



Womenia

TWEET PATROL



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Have a sunshine filled Sunday



Increasing trend of egg freezing in India

DR ILA GUPTA

One are the days, when women were asked to get married at age of 18 – 22 years and were pressurized to complete their family by 24-26 years of age.

Nowadays, most of the women are not ready to start the family due to social and economic reasons.

Eggs freezing comes as a boon and most suitable option for these females who are advancing in age and their biological clocks are ticking. First pregnancy with frozen Oocytes in the world was reported in 1986 by Dr Christopher Chen from Singapore.

Chemo and Radiotherapy has toxic effects on gametes. Eggs freezing was started for cancer patients before starting chemotherapy / radiotherapy to prevent them from losing their eggs and to have their biological children later in future.

Later on this technique was preferred by the patients and treating doctors for other medical illnesses like endometriosis, history of early menopause and also for other social reasons. With the increasing awareness, trend of egg freezing is increasing in India also, the reason being medical and/or social.



HEALTHY FUNDA
Egg freezing comes as a boon for those females who are advancing in age and their biological clocks are ticking

On the other hand, one should know that carrying the pregnancy in advanced age has its complications on mother and foetus too. So one should opt for this technique judiciously and at the right time.

Women at the age 40 have upto 45 per cent chances of miscarriage and by the age of 45 it increases to 75 per cent. Freezing their eggs at an early age gives them a fair chance of having a healthy baby at later stage.

It is an easily approachable and affordable process. Best time to freeze the eggs is before 35 years age as the number and quality of eggs drastically declines after 35. Procedure of Egg freezing is absolutely safe and can be kept frozen for as long as one desires.

With the development and advancement in oocytes freezing techniques its no longer in an experimental stage. Latest data says it's a well established practice with

good pregnancy outcome and its use has been extended to fertility preservation and social freezing.

According to current data of Fertility Fertility clinic, has the survival rate of frozen oocytes 95 per cent, fertilization rate is 85.3 per cent and pregnancy rate is 68.75 per cent.

Egg retrieval is a day care procedure without any cut/stitch, done under general anaesthesia, transvaginally under ultrasound guidance. Patient is discharged on the same day and the eggs are frozen.

When the woman decides to plan for pregnancy, eggs are thawed and fertilized with the sperms to form embryos, they are further cultured in the lab for 3-5 days and transferred in the uterus.

The important factors which determine the success of having a healthy baby is the age at which oocytes freezing was done and the number of eggs stored. Expertise and Experience of clinician/embryologist team is also important to have the good outcome.

As awareness is increasing among general population, more and more women are coming forward. This procedure is gaining popularity in developing countries and in India too.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Rani Mukerji: Fortunate to get projects that had strong female protagonists

On the occasion of National Girl Child Day on Sunday, Rani Mukerji opened up on the power of cinema to drive changes that could benefit women. The actress, who has been around in Bollywood for 24 years now, feels fortunate that she has by and large worked in films that offered her strong protagonists.

"By projecting girls well, cinema definitely tries to contribute towards showing how girls can be so much more than what society wanted them to be," she said.

"Cinema has the power to impact societal change and actors do have the power to talk to people and seed the thought of positive change through their choice of films. I have been fortunate as an artiste to get projects that had strong female protagonists and, to be honest, I have also consciously tried to seek out such projects," she added.

The actress reveals that she always has a specific plan in mind while choosing roles and films.

"I want my body of work to loudly tell the world what my intent was, with my brand of cinema and my roles, and today, I'm happy that I chose well. I say this because I wanted to do my bit towards shifting society's stereotyped gaze towards women," she added.

Rani hopes she been instrumental in projecting women as strong and independent through her roles.

"Most of the characters I have played -- like Rhea in 'Hum Tum', Shashi in 'Yuva', Roshni in 'Talaash', Suhani in 'Saathiyi', Saamiya in 'Veer-Zaara', Michelle in 'Black', Meera in 'No One Killed Jessica', Shivani in 'Mardaani', or Naina in 'Tichki' among others - have hopefully been instrumental in projecting women as strong, independent, forward-thinking individuals who are not afraid to follow their hearts and do the right thing."

She says she is a satiated artiste because of her choices that made an effort to change society. "Films can play a big hand in altering societal notions, bring about the right change," she observed.

When it comes to the portrayal of women in films, she feels there is still a lot of work to be done.

"I know there is still a lot of work to be done, and films can contribute much more in triggering the right thoughts and conversations about equality, parity, and independence of women. I have faith in the industry that we will try to do our best," she summed up.



Importance of calcium for ladies

Teeth are bones and if you are having problems with your teeth, this may mean problems with your bones too. Too many people have cavities so here are some things that you can do to have better bones and teeth.

Vitamin D

Check your vitamin D levels and supplement if necessary. Vitamin D is necessary to absorb the calcium.

Calcium rich foods

Have plenty of greens, beans, and seeds. All of these are rich in calcium.

Avoid acidic foods

Tea, coffee, colas, sugar, alcohol and other drugs are acidic in nature and leach the bones of calcium. Note – all vegetables and fruits including lemons are alkaline in our bodies because of

high levels of potassium.

Avoid animal proteins

This includes meat fish, chicken and eggs as well as all forms of dairy. These are acid yielding in our body as proteins break down into amino acids. Also they all lack fibre.

Exercise

This makes the bones regenerate.

Avoid overconsumption of spinach

Spinach contains oxalates which may prevent the absorption of calcium so make sure your greens are varied.

Avoid fat and increase fibre

This combination makes your blood thinner and opens your arteries, thus improving blood flow and circulation and so improving bone health. — Sharan-india.org



TEJAL SINHA

HopeQure was started with a vision to overcome the global stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment and solve the problem of reach and availability while providing world class online counselling to clients in India as well as globally. HopeQure mental wellness program is ideally suited for individuals and corporates that have been developed as a result of extensive research to commercially implement the best available technology using AI, Deep Learning, and Computer Vision for the usage of Mental Health processes.

Shiya Sagar, co-founder of HopeQure shares, "I believe that the application of advance technology in Psychology counselling will help in addressing the requirements of various unique socio-economic segments of our society. We, at HopeQure are sure that our work will act as a suitable catalyst to facilitate ground-breaking changes in the field of online assessments, diagnostics and patient Care, leading to higher standards and result oriented online mental health counselling."

HopeQure is a HIPAA certified online mental wellness platform providing confidential, seamless and secure access for mental health programs leading to happy and productive workforce. It has implemented global best practices for identifying and handling online mental health counselling for individuals as well as employee mental health issues through its HIPAA certified advanced tech platform that extensively uses various Psychological programs and are backed by data based scales to measure impact on improvement.

HopeQure also provides free online self-assessments for 100+ Psychological issues and all assessments are conducted online through interactive process whereas secure online voice or video counselling is used to address any identified Psychological disorder treated by certified and

Online therapy sessions with clinically backed programmes

Shiya Sagar is the co-founder of HopeQure that provides online counselling and emotional support for improved mental wellness by connecting patients with the right therapist



Shiya Sagar, Co-Founder, HopeQure

registered psychologists or through dedicated behavioural programs.

"I initiated the idea of HopeQure when I came across the fact that 'Every sixth Indian needs help in dealing with mental health issues' via National Mental Health Survey, India. This report shocked me and simultaneously inspired me to come up with a mental health platform that could address mental health needs. It was unfortunate to see that there are so many stigmas around seeking professional help for mental health issues and people associate mental ailments to madness. Such challenges motivated me to bring up a high-quality mental health treatment with the help of advance technology and qualified psychologists. I realised that one of the largest populations lacks access to certified mental health professionals," adds Shiya.

The major challenge that HopeQure initially faced was handling stigma as they were dealing with the people who have never been into therapy before and have been raised in social environment where mental health issues have taboo.

The pandemic impact

The pandemic has made things worse for everyone and enhanced mental health concerns globally. Numbers of queries have increased since then. People have been more anxious due to thoughts such as fear of infection, fear of losing loved one, death anxiety, and other intrusive thoughts.

HopeQure is trying best to cater the need of the clients. The new normal that arrived with COVID like work from home, social distancing, use of sanitizers and masks got people out of their comfort zones. Spending more time together with family resulted

in relationship issues as well when many members lived together under a roof for a long time, with a lot to share among themselves including space. This lifestyle changes was unexpected and most people were unprepared for this.

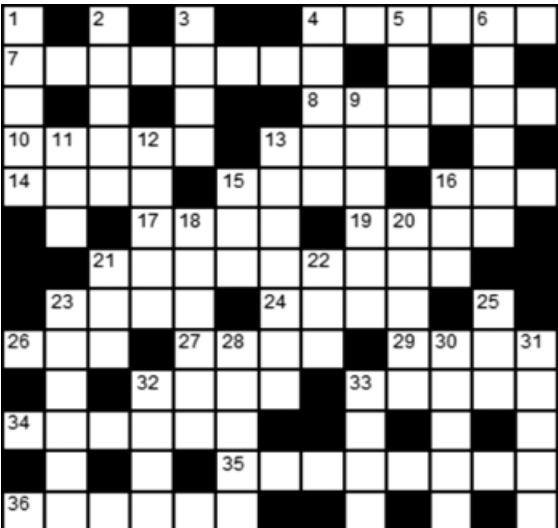
People were uncomfortable accepting the new situation sometimes leading to behavioural issues within families. Fear of death or losing a loved one, isolation and loneliness resulted in domestic violence, anxiety, depression etc and needed professional intervention the psychological counselors. During this period, HopeQure provided affordable counselling sessions for people across India to cope up with this situation and assured that even this shall pass.

On the positive front, due to COVID-19 people realised that seeking mental health treatment is important and mental health should be treated like any other illness. It is just an illness not a defect in the personality.

With the published figure of 197.3 million people (Global Burden of Disease Study - 2019), the prevalence of mental ailment is due to treatment gap.

HopeQure provides:

- Safe, private and confidential counselling
- HIPAA certified
- Easy, seamless and secure video, voice, and chat sessions
- 650+ certified and registered professional therapists available on the platform.



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R A LIP N E A
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BOOTLEG A I
N O UNCLOG
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SOLUTION TO JANUARY 23

CROSSWORD

Across

- Prizes (6)
- Forceful (8)
- Drug-yielding plant (6)
- Fierce stare (5)
- Fixed amount (4)
- Eye inflammation (4)
- Tending to the problem (2,2)
- Brown-capped mushroom (3)
- Desirable; favorable (4)
- Palindromic address (4)
- Thick-skinned hoofed mammal (9)
- Sect (4)
- Charged particles (4)
- Breach (3)
- Grassy appendages (4)
- Depose (4)
- Hitch (4)
- Our country (5)
- Centres of atoms (6)
- Immensity (8)
- Of food, sprinkled with alcohol and set alight (6)

Down

- Colloquially speaking massive blocks of ice floating in the ocean (5)
- Spread out (5)
- Mist (4)
- Anatomical sacs (5)
- Help in a criminal activity (4)
- Crown (6)
- Coal miners (6)
- Limited, in short (3)
- Majestic (5)
- Eternal (7)
- Cry of delight (3)
- Eccentric shaft (3)
- Gas pump rating (6)
- Fire-raising ? (5)
- One of a litter (3)
- Disk operating system, in short (3)
- Offhand (6)
- Letter after chi (3)
- Relinquish (5)
- Mammary gland in cows (5)
- Aromatic herb (5)
- Reduce (4)
- Greek vowel (4)

SUDOKU

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SOLUTION TO JANUARY 23

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Sign language helps connect diverse ‘mini India’ at R-Day camp

KUNAL DUTT
NEW DELHI

BENGALI, Gujarati, Tamil, Ladakhi, Assamese are among the Indian languages which can be heard at this year's Republic Day camp here, but there is a particular one being also used by various contingents - sign language, adding a layer of inclusivity to the diversity that the ceremonial event represents.

The language of hand gestures has worked as a bridge of communication for not only people with hearing and speech disabilities who are taking part in the camp, but also for those who can

speak and hear, at a time when masks have hidden facial expressions and social distancing is the new normal.

A group of 12 youngsters from the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), in their matching blue uniforms, can be seen interacting with each other and with members of other tableaux contingents on the premises of the camp at Delhi Cantonment.

Delhi-based ISLRTC, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, conducts courses for developing Indian sign languages interpreters and teachers and provides interpretation serv-



ices for various events. "This year, the ministry's tableau will represent our institution and all the boys and girls who are part of it are very excited. They may not be able to tell that verbally, but through non-verbal gestures they have conveyed their joy," said Shavita Sharma of the institution.

While craftsmen are giving finishing touches to the ISLRTC's tableau, which has huge models of a few hands folded in interpretive gestures, letters and other elements, its members are using the camp time to bond with others, transcending all linguistic barriers. The theme of the tableau is 'Bharatiya Sanketik

Bhasha: Ek Rashtra, Ek Sanketik Bhasha'. Pankaj Kumar, who hails from Dholpur Rajasthan, was doing his course at ISLRTC online due to COVID-19 restrictions and was happy to physically attend the camp and experience the country's diversity in one place. Gargi, 21, who has finished a course in D.Ed (Hearing Impairment), helps him and other with hearing disabilities in communicating with people who can hear.

"I am getting trained at the institute and it's a very different experience, sometimes the language is not that we can hear, but we can feel. We may speak a language very fluently, but the soci-

ety also needs a language of empathy for people with any disability," she said.

Gargi, even while interacting with staff at the camp canteen, uses sign language along with verbal communication. She is getting trained in sign language by persons with hearing disability at the institute. "It's also my language now and I am proud of it. Gestures speak when words fail," she told PTI. Sharma of the ISLRTC said due to COVID-19 everyone is wearing a mask and so it is difficult for those with hearing disabilities to communicate as "they can't see facial expressions".

AAP condemns proposal to increase councillor funds

NEW DELHI

DELHI's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday condemned the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's proposal to hike development funds for municipal councillors in the next financial year.

AAP national spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj citing a copy of north civic body's budget proposal for 2021-2022, said the civic agency has proposed to increase funds for municipal councillors from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore.

Addressing a press conference, Bhardwaj said, "On one hand, BJP-ruled civic authorities in Delhi say they do not have funds even to release monthly wages for employees and sanitation staff, on the other side, they are increasing municipal coun-

cillors' funds at this level. AAP wants to appeal to BJP's central leadership not to allow such practices in MCDs."

He stated that the employees of all three civic authorities have been in protest against their pending dues which has resulted in filthy conditions with garbage piled up across the city. "It is on record that North civic bodies have not cleared dues of doctors, nurses, sanitation staff, school teachers and of other employees for past five years but they seem in a hurry to increase councillors' funds," the AAP spokesperson said.

Bhardwaj also questioned the civic authorities' proposal to set up kiosks and nurseries in parks located under their jurisdiction. Citing North MCD's budget copy, Bhardwaj said, "North MCD has proposed to allow pri-



vate parties to set up eateries and other activities in parks and it says that municipal councillors will be the final authority to decide. By doing this, BJP-ruled MCDs will give a free hand to private parties to encroach in parks."

The face-off between AAP and BJP on MCD funds has been a long running issue. AAP demanded that the BJP should immediately disclose why they have not taken any initiative to get MCD dues from DDA which owes around Rs 2,000 crore.

2 DRDO tableau at R-Day

DRDO has been showcasing advanced defence technology products for tri services at Rajpath on Republic Day every year. Delivering on its mandate of development of state of the art defence systems, DRDO once again has brought two important tableaux to the prestigious Republic Day parade 2021. Showcasing the major achievements of the year, are LCA Navy take off and landing onboard the aircraft carrier and the complete family of Anti Tank Guided Missiles.

Light Combat Aircraft Tejas has achieved a major technology capability milestone by landing and taking off from the Aircraft Carrier of IN. The LCA Navy tableau celebrates the successful demonstration of carrier operations of LCA Navy from INS Vikramaditya on sea. The tableau of LCA Navy shows landing, takeoff and lift operation, three most important operations required to be met by an aircraft onboard a carrier ship. LCA Navy successfully demonstrated landing on a 90 meters



runway and take-off from short run of 145 meters in 2020. LCA Navy is India's first 4+ Generation STOBAR (Ski-Jump Take Off But Arrested Recovery) fighter aircraft capable of operating from an aircraft carrier. Cdr Abhishek C Gawande of Indian Navy is the commander of the tableau.

LCA Tejas model is also part of IAF Tableau and adorning the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Tableau represent-

ing the theme of Vocal for Local. Other DRDO products on Rajpath this year are Akash Surface to Air Missile and Astra Air to Air Missile on IAF Tableau.

DRDO has been a design and development agency for Armed Forces and to reinforce the spirit of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, DRDO is partnering with all stakeholders of defence ecosystem, including academia, industry and services in developing state of the art defence systems

Couple released from jail find missing children

AGRA

THE missing minor children of a couple, who had been jailed for five years for a crime they did not commit, have finally been traced to separate children's homes in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad and Kanpur.

The couple, Narendra Singh (40) and his wife Najma (30), were unable to locate their son Ajeet and daughter Anju, who were five and three-years-old at the time of their arrest in September 2015.

According to sources, both the children were shifted to an Agra child protection home in October 2019 after their grandfather Bhagwan Das was unable to take care of them due to poor financial condition.

The duo had been handed over to their grandparents immediately after the couple's arrest.

Agra Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Chairman Gopal Sharma said, "Both the children were living in separate children's homes. They were sent to separate facilities after age verification revealed they were above 10 years."

While Ajeet was found living at the state children's home for boys in Firozabad, Anju was traced to the state children's home for girls in Kanpur.

Fuel pellets to help raise UP farmers' income

LUCKNOW

THE Yogi Adityanath government will now be paying money for the agricultural wastes of the farmers. This is a part of the government's commitment to double the income of farmers in Uttar Pradesh.

Besides providing a solution to stubble burning, this will also assist in protecting the environment. According to a government spokesman, the chief minister had directed the department of agriculture to increase the income of the farmers and also to reduce their cost and on his initiative, a bio-coal production unit has been set up in Risia in Bahraich district.

The trial of the fuel briquette pellets, manufactured from agro waste, has also been completed in the plant and agricultural wastes like paddy straw, corn stalks and sugarcane leaves are being bought



at Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per quintal from the farmers of the region. About 10,000 quintals have been also been bought from the farmers so far. The unit has also received an order for pellet supply of 1,000 tonnes per day by Unchahar unit of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

This unit has also provided direct and indirect employment to over a 100 people and at the same time, the farmers are getting extra income for their agriculture residue. Agriculture Produce

Commissioner Alok Sinha said that it is just a small effort to increase the income of the farmers.

"This, however, will be a major relief for the problem of stubble burning and management of agriculture residue. We are motivating others to set up such units in the state for manufacturing pellets from agriculture residue," Sinha said. This is the first plant in the state which is making fuel briquettes from agriculture residue and the trial of the plant has just been completed.

UP CM likens anti-Covid vaccine to 'Sanjeevani Booti'

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday compared the Covid-19 vaccines given by India to Brazil to 'Sanjeevani Booti', a mythological life-saving herb figuring in the Hindu epic Ramayana.

Yogi made the comparison a day after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro invoked Lord Hanuman while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing two million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to fight the deadly coronavirus infection in his country, one of the worst-hit nations by the pandemic.

Referring to the Brazilian president's tweet of an image of Lord Hanuman flying from India to Brazil with a mountain of the life-saving herb, Yogi said Bolsonaro himself likened In-



jeevani vaccine to 'Sanjeevani Booti'.

"While saving lives of the countrymen, the Covid-19 vaccines are also reaching other parts of the world," Adityanath said while addressing the UP Divas programme here.

Gurugram aims to reduce road accidents by 25% this year

GURUGRAM

THE Regional Transport Authority (RTA) of Gurugram has set a target of reducing the road fatalities by 25 per cent by the end of the year.

Under the 'Road Safety Week' programme, which is underway across the country from January 18 till February 17, the authority

has launched a campaign among the pedestrians, cyclists and bike-riders about road accidents caused by fog and darkness.

The district traffic police along with NGOs are trying to increase awareness among the vehicle drivers and persuade them to follow the traffic rules. The traffic police are also issuing challan (fine) against violators.



"The RTA department has also started several steps to reduce fatalities on the city's multiple

stretches. Due to the dense fog, the risk of accidents has also increased. So it is important to work on this side to save people. "In order to reduce these accidents, the department has launched a campaign to distribute reflective jackets to such people," said RTA Secretary, Dharna Yadav.

"A target has been set to dis-

tribute around 2,000 reflective jackets under this campaign. The message of 'Be safe - be seen' is written on these jackets being distributed by the department," she said.

The RTA Office of Gurugram had issued a fine of Rs 6.12 crore against 1,218 overloaded and passenger vehicles within a period of three months in Gurugram.

Poultry trade hit by bird flu scare, retail sales improve

PK JHA
NEW DELHI

FOR the first time, the number of states affected by the outbreak of bird flu has reached double digits in India, although wild birds are worst affected by this disease. The poultry trade has not yet recovered from the outbreak. However, the demand for chicken at hotels and restaurants has seen an improvement over the previous week.

Though, bird flu has been confirmed in poultry birds in nine states, but its impact is quite low. Experts point out that the new avian influenza virus is not dangerous to humans.

The poultry industry of the country had not yet recovered fully due to the havoc caused by Covid-19, and now the recent outbreak of bird flu at the beginning of the year has severely affected the



poultry business. Despite the elaborate arrangements made by the central and state government agencies for prevention of outbreak of bird flu, it is safe to eat cooked chicken and eggs. The difficulties faced by poultry farmers have not subsided as they have been forced to sell cocks of Rs 100 at Rs 50.

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry in the Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy, Praveen Malik, told IANS that bird flu cases were first detected in India in 2006, but till now it was reported in a small number of states simultaneously, but this time its reporting has been good,

leading to its number rising in many states. States have shown promptness in reporting and conducting control campaigns against the virus.

He said that wherever the avian influenza has been confirmed in poultry birds, with the cooperation of the central government teams, the states have taken all the precautionary measures, including culling of birds.

According to an investigation report by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSD), Bhopal, the infection in birds had been confirmed in 13 states of the country as on Saturday, including in the poultry birds across nine states. Among these bird flu in ducks have been found in Kerala while it has been detected in poultry in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

At the same time, bird flu in wild birds has been confirmed in 12 states. Malik said the new virus which has emerged is not very dangerous as there are no reports of its affecting humans.

The virus by which the bird flu usually spreads is H5N1 while this time there have also been cases of H5N8 infection.

Poultry Federation of India President, Ramesh Khatri, said the fear of bird flu has affected the poultry industry's business in north India by nearly 50 per cent, while the business of poultry farmers in other parts of the country was affected by nearly 30 to 40 per cent.

At the same time, retail sales of chicken are definitely low but its price is not that low as chicken is being sold at Rs 230 to 250 per kg in Delhi-NCR.

The demand for chicken in hotels and restaurants was less a week ago, but now it has increased. Inderjit Singh, the di-

rector of 20 restaurant chains in Delhi, said the demand for chicken in his restaurant is starting to pick up now while non-vegetarian food lovers are demanding chicken as there is no panic among them about bird flu.

THE HANS CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Amarjit Singh s/o Late S. Dasrshan Singh R/o B-1885, Shastri Nagar Delhi -52. In some of my Documents my name is misspelt as Amarjeet Singh, My correct name is AMARJIT SINGH, so I Should be known as AMARJIT SINGH for my future purposes. (TH_Karun Sharma)

Why hoi polloi indifferent to Union Budget live

Budget 2021-22 is getting ready to be announced next week. This budget assumes importance because this will be the first budget in the corona pandemic year. While the government is getting ready with its policies and programmes and details pertaining to revenue and expenditure, a random survey indicates that the general public does not display great interest in watching the budget live though they have their own expectations and wish list. That is because no Opposition party had ever tried to know what the aspirations of the common man are and what they expect from the budget. No government has ever made any effort to create awareness among the common man about the importance of the budget and how he can influence the government to prepare a real people's budget. The general impression is that budget is full of figures and lengthy speech and ruckus in Par-

liament and all kinds of comments by the Opposition which makes no sense to them and in any case they have to bear the brunt of hike in prices of different commodities and services. Hence, they prefer watching their favourite programmes on TV. Who is to be blamed for this? In India, we do not have a system where the Opposition parties come up with alternative budget. Both budget presentation and the reactions have become a routine affair. The government indulges in rhetoric and claims that their budget is the best ever and the opposition comes out with same old comments, "old wine in new bottle," pro industry, anti people, nothing for the common man etc. Neither during their reactions nor during the discussion on budget proposal in Parliament, the Opposition had ever presented alternate budget proposals. It is not they do not have access to information on revenue earning and expenditure, Ministry wise, sector wise allocations and expenditure, possible deficit etc. Some of the parties particularly the Congress has been in power for long time since Independence and has top wizards like Dr Manmohan Singh. There are also many former RBI Governors. Never has the Opposition bothered to interact with the industry, the farm sector, the common man and the employees to find out what they feel about the budget proposals. What their party feels is projected as the wish of the common man. Anyway, a quick look at the possibilities of what ingredi-

ents the FM's halwa would have indicates that the domestic toys sector would get a boost to create a strong ecosystem for the industry and attract start-ups. Our share in international toy market is just 0.5 percent. Experts say that there is not much scope for increase in Customs duties and there is no possibility for a reduction in Excise duty on petroleum products. Furniture and cell phones may cost more as the government may increase the Customs duty. Tax experts expect reasonable changes in the most popular section to claim deductions against various investments and expenditures, Section 80C of the Income Tax Act in the Budget. At present, taxpayers can claim exemption up to Rs 1.5 lakh under this section for investments made in public provident fund (PPF), equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS), insurance premium, payment of home loan principal and children's tuition fee among others. As Covid-19 has exposed the poor state of medical infrastructure in the country, the government may also increase its expenditure on rural health care as well. Experts feel that the Union Budget would be expansionary, with the total expenditure of the government likely to increase to Rs 32-33 lakh crore from Rs 30.4 lakh crore in 2020-21. With no fiscal space available for major capital outlay, the Union Budget 2021 is likely to focus on attracting more foreign direct investments (FDIs) into India to create more jobs and spur growth impulses in the economy.



‘Choose - I kill you or rape you’: abuse charges surge in Ethiopia’s war

MICHAEL GEORGY

THE young coffee seller said she was split from family and friends by an Ethiopian soldier at the Tekeze river, taken down a path, and given a harrowing choice. "He said: 'Choose, either I kill you or rape you'," the 25-year-old told this reporter at the Hamdayet refugee camp in Sudan where she had fled from conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region.

The doctor who treated her when she arrived at the camp in December, Tewadrous Tefera Limeuh, confirmed to this reporter that he provided pills to stop pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and guided her to a psychotherapist.

"The soldier forced a gun on her and raped her," Limeuh, who was volunteering with the Sudanese Red Crescent, said the woman told him. "She asked him if he had a condom and he said, 'why would I need a condom?'"

Five aid workers for international and Ethiopian aid groups said they had received multiple similar reports of abuse in Tigray. The United Nations appealed this week for an end to sexual assaults in the region. Among a "high number" of allegations, particularly disturbing reports have emerged of people being forced to rape relatives or have sex in exchange for basic supplies, the UN. Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, said in a statement last week.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government and the military did not immediately respond to questions from this correspondent about the reports of rape. On Saturday, Ethiopia's ambassador to the United Nations, Taye Atske Selassie, told Patten that Ethiopia has a zero-tolerance policy on sexual violence, according to state-affiliated broadcaster Fana TV.

Ethiopian authorities have previously denied rights abuses, pointing the finger instead at the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the region's former ruling party whose forces they accuse of insurrection.

"I call on all parties involved in the hostilities in the Tigray region to commit to a zero-tolerance policy for crimes of sexual violence," UN special representative Patten said in the statement.

Women and girls in refugee camps within Ethiopia appear to have been particularly targeted, and medical centres are under pressure for emergency contraception and tests for sexually transmitted infections, the statement said.

This correspondent could not independently verify the accounts of rape. Media have been largely banned from Tigray, aid agencies have struggled for access, and communications were down for weeks.

The 25-year-old woman who spoke with this correspondent said her abuser wore an Ethiopian federal army uniform. The five aid workers said other women described their alleged assailants as being militia fighters from Ethiopia's Amhara region or Eritrean soldiers, both allied with Abiy's troops. This correspondent was unable to determine the identity of the woman's assailant.

Abiy's spokeswoman, Tigray's interim Governor, the mayor of the regional capital Mekelle, Eritrea's Foreign Minister and Ethiopia's army spokesman did not immediately reply to requests for comment on rape allegations. We could not reach TPLF representatives.

"I don't have any information about that," Amhara regional spokesman Gizachew Muluneh told this correspondent over phone. Ethiopia and Eritrea have both denied that Eritrean troops are in Ethiopia, contradicting dozens of eyewitness interviews, diplomats and an Ethiopian general.

At a meeting of security officials in Mekelle broadcast on Ethiopian state TV earlier this month, one soldier spoke of abuses even after the city had been captured by federal forces.

"I was angry yesterday. Why does a woman get raped in Mekelle city? It wouldn't be shocking if it happened during the war. But women were raped yesterday and today when the local police and federal police are around," said the soldier, who was not identified.

Local authorities did not immediately respond to efforts to seek comment on whether any soldiers might be investigated or brought to justice. Tewadrous, the refugee camp doctor, described two other rape cases he had handled. One woman, who said she had escaped from Rawyan town in Tigray, told of three soldiers she identified as Amhara special forces knocking at her door, the doctor said. When she refused them entry, they broke in and assaulted her.

An aid worker in the town of Wukro told this correspondent that victims had recounted how a husband was forced to kneel and watch while his wife was raped by soldiers they identified as Eritrean.

A medical worker in Adigrat said he treated six women who had been raped by a group of soldiers and told not to seek help afterwards. They found courage to come forward days later, but there were no medicines to treat them, the medic said.

In Mekelle, one man was beaten up after begging soldiers to stop raping a 19-year-old, according to a medical worker who treated both victims. Mekelle charity Elshadai said it has prepared 50 beds for rape victims.

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala

seem to be on the track. Reason is that government policies in this direction are misplaced. The government had established an Inter-Ministerial Committee to make plan for securing this objective which submitted its report in 2018. The committee has stressed the need to increase productivity in agriculture. In other words, more production should be obtained from the same one-acre piece of land. It seems obvious that more production would get more income for the farmer. Instead of earning Rs 2,000 from one quintal of wheat, the farmer would earn Rs 4,000 from two quintals of wheat. However, the committee forgot to note that the prices, more often than not, decline when production increases. The prices of agricultural produce in the global market have been declining in the last three decades. The population is not increasing rapidly while production continues to increase rapidly due to the use of tube wells, tractors, tissue culture and other modern technologies. This is leading to small increases in demand of the agricultural produce while the supply is increasing rapidly. The result is a decline in the prices. Therefore, the committee's recommendation to increase productivity is having the opposite result. The farmer is producing higher quantities but is earning less because of the parallel reduction in the prices. A few years ago, the farmers of Palanpur dumped their potato crops on the streets because they could not even recover the cost of harvesting them, let alone recovering the cost of seeds, ploughing and watering.

The second recommendation made by the committee was to secure an increase in the price of agricultural produce. Here there arises a contradiction between the two objectives of the government. The direct solution for increasing the incomes of the farmers is, not only to maintain the MSP but to increase it. This stands contrary to the government's objective of dismantling the MSP, which too is good. The MSP system has led to high production of specific crops. The government, through the Food Corporation of India, has to purchase the produce, store it, and often sell or export it at low prices later. There are huge problems of corruption and inefficiency involved here as well. It leads to a financial burden on the government. A circuitous route to securing in-

crease in the incomes of the farmers is adopted in the MSP approach. First, the production is increased, and the soil is over-exploited and over-stressed; then losses are incurred in purchase and storage of the crop; lastly loss is incurred in selling it at a low price. Therefore, the doubling of farmer's incomes by securing increase in the price as recommended by the committee will not and has not worked.

There is a way out yet. The committee had also recommended that the agricultural crops should be diversified. This recommendation can help solve the problem. Farmers of Italy and a small country like Tunisia in Africa are earning good incomes from the cultivation of olives. Farmers of France are earning from the cultivation of grapes, those of Netherlands from Tulip flowers, those of Malaysia from rubber, those of United States from walnuts, those of Pakistan from guava and mangoes, and so on. A number of such countries have established themselves as suppliers of specific crops. The farmers of Netherlands are paying a salary of Rs 15,000 per day. They are able to do this because their tulip flowers are of specified quality and get high prices in the international market. In our country, farmers of Kerala are earning high incomes from the cultivation of pepper, those of Mandya from silk, those of Coorg from coffee, those of Gulbarga from grapes, those of Bhusaval from bananas, those of Nasik from onions, those of Jodhpur from red chillies, and those of Assam from tea and pineapples. Therefore, the global- and our own experience tells us that farmer's incomes can be doubled if we can produce good quality produce as per international standards. Then MSP would not be required at all. No wonder, there is little opposition to dismantling of MSP from these areas.

The present imbroglio has been caused because the government wants to double the farmer's incomes later and dismantle the MSP upfront. This is like asking the homemaker to cease using the wood stove first and provide LPG gas to her after two years or asking the student to stop going to school today and provide him with a smartphone after two years. The dismantling of MSP before doubling the income would indeed be hugely harmful for the farmers and their protests today are justified.

India has a special advantage in being able to grow high-value crops for the global market. We can grow tulip, gladiolus and rose flowers across the 12 months. These can be grown in the south in the winters, Rajasthan in the monsoons and in the hills in the summers. We can grow olives in the deserts of Rajasthan, grapes of quality suitable for making high-priced wine in Gulbarga, and orchid flowers in the Northeast. These flowers sell for as much as Rs 10,00 for a single stem. The government should invest in research on these hi-value crops. Varieties of tulips,



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olives, grapes and other crops need to be developed that can grow in the specific soil and climate of our country. The crop management has to be determined to produce crops as per international standards. We can certainly attain this objective if the laboratories established by the Ministry of Agriculture do their work earnestly without interference. But research does not pay political dividends immediately hence the government puts this on the backburner.

The government must change its strategy. It must introspect why the farmers' incomes have not doubled despite this being promised to be attained in 2018, 2020 and now 2024? It must make heavy

investments in research. It may outsource research because termites have taken over our government laboratories. It must establish the infrastructure required to enable farmers to export their crops. A farmer at Paukhal near where I live in Uttarakhand grew gladiolus flowers. He incurred heavy losses because he could not transport them to the market in the plains. The government should first remove these bottlenecks and actually double the farmers' incomes. The MSP system should certainly be dismantled thereafter.

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

Biden's move on Paris Accord towards right direction

KUDOS to the new US president Joe Biden for beginning his presidency by taking many important decisions notably on re-joining the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Both decisions are significant for environmental protection and public health across the globe. It is pertinent to note that the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has reported that the year 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record putting further credence to what scientists have been warning of persistent global warming and climate change trend. The Paris Agreement aims to limit global temperature rise to 2degrees C above the pre-industrial level. The Trump administration withdrew the US from the Climate Agreement contending that the agreement would undermine the US economy and put the country at a permanent disadvantage. The US withdrawal which took effect on November 4, 2020, is now reversed by the new president Biden on the very first day of his administration which shows his concern for the environmental degradation. To meet the climate challenge and to bring down GHG emissions, the inter-governmental response is needed in the light of the Paris Agreement. The Biden government's decision is a step in the right direction lends support to the global efforts for climate change mitigation.

Dr E R Subrahmanyam, Amalapuram, EG dist, AP

Well done, India!

JANUARY 19, yes, once again the Australian soil which witnessed one of the greatest comebacks ever made in the history of Test Cricket chasing down an improbable total of 324 on a wearing fifth day pitch at the Australian fortress - Gabba by a depleted and inexperienced Indian side - only in terms of number of Tests played between them but certainly not in terms of attitude, grit, determination, focus, calmness and courage thereby rewriting the history. It was on the same day in Australia 12 years ago in Perth where India won the heart of everyone by overcoming Australians after all the drama of monkey gate and poor umpiring incidents in Sydney. From Day 1, till the first hour of third session on day 5, it was all about saving the match for India. But as they say, cricket is a funny old game, the young guns of India turned it around and gave Aussies the knockout punch with some amazing hitting in the final hour of play to seal the Border-Gavaskar trophy for the second consecutive time down under. It was a complete team performance and brilliantly led by Rahane who set the tone with a magnificent hundred at Melbourne. This series win especially after the Adelaide debacle will be cherished for a very long time not only by the Indian fans but also by the entire cricketing fraternity across the globe. Well done, India!

Dr Vinay Kumar MS, Hosapete, Karnataka

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LETTERS

Let's rededicate to the cause of nation
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose dreamt of a strong and powerful India, and his 125th birth anniversary must remind us the efforts and selfless sacrifices of innumerable countrymen in achieving freedom of the country. The day of his birth, 23rd January is called as 'Parakram Divas' as an apt gesture in remembering Netaji, every year. It will help us rededicate ourselves to the cause of the nation as Prime Minister has said Bose was an idol, in the ideal of nationalism, while addressing the crowd at Kolkata's Victoria Memorial, on the historic birthday of Subhash Chandra Bose. If Netaji had been alive at the time when India became Independent, the prevailing border crisis with China and Pakistan would not have happened, the effect of which the country is enduring, after more than seventy years of freedom, from the British rule. As an anti-climax to the historic event, held on the 23rd January at Kolkata, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who discontinued her address at the event, when the crowd began chanting 'Jai Sriram' slogans got irritated to no end. The chanting of the slogan is an anathema to Mamata Banerjee, that she sees it as a BJP slogan, aimed against her party, TMC.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Supporters of Revanth, KTR engage in slugfest on Twitter

- Revanth challenges KTR to show development taken place in Kodangal after the latter adopted it
- The Congress leader claims all the development took place when he was the legislator of the constituency
- Supporters of KTR post pictures on twitter to claim the works taken up under TRS rule
- Question Revanth as to why he had lost the Kodangal seat when he had done several works as an MLA of the constituency



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A twitter war broke out between the supporters of TPCC working president A Revanth Reddy and TRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday. Earlier, the Congress leader had challenged KT

Rama Rao to show the development taken place in the Kodangal Assembly segment, which has been adopted by the TRS leader after 2018 Assembly elections. Responding to an article published in a regional newspaper that KTR has developed Kodangal on par with his Sircilla con-

stituency in just two years, the TPCC leader, who has been elected MLA from the same constituency for two times, took to social media and dared the ruling party leader and the IT Minister to disclose the details of all development activities with documentary evidence. He claimed development in Kodangal was taken only between 2009 and 2018 when he was the legislator.

Revanth said that there has been no development activity ever since he was defeated in the 2018 Assembly elections from Kodangal segment. In a quick response, KTR supporters retorted and posted the photos of all development activities taking place in the constituency. They questioned Revanth for his defeat when his tall claim of huge development in the Assembly segment was true.

LIFTING THE PATRIOTIC SPIRIT



With Republic Day just around the corner, tailors who stitch the national flags in Hyderabad are doing brisk business to cater to the demand for tricolour. As stitching national flags is a seasonal business, tailors make the most of the opportunity.
Photo: Srinivas Setty

Congress wants govt to announce MSP for turmeric

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has demanded that the Centre and State governments buy turmeric at a minimum support price and take immediate action to set up the Turmeric Board. "The BJP at the Centre and the TRS government in the State are playing tricks and blaming each other and causing trouble to the farmers, the Congress leader said, demanding that the two governments immediately focus on the plight of farmers and support them by providing the minimum support price for the turmeric crop.

This year, the farmers had cultivated turmeric in 40,624 acres in Nizamabad, 26,165 acres in Nirmal, 34,078 acres in Jagtial, 16,739 in Warangal rural, 1,766 acres in Jayashankar-Bhupalpally and 10,234 acres in Mahabubabad districts. As there is

- Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka slams the Central and the State governments for ignoring the plight of turmeric farmers
- Demands the governments to set up Turmeric Board to rescue the growers



no fixed MSP, the farmers are unable to sell their harvest for a reasonable price. They are worried that the price for a quintal of turmeric which was Rs 15,000 eight years ago was now not even selling for Rs 4,000 or Rs 5,000, pushing them into losses.

Muslims' prayers on Sectt premises foiled

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE members of the Muslim Joint Action Committee (JAC) on Sunday offered afternoon prayers on road near Secretariat after they were not allowed to enter the premises of where two mosques stood, before the State government demolished all the structures inside the Secretariat. Later, they were detained by the police.

The JAC convener Mushtaq Malik, who led the 'million March' against CAA-NRC last year and other offered Namaz in front of BSNL office near the Secretariat. Later, on receiving information about the gathering of JAC members and other Muslims, the central zone police reached the spot and took the activists into custody.

Mushtaq Malik, along with congress leaders Feroz Khan, Osman Mohammed Khan, Rasheed Khan, MBT leader Syed Mustafa Mehmood and other JAC activists, were arrested by police when they

They offer afternoon prayers on road near Secretariat



Police official arresting minority people as they are protesting for re-constructing of Masjid in Secretariat, in Hyderabad on Sunday

were trying to enter the Secretariat complex.

After 'Chalo Secretariat Masjid' call given by the JAC the police remained alert across City and districts. Some were placed under house arrest including Majlis

Bachao Tehreek (MBT) spokesperson Amjedullah Khan in Chanchalguda. While in Nizamabad, MBT Nizamabad President Abdul Basith and Abdul Ghani

General Secretary IUML were detained by Nizamabad police in Town-1 and Mohammed Wajhiullah Khan, Ahle Hadees in Town-2 and besides several others.

According to Mushtaq Malik, two mosques including Masjid-e-Mohammadia and Masjid-e-Hashmi located within the vicinity of Old Secretariat building were razed by the authorities on July 6, 2020 and after agitation by JAC

Covid count drops below 200 in State

HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State's daily Covid count dropped below 200 while it continued to report more recoveries than new positive cases, health officials said on Sunday.

The State logged 197 new cases and reported one death during the last 24 hours. The State's cumulative tally rose to 2,93,253 while the death toll moved to 1,589. According to the Director of Public Health and Family Welfare, the daily count in Greater Hyderabad dropped to 32. Karimnagar reported 13 cases while Medchal, Malkajgiri and Rangareddy districts logged 12 cases each. The daily count in the remaining 29 districts was in single digits.

During the last 24 hours, 376 people recovered from the virus taking the cumulative recoveries to 2,88,275. The recovery rate improved to 98.30 per cent against the national average of 96.8 per cent. The State now has 3,389 active cases including 1,842 who are in home or institutional isolation.

A majority of the beds, as many as 8,006 beds out of 8,577 in 62 government hospitals were vacant. Similarly, in 219 private hospitals 6,777 out of 7,753 beds were vacant.

The authorities conducted 29,560 tests during the last 24 hours that ended 8 pm Saturday. While 25,817 samples were tested in government labs, 3,743 tests were conducted in private labs. With this the cumulative number of tests conducted in the State rose to 76,62,540. Tests per million population climbed to 2,05,871. According to officials, 70 per cent of 2,93,253 cases reported in the State so far were asymptomatic.



TS Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan felicitating Ruia Superintendent Dr T Bharathi at a programme in SV Medical College on Sunday. SVMC Principal Dr C Jaya Bhaskar is also seen.

Services rendered by doctors during pandemic hailed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TS Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan lauded the services of SV Medical College Alumni association and the free seminars being conducted by them which will be of immense use to the medical students.

Addressing the meeting of SVMC Alumni association in Tirupati on Sunday, she commended the efforts of doctors and medical students during the Covid pandemic who worked hard round-the-clock to serve the infected persons and gave them a new life.

They took it not as a duty but acted with humanity by keeping themselves away from their

families to serve the patients. "It is a great effort by our scientists who have brought the vaccines which everyone should take to stop the deadly virus by leaving away all myths and fears," she said.

Tamilisai Soundararajan underlined the role of doctors who are treated as gods in serving the poor and the society. Later, she distributed certificates to the faculty and students who participated in the seminar in the Department of Cardiology.

SVMC Principal Dr C Jaya Bhaskar, Ruia Hospital Superintendent Dr T Bharathi, Covid nodal officer Dr S Subba Rao, Alumni association president Dr R Ramesh Babu and others took part in the programme.

Artworks at Vizag airport reflect culture, tradition

- Statues related to Araku Valley's popular Dhimsa dance to paintings that depict the pristine charm of the village life find place at the terminal building
- There are artworks portraying Simhachalam and Kailasagiri
- Some works depict the livelihood of fishermen
- Visakhapatnam airport is where national and international tourists frequent from various destinations
- With an impressive collection, the artworks at the terminal provide a visual treat to the tourists and visitors

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

FUSING traditional and contemporary elements, myriad artworks dot Visakhapatnam airport terminal building.

Reflecting the rural landscape and slices of tradition and culture of the region, the terminal paints an aesthetic picture, attracting the attention of the tourists from across the globe.

From the statues of Araku Valley's popular Dhimsa dance to carvings of classical dance mudras, paintings that depict the pristine charm of the village life to artworks portraying Simhachalam and Kailasagiri, eye-catching murals highlighting the essence of the festivities to a bunch of abstract artworks, the terminal building



comprises an array of artworks.

Some of the artworks portray the livelihood of fishermen in Visakhapatnam as the 135-km long coastal area in the district provides livelihood to the community.

Along with others, the essence of Sankranti festival also took the art route as the walls of the terminal adorn the theme.

In addition, a part of the artworks includes Hindustan Shipyard Limited located in the City of Destiny, the country's biggest ship building yard.

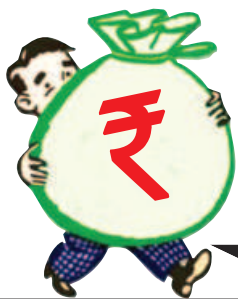
Visakhapatnam airport is where national and international tourists frequent from various destinations. "The moment they step into the airport, the impressive art installations and paintings draw their attention. The art forms that dot the terminal building mirror the spirit of the district along with its tradition and culture," explains M Raja Kishore, airport Director.

With an impressive collection, the artworks at the terminal provide a visual treat to the tourists and visitors. Passengers who are bound to wait for their flights find it a pleasant experience to utilise the time by browsing through the installations and paintings at the premises.

Statues of Dhimsa dance theme at Visakhapatnam airport terminal building
(Bottom) Artworks reflecting tourists spots at the terminal building



“Always go against tide. Buy when others are selling and sell when others are buying”
— Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities



IN SHORT

Sebi receives 10,574 investors' claims for refund

AS many as 10,574 investors have submitted claim forms to Sebi for refund of money invested by them in an illegal investment scheme floated by Assure Agrowtech, the markets regulator said. The last date for submitting refund applications along with original proof of investments was October 16, 2020. The initial deadline was February 29, 2020 and the same was extended following requests from investors. As on October 16, 2020, a total of 10,574 investors of the company have submitted claim forms to the regulator for refund of over Rs 30 crore, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notice. Assure Agrowtech was engaged in illegal fund mobilising activities. The company had raised Rs 69.30 crore and claimed it paid Rs 12 crore as on December 2015.

India's forex reserves decline \$1.839 bn to \$584 bn

After touching a record high in the preceding week, the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$1.839 billion to \$584.242 billion in the week ended January 15, RBI data showed on Friday. In the previous week ended January 8, the reserves had climbed by \$758 million to touch a lifetime high of \$586.082 billion. In the reporting week, foreign currency assets (FCA) - a major component of the overall reserves - decreased by \$284 million to \$541.507 billion, weekly data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves declined by \$1.534 billion to \$ 36.06 billion in the week ended January 15, as per the data.

Lower fees for investment advisors to kick off from April

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday said the lower fees structure for filing application and registration for individuals and corporates seeking a registered investment advisor status will come into force from April 1. The regulator has issued a corrigendum to its earlier notification issued on January 11, wherein it was mentioned that the new norms on fees would come into force on the date of their publication in the official gazette. In a fresh notification, Sebi said the new fee norms for investment advisers would become effective from April 1, 2021. Under the new norms, individuals and firms (partnership) will have to pay Rs 2,000 while applying for an investment advisor certificate.

Leading indicators point to V-shaped recovery

Markets will react to RIL's numbers in today's morning trade

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

On the back of mixed domestic and global cues, snapping three week's winning streak, benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex ended the week at 14,372 and 48,878, down 62 points and 156 points, respectively. Broader markets were also weaker with the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap falling by 1 per cent and 0.6 per cent. It is pertinent to observe that FIIs have net sold Rs 636 crore worth of shares on last Friday, for the first time after January 6, raising many questions about sustainability of the flows in the near-term. Though in the longer-term India is expected to attract large foreign money, it could be more than previous year. The Indian economy is in the middle of a better-than-expected economic recovery.

Leading indicators point to a V-shaped recovery. Low interest rates have turned out to be a major tailwind for sectors like construction and automobiles. After the statement of FM of a 'Budget like never before', expectations are high on the reforms front. Considering the pain in the MSME sector, Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector should be continued for one more year. Badly impacted segments like travel and tourism need timely relief. Covid severely impacted urban employment much more than rural employment. To create more urban jobs, urban-centric MGNREGS is on cards, say insiders. Bankers expect the government to continue with the strategy of allowing monetary policy to do the heavy lifting while keeping the fiscal stimulus modest will. The government is expected to go for a one-

time big fiscal stimulus focusing on spending on vaccination, infrastructure and recapitalisation of banks. Expenditure on vaccination has the potential to become a major fiscal boost since it will facilitate fast return to normalcy. Markets will first react to Reliance numbers in early trade on Monday. The prominent companies declaring Q3 results in the coming week are Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Lupin, Maruti Suzuki, Cipla, Dr Reddy's, IndusInd, IOC, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, Vedanta and ICICI Bank. Near-term direction of the markets will be dictated by the F&O settlement, US Fed meet, Q3 results, rupee / dollar movement, crude oil prices and FII inflows.

Heard on the street

Markets across the globe have been emboldened by upbeat earnings, Covid-19 vaccinations and the Biden administration's \$1.9 trillion fiscal-stimulus plan. However, optimism has also pushed up yields on 10-year US government bonds to 1.1 per cent, from 0.9 per cent at the end of 2020, and investors often fear that this makes equities less attractive. This means the bond-market gyrations are all about inflation expectations rising well above pre-outbreak levels. For now, US inflation remains low due to the pandemic, but is predicted to bounce back strongly. Various investment strategies have historically outperformed in periods of 'reflation' or higher inflation. Watch out for the commentary from the US Fed meet, the first under the new regime.

Globe watchers suggest that one

should keep a vigilant eye on the events encompassing Beijing (China) as the authorities have ordered mass testing and enforced a strict lockdown after resurgence in cases of the new coronavirus strain. China being a major member in global trade, any serious impact from the new strain may lead to uncertainty. And uncertainties do not bode well with the markets. Remember that the stock market is most dangerous when it looks best; it is most inviting when it looks worst.



Futures & options / sector watch

Ahead of the monthly derivatives expiry and holiday shortened week, derivative segment witnessed heightened volatility and spike in volumes. With the Union Budget on horizon, the rollover data for the next month will also give a signal on how many traders think the market will continue to rally going into February. On the options front, the maximum Call open interest of 51.71 lakh contracts was seen at 15,000 strike, followed by 14,700 and 14,600 strikes, while maximum Put open interest of 33.99 lakh contracts was seen at 14,000 strike, followed by 13,500 and 13,800 strikes. Call writing was seen at 14,500, 14,600 and 14,700 strikes, while Put writing was seen at 13,800,

13,700 and 14,000 strikes. All these indicated that the Nifty could remain in an immediate trading range of 14,200-14,600 levels for coming sessions. The volatility index after touching the highs of 25.41 during the early part of the week closed at 22.42.

PCROI for the week closed at 1.17 indicates more puts writing than calls. Derivative data suggests that profit booking at higher levels could continue in coming sessions as well. On downside, 14,200- 14,150 zone would act as immediate support for Nifty while 14,550-14,600 would be strong resistance. Fuelled by expectations over scrappage policy and buoyant demand, auto stocks were on a roll during the week ended. Bajaj Auto and Tata Motors witnessed good buying interest across the board. Buy on declines TVS Motors and M&M. Following the tracks of autos, tyre stocks logged sharp gains. MRF looks set to breach Rs 100,000 marks, first for an Indian company.

Use declines to buy Apollo Tyres. Modest buying was seen in cement counters over the weekend. Industry sources indicate sharp improvement in capacity utilization, firm price trends and expect cement demand to grow on the back of the government's push on infrastructure projects. Q3 results of Ultratech clearly spell good times for the sector. Buy Ultratech, Ramco Cements and Ambuja Cements. Among the stock futures, buy on declines: Berger Paints, Havells, HUL, SAIL, TVS Motors, TCS and Wipro. Sell on rallies: Bandhan Bank, Tata India, HDFC AMC, Sun Pharma and Kotak Bank.

Stock picks

Neelcast Limited is engaged in the business of manufacture and sale of

iron castings. The company is a supplier of ductile iron castings and grey iron castings. The company provides commercial components, including bogie suspension brackets, conventional suspension/engine/steering/cab mounting brackets, rear and forward differential carriers, flanged and plain half products, wheel hubs, bearing caps, brake drums, and brake disc rotors; and tractor/farm components comprising hydraulic lift covers and front engine support products. The company serves automotive, tractor, construction, mining, railways and general engineering sectors. In the medium to long-term, the projected growth of domestic auto industry and ambitious export plans are likely to benefit the company. The company is a supplier to several OEMs like Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, TAFE, Eicher Tractors (TMTL), Volvo-Eicher Commercial Vehicles, SAME Tractors, Escorts Tractors, International Tractors, Daimler India and Caterpillar. It has Tier-I customers like Automotive Axles and American Axles, and export customers like Meritor, American Axles and Daimler, Dana, Comer. Post-Covid recovery in auto and engineering industry spells higher order book for the company and exports are back on track. Robust growth of tractor industry is expected to boost company's revenues in the current year. Results of Q3 are expected to be better than expectations in line with other auto ancillaries. Buy in the price band of Rs 65-70 for price target of Rs 95 in short term and Rs 125 in medium term.

(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)

Be flexible with investments



K Naresh Kumar

While there is a debate on what and how wealth is to be perceived, personally I believe that wealth could be measured in the optionality it provides. It might look difficult to decide how much one should accumulate for a peaceful and comfortable retirement or what should be the ideal lifestyle to adhere to during accumulation and distribution phase; one important criterion it should meet is that it should provide an option. An option or choice to continue to live in a desired way, the independence to do what one wants or even how one wants and how long one wants should be the crux of wealth creation.

While I've just outlined about the freedom that wealth should provide, there's another important cog of how one would take the investment strategy to achieve this. It's proven beyond doubt that one should build a portfolio that reflects their risk appetite and goal durations, it can't turn into a prison. The investment philosophy should be flexible and should provide breathing space so that it helps to live and enjoy life all along seeking to achieve the long-term goals.

One should build a portfolio that reflects their risk appetite and goal durations

As I'd just mentioned about the prominence of duration i.e., timelines in creating a portfolio, one should also realize that they can't force themselves in reaching them quickly. This is where the other part of the cog could be traded-off most times - risk. In a rush to reap gains quickly, one could sidestep or deviate the risk appetite by opting for avenues that mayn't suit or sync and thus could upset the entire planning. The fear of missing out (FOMO) plays out at extreme events in the markets and it's at those times that one needs to be better aware of their risk tolerances to avoid any missteps. One has to remember that investing is not a popularity contest and just because a vast majority of participants agree or disagree ensures a win or loss.

Volatility is an underlying feature of equity markets that every investor has to acknowledge and live with it. Price movements are the manifestations of the larger participants' fear or greed, but value is what one perceives it. The price at which one investor feels overvalued or so divests from portfolio could be perceived as undervalued for another investor's entry price who decides to add to their portfolios. This duality of value and price is what makes the equity markets dynamic where the price deviates constantly



An option or choice to continue to live in a desired way, the independence to do what one wants or even how one wants and how long one wants should be the crux of wealth creation

from an instrument's intrinsic value.

The only possible counterbalance to risk in equity markets could be time, the time spent in the market. The power of compounding is most times misunderstood to the returns, but it actually lies in the number of years i.e., the duration and thus the time spent in the investment, always. In the shorter paly, the experience of investing could resemble more akin to a rollercoaster ride than one on a highway. The stretched periods always offer a smoother ride and to enjoy that one needs to do nothing, yes most of the times remaining inactive or unresponsive is the only way we could give time for investing.

The success or quality of an investment strategy would only be known post its survival of a disaster or an event that otherwise could've had a devastating impact on one's wealth. No amount of back-testing or scenario analysis would help but could give us an impression of how it responds, though only to a small extent. Past year has been a tumultuous one for not just investing but

general life as well. We were confined to our homes with bare essentials for a few months and life was never reverted as restrictions eased. The comprehension of investing and wealth has undergone a profound change not because that one had to experience these not so amusing things but through other's experiences.

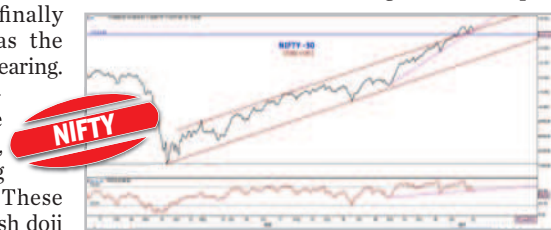
It's the freedom one's money or wealth offers that beats even the large quantum of money that's amassed. This choice of liberty is less perceptible and intangible but provides an immense antidote at times of turmoil like that we're experiencing. One has to ensure that their portfolios apprehend their emotive and psychological self while they remain rational to their portfolios. A bit of an oxymoron but that's the way investing is.

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THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

The Indian stock markets traded amid high volatility and registered a net loss during the last week. After hitting a new lifetime high, the Nifty tumbled almost 400 points. On a net basis, it ended with 61.80 points or 0.42 per cent at 14371.9. The BSE Sensex also lost 0.3 per cent. The broader market indices Nifty Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 lost 1.3 per cent and 0.7 per cent, respectively. On the sectoral front, Nifty Auto was the top gainer with 3.3 per cent. IT index was up by 0.5 per cent. The Nifty Metal index was down by 6.3 per cent. Nifty Bank, pharma and realty indices closed with 3-3.5 per cent losses. The overall market breadth was negative for the week.

The market is finally feeling nervous as the Union Budget is nearing. For the last two consecutive weeks, the benchmark index, Nifty, is forming bearish candles. These back-to-back bearish doji candles just before the Budget week are not at all a good sign for the market. The Nifty formed a shooting star and finally closed with a weekly loss. It also breached the previous week's low at the beginning of the week, but the closing below the prior week is important for the bearish confirmation. Since March lows, several bearish formations failed to get the confirmation. Let us watch whether the bears will be to get the strength to pull down the market this time. Let us also watch for, will the history repeats, this time, as most of the market



Market on edge ahead of Union Budget

Trade with low position size, stringent risk management; Stay cautious for next week

tops formed in the January-March quarter. After gaining over 96 per cent or 7242 points from the March low, the market has shown the first signs of fatigue.

Technically, the Nifty has broken the important upward trend line support on the daily line chart. Interestingly, this line chart based on the closing prices gives many other clues. After breaking out of the upward channel on January 8, it came back into the channel. This is nothing but a

below 14,280 is a bearish signal confirmation. On a weekly chart, it failed to close above the weekly high after October last week. The negative divergence in RSI as well as in MACD is also giving warning signals to the bulls.

For the next week, immediate support is placed at 14,281. A daily close below this level will lead to falling towards 14,133 and 13,942 levels. Before the Budget, breaking below 13,942 may not be possible. On the Bullish side, a sustained bounce above the Friday high of 14,620 will negate the all-bearish signals. In any case, the Nifty failed to move above 14,450 by the market closing on Monday, will also be a negative sign.

As there are only four trading sessions before the Budget, try to trade with the low position size and stringent risk management. There is a very limited possibility of going further new highs. Regardless of any underlying buoyancy or liquidity-driven up moves, the markets have sharply deviated from the mean levels. Stay cautious for next week.

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DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

The 15,000 strike has the highest Call OI followed by 14,600 strike, 14,800 and 14,500 strikes. Further, 14,500/14,600/15,300 strikes recorded reasonable addition of Call OI. The highest Put OI build-up is at 14,000 strike, followed by 13,500, 13,800 and 13,700 strikes, while 13,800/13,700/14,000/14,400 strikes recorded significant build-up of Put OI. The 14,600 strike witnessed a major offloading of Put OI, followed by 14,700 strike. The 14,600 and 14,700 Call strikes hold the highest Call base, while the Put base is placed at 14,000 strike. Immediate support for the index lies

Options data points to minor pullbacks ahead

Fall in Bank Nifty-Nifty price ratio and volatility, as VIX declines from 25 to 22 level; Suggest restricted movement; Put writers at 14,600 strike unwinding positions

near its last week lows of 14,200 strike, below which current declines might extend towards the 14,000 level. On the higher side, resumption of the trend can be expected only if Nifty moves above 14,500 again. Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "On the derivatives front, Put writers at 14,600 strike were seen unwinding their positions, while Call writers added hefty Open Interest at 14,550 and 14,500 strikes. Put-Call Ratio of OI for the week closed at 1.17 and it indicates more Put writing than Calls. Recent development in derivatives data suggests that profit booking at higher levels could continue in the coming ses-

sions as well." The NSE Nifty closed the week below the 14,500 strike on a marginally negative note amid extreme volatility after making highs near 14,750 levels during the week. The upcoming Union Budget and the results season have prompted sharp stock-specific moves.

Globally, however, equities closed the week with positive bias, but in a range-bound move. Nifty, midcap and small-cap stocks also witnessed some profit booking and closed lower. Bisht forecasts that "On downside, the 14,200-14,150 zone would act as an immediate hurdle for Nifty, while 14,550-14,600 would be a strong hurdle."

The price ratio of Bank Nifty-Nifty fell as Nifty is still trading

F&O TRADING			
Product	Contracts	Turnover (Rs/cr)	Premium (Rs/cr)
Index Futures	5,89,658	53,812.16	--
Stock Futures	14,19,862	1,26,546.11	--
Index Options	2,92,50,524	26,72,175.85	17,992.70
Stock Options	29,47,252	2,73,585.01	4,262.07
F&O Total	3,42,07,296	31,26,119.13	22,254.77

above its weekly low of 14,250, whereas Bank Nifty is trading almost 700 points below its previous weekly low. Analysts predict that due to such under-performance in the banking stocks, upside may be restricted in Nifty.

The volatility index VIX declined from the high of 25 and closed the week near 22 level. Despite a sharp drop in the last two sessions, the

volatility index didn't rise, suggesting expectations of limited downsides. Moving towards 25 levels once again can be considered as a sign of caution. "The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 21.81 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 23.19. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 22.18 per cent," remarked Bisht.

Moreover, FII activity should

also be kept under watch as their buying figure has declined gradually in the last couple of weeks. Hence, a round of consolidation ahead of the Union Budget can be expected in index.

Bank Nifty

The NSE's banking index Bank Nifty closed at 31,167.25 points, a net loss of 1,079.55 points or 3.34 per cent from 32,246.80 points. Banking stocks were the major lagard during the week and they remain in focus for any major recovery in the broader markets.

As per the ICICI Direct.com, Nifty as well as Bank Nifty futures managed to move towards its highest Call base of 14,800 and 33,000

respectively. However, both the indices failed to gauge follow up momentum. For the major part of the week, Axis Bank along with HDFC Bank moved up, but selling on the last day of the week propelled all the stocks into negative terrain except IDFC first bank. During the week fresh short OI blocks were seen in Bandhan bank followed by Kotak Bank and Indusind Bank whereas profit booking were seen in others which are likely to keep the index move in check. ICICI Direct.com data points to closure in Put OI positions and addition in OTM strike Calls like 32,000, 32,500 and 33,000 are likely to keep index under pressure. Major Put OI concentration is placed in 31,000 strike, below which more downside could be seen. However, if Bank Nifty manages to hold 31,000 in the expiry week bounce could only be seen till 32,000 levels.

Young sailors gear up for Republic Day Regatta 2021



Preliminary round of sailing to begin today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA has become the powerhouse of Sailing with the Yacht Club of Hyderabad spearheading junior sailing. The sport is growing with an unprecedented 114 entries for the Republic Day Regatta 2021 as against just 45 in the last Regatta in October.

Suheim Sheikh, the founder of the Yacht Club and its education division, told *The Hans India*, that the Republic Day Regatta 2021 is scheduled to begin from January 26 and will be a three-day event with the valedictory function on January 29. However, the preliminary round of sailing will start at 9.30-10.00 am depending on wind condition on Monday, he added.

This is the first regatta in the Sailing calendar of India and the largest ever in the Junior and Sub Junior categories (kids from 8 to 18 years) and it will also bare testimony to the largest ever fleet of Optimist Class boats to sail in the Hussain Sagar.

In the under-18 Junior Class, to be sailed in the Laser 4.7, Nitin Nayak from MJPT School, who is the current Telangana State Champion is considered the favourite closely followed by Lakshmi Nookarathnam of Udhav and Gaddam Mallesh also of MJPT.

In the Sub Junior Optimist Class, all eyes will be on India No.1 Jhansi Priya Laveti, second seed Vaishnavi Veeramsham and third seed Ravi Parandi (all of them from Udhav School at Rasoolpura) even as the field is wide open and one never knows what dark horses the light and fluky wind conditions will produce.

With 90 entries in the Sub-Junior Optimist Class and 24 in the Junior Laser Class, the entries this year have come from all across the state from the MJPT & SWEAROE Schools and local talent from Udhav, ZPHS Rasoolpura, Balamrai Govt School, Eureka Model and Balamrai Govt School to name just a few. In a sweeping change, the Yacht Club now offers the talented urban poor a chance to integrate in an online school of International stature where

they are taught yoga, art and German including the regular Maths, Physics and Chemistry apart from the intensive Sailing making it a full-fledged Sports School devised to serve the marginalised keeping in mind its tagline "Dignity Through Sports".

"The number of students have swelled dramatically over the last 4 months and most of the students are from schools nearby Hussain Sagar. The whole-hearted support from the student's parents helped us function without a break during Covid with intensive online classes. While most of the world stalled we provided continued education giving our students a huge

advantage. We are slowly integrating our syllabus into the flexible National Open School", said Suheim Sheikh.

"Teaching the marginalised kids sailing and winning so many medals was very satisfying but now with this high level education we have transcended to a different level of creating careers," said Dadi Bhote the Vice President of the Yacht Club foundation. The weather has suddenly dropped to conditions that will favour the lighter sailors with winds hovering around just 5 to 9 knots but superb conditions for a lions share of the fleet that has almost 60 beginners who have been trained for around 4 months.



A record fleet of 109 sailors of the Yacht Club of Hyderabad to participate at the Republic Day Regatta 2021

India juniors beat Chile seniors 2-0 in women's hockey

SANTIAGO (CHILE)

MAINTAINING their unbeaten streak during the tour of Chile, the Indian junior women's hockey team defeated Chile senior women's team 2-0 in their latest encounter. The two goals for India came in the last quarter through Sangita Kumari (48') and Sushma Kumari (56').

On Saturday evening, it was a very open

contest between the two teams during the first three quarters, with neither team managing to break the deadlock. There were chances for both the teams through open play and set pieces, but the defenses stood up tall to deny their opponents.

India looked like they were under pressure during a phase of play in the second quarter when they conceded back to back penalty corners, but some good defending

inside the striking circle made sure the hosts couldn't take the lead.

A similar story unfolded in the third quarter, but it was India who were on the attack, seeing a penalty corner execution being defended well by Chile's senior team in the 32nd minute. The hosts themselves had a penalty corner three minutes later, but again it was the defense which was successful.

What had become a tight and nervy contest by the start of the fourth quarter, it was India who drew first blood as they orchestrated a beautiful team move to open the scoring through Sangita (48').

The young forward took her chance confidently, and maintained her goal-scoring form. Minutes later, Chile had a glorious chance to equalise through a penalty corner, but India's rushers performed their

task decently. In the 56th minute, it was the visiting team's turn to get a penalty corner, which proved to be the decisive moment in the match. A well executed drag-flick and a successful strike off a rebound by Sushma hit the back of the net, and extended India's lead to two goals, which they were able to maintain for the remaining few minutes to snatch their fourth win in five matches in Chile. (ANS)

Hemanth bags two gold for 7th national title in four years

CHENNAI

MULTIPLE national champion Hemanth Muddappa of Mantra Racing was in his elements once again

winning both the gold in the top-two categories as he emerged as the national champion for the successive fourth year, in the second and final round of the MMSC fmci Indian National Motorcycle Drag Championship on Sunday.

Touching speeds of 205.65kmph, the 31-year old Bengaluru-based rider won the above 1051cc class with ease, clocking 7.879seconds for a course of 302-metres astride a BMW, beating Baba Satagopan (8.263) to second and convincingly defeating darkhorse Hafizullah Khan who ended up third with a time of 8.362.

Tuned by Sharan Pratap, who continued the legacy of popular Pratap Jayaram, Hemanth was astride a Black BMW and soon celebrated with a custom-made helmet and champion T-shirt.

In the 850 to 1050cc class, Hemanth was on a green Hayabusa clocking 8.071 for his second gold of the day. Zubair Ali Jung came second in 8.202sec while Baba Satagopan was third in 8.306sec.

Hemanth had won the National Drag Championship in the feature race of unrestricted foreign open class in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 besides winning the top-two classes above 1051cc and 850 to 1050cc in 2018 and two more gold in the same



classes on Sunday to make it his seventh national title. The feature event, Unrestricted Foreign Open, was not run this year.

"Winning can be an excellent form of motivation for a time, but the drive to be just a little bit better every single day can make you unstoppable," said Hemanth.

In other classes, J Bharat Raj clocked 14.420 to win the gold in the 4stroke 165cc category beating PM Soorya to second and R Aravind Ganesh took third place.

In the 361 to 55cc, former Racing champion Karthik Mateti of Hyderabad won the National title edging out Aiyaz while Thulsi Ram took third.

In the 226 to 360cc class, PM Soorya too had a close finish over J Bharat Raj to win the national title. Shankar Guru took third place. (ANS)

Marin, Axelson clinch singles titles at Thai Open

BANGKOK: Reigning Olympic badminton champion Carolina Marin and Denmark's Viktor Axelsen on Sunday came out with dominant performances to win the respective women's and men's singles titles at the Toyota Thailand Open tournament. In women's singles final, Marin defeated top seed Tai Tzu-Ying 21-19, 21-17 in a match that lasted 48 minutes. In men's singles final, Axelsen eased past Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-11, 21-7 in just 40 minutes to seal his second title within a span of two weeks in Thailand. With the win, the world number four has become the first men's singles player to win all three Super 1000 tournament in a season and has also extended his unbeaten streak to 28 matches.

Cup holders Arsenal out of FA cup, City survive

LONDON: There were no major upsets in the fourth round of the FA Cup as all of the Premier League sides qualified against lower league oppositions, although reigning FA Cup Champions Arsenal were knocked out of the tournament, and Manchester City had to suffer against a side from three leagues below them. On Saturday, the only goal of the game between Southampton and Arsenal came when Arsenal defender Gabriel diverted a low cross into his own net, but Southampton deserved the win after they bullied Mikel Arteta's side for most of the game, reports Xinhua news agency.

Stokes heads to India ahead of Test series

LONDON: England all-rounder Ben Stokes has headed to India ahead of the full-fledged tour which will see the two teams compete in four Tests, five T20Is and three ODIs beginning February 5. On Sunday, Stokes posted a picture of himself travelling on a plane with a caption: "See you soon India". The Joe Root-led England are currently in Lanka, taking part in the two-Test series. India, on the other hand, have returned from the successful Australia tour which saw them clinch the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in a thrilling fashion.

Murray opts out of Oz Open

LONDON: Five-time champion Andy Murray has withdrawn from the upcoming Australian Open grand slam tournament beginning February 8. Murray had been granted a wildcard to play in the tournament's main draw but he tested positive for Covid-19 last week shortly before he was due to fly to Melbourne.

Hyderabad FC share points with Jamshedpur FC in goal-less draw

VASCO (GOA)

JAMSHEDPUR FC and Hyderabad FC settled for a point each after a goalless draw in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak

Maidan Stadium here, on Sunday. While Hyderabad ended up drawing their third game on the trot, Jamshedpur nabbed their first point of the calendar year, after a hat-trick of losses.

New signings Farukh Choudhary and Seiminlen Doungel were among the four changes made by Jamshedpur while Roland Alber was handed his first start as Hyderabad rang in two changes.

The opening half was an intriguing, open-ended contest with both sides hitting the post but failing to find the net. Hyderabad fashioned better chances but Jamshedpur keeper TP Rehenesh produced two fine saves to keep the scoreline 0-0 heading into the break.

Rehenesh was called into action in the ninth minute after Hyderabad started brightly. Aridane Santana found Joel Chi-

TODAY'S MATCH

Chennaiyin FC vs Mumbai City FC at GMC Stadium Bambolim 7.30pm

anese with a neat through ball in the box but the latter's effort was kept out by Rehenesh, who came off his line well in time.

The Jamshedpur custodian pulled off another fine save around the half-hour mark, denying Halicharan Narzary this time. Receiving the ball from Chianese, Narzary made his way into the box before drilling a shot at the far corner. Rehenesh dived full stretch to push the ball away, as it rattled the post.

Jamshedpur started imposing themselves as the first half drew to a close and nearly broke the deadlock from a corner. Hyderabad keeper Laxmikant Kattimani fluffed his lines while dealing with Aitor Monroy's cross, allowing Stephen Eze to head the ball. But his effort struck the woodwork before being cleared out.

RESULTS

Jamshedpur FC draw with Hyderabad FC 0-0
Bengaluru FC draw with Odisha FC 1-1

ISL STANDINGS

CLUB	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Mumbai City FC.....	12	9	2	1	18	4	14	29
ATK Mohun Bagan	12	7	3	2	12	5	7	24
FC Goa	13	5	5	3	18	13	5	20
Hyderabad FC	13	4	6	3	16	14	2	18
NorthEast United FC.....	12	3	6	3	15	16	-1	15
Chennaiyin FC.....	13	3	6	4	10	13	-3	15
Jamshedpur FC	13	3	5	5	13	17	-4	14
Kerala Blasters FC.....	13	3	5	5	17	22	-5	14
Bengaluru FC.....	12	3	4	5	14	16	-2	13
SC East Bengal	13	2	6	5	11	17	-6	12
Odisha FC.....	12	1	4	7	12	19	-7	7

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