Malan not out	24
Jonny Bairstow not out	26
Extras: (w 3)	3
Total: (For 2 wickets in 15.3 overs)	130
Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-89	
Bowling: Axar Patel 3-0-24-0, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2-0-15-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-44-1, Shardul Thakur 2-0-16-0, Hardik Pandya 2-0-13-0, Washington Sundar 2-3-0-18-1	

Vijender will be tough, but I'm ready: Lopsan

NEW DELHI

TOUGHENED by harsh weather in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, Russia's Artshy Lopsan is all set to combat strong Indian rival Vijender Singh as well as the warm and humid Indian conditions next week during a professional bout in Goa.

The 26-year-old Lopsan arrived in New Delhi via Moscow on Friday after a long journey of more than 12 hours. He showed no signs of jet-leg. The March 19 bout against Singh will be his seventh on the pro circuit.

"I've been preparing since January to compete on the Indian soil. Since I stay in an area where the local weather conditions are very harsh at this moment, I could train outdoors only twice a week. I also did four days of indoor training including sparring," he told IANS through an interpreter.

The Russian boxer has a slight advantage over his Indian opponent because he has participated in three professional events, winning two and losing one during the Covid pandemic. Singh however, was un-

able to compete in any competition due to the pandemic. The last bout Lopsan participated in was four months back in Russia.

"I won the fight in December. It was good. Thereafter, I got an invitation to fight in India. I accepted it," he said.

Since Lopsan hasn't faced a strong opponent like Singh whose profile includes bronze in 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, part of his training has been to analyse his rival's previous pro bouts.

"I haven't faced an opponent of Singh's calibre yet. I know he is highly rated in India but I'm prepared," he said of the bout in Goa.

According to Lopsan's coach Andrei Grishenko, a good performance on Indian soil will raise the profile of his ward.

"The event was twice postponed due to technical reasons. But we continued to train hard. It's good that the competition is happening now," said Grishenko.

When asked about any specific training Lopsan had done to face the Indian boxer, Grishenko says that Singh is being ranked too high.



Bishan Bedi back home from hospital, family relieved

NEW DELHI

LEGENDARY spinner Bishan Singh Bedi is showing all the positive signs as he recovers after a few successive operations. The good news for his millions of fans globally is that he is now back home.

A former India captain, 74-year-old Bedi returned home from Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Friday evening, and that was a big relief for his family.

"He was back home last evening. He is talking, but little -- of course, naturally he is a bit weak. It will take about a week for him to settle down. Doctors have said that he may take a month to make full recovery," a source close to Bedi told IANS.

Bedi has not been keeping well for some time. First, he slipped and twisted his ankle at his Delhi residence. That was followed by other illnesses which needed a few operations.

The left-arm spinner also underwent a successful heart bypass surgery recently. He then underwent an operation to remove blood clotting in his brain. He also suffered a paralytic attack.

However, much like he was never afraid to fight the ball to batsmen, Bedi has sustained the operations and is responding to the treatment doctors have prescribed, said a family member.

In 67 Tests, Bedi bagged 266 wickets with his flight and guile. And in 10 one-day internationals, he captured seven wickets. His international career lasted more than 12 years, between 1966 and 1979.

Athens to host 138th IOC Session in 2025

ATHENS: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced Athens as the host of its 138th Session in 2025 after the Greek capital could not stage the current meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The IOC Session unanimously approved the proposal at its virtual meeting on Thursday, said a statement.

The 2025 Session will see the election of a new IOC President when Thomas Bach's second and final term ends. Bach was re-elected on Wednesday.

The next IOC Session is also scheduled ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, which will be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021. The 67-year-old Bach, who clinched gold with the West German foil fencing team at the Olympic Games Montreal in 1976, was elected as IOC President at the IOC Session in 2013 in Buenos Aires for a first eight-year term.

This term will finish on the closing day of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 on August 8 this year, as decided by the IOC Executive Board. (IANS)

3rd ODI: Lee's ton leads SA to win over Ind via DLS method

LUCKNOW

SOUTH Africa beat India in the 3rd ODI by six runs via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method here on Friday. Chasing India's 248/5, opener Lizelle Lee's unbeaten 132 off 131 balls had taken South Africa to 223/4 in 46.3 overs before the match was called off due to rain.

Lee is the first South African female cricketer to score three centuries in ODI cricket and her 132 not out is the fourth highest score in a chasing effort in the format.

The visitors were cruising towards the target when rain

interrupted play during the 47th over. They needed 28 runs to win off 24 balls and were six runs ahead of the DLS par score at the time the players left the field.

Jhulan Goswami took two wickets while Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Deepti Sharma took one wicket each.

South Africa have thus taken a 2-1 lead in the five-match ODI series which is being played at Lucknow's Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium. The fourth match will now be played on Sunday.

Earlier, Punam Raut's second consecutive half century helped India reach 248/5. Punam scored 77 and struck up important partnerships with captain Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur.

BRIEF SCORES: India 248/5 in 50 overs (Punam Raut 77, Harmanpreet Kaur 36; Shabnim Ismail 2/46) lost to South Africa 223/4 in 46.3 overs (Lizelle Lee 132 not out, Mignon du Preez 37; Jhulan Goswami 2/20) by six runs (DLS method). (IANS)



Mumbai City FC, ATK Mohun Bagan face off in summit clash

MARGAO (GOA)

MUMBAI City take on ATK Mohun Bagan in the final of the 2020/21 Indian Super League on Saturday at the Fatoroda Stadium.

The two teams had earlier faced each other in a decisive final match of the league stage in which Mumbai won 2-0 to win the League Winners' Shield.

The two teams dominated the league stage were the first two qualify for the playoffs with 12 wins, four draws and four defeats. Both Mumbai and Bagan finished the season with 40 points which was seven more than third-placed NorthEast United but Mumbai's better goal difference helped them win the Shield.

Mumbai would take confidence from the fact that they have beaten Bagan in both their matches in the league stage. However, they only managed to edge past FC Goa in the two-leg semi-finals by a penalty shootout. This is the first time that they have reached the final but coach Sergio Lobera, and a handful of his players have been here before when FC Goa lost to Bengaluru FC in 2018-19. The team though has looked confident under Lobera.

"They (ATK Mohun Bagan) are a very good team with good players and have the momentum. But the most important thing now is to put the focus on ourselves and try to do our best. We have no specific plan, only small details about the opponent. We need to work 100 per cent on our style of play," said Lobera.

There will be few selection dilemmas for Lobera, with the exception of figur-



ing out Mandar Rao Dessai's replacement. The Goan will miss the final due to suspension.

In the other corner, there is Bagan, buoyed by Antonio Habas' record in knockout games. He has won the final twice, including last season with ATK, and has a chance to create history by winning his second straight title and third overall.

"We have to compete and our idea is to win against our opponents. My team is prepared for winning. We have to analyse the match and control (our chances of) victory than (try to) control

the way they play. The opponent will play and maybe, we will have difficulties," said Habas.

The match will also decide the fate of the Golden Boot and Golden Glove winners. While Bagan striker Roy Krishna and Goa's Igor Angulo are tied on 14 goals for the Golden Boot the race for the Golden Glove is between Mumbai goalkeeper Amrinder Singh and Bagan counterpart Arindam Bhattacharja. Both players have 10 clean sheets to their name. At the moment, Arindam is in pole position, having conceded fewer goals. (IANS)

India's remaining 2022 WC qualifiers to be played in Qatar

NEW DELHI: India's remaining 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification matches will be played in Qatar, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Friday. The AFC announced centralised venues for the remaining Asian qualifiers, which also double up as qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup, which is now scheduled to take place from May 31 to June 15.

"...FIFA World Cup 2022 host Qatar, will welcome Group E opponents Oman, Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh," said the AFC in its statement.

As per the current schedule, India are set to face Qatar on June 3, Bangladesh on June 7 and Afghanistan on June 15. India were originally

scheduled to host Qatar and Afghanistan and play away from home against Bangladesh. The World Cup qualifiers have not been held since November 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

India are placed fourth in the group that also consists of Oman, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar. With three points in five games, India are out of contention to progress further in



World Cup qualifiers but still stand a chance to make it to the third round of the Asian Cup qualifiers. They are currently scheduled to face Oman and the United Arab Emirates in friendly matches on March 25 and 29 respectively. (IANS)

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