



# Womenia

## BE AN IRON LADY

Do people tell you that you should be eating jag-gery, beetroot and apple to increase your Iron levels and not stay anaemic?

I want you to remember that serving size matters so while 100 grams of jaggery may give you 10 mg iron, one cannot eat 100 grams of jaggery in the day. That is why I plan your meals keeping a check on iron values in each foods serving size.

Globally, reproductive age women and young children are most vulnerable to anaemia, so when I get clients in these age groups with low levels I tell them to chill. Taking up Iron stores in the body is possible with Iron rich foods and correct food combinations. Just follow my tips.

Coming to dietary Iron food sources, the easiest addition in your diet is Vitamin C! You read that right, Vitamin C is Iron's best friend as in its presence, Iron is easily absorbed in the body. Make it a thumb rule to squeeze lemon juice over all your foods. Bonus: In summer, Vitamin C rich plus iron mango (raw or ripe) is an excellent addition in diet. In your vegetarian protein foods, I would advise you to always add Vitamin C in

**Taking up iron stores in the body is possible with iron rich foods and correct food combinations. Just follow these tips**



Naini Setalvad

the forms of tomato, garcinia combodia (kokum), tamarind (imli) etc.

Many leafy greens like drumstick, curry leaf, fenugreek leaves are rich in iron but the dried powder form provide a higher source of iron.

Through grains, pulses and daals the best way to absorb the Iron and increase its bioavailability is by soaking, sprouting, fermenting, or germinating them.

Seeds are another great source of Iron. Fenugreek seeds,

sesame seeds, garden cress seeds and chia (sabja) seeds all have good amounts.

If you can, opt to cook your foods in Iron works as the food may pick up trace amounts of iron from the vessel itself.

While Vitamin C and Iron are best friends, Calcium and Iron are enemies as when had in a meal combination, Calcium reduces the bioavailability of iron by half. I tell my clients to avoid any dairy foods with iron rich sources if they want to increase their Iron stores.

Another key point to remember is that certain food compounds like tannins and caffeine bind to Iron and prevent it from being absorbed. My simplest way to avoid this is by keeping a half an hour gap between tea or coffee and any meal.

Keep a regular check on your Vitamin B12 and Vitamin B9 (folate) levels as they too play an important role in the formation of Red Blood Cells in the body and if low, can lead to other kinds of anaemia. Be an iron lady.

TWEET PATROL



**ILEANA D'CRUZ**  
**@ILEANA\_OFFICIAL**

Na mujh mein 'main' hoon, na tujh mein 'tu' ha, sirf Ishq hai! Here's the first glimpse of @juniorbachchan & @nikifyinglife from #IshqNamazaa...Song out tomorrow. #TheBigBull releasing on 8th April only on @DisneyplusHSVIP #DisneyPlusHotstarMultiplex #MotherOfAllScams



## Fitness looks easy and convincing

SUHAS SISTU

Although the Indian society has been a male dominated society, it is time that the thinking gets evolved and the society builds up believing that women are equal to men. It should be well understood that women are extremely capable of crossing all horizons when it comes to building strength and nailing the art of success.

Aanchal Chugh is one of the renowned fitness influencers in India who believes in building her capabilities through the digital platform of online social media channels. She has definitely set a standard to bring out the best and inspire every person with her fitness agendas. She believes in finding the right kind of motivation for her workout, and believes in promoting the same to her fitness community.

It is indeed useful for the fitness conscious people to scroll through her professional page. This will help people in understanding how Aanchal assists the fitness community to build confidence in their personalities. She truly understands that it is important to spread good vibes and fitness inspiration together in the most beautiful way. Her flexibility and core strength shall definitely leave you awestruck.

**Fitness is the ultimate route to build positivity**

"I make sure to train people in a way that removes all negativity around them and grows everyday getting passionate in working hard to achieve their dreams related to fitness. I believe that fitness is the ultimate route to build up positivity,

**I help in making my fitness community understand that nothing is easy in life and to move forward successfully, it is important to choose the hard route in life**

— Aanchal Chugh

confidence, growth as well as motivation in life. I help in making my fitness community understand that nothing is easy in life. If you need to move forward successfully, it is important to choose the hard route in life," says Aanchal.

I keep my followers encouraged at all times and reach their fitness goals with hard work and precision.

I came a very long way by challenging myself every single day of my life and right now it is very happy training people extremely well for fitness and setting the right fitness principles," she added. "I conducted a free fitness program on my instagram during the lockdown and it went viral. My instagram feed will be definitely a treat for fitness enthusiasts," says Aanchal.

Aanchal is well known to conduct the best of fitness consultancy sessions that truly inspire her fitness community. She is absolutely the right person to follow for some real motivation and top-notch workout routines.

You shall come across several fitness challenges if you happen to follow Aanchal's social media page. She makes sure to keep her followers motivated with the best routines possible in order to excel and achieve their fitness goals. The ultimate idea is to go out of the way and follow her fitness challenge sessions and have a passionate fitness journey.



## Guide to your pre and post-workout hair care routine

PUJA GUPTA

AS the temperature starts soaring in this part of the year, working out gets increasingly difficult. Sweating in combination with summer heat can make working out tedious and also play havoc on the health of our hair, especially for those who exercise every day. There is always a dilemma of washing your hair every day to get rid of sweat and dirt, as dealing with greasy, sweaty, messy hair is not worth it.

If you are also struggling with your messy hair - Agnes Chen, Technical Head, Streax Professional, shares a pre-and post-workout hair care regime to help you achieve healthy hair too!

### Pre- workout

Find a workout hairstyle that works for you

Always keep your hair fresh for the workout session and find a hairstyle that works with your workout plans. Relaxation exercise people prefer a loose bun to keep their mediating state comfortable. However, if you are doing cardio, something more secure like a braid or ponytail could



**To tie your hair use ribbon hair ties or spiralled ties to reduce the chance of hair breakages and prevent dents and kinks**

applied to hair. Hair perfumes have been designed pointedly for scenting your tresses, so they are free from any drying ingredients. Hair perfumes give your hair a boost of fragrance and leave it smelling fresh when you need it most. Shine spray is excellent for giving your hair a lightweight polish, as well as long-lasting smoothness.

### Post- workout

Refresh your roots with shampoo and conditioning

Your hair care after workout sessions is key to refreshing your strands - and it does not have to be complicated. Schedule hair washes, according to your workout using a gentle, purifying shampoo. It helps cleanse even those harder to reach areas like

your bangs - instantly absorbing excess sweat and oil. This helps to remove all sweat, grime, and dirt from the hair & scalp. Shampoo hair twice to ensure thorough cleansing. The temperature of the water should not be too hot or cold. Maintain between lukewarm to cool. Always use conditioner after the shampoo. Keep conditioner on the hair for 3-5 mins. Rinse with cold water.

### Hair also needs TLC

It might be tempting to use an elastic hairband to tie up your hair but your strands deserve a little more tender love and care. Untie and loosen your hair and can use ribbon hair ties or spiralled ties to reduce the chance of hair breakages and prevent dents and kinks.

### Say a big No to the hairdryer

Towel dry and let hair dry naturally. Do not dry using a hairdryer as it tends to dry up the hair. Don't forget to use a few drops of serum to remove frizz, detangle the hair and add a shine to the hair. So, you can save a little time from detangling and still have cared for hair.

## NEWS ROUNDUP



## Akriti Kakar: My father gave up business to support my dreams

Singer Akriti Kakar says that when she shifted to Mumbai from Delhi, her family was her biggest support. From her father leaving his business to support her dreams to her struggles to reach music composers, her journey, she recalls, has been a long and eventful one.

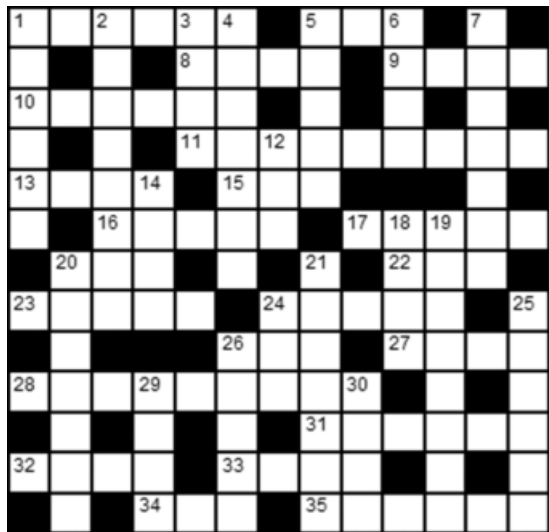
Akriti has lent her voice to songs such as "Aanan faanan", "Khuda-ya khair", "Iski uski" and "Saturday Saturday" amongst others. The singer, who shifted to Mumbai in the 2000s, tells: "I have been very fortunate to be at the right place, at the right time and amongst the right. When I started it was very hard because there was no social media, there was no platform to put up a video and tag music composers and hope they would notice me. I was just a girl out of school who didn't even know whether the demo I carried was good enough. I used to sit all night with my father, pick up music directories and mark all the names I wanted to call with a highlighter pen."

Recalling how her family believed in her, Akriti says that while she at times had doubt on herself, her father didn't.

"My father had given up his business entirely to support my dreams. I felt that my father knew that I had the potential to do it but what if I did't? There was so much responsibility on my head but there was also no looking back. I had to stick to why we came to Mumbai and why he shut his business to come and support me. We just hoped that all these phone calls we are making, somebody on the other side would answer and call us to the studio," says Akriti who is currently seen in music reality shows as a judge "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" Bangla and "Indian Pro Music League".

The singer further went on to recall how her expenditure was more and her earnings were less initially. However, she didn't give up.

"It was tough but God was kind and he gave us the courage. My mother was a music teacher in Delhi and raised my sisters. At the same time sending us money. It was a tough time but I think it gave me courage to not give up," says Akriti.



SOLUTION TO MARCH 24

S H O T A T P T S  
O W O V E R T O O K  
N T O R N A T T I  
A R A B L E A L B E I T  
T B I G P I A M B S  
A B U T E L A N D S  
R D R A P E E  
I K E N Y A P O N S  
E A G L E S P E W U  
C R I S P S A R N E S S  
O S I N O U N A  
L I M E K I L N R N  
E O A O X Y G E N

## CROSSWORD SUDOKU

### Across

- Equine sounds (6)
- Deadly snake (3)
- Molecule component (4)
- Tear down (4)
- Imitation gold (6)
- Manet or Monet creation? (5,4)
- Forsaken (4)
- Ingot (3)
- Score (5)
- Hidden fences (2-3)
- Drain of strength (3)
- Type of lettuce (3)
- English composer (5)
- Sparkle or glimmer (5)
- Slender fish (3)
- Pitcher (4)
- A court game (9)
- Dried ? No just the opposite ! (6)
- Heather (4)
- Earthbound bird (4)

### Down

- Firmament (3)
- Rehearsal (3,3)
- Dried strip of egg dough (6)
- Everlasting (8)
- Nimbus (4)
- Beard growth (7)
- A fossil resin (5)
- Goad (4)
- Hungarian national dance (7)
- Songbird (3)
- Short sleeps (4)
- Skin disease (4)
- A state of trouble (3,5)
- Mogadishu is its capital (7)
- Let or permitted (7)
- Acquire (3)
- English poet (6)
- Way in (5)
- Drinking cups (4)
- Close by (4)



SOLUTION TO MARCH 24

4 3 6 5 9 7 2 1 8  
1 9 5 8 6 2 4 7 3  
8 7 2 1 3 4 9 6 5  
2 1 9 7 5 3 6 8 4  
5 6 7 4 1 8 3 9 2  
3 4 8 9 2 6 1 5 7  
9 2 1 3 7 5 8 4 6  
7 8 3 6 4 1 5 2 9  
6 5 4 2 8 9 7 3 1



# Three UP cops suspended for slapping false cases against 10

ETAH

A police inspector and two constables have been suspended for allegedly arresting a dhaba owner and nine others after a fake encounter and booking them on charges of possessing illicit liquor and cannabis.

The dhaba owner had reportedly asked the police personnel to pay for the food they had consumed at his eatery.

Action against the erring policemen was taken almost 40 days after the incident. Senior police officials who learnt of the incident, ordered action.

The dhaba owner and some of his customers who reportedly intervened on his behalf, were arrested on February 4.

A press release issued on that day said that the men were trying to smuggle alcohol and drugs and were arrested after an 'encounter' that night.

The police further said that



six country-made revolvers, 12 live cartridges, two kg of ganja and 80 litres of illicit liquor were recovered from the men.

Praveen Kumar, the brother of the dhaba owner told reporters, "On February 4, some policemen were eating food at my dhaba. These cops had an argument with my brother over paying for the food. They were

regularly visiting the eatery but never paid for their food. Sometimes they used to pay Rs 100 when the bill was four times the amount."

He said that on the day of the incident, the policemen were drunk and they beat up his brother. "Later, two police jeeps came to my dhaba and took everyone, including my

brother and customers who intervened on his behalf, to the police station. They booked them in false cases and claimed that illicit liquor had been recovered from my brother. They also claimed that my brother and others were arrested after an 'encounter'," he said.

Rajeev Krishna, an additional DGP-rank officer in-charge of the zone for the Etah Police, said in the statement, "Serious allegations were made against the then in-charge of the Kotwali Dehat Police Station. I asked the SP (Crime) of Etah to inquire and, prima facie, the allegations are found to be true."

The ADG has ordered the suspension of the involved personnel and said that anyone from the police found involved will be booked. "The inquiry has been shifted out of Etah to Aligarh to ensure fairness," he stated.

# Twitter announces measures to protect Assembly polls in 5 States

NEW DELHI

AS the assembly polls in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry inch closer, Twitter on Wednesday said it is implementing significant product, policy, and enforcement updates to keep the service safe from attempts to manipulate the platform.

While a global cross-functional team with local, cultural, and language expertise will run the election integrity work, Twitter said it is taking proactive measures to prevent prohibited political advertising through comprehensive and nuanced enforcement mechanisms.

"These include identifying and blocking ads from referenced candidates, parties, and other election-related content," the company said in a statement.

Twitter said it will label synthetic and manipulated media and link it to a Twitter Moment to give people additional context and surface-related conversations "so they can make more informed decisions on the content they want to engage with or amplify".



When people attempt to retweet tweets with a synthetic and manipulated media label, they will see a prompt pointing them to credible information. "These Tweets won't be algorithmically recommended by Twitter, which further reduces the visibility of misleading information," the company announced.

Twitter will also launch an events page dedicated to the assembly elections on voting days and for the election results day.

The page will include a timeline of Tweets from credible accounts to provide the latest information

on the days of voting and election results.

"These will be visible to account holders in India in the Explore Tab, and will provide continuous updates and context throughout the election period with multiple language videos from a variety of news partners in the carousel," the company informed.

"We are taking extra steps to ensure people have context to what's trending for them and will include a representative Tweet, Twitter Moment or description to the top trends".

# Cleric refuses to solemnise weddings due to loud music

SHAMLI

A cleric refused to solemnise two weddings in Kairana after the wedding processions played loud music. Maulana Qari Sufiyan, said he has asked the families to stop the music since it was time for 'azaan' but they did not comply. "I saw the grooms dancing to the music on the roof of their vehicles. They were to marry two sisters at the same venue. When they did not stop, I informed the families that I would not solemnize the marriages," he told reporters.

The wedding procession was coming from Jagatpur in Delhi. The families finally managed to find another cleric who agreed to solemnise the weddings. They wrapped up the ceremonies quickly and left.

# PM: India at forefront of initiatives to prevent non-communicable diseases

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that India is at the "forefront" of initiatives that seek to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCD). Modi's remarks came after the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) commended India's remarkable progress in reducing premature mortality from NCD.

Expressing gratitude to UNITAR, the Prime Minister said in a tweet, "India is at the forefront of initiatives that seek to prevent non-communicable diseases and further wellness. Grateful to UNITAR for their kind words. Together, we all have to make our planet healthier". The UNITAR also sought India's cooperation in promoting lessons of the National Multisectoral Action Plan (NMAP) for prevention and control of common NCDs.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also tweeted on the subject. Bagchi wrote, "Long strides towards tack-

ling non-communicable diseases (NCD). UNITAR commends India's remarkable progress to reduce premature mortality from NCDs and seeks cooperation with Government of India to promote lessons learned from implementation of the NMAP for Prevention and Control of Common NCDs."

Bagchi also talked about how India's position as the global leader of vaccine and generic NCD drugs manufacturer helped it to achieve this target.

"As per WHO's Global Health Observatory, India succeeded in reducing premature NCD-related mortalities from 503 to 490 per 1 lakh population between 2015 and 2019. "Replacements of fuelwood by LPG across rural households has significantly reduced household pollution, thereby reducing risks of cancer and chronic lung diseases. Promoting an active lifestyle worldwide through activities like Yoga which can address the risk of cardiovascular diseases."



# Man commits burglary at factory to avenge father's dismissal

NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man and four of his friends allegedly burglarized a factory in outer Delhi's Mundka area to avenge his father's removal from there over suspicion of thefts, police said on Wednesday. The accused, Akshay, along with his friends Vicky (23), Govind (21), Krishan (23) and Dharmender (39) broke into the factory on March 20, police said, adding all of them have been arrested. With the arrests, police claimed to have solved eight cases of theft. Akshay's motive behind the crime was to avenge the humiliation faced by his father after the factory's owner raised suspicion of his involvement in thefts on the premises, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parminder Singh. Akshay's father had worked for the factory for over 20 years and after his dismissal, they were forced to leave the premises where they had been living since long, the DCP said. Akshay, who was very well aware of the entry and exit routes of the factory, planned the burglary and ex-



ecuted it with the help of his friends, police said. After various electronic devices, commercial LPG cylinders, aluminium bars and other items were found stolen from the factory, a case was registered in connection with the incident at Mundka police station, the DCP said.

"One of the accused involved in the incident was identified as Vicky. He was apprehended when he came to dispose a stolen property at PVC market. He had come

in a Gramin Seva vehicle, which was also used to commit burglary at the factory," he said. His questioning led to the arrest of the main accused, Akshay, who confessed to the crime and the roles of his friends, police said. Based on Akshay's disclosures, raids were conducted at several places which led to the arrest of the remaining accused and the stolen items were also recovered from them, they said.

# Man axes sister to death over affair

FARRUKHABAD

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly hacked to death with an axe by her brother, aged 17, after she refused to end her relationship with a boy.

Superintendent of Police, Farrukhabad, A.K. Meena said that the boy had confessed to killing his sister and had surrendered before the police.

Since the alleged accused is a juvenile, he will be produced before the juvenile board on Wednesday.

The teenager told police that he had advised his sister several times to stay away from the boy but she was not ready to listen.

The brother-sister, on Tuesday, had a major argument over the issue and the brother later called the girl to the backyard of their house where he hacked her to death with an axe.

The girl's body has been sent for post mortem and an FIR is being registered at Kamalganj police station.

# Ex-Cong MLA alleges threat from jailed mafia don Ansari

VARANASI

FORMER Congress MLA Ajay Rai has written to Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, claiming a threat to his life from jailed mafia don and BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari. He has sought a security cover for himself. In his letter, Rai said that he had already informed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on February 6 that he was appearing before the MP/MLA court in Prayagraj as a witness against Ansari in a case related to his brother Avadhesh Rai's murder.

Rai said his security cover had been withdrawn and arms licences have also been cancelled.

"The chief minister did not take note of my letter while the security personnel given to me on 10 per cent prescribed charges were also withdrawn,"

said the former MLA.

"If the government is really interested in ensuring punishment to Mukhtar Ansari, why did it put my life at stake by withdrawing my security cover despite knowing that my evidence will ensure capital punishment for him?" Rai asked.

Rai's brother was shot dead outside his residence in 1991.

Ajay Rai is the complainant and prime witness against Mukhtar and other accused persons of this case, although he had enjoyed support of Mukhtar's Qaumi Ekta Dal in 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

Earlier, BJP MLA and slain Krishnanand Rai's widow, Alka Rai, had written letters to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleging that the Congress-led Punjab government was shielding Mukhtar, who is lodged at Ropar jail.

# Meat shop owner shot dead by miscreants in south Delhi

NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old meat shop owner was shot dead allegedly by unidentified persons on two-wheelers in south Delhi's Dakshinpuri, police said on Wednesday. The deceased, Dalip alias Kunal, sustained multiple bullet injuries on his body but the exact number will be ascertained after a post-mortem, they said. The incident took place late on Tuesday night and information was received from Batra Hospital where the victim was taken for treatment but declared brought dead, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, "During the inquiry, it surfaced that the victim used to run a meat shop in Dakshinpuri area and at around 11.20 pm, while he was standing near his shop, some persons came on two-wheelers and fired on him with illegal weapons".

Soon after the incident, the accused fled the spot while the injured shop owner was taken to the nearby private hospital where he was declared brought dead, he said. The deceased Dalip was a resident of Madangiri in the city and had been involved in seven cases including that of hurt, murder and robbery, police said. "We have registered a case in connection with the incident and multiple teams have been formed to identify and trace the accused persons," Thakur said.

# UP Minister objects to high-volume loudspeakers in mosques

BALLIA

UTTAR Pradesh Minister Anand Swaroop Shukla has sent a letter to the Ballia district magistrate, saying the volume of loudspeakers at mosques should be fixed according to the court orders since he is facing difficulty in discharging his duties.

"Namaz is offered five times in a day. As a result of it, I face problems in doing Yoga, meditation, puja (worship) and discharging government duties," Shukla said in the letter, referring to the Kajipura Madina Masjid in his constituency. Shukla said there are a number of schools in the vicinity of the mosque and the 'azaan' hampers their studies.

"Religious publicity takes place through loudspeakers. Information regarding donations for the construction



of mosques is disseminated in an extremely loud volume. This has an adverse impact on students, elder citizens and the health of patients. The common public is facing extreme noise pollution," he said.

He said the volume of loudspeakers at the mosques in Ballia should be fixed according to orders of the Allahabad High Court while unnecessary ones should be removed.

The objection to the loudspeaker volume by the Uttar Pradesh minister came days after a similar complaint was made by Allahabad University Vice Chancellor Prof. Sangita Srivastava.

Srivastava had complained to the district magistrate that she is forced to wake up too early everyday due to 'azaan' on a loudspeaker, urging the official to take action. Srivastava had also said the sleep disruption leads to headache through the day, impacting her work.

Asserting that she is not against any religion, the vice chancellor had suggested that it can be recited even without a loudspeaker so that it does not cause discomfort to others.

She had also referred to an Allahabad High Court order in this regard, requesting the district magistrate to take prompt action in the matter.





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# Pandemic returns: Get jabbed, keep virus away

The coronavirus which appeared to be on the path of retreat a short while ago is again rippling across the country and the number of positive cases is on the rise. The main reason for the situation where the country is racing to contain the second wave is just negligence on the part of the people and the administration. Both almost concluded that the pandemic was over. The State governments stopped ensuring that the health protocols were properly implemented. Life was almost back to pre-Covid-19 situation.

Even in public transport system, no one insisted on using of masks. Till recently, people have been criticising that the scientific community had failed to invent a preventive vaccine. But now

that vaccines have been rolled out, the same people are sceptical to go to a hospital and take the jab. They now seem to be thinking why it came so early.

Less than 3 per cent of the population has received the first shot of vaccine and this includes about half of the healthcare workers. At the current rate, it will take India about a decade to vaccinate 70 per cent of its people. The State governments do not seem to be in a great hurry to create proper awareness on the importance of taking the vaccine and create confidence among the people that the vaccine is safe. The misinformation on social media that it is a big game to make money by the pharma companies adds to the apprehensions of common people about getting vaccinated. Lot

many heated discussions, mostly based on half-baked personal perceptions pitting one vaccine against the other, has left the general public confused.

Some ask: Is it compulsory to take the vaccine? Well, there is no such obligation. But don't stop taking the vaccine by giving credence to rumourmongering. Every individual has two options. Seek authentic information that is available in the digital world or get infected with coronavirus. The greatest service they could do to the society is not to confuse those who are inclined to take the vaccine. While vaccinations were initially available only in public hospitals, now private hospitals have opened vaccination centres, and it is considering making them available in pharmacies,

too.

Vaccination hours have been extended, and those eligible can register in person and receive a shot the same day, bypassing an online scheduling system. But still people are adopting wait and watch policy. Most of the State governments seem to be more concerned about their political prospects in by-elections and local body elections while a few other States like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have no time for any other issue except fighting the Assembly elections.

Agreed that vaccine is not a magical solution, but the fact remains that immense amount of work is put in in the development of vaccine. The least we can do is respect this temper. After months of relentless suffering, the global community is finally getting some hope. Isn't this what we all wanted? Let's not kill the hope.

## PART-II

# Making sense of dynastic politics in India

## TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

As was noted in the last week's piece, families dominating the scene in a given field over generations is not a phenomenon confined to the political field alone. To begin with, an example that pertains to what is probably the most popular activity in India, namely cricket. Children of the heroes of yore, such as Lala Amarnath, M.L. Jaisimha, Shivlal Yadav, Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar, to name just a few, continued to bear the torch, a task made easier by talent and performance. So did Ramesh Krishnan in tennis.

If one turns to the area of business, commerce and industry, one finds that, from the Tatas and the Birlas, who are probably the two oldest business houses in the country, to families bearing familiar and household names, such as Bajaj, Godrej, Sriram or Ambani, the phenomenon of dynastic control has played a major, if not dominant, role.

On quite a different footing stand professions such as law, medicine and accountancy, where the practices and the vast goodwill, built up patiently over decades by eminent practitioners, necessarily need a competent successor to carry on the tradition. Insofar as the legal profession is concerned, Mahesh and Rani Jethmalani, Prashant Bhusan and Mohan Parasaran, are all examples of such a situation. Sometimes the children of legal luminaries have risen to the same heights as their fathers, Supreme Court judges Nariman and Chandrachud being excellent illustrations.

And every city of the country has successful, and eminent, accountants and doctors, whose fathers and grandfathers were leading lights in the same profession. The celluloid industry is another area where siblings have benefited from the appeal, and the reputation, of their parents, whether as actors, singers, music directors or directors. Rishi Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan, Abhishek Bachchan and R D Burman are only a few of the well-known names.

And, while on the subject, of siblings continuing the tradition of their parents in different professions, activities and arts, one cannot help observing that a career in the Armed Forces appears to be the one which has the greatest appeal to the succeeding generations. In light of what we noted earlier, that the absence of materialistic attractions in the parents' careers actually serves to put off their offspring, it is perhaps the strong element of patriotism in the Armed Forces that leads to this kind of appeal.

Clearly some careers, such as law and medicine or, for that matter, being an industrialist, offer opportunities for the next generation to make a soft landing and, as it were, to hit the ground running. And others, such as the civil services or academics, seem to carry features, exposure to which makes the offspring turn away, and look elsewhere for options.

At this point, it is worthwhile looking at rural artisans, such as weavers, potters, cobblers, black-smiths etc. The art and craft are passed on from generation to generation mostly through a process of demonstration, learning and practice, or by word of mouth. When the interest shown by traditional markets for the goods produced by such cottage industries wanes, the viability of the calling suffers.

This happened, for instance, in the case of handloom weavers. Very often, the central and the State governments step in with programmes designed to improve the skills and designs to enable the products to respond



And, while on the subject, of siblings continuing the tradition of their parents in different professions, activities and arts, one cannot help observing that a career in the Armed Forces appears to be the one which has the greatest appeal to the succeeding generations. In light of what we noted earlier that the absence of materialistic attractions in the parents' careers actually serves to put off their offspring, it is perhaps the strong element of patriotism in the Armed Forces that leads to this kind of appeal.

to market signals, providing the economies of scale by organising aggregation and facilitating access to institutional finance, extending subsidies and mounting campaigns to penetrate promising markets. Several successful examples are available where such a strategy succeeded remarkably.

There are other traditional occupations, such as fishery, which are passed on from one generation to the next. The problems, as well as the solutions, in that sector are not very different. I can speak with the confidence, arising from experience, about both the handlooms and fishery sectors. Government support, institutional assistance, successful aggregation, and a continuous and meaningful dialogue between producers and markets, have produced remarkable results, especially in the cooperative sector, in both the fields, in many states. There are also other responsibilities that devolve upon the youth from their parents, such as the ones attached to the posts of Village Officers. For a long time, these were hereditary posts, somewhat like those of priests in Hindu temples. Following general public aversion to such arrangements, however, efforts have been made by governments to do away with them.

For example, in Andhra Pradesh, NTR, as Chief Minister, abolished this system of hereditary succession in the posts of Village Officers. Clearly there is no element of choice, or preference, on the part of those upon whom such positions devolve, having been bequeathed to them by virtue of legacy. Somewhat similar, albeit not as a result of succession by legacy, is the running of the parents' businesses by their offspring, like, for instance, running a store. Some qualities, such as sharpness of the intellect, height, complexion and good looks etc., are usually genetically inherited characteristics. Such is not the case, however, with other attributes, such as a thirst for the acquisition of knowledge, patience, tolerance or courage. That is because Mendel's laws of inheritance stipulate that acquired characteristics cannot be inherited. On the other hand, the absence of positive attributes is unfortunately susceptible to being acquired by the offspring. In other words, human beings can be said to possess two types of qualities, namely, the congenital and the cultivated. To lighten the mood of this discussion, I wish to take the liberty of making a light hearted digression, and also of repeating a story I have related earlier in these columns.

The late BPR Vithal was a distinguished civil servant and also a learned and wise man, gifted with a devastating sense of humour. While he was functioning as the Principal Secretary of the Finance and Planning departments of Andhra Pradesh State, a suggestion was made to him, by the then Chief Secretary, that a particular IAS officer be considered for a position in one of those departments. Vithal's prompt report was that, while his department no doubt practised stupidity, it was the 'cultivated', but not the 'congenital', variety!

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)



# Germany funds vaccine assistance for Holocaust survivors

GERMANY has committed millions of dollars in extra funding to help ensure all Holocaust survivors are able to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, an organisation that handles claims on behalf of Jewish victims said on Wednesday.

By virtue of their ages alone, survivors of the Holocaust are at higher risk of dying of Covid-19. Many suffer serious medical issues related to early childhood malnutrition and mistreatment at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. While many of the 340,000 living survivors around the world have been vaccinated, thousands still are awaiting their shots after encountering difficulties with transportation to vaccination centres, the logistics of organising an appointment or other problems, said Greg Schneider, executive vice president of the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

After discussions with the Claims Conference, Germany agreed to provide an additional USD 13.5 million that will be used to overcome these hurdles, Schneider told The Associated Press. "It's generally the most vulnerable ones who have the least access, the least family support. These are the ones who have the potential to be left behind," Schneider said in a telephone interview from New York. Using its database, the Claims Conference is reaching out to Holocaust survivors by phone and mail to determine if they want to be vaccinated, whether they have questions about the vaccines, and what assistance they need.

The hurdles to vaccination vary from country to country. In the United States, where there are about 50,000 survivors, Claims Conference data show that some 40 per cent have not yet been vaccinated. The organisation's outreach found that many were having difficulties with trying to register online for vaccine appointments, Schneider said. In Israel, which has been lauded for the quick pace of its vaccine rollout, some 20,000 survivors are disabled and might not have been able to make it to vaccination centres, according to Schneider.

The Claims Conference has paired up with an ambulance service to pick them up, drop them off and take them home, and then to repeat the procedure when the individuals are due for their second shots. In Ukraine, where vaccinations are barely underway, the Claims Conference is reaching out to the country's 12,000 survivors and assumes "a very large percentage" will need assistance once vaccines become available for them. "These are people who were abandoned by the whole world in their youth, and what we are saying now is we will not abandon you, we will be there for you throughout this process, whatever it takes," Schneider said. "We need to be there for them, no matter what country. No matter what," he said.

The Claims Conference leads annual talks with Germany to negotiate for compensation for Holocaust survivors. As a result, the German government has paid more than USD 80 billion in Holocaust reparations since 1952. In 2021, it plans to distribute some USD 625 million in direct compensation to more than 60,000 survivors in 83 countries and to allocate approximately USD 653 million in grants to some 300 social service agencies worldwide that provide services such as home care, food, and medicine. (AP)



# Once scorned, AI now buzzword for humanity

With deep and exclusive reporting, across hundreds of interviews, New York Times Silicon Valley journalist Cade Metz relates the modern history of artificial intelligence (AI) in "The Genius Makers: The Mavericks Who Brought A.I. to Google, Facebook, and the World" (Penguin).

The book brings forth a compelling narrative that does not only put into perspective what AI means to us humans, but also tells a definitive story of how a project confined to the fringes of scientific community became a buzzword for humanity.

Long dismissed as a technology of the distant future, artificial intelligence was a project once consigned to the fringes of the scientific community. Then two researchers changed everything. One was a 64-year-old computer science professor with a back problem so severe he could not drive or fly. The other was a 36-year-old neuroscientist and chess prodigy.

Though they took very different paths, together they helped catapult AI to the forefront of our daily lives and, in the process, created a business worth billion. This is the story of that technological revolution and of the arms race it has sparked among companies that range from Google to Facebook to Open AI.

It's the story of growing international rivalry to achieve major new breakthroughs. And it's a story that shows both the inventive best of humankind and its darker side, as advances have been counterbalanced by issues of prejudice, bias and the invasion of privacy. Cade Metz draws on unparalleled access to all the major players to create an extraordinarily vivid account of a revolution over five decades in the making. And he poses the questions that will dominate the next half-century: where will AI take us next? Are systems with truly human intelligence on the horizon? And, if so, where does that leave us?

Cade Metz is a technology correspondent with The New York Times, covering artificial intelligence, driverless cars, robotics, virtual reality, and other emerging areas. Previously, he was a senior staff writer with Wired magazine. He works in The New York Times' San Francisco bureau and lives across the Bay with his wife Taylor and two daughters. (OAS)

## LETTERS

### A comprehensive assessment

TEJ SINGH Kardam in his article "Still a one-sided battle for women" left nothing untouched about the ordeals that women are encountering in their lives on account of male chauvinism from ages. Women, illiterate or literate or doctorate must have to spend maximum time in kitchen to satiate the dependent souls without having dependency inside the house or outside sociologically, politically or economically. They have no freedom of speech, freedom of movement anywhere in the expected lines. Exceptions are countable on fingers only. It is a real freedom of a lady walks on the road midnight without any fear. This Gandhian ideal remains in book and dreams. Moving out in day time is also dreadful. Thirty percent women representation in national and state level politics appears to be frivolous to law makers. Finally, the author is optimistic to see an egalitarian society which seems to me a mirage in the existing scenario.

N Ramalakshmi, Secunderabad

## II

Gender Inequality: Still a one-sided battle for women, by Tej Singh Kardam (THI, 24 March) is a well-articulated article and as he said, a combination of family, caste, community and religion reinforce and legitimise patriarchal values. I've seen the plight of women during lockdown. Poverty / ignorance stops women uplift.

Dr T Ramadas, Visakhapatnam

### SC decision timely

It is a very much needed 'better late than never' decision of the Supreme Court as regards non-extending of moratorium 'of certain categories of loans/advances

and ordering of classification of assets as per their repayment schedules etc in view of a very short period of around a week time or so left for the year end work (31.3.2021) of all banks vis-a-vis balance sheet preparation/provisions on bad assets etc. The borrowers were really in half minds for loan repayments as the Supreme court has earlier deferred classification of assets post moratorium period expecting further extension of moratorium period in view of the tremendous lockdown period loss of incomes. The Supreme Court is absolutely correct in having stated that total interest amounts from March 2020 to August 2020 cannot be waived as depositors have to be paid their interest amounts on the due dates and only the compound interest part / penal interest part should be credited to the loan accounts of the borrowers. The concern of the SC in this issue on 'small savers' money' for building up gigantic banks to do lending businesses is really appreciable. However, for senior citizens/retirees personal loans etc the Court could have advised for the total interest waiver to help these old people in these days of survival of the fittest situation which does not discriminate between young and old.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

### Good beginning

WASHBUCKLING batting by Shikhar Dhawan, K L Rahul, Virat Kohli and Krunal Pandey steered India to magnificent victory at the Pune One-Day match. England made 251 runs in reply to India's total of 317 runs in the fifty over-limited match. I am optimistic that India will do well to clinch the series against England in the remaining two matches.

Dr Manthena Damodara Chary, Hyderabad

### Look beyond Labour Codes

The 44 labour laws thrown in dust bin were mostly made by the colonial master to exploit the workforce with a soothing touch. Most of them were confined to

thehansreader@gmail.com





## Apex court dismisses Jagan's complaint against Justice Ramana

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court of India has dismissed the complaint made by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy against sitting Supreme Court judge, Justice NV Ramana, in connection with the Amaravati land scam.

"A complaint dated 6th October, 2020 sent by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Supreme Court was dealt with under the In-House Procedure and the same, on due consideration, stands dismissed," the Supreme Court statement said.

According to a statement released by the Supreme Court, an in-house procedure was followed to look into the allegations made by Reddy and the complaint was dismissed after due consideration.

"All matters dealt with under the in-house procedure being strictly confidential in nature, are not liable to be made public," the statement added.

Reddy had written to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde on October 6 last, making certain allegations against Justice Ramana. Subsequently, Reddy made these allegations on affidavit before the top court.

CJI Bobde on Tuesday recommended the name of Justice Ramana to take over as his successor after his retirement on April 23, 2021 while also rejecting the letter of complaint by Reddy against the sitting judge.

The Chief Minister had also complained against the then Chief Justice of the AP High Court and a few other judges and accused them of acting against his government's interests.

This led to a furore with legal opinion divided on the same and a demand had been made for the dismissal of the Chief Minister and launching of suitable legal action against him. The Opposition was quick to point out that the Chief Minister who was facing CBI cases levelled the allegations to influence the judiciary in his favour.

## CM to inaugurate Orvakal airport today

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will inaugurate Kurnool airport at Orvakal on Thursday.

The Chief Minister will hoist the national flag and unveil statue of former Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy before attending the inaugural ceremony of Kurnool airport. The State government acquired 1,008 acres of land for the airport. The DGCA aerodrome licence was awarded to APADCL (an entity of Govt of AP) on January 15 this year. The runway length stands at 2000 metres at present. The Indigo Airlines will commence schedule aircraft operation under RCS UDAN scheme from March 28. The flight services will initially connect Kurnool with Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Chennai. Passenger amenities including car rental, baby care and medical facilities centre have been provided at the airport.

## Groundwater Dept hailed for role in conservation of water

VIJAYAWADA

WATER Resources Minister P Anil Kumar Yadav has assured that the government would extend support to the Groundwater Department in conservation and proper utilisation of groundwater in the State.

He said the Groundwater department is playing vital role in identifying the groundwater reserves and extracting the water to meet the requirements of the people. Ani inaugurated a national workshop on 'Groundwater systems, challenges and opportunities' at the Tummalapalli Kalakshetram on Wednesday.

The one-day workshop was organised to mark the 25 years of association of Andhra Pradesh Groundwater department with National Hydrology Project and 50 years of the formation of Groundwater department in the State. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the Groundwater Department during the last 50 years rendered invaluable services to the people of Andhra Pradesh. He called upon the people to extend support to the Groundwater Department.

# Get back 5 panchayats from AP: Cong to govt

HYDERABAD

CONGRESS MLA Podem Veeraiah on Wednesday said that the State government should take steps to get back the five Gram Panchayats merged into Andhra Pradesh and also form an expert committee to find out whether there was any risk to Bhadrachalam temple in the wake of construction of Polavaram project.

Speaking in the discussion on the demands in the Assembly, Veeraiah said that Bhadrachalam has turned into an island now with several villages getting merged into Andhra Pradesh. The government should take steps to ensure the AP Reorganisation Act proposed by the Congress should be implemented and get the five gram Panchayats merged back into Telangana. Because of merging of villages in Andhra Pradesh, the development has been stopped in Bhadrachalam, alleged Veeraiah.

Stating that the Bhadrachalam temple was second only to Ayodhya, the Congress MLA urged the government to form a committee of experts to find out whether there would be any risk of Polavaram project to the temple in future. He also urged Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to keep his promise of solving the issue of Podu lands in his constituency.

## KCR termed 'Telangana Gandhi'

HYDERABAD

PANCHAYAT Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Wednesday termed Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao as 'Telangana Gandhi' for achieving all-round development of the villages through basic amenities and facilities. The villages in the State are developing at a fast pace like never before he informed the house in the Assembly budget session.

The KCR government has developed all villages with needed facilities like dump yard, Pragathi Vanam, nurseries, cemeteries and all basic amenities. The minister stated that the government is for rural development by reaching out with necessary programmes. He informed the House during the budget session in the Assembly here that

the State government is for all-round development of the villages with timely release of the funds. The minister claimed that the village panchayats were increased by 40,061 to 12,571 from 8,690 in Telangana after statehood. KCR gets credit for developing the village panchayats including 3,146 lambada thandas developed as village panchayats. The village panchayats got lambada people as the sarpanches their own villages on the growth path, he said.

The Chief Minister has been directing the ministers and officials concerned to see that the villages get a clean and green environment by Haritha Haram, growing nurseries, providing all facilities such as roads, sanitation, nalas cleansing and others, the minister maintained. He further stated that the State

government is ensuring all-round development of the villages. The KCR got the name for transforming the lambada thandas as village panchayats besides offering the local leaders as sarpanches who can take up development works directly.

The villages get huge funds for basic amenities like roads, power supply, water and others he said. He said that dumping yards, cemeteries are completed in villages also with garbage separating stalls he said. Dayakar explained that 95 per cent of works of the cemeteries were completed. "We will start 8,001 cemeteries and 12,301 dumping yards by April-end. MLAs have to take steps in this regard," he said, adding that villages got 23 crores of saplings got planted so far under Haritha Haram scheme.

## Basara IIT seat strength to rise

HYDERABAD

THE State government is considering proposals to increase seats at Basara IIT. This was revealed by Health Minister Eatala Rajender. He said that they were giving admissions to all the students, who have got merit in their Class X exams. He said that the campus was spread across 272 acres of land. He also said that they had set up a 30-bedded hospital, post office and bank for the convenience of the students.

He said that they were providing efficient education to all the students of the institute and added that the institute had secured as the 36th best institute in the entire country. Around 55 per cent of the students of the institute are getting campus placements, he added.

## Big push to palm oil cultivation in TS

HYDERABAD

AGRICULTURE Minister S Niranjan Reddy also informed the House that the State government would encourage the farmers for oil palm farming. He maintained that the government was pushing oil palm farming in a big way. The State was cultivating oil palm in 48,806 acres and supporting the farmers in this regard. The govern-

ment already offered awareness to farmers and local leaders on palm oil production, he said, adding that steps are being taken to increase the cultivation in 8 lakh acres in 25 districts in the State. The Minister further stated that the efforts by the government were to increase oil palm production by giving incentives to the farmers. He said that India was using 25 million tonnes of

oil palm while its production in the country was only 10 million tonnes. For this, the country was spending huge funds to the tune of Rs 90,000 crore, he said, adding that the shortage of oil palm production also needed a big boost for cultivation. Niranjan Reddy said that the government was aiming to cultivate more oil palm in the State and the need was to encourage it in 70 lakh acres.

## April 30 deadline set to construct crematoria

HYDERABAD

PANCHAYAT Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the State government spent over Rs 1,800 crore for the construction of crematoriums, dumping yards and segregation sheds in villages across the State. He informed the House that the State government sanctioned construction of 12,750 crematoria works in 12,769 gram panchayats at a cost of Rs 1,554.76 crore. Of them, construction of 8,001 crematoria had been completed. Similarly, he said of 12,760 segregation shed works, which were sanctioned at a cost of Rs 318.99 crore, as many as 12,301 have been constructed. He said the remaining works would be completed by April 30.

# Centre deprives TS of funds: Errabelli

HYDERABAD

DAYAKAR Rao slammed the central government during the ongoing budget session of the house. Citing that the central government has given awards to different villages and districts of the State, he mocked that

the Centre was not giving penny for their development. He also said that he was tired of carrying the several awards given by the central government.

Targeting BJP leaders from the State, he said that it would have been better if the BJP MPs and MLAs from

the State mounted pressure to get funds to the State. He, however, alleged that the Centre was giving funds to the saffron party-ruled States like Gujarat, which is full of garbage. He alleged that the Centre was not giving funds to the villages of the State. Commenting on the

MGNREGS works in the state, Rao said that the State had created wonders in the implementation of the scheme. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had showered praises on the Chief Minister and the ministers of the state for the successful implementation of the EGS scheme.

# AP logs 585 cases in 24 hours

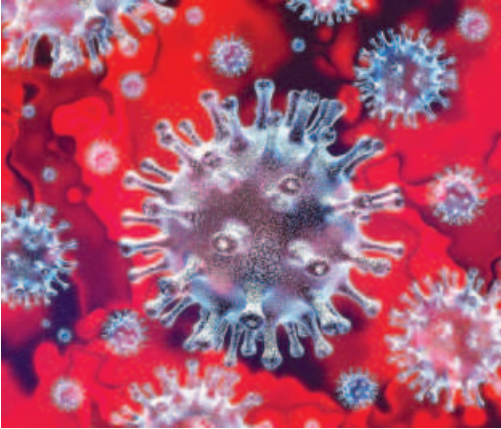
HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

A total of 585 Covid cases were reported in the State during the last 24 hours and the active cases increased to 2,946. The Covid cases in the State were on the rise in the last three weeks along with other States in the country such as Telangana, Maharashtra.

The exact reasons for the second wave of cases are not clearly known but it is true that the cases are increasing causing panic among the common people. Chittoor district topped with 128 fresh cases registered followed by Guntur district with 99 cases. By Wednesday, 8,95,121 total cases recorded in the State during the last one year and 8,84,978 of them recovered. In all, 7,197 persons lost their lives due to Covid in the State.

In all, four people lost their lives due to Covid in the last 24 hours. One case each was reported in

- Four deaths reported and toll increases to 7,197
- AP reports increasing trend of Covid-19 cases in the last 3 weeks



Chittoor, Guntur, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam districts.

People felt relieved with drastic fall of Covid till the end of February, 2021. But, the scenario gradually changed with the total new cases gradually increasing from March 1 to 24. On March 1, 2021, only 58 cases were reported in the State in 24 hours. By March 10, the number of new cases increased to 120 and by March 20, the new

cases surged to 380.

Since then, the State registered 368 cases on March 21, 310 new cases on March 22, 492 cases on March 23 and finally the figure crossed 500 by March 24 with 585 new cases recorded in the State.

The State government has issued guidelines to the District Collectors to implement the Covid guidelines strictly in the public places like hospitals,

schools, colleges, Rythu Bazaars, work places etc from April 1. The Union government has issued the orders and the State government is gearing up to implement the same in the State.

While the State government is trying to create awareness on the second wave of Covid, the people are reluctant to follow the Covid guidelines like taking precautions to check the spread of the pandemic. Many people are seen in public places without wearing masks and not following the physical distance.

Moreover, majority people in the State have stopped using sanitisers. All these factors may lead to surge in Covid cases because the virus is not completely rooted out. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday discussed with the officials on speedy administration of Covid vaccine to the people and precautionary measures to be taken to check the spread of Covid.

## Vijayasai's complaint has no proof: RS Committee

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

RAJYA Sabha Privileges Committee, in a report on the alleged assault on YSRCP MP V Vijaisai Reddy on January 26, 2017 at Visakhapatnam, has stated that evidence was lacking in regard to the attack and hence, violation of privilege was inconclusive. The report on Privileges issue of the members brought to its notice was submitted to the House here on Wednesday.

The MP has complained to the Privileges Committee that he had been assaulted and pushed around at the airport when he along with the then Opposition leader, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, landed at the airport to join the on-going agitation to seek Special Category Status (SCS) for the State at the Ramakrishna Beach in the city.

However, in view of the prohibitory orders imposed in the city earlier, the local police did not allow them to move out of the airport insisting that they go back to Hyderabad. There was an argument in the process and some pushing and shoving.

V Vijayasai Reddy complained to the Committee he had faced rough shodding at the airport and sought action against the offenders. The Committee, however, stated that no evidence was produced to prove the alleged attack and hence the inquiry could not conclusively establish any violation of the member's privileges. So, the complaint could not be acted upon as it did not fall under the Privileges issue at all, the Committee said.

# Stop privatisation of sand mining: TDP

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

TDP MLC Buddha Naga Jagadeeswara Rao on Wednesday accused the Jagan Mohan Reddy government of causing severe suffering to the people of Andhra Pradesh by privatising the total sand mining reaches in the State without trying to solve the problems of the construction industry.

Jagadeeswara Rao deplored that over 2 lakh mining and transport workers would be thrown out of their job works because of the latest privatisation policy of the Jagan regime. Already, the YSRCP has done serious injustice as its dubious previous policy has caused sand shortage and threw over 25 lakh construction workers out of work.

In a statement here, the TDP MLC said that since the YSRCP came to power, most workers in the 125 allied sectors of the construction industry lost their livelihood opportunities. Over 60 construction workers committed suicide unable to find works to support their families. Now, within hours of introducing the new privatisation policy, Panchayat Raj Principal Secretary Gopalakrishna Dwivedi has announced a steep hike in price of sand from Rs 375 per tonne of sand to Rs 475.

Jagadeeswara Rao recalled how the previous TDP regime has provided sand free of cost to the people at that time when the government's policy breathed a new life to the construction activity in the State. At that time, a tractor load of sand cost just Rs 1,200.

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

TDP candidate for Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency by-election Panabaka Lakshmi filed her nomination in Nellore city on Wednesday.

The bypoll is scheduled to be held on April 17. Senior TDP leaders including the party's State president K Atchannaidu, Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, Devineni Uma and others reached the city and participated in the huge rally organised from the Ambedkar statue at VR Circle up to the Collectorate.

Lakshmi along with her husband and party leader Panabaka Krishnaiah, former Minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and former Venkatagiri legislator K Ra-

- Earlier, the TDP activists take part in a huge rally in Nellore
- TDP State president K Atchannaidu flays the YSRCP MPs for their failure to secure SCS to the State and funds for the Polavaram Project

makrishna submitted two sets of nomination papers to the returning officer for Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency and Nellore Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu.

Further, interacting with the media, Panabaka Lakshmi said that she would try to get Special Category Status (SCS) to the State. She also said she would sincerely appeal to the voters



Panabaka Lakshmi, TDP candidate for the by-election to Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency, filing her nomination papers in Nellore on Wednesday

to give them a chance to work for the development of the region that comes under the Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency.

She said the voters have to question the BJP leaders on special status when they visit them to seek votes. Lakshmi

said everyone in the State had observed what the ruling YSR Congress had done in the recent polls to village panchayats and urban local bodies. Ruling party leaders threatened the candidates after filing nominations and forced them to with-



# Forceful conversions? 4 nuns briefly detained from train in UP

## Bajrang Dal members allege that nuns were taking away the youth to forcefully convert them to Christianity

LUCKNOW

THE police in Uttar Pradesh briefly detained four nuns from Kerala from a train in Jhansi district of the state on allegations of forceful religious conversions, PTI reported on Wednesday. The incident has sparked a political controversy, with the Opposition accusing the Hindutva group Bajrang Dal of harassing the nuns on a false pretext.

The incident took place on March 19, when two nuns and two postulants belonging to the Sacred Heart convent under the Kerala-based Syro-Malabar Church, were travelling on the Utkal Express from Delhi to Rourkela in Odisha. The postulants were dressed in civilian clothes while the nuns were in their religious habits.

The postulants had joined the Sacred Hearts Congregation of the Delhi Province recently. Since they were travelling to their home in Odisha for the first time, the two nuns were accompanying them on the journey, according to The News Minute.

However, some Bajrang Dal members boarded the train from Rishikesh in Uttarakhand, and started to created a ruckus. They alleged that the nuns were taking away the youth to forcefully convert them to Christianity.

A purported video of the incident, which was widely circulated on social media, shows some men interrogating the postulants and forcing them to show their Aadhaar cards and other identity proof. "We were for the Hindu samaj, we are from



the Hindu sanstha," the men can be heard saying in one of the videos.

When one of the postulants told them that she was born a Christian and had not been forced into converting, the men accused the girl of lying. "Does this say you were born a Christian," a man can be heard asking, as he waves the girl's Aadhaar card in front of her. "This does not say you are a Christian." The Aadhaar Act does not record the caste, religion or race of individuals to ensure that these demographics are not used to discriminate among citizens.

The situation escalated after the nuns were forced to get off the train at the Jhansi railway station, and were taken into custody. The four of them were reportedly questioned for five hours based

on the claims of the Hindutva group.

But after lengthy hours of questioning, the police let them go, saying they could not find anything to prove that the nuns were trying to forcefully convert the two young girls. "During questioning, nothing as such came to light, and the four passengers were allowed to depart by the next train," Jhansi Circle Officer Naeem Ansari told PTI. "No case has been registered in this regard."

The Syro-Malabar Church in a statement said that the group was allowed to continue their journey on March 21 on another train with a police escort as they feared retaliation from the Hindutva activists. The nuns also had had to change out of their religious clothing and put on civilian clothes in order to avoid attention.

# UPROAR IN RS OVER NCT BILL

## Oppn says send bill to select committee; BJD, SP walk out TMC MPs airdash to capital to stop bulldozing of the bill

NEW DELHI

RAJYA Sabha proceedings witnessed two brief, back-to-back adjournments as Opposition members trooped in the well of the House raising slogans to protest against the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Soon after the House returned the Finance Bill, 2021, Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge opposed the GNCTD (Amendment) Bill, saying the proposed legislation was unconstitutional and demanded that it be referred to a select committee for scrutiny.

Opposing the bill, AAP MP Sanjay Singh said the BJP government at the Centre has brought the bill as the party had lost the Delhi assembly elections twice. He said that by opposing the bill he was seeking "justice" for the two crore people of Delhi.

Later, opposition members trooped into the well and started raising slogans against the government. As the protesting members reached the well and House marshals arrived, Kharge warned that what happened in the Bihar assembly on Tuesday should not be repeated. Kharge was referring to the chaos that erupted in the Bihar assembly on Tuesday when police was called inside to assist the marshals in evicting unruly opposition members protesting against the Bihar Special Armed

Police Bill, 2021. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said the amendments to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act were in no way undemocratic. The Chair called Abhishek Manu Singhvi of the Congress to speak on the bill, but he demanded that the House be first brought in order.

As the uproar and slogan shouting continued, the House was adjourned twice for 10 minutes each. The bill, which was passed in Lok Sabha on Monday, seeks to make it clear that the "government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor". The bill also makes it mandatory for the Delhi government to take the opinion of the L-G before any executive action. The AAP is in power in Delhi.

TMC MPs airdashed to Delhi to stop 'bulldozing' of the Bill in Rajya Sabha

We want this Bill to be sent to the Select Committee. This is absolutely anti-democracy, anti-Constitution. We oppose this Bill and stage walkout," Samajwadi leader Vishambhar Prasad Nishad in Rajya Sabha.

After BJD, the YSRCP also walked out in protest. The NCT Bill undermines the power of the elected government. It is not going to help cooperative federalism in the country. Hence, we have decided not to be a party in the passing of this bill. We have decided to respectfully walk out," BJD leader Prasanna Acharya said in Rajya Sabha.

### AAP to move SC if bill passed

NEW DELHI: The AAP will move the Supreme Court if the GNCTD bill is passed by Parliament, the party's Rajya Sabha MP N D Gupta said. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was passed in Lok Sabha on Monday, seeks to make it clear that the "government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor". The bill also makes it mandatory for the Delhi government to take the opinion of the L-G before any executive action. "If the GNCT Amendment Bill is passed by Rajya Sabha, we will go to the SC," Gupta said.

### Nameless scheme

NEW DELHI : The Delhi Cabinet Wednesday approved the doorstep delivery of a ration scheme to be rolled out without any name after objections by the Centre of its naming as Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana. "The original name of the scheme, Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana, which was expected to be rolled out on March 25, will not have any name due to the obstruction by the Centre. Under the new scheme, wheat flour atta, rice, and sugar will be delivered to homes in packed bags," an official statement by the Delhi government said.

## Desperate for alcohol, 3 bros die after drinking sanitiser in MP

BHOPAL

CRAWLING for alcohol, three brothers in Bhopal allegedly died by consuming sanitiser, the police said.

According to information received by the police, three brothers -- Parvat Ahirwar (55), Ram Prasad Ahirwar (50) and Bhura Ahirwar (47) -- were addicted to alcohol.

Ram Prasad, who used to paint homes for a living, lived in Jahangirabad, while the other two brothers used to work as labourers in the same locality.

According to the police, there was complete prohibition at liquor shops on Sunday owing to Covid restrictions and the three brothers could not arrange alcohol from anywhere.

On Monday, the brothers brought a five-litre can of sanitiser and tried to satiate their craving for alcohol. The sanitiser contained alcohol so they thought it would give them a high but they died after drinking it.

According to the police, Bhura and Parvat were found lying on the footpath. Bhura was rushed to the hospital where doctors declared him dead while Parvat died on the footpath. The body of the third brother Ram Prasad was found at a room in Jinsi area.

According to Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Bhadoria, a case of death involving three brothers has come to light and a five-litre sanitiser can recovered from them. Initial investigations indicate they had died after drinking a hand sanitiser.

# DMK moves HC to restrain EC from using old EVMs

CHENNAI/KOLKATA

THE Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on Wednesday moved the Madras high court with a plea to restrain the Election Commission from using electronic voting machines that were beyond the expiry period of 15 years, in the April 6 Tamil Nadu assembly polls.

The other prayers of the DMK, represented by its Organisation Secretary R S Bharathi, were to provide CCTV live coverage/web-stream during voting in all the polling booths and voting centers, to install jammers at the strong rooms, where EVMs are stored and at the counting centres.

The opposition party also wanted the court to direct the Returning Officers to count at least 50 per cent of VVPATs, simultaneously.

After listening to the preliminary arguments by DMK senior counsel P Wilson, the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy ordered notice to the EC, returnable by March 29.

West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh's frontal attack on CM Mamata Banerjee for highlighting her leg injury, backfired. His comment - that the CM should wear bermudas if she wanted to display her legs - was slammed vehemently by Trinamool, with one of its leaders calling him a "pervert".

At a rally in Purulia, the state BJP chief said: "The plaster was cut and then a crepe bandage was put. And now she is displaying her leg to everyone. She is dressed in a saree but one of her legs is exposed. I have never seen anyone drape a saree like that. If you want to display your legs, why a saree, wear a pair of bermudas so everyone can have a good look."

Meanwhile, a sack full of currency notes totalling Rs.1 crore lying on the roadside was seized by election officials on Tuesday night in Tiruchirappalli district in Tamil Nadu, said a police official.



Flying squad after seizing a large amount of cash from a car allegedly owned by AIADMK MLA Selvaraj, in Tiruchi on Wednesday. The squad handed over the seized amount to Srirangam election officers.

### Open to Sasikala's return to party: OPS

CHENNAI: While Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisami is opposed to welcoming VK Sasikala back to AIADMK, Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS) has indicated that the close associate of late J Jayalalithaa could rejoin the party if she wishes.

Panneerselvam is the president of AIADMK, while E Palaniswami is the chief minister.

"Sasikala spent four years in jail. She served Amma (Jayalalithaa) for 32 years. I think if she accepts the present set-up of the party under a chief coordinator and his deputy, we could consider her return," Panneerselvam said in an interview to a Tamil channel.

### 'Kerala will be finished if Vijayan gets 2nd term'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Three-time former Congress Chief Minister A.K. Antony on Wednesday said 'if Pinarayi Vijayan got a second term, it would be the end of Kerala'.

Antony said this to the media at the state party headquarters during his first visit to the capital in almost a year's time. "Don't be misled and deceived by the now smooth talks of Vijayan. His ministers are now on an apology spree. This is just done to cross the bridge (Assembly polls) and if by any chance he manages to cross it, then it would spell disaster for Kerala. Kerala will be finished if he gets a second term," said Antony. Kerala goes to the polls on April 6 to elect 140 legislators, and Vijayan by now is reaching out to all with a smiling face.

## Cong, Left: friends in TN, opponents across the border

CHENNAI

THE two Communist parties, CPI-M and CPI are in a political alliance with the Congress in Tamil Nadu, but in Kerala they are the main political adversaries. The permutation and combination of alliance politics is throwing up challenges for both.

While posters of Kanyakumari Lok Sabha candidate Vijay Vasanthakumar and Nagercoil Assembly candidates have their posters with the photographs of a beaming Rahul Gandhi and Sitaram Yechury, but just a step away at the Kaliyakkavilai transport check post inside Kerala the scene is different. Here the Left and the Congress are engaged in a fierce political battle.

BJP leader and party candidate from Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat Pon Radhakrishnan while speaking to IANS said, "This is the duplicity of these parties, both CPI-M and CPI are national parties and so is the Congress. Across the border they are fighting against each other but here they are all friends, ideology doesn't matter."

Interestingly, the Communist parties have also conducted public campaigns for the Congress candidate Vijay Vasanthakumar for the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat.

M. Mariyappan, CPI-M local secretary at Kaliyakkavilai in Tamil Nadu told IANS said, "We are fighting against the fascist government of Narendra Modi and the BJP and all secular democratic parties will have to weed this government out."

## Subramanian accused of instigating rebellion

NEW DELHI

FORMER Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian is alleged to have instigated Ashoka University students to go on a rebellion after his resignation.

Subramanian resigned days after Pratap Bhanu Mehta as Professor which led to a huge controversy at the varsity.

"Here is @arvindsubraman instigating a student rebellion in @AshokaUniv. Think about what kind of a teacher or academic such a person is who concentrates his time in instigating rebellion rather than doing anything purposeful," Suresh Nakhua, BJP Mumbai spokesperson said in a tweet and attaching a video.

Subramanian is heard telling students, "You know how to do these things. You have done them very well in the past few days. Keep it up". The exact context of what "things" is not clear in the video whether it instigates a rebellion.

In the video, Subramanian is heard saying that maybe the the board of Ashoka University is too narrow with only the funders in it.

He adds that there is some reflection to be done by students if the board should be more diversified and well represented with maybe even students and acclaimed persons from other walks of life.

# Shortage of 405 pilots in Indian Air Force, Lok Sabha told

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Air Force has a shortage of 405 pilots against the authorised strength, the government told Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said the number of pilots in the Indian Air Force at present is 3,834 as against the sanctioned strength of 4,239. "There is a shortage of 405 pilots (as on March 1) in the IAF," he said, replying to a question. He said 260 aircraft are being used for training of pilots in the force.

The trainer aircraft in the IAF included Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II, Kiran MkI/IA and Hawk Mk-132 advanced jet trainer. To a separate question on whether India can counter China effectively with hypersonic vehicles,

the minister declined to answer saying the information sought is highly sensitive and classified.

"The information sought is highly sensitive and classified and cannot be divulged on the floor of the House," he said in his written reply. Replying to another question, Naik said 1,98,881 dwelling units were planned for construction through Married Accommodation Project route and 57,875 units were already built under phase one of the project.

He said 69,904 units were planned to be built under phase two of the project out of which construction of 58,062 units was completed. Naik said there was a plan to construct 71,102 units under phase three of the project but an in-principle decision has been taken to construct further married accommodation through the Annual Major Works Programme route.



## 'Cannot give postal ballot facility to overseas voters'

NEW DELHI

POSTAL ballot facility for eligible overseas Indian electors cannot be extended for the upcoming assembly polls as the matter is still under discussion with the Ministry of External Affairs to iron out logistical challenges in implementing the proposal, Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday. Responding to a question, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said in a written reply that the Election Commission had moved a proposal to amend the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 to facilitate Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) for overseas electors. "Since the matter is still under discussion with the

Ministry of External Affairs to iron out the logistical challenges involved in the implementation of the proposal, it will not be possible to extend the said facility to the overseas electors in the upcoming elections to the state legislative assemblies," he said.

Speaking at an event last week, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora had said that after the elections to five assemblies are over, the poll panel would hold a seminar with all stakeholders on the issue of postal ballot facility for overseas voters as suggested by the government. He hoped that the concept would materialise in the next six months or a year. At present NRIs can vote in the constituency in which their place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Govt capex will boost industrial activities

Industrial activities are expected to gather further momentum on account of increase in government capital expenditure, accelerate Covid-19 vaccination drive and resolute push to long-pending reforms. Fiscal, financial and long-term structural reforms were adopted which promoted a rapid V-shaped recovery.

— Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog



## WHATSAPP

### CCI directs probe in policy update

Fair trade regulator CCI on Wednesday directed its investigation arm to conduct a probe into WhatsApp's updated privacy policy and terms of service on prima facie finding that the firm has contravened competition law provisions through its 'exploitative and exclusionary conduct' in the garb of the policy update.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	73.3	South	
Euro	86.72	African Rand	5.64
UAE Dirham	20.35	Hong Kong Dollar	10.74
Thai Baht	2.57	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	100.57	New Zealand Dollar	51.24
Australian Dollar	55.84	Saudi Riyal	21.27
Canadian Dollar	58.28	Swedish Krona	9.7
Swiss Franc	78.4	Singapore Dollar	55.01

DELHI THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Agri growth remains positive

Agriculture sector in India helped in speedy recovery of the economic growth post-pandemic as allied sectors helped the farm sector clock a growth rate of 3.4 per cent in the financial year 2020-21. It is lower than the last year's growth, but higher than other sectors during pandemic phase. According to the first advance estimates issued by the Agriculture Ministry, food grain production is expected to be 144.52 million tonnes in Kharif 2020-21 as against 143.38 million tonnes in the previous year. Shivendra Bajaj, executive director, Federation of Seed Industry of India, said: "While food production in many countries across the globe was hit, India appears to have taken appropriate measure that ensured farming processes did not get affected much and crop output remained satisfactory."

### Dalmia's report on water mgmt

Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Ltd. (DBSIL) has launched a Sustainability Report at FICCI's Annual Summit on investing in future through sustainable water use and management in Agriculture. The report reflects the company's philosophy, approach with regards to the triple bottom line i.e. social, environmental and financial approach to identify the societal impact created by an organisation. It has been developed in accordance with core criteria of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards and focuses on DBSIL's commitment towards driving sustainability through green growth. Pankaj Rastogi, CEO-Sugar Business, Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Ltd said: "Sustainable growth or Green Growth as we call it has been deeply ingrained in all our business practices. Through this report, we wish to reiterate our commitment and responsibility towards the environment, people and society."

### J&K Tourism organises roadshow

Jammu & Kashmir Tourism and the members of J&K Tourism Alliance recently organised a roadshow to promote J&K Tourism, in a bid to aggressively market the pristine destinations of the Valley and religious glory of Jammu. Post-efficient controls of Covid virus by J&K Government, Department of Tourism started campaigning from September and still continues to highlight their products. To ensure control of Covid in the Valley, both the airports of Srinagar & Jammu test all the incoming passengers with rapid test to ensure that no one travels with a virus.

### Havells unveils new product

Havells India Ltd has unveiled a ceiling fan that comes equipped with a three-stage air purifier that filters PM 2.5 and PM 10 pollutant along with VOC filtration and delivers an approximate clean air delivery rate (CADR) of 130 cu.m per hour. The Stealth Puro fan is targeted to promote a healthy lifestyle with features such as remote-control operation, under light and led air purity indicator. The product is priced at MOP Rs 15,000. Ravindra Singh Negi, president (electrical consumer durables), Havells India, said: "Electric fan is a hyper competitive and evolving market. With comprehensive research and development, addressing the evolving needs and today's problem."

# ADANI GROUP UPBEAT ON TELANGANA

After acquiring controlling stake in Gangavaram Port in AP, infra major inks 2 deals in TS

MUMBAI

ADANI Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) on Wednesday announced that it has signed a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 100 per cent stake in two special purpose vehicles (SPV) holding 74.94 MW operating solar projects of Sterling & Wilson, a Shapoorji Pallonji group company.

The projects, commissioned in 2017, are located in Medak District of Telangana and have long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited.

The enterprise valuation of the target SPV is Rs 446 crore. With this acquisition, AGEL will increase its operating renewable capacity to 3,470 MW with a total renewable portfolio of 15,240 MW, Adani Green said in a statement.

The closing of the transaction is subject to customary approvals and condition, it added.

Vneet S Jaan, MD & CEO, Adani Green Energy Ltd said: "Strengthening our portfolio through organic and inorganic growth opportunities is an integral part of the vision to build a capacity of 25 GW by



## EXPANSION DRIVE

- Solar plants have PPA with TSSPDCL
- Enterprise valuation of the target SPV is Rs 446 cr
- Acquired 100% stake in 2 solar projects, 74.93MW, located in Medak district
- Adani Transport will execute highway project, a 4 lane NH-365A from Kodad to Khammam

2025 and become the largest renewables company in the world. We will leverage the strength of our platform and capital management philosophy to achieve operational improvements and value-accretive returns from the project."

Adani Transport wins 1,040-cr highway contract in TS

ADANI Road Transport Ltd (ARTL) on Wednesday said it has won a Rs 1,039.90 crore highway project from NHAI in Telangana.

"We are pleased to inform you that ARTL has received a Letter of Award (LOA) for four laning of NH-365A from Kodad to Khammam in Telan-

gana under Bharatmala Pariyojana on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)," the company said in a BSE filing. The bid cost of the project is Rs 1,039.90 crore, it added.

The construction period of the project is two years, while the operation period is 15 years, it noted. ARTL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), part of Adani Group. The company said it will continue to evaluate and bid for attractive opportunities in the transport sector, which generates value for the stakeholders. With this project award, Adani Group will have a total of eight NHAI road projects under HAM and Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT) in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat, it added.

## CBI books DHFL for creating over 2 lakh fake home loan accounts

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a case against Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL), promoters Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan and unknown public servants for allegedly creating 2.60 lakh fake home loan accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for a total loan worth Rs 14,046 crore out of which Rs 11,755.79 crore was routed to several fictitious firms known as Bandra Book Firms. The DHFL claimed interest subsidy worth Rs 1,887 crore from the Centre on the loans disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. A forensic audit report by Grant Thornton revealed the irregularities of DHFL, after which the agency registered a case on March 15.

DHFL, according to the CBI FIR, processed 88,651 cases under PMAY Scheme - under which loans granted to economically weaker sections, low and middle income group members of society for the purpose of buying land and construction of houses, development of dwelling units under slum development schemes, housing units are eligible for credit-linked interest subsidy.

## FTCCI signs MoU with Kabul Chamber

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

FEDERATION of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) has signed an MoU with Kabul Chamber of Commerce to promote bilateral trade between India and Afghanistan in presence of Muhammad Suleman Kakar, Consul General, Republic of Afghanistan. This was the maiden visit by Consul General to the FTCCI. On the occasion, FTCCI has invited the Afghanistan government and companies to proactively partner with India's ambitious development projects and programs. The partnerships between the countries will help reach new heights in trade and commercial business.

The Afghan consulate is organising a 10-day food festival during April 1-10, 2021, at Trident hotel to set up a platform for the establishment of mutual interest of both India and Afghanistan. The federation



(L-R) Muhammad Suleman Kakar, K Bhasker Reddy, Ramakanth Inani, posing for a photograph after signing the MoU

will extend all possible support for the festival and also collaborate for other events in the State. "The business community in the two countries would have to increase interaction to share their experiences in the larger interests of the people of two brotherly nations. The Chambers of Commerce in the two countries will focus on expansion of trade by holding single country exhibitions and through trade delegations to each other's country," said Muhammad Suleman Kakar.

# GSDP NUMBERS MAY UNDERGO REVISION

KUMUD DAS MUMBAI

IF a study by SBI Ecwrap, the research wing of the country's largest lender State Bank of India, is to be believed then state GSDP numbers may undergo revision.

The finding comes at a time when almost all major states have announced their 'State Budget 2021-22'.

At all India level, NSO has estimated 8.0 per cent contraction in real terms and 3.8 per cent contraction in nominal terms for FY21. States have also put forward their estimates for FY21.

"To validate the states' GSDP estimates for FY21, we have created our own estimates based on simulation of last few years states GSDP data-based on the share of states in GDP of India", the report says.

In fact, the study has got two observations to ponder over.

"First, for some states we have found that there is significant gap



between our estimates and revised estimates provided by these states for FY21. The prominent states where there is difference include West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. On the other hand, states like Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha and Kerala are representing more realistic picture of their economies," Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor to SBI said.

Second, if we take states' GSDP estimates as given (as states are more informative about their economic situations) then the all-India GDP contraction would be significantly lower than what the NSO has projected. If we go ahead and add

the value of GDP estimated as per our simulation to the remaining states, for which we do not have the GSDP numbers this takes up India's FY21 GDP to Rs 209.5 lakh crore, which means that India's GDP will actually expand by an approximate 3 per cent in nominal terms in FY21, as against the postulated 3.8 per cent per cent contraction projected by NSO, he added.

According to Ghosh, if we compare the percentage share generated by these estimates vis-à-vis our simulation, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal would have all gained 0.5 per cent or more individually in FY21 GDP pie.

Interestingly, even though these states are showing a rosy picture on GSDP numbers, the same is not reflected in tax collections. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh have actually witnessed a revenue receipts de-growth from FY20 to FY21.

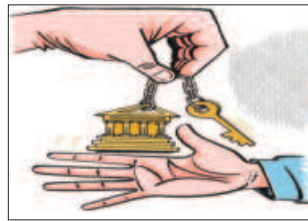
## Privatisation of 2 PSBs will impact their rating: Ind-Ra

MUMBAI

PRIVATISATION of two public sector banks can impact their ratings as the government support to the two entities will disappear, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said on Wednesday.

The rating agency said the budget proposal to privatise the as yet unidentified PSBs "could lead to material negative migration of the long-term issuer ratings (mapped to senior instruments such as infrastructure bonds) and the ratings on Tier 2 instruments of the identified banks". The impact will be more if the government chooses to privatise the weaker banks, which are yet to be consolidated, it added.

Factoring in timely intervention from the government and minimal probability of default, the agency said it has a rating



floor of 'IND AA-' for senior instruments and Tier 2 instruments of banks, which are majority-owned by the government. The agency explained that it establishes a long-term issuer rating and equates the rating on senior issuances like infrastructure bonds and Tier-2 sub-debt to it.

The long-term issuer rating is arrived at a higher support-driven rating, factoring in the extraordinary distress support and the standalone credit profile of the issuer, which may factor in the ordinary ongoing support, it added.

## Don't see India's rating downgrade: FM

Assures Rs 30,000-cr GST compensation to States this month

NEW DELHI

UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said India enjoys an investment grade rating and she doesn't see a rating downgrade because of higher spending.

Replying to a debate on Finance Bill 2021 in the Rajya Sabha, she cited low inflation, higher GDP growth, record foreign investment and lower fiscal deficit to defend her government's handling of the economy. She attacked the Congress-led UPA government for leaving a 'mess' and mismanaging the economy which the Modi administration set right. The measures taken in response to the 2008 global financial crisis by the UPA led to

## FM IN UPPER HOUSE

- WILL NEVER CROSS EMOTIONAL BARRIER OF 6% INFLATION
- GST COMPENSATION DUE TO STATES PRIOR TO COVID HAS ALL BEEN PAID



NPAS DECLINED TO RS 8.99 LAKH CR AS OF MARCH 2020

HANDLING OF 2008 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS LEFT LEGACY OF HIGH INFLATION

high inflation and 'tap-per tantrums', she said. Sitharaman further said average GDP growth between 2014 to 2019 was 7.5 per cent as against 6.7 per cent during 2009 to 2014 under UPA. Similarly, consumer price inflation was 10.3 per cent under five years of UPA rule, while during 2014-19 it was 4.8 per cent. Fiscal deficit too has been contained at

3.65 per cent of the GDP during 2014-19 as compared to 5.3 per cent in the previous five years, she said, adding current account deficit has also improved from (-)3.34 per cent to (-)1.43 per cent. Foreign exchange reserves have grown from \$303 billion in 2014 to \$411.9 billion, she said, adding NPAs or bad debt declined to Rs 8.99 lakh crore as of March 2020.

## Rajya Sabha okays Finance Bill 2021

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday returned the Finance Bill 2021 without any new amendment, completing the Parliamentary approval for Budget 2021-22. The Upper House debated the amended Finance Bill 2021 that was approved by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. It returned the Bill after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had to curtail her reply to the discussion on the legislation after a verbal spat with TMC members over implementation of central schemes such as PM Kisan Yojana and Ayushman Bharat in West Bengal. While Sitharaman said the State government had not given names of farmers for giving cash help under the PM Kisan Yojana, TMC members countered saying the state had given the nod for the scheme and the minister was not speaking the truth. The two houses had previously approved the Appropriation Bill.



# Got dad’s bag to dressing room to keep him close to me: Krunal

PUNE

INDIA all-rounder Krunal Pandya had his late father Himanshu's travel bag in the dressing room as he tried to keep him close ahead of his outstanding ODI debut in which he smashed the fastest 50 by a debutant.

Celebrating his 30th birthday on Wednesday, Krunal and his younger brother and star all-rounder Hardik Pandya spoke about the close relationship they shared with the Senior Pandya, who died of a heart attack in January.

"So basically the thing is, he passed away on 16th morning and I was playing Syed Mushtaq Ali on that day. He had a habit of keeping his clothes ready in the night, his shoes, his pant, his shirt, hat as well. "So what I did was just before the game, I got his bag



from Baroda here, and I thought, I know he is not with us, but those clothes, which he was supposed to wear in that game, I thought I'll bring that and keep in the dressing room," Krunal revealed on BCCI's official website.

Apart from his 58-run knock, Krunal also picked up a wicket in the game, against England, which India won by 66 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. He broke down while speaking to the host broadcaster after the match and was comforted by his brother.

"Obviously, I

worked so hard to be here...not just in cricket, but in terms of everything, taking care of my diet to fitness, to everything and again this is all dedicated to the old man "...his blessings are there with us and obviously it was very emotional for you and me, both of us, and again getting a cap from you," Krunal told Hardik.

Krunal has gone through a lot in the past few months. After being dropped from the Indian T20 team, he was caught in a spat with all-rounder Deepak Hooda before losing his father, who had played

a key role in making him a cricketer. "...my focus has always been about how I can be the best version of myself, how I can improve, not just as a cricketer, but how can I improve as a human being as well. "...again somewhere down the line, I just feel his (late father's) blessings are there, just feel more secure...this is for him," said Krunal.

Hardik, on his part, revealed that Krunal's body language showed his love for their late father. "It shows in your body language as well, but not many people know, our father is actually with us in the dressing room, Krunal has been carrying...our father passed away at 4 o'clock in the morning and he was someone who used to always keep his stuff ready for the next day. "Krunal has been carrying the bag which has his (stuff)," revealed Hardik. Krunal, a left-handed batsman, and a slow-left arm orthodox bowler, who has played 18 T20s, has been also playing for five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians. (PTI)

## A STINT WITH JEFF THOMSON

# Aussie connect to Prasidh Krishna's growth

C SHYAM SUNDAR  
CHENNAI

ANOTHER match and another dazzling debut. India's happy problem of plenty found its newest addition in rookie pacer Prasidh Krishna -- a Brett Lee and masala dosa fan who got some top-notch guidance from none other than Jeff Thomson in his journey to the highest level.

Krishna registered a haul of 4/54, the best by an Indian debutant, in the opening ODI against England in Pune on Tuesday. The lanky bowler's performance was made more special by the resolve he showed after being hammered in his first spell. He leaked 37 runs in his first three overs. "My first day at work was a roller coaster ride. Never over until it's over. All's well that ends well. Cheers to this special match and many more to come," he tweeted on Wednesday.

The 25-year old Karnataka bowler loves his masala dosa and Brett Lee, according to his father Murali Krishna. In fact, the Australia connection is not limited to his admiration for Lee, one of the fastest to have played the game. It goes back a few years. He took up the game at the age of 11 and enjoyed stints in Australia with the legendary Thomson, the pace icon



that many bowlers have grown up wanting to emulate.

It was in 2017 when, as part of the IDBI Federal Bowling Foundation, Krishna travelled to Australia along with Tushar Deshpande and two others to train with Thomson. According to Makarand Wainankar, a former cricket administrator and columnist, the training at the Cricket Australia Academy in Brisbane proved extremely beneficial for Krishna. "The exposure Prasidh Krishna got at the CA Academy stood him in good stead and helped improve his skills," he told PTI.

Wainankar was all praise for the lanky bowler's "cricket intelligence" and said it was evident in how he bounced back after being hit for runs in his first three overs in international cricket. "He is very

intelligent...I am talking about his cricket intelligence. This helped him bounce back after a tough start when he was taken apart by the England openers. "This showed the boy's character," the veteran columnist added.

M Senthilnathan, head coach at the MRF Pace Foundation where Krishna had trained, echoed similar views and said the bowler improved leaps and bounds since he was picked up in 2017 through his hard work and impressed on his ODI debut. "We selected him in 2017. He had done well for Karnataka in a game against the touring Bangladesh 'A' side in 2015 and that got him noticed. "After he came to the MRF Academy we worked on his physical side, he did gym work and we worked on his skills. He works very hard on his game," he added.

Also, learning from the great Glenn McGrath at the Academy helped a lot, Senthilnathan, a former India under-19 captain, said. Krishna also went to the CA Centre of Excellence in Brisbane in 2019 as part of MRF Pace Foundation's MoU with Cricket Australia. The academy head coach hailed Krishna's mental strength which helped him fight back after a tough initiation into international cricket.

## Saina, Srikanth make winning starts in Orleans Masters

Paris London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal crushed Ireland's Rachael Darragh in straight games in the women's singles opening round to make a winning start to her campaign at the Orleans Masters here on Wednesday.

The fourth seeded Indian, who is desperately seeking ranking points to make it to her fourth Olympics, took just 21 minutes to beat Rachael 21-9 21-5 and set up a clash with France's Marie Batomene here. Saina had pulled



out of the opening round of All England Open Championships last week after suffering a thigh injury. Top Indian male shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, seeded number one, entered the third round with a 21-15 21-10 win over compatriot Ajay Jayaram 21-15 21-10

in 25 minutes.

In the first round, Srikanth had received a bye, while Ajay had prevailed 19-21 23-21 21-16 over fellow Indian Alap Mishra. Mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy beat Austria's Dominik Stipsits and Serena Au Yeong 21-7 21-18. The Indian duo will meet Denmark's Niclas Nohr and Amalie Magelund next. Ira Sharma, who was promoted to the main draw from the women's singles qualification, saw off France's Leonice

Huet 12-21 21-14 21-17 and will square off against Bulgaria's Mariya Mitsova.

On Tuesday, India's Kiran George had stunned Netherland's Mark Caljouw, who had reached the semifinals of All England Championships last week, 13-21 21-18 22-20 in a thrilling opening round match. Mithun Manjunath beat France's Lucas Claerbout 21-14 21-10 but Subhankar Dey lost 17-21 13-21 to Denmark's Ditlev Jaeger Holm in the opening round. (PTI)

## Shreyas out of England ODIs, likely to miss IPL first half too

PUNE India batsman Shreyas Iyer was on Wednesday ruled out of the ongoing ODI series against England and left in serious doubt for the first half of the IPL starting next month after dislocating his left shoulder in the opening game here.

The incident happened in the eighth over of the England innings, when Shreyas dived on a drive hit by Jonny Bairstow off pacer Shardul Thakur. The 26-year-old

looked in tremendous pain as he left the field clutching his shoulder. "It is unlikely he will play first part of IPL," a BCCI source told PTI. On Tuesday, the BCCI had stated, "Shreyas Iyer subluxated (partially dislocated) his left shoulder in the 8th over while fielding. He has been taken for further scans." He captains Delhi Capitals in the IPL, which begins on April 9. The Mumbaiaikaar had perished for just 6 while batting. (PTI)

## TCA tournaments

The Telangana Cricket Association tournament - West Central Zone U19 - was held at Gajwel. In the TCA-Sangareddy Dist. Vs TCA-Kamareddy match Sangareddy scored 213/6 in 25 Overs (3/2 Sudeep 71, Narendar 40, Sameer 30) and beat Kamareddy 152/7 in 25 Overs (Shaik Mujiu 64, Arbaaz Pasha 2/13) by 61 runs

**MoM:** D Sudeep, Sangareddy. In the TCA-Jangaon Dist. Vs TCA-Gajwel (Siddipet Rural) Jangaon 87/10 in 18.2 Overs (Vinay 4/12) lost to Gajwel (Siddipet Rural) 91/6 in 13.5 Overs (C Karthik Reddy 22, Rohit 2/8) by 4 wickets. MoM: Vinay, Gajwel (Siddipet Rural)

# Spotlight on youngsters as India face Oman

New Delhi India's 15-month break from international football came after their 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Oman and they will face the same team to mark their return to action on Thursday.

The match will be played at Dubai's Maktoum Bin Rashid Stadium and will be the first of two international friendlies that India will play within a week, the second being against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the same venue.

Unlike the previous fixture, however, the match on Thursday does not come with the baggage of expectation or pressure. In fact, coach Igor Stimac made it clear in the pre-match press conference that he doesn't care as much about the re-

sults in these two matches as he does about the experience that the slew of young players in the Indian team will gain from facing higher-ranked opposition in foreign conditions.

The UAE and Oman are placed 74th and 81st, respectively, on the FIFA rankings while India are 104th.

As many as 10 players in the 27-man squad, which has an average age of 24, are yet to make their international debut. All of them have been selected on the basis of their performances in this season's Indian Super League (ISL).

India had lost both the matches they played against Oman in the qualifiers, with their first defeat being a particularly painful experi-



ence. The Blue Tigers were leading 1-0 for much of the match and even dominated the first half to a large

extent. But two late goals from Oman helped them win the match 2-1.

"That first match (against Oman) was crucial, that match was going to determine whether we are going

## Real Kashmir aim to end season on high note by beating Mohammedan SC

KALYANI: Real Kashmir will take on Mohammedan aiming to break their winless streak in the second phase as both sides battle it out for the fifth place of Group A in the Hero I-League, aspiring to end their season on a winning note. The match kicks-off at 7:00 PM IST at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium in Kalyani, West Bengal tomorrow (March 25, 2021) and will be broadcasted on the Sports channel, whilst being streamed live on their Facebook page.



Pedro Manzi put up a brilliant individual display and helped Mohammedan break Real Kashmir's nine-game unbeaten run when the sides met back in match-week 10. Since then, David Robertson's side has gone spiralling down in a five-game winless run which has ended their title challenge and placed the Snow Leopards in the

last spot in Group A with 18 points from 14 games.

Real Kashmir will surely be motivated to beat the Mohammedan side, who themselves have seen a mixed set of results, and finish the campaign on a high note. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, goalkeeping coach Jonathan Craig, said, "We dominated the second half against Punjab, creating many chances. We are disappointed that we failed to get a draw from the game." "We trust what we have been doing, we have been good in patches against Gokulam, Punjab. Against Mohammedan, it was just one of those games where a piece of brilliance from Manzi came out of the blue and took the game away from us. But we need to keep on doing what we are doing and convert our chances and win the game against them," Craig added.

ing. We have been good in patches against Gokulam, Punjab. Against Mohammedan, it was just one of those games where a piece of brilliance from Manzi came out of the blue and took the game away from us. But we need to keep on doing what we are doing and convert our chances and win the game against them," Craig added.

NEW DELHI

A dominant India swept the women's 25m pistol event with Chinky Yadav winning gold after Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar's historic top finish in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final of the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday. At 20, Tomar became the youngest Indian ever to win gold in this event when he shot 462.5 to claim the top prize ahead of Hungary's world number one Istvan Peni (461.6) and Denmark's Steffen Olsen (450.9).

After that, Yadav upstaged the experienced Rahi Sarnobat and the fancied Manu Bhaker to win gold in a 1-2-3 finish for India. The country's overall tally swelled to 19 with 9 gold, five silver and as many bronze medals. The 23-year-old Yadav prevailed over Sarnobat, 30, 4-3 in a shoot-off after their scores were tied at 32. Bhaker, aged only 19, shot 28 to settle for the bronze medal before being eliminated, leaving her two other compatriots to fight for the top prize at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.



All three shooters have already bagged their quotas for the Tokyo Olympics. Yadav, who fetched the Olympic quota with a second-place finish at the 14th Asian Championships in Doha in 2019, led the pack after first 20 targets with a score of 14. She was followed by Bhaker at second with 13. Then, the shooter from Bhopal led with a score of 21 and pulled away from the rest, even as the seasoned Sarnobat clawed her way back into the finals after struggling in bottom half.

In the finals, Yadav shot all

the five targets twice -- in the first competition stage's second series and the sixth series of the elimination stage -- after beginning with two. "I have trained in advance for tie shoots in final. I just had to do my best, not think who is in competition with me and which level they are in," Yadav said. Sarnobat, the most experienced of the three, had a five out of five in the third series of the first stage before shooting four targets thrice in the fourth, seventh and ninth series in elimination. The third ranked Bhaker had only one five out of

to fight for first two positions in group (and qualify for next round)," Stimac said at a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

"As it happened, with bad luck or inexperience (of players) in such important games, we fell down and that was something I always cry about. I felt sorry, not for myself because I have faced similar situations during my career, but for the players," he further said.

Sunil Chhetri, who tested positive for Covid-19 a few days before the team left for Dubai, won't be playing in the two friendlies which means that the likes of Manvir Singh or even Ishan Pandita could get some minutes under their legs in the two games.

Among the players who could

make their international debut are FC Goa's Pandita, Hyderabad FC's breakout star Liston Colaco and Bipin Singh, who scored the winning goal for Mumbai City in the ISL final. India: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Subhashish Roy Chowdhury, Dheeraj Singh, Ashutosh Mehta, Akash Mishra, Pritam Kotal, Sandesh Jhingan, Chinglensana Singh, Adil Khan, Mandar Rao Dessai, Mashoor Shereef, Rowlin Borges, Lalengmawia, Jeakson Singh, Raynier Fernandes, Anirudh Thapa, Bipin Singh, Yasir Mohammad, Suresh Singh, Halicharan Narzary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Ashique Kuruniyan, Manvir Singh, Ishan Pandita, Hitesh Sharma, Liston Colaco. (IANS)