



## WINDOWS



India's Ajinkya Rahane (left) is congratulated by Australia's Steve Smith as they leave the field at the close of play on Day Two of the second Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Australia on Sunday. India were 277/5 at close of play with 82 runs ahead of the hosts Aussies who were bowled out for 195 in the first innings on Saturday ►P8

## MILITANTS ATTACK PAK CHECKPOINT IN BALOCHISTAN, KILL 7 SOLDIERS

KARACHI: At least seven Pakistani soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack in the country's restive Balochistan province, the Army said on Sunday. The militants fire-raided a Frontier Corps (FC) outpost in Harnai region of the province late last night, it said. During the intense exchange of fire, seven soldiers were killed, it said. The area was cordoned off and escape routes blocked to apprehend the fleeing militants, while a large-scale search and clearance operation was underway. "Such cowardly acts by inimical elements backed by anti-state forces will not be allowed to sabotage hard earned peace and prosperity in Balochistan," the Army said.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu releases the book titled 'Viplava Tapasvi - P V' written by Krishna Rao, in Hyderabad on Sunday

## High-level Chinese delegation in Nepal

KATHMANDU: A high-level Chinese delegation led by a vice minister of the Chinese Communist Party arrived in Kathmandu on Sunday to "take stock" of Nepal's political situation after the dissolution of Parliament and subsequent split in the ruling Nepal Communist Party. Although no specific details about the agenda of the visit are available, the four-member delegation, led by Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Guo Yezhou, will hold high-level talks during its four-day stay in the country, according to highly placed sources.



# Modi hails 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'

## Says demand of 'Make in India' products increasing

NEW DELHI

IN the last episode of his 'Mann ki Baat' address of 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the nation developed 'Aatmanirbharta' during the coronavirus crisis.

During his monthly radio programme, the Prime Minister said the supply chains got disrupted due to the pandemic all across the world, but we learnt new lessons from the crisis. "The nation also developed new capabilities. We can call this capability 'Aat-



manirbharta' or self-reliance," he added.

He said Janata Curfew became an inspiration for the whole world and many

people showed their solidarity by showing respect to our corona warriors.

Modi said people have supported 'Vocal for Local'

and urged manufacturers and industry leaders to make world-class products.

The Prime Minister appealed to the people to find out Indian alternatives of imported items of daily use and asked them to resolve to use products produced by Indians.

Modi said customers are demanding 'Made in India' toys. "This is a big change in the thought process. This is a living example of a major transformation in people's attitude and that too within a period of one year. It's not easy to gauge this

transformation," he added.

Sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh

The Prime Minister said no challenge is too big for India's youth and nothing is beyond their reach. He further said the people reverently remember the supreme sacrifice of the family of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. "This martyrdom gave a new lesson to the entire humanity & the entire country. This martyrdom did a great work of protecting our civilization. We are indebted to this martyrdom," he added.

## Listen to our 'Mann ki Baat' too: Farmers

### Farmers clink utensils, raise slogans to block PM's 'noise'

NEW DELHI

WHILE Prime Minister Narendra Modi was addressing the people of the country on Sunday through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', the protesting farmers opposed it by beating 'thalis' (plates) and clapping their hands.

Haryana farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni appealed to the Prime Minister to listen to the 'Mann ki Baat' of farmers and voices of other people as well. Gurnam Singh is the Haryana state president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) and is one of the prominent leaders leading the farmer agitation.

Opposing the 'Mann Ki



Farmers clink utensils during their protest against the new farm laws, at Ghaziipur border in Ghaziabad, Sunday

Baat' radio programme by beating a 'thali' at the Makdoli toll plaza in the Rohtak district of Haryana, Chaduni while addressing Modi said, "We are not convinced by your 'Mann ki Baat' address. You speak

your mind but do not listen to other people's voices."

The farmer agitation entered its 32nd day on Sunday. Since November 26, the protesting farmers have been camping at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghaziipur

borders with the adjoining national capital.

The protesting farmers are marching on the streets in protest against the three farm laws implemented by the central government, saying that these laws are not in the interest of the farmers, while the Centre has said opposition parties are misleading the farmers.

Several rounds of negotiations have been held to resolve the ongoing deadlock between the farmers and the central government but both sides have failed to reach a final consensus over the issue. The next round of talks between the two sides is set for December 29.

Continued on Page 5



## 'Farmers are our people'

Kejriwal urges Centre to concede their demands

PURNA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday visited the Singhu border where thousands of farmers have been protesting for the last four weeks against the three agriculture laws. The Punjab Academy of the Delhi government organised a kirtan durbar on Sunday at the Singhu border. Cont'd on P5

## EU launches Covid vax drive

NEW DELHI: Europe on Sunday launched a cross-border vaccination programme of unprecedented scale as part of its efforts to end the Covid-19 pandemic that crippled economies and claimed more than 1.7 million lives around the world.

The region of 450 million people has secured contracts with a range of suppliers for over two billion vaccine doses and has set a goal for all adults to be inoculated during 2021. While Europe has some of the best-resourced healthcare systems in the world, the sheer scale of the effort means that some countries are calling on retired medics to help out while others have loosened rules for who is allowed to give the injections. With

The European Union begins a coordinated rollout of coronavirus vaccination across its 27 member states in a drive to inoculate some 450 million people



Krystyna Matusik, a nurse from the Krakow University Hospital Intensive Care Unit, is given the first jab of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in Krakow, Poland, on Sunday

surveys pointing to high levels of hesitancy towards the vaccine in countries from France to Poland, leaders of the 27-country European Union are promoting it as the best chance of getting back to something like normal life next year. Cont'd on Page 5

## AP yet to trace 39 UK returnees

So far, 1,162 returnees sent for quarantine

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

WHILE 1,187 passengers returned from the UK were identified, the Andhra Pradesh government is yet to trace 29 others in the wake of spread of a new virus strain of Covid. Of them, six who were traced tested corona positive, including one each from East Godavari, Krishna, Anantapur and Nellore and two cases from Guntur district.

Continued on Page 5

## KCR's U-turn on regulated farming

### TS govt embraces Modi's 'One Nation One Market'

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE state government on Sunday took an U-turn on the issue of regulated farming. Extending support to Modi's concept of 'One Nation One Market' and denial of MSP, Chief Minister K



## ICC TEAMS OF THE DECADE

Dhoni named Captain of ODI, T20I teams  
Virat Kohli voted skipper of Test side

NEW DELHI: The International Cricket Council on Sunday announced the teams of the decade in Test, ODI and T20I cricket. Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin are the two Indians who feature in the Test team of the decade, with Kohli named as the skipper of the Test side. Meanwhile, the ODI and T20I sides are led by MS Dhoni. Rohit Sharma, Kohli, Dhoni and Jasprit Bumrah are the Indian players in at least one of the white-ball formats, while Ashwin and Kohli are the only Indians in the Test team.

## NGT junks plea to stall work on rapid transit system

PURNA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

THE National Green Tribunal (NGT) refused to consider a petition seeking to halt construction works running under the regional rapid transit system to connect the various NCR cities with high-speed rail lines, saying that the project is a public transport project for convenience. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said that no concrete evidence has been provided in the petition in support of claims that it would ruin parks and green areas. The panel of the NGT stated that the applicants have not approached environmental regulators who are obliged to take remedial action in case of violation of environmental



norms. The bench said, "This tribunal cannot proceed further on mere presumption that it would violate the norms of environment." It has been found that the project is for public transport facilities and in response to the applicants notice, the project operators have clearly stated that the norms will be duly complied with and all necessary measures will be taken. "We have no doubt that the statutory regulators will ensure such compliance in accordance with the law," the NGT said that the tribunal was hearing a petition filed by Ashwini Sharma and others, including the National Capital Territory Transport Corporation and others. There was a demand to stop construction activities under the Rapid Transit System (RTS).

## Centre extends validity of driving licence till March 31

NEW DELHI

THE Centre on Sunday extended the validity of driving licences, registration certificates, and other motor vehicle-related documents till March 31 due to coronavirus-induced restrictions.

"Taking into consideration the need to prevent the spread of Covid-19, it is further advised that the validity of all of the above referred documents may be treated to be valid till 31st March 2021," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in



a statement. "This covers all documents whose validity has expired since February 1, 2020 or would expire by March 31, 2021." This is the fourth extension due to the pandemic

after the Centre issued advisories on March 30, June 9, and August 24.

The ministry had earlier suggested that documents such as fitness certificate, permit (all

types), driving licence, and registration certificate would be considered valid till December 31.

"Enforcement authorities are advised to treat such documents valid till March 31, 2021," the statement read. "This will help out citizens in availing transport related services, while maintaining social distancing."

The Centre has asked all states and Union Territories to implement the recent advisory related to the ongoing pandemic so that citizens do not face hurdles.

"The government has provided for the availability of the essential goods and production thereof and has allowed the vehicles for the transport of such goods/cargo and further opening up the operation of passenger transport in view of the fact that citizens were finding it difficult to get renewed the validity of various documents due to lock-down in operation at various stages in different parts of the country and other countries world over," the statement said.