



## WINDOWS



President Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Savita Kovind pose for photographs on the opening of annual 'Udyanotsav' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday

## Tamilisai gets additional charge as Puducherry LG

NEW DELHI: Kiran Bedi will "cease to hold" the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson said on Tuesday night. Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has been given the additional charge of Puducherry. "The President has directed that Dr Kiran Bedi shall cease to hold the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry and has appointed Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana, to discharge the functions of the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry, in addition to her own duties, with effect from the date she assumes charge of her office, until regular arrangements for the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry are made," Ajay Kumar Singh, press secretary to the President, said in a statement.

## Shantanu gets pre-arrest bail

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted 'transit anticipatory bail' to Shantanu Muluk, a suspect in the 'toolkit' case related to the farmers' protest in which climate activist Disha Ravi has been arrested. Justice Vibha Kankanwadi of the Aurangabad bench of the high court granted Muluk ten days' pre-arrest bail to enable him to apply for protection before the appropriate court in Delhi. ▶P6



## 45 killed as bus plunges into canal

SIDHI/REWA: At least 45 people, including 20 women, were killed when a packed bus skidded off the road and plunged into a canal in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Tuesday morning, a senior official said. The accident took place near Patna village, around 80 km from the Sidhi district headquarters, when the ill-fated bus was on its way to Satna from Sidhi, he said. ▶P6

## Australian PM apologises after woman alleges rape in Parl

CANBERRA: Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison apologised on Tuesday to a woman who alleged she was raped in the country's Parliament by an unnamed colleague, and promised a thorough investigation into the government's workplace culture. ▶P6



# Kejri gov't completes one year in office

PURNA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

ARVIND Kejriwal was sworn in as the CM of Delhi on February 16, 2020 for the third time. Soon thereafter, the government faced a global pandemic Corona. The government fought vigorously against it with the support of the people.

During this period, the government took many steps which were later followed by other states. CM said that our doctors took initiative and gave plasma therapy treatment to the world. Home isolation was preferred and implemented by all.

"It has been a very tough year but all the citizens of Delhi have worked together. All of us together have made Delhi a model of success in the world," Kejriwal said.

"We also made efforts to reduce Delhi's air pollution. We spoke to farmers and requested them to stop stubble burning and introduced new technology to find a solution. We are working 24x7 for making the lives of people easier and will continue working."

The AAP Chief said government-run schools in Delhi have witnessed tremendous changes that help in shaping the future of poor children. "Our government schools children are receiving 98 per cent marks in Board exams. It could happen because of a vision and relentless efforts of the team that the AAP government had promised to fulfil."

In the last six years, the AAP-led Delhi government had made several promises of which many were fulfilled,



many are under process and many policies are yet to be rolled out. Among those, providing free water and free electricity up to 200 units for each family, doorstep delivery, etc. gained more attention.

The lockdown was a very difficult period. During that time one crore people were given dry ration every month.

Lunch and dinner were arranged for 10 lakh people every day. Rupees 5 thousand each were deposited in the bank accounts of one lakh 56,000 auto and taxi drivers and 10,000 rupees in the account of 44 thousand construction workers.

The government gave financial assistance of one crore rupees to the family of the Corona warriors who lost their lives.

Kejriwal said that I am happy that doorstep delivery of ration will be start from March.

The chief minister also claimed that during six years of AAP rule every child in Delhi was getting "quality" education, while people were getting "affordable" healthcare and 24-hour power supply.

## 56% residents approve 1-yr performance

NEW DELHI

FIFTY-SIX per cent residents of Delhi approve of the one year performance of AAP Delhi government. But its approval rating has dipped from 68 to 56 per cent in the last 12 months.

As per a survey by LocalCircles, 56 per cent of Delhi residents approve of the 1-year performance. Of which, 12 per cent said the performance was "excellent", 12 per cent said "very good", 16 per cent said "good", and another 16 per cent said "average". There were also 14% who said "poor", 26 per cent said "very poor", while 4 per cent couldn't say.

However, the approval rating of AAP's Delhi Government dropped in comparison to last year.

When compared to last 4 years of survey results, 36 per cent of Delhi residents in 2018 approved of AAP's Delhi Government's performance, which saw a decline by 3 per cent to 35 per cent in 2019.

It, however, saw a meteoric rise to 68 per cent of Delhi residents giving a thumbs-up to AAP's Delhi Government's overall performance.

Some of it was due to the fact that people appreciated the good governance work in healthcare, school education, and other areas and wanted the Government to be re-elected in the 2020 elections.



India's Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates with teammates the wicket of England's Dan Lawrence during the 4th day of the second Test match against England at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday. India won the match by 317 runs

## England suffer humiliating defeat

CHENNAI

AXAR Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin predictably completed the annihilation of clueless England batsmen, emphatically bringing India back in contention for the World Test Championship final with a series-levelling 317-run victory in the second Test here on Tuesday.

Debutant Patel made full use of favourable conditions to bag 5 for 60 in 21 overs while Ashwin finished with a match-haul of eight wickets, not to forget his classy hundred with the bat, demolishing England for a paltry 164 on the fourth day in pursuit of an impossible 482-run target. India have risen to second

in the WTC standings and need to at least win one more and draw another in the four-match series to make the cut for the final in June.

After a crushing 227-run defeat in the first Test, Virat Kohli couldn't have imagined a better comeback going into the crucial Day/Night Test in Ahmedabad in just over a week's time. While critics, mostly from the English side, had panned the pitch but two hundreds and three fifties by the home team batsmen showed that it was all about understanding of conditions and brilliant application from the likes of Rohit Sharma, Ashwin, Kohli, Rishabh Pant and debutant Patel.

P8

## Upset over low prices, Uttarakhand farmers destroy banana plantation

UTTAM SINGH NAGAR

Amid the ongoing debate over the merits and demerits of the new farm laws and the protests against them, small farmers are suffering due to low prices being offered to them from their pro-

duce. In yet another such heartbreaking incident, farmers in Uttarakhand were left with no option, but to destroy their banana crop, due to low prices.

The farmers, three brothers from Sitarganj area in Uttam Singh Nagar District destroyed

their 4.25 acres banana crops, Hindustan Times reported.

According to them, they had planted banana plants on the advice of horticulture officials in 2019, but when it was ready for harvest they failed to get buyers and proper rates for the crop.

## New farm laws will benefit marginal, small farmers: PM

NEW DELHI

AS the ongoing farmers' protest entered the 83rd day on Tuesday against the three contentious farm laws enacted last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi clarified that these laws will mostly benefit small and marginal farmers.

The Prime Minister said that the government's aim is to make each citizen prosper and make India 'Aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant).

Hitting out at opposition parties without taking names, the Prime Minister said that some people have been spreading rumours against these laws against which thousands of farmers mainly from Punjab and Haryana have been sitting on indefinite protest on various Delhi borders.

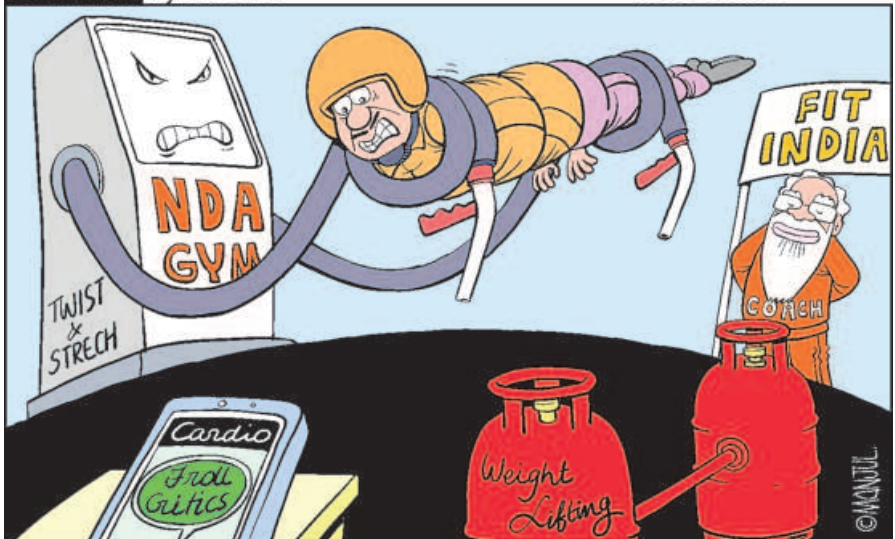
Addressing people through video conferencing after laying foundation stone and inaugurating projects at Maharaja Suheldev Memorial in Uttar Pradesh's Bahrach, the Prime Minister said that a false narrative is being spread among people against these laws for political benefits. "The new agriculture reforms will benefit small and marginal farmers the most. Some people are propagating rumours against these reforms," the Prime Minister said.

In an obvious attack on the Congress, Modi said "those who used to invite foreign firms in India are now protesting against the government which is trying to give opportunity to the Indian private companies". He said that the farmers themselves have unmasked those politicians who have been spreading rumours against these laws since they were enacted in the Monsoon Session of Parliament in September last year. The Prime Minister further mentioned how purchase of paddy by the government has doubled in Uttar Pradesh compared to previous year in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ist said that a false narrative is being spread among people against these laws for political benefits. "The new agriculture reforms will benefit small and marginal farmers the most. Some people are propagating rumours against these reforms," the Prime Minister said.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde told Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, representing the Centre, that merely saying the government is considering to steps or contemplating steps on the issue would not be sufficient. The Chief

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## List steps to regulate OTT content: SC to Centre

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre on a PIL filed by advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha for regulating content on OTT platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime by an autonomous body.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde told Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, representing the Centre, that merely saying the government is considering to steps or contemplating steps on the issue would not be sufficient. The Chief



Justice asked "What is it you are doing, a legislation or what? File an affidavit on what do you propose to do?"

The Centre's counsel submitted the issue is under deliberation, and no steps have been finalised yet. The Chief Justice replied that the court

cannot accept mere contemplation, as everybody contemplates. "Notice issued and tag the matter with pending matter," said the Chief Justice.

In October last year, the top court had sought a response from the Centre on a PIL seeking establishment of a proper institution for the monitoring and management of content on different OTT/streaming and digital media platforms.

None of the OTT/streaming platforms including Netflix, Amazon Prime, Zee5, and Hotstar have signed the

self-regulation provided by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting since February 2020, said the PIL.

"No censoring allows exploitation of creative liberty and pushes for more ideas to get incorporated which in turn lets writers, directors, and producers to experiment limitless due to which there has been more violence, sex scenes, obscene language and even characters smoking on screen - that would normally be cut or displayed alongside health warnings," said the PIL.

## 4 cases of Covid's SA variant, 1 Brazil found in India

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has found a total of 192 Covid-19 cases of the new variants of mutated SARS-CoV-2 in last two months, including four from the variant emerging in South Africa and one from the Brazilian variant, officials said on Tuesday. The remaining cases are all of the UK variant.

ICMR Director-General, Prof Balram Bhargava, however, noted that no mortality has been reported so far in the cases who contracted the UK variant as well as those who are infected by the variants from South Africa and Brazil.

About the SA variant, better known as B.1.351, Bhargava said that its cases were reported in January in four returnees from African countries. "One case was found in a person who returned from Angola, one from Tanzania and rest from persons who returned from South Africa," he said.

Bhargava added that that this variant has spread to 44 countries and the National Institute of Virology, Pune is attempting to isolate and culture the variant.

# Kanhaiya, others to appear in court on March 15

NEW DELHI

A court here has taken cognisance of a chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police against former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) President Kanhaiya Kumar and 9 others in a 2016 sedition case and summoned them on March 15. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Pankaj Sharma on Monday took the cognisance of the final report almost a year after the Delhi Police has received requisite sanctions to prosecute the accused in the case. Kumar and others, including former JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, were accused of raising anti-India slogans.

The other seven accused chargesheeted in the case are Kashmiri students Aquib

## JNU sedition case



Hussain, Mujeeb Hussain, Muneeb Hussain, Umar Gul, Rayeesa Rassol, Bashir Bhat and Basharat, some of them were then studying in JNU, Aligarh Muslim

University and Jamia Millia Islamia. "Chargesheet alongwith documents perused. The Court hereby takes cognizance of offence under section 124 A/323/465/471/143/147/149/120B IPC.

The sanction to prosecute the aforementioned accused persons has already been filed by Home Department, GNCT vide order dated February 27, 2020," the judge said in an online hearing. "After careful perusal of the charge-sheet and consideration of the material, all the accused persons mentioned herein above are summoned to face trial for the offence under section 124A/323/465/471/143/147/149/120B of IPC.

Accused persons be summoned through investigating officer for March 15. Copy of this order be also sent to all the

parties through email/Whatsapp," the judge said. The accused have been charged with offences under sections 124A (sedition), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record), 143 (punishment for being a member of an unlawful assembly), 149 (being a member of an unlawful assembly), 147 (punishment for rioting) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). As many as 36 others, including Communist Party of India (CPI) leader D Raja's daughter Aprajita, Shehla Rashid (then vice-JNUSU president), Rama Naga, Ashutosh Kumar and Banjoysna Lahiri, all former students of JNU, have been named in column 12 of the charge sheet due to insufficient evidence against them.



# Womenia



## Three Cs of making your relationship last

It's no secret that there is a growing list of what we must do in a relationship in order for it not to fall apart. As we get older, we begin to realise that love alone cannot sustain our marriages and that relationships really are a lot harder than what Hollywood has made it out to be. However, it's time to cut the chase and simplify what is actually needed for your relationship to not only survive but to also thrive.

Here are three little C words that that are the core ingredients to helping relationships function properly and remain healthy and strong:

### Compatibility

Compatibility in a relationship is one of the most underrated qualities there is, yet one of important one you need. Relationships simply will not work out if you are not matched equally with your partner. This goes beyond liking the same foods and sports but rather working out whether or not you are in align with each other on every integral level. Do you want to same things, do your values, opinions and morals line up? Do you both have the same mindset and level of commitment to the relationship? Don't kid yourself, while this may seem like I'm over exaggerating the list, you will find all these issues will come up at one point in time or another. A healthy relationship is about two individuals supporting and building each other up, not wanting to change one another. Guys if you don't want a partner to complain about who you are, then marry one that understands, supports and matches

your personality. We are the ones responsible for who we date, so make your life easier by dating someone who actually fits you.

### Communication

Without effective communication in your relationship, it simply will not survive. While this may seem like a very melodramatic thing to say, we all know it's true. The thing is guys, just because women are the ones who talk more it does not give you permission to sit back and not do your part. Good communication is when both partners make the equal effort to speak, listen, and initiate the conversations that need to happen. This goes beyond your daily chit chats and text exchanges. Active communication involves setting time aside to make talking with one another a priority. We live in a busy world and trying to discuss your partner's feelings or your future together with a few Facebook messages or broken talks in between commercial breaks is just not going to cut it.

### Commitment

Let's get one thing straight, committing to someone isn't about muttering a few promises or changing your Facebook status to 'in a relationship'. Commitment is an action daily; it is a choice of both the mind and the heart. When you choose to commit to someone it signifies you are accountable for your words, movements, and behaviour in a relationship. Essentially it means you make a decision to live and act in such a way that is edifying and loving towards your partner,

regardless of the uphill battles ahead. Commitment means not giving up when the going gets tough, and honouring the decision that you made whether you have concreted it with a piece of paper or not. This isn't just about sticking by someone, but also pledging to be the person your partner and the relationship needs you to be, about putting aside selfish behaviour and doing what is necessary to make your relationship strong and happy.

## Hyd to host biggest business women expo

The expo will be jointly organized by HITEX, Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) and Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE) is being held on the eve of the International Women's Day. The Expo with the theme 'Bounce Back' will provide largest platform for women entrepreneurs from SMEs, MSMEs and start-ups to showcase their products and services and also strive to guide and mentor women to take up entrepreneurship. Celebrating and encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit of women, different women establishments have come on a single platform to organize the Business Women Expo 2021. Government of Telangana is also supporting the Expo.

Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy, Dr Governor of Telangana Tamilisai Soundararajan, among others have consented to grace the Business Women Expo 2021. The curtain raiser programme of the same was held in HITEX on Tuesday.

Speaking about the Expo, ALEAP vice president Durga Vahini said that the expo will give an opportunity for women led business to bounce back from the Covid-related lull in the industry. "An incubation and acceleration pavilion will also be setup to provide mentoring, marketing and funding support to upcoming and budding entrepreneurs and women who want to take the dive into entrepreneurship. Women Entrepreneurs will also be provided e-marketing support through their digital platform



www.aeizone.com. The platform will help rural and semi-urban entrepreneurs' access global markets."

Vahini further said, "We have gone through an uncertain phase, scared for our future, health, safety and livelihood, it is time to march forward now, she said. Getting back to business is important and the Business Women Expo 2021. It is organized to encourage women entrepreneurs and showcase their products and services."

The other highlight will be that Women from Raj Bhavan (spouses of staff of Raj Bhavan) named as Raj Bhavan Pariwar who were trained by ALEAP will setup their stall of handicrafts at the Expo and Governor of Telangana

Tamilisai Soundararajan will be inaugurating it. Speaking on this, Sambit Mund, Senior GM of Hitex said, "The expo will also provide an opportunity to business houses to support women entrepreneurs to source their office sup-

plies manufactured by women entrepreneurs."

In conjunction with the Business Women Expo, India Lifestyle & Bridal Fashion Week Season 3 will also be held. The ILBFW will bring India's finest designers and showcase their designs and collections. Six fashion shows each day will be held as part of this wherein fashion and jewellery designers will showcase their latest collections. Amyn Farista, Jaya Misra, Mumtaz Khan, Nick Roshan, Daivd, Naveen Kumar, etc. are some of the upcoming and leading designers who will take part in the ILBFW at Hyderabad.

### Some of the important stalls in the Expo:

- One of the unique stalls at the expo will be of Hyderabad based Lyo Florals founded by Dr. Mahalakshmi V. Reddy, a scientist. It will showcase premier Dried Flowers that are freeze dried to preserve the natural beauty of the flowers and reserve the sentiments for

years. These preserved flowers are encased in attractive glass cases and aesthetically designed shadow box frames which are handcrafted and are fit for any event or budget. Promoting go-green gifting for forever memories, the company uses advanced technology of Lyophilisation to cure and care flowers.

- Women entrepreneurs Sridevi and Pallavi have come up with special socks for diabetics with special knitting and perforation to avoid injuries and be comfortable for the patients. Apart from these they will have the regular (regular, sports, kids) and customizable socks.
- Gunjan Maheshwari of Craft & Creation will be showcasing decorative items and art craft made with recycled newspapers. The arts and crafts are completely recycled and biodegradable and are handcrafted by her and her team. The utility and decorative pieces are suitable for corporate gifting.

## Everything you need to know about skin toners

### Toners play an important role to keep your skin healthy



result is plump and glowing skin, she says.

"It removes any remaining traces of dirt, grime, and impurities stuck in your pores after you wash your face. When added to your daily skincare routine and used regularly, it can have a major positive impact

on the appearance and tightness of your pores. Toners also restore your skin's pH level, smoothen your skin by refining rough patches, and improve skin tone. They also help close pores and tighten cell gaps after cleansing. It reduces the penetration of impurities and environmental contaminants into the skin."

Benefits of toner during winters, Kumar lists down

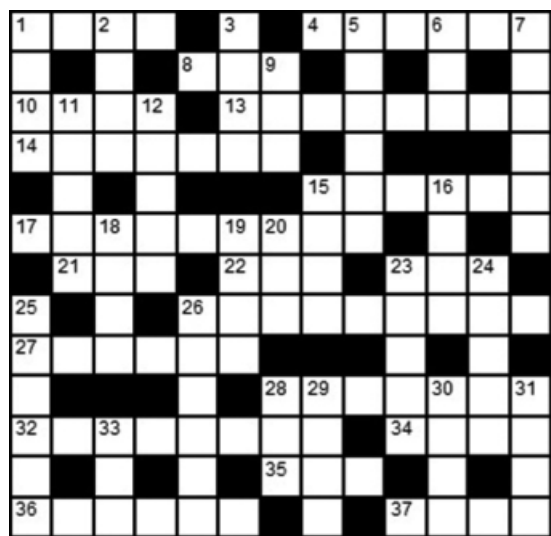
- Improves skin texture: Toners prevent moisture loss, have the ability to naturally soothe the skin, and improve uneven skin texture. This keeps your skin soft and bouncy.
- Balancing the pH of your skin: Our skin's pH balance can get out of whack after cleansing due to the alkaline nature of some soaps. When this happens, the skin needs to work overtime to return to its normal levels. This is where a toner can help by restoring this balance quickly.
- Deep hydration: If your skin is dehy-

drated, it can appear flaky, dull, and dry. Using a toner can give you smooth, radiant, and evenly toned skin.

- Prevents pores from clogging: Applying toner to a soft cotton ball or pad and gently blotting and wiping your skin can help close pores and tighten cell gaps after cleansing.

### She suggests how to use skin toner during winter

- Start by cleaning your face with a face wash suited for your skin type.
- Choose one that's free of harsh detergents and opt for products made with natural ingredients like superfoods.
- A 2-in-1 Pomegranate and Tomato toner would be a great choice instead of using toners with harsh chemicals.
- Then, dampen a cotton ball with the toner and apply it to your face.
- Allow it to dry.
- Always follow up with a moisturiser that suits your skin type.



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 16

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- Term of play in polo (6)
- To some extent (8)
- Assist or aid (4)
- Small two-door cars (6)
- Abrasive (6)
- Panaji is its capital (3)
- Sensational (5)
- Computer screen symbol (4)
- Dairy product (5)
- Monetary unit of Ecuador (5)
- Neck of mutton (5)
- Playful sprite (4)
- Sleeper's woe (5)
- Vessel or duct (3)
- Governess (6)
- Active (6)
- Snakelike fish (4)
- By which people are familiarly called - not only cats and dogs? (3,5)
- Cuts off (6)

#### Down

- Ostentatious (6)
- Persist in (4,2)
- Serpents (4)
- Interstellar clouds (7)
- Professorship (5)
- Horse (5)
- Quasimodo's creator (4)
- Meadow (3)
- Not speaking (3)
- Relating to or of a city (5)
- Killer whales (5)
- S. American "beaver" (5)
- Mongrel dog (3)
- Work unit (3)
- Public disgrace (7)
- Monetary unit of Japan (3)
- Russian physiologist who experimented with dogs (6)
- Functions (4)
- Canoes used by Eskimos (6)
- Take as one's own (5)
- Efts (5)
- Contend (3)
- Not so much (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 16

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Sania Mirza shares her beauty preference

PUJA GUPTA



Ace shuttler Sania Mirza says she has always been very particular about the skincare products she uses. "But it's definitely way more now that I'm a mother," she reveals.

"I wouldn't want to think twice before hugging or kissing my son Izhaan and that's why I only trust the best," says Sania, who has been featured in a new digital campaign by Clovia for its skincare range, Clovia Botanika which is especially for mothers.

The campaign launched with a video starring Sania, where the young mom shares her personal journey post motherhood. Sania says that motherhood is a beautiful phase but there are many physical changes that take place in a woman's life post-pregnancy. The adept sportswoman has had to contend with acne, uneven skin tone and blemishes post-partum. Being around a newborn baby, it is essential that any products that she uses to address these challenges be natural, safe and chemical-free.

The latest Clovia Botanika range includes varied options in

products such as oils, body butter, face washes, and face masks, to shampoos, conditioners, and serums. Carefully curated for the needs of new moms, the range offers solutions for problems faced during and post-pregnancy, such as hair-fall, tired/dull skin, stretch marks, dryness, acne as well as stress.

Talking about the new range, Neha Kant, Founder, Clovia said: "Regular skincare routine isn't always easy, especially for new moms, who find their priorities change post motherhood. Driving with this insight, Clovia launched a digital campaign featuring the ace tennis player with an aim to encourage women/mothers in their efforts to look after themselves."



RED FORT VIOLENCE

# Police custody of Sidhu extended to seven days

NEW DELHI

A DELHI court on Tuesday extended by seven days the police custody of actor-activist Deep Sidhu in connection with the Red Fort violence on Republic Day during the farmers' tractor parade against the Centre's three new agrilaws.

Sidhu was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Bhujali after expiry of his police custody in the case. Police sought extension of his custodial interrogation, saying it was required for further investigation and to identify other accused persons in the case.

The court had on February 9 sent Sidhu to police custody for seven days after the police alleged he was one of the main instigators of the violent incidents at the Red Fort. The police had said there are videos where Sidhu can be allegedly seen at the site of the incident. "He was instigating the crowd. He was also one of the main rioters. Several social media accounts need to be searched



to identify the co-conspirators. Also his permanent address is given as Nagpur but several places need to be visited in Punjab and Haryana to unearth further details," the police had alleged. "He can be seen coming out with the person who hoisted the flag and congratulating him. He came out and gave speeches in loud hailers and provoked the crowd there. He was the main instigator. He instigated the crowd due to which violence occurred. Several policemen were injured in the violence," the police alleged. Sidhu's counsel, however, claimed he had nothing to do with the violence and was at the wrong

place at the wrong time.

Tens of thousands of protesting farmers clashed with the police in the national capital on January 26 during a tractor parade to highlight their demands. Many of them driving tractors reached the Red Fort and entered the monument, where a religious flag was also hoisted. Over 500 police personnel were injured and one protestor died. In the FIR registered in connection with the Red Fort violence, police alleged two magazines with 20 live cartridges were snatched from two constables by protestors who also damaged vehicles and robbed anti-riot gear.

CHANDIGARH

A four-year-old boy succumbed to bullet injuries on Tuesday which he sustained in last week's wrestling arena shootout in Haryana's Rohtak district, taking the death toll in the massacre to

## Rohtak firing incident: Toll rises to six as 4-year-old boy succumbs to injuries

six. The boy was undergoing treatment at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in

Rohtak. His parents, Manoj and Sakshi Malik, were among five people killed on the spot in Friday's (February 12) shooting at the wrestling venue.

"The boy died today," a Rohtak police official said over the phone on Tuesday.

# ED files chargesheet in multi-crore plot allotment scam against Hooda

CHANDIGARH

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet in a special court in Panchkula in connection with the multi-crore industrial plot allotment scam in which former Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda, his relatives and others have been named, an official said on Tuesday.

In 2016, the CBI had filed a case against Hooda and others in connection with the allotment of 14 industrial plots during the Congress rule in the state. All the 14 industrial

plots were attached by the ED in 2019 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Others named in the chargesheet include D.P.S. Nagal (retired IAS), the then Haryana Development Authority (HUDA) chief administrator; S.C. Kansal, chief financial controller; and B.B. Taneja, deputy superintendent. The beneficiaries booked in the case are Renu Hooda, widow of the former CM's nephew; Pardeep Kumar, Mona Beri, Nandita Hooda, Manjot Kaur, Ganesh Dutt Ratan, Aman Gupta, Lt.



Col. O.P. Dahiya (ret'd), Dagar Katyal, Siddharth Bharadwaj, Kanwar Preet Singh Sandhu, Raman Kansal and Ashok Verma. The CBI, which took over the case after a recommendation by Chief Minister

Manohar Lal Khattar to the Centre, said that 14 industrial plots in Panchkula were illegally allotted to private persons, mostly relatives of Hooda and officials of HUDA, thereby causing a loss to the exchequer.

The agency has taken into custody the record of an inquiry earlier conducted by the Haryana state Vigilance Bureau. The ED had started its investigation in 2015 based on the case registered by the Vigilance Bureau.

The allotments were made by HUDA in July 2013 and approved by the former CM as

its chairman on the recommendation of a standing committee. The prices of plots given to Hooda's kin were alleged to be much lower than the market rate and HUDA didn't constitute the mandatory committee to decide the beneficiaries.

The plots are located in Industrial Area, Phase-1, Panchkula, near here, and are in two sizes: 1,000 sq mt costing Rs 64 lakh and 496 sq mt at Rs 31.74 lakh. The market price of a 1,000 sq mt plot in the area at that time was around Rs 6 crore, said officials.



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## E-AUCTION NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISIO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.**

The undersigned as authorised officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction) of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	30218850001062	M/s. Komal Watch Gift and Cosmetics Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Sanjeet Patel, 1. Mr. Sanjeet Patel, 2. Mrs. Khushbu Patel (Guarantor)	19.11.2018	15.02.2020	Rs 11,94,724/- as on 15.02.2021	23.02.2021 09:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M.	Rs.4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Only)	Rs.40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Only)	04.03.2021 @ 11:00 A.M.	03.03.2021 Before 5:30 P.M. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Branch Address: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi -110005.

**Property Description/ Schedule:** Part of Plot No. B-5, Khasra No. 1113, Chaman Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. **Bounded as:** East: Plot of Other, West: Plot of Other, North: Road 15 Ft. Wide, South: Plot of Other. The properties are being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and the E-Auction will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) at the web portal <https://janabank.auctiontiger.net>. For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Ltd., Contact number: 09722778828/ 079-68136854/ 51, 55, 56. E-Mail id: [praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net](mailto:praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net). For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact Jana Small Finance Bank officers Mr. Rakesh Sharma (Mob No. 7230070463). To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named borrowers/ Guarantor's Mortgagees about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

**Date: 16.02.2021, Place: Ghaziabad**

**Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**



“ కపిల్ చిట్స్ తో ప్రతి బంధం ఎంతో విలువైనది ”  
‘ నమ్మకం మీద నిలబడిన బంధం చాలా బలమైనది ’

“ కపిల్ చిట్స్ ” మీ కలలకు సాకారం.



# Indian IT bucks slowdown trend

SO far in the post-pandemic period, people have only been talking about increasing digital adoption and saying that Covid-19 has accelerated digital adoption across industries, and technology service providers are witnessing a sharp growth in digital deals. And there are some facts and figures to validate that. And this is particularly true in the case of India, much to the pleasure of the Indian technology sector.

The headwinds in 2020 notwithstanding, Indian tech contributed nearly 8 per cent relative share to the national GDP, with 52 per cent relative share in services exports, and 50 per cent share in total FDI (based on FDI inflows for the period April to September 2020). That's not all. The Nasscom CEO survey for 2021 indicates that almost 70 per cent of companies expect investment in global technology higher than the previous year. In this hyper-digital economy, TRUST with the four cornerstones of competence, reliability, integrity, and empathy, will be the single-most-important currency,

leading the industry growth towards a better normal.

Another key fact that would also testify a significant growth in the technology or digital space has been that the Indian tech industry continues to be a net hirer with a significant focus on digital upskilling. The industry is expected to add over 138,000 net new hires in FY21, taking total employee base to 4.47 million. The digital talent pool is expected to cross 1.17 million, growing at 32 per cent over last year. And mind you, this is happening despite the overall economic and industrial downturn.

What is really encouraging for India is that at a time when the global output is estimated to have shrunk by 3.2 per cent, led by the 2020 pandemic, the Indian technology sector rallied round to grow at 2.3 per cent year on year at the back of rapid acceleration in digital transformation and tech adoption.

When it comes to India's domestic market, technology and digital business, driven by hardware led demand continued to show resilience, growing at 3.4 per

cent in the year. With an increased focus on innovation, India witnessed more than 115,000 tech patents filed by companies in India in the last 5 years.

There is no denying the fact that be it in India or elsewhere in the world, digital transformation is the topmost priority for transnational corporations and in a highly connected world that will remain largely contactless for an extended period, there are shifts in business models, customer experience, operations, and employee experience.

Going by the Nasscom study, investing in digital continues to rise as an imperative for the industry, with organisations building their capabilities and aligning business models to digital practices - up to 28 per cent-30 per cent of the industry revenues was recorded for digital. Resonating with the overarching call-to-action for Atmanirbhar Bharat, domestic digital adoption has intensified in 2020.

Going forward, while we certainly need to be cautiously optimistic, it would not be a wrong notion to believe that the technology industry in India is well geared to build on these trends and continue its transformation journey.



# India, Pakistan and 'Princestan'...

SUKANT DEEPAK

STRESSING that author and journalist Sandeep Bamzai's recently released book 'Princestan: How Nehru, Patel and Mountbatten Made India' manages to unearth multiple facets of the period between 1945 and 1947, Congress MP and writer Jairam Ramesh said that though history tells us that the British transferred power to India and Pakistan, there was also a third party to which the British were toying with the idea of transferring power to.

"Most of our historical discussions and discourses tend to neglect Princestan. We focus only on the transfer of power to India and Pakistan. Bamzai has not only brought together all the material on Princestan but also tells his readers a fascinating tale of how three key personalities -- Nehru, Patel and Mountbatten, helped by V.P. Menon played a decisive role in ensuring that India did not get Balkanized, and the partition that took place was only into two dominions -- India and Pakistan."

Published by Rupa Publications, the book, which sheds light on a plan devised by some powerful princes to not join either India or Pakistan in run-up to independence, was discussed during a launch event organised by Oxford Bookstores on Monday.

Recalling that the idea of writing the book came to him while researching for the first book of the trilogy, 'Deconstructing the Accession: Bonfire of Kashmiriyat', when he came across rare material bequeathed to him by his grandfather, who was the OSD to the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the author said, "It was a treasure trove. I was to later discover that most of it was not even in the available at National Archives or the Nehru Museum.

"In my possession are first copies of all documents in the form of

letters and correspondences. It made all sense to build it into a bigger book, about all the ambition of 565 princely states. Of course, being a working journalist, snatching time to sit down and write a book is not easy. However, in 2015, during a sabbatical, I got down to work on this book. ORF was kind enough to give me a fellowship for that period."

Though a student of economics and not history, the author immersed himself in the documents, and researched at the Nehru Museum and National Archives.

Adding that research also involves corroborating the material in hand, Bamzai says that it is important to interpret history in light of new material and findings.

"Many of Nehru's biographers didn't use the strand of thought that stood on the alliance between him and Mountbatten to combat the princes. Frankly, Nehru passed the baton to Mountbatten, who in turn passed it to Sardar, and that is how this exercise culminated in all the princes coming together.

Adding that Sardar Patel was the enforcer, Mountbatten the charmer, Nehru the ideologue with VP Malik the draftsman, Ramesh said that in our fixation on India and Pakistan, the third player -- Princestan never got the attention it deserved. "And it is interesting to note that Princestan was a perfectly secular enterprise and straddled the Hindu-Muslim divide.

"We know that it was Bengal and Punjab that got partitioned and not India. This book brings out the important fact that India might have got partitioned had the princes had their way. An important aspect of political history in the transfer of power did not get the attention it deserves. I am glad this book bridges that gap."

Although the author's grandfather would not discuss politics with him, his father would tell him stories from that era. While Nehru lived in 17, York Road, and his grandfather in the outhouse, Bamzai recalls, "Nehru would frequently talk to my father, who was a child then. I have several photographs from that time. I grew up with a lot of stories of that era."

Pointing that while Patel and Nehru were clear that princely states had no role to play in independent India, while Mahatma Gandhi believed in the concept of trusteeship, Bamzai said, "He felt that princes represent the trustees and should rule. However, Netaji also supported Nehru that India had to be one without any princes and provinces.

"Nehru was influenced by Fabian socialism, Annie Besant and George Bernard Shaw and was completely anti-monarchy. In fact, the princes would tell Patel and Gandhi that it was impossible to talk to him."

When Ramesh pointed that much space has been devoted to discussing Ram Chandra Kak (Kashmir's Prime Minister during 1945-1947) and Ramaswami Iyer who served as the Diwan of Travancore, Bamzai said, "Let's not forget that it was Kak who allowed the Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh to think he should vacillate till there comes a time when he can be independent. Of course, it did not come to that. But we must remember that Hari Singh signs the instrument of accession only when the raiders come and there is no other option, on October 26. Travancore wanted to have its own secret pact with the British thanks to the strategic ports and the large Thorium reserves there."

When asked by Ramesh about the most surprising bits that he came across during the course of his research, the author said, "At the time when Nehru had rejected the 'Dickie Bird Plan', Edwina Mountbatten calls VP Menon, informing him that both Nehru and Mountbatten were in Shimla. Menon goes to Shimla, takes Mountbatten to Nehru and an alternate plan is put together. Menon then calls Sardar. Here, I would like to stress that a major reason behind writing this book was to emphasise the role of many nameless and faceless individuals."

While Princestan took around five years with three years of research and a year to actually write, Bamzai has completed the research for his next book on Kashmir. "This one was supposed to be released earlier but Covid-19 delayed our plans. From the materials in my possession, I have retained a large part on Kashmir, which is not out even in the first part of the trilogy.

"In the next book too, I will use the same approach as the one adopted in 'Princestan'. Kashmir will be seen through the prism of five people." Bamzai further stressed on the need for a National Freedom Archive, an idea floated by Kanchan Gupta, Distinguished Fellow at ORF during a launch event for 'Princestan'. "There is some priceless historical material in various private collections including mine. Much more needs to be documented about the different facets of the Indian Independence movement which is a vast canvas."

Ramesh added that he too has some rare material and there existed several important documents scattered in different state archives. "All that should come under one roof. The archives should also be digitalised so that everyone can access the documents easily."

# How India can be 'atmanirbhar' for edible oil production

In 2019, India imported around 15 million tons of edible oils worth approximately ₹7,300 crore

GIRISH KUMAR JHA,  
RENJINI V R, ADITYA K S

EDIBLE oils are indispensable in the Indian kitchen. But it might be surprising to many that India imports most of the oil it consumes, unlike most other agricultural products which are produced locally.

Even after having a diverse agro-climatic conditions, abundant land and large sections of population depending on agriculture, why does India have to import edible oils? What is the burden of importing edible oils on the government's exchequer? What can we do to boost the domestic production of edible oils?

According to the latest data, each Indian consumed 19.5 kg of edible oil every year on an average during 2015-16, up from 15.8 kg in 2012-13. This amounts to an aggregate demand of around 26 million tons of edible oils per year.

Leaving aside the debate on the health effects of increase in oil consumption and its role on prevalence of lifestyle diseases, let us examine the demand-supply position of edible oils in India.

India cultivated oilseeds on 25 million hectare of land, producing 32 million tons of oilseeds in 2018-19, with soybean, rapeseed and mustard and groundnut accounting for almost 90 per cent share in the area.

Assuming a country-wide average of 28 per cent oil recovery, 32 million tons of oilseeds will yield around 8.4 million tons of edible oil. The domestic production can only meet a little over 30 per cent of the total demand for edible oils, necessitating its import.

In 2019, India imported around 15 million tons of edible oils worth approximately Rs 7,300 crore, which accounted for 40 per cent of the agricultural imports bill and three per cent of the overall import bill of the country.

Palm oil accounted for the

lion's share of the total imports (62 per cent), followed by soya oil and sunflower oil (21 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively). There is a considerable increase in the share of soya oil and sunflower oil in the import basket.

The palm oil is primarily sourced from Indonesia and Malaysia, soya oil from Argentina and Brazil, whereas Ukraine and Argentina are the major suppliers of sunflower oils to India.

Apart from a significant burden on the government's exchequer, dependence on the international market for edible oils causes price volatility affecting both the consumers and producers.

For instance, labour shortage in palm oil plantations of Indonesia and Malaysia, drought in Argentina affecting soyabean production, lower production of sunflower crops in Ukraine and rigorous buying of edible oils by China, impacted price of edible oils in domestic as well as international markets in later part of pandemic year. Subsequently, the government has to reduce import tariff of palm oil by 10 per cent in November to ease the domestic price.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that India has the potential to increase the domestic production of oilseeds which could reduce the import dependence and also benefit the farmers. The government of India is also taking many measures to increase the domestic production of edible oil seeds.

For instance, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and other policy initiatives have helped India increase the area under oilseeds in India from 9 million tons in 1986 to 32 million tons in 2018-19, though not sufficient to meet the domestic demand.

Several other initiatives like Oil Palm Area Expansion under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, increasing the minimum support prices of oilseed crops, creation of buffer stock for oilseeds, cluster demonstration of oilseed



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crops, etc are being implemented by the government to boost the domestic production.

Increasing production Based on a rough estimate, 3.6 million tons of additional oils can be produced by means of bridging the yield gap, assuming 1.5 tons per ha as a realizable yield. This requires the wide scale adoption of improved agricultural technologies like quality seeds, optimum use of agro-chemicals and better management.

Improved varieties like Pusa

12, JS 20-34 of soybean, pusa double zero 30 and 31 of mustard which are low erucic acid as well as high yielding, newer, location specific improved varieties like Kadiri-6, Chattisgarh Mungfali 1 (CGM 1) are released for cultivation.

Farmers need to be made aware about these newer varieties and provided with access to good quality seeds. Cluster demonstrations and other extension activities in this line can be promoted.

India can also think of expand-

the alleged victim victimised the alleged accused. It was a bitter experience for media in all forms.

Media trial is taking shape in the form of witch hunting and it is high time all such cases in future are dealt with utmost care and precaution. Media subjected people to undue anxiety and worry though the whole episode ended in a happy note. But what about the auto drivers and their kin who suffered the most in the whole drama. Both the victim and the accused deserve equal courtesies until proved by the police to begin with and later by the court.

D Nagarjuna, Hyderabad

## Status of RTI Act

THIS has reference to the article published in The Hans India (dt16/02/2021) on 'Upholding Secrecy in Lok Pal selection'. It is true that the government has to maintain transparency in the procedure for appointing such constitutional authority like Lok Pal Chairman and members. In fact the spirit of the RTI Act is nothing but to uphold the values of our Constitution. But gradually the governments do not want to maintain the sanctity of the Act and they use the office of the commission according to their will and choice. The time has come to move another movement by the activists to implement the RTI Act in true and spirit. The awareness of the RTI Act is still not up to mark in the public and as well as the government departments. Particularly the political appointments of the RTI Commissioners should go out to eradicate such unconstitutional judgments by various Commissioners.

J Srinivasa Rao, Srikakulam

## Rise in anti-national sentiment

DISHA Ravi, Nikitha Jacob, Shantanu, Greta Thunberg ... now these names hit headlines of news channels very often. The first three are Indian citizens and the fourth one is a Swedish citizen. But their intention seems

to be the same. They are trying hard to destabilise Indian Union. Of course, there may be many anti-national elements working behind them. They are hatching a big conspiracy against our country. All the intellectuals should try to understand it. Different people may have different political loyalties. But when this type of serious threats to national safety are encountered, all should unite to foil them. Otherwise, our sovereignty will be in great peril.

Venkata Seshasai Deevi, Narasaraopet

## II

IT refers to cyber-branch of Delhi Police accusing three young activists Disha Ravi, Nikita Jacob and Shantanu Mukul in collaborating with the pro-Khalistani group Poetic Justice Foundation for creation of Toolkit document - shared on Twitter by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg in support of ongoing protest of farmers to spread disaffection against the Indian state, with Disha Ravi arrested and Nikita Jacob absconding.

Activists specially the young ones and Non-Government-Organisations (NGOs) should avoid connecting themselves with foreign associates in their activism on Indian soil because fact is that there are foreign powers which are always interested in creating disruption in governance in India. Even several NGOs in India get foreign funding only for holding protests. It is satisfying that present Indian government is tightening foreign-funded NGOs to refrain from anti-national activities at behest of foreign powers. Several political parties in India have protested against arrest of Disha Ravi. It may be that either or all the three young activists might have got involved in pro-Khalistan activities as accused by Delhi Police due to their ignorance and over-enthusiasm. But this cannot be any reason for their not being tried by Delhi Police.

Madhu Agrawal, Delhi

thehansreader@gmail.com

# LETTERS

## Marginal farmers still harassed

I am a subscriber of your esteemed newspaper for the past five years, and find many useful articles that are relevant for our culture, trade, and philosophical bent of mind. This is with reference to the article titled "Land Records and Registration in Telangana State" by Dr. Biksham Guja on 14 February in your paper. I would like to sincerely thank him for such an enlightening article which is very practical and his ideas are very revolutionary and will help farmers like us to have our land records registration in Telangana.

I am a farmer and have land of 12 acres in Kamareddy district. Your article has been an eye opener, and reflects the realities of the small and marginal farmer at the hands of the Village Revenue officials. I have been harassed from the Tahsildar, to the Surveyor and am still struggling to get my land surveyed. The nominations of Survey number is very cumbersome, and your article has enlightened me and will help the farming community. Our land coordinates are not available, and on the farmland, there is always a fight on encroachment and neighbours are very aggressive. I wish you good luck and hope our Government takes up such revolutionary steps and implementation of which will help farmers not only in Telangana but the whole of India.

N Venkataraman, Hyderabad

## Our cops deserve a hurrah

IN late 70s and early 80s, Scotland Yard police were considered the best in cracking all crime related cases. Telangana police have proved that they are not far behind. The recent scientific cracking of the case about alleged kidnap and rape in Hyderabad proved to be a relief though



## Face-off over ‘mixopathy’ rages on



MOHSIN ALI  
HYDERABAD

THE allopathy medical practitioners are in a agitation mode since the Indian Medicine Central Council allowed the Ayurveda practitioners to perform a surgeries. Modern medical practitioners with MBBS and MD degrees are crying foul over the ‘mixopathy’ - mixing of two streams of medicine - claiming that ayurvedic PG students were not eligible for the surgeries. Meanwhile, the BAMS doctors countered stating that surgeries were not new to the traditional medicine PG students.

Indian Medical Association (IMA) launched its two-week second phase of nationwide protests against mixopathy by submitting mass petitions to the Prime Minister, holding public awareness meetings and conducting students’ conclaves. The first phase of agitation by the medicos ended on February 14 and fresh protests began next day which will be continued till February 28.

Thanking the supporters of agitations across the country, IMA asked the modern medical practitioners to be ready for more protests. The doctors and allopathy students were not happy with the amendment made by the IMCC, allowing the Ayurveda PG students to practice general surgery. Dharnas, rallies and hunger strikes were staged for the last two weeks across the country demanding to take back the amendment.

According to the doctors practicing allopathy, Ayurveda Education (BAMS) is the ancient traditional treatment method mentioned in the vedas, it’s popular for non-surgical treatments, while surgery is not there in its syllabus. Doctors passing out from ayurveda colleges were incapable of surgeries as they weren’t trained for that purpose.

Speaking to Hans India, Indian Medical Association, National President, Dr J A Jaylal said that the amendment made by the IMCC allowing Ayurvedic PG students to perform surgeries after taking a three-month training was not enough for a doctor, while students in modern medicine train and undergo practice for years under the experts to perform a surgery. How can a student from a non-surgical background can do the same by learning only 39 surgery procedures in short term training? He questioned.

Clarifying that they were not against the Ayurveda Education, he said, “We are suggesting that it should be done after proper training, new syllabus should be designed for Ayurvedic students. We can help to design the syllabus if offered. It needs a long process, short term training could be harmful for the public health.”

On the other side, defending the Ayurvedic Education system, traditional medicine doctor’s fraternity says that “S” in BAMS stands for surgery. So, surgery is included in PG syllabus of Ayurveda. The Ayurveda students during their course get trained in surgeries along with traditional treatment. Also, the duration of course for both MBBS and BAMS PG students is the same so they are completely eligible to perform surgeries. Dr Mohan, a PG student from Dr B R K R Govt Ayurvedic Medical College, Hyderabad, said that performing surgeries were not new to Ayurveda. As part of training I witness more than 30 surgeries per month but our MBBS fellow doctors are unaware about this fact. Ayurveda doctors perform surgeries of Shalya (General Surgery) and Shalakya (Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, and Dental) as we get trained during our course. We don’t go for critical surgeries such as neurology, nephrology etc. Dr Mohan added.

## Disabled persons demand approval of pending loans

- ▶ Disabled JAC members stage protest across the Collectorates
- ▶ About 10,000 differently abled persons had applied for loans 3 yrs back
- ▶ Cong leader threatens to lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

MEMBERS of the Disabled Joint Action Committee (JAC) on Tuesday demonstrated at all Collectorates across the State demanding immediate approval of about 6,000 pending loan applications and to protest the TRS government’s ‘anti-disabled welfare policies’.

According to Muthineni Veerayya, chairman, State Congress Disabled wing and JAC Steering Committee chairman, leaders of the demonstrators submitted memoranda to the



collectors listing their grievances/demands.

In a statement later Veerayya criticised the government for keeping the loan applications in abeyance for three years and later saying they should be submitted online. He said about 10,000 disabled are learnt to have applied online so far, while pointing out that the loan units sanctioned by the administration were in-

adequate to meet the demands of about 17,000 applicants.

The government stand, he stated, amounted to neglecting disabled welfare and violation of the relevant act. The Congress leader threatened to lay siege to Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao’s official residence, Pragathi Bhavan, if the government did not change its stand and clear the pending loan applications.

## Lockdown violators unable to clear their names

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN  
HYDERABAD

CIVILIANS booked for various violations and for not following the three-km lockdown norm are running pillar to post for clearing their names. Some have even paid their challans believing police would withdraw the cases.

A 24-year-old resident of Chandrayangutta, an alleged violator who was identified by the Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) software, on condition of anonymity said, “I received a challan of Rs 4,000 for double riding on two-wheeler, which was prohibited during lockdown in March 2020. After the lockdown period, I received a message to be present in the court. Though I paid the entire challan amount but still the police record shows that I was convicted for violation. With this registered on me, It would affect my career opportunities in Civil services and government jobs.”

Though people were allowed for essential services



but reportedly cops caught and booked cases against citizens for violating the lockdown norms. The police allegedly beat up most of the violators which included government officials, health workers, media persons.

During lockdown from March till April 2020 the Hyderabad Traffic Police seized more than 1.60 lakh vehicles which were later released. The traffic police department also registered a whopping 2.49 lakh cases against two-wheeler and four-wheeler riders for various violations.

Till now some alleged vi-

olators have cleared challans believing police would withdraw their cases. Many are being produced in the court.

Recently the Association for Protection for Civil Rights (APCR) of Telangana state wrote to Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao and to the State Home Minister demanding withdrawal of cases on civilians and urging to waive off all challans issued on vehicles during lockdown.

The APCR convenor Mohammed Afzal said, “The passport applicants or government job-seekers were

- ▶ Over 2 lakh civilians booked for violations during lockdown
- ▶ They are facing hardships while applying for government jobs or passport
- ▶ Even after paying challans their names not cleared in the police records

apprehensive applying fearing rejection due to cases registered against them.”

Social activist SQ Masood, said “The cases have also been booked on many youngsters due to which they were facing difficulties pursuing their career as it was giving a bad remark in their profile while applying for UPSC, government job or passport.”

“Besides being produced in the court, they were ‘convicted’ on paper even after clearing challans as the government did not withdraw cases against them,” Masood claimed.

## Weather conditions show winter is almost over?

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

IF the forecast of the night temperatures in Hyderabad during the period February 17 to 22 ranging from 20 to 21 degrees Celsius is any indication and going by the prevailing weather conditions winter is almost over. According to the forecast listed in the IMD bulletin, the minimum temperatures from February 17 to 22 is to be 20,20,21,21,21 and 21 respectively. Simultaneously, the day temperatures are also listed as 33,33,34,34,34 and 34 respectively is a pointer to the effect that the winter is going to end early. Traditional people believe that the cold weather conditions are supposed to change after the Shivaratri which falls on March 11. They maintain that after the festival the cold breeze will give way to summer heat.

Besides the rising night and day temperatures, the cyclonic circulation over north Madhya Maharashtra and its neighbourhood now lying over Vidarbha and its neighbourhood, extending upto 0.9 km above mean sea level has also impact the current weather conditions. Also there is a trough in low level easterlies from coastal Karnataka to the cyclonic circulation now running from south Konkan to Vidarbha and its neighbourhood is also a contributory factor to the changing weather.

Meanwhile, according to the bulletin, the lowest minimum temperature 16.2 degrees Celsius during the last 24 ending at 8.30 am on Tuesday was recorded in Medak. They temperatures were appreciably

- ▶ Lowest min temp of 16.2 deg C recorded in Medak on Tuesday
- ▶ Day temperature crossed 35 deg C for the first time this season with Bhadrachalam registering 35.1 deg C
- ▶ The rising day temperatures is a pointer to the effect that the winter is going to end early
- ▶ Traditionally, people believe that the cold weather conditions change after Shivaratri which falls on March 11

above normal ranging from 3.1 to 5 degrees Celsius in some parts. They were below normal by 1.6 to 3 degrees Celsius.

The other night temperatures registered elsewhere in the State were: Ramagundam 17.4, Hakimpet 18.8, Dundigal 19.8, Hyderabad 19.5, Mahbubnagar 19.1, Nalgonda 19, Bhadrachalam & Hanamkonda 20 each, Khammam 20.2, Adilabad 20.7, Nizamabad 21.9.

The day temperature during the last 24 hours crossed 35 degrees for the first time in this season, with Bhadrachalam registering 35.1 degrees Celsius. The rising temperatures in Nizamabad (34.3), Mahbubnagar (34), Adilabad, Ramagundam & Medak (33.4 each), Khammam & Hyderabad (33.2 each), Dundigal (32.8), Nalgonda (32.5), Hanamkonda (32), and Hakimpet (31.6) also indicate the possible advancing of summer.

## TS MLC polls: Cooperation of political parties sought

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TIRUPATHI Rao, MLC elections in-charge and Ranga Reddy DRO, on Tuesday conducted a meeting with officials and representatives of various political parties with regard to upcoming graduate MLC elections to Mahbubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad constituency. Speaking on the occasion, he said that all parties should cooperate for the smooth conduct of polls. Adding that there were 119 polling centres in the district at various places like Shadnagar, Chevella, Ibrahimpatnam, Rajendranagar and Kandukur, the official informed that according to the schedule issued by the Election Commission of India, the notification for the Mahbubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad graduate MLC elections would be issued on February 16. While nominations would be accepted till February 23, they could be withdrawn on February 26. He said that polling would be held on March 14 from 8am to 4pm and counting of votes would take place on March 17. Leaders of various parties attended the meeting.



## Deficits wobble AP finances

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

HOW healthy is the Andhra Pradesh budget now? Is it on the way to recovery? Recently, the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) expressed concern over the AP budgetary position which raises questions regarding the health of the state finances.

These questions become pertinent and also disturbing in view of the welfare state module designed by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. Though there are several questions that cause anxiety, there is a little relief in the form of any assurances regarding the revival of the economy. A major hurdle in reviving the state economy is its revenue deficit. It is the difference between revenue expenditure and revenue receipts. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended that states should eliminate revenue deficit.

Andhra Pradesh budget estimated a revenue deficit of Rs 18,434 crore (or 1.82 per cent of GDP) in 2020-21. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a revenue deficit grant of Rs 5,897 crore for

- Andhra Pradesh’s budget estimated a revenue deficit of Rs 18,434 cr (or 1.82% of GDP) in 2020-21 while fiscal deficit was estimated at be Rs 48,296 cr (4.78% of GDP)
- State’s gross debt burden has risen to Rs 3,73,140 cr November-end 2020
- According to CAG’s latest accounts, from April to Nov 2020 alone, AP borrowed Rs 73,811.85 cr from different sources as against the annual target of Rs 48,295.59 cr for the whole year

Andhra Pradesh for 2020-21.

In 2020-21, the fiscal deficit is estimated to be Rs 48,296 crore (4.78 per cent of GDP). The estimate is higher than the 3 per cent limit as per the FRBM Act.

As per the revised estimates, in 2019-20, the fiscal deficit of the state is expected to be 3.75 per cent of GDP, higher than the budget estimate at 3.26 per cent.

However, In 2020-21, Andhra Pradesh is expected to spend Rs 34,318 crore on servicing its debt. This is 3.1 per cent less than the revised estimates of 2019-20. This includes Rs 13,935 crore towards repaying loans (41 per cent of total), and Rs 20,383 crore towards interest payments (59 per cent of total).

In 2020-21, the outstanding liabilities are expected to be 34.6 per cent of the GDP, higher than that in 2019-20 (28 per cent of GDP). This is higher than the average level of outstanding liabilities of 29 states in 2019-20 (24.6 per cent of their GDP).

The total outstanding government guarantees of the state at the end of 2019-20 is estimated at Rs 67,171 crore (6 per cent of GDP).

The Andhra Pradesh government’s gross debt burden has increased to Rs 3,73,140 crore by the end of November 2020. CAG’s latest accounts revealed that from April to November 2020 alone Rs 73,811.85 crore was borrowed from different sources as against the annual target of Rs 48,295.59 crore for the whole year.

## PHASE-3 PANCHAYAT POLLS IN AP TODAY

# 55 lakh voters set to cast votes

AMARAVATI

OVER 55.75 lakh voters will get to exercise their franchise to elect 2,639 sarpanches and 19,553 village ward members in the third phase of elections to the gram panchayats in the state on Wednesday.

Panchayat raj and rural development principal secretary Gopal Krishna Dwivedi said in a release on the eve of the election that 26,851 polling stations have been set up under 160 revenue mandals in 13 districts.

Of the total, 1,977 polling stations were in the Maoist-affected areas, while 3,127 have been classified as hypersensitive and 4,118 sensitive polling stations.

While polling would be held from 6.30 am to 3.30 pm in all polling stations, the process has been curtailed by two hours in Maoist-affected areas.

Of the 3,221 village sarpanch posts in the third phase, 579 had gone unopposed.

Similarly, 11,753 of 31,516 ward



- Elections will be held for 2,639 and 19,553 ward member seats
- 26,851 polling stations have been set up in 160 mandals
- 579 sarpanches have been elected unanimously out of total 3,221 village sarpanch posts in the third phase

members were also elected unanimously, the principal secretary said.

In one gram panchayat each in Visakhapatnam, Prakasam and West Godavari districts, no nominations were filed for the sarpanch posts and, as such, polling would be held for 2,639

posts only.

In all 7,757 candidates were in the fray for these sarpanch posts.

Also, no nominations were filed for 210 ward members posts out of the total of 19,763.

As such, elections would be held only for 19,553 wards, Dwivedi said.

## SEC to revive nominations in case of forcible withdrawal

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

FOLLOWING numerous complaints from various political parties on forcible withdrawal of nominations during earlier process of local bodies election and judgement of AP High Court on the issue, the State Election Commission decided to allow fresh nominations where there are unnatural withdrawals due to pres-

sure and inducements. If anyone who has a reason to state that he or she was compelled to withdraw, their nominations will now be revived, if they come forward to inform the SEC. The SEC said that necessary instructions were given to returning officers of municipal corporations, election officers of municipal and nagar panchayats to revive the nominations if any candidate come forward with complaints of forcible withdrawal of their nomination.



## TOOLKIT CASE

## Shantanu gets pre-arrest bail

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

THE Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted 'transit anticipatory bail' to Shantanu Muluk, a suspect in the 'toolkit' case related to the farmers' protest in which climate activist Disha Ravi has been arrested.

Justice Vibha Kankanwadi of the Aurangabad bench of the high court granted Muluk ten days' pre-arrest bail to enable him to apply for protection before the appropriate court in Delhi. Another suspect, lawyer Nikita Jacob's similar plea was heard by Justice P D Naik at the high court's principal bench in Mumbai, which said it would pass order on Wednesday. Jacob has admitted that there was a Zoom meeting before Republic Day, which was attended by Poetic Justice Foundation founder MO Dhaliwal, and other fellow activists including Disha. A court in Delhi directed Delhi Police to hand over to 21-year-old climate activist Disha a copy of the FIR and other documents related to her arrest in connection with allegedly being involved in sharing a "toolkit" on social media on the farmers' protest and al-



lowed her to speak to her family. Besides the FIR, the court also directed the police to provide her the copies of the arrest memo and remand paper which was placed to seek her custodial interrogation. The court also permitted her to get warm clothes, masks and books. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma allowed Ravi to speak with her family members over phone for 15 minutes a day and meet with her lawyer for 30 minutes a day, while she is in police custody. Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said he was not afraid of police complaints being filed against him over his tweet on the 'toolkit' case. His remark came after reports that a Karnataka-based group of activists had filed a complaint over his Twitter post on Disha Ravi that appeared to urge "exterminating" those who harbour the "seed of anti-nationalism". Challenging the interpretation of his tweet, the minister told reporters: "I have said whoever harbours the seed of anti-nationalism in their mind, that has to be destroyed from the roots. Let me make it clear, it is exterminating that seed of anti-nationalism and not exterminating the person."

## Police seek info from Zoom

Intensifying its probe in the toolkit case, the Delhi Police on Tuesday sought details from video conferencing platform Zoom on the participants of the January 11 meeting by a pro-Khalistan group, while investigators were also looking into the funding aspect, sources said.

## DCW's notice to Delhi Police

The Delhi Commission for Women has sent a notice to the Delhi Police on the arrest of 21-year-old climate activist Disha Ravi in the 'toolkit' case and sought a report on issues like why she was not provided a lawyer of her choice when produced before a court here.

## Principal sentenced to death for raping student

PATNA

A private school principal has been awarded a death sentence for raping his 11-year-old student in Patna. Another teacher has been handed a life term for his complicity. POCSE court judge Awdhesh Kumar, who announced the verdict, said the court had to take a strong view of the matter so that it could serve as a deterrent. The court also lauded the police's efforts to get strong evidence including DNA test reports.

Co-accused Abhishek Kumar, who taught at the school situated in Phulwari Sharif locality of the city, was sentenced to life and slapped with a fine of Rs 50,000.

The case came to light in September 2018 when the victim, all of 11 years, was found to be pregnant upon being taken to a doctor by her parents who got worried over her frequent bouts of illness.

She narrated her ordeal when the parents pressed her with queries. A case was lodged at the Mahila Thana here under the POCSE Act and relevant sections of the IPC.

In yet another shocking incident, a 10-year-old tribal girl was raped in a deserted school building in a village of Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district.

The incident happened under Indwar police station limits post 10 pm on Saturday, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Arvind Tiwari.

"A 28-year-old man abducted the girl from outside her home, took her to a deserted school building and raped her. She reached home at 5 am on Sunday and told her family about the ordeal, after which a rape case was registered," he said.

The accused has been booked under POCSE Act and IPC provisions and efforts are on to nab him, he added.

## Chinese troops retreat from Pangong

NEW DELHI

CHINA and India continued with the disengagement process in the North and South banks of Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh on Tuesday, reports claimed adding that Chinese troops dismantled numerous tents and bunkers in the region.

Frontline troops of Chinese and Indian forces



Indian and Chinese troops disengage from the banks of Pangong lake area in Eastern Ladakh where they had been deployed opposite each other for almost ten months now

initiated a synchronised and organised disengagement at both the banks of the Pangong Lake last week.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has already removed several bunkers, temporary posts and other structures in the northern bank areas while gradually thinning down their troops in the region. They further added that field commanders of both the sides are meeting almost on

a daily basis to take forward the disengagement process which was finalised last week following nine rounds of high-level military talks.

After almosts 10-month of standoff, the two armies reached an agreement on disengagement in the North and South banks of Pangong lake that mandates both sides to cease forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner.

## SC's suo motu contempt case against Sardesai

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court has registered a suo motu criminal contempt case against journalist Rajdeep Sardesai for his August 2020 tweets allegedly critiquing the judiciary.

The case was registered by the Supreme Court based on a petition by one Aastha Khurana. Earlier, Attorney General KK Venugopal had refused to grant consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Sardesai.

The petition was filed by Khurana in September 2020, and has only now been registered as a suo motu criminal contempt case.

Khurana, who hails from Panipat in Haryana, had highlighted multiple tweets by Sardesai to buttress her case for initiation of contempt proceedings against the journalist.

Khurana also referred to older tweets in which Sardesai allegedly cast aspersions on Justice Arun Mishra, who had heard Prashant Bhushan's contempt case, and former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, as per a report carried by Bar & Bench.

Pondy govt in crisis as 4<sup>th</sup> Cong MLA quits

PUDUCHERRY

JUST a day before Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Puducherry to launch the party's campaign for the elections due by May, the fourth legislator of his party resigned throwing the Congress government headed by Narayanasamy in the Union Territory into a fresh crisis on Tuesday.

Puducherry chief minister Narayanasamy's close aide A. John Kumar who was elected to Puducherry Assembly from Kamaraj Nagar constituency in 2019 bypolls has resigned giving a jolt to the Congress party in the Union Territory. His resignation has come at time just a day ahead of Rahul Gandhi's visit to the UT where he is expected to kickstart the party's campaign for the upcoming election. While other Congress MLAs Malladi Krishna Rao quit on February 15, former PWD Minister A.



Narayanasamy

Namassivayamy and E. Theepainjan also resigned on January 25. N. Dhanavelu, a Congress member, was disqualified in July last year for alleged anti-party activities.

With back-to-back resignations, Congress's numbers plummeted to way below the required halfway mark and headed towards crisis. Congress and DMK had a combined strength of 16 MLAs in the 30-member Puducherry assembly. The resignations have taken the Congress-led government to below 10 and the Opposition now has 14 MLAs. Meanwhile Social Welfare Minister Kandhasamy has released a video accusing that for the past five years, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi had created several hurdles for the Congress-DMK government in Puducherry.

## Godhra train burning case conspirator held in Gujarat

GANDHINAGAR

A key conspirator in the infamous 2002 Godhra train burning case -- who was on the run for the last 19 years -- was arrested from Godhra town, police said on Tuesday.

Panchmahal police claimed that arrested accused Rafiq Hussain Bhatuk, 51, was arrested from Godhra town, police said on Tuesday. Panchmahal police claimed that arrested accused Rafiq Hussain Bhatuk, 51, was arrested from Godhra town, police said on Tuesday.

The police raided a house in Signal Falia area near the Godhra railway station on Sunday night and picked up Bhatuk on charge of hatching a conspiracy and inciting a mob to set the rail compartment on fire.

Police claimed that Bhatuk was involved in stone-pelting on the train bogey and even pouring petrol inside, before it was torched by other accused.

## Thackeray warns of another lockdown

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday gave a clear warning that unless people strictly to Covid-19 protocols, they should be prepared for another bout of lockdown in view of the increasing cases in the State.

For starters, he has ordered all authorities concerned to ban public processions, rallies, meetings and gatherings to avoid overcrowding, besides mandatory wearing of face masks in public.

Thackeray also announced that the 'Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana' (MJPJAY) scheme is being extended for another two months in the state to treat Covid-19 patients at state expense.

The CM's stringent directives came in a high-level review meeting of the Covid-19 status in the state in which Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Health Minister Rajesh Tope, Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar, all Divisional Commissioners, Collectors, police and health officers, and members of Covid-19 Task Force and others took part.

Expressing serious concern at the renewed spread of Covid-19, the CM asked the administration strictly enforce all the SOPs for coronavirus control with penal measures against those violating the norms.



NDRF team carries out rescue operation after an overcrowded bus plunged into a canal in Sidhi district of MP on Tuesday

## 45 killed as bus plunges into canal

SIDHI/REWA

AT least 45 people, including 20 women, were killed when a packed bus skidded off the road and plunged into a canal in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Tuesday morning, a senior official said.

The accident took place near Patna village, around 80 km from the Sidhi district headquarters, when the ill-fated bus was on its way to Satna from Sidhi, he said.

A search operation involving State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel and local authorities was still on at the site, the official said. Rescuers have retrieved 45 bodies from the canal so far, said Rewa Divisional Commissioner Rajesh Jain, under whose jurisdiction the accident took place. "A total of 45 bodies - 24 of men, 20 women and a child -

have been fished out of the Bansagar canal until now," he said, adding a magisterial probe has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident. "Seven persons managed to swim to safety," he said. The packed bus, coming from Sidhi and going to Satna, veered off the road and rolled down the canal which is part of the Bansagar project at around 8:30 AM, said Inspector General (Rewa zone) Umesh Joga. PM Narendra Modi expressed grief at the "horrific" bus accident and approved an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of those who lost their lives.

Condolences to the bereaved families. The local administration is actively involved in rescue and relief work." Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed grief over the tragedy and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

## SC upholds lifer for man who brutally killed 2 kids

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld life imprisonment to a man who murdered two children by administering them cephos, a pest control fumigant.

A bench, comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and Ajay Rastogi, said: "The prosecution case, in totality with motive of the crime that he was living in a relationship with the complainant Anju who had two children from the previous marriage, and had taken away the life of two minor innocent children at the very threshold of their life and murdered in a brutal manner by administering cephos to them, has been established."

The bench noted that it is true that the punishment of remainder of natural life could not have been imposed by the trial court judge, but after looking into the case, it is appropriate to confirm the sentence of imprisonment for life to mean the remainder of natural life while upholding the conviction under Section 302 of the IPC.

Gauri Shankar, who was found guilty of committing the murder of two children aged 4 and 2, had filed an appeal in the top court.

## Maha farmer buys copter for milk biz

MUMBAI

A farmer and entrepreneur in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi has bought a helicopter to help him travel across the country for his dairy business. You read that right!

Janardhan Bhoir, who recently ventured into the dairy business, has spent Rs 30 crores to buy a helicopter to make his trips convenient.

Janardhan said that he has to travel to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat often for his dairy business. Since many places don't have the facility of airports, he used to travel for long hours. He decided to purchase the helicopter at a friend's suggestion.



"I have to frequently travel for my business, that's the reason I bought a helicopter. I need it often to look after my dairy business and farming," Janardhan told local reporters.

The helicopter was sent to Janardan's village for trial on Sunday. Janardhan offered village panchayat members to take a ride in his helicopter.

He has made arrangements to build a helipad with a protective wall on a 2.5-acre land. There will also be a garage for the helicopter, a pilot room and a technician room.

Janardhan reportedly has property worth Rs 100 crore. Along with the business of farming and dairy, Janardhan has also a real-estate business.

## Temple of democracy shamed

## Australian PM apologises after woman alleges rape in Parl

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Scott Morrison apologised on Tuesday to a woman who alleged she was raped in the country's Parliament by an unnamed colleague, and promised a thorough investigation into the government's workplace culture.

The woman said she had been raped in the office of Defence Minister Linda Reynolds in March 2019 by someone who also worked for Morrison's ruling Liberal party.

She told local media she spoke with the police

in early April of that year, but she decided against making a formal complaint amid concerns about her career prospects. Police in the capital confirmed they had spoken to a complainant in April 2019, but she chose not to make a formal complaint.

The woman said she told senior staff in Reynolds' office of the alleged attack. She said she was then asked to attend a meeting in the office where she says she was assaulted.

Reynolds on Monday confirmed she



had been told of the complaint last year, though she denied the woman was pressured against making a police complaint.

Morrison on Tuesday apologised to the woman and promised an investigation.

"That should not have happened, and I do apologise," Morrison told reporters in Canberra. "I want to make sure any young woman working in this place is as safe as possible."

Morrison said he has appointed Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet official Stephanie Foster to review the process

in dealing with workplace complaints, while a backbench lawmaker will investigate workplace culture. The allegation has intensified pressure on Morrison after a series of allegations of improper behaviour towards women within the Liberal party.

In 2019, female backbench lawmakers said they felt bullied to support a move to oust then prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, while a former female Liberal staff member last year made an official complaint of improper behaviour by then immigration minister Alan Tudge.

Tudge has denied the allegation.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Govt committed to welfare of farmers

“The government is committed to the welfare of farmers and has increased the minimum support price for jute from Rs 2,400 in 2014-15 to Rs 4,225 in 2020-21. The ICARE Initiative is benefitting jute farmers by improving productivity by 15 per cent

– **Smriti Irani**, Union Minister



## PROFIT

### Nestle India Q4 net rises by 2.25%

FMCG major Nestle India Ltd on Tuesday reported a 2.25 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 483.31 crore for the fourth quarter ended December. The company, which follows the January-December financial year, had posted a profit of Rs 472.64 crore in the same period a year ago, Nestle said in a BSE filing.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	77.05	South	
Euro	92.85	African Rand	5.78
UAE Dirham	21.76	Hong Kong Dollar	10.78
Thai Baht	2.8	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	105.37	New Zealand Dollar	55.45
Australian Dollar	59.53	Saudi Riyal	21.3
Canadian Dollar	60.42	Swedish Krona	10.12
Swiss Franc	85.2	Singapore Dollar	57.66

DELHI WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Heritage launches cheese products

Heritage Foods forayed into cheese products with the launch of Mozzarella Cheese, processed cheese, cool cafe and fresh cream. Heritage Mozzarella cheese and processed cheese is made from 100 per cent pure Cow milk, Heritage cool café is a blend of real coffee powder with goodness of milk. Heritage fresh cream in tetra packs are made by using fresh and pure milk cream with 25 per cent fat. These new products are available at leading modern retail stores, e-commerce platforms etc. Brahmani Nara, Executive Director said: “In recent months, we have seen that although out-of-home consumption of food has declined, consumers are experimenting at home and trying out different recipes. We are tapping this trend by launching products such as mozzarella cheese and processed cheese.”

### Kaya Clinic's new initiative

Kaya Clinic has introduced new skin bio-remodeling procedure Profhilo at its medical aesthetic clinics across India. The procedure is a new approach in the dermal injectable industry and introduces the concept of skin bioremodelling as an anti-ageing procedure. Sushant Shetty, dermatologist and Head of Medical Operations & Services at Kaya Limited, said: “Profhilo is a revolutionary new concept in the injectables domain. AnHA-based product, offering Biological Activation with multi-level 3D Flowability naturally rejuvenating and firming the skin without giving it a puffed-up appearance. HA provides much-needed hydration to the skin, stimulates fibroblasts, thereby inducing generation of collagen and elastin. We are happy to announce that we are now making it available to consumers across India through our network of clinics.”

### Luminous' new product

Luminous Power Technologies introduced its series of premium designer fans in India. This industry first energy efficient designer fans range will help save 40 per cent of energy compared to standard ceiling fans and are responsible for around 25 per cent of the electricity consumption of a household, making its consumption higher than that of other home appliances including ACs and Geysers. The premium category has been growing rapidly on the way to contribute 25 per cent of overall fan business of the company. Company is expecting 15 per cent of ceiling fan revenue in 2021 from this range. Jitendra Agrawal, Senior VP, Luminous Power Technologies, said: “We are happy to launch our range of designer energy efficient fans which are smart, modern, energy-efficient and environment friendly. The new range is not only aesthetically appealing but also economical.”

### Glenmark unveils new drug

Glenmark Pharma on Tuesday launched a generic kidney cancer treatment drug 'Sunitinib oral capsules' in India priced 96 per cent lower compared to the innovator brand. Glenmark Pharma said it launched "SUTIB, the generic version of Sunitinib oral capsules to treat kidney cancer in India. The drug is launched at a MRP that is approximately 96 per cent lower than the MRP (maximum retail price) compared to the innovator brand, priced at Rs 7,000 (50 mg), Rs 3,600 (25 mg) and Rs 1,840 (12.5 mg) per month". Sunitinib is also approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). Kidney cancer (renal cell carcinoma) is a disease of uncontrolled cell growth in the lining of small tubes in the kidney.

## Govt to amend 2 Acts for PSBs' privatisation

NEW DELHI

TO facilitate privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs), the government is likely to bring amendments to two legislations later this year.

Amendments would be required in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 for privatisation, sources said. These Acts led to nationalisation of banks in two phases and provisions of these laws have to be changed for privatisation of banks, they said. As the government has already announced the list of legislative business for the Budget session, it is expected that these amendments may be introduced in the Monsoon session or later during the year, sources added. The ongoing Budget session is scheduled to take up as many as 38 Bills including the Finance Bill 2021, Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2020-21 and related Appropriation Bill, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill, 2021, and Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting Budget 2021-22 earlier this month had announced privatisation of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as part of disinvestment drive to garner Rs 1.75

It is expected that these amendments may be introduced in the Monsoon session or later during the year

lakh crore. “Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatisation of two Public Sector Banks and one General Insurance company in the year 2021-22,” she had said.

Later in one of the post Budget interactions, the Finance Minister had said the government will work with the Reserve Bank for execution of the bank privatisation plan announced in the Union Budget 2021-22. “The details are being worked out. I have made the announcement but we are working together with the RBI,” she had said, when asked about the proposal. The government last year consolidated 10 public sector banks into four and as a result the total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017. As per the amalgamation plan, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce were merged with Punjab National Bank, making the proposed entity the second largest PSB. Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank, while Allahabad Bank was subsumed in Indian Bank.



### Indian ad spends to rise 23.5%

MUMBAI

ADVERTISING spends across media platforms in India will grow by 23.5 per cent in 2021 to Rs 80,123 crore in 2021 after a sharp 21.5 per cent decline in the pandemic-hit 2020, a media buying agency estimated on Tuesday.

Terming the estimates as “not optimistic, but realistic”, GroupM South Asia's chief executive Prasanth Kumar pointed out that they will still be lower as compared to the nearly Rs 83,000 crore achieved in 2019.

Weeks before the announcement of the pandemic, the agency had estimated a 10.7 per cent growth in ad spends for 2020 to Rs 91,641 crore. India's rank slipped by one notch to being tenth in the overall ad spends across the world and the handsome growth in 2021 will help it regain the 9th spot, the agency said, adding that from a share in incremental spends, the country will be at the sixth spot.

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NIZAMABAD

TELANGANA government has been pushing the industrial development by focusing on establishment of large and small industries in the Nizamabad district. The State government's thrust is on speeding up traditional industrial growth via a vis software and information technology industry development in the Nizamabad district.

In a bid to boost the software industry in the district, the State government has constructed IT towers in Nizamabad town at an investment of Rs 25 crore.

The government has identified that the district has huge untapped potential for establishing industries related to food processing. There is a abundant availability of the several kinds of agriculture produce, which can act as raw material for the food processing industries. These units in turn would create employment opportunities in the district.

The district can be transformed from a purely agrarian economy to an agrarian and industrial economy. Turmeric, oil extraction from paddy, soybean and oil seeds, soy products,

## SAT stays Sebi's ban on Biyani from securities mkt

MUMBAI

IN a major relief for Future Retail CEO Kishore Biyani, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has stayed the Sebi's order restricting him along with other promoters of the group from the securities market for alleged insider trading in the scrip of Future Retail (FRL). A company statement said the appellate tribunal has stayed the “effect and operation” of Sebi's order accusing the promoters of the Future Group of insider trading in the context of purchases of Future Retail shares made in March 2017.

As per the company, the restructuring of the home furnishing businesses in the Future Group - with the physical store format of Future Retail and online store format of Future Enterprises being demerged into a new company - had been well



Kishore Biyani, Future Retail CEO

known in the public since 2016.

Future Group counsel Somasekhara Sundaresan argued that the actual terms of the restructuring were initiated only in April 2017

while the purchases were made in March to avail of the acquisition limits under the takeover regulations. SAT, however, has directed Future Group promoters to deposit a sum of Rs 11 crore as an interim measure. The case will now come up on April 12, 2021. Earlier this month, the capital

market regulator Sebi barred Biyani, among others, from the securities market for a period of one year for insider trading in the scrip of Future Retail (FRL). The other entities and individuals barred by Sebi from the securities market were Future Corporate Resources Private Limited (FCRPL), Kishore Biyani's brother Anil Biyani, Rajesh Pathak and Rajkumar Pandey.

## Nizamabad awaits industrial growth



rice and maize products and milk and dairy segments are its strengths.

Currently, agricultural produce is transported to other districts and States for processing. Thus depriving the district of the crucial industrial growth. For example, there is only one mill making industrial grade starch in the district.

Providing important facilities that can enable the ease of setting up units

and running business such as, establishing common pool of infrastructure and amenities to be used by a group of small units, is rapidly picking up in the district. This acts as value addition for the opportunities with low per capita investment.

### Spice park

The Spice Park proposed in Padgal village of Velpur mandal has not yet

## Max Bupa opens four branches in Telangana

HANS BUSINESS  
HYDERABAD

MAX BUPA, health insurance company, announced on Tuesday that it would strengthen its presence in Telangana by opening four new branches - two in Hyderabad, one each in Warangal and Nizamabad.

Addressing media persons in Hyderabad today, Krishnamachandran, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Max Bupa, said, “The insurance company aims to provide health coverage to over 3.5 lakh people in the next five years in the State.” “The customers can avail cashless hospitalisation through 300 network hospitals in the State and 6,000 plus hospitals across the country. Our target is to clock Rs 240 crore gross written premium and 20 times growth in policy purchase from the new branches in next five years,” he said.

## Mkts end lower amid mixed global cues

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower on Tuesday as investors booked profits at higher levels amid a mixed trend in global markets.

After touching a lifetime high of 52,516.76 in the opening session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 49.96 points or 0.10 per cent lower at 52,104.17. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty inched 1.25 points or 0.01 per cent lower to close at 15,313.45.

Axis Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.42 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Infosys, Nestle India, SBI, TCS and HUL. On the other hand, Power Grid rallied over 6 per cent. ONGC, NTPC, Kotak Bank, Reliance Industries and Maruti Suzuki were among the other gainers. “Market, though volatile, kept its momentum during the



morning hours, however, failing to hold on to it due to a weak opening of European markets.

The downfall was aggravated by private banks, IT and FMCG stocks while mid and small caps continued their outperformance. “Increased interest was seen in PSU Banks as the government short-listed four banks for privatisation. The Indian market has been absorbing the global trend these days and we expect that to continue due to the lack of any major domestic event,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sector-wise, BSE power, utilities, metal, energy, oil and gas, basic materials and healthcare indices ended with gains, while IT, tech, FMCG, consumer durables and bankex finished in the red. In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and small-cap indices rose up to 0.43 per cent.

ates enter the employment market each year with few job opportunities in the district. Nizamabad has eco spots that can be developed to create interest in tourists through leisure stay, trekking and adventure stay, and pilgrimages. Interestingly, hotels are built in abandoned quarries abroad to promote tourism, a research paper on the district development states.

Largest sugar factory in Asia, Nizam Sugars was established in 1938 in Bodhan. Later its units were established in several other places. In undivided Andhra Pradesh, the then TDP government as part of development of Nizam Sugars sold 51 per cent stake to private players.

The sugar factory has three additional units at Bodhan, Metpally and Mumbajipally (Medak). During 2014 election campaign, the TRS leadership had promised to take over Nizam Sugars if they come to power and develop it.

As promised, the TRS government in 2015 issued a GO to continue all the three units of the sugar factory under cooperative sector. In this backdrop a lay off was declared and all the three units were closed. People still waiting for the poll promises to be fulfilled.



