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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 21 JANUARY 2021

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WEATHER

Max: 32.2°C
Min: 17.2°C
RH: 33%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning.
Max/Min temp. 30/17°C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+14,366)	(+143)
1,06,10,473	1,52,743

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+267)	(+2)
TS: 2,92,395	1,583
(+173)	(+0)
AP: 8,86,418	7,142

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,68,87,732	DEATHS
20,73,167	CASES
worldometers.info/coronavirus	

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Ashtami till 3.50 pm
Star: Ashwini till 3.35 pm

Variyam: 11.06 am to 12.54 pm;
2.24 am to 4.13 am (Friday)

Durmuhurtam: 10.36 am to 11.20 am; 3.03 pm to 3.47 pm

Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Jamadi- ul- Akhir 7,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.47 am

Zohar: 12.37 pm

Asar: 4.29 pm

Maghrib: 6.11 pm

Isha: 7.22 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.05 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 12.19 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 12.21 AM

COUNTER POINT



Welcome to your office, Mr President!

SHORT TAKES

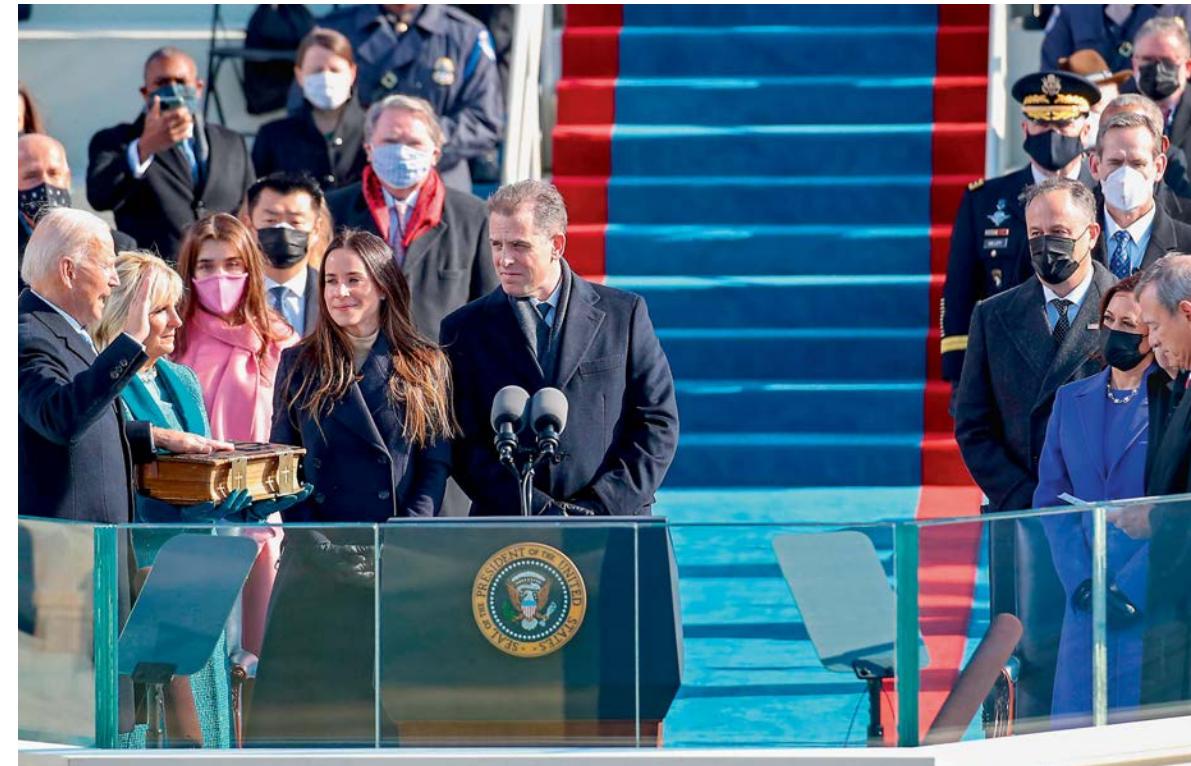
CBI's DSP held for corruption

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested one of its deputy superintendents of police R.K. Rishi and inspector Kapil Dhankad along with an advocate in connection with an alleged bribery ring run by them within the agency to help companies accused of siphoning off bank loan funds worth ₹4,300 crore, officials said.

FIR filed against Tandav makers

Mumbai: Police on Wednesday registered an FIR against the makers and cast of Amazon Prime's web series *Tandav*, based on a complaint lodged by a BJP MLA in the city, an official said. The case was registered against the actors, including Saif Ali Khan and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub among others.

Full report on Page 7



Joe Biden is sworn in as US President by US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts during his inauguration on the West Front of the US Capitol on Wednesday in Washington. Biden took the oath of office by placing his left hand on his large 127-year-old family Bible, which was held by his wife Jill. Kamala Harris (who looks on at Biden on the right) was sworn in as Vice-President,

becoming the first woman, the first woman of Indian origin and the first person of colour to occupy the second-most important position in the US. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Biden and Harris and said he was committed to working with them to take the India-US partnership to greater heights.

— AFP
More reports on Page 10

It's a new day in America

Biden to end country cap on H1B visas with his first orders

Washington, Jan. 20: In his first hours as US President, Joe Biden will aim to strike at the heart of President Donald Trump's policy legacy, signing a series of executive actions that will reverse his predecessor's orders on immigration, climate change and handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden, who began his day by tweeting, "It's a new day in America", will send a comprehensive immigration Bill to Congress which among other things proposes to eliminate the per country cap for employment-based green cards, a move that would benefit hundreds and thousands of Indian IT professionals in the US.

● **THE NEW BILL** provides an immediate pathway to green cards for individuals who meet certain criteria as they were dreamers or have been recipients of the Temporary Protected Status and meet certain criteria.

Called the US Citizenship Act of 2021, the legislation modernises the immigration system, according to an incoming White House official.

It prioritises keeping families together, grows the country's economy, responsibly manages the border with smart invest-

ments, addresses the root causes of migration from Central America, and also ensures that the US remains a refuge for those fleeing persecution, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Describing this as a common-sense approach to solving immigration challenges, focusing on what works, the US Citizenship Act 2021 creates a roadmap to citizenship for a population that lives and works in the United States.

January 1, 2021 is the cut-off date for those undocumented workers. Two-thirds of undocumented immigrants have been in the US for 10 years or longer. It provides an immediate pathway to

green cards for individuals who meet certain criteria as they were dreamers or have been recipients of the Temporary Protected Status, or are farm workers and meet certain criteria. They can apply for citizenship three years later.

For those who don't meet those qualifications, there will be another path to citizenship, where they would be in an interim status for five years. Afterwards they would be eligible to apply for citizenship within three years after becoming green card holders.

According to the incoming White House official, the Bill reforms the family-based immigration system.

— PTI

ASSAM POLLS TO BE HELD AFTER BIHU, SAYS CEC

Guwahati, Jan. 20: Giving a clue into the thinking of the poll panel with regard to state election dates, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said the Assam Assembly polls will be held keeping in mind the Rongali Bihu festival on April 13 and the process will be finished before the CBSE Board exams which begin on May 4 and run till June 10. "The EC is sensitive towards festivals held in various states," he said. — PTI

BJP chief may take a rath for West Bengal elections

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

BJP president J.P. Nadda is likely to launch a *rath yatra* in poll-bound West Bengal on February 5.

Mr Nadda, who completed one year as the BJP president on Wednesday, is likely to launch this *yatra* from North Bengal. The BJP is expected to launch five such *raths* (chariots) from different regions of the state, with Union home minister

Amit Shah scheduled to launch a similar "parivar rath yatra" on February 10. These raths will cover all the 294 Assembly constituencies of the state.

Crucial Assembly polls are scheduled in April and the BJP has been promising "Asol Poribortan (real change)" in the state while highlighting "mis-governance" under Mamata Banerjee and how development indicators in the state are on a downward

spiral. Mr Nadda also held a meeting of the party's general secretaries at the BJP headquarters to review various issues, including West Bengal polls.

Meanwhile, exodus from the TMC continued with its leader and Santipur MLA Arindam Bhattacharya joining the BJP fold at the party headquarters Wednesday.

He joined the BJP in the presence of the party's state in-charge Kailash Vijayvargiya.

He joined the BJP in the presence of the party's state in-charge Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Floodlights, LED lights, construction activity deny a clear sky view for people

Light pollution blanks out night sky in city

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

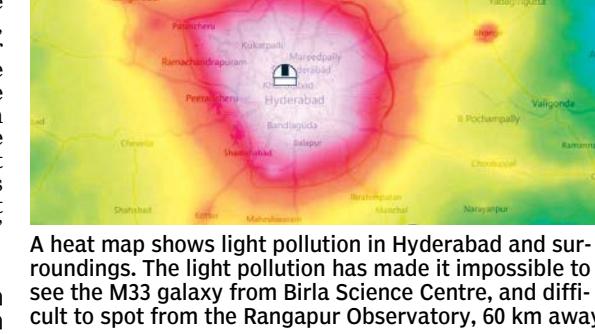
Rare astronomical events have occurred over the past few weeks, including a particularly close Jupiter-Saturn conjunction, the triple conjunction of Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn, apart from meteor showers and comet Neowise crossing the sky, but astronomy enthusiasts in the city say that it is difficult to witness these because of the city lights.

Light pollution is killing the joy of looking up at the night sky, astronomy enthusiasts and scientists have complained.

Praveen Suryavanshi, an amateur astronomer and educator, said that just to witness a full dark sky one now will have to travel at least 100 km away from the city. "My friends and I from the astronomers society in the city witnessed the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction from our offices and homes. I was in Hitec

floodlights, the neon lights on billboards and malls near the Shamshabad area have added to the pollution, especially in the last four to five years. These unnecessary lights and the continuous construction activities have spoiled the city skies so much that even the night sky reflects this light, and on most nights clouds are visible," Praveen said.

He added that the big



A heat map shows light pollution in Hyderabad and surrounding areas. The light pollution has made it impossible to see the M33 galaxy from Birla Science Centre, and difficult to spot from the Rangapur Observatory, 60 km away.

— PTI

Centre offers to freeze farm laws

Farmer leaders to respond to the offer on Friday after their internal consultations

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Centre on Wednesday proposed to suspend the three contentious farm laws for one or one-and-a-half years and set up a joint committee to discuss the laws to end the stalemate, but the farmers leaders did not immediately accept the proposal and said they will respond only after they hold internal consultations, possibly on Thursday. The two sides will meet again on Friday for the eleventh round of negotiations.

The government made this offer during the tenth round of talks with the representatives of 41 farmers' unions at Vigyan Bhawan here. After the meeting, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said: "During the discussions, we said the government was ready to put on hold the farm laws for one year or one and a half years. I am happy the farmers' unions have taken this very seriously and said they would consider it tomorrow (Thursday) and convey their decision on January 22."

Ahead of the meeting which lasted for over five hours, Mr Tomar along with commerce minister Piyush Goyal met Union home minister Amit Shah.

Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently called a meeting of top

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain the Centre's plea seeking to restrain the agitating farmers from taking out a *kisan* tractor rally on the Republic Day in Delhi and regretted that the "reputation" of the four members of the expert committee set up by it to end the deadlock was being "torn to shreds".

However, it issued notice on the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lokshakti) plea for reconstitution of the expert committee formed to hear all parties to the dispute and submit a report with its recommendations.

Telling attorney-general K.K. Venugopal and solicitor-general Tushar Mehta that it was for the police to take a call on allowing or

three farm laws. While staying the three farm laws, the Supreme Court appointed a four-member panel to talk to farmers to end the stalemate. But the farmers union objected to the make-up of the panel.

TS RETAINS ITS TOP 4 SLOT FOR INNOVATION

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Telangana retained its fourth place in terms of innovation in Niti Aayog's second Innovation Index released here on Wednesday. Karnataka topped the list and Maharashtra moved past Tamil Nadu to reach the second place. Kerala entered the top 5 by displacing Haryana.

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab completed the top 10 states.

The index, released by the Nirmal district medical officer Dr Dhanraj, the man died of cardiac arrest and the death was not related to vaccination. He said the cause of death could be determined only after conducting a post-mortem examination of the body.

■ Page 2: Vaccine panel will submit report

Karnataka topped the Index for the second year in a row. "Amongst major states, the average innovation score is 25.35. Karnataka tops at 42.5, which is attributable to its strong number of venture capital deals, registered GIS (geographical indications) and ICT (information and communication technology) exports. Karnataka's high FDI inflow has also enhanced the innovation capabilities of the state," the India Innovation Index 2020 said.

Maharashtra was ranked second with an innovation score of 38, while Bihar finished last at 14.5. "The case for the southern states as the top performers has also become stronger as four of them occupy the top-five spots within the major states," it added.

— PTI

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Govt fixes mutton price at ₹700/kg over flu scare

Officials to raid shops selling meat above the state's fixed rates

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

With prices of mutton shooting up due to bird flu fears in Telangana, the animal husbandry department has stepped into and will regulate the price structure.

Mutton prices have shot up to ₹1,200 in some areas, especially those in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits. Now the government has decided to fix ₹600 to ₹700 per kg and meat shop owners have to strictly comply with the ruling.

According to highly placed sources in the animal husbandry department, minister Talaasani Srinivas Yadav held a high-level meeting with officials to regulate sheep prices with immediate effect. Citing bird flu dangers, meat shop owners and butchers increased the prices according to their whims.

THE STATE government has directed district collectors of Kamareddy, Nizamabad, Nirmal, Adilabad, Asifabad and Mancherial to be on high alert and restrict the entry of birds from Maharashtra.

In a few areas, what was ₹650 per kg was being sold for an exorbitant ₹1,200 taking advantage of customers, in a fix over bird flu, thronging meat shops. The minister asked officials to check the availability of sheep and goat in the state. He ordered them to book cases on shop owners and butchers, who sell for higher prices. A senior animal husbandry official said that there has been no shortage of sheep and goats. He said that some traders have been deliberately looting consumers.

"We have around two crore sheep and goats in the state, which would be more than sufficient to meet the needs of consumers. We have advised officials to raid shops selling at prices over and above the fixed rates and book cases against them. In GHMC area alone, we have collected ₹20 lakh as penalty against outlets selling stale meat and at higher prices," he said.

The official said that the minister would meet Telangana State Sheep and Goat Development Co-operative Societies Federation in a couple of days to fix the price of meat.

"A final decision would be taken after discussing it with the federation. The price would be fixed anywhere between ₹600 and ₹700," he added.

Meanwhile, the government on Monday issued orders to the collectors to stop chicken supplies from Maharashtra until the bird flu cases are brought under control in the neighbouring state.

Foundation set for model crematorium in Begumpet

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Ministers Ch Mallu Reddy and T. Srinivas Yadav on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for construction of a model crematorium at Dhaniyalagutta in Begumpet. It has amenities like flame platforms, prayer room, waiting area, sitting gallery, parking facility, pathway, office, wash area and is landscaped.

Later they inaugurated nala widening works at Fathenagar and Dhanalaxmi Colony, for construction of a sports complex at Balajinagar and a park near Manjeera Mall.

Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy took GHMC officials to task for allowing the erection of unauthorised flexies and hoardings of ruling party leaders. He demanded the authorities to penalise the leaders. GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokes Kumar assured that the corporation would punish violators after taking details from the field staff.



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IN BRIEF

State reports 267 new Covid cases

Hyderabad: With 267 new cases, Telangana state's Covid-19 caseload rose to 2,92,395 on Tuesday. The toll from the disease increased to 1,583 with the death of two more patients, the state's health department bulletin said on Wednesday.

The fatality rate stands at 0.54 per cent, it said. There were 55 fresh cases in the GHMC area, 20 in Karimnagar, 18 in Medchal-Malkajgiri and in Ranga Reddy district, 16 cases. The bulletin said 351 people had recovered from the infection between Monday and Tuesday, taking the recoveries to 2,86,893 with a recovery rate of 98.11 pc.

OWAISI, KAUSAR LAY STONE FOR COMPOUND WALL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi and Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin have laid the foundation stone for a compound wall for the Gangaputra Shamshanghat at Jiyaguda. The wall would cost ₹19.9 lakh.

Owaisi interacted with representatives of the Gangaputra Sangham and the locals about their civic problems. He assured the dhobi community members that he would release money from his MP Local Area Development Fund for constructing ghats for them to wash clothes.

Mohiuddin said all works at the crematorium for the Gangaputra community, like construction of a granite compound wall, flooring and drilling of a borewell will be completed within three months.

FOREST STAFF TO GET CASH INCENTIVES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

On Republic Day, cash incentive certificates will be presented to the forest staff in six categories as part of a plan to encourage personnel through financial and desigatory gains. The certificates will be presented at district level ceremonies, according to a decision taken at a video conference among the officials in the city.

This selection will be based on the performance in Haritha Haram, under the slogan Jungle Bachao. Beat, section-deputy range and forest range officers working in the forests would be considered for the incentive. R.M. Dobriyal, principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) (social forestry), said priority should be given to the cultivation of at least 1.5 metre tall plants for avenue plantation in rural areas.

He apologised for the sluggishness in the work under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAMPA), they would now be reviewed by a third party and plans for the release of funds should be prepared accordingly. Lokesh Jaiswal, PCCF (CAMPA), said that the authorities concerned should be ready for action in case of any lacunae in executing the works.

CAUTION NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client K. Ramchandran S/o Anil Kumar, R/o No. 4-4-199 Old Gru, Vikarabad Town & Vikarabad District & his family members Smt. A. Narasimha, Smt. Rama Lakshmi, Smt. L. Veera Bai & Smt. Jani Bai are the present owners of agricultural lands bearing Sy. Nos. 163 adm. Ac. 14.08 gts, Sy.No. 164 adm. Ac. 1.38 gts, Sy. No. 165 adm. Ac. 20.29 gts & Sy. No. 196 adm. Ac. 17.08 gts total adm. 54.02 gts, situated at Yelwathri Village, Shankarpally Mandal, R.R. District. The suit filed by my clients for recovery of possession of the above lands against Ashredygar Nagi Reddy and Ashredygar Ram Reddy (who since died) per his legal heirs A. Chandrababu Reddy, Smt. Muniyamma and Ashredygar Suban Reddy (who since died) per his legal heirs Smt. Laxmamma, A. Janardhan Reddy & Chandra Reddy residents of Yelwathri Village, Shankarpally Mandal R.R. District, bearing S.C.No.129/64 on the file of Senior Civil Judge, Hyderabad vide Judgment & decree of Hon'ble High Court of Judgement & decree of Hon'ble VI Additional District Judge (Fast Track Court) at Vikarabad vide Judgement dated 28.09.2011 in A.S.No. 261 of 2007 by setting aside the Judgment of Senior Civil Judge, Vikarabad Dt. 27.07.2011. Against which the second appeal filed by Ashredygar Nagi Reddy & A. Satyanarayana Reddy bearing S.A.No. 1393 of 2011 is presently pending disposal before Hon'ble High Court, Telangana State at Hyderabad. My clients have reliably learnt that the above named appellants before High Court & their family members suppressive above facts based on our legal and moral principles in the revenue records are trying to alienate the above lands of my clients to third parties. Therefore, the general public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said persons or their agents or anybody else claiming through or under them in any manner in respect of the above mentioned lands belonging to my clients. In spite of this Caution Notice, if anybody enters into any kind of transaction or deal with them in any manner, they will be doing at their own risk and peril. All such illegal actions shall not be binding on my clients.

Sd/- P. RAM REDDY
Advocate

Plot No.5 MLA & MP's Colony, Road No. 10-C, Jubilee Hills, HYDERABAD- 500 033.
Cell: 9849061116



BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar launches the Jana Jagaran programme to collect donations for the construction of the Ram mandir at Ayodhya, at Sevala Basti, Site 3, Borabanda, in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

— R. PAVAN

Bandi questions KCR Kaleshwaram plans

BJP leader alleges CM clearing way for KTR succession

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

A campaign to raise funds and collect bricks for the construction of the Ram mandir in Ayodhya was launched on Wednesday by the BJP, styled as Jana Jagaran under the Sri Rama Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Trust. State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, the Karimnagar MP, inaugurated the drive at Borabanda in the city. The campaign will continue till February 10, Sanjay said, adding he would be touring the state. He called on every

Hindu to give a brick each for the mandir construction.

Sanjay referred to speculations about minister K.T. Rama Rao taking over as Chief Minister soon, and said he had also heard that the father and son have begun conducting pujas by way of preparations for this.

Taking a dig at the Chandrashekhar Rao for going to the Kaleshwaram project on Tuesday and performing pujas, Sanjay said: "KCR conducted a special puja to wash away the sins of KTR before he's made the Chief Minister. He

wanted to draw two tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet)

went to Kaleshwaram for the purpose of immersing the puja material in the Triveni Sangamam."

Sanjay alleged that the Chief Minister was misleading the people about the Kaleshwaram project. Referring to the Chief Minister's plans of using additional water from the project, Sanjay said: "What is the use of a third tmc ft of water from Kaleshwaram when the CM has failed to take the construction of the project forward with redesigning?"

If Chandrashekhar Rao makes Dalit MLA the Chief Minister, the people of Telangana state would be happy, he added.

and the government plans to increase it to three tmc ft.

The BJP leader alleged that the Chief Minister has plans to "spirit away" ₹3 lakh crore in the remaining three years of his party's governance till the 2023 Assembly elections.

"Why not make Etala Rajendar the Chief Minister? He was a real fighter for Telangana, more than K.T. Rama Rao," Sanjay asked.

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SHORT TAKES

VILLAGERS PANIC
OVER LEOPARD
MOVEMENTDC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JAN. 20

Villagers are panicked over leopard movement in agriculture fields and killing of two calves and a Nilgai on the outskirts of Garkampet and Chinnamalkapur areas in Gudihathnoor mandal in the last five days.

Villagers said the leopard was wandering in the area killing cattle and causing panic. Forest officials set up trapping cameras in the agriculture fields.

Those who lost cattle pleaded that the forest officials pay them compensation. Villagers urged officials to catch the leopard and release it in the forest at the soonest.

MAN HELD FOR
STALKING WOMAN
ON WHATSAPPDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

A 30-year-old was arrested by the cyber crimes police on Wednesday of Rachakonda for stalking and harassing a girl on WhatsApp.

The accused, Chatri Shyam of West Bengal, works at a fast food centre at Turkapally and had taken the victim's contact number from his sister's mobile without her knowledge, said the police.

"He downloaded some obscene pictures from the internet and shared them with the victim through his WhatsApp. He also sent her vulgar and abusive voice messages. Following a complaint, a case was booked and Shyam was arrested based on technical evidence," the police said.

EX-SCRIBE HELD
ON CHARGES OF
EXTORTIONDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

A former reporter of a news channel was arrested by the Balapur police for threatening and extorting ₹1.45 lakh from real estate agents. The accused, Salam Bin Abdulrab Yafai, 33, was fired about five months ago following allegations of extortion.

Following his termination, he floated his own channel and started collecting money by blackmailing some people. A case was booked following a complaint from Ali Bin Khalifa and Mohammed Bin Suleman. The accused had threatened the, that he would portray them as land-grabbers.

He extorted ₹85,000 from Ali Bin Khalifa and ₹60,000 from Mohammed Bin Suleman. As he continued to threaten them despite the pay-off, they went to the police.

SCB SPENDS
₹30.8 CRORE FOR
SAFE PASSAGESDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

South Central Railway has completed construction of 11 road under bridges (RuBs) and limited height subways (LHS) with an approximate expenditure of ₹30.8 crore between May and December 2020. These will ensure safe passageways for motorists at railway tracks and level crossings in the twin cities.

Their construction within eight months is part of Indian Railways' decision to eliminate all level crossings so as to avoid accidents or prevent damage to railway assets. The policy emphasises removal of manned level crossing gates in a phased manner by providing alternative arrangements, such as LHS, RUBs and road overbridges (RoBs), with aid and participation of respective state governments.

RuBs and LHS are being constructed by adopting innovative methods and state-of-the-art technology. Under this, precast reinforced concrete cement (RCC) boxes are used to build LHS vents, with very short interruption in train services on the particular section.

Earth excavation is quick using heavy-duty machinery. Temporary prefabricated iron girders are placed on either side of the track for inserting RCC boxes, which act as permanent limited height subways at the spot.

"This method has bare minimal impact on train operations," an official of SCR pointed out.

Road widening project



Trees being shifted using crane and relocated at the government land near Lanco Hills, in Hyderabad on Wednesday, to widen the road. — R.PAVAN

Plaint filed against TRS corporator

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The city police filed a complaint against TRS corporator K. G. Vijayalaxmi for allegedly obstructing a tahsildar from discharging his duties. Vijayalaxmi is the daughter of TRS Parliamentary Party leader K. Keshava Rao,

Following this, the Banjara Hills corporator filed a counter-complaint against the Shaikpet tahsildar Srikrishna Reddy with the Banjara Hills police.

According to the police, the tahsildar had stated that the corporator had come to his office along with a group of 10-15 people and obstructed his work.

ACCORDING TO the police, the tahsildar had stated that the corporator had come to his office along with a group of 10-15 people and obstructed his work.

THE POLICE are examining the two complaints and are taking legal opinion before proceeding with the investigation.

Activists hold
'Dhoon Dham'DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 19

About 200 culture artistes held a 'Telangana Dhoon Dham' in front of Telangana Bhavan here, seeking employment in the state culture department. They sang and danced to Telangana songs, and said they had given their lives for the statehood agitation but were denied opportunities for jobs in the culture department. Inste-

IJU CONDEMNS
WARRANT
AGAINST
GUHA THAKURTADC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 19

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) has severely condemned the issuing of an arrest warrant against senior journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta by a court in Gujarat.

The warrant pertains to a 2017 defamation case filed by the Adani Group for a news story published on the web portal 'The Wire'.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, K. Sreenivas Reddy and Balwinder Singh Jammu, president and secretary-general respectively of the IJU, said the case was withdrawn by the Adani Group long back and reopening it now smacks of witch hunting. The latest action, the IJU said, "is nothing but a result of vindictive politics."

Calling criminal defamation "anti-democratic" and one that goes against the fundamentals of free speech, the IJU leaders said they have been demanding repeal of criminal defamation for long. They demanded that the warrants issued against Paranjay Guha Thakurta be withdrawn immediately.

Cops are harassing
me: DCCB directorDC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, JAN. 20

DCCB director and Bethampudi primary agricultural cooperative society chairman Lakkimini Surendra on Wednesday alleged that he was being constantly harassed by police, particularly by the circle inspector of Tekulapalli police station.

"There is no democracy in Telangana

Rashtra Samiti (TRS). It should check and penalise cops who are working as stooges of some ruling party legislators. The government and superintendent of police of Bhadravati district should take action against all such cops," he said.

He said that Yellandu MLA Haripriya's husband is harassing him through the circle inspector of Tekulapalli police station.

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"There is no democ-

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Cops rescue 26 kids from
bonded labour, 4 arrestedDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 19

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Rachakonda Police rescued 26 children from bonded labour at workshops on Tuesday night and arrested four persons who had engaged them.

The rescued children, including girls aged between 15 and 17, were from the state, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. A minor was counselled by officials and returned to his family. The others were sent to the state home. The

children were rescued as part of Operation Smile-VII in Rachakonda, when the AHTU along with members of the District Child Protection Unit and Labour Department jointly raided several workshops in Bhongir.

The police rescued two kids at a samosa-making shop at Urban Colony and arrested their employer B. Venkat Reddy. He was paying them ₹50 each for making 100 samosas.

At Yadadri Traders, which cleaning liquor bottles at IDA, Bhongir Town, officials rescued six girls from Chhattisgarh and arrested P. Veeranna

Goud and Vikas Kumar.

They had brought the

children from Chhattisgarh

and were forcing them to

work for more than 10 hours a day and paying 25 paise per bottle.

Thirteen children, including a girl, were

rescued from Maruti

Polymers, which manu-

factures air coolers, at

IDA in Bhongir. These

children had been traf-

ficked from West

Bengal, Bihar and

Chhattisgarh. One person

Bapu Reddy from

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Four children were

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Industry and concrete

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DECCAN Chronicle

21 JANUARY 2021

When Team India staged mother of all comebacks

Team India staged the mother of all comebacks to win an away Test series in one of the most difficult terrains to conquer while overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds. This win in Australia will go down in Indian cricket history as the greatest achievement, perhaps outranking the 1971 twin series wins in the West Indies and England and the 2001 win at home against Ricky Ponting's Australians in which too they had come back from a Test down to win the series. The team had similarly beaten Australia in the 2018-19 series Down Under but the home team then were without Steve Smith and David Warner.

This is indeed the dawn of a new era as the touring India squad laid to rest many conservative theories about experienced players and a settled XI being the key to success. The remarkable story of this triumph was shaped by fringe players who were pushed on to centrestage and who flourished beyond imagination in the limelight. Only Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara played all four Tests. And when India went into the decider at the Woolsongabba arena in Brisbane, India's combined bowling attack had fewer Test wickets in their bag than Australia's occasional leg spinner Marnus Labuschagne. It is the deeds of such unlikely heroes that makes folklore of sport.

Rahane at the helm was as if Buddha were put in charge of a cricket team as opposed to the demonstrative Kohli, which just goes to show there are many ways to play the great game

The saga of raw physical courage starring Pujara at the Gabba and before him that of Hanuma Vihari and Ashwin who salvaged the draw in Sydney will be spoken of for a long time to come. But nothing made all this seem like a fairytale than the transformation of young Rishabh Pant who went from impulsive striker to matchwinner in the space of two Tests, his 97 in Sydney turning the series on its head as it gave a glimpse of victory from counterattacking cricket before his decisive 89 not out in Brisbane which cemented the ballistic 91 of opener Shubman Gill who had shown that the Australian

pace bowlers could be taken on even in their Gabba.

Who would have imagined that the mother of all turnarounds would come from the very depths of despair of 36 all out in Adelaide and that the matchwinners would come from diverse backgrounds as the son of autorickshaw driver, Siraj being the only Indian bowler with a five-for in the series, the son of street vendor, Natarajan who went from net bowler to Test performer and Test bowchangers Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur would star with bat and ball. It was cheeky of netizens to suggest that the series verdict means Virat Kohli is free to seek more paternal leave because he as the skipper had assiduously built not only this team but also instilled in it this positive attitude.

It is time then for Indian cricket to bury old shibboleths and reshape the future with an open and all-inclusive approach recognising the fact that today's youngsters, exposed to big team atmosphere and subject to expert international coaching and conditioning in the IPL, are equally adept at playing to win. Rahane at the helm was as if Buddha were put in charge of a cricket team as opposed to the demonstrative Kohli, which just goes to show there are many ways to play the cricket.

Vaccine aid for neighbours

India has long called itself the pharmacy of the world and has now decided to live up to the claim. By the time these lines are printed, lakhs of doses of made-in-India vaccines against the novel coronavirus would have landed in our neighbouring countries, and more will do so in the coming days. While six nations — Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles — will get the Indian vaccines in the first tranche, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius will get them once "necessary regulatory clearances" are given. It is noteworthy that the Indian vaccines would be the first to arrive in most of these nations.

Vaccine, all said and done, is a knowledge product; it calls for the use of the knowledge humankind has created and every single tool it has made till now for its successful rollout. India's soft move, peppered with diplomatic quotients, will earn a lot of goodwill for the country.

The only exception as of now is Pakistan. The Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan has cleared the use of Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India, and the government there is reportedly exploring ways to get it through Covax, an alliance set up by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and World Health Organisation or

directly. Both the routes are fine but India should positively decide should a request come from the western neighbour. It will have no dramatic consequences but will be the stating of the obvious — the real challenges the two now estranged nations face are similar, and the ways to overcome them will be more successful if they are adopted together. Should it happen, the vaccine could produce some antibodies against ultra-nationalism and religious bigotry, too. The government should seize this chance.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

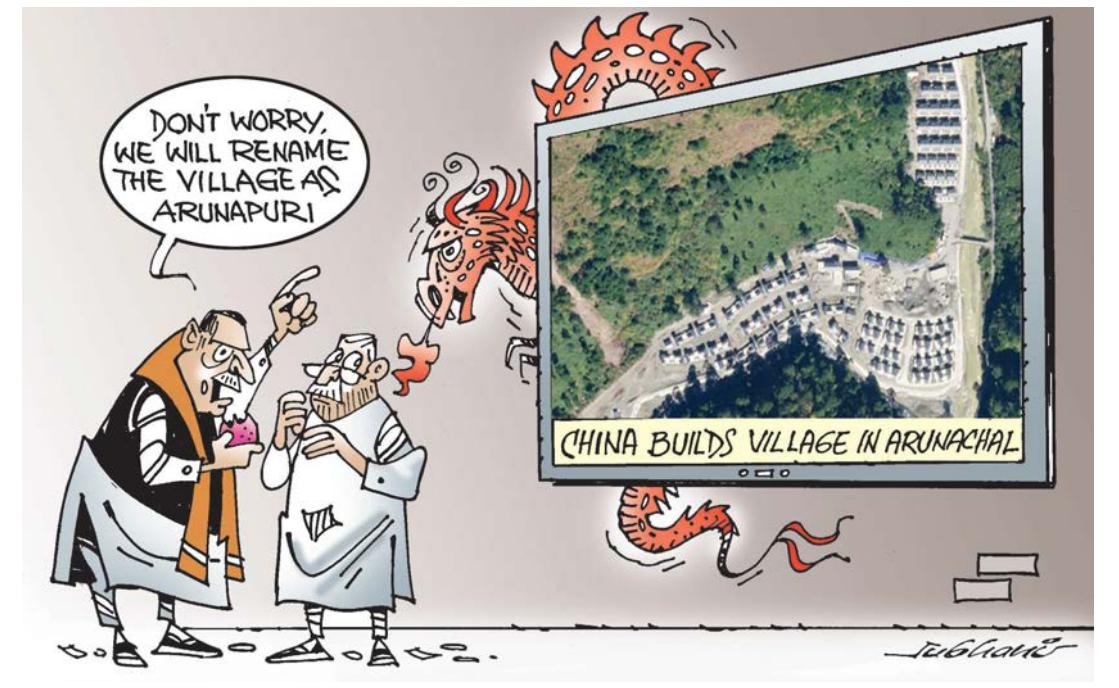
KAUSHIK MITTER
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K. SUDHAKAR
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Subhani



India, world must gear up as Biden era begins

K.C. Singh

President Joe Biden takes over America's presidency under unprecedent circumstances. It is only the fourth time in US history that the outgoing leader refused to attend his successor's inauguration, all earlier examples being from the nineteenth century. The transition has been disorderly, to say the least, despite the US facing a serious spike in Covid-19 cases, with over 400,000 dead and the economy slowing down. Domestic challenges are rivalled by those abroad as the Trumpian foreign policy legacy is equally fractious.

While Mr Biden's nominees to head the state and defence departments and the CIA are all well-known individuals, their depositions before Senate committees a day before the inauguration give an insight into the new administration's thinking. Antony Blinken, the incoming secretary of state, began with his personal story as the descendant of those who either fled Soviet pogroms or Nazi concentration camps. He ended with the touching tale about his late stepfather, hiding in a bush as disarray descended with Allied troops advancing into Germany in 1945, stepped out on seeing a tank with a five-pointed white star and told the African-American GI emerging from its turret the only three English words his mother taught him: "God bless America".

These anecdotes bolstered Mr Blinken's argument that the US must lead the world "not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example". He listed the most pressing challenges as rising nationalism, receding democracy, growing rivalry from "China, and Russia and other authoritarian states, mounting a threat to a stable and open international system". He also noted "a technological

like former NSA Shiv Shankar Menon, former chief of R&AW A.S. Dulat, former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former principal secretary in PMO, T.K.A. Nair and former Union health secretary K. Sujatha Rao among other notables.

Now, a Forum of Concerned Citizens, comprising of over 250 retired officers has written to the chief minister endorsing the 'Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance 2020' and the motive behind it. In their letter, the group of former babus and ex-Army officers said that the legislation rightly provides that marriages done for sole purpose of unlawful conversion can be declared unlawful by family courts. They termed the letter by anti-love jihad babus a "politically motivated pressure group" and said that they don't represent thousands of civil servants who believe in New India emerging as the greatest democra-

not a first step in curbing the zeal of UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath in pursuing a majoritarian agenda and intolerance towards anyone criticising him. A comedian's being detained for perceived insult raises questions about freedom of speech being curbed. The four-year free pass the government got on this count is now over. This is happening as the BJP prepares for a no-holds-barred electoral fight in West Bengal, and when the farmers' protests at Delhi's main entry points is nearing two months.

In Britain, the farmers' protests led to 100 MPs, across party lines, raising concern. A similar move can't be ruled out in Washington, with Democrats now controlling both Houses. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar had earlier drawn the ire of a congressional committee by illogically seeking the exclusion of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal from a meeting he was to attend as she had been critical of the government's actions in Kashmir, including Article 370's abrogation. She has been re-elected and may revisit that issue and now new ones like the farmers' protests.

President Donald Trump's administration poisoned US foreign policy well before departure by ramping up sanctions against Iran, raising the level of ties with Taiwan,

declaring China's actions against Uighurs as genocide, etc. The aim was possibly to reduce Mr Biden's strategic space to re-balance ties with those nations, or if he did so make him vulnerable to attacks over being soft on perceived antagonists.

Interestingly, like the debate over Mr Modi having gone overboard with his Houston rally with

Mr Blinken also singled out democracy and human rights as central to the Biden administration's global outreach. Thus overall, while India would be happy with the tone and tenor on China, though what the new China containment strategy will be is still unclear, it would be cautious about Pakistan again getting more wriggle room. But New Delhi can't take the talk about human rights lightly. It was speculated whether the sudden early retirement of a bureaucrat close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his induction into Uttar Pradesh politics is

One may be tempted to believe that this is an instance of political battles being fought by proxy!

CADRE MERGER

More than a year after the Centre abrogated Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated the state into Union territories, the J&K cadre of IAS, IPS and IFS has been merged with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. This allows officers posted in these states and UTs to work in J&K and vice-versa.

Necessary modifications may be made in the corresponding cadre allocation rules by the Centre. The notification issued by the government states that officers allocated to AGMUT cadre shall function following the rules framed by the Centre.

Observers see in the move a message of total integration of J&K with the Centre. It also solves the

Centre's problem of the reluctance of J&K cadre officers to serve in Ladakh, as it now creates a larger pool of UT cadre officers. Ladakh, they say, suffers from a paucity of officers. Due to its harsh climate officers are reluctant to serve there.

But with the Chinese threat looming, the Centre wishes to focus on Ladakh's development. So, clearly, it is as much a political move as an administrative one.

MAMATA'S BIG PROMOTION PUSH IN BENGAL

Political or administrative compulsion? West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has promoted 31 IAS officers as secretary and additional secretary in one big push to bolster the state government's administration ahead of the Assembly elections.

With the BJP making a determined effort to breach her stronghold, the Trinamul leader is taking steps to strengthen the administra-

LETTERS

FREE WATER

Living in an apartment with 8 flats, we had paid ₹4.5 lakh for getting a single water connection (*Tenants won't get free water, DC, Jan. 19*). Now, the government has come up with free water supply to each house, but only if each flat owner installs a separate meter. It is a Tughlaq rule. The government must be open to give 20,000 litres to each flat owner and issue a water bill every month. Installing individual water connection with separate meters in an apartment is not practical.

K.V. Mukunda Rao
Hyderabad

Why is the free drinking water scheme extended to house and apartment owners? They are generally middle or upper middle class who stand to benefit around ₹300 under the scheme which they can pay. The money spent on supplying the water free can be used to improve drainage system.

S. Nageswara Rao
Hyderabad

SCHOOL TIMINGS

With the state government deciding to reopen schools for Classes IX and X, the prolonged stay at schools is a risky proposition for students and teachers. They will be using common washrooms and eating food together. Hence, the High Court must change its order to have shorter school timings till 12.30 pm so that students return home soon and stay safe at home.

Ather Roushanara
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Mrs. Gandhi inaugurates Vizag Steel Plant work

VISAKHAPATNAM, JANUARY 20

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today said that it was not only important to have development but also to see that it was diversified and spread all over the country. Unless this happened, she warned there would only be social tension.

Prime Minister who was inaugurating work on two million tonnes capacity Visakhapatnam Steel Plant at Balacheruvu, 27 km from here pointed out that special efforts had to be made to pay special attention to backward areas and those sections of people who are so far underprivileged like Harijans and Girijans and minorities.

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

Free to air views, ex-babus square up in 'letters war' on 'love jihad' law

Perhaps service rules stopped them from airing their views but after retirement bureaucrats are not bound anymore and can voice their thoughts freely. This has led to the formation of pro- and anti-government groups among retired babus who jump into the fray at the behest of their conscience (or political leaning).

In the most recent instance, the "love jihad" law legislated by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has triggered a "letter war" between former bureaucrats, those who criticise the law and those who have rallied behind the state government. The ranks of the ex-babus have been joined by retired Army officers, members of the judiciary and others.

Earlier, a group of 104 retired bureaucrats wrote to Yogi Adityanath, expressing "deep disappointment" and concern at the use of the "love jihad" law. Noted signatories included retired bureaucrats

like former NSA Shiv Shankar Menon, former chief of R&AW A.S. Dulat, former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former principal secretary in PMO, T.K.A. Nair and former Union health secretary K. Sujatha Rao among other notables.

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With the BJP making a determined effort to breach her stronghold, the Trinamul leader is taking steps to strengthen the administra-

tion machinery, which has come under fire from various quarters. Among the 19 officers promoted as secretaries are additional secretaries Smita Pandey, Vijay Bharti, Shubhjan Das, Samir Kumar Bhattacharya, C.C. Guha, Rajat Bose, Kaushik Halder, N.C. Sarar and T.K. Rudra.

The new additional secretaries include V. Lalithalakshmi, Sourav Pahari, Mukta Arya, Devi Prasad Karanam, Shakeel Ahmed, Uttam Patra, Santanu Saha, Nirmalya Ghosh, Anindya Narayan Biswas and Dipankar Chowdhury.

But this is early in the poll campaign and chances of further changes in the state administration cannot be ruled out as the CM seeks to stave off the BJP's onslaught to dislodge her party from power. Watch this space for updates.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

SHORT TAKES

MUMBAI POLICE FILE FIR AGAINST 'TANDAV' TEAMSHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, JAN. 20

Mumbai police on Wednesday registered an FIR based on a complaint filed by BJP MLA Ram Kadam about web series *Tandav*. Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh said that action will be taken in the case as per law. Meanwhile, a four-member team of Uttar Pradesh Police arrived in Mumbai to conduct a probe into a case registered in Lucknow against the web series.

In a related development, the Bombay high court granted transit anticipatory bail for three weeks to Ali Abbas Zafar, the director of *Tandav*. He has been granted bail in connection with the FIR registered in the UP. The transit pre-arrest bail has been granted to enable him to approach the appropriate court for regular anticipatory bail.

The said FIR was registered at Hazratganj Police Station in Lucknow. Several people are named in the FIR and the team of cops from Lucknow intend to interrogate all those who were named in the FIR, before taking any action.

The UP police team, which has already reached the city, will first approach the Mumbai police for local assistance.

While several FIRs were filed across the country against the makers, Amazon Prime Video and the actors, the makers had also issued an unconditional apology on Tuesday for unintentionally hurting anyone's religious sentiments.

Despite that, a group of BJP supporters led by BJP MLA Ram Kadam held protests in Mumbai's BKC against the show.

OVER 7 LAKH BENEFICIARIES GET VACCINATEDDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

In a significant achievement in India's Covid-19 trajectory, the active caseload slipped below two lakhs (1.97 lakh) after six months and 24 days. On Wednesday, India also registered one of the lowest daily new confirmed Covid-19 cases per million population in the last seven days. There were 13,823 new positive cases and 162 deaths in the last one day. This decline in daily new cases has also contributed to the shrinkage in active caseload.

On the other hand, 7,86,842 beneficiaries have been vaccinated for Covid-19 in the last five days, out of which 1,12,007 persons were vaccinated on Wednesday. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are the few states where high number of vaccinations took place. On Wednesday, 82 cases of Adverse Effect From Immunization (AEFI) were reported following the vaccination.

Ten people were hospitalised due to AEFI out of which three are under observation — one each in Delhi, Mysore (Karnataka) and Chittorgarh (Karnataka) while others were discharged. So far four deaths of beneficiaries who took the jab have taken place ever since the vaccination drive began on Saturday. While the post mortem of a healthcare worker from Telangana is going on, officials said three others died due to other reasons not related to vaccination.

The 42-year-old Telangana healthcare worker was inoculated on Tuesday. He later complained of chest pain and died early on Wednesday. Out of the four deaths, three have suffered cardiac arrest while one died due to cardio-pulmonary disease.

Final checks



Indian Air Force Rafale jet and Jaguar aircraft fly past Rajpath during the rehearsals for Republic Day Parade 2021 in New Delhi on Monday.

SP TO HOLD JOINT RALLY WITH SENA, NCP IN MUMBAISONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, JAN. 20

In a bid to stop the BJP from coming to power in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Samajwadi Party (SP) is planning to organise a grand public rally of north Indians in alliance with the Shiv Sena and NCP. SP leader Ram Charita Nishad met Shiv Sena president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in this regard.

The proposed meeting will be addressed by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Thackeray and SP national president Akhilesh Yadav. Nishad said that the mega rally is likely to be held in Mumbai after Holi in March.

The BMC polls will be held along with UP Assembly elections in early 2022. Around 24 lakhs voters are north Indian in Mumbai.

MP rocked by 4 rapes in 10 days

Cong slams Shivraj govt for having failed to check growing incidents of rape in state

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, JAN. 20

Madhya Pradesh has witnessed barbaric rape of four girls in the last 10 days, triggering public outcry.

In a shocking incident, a 13-year-old girl was raped in her family's farmland in Jangda village under Ghodadangar police limits in Betul district by a local villager on Monday evening. The victim had gone to the farm to switch off the motor.

On finding her alone, the accused Sushil Verma (45) raped her and then buried her under a heap of stones. Betul district superintendent of police Shimpla Prasad said on Wednesday. The victim's sisters who came to the farm while searching her late on Monday night, had found her buried in a pit and alerted their father, who carried her to Ghodadangar hospital. She was later referred to Nagpur Medical College hospital. The accused has been arrested.

In another incident, a 13-year-old girl, resident of Umaria, had been raped for three days by nine people.

On January 11, the girl was abducted and taken to Chhatarpur jungle in Umaria district by two youths, identified as Rahul Kushwaha and Akash Singh, where they allegedly raped her. She was later taken to a nearby eatery where she was allegedly raped by the 'dhaba' owner Paras Soni and four of his associates, according to a complaint lodged by the victim in the local police station.

She was later taken to Chhatarpur jungle by them where she was gang-raped, she alleged.

According to her complaint, she was then bundled in a Kathi-bound truck on January 12 by the accused.

The truck driver had raped her and then dropped her at Kala Badbara check gate.

Later, she got a lift in a Umaria-bound truck in which she was raped by the truck driver.

The victim along with her family members filed FIR in the Umaria police station on January 15. While 7 accused were arrested, 2

others were absconding, police said.

On January 10, a widow was raped by three youths in the village of Umilia in Sidhi district. The three accused had then inserted an iron rod in her private parts.

She was battling for life in a hospital in Rewa. Two accused, Lalu kol and Bhailal Patel were arrested, while another accused was absconding, police said.

On Tuesday night, a girl was waylaid by two motorcycle-borne youths in Indore and then taken to nearby railway track where she was allegedly raped by them. Three other people who were waiting there also allegedly raped her.

They then bundled her in a jute sack and threw her on the railway track, police said.

She managed to free herself and called her friend who took her to the hospital. The girl has identified one of the accused as Akshayya. All the five accused were absconding, police said.

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister Kamal Nath slammed the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government for having failed to check growing incidents of rape in the state.

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The Congress fielded its top leaders — former defence minister A.K. Antony, leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former home minister Sushilkumar Shinde and former law and external affairs minister Salman Khurshid to launch a scathing attack on the government at a joint press conference.

The Congress said it would raise the issue in a big way in Parliament during the budget session starting January 29 and garner support of other parties for a joint offensive against the government including a joint parliamentary committee probe.

It also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top ministers who

Leaking secrets of military ops is treason: Cong

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Leaking of official secrets of military operations is treason and those involved in it must be punished, the Congress said on Wednesday on the purported WhatsApp chats of *Republic* editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and demanded that the Prime Minister must come clean.

The party said those involved in the "anti-national act" deserve no mercy and the government should immediately order an inquiry into the "information leak" about the 2019 air strikes.

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"Does the PM, Union home minister, in fact have any moral, political, Constitutional right to continue in office after such damning revelations? We demand that the PM should come clean on these accusations immediately in order to restore the severely damaged credibility of the highest office of the country," a joint statement by the leaders said.

— PTI

6 parties form 'alliance' in AssamMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, JAN. 20

United Democratic Front (AJUDF), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the CPI(M), the Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) Liberation, and the Anchal Gana Morcha (AGM) led by Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Kumar Bhuyan are the part of the grand alliance.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who is the senior observer of the All India Congress Committee

for the Assam elections made this announcement after several rounds of consultation with all the partners.

Among others present on the occasion were Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Ripun Bora, AICC general secretary in-charge for Assam Jitendra Singh, AICC general secretary and former Union minister Mukul Wasnik, senior Congress leader and AICC observer Shakeel Ahmed

Khan, leader of the state Congress Legislative Assembly (CLP) Debabrata Saikia, APCC vice-presidents Prodhyut Bordoloi and Rakibul Husain, AIUDF leaders Aminul Islam and Hafiz Bashir Ahmed, Kasimi, AGM president Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, CPI state secretary Munin Mahanta, CPI(M) state secretary Deben Bhattacharya, and CPI(ML) Liberation State secretary Rubul Sarma, among others.

Gujarat govt applies for a patent to change nomenclature of dragon fruit

Gandhinagar, Jan. 20: The Gujarat government has decided to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam'. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has said.

The state government has applied for a patent to change the nomenclature of dragon fruit, which is largely grown in Kutch, Navsari and different parts of Saurashtra, to 'Kamalam', Rupani told reporters on Tuesday.

"The name dragon fruit is not proper, and due to its name one thinks of China. So we have given it the name 'Kamalam,'" he said.

Asked why the name 'Kamalam' has been given to the fruit, Rupani said, "Farmers say it looks like lotus and that is the reason we

have named it 'Kamalam'."

Notably, 'Kamal', or lotus, is the poll symbol of the BJP and Gujarat party unit headquarters is named Shri Kamalam. There is nothing political

behind renaming of the fruit, Rupani said.

The fruit is found in arid areas of the state and it is known for its nutritional value, like it also helps in

increasing the hemoglobin, Rupani said in reply to question on the need to rename it.

The CM also said it is the most expensive fruit available in the market at this time. The change in nomenclature of the fruit is yet to find its way among the masses and farmers.

Ahmedabad-based housewife Gayatri Vyas, who regularly eats the fruit for its nutritional value, said she is not aware that it has been changed as it is available as 'dragon fruit' only in markets.

Tapase said, "The BJP has now started branding itself on fruits also. We fear that the time may not be far when they would start addressing Hindustan as Kamalastan."

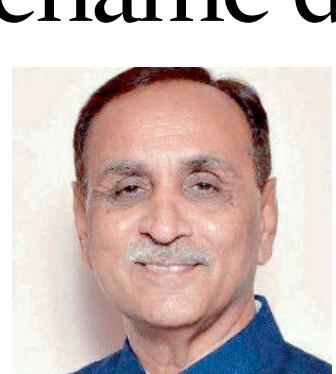
Kutch have largely taken up farming of this fruit.

The NCP on Wednesday targeted the BJP over the Gujarat government's decision to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam', saying the time may not be far when the saffron party would start calling the country as "Kamalastan".

The BJP has now started "branding itself on fruits also," NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said in a statement.

Tapase said, "The BJP has now started branding itself on fruits also. We fear that the time may not be far when they would start addressing Hindustan as Kamalastan."

— PTI



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PARADIP PORT TRUST**e-TENDER CALL NOTICE**

No.ADO/EGL-07/13(Vol.V)/139 Dtd.18.01.2021

Name of the Work : "Providing Secretarial and other assistance for official works of Administrative Department".

Estimated cost put to tender ₹ 2,24,85,418/- (Excluding GST @ 18% & Contractor's Commission). The last date & time of submission of bid is 01.02.2021 upto 1700 Hrs. For details please refer our website : www.paradipport.gov.in/<https://eprocure.gov.in/procure/app/>Ast. Secretary(Admn.)
PPT/PR/373/20-21 Dtd.20.01.2021Principal Chief Material Manager
CPRD/IS-49 GorakhpurAbout any passenger amenity complaint
SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**CORRIGENDUM Dt. 20.01.21**Under noted amendment is hereby made against Tender notice No. 29 dt 12.01.21 (Item No. 4), Item No.: 4, Tender no and Due dt.: 29/01/2024 due on 17.02.21, Existing Entry :- 3642 Nos. To read as :- 3642 Set. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Note:- Above information may be seen on N.E. railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in/ & [https://ireps.gov.in/](http://ireps.gov.in/)Principal Chief Material Manager
CPRD/IS-49 GorakhpurAbout any passenger amenity complaint
SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

All India Passenger Helpline: 139 NGP-34

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India from competent and experienced contractor for execution of the under mentioned work.

E-Tender Notice No: RE-DNR-GR176-UTCL Sliding Dated: 18.01.2021

1. Name of the work/its location : Electrification of UltraTech Cement Limited (unit of Dalmia Cement Works) siding at Salaiwanba in Garhwa-Chopan-Singrauli section in Gr. 176.

2. Approximate Cost of the work : Rs. 1,70,54,908.00 (Rs. One crore seventy lakhs fifty four thousand nine hundred and eight only) 3. Cost of Tender Form & Earnest Money to be deposited : Tender paper cost Nil & EMD Rs. 2,35,300.00 (Rs. Two lakhs thirty five thousand three hundred only) through payment modes available on IREPS portal through net banking, debit card, credit card etc at www.ireps.gov.in/.

4. Date & Time for online submission of tender and opening of Tender : Bidding starts from 01/02/2021 and opening of e-tender on 15/02/2021 after 15:00 Hrs. 5. Address of the office from where the tender details can be obtained. Website particulars and notice board location: Office of the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, Near Jagjeewan Stadium, Khagaul, Danapur.

6. Estimated Cost of the work: Rs. 12,28,39,577.56 Cost of Tender Form: Nil Address of Office: Office of the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), 3rd Floor, DRM's Building, Kingsway, Central Railway, Nagpur-440 001 Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 7,64,200.00 Completion Period: 24 Months Date and Time of Submission of Tender: on 08.02.2021 Up to 15:00 Hrs. Date and Time of Opening of Tender: on 01/02/2021 at 15:15 Hrs. Web Address: For details of Tender notice visit: www.ireps.gov.in/

All India Passenger Helpline: 139 NGP-34

CENTRAL RAILWAY**E-TENDER NOTICE No.NGP-1/DC-ELECT-2020-21/03 Date: 14.01.2021**

Open Tender is invited: Description: Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of PSI work - Shifting on Metparja, Kal

US soldier held on terrorism charges

New York, Jan. 20: A US Army soldier was arrested on Tuesday in Georgia on terrorism charges after he spoke online about plots to blow up New York City's 9/11 Memorial and other landmarks and attack US soldiers in the Middle East, authorities said.

Cole James Bridges of Stow, Ohio, was in cus-

tody on charges of attempted material support of a terrorist organisation — the Islamic State group — and attempted murder of a military member, said Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for Manhattan federal prosecutors. The 20-year-old soldier, also known as Cole Gonzales, was with the Third Infantry Division out of

Fort Stewart, Georgia, when he thought he was communicating with the Islamic State online about the terrorism plots. Unbeknownst to Bridges, an FBI employee was in the chat as Bridges provided detailed instructions on tactics and manuals and advice about attacking the memorial and other targets in New

— AP

China mum on its leaders who are yet to take shot

Beijing, Jan. 20: China on Wednesday boasted that several world leaders have taken its Covid-19 vaccines, but remained silent on why the top Chinese leaders are yet to take the jab. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying in her daily media briefing here named leaders of several countries who have taken one of the two Covid-19 vaccines made in China, publicly reposing their faith in them.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan, leaders of the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt and Indonesia have been publicly inoculated with Chinese vaccines, she said. "China has started the inoculation of the vaccines in key groups. We will also carry out vaccination for all Chinese citizens for free. All people that meet the conditions should be vaccinated in an orderly manner," she said.

Responding to a query whether top Chinese leaders including President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and others have taken the jabs, she said: "As for the specific question you asked, I have no answer at this moment."

"Vaccine is our silver bullet for epidemic prevention and for our ultimate victory against the virus," she said.

China has launched massive vaccine diplomacy even as it approved only one of its four vaccines, Sinopharm for emergency use. Its other vaccines



Zelia de Carvalho Morley, 106, gets a shot of China's Sinovac CoronaVac vaccine at the retirement home where she lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday. De Carvalho Morley lived through the 1918 flu pandemic.

● BEIJING HEALTH officials on Wednesday said two cases of Covid-19 found in the capital were the highly-transmissible UK variant of the virus, as five neighbourhoods were locked down in the south of the city.

like Sinovac and CoronaVac have made their way abroad and are being used while they are undergoing the trial process.

Back home, China has launched the free vaccination drive for all its 1.4 billion people starting with key groups. Over 10 million people have been inoculated in the country. The ruling Communist Party

leadership and the party cadre are yet to get vaccinated.

Asked whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has granted emergency approval for its vaccines and will it distribute them through COVAX, the international vaccine alliance, Hua said, "as I understand the relevant companies are in communication with the WHO."

"They are also discussing concrete cooperation for being included in the emergency list of the WHO," she said. "Chinese firms are taking part in COVAX. They expressed readiness to join the COVAX. Hope they can be included in the vaccines reserve list at the early date," she said. — PTI

U.S. VIRUS TOLL CROSSES 4 LAKH IN DON'S FINAL HOURS

Washington, Jan. 20: More than 4,00,000 people have died from Covid-19 in the United States since the pandemic began, according to Johns Hopkins University on Tuesday, the eve of the presidential inauguration of Joe Biden, who has made the fight against the Coronavirus a priority of his first term.

The bleak threshold was reached only about a month after the US recorded its 3,00,000th death from the disease, in mid-December, and nearly a year since it announced its first Covid death, at the end of February 2020.

The toll in the world's wealthiest nation remains by far the highest in absolute terms, though some other countries are registering more deaths in proportion to their populations, such as Italy, Britain and Belgium.

After the first Covid-19 death was announced in the US in February 2020 it took about three months to pass the 100,000 mark, during a first wave that hit New York particularly hard.

It took another four months to reach 2,00,000 fatalities, and just under three months to reach 3,00,000. — AFP

CINEMA



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ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY
ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET
ASIAN SHA-COMPLEX-CHINTHAL
MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY

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RaPo double role Dhamaka
RELEASING ON 23RD JANUARY (SATURDAY), 2021
11:00, 2,15, 6,00, 9,15PM

TARAKARAMA-KACHIGUDA
11,15, 2,15, 6,00, 9,00PM

MAHALAXMICOMPLEX
11,15, 2,15, 6,15, 9,15PM

ASIAN CINEMAS
SIVAGANGA-11,15,2,15,6,15,9,30
SHA-11,00,2,00,6,00,9,45PM

RADHIKA-10,30,1,20,4,10,7,00,9,55PM
GPR-10,20,1,40,4,40,7,40,10,40PM

MCUBE-10,30,10,35,1,40,4,40,7,45,10,45PM

CINESQUARE-10,30,10,50,1,35,1,45,4,10,
4,50,7,25,7,40,9,50PM

10,15,1,15,1,40,4,15,7,15,7,50,10,15

CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY
10,15,1,10,4,40,7,30,10,25PM

BVK VIJAYALAXMI-L.B.NAGAR
10,15,1,30,4,15,7,15,10,40PM

AMC CINEMAS
10,05,1,30,4,25,6,55,7,05,10,45

PRASAD MULTIPLEX
8,45,11,30,2,15,5,00,7,45,10,30PM

TIVOLI SECUNDERABAD
10,40,1,40,4,40,7,45,10,45PM

ASIAN CINEMAS
10,30,1,40,4,30,
7,40,10,35PM

PLATINUM
9,00,10,00,11,40,12,45,2,30,3,35,
5,15,8,00,10,00,10,50PM

SHALINI-10,10,4,30,11,00PM

CHANDANAGAR-11,45,3,15,6,45,10,00

BALANAGAR-9,00,10,00,12,15,1,15,4,30,7,45,11,00

INOX
GVK MALL-11,10,12,10,2,35,3,30,
6,00,6,55,9,30,10,20PM

MP MALL-9,10,12,30,3,50,7,10,10,30PM

GSM MALL-10,10,12,25,1,50,2,35,3,50,5,25,
7,15,9,00,10,00,10,40PM

Cinepolis
MANTRA-11,00,12,30,2,30,3,55,6,00,
7,20,9,25,10,45PM

CCPL-10,30,12,00,3,30,6,50,7,20,10,20PM

SUDHA-11,15,12,30,3,55,6,15,7,20,10,45PM

DSL-11,00,12,30,2,30,3,55,6,00,7,20,9,25,10,45

FORUM-10,00,10,10,10,30,11,00,1,00,
8,00,10,00,10,30,11,00PM

MUSARAMBAGH-1,00,2,00,2,35,4,00,5,00,7,00,
8,00,10,00,11,00PM

GALLERIA-10,00,10,30,11,00,1,10,1,45,2,00,4,35,
4,40,5,00,7,40,8,00,8,20,10,40,11,00,11,20

ICON-12,25,2,00,5,00,7,00,8,00,10,00,11,00

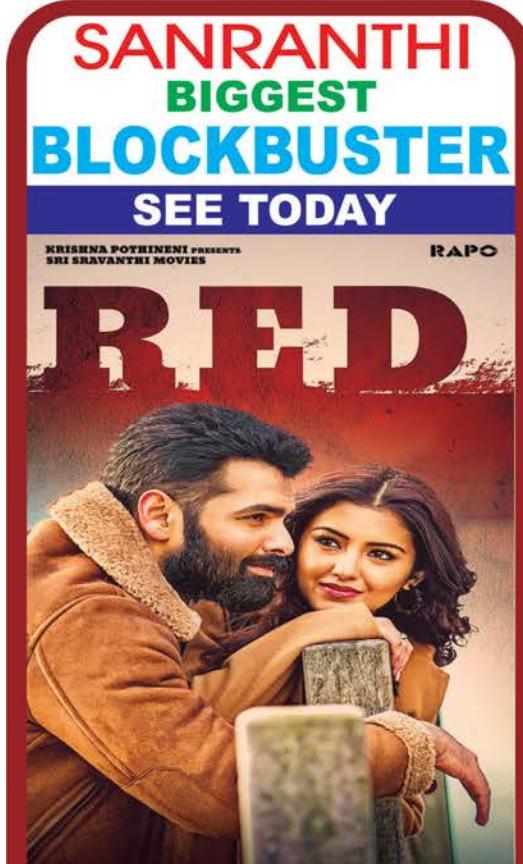
CENTRAL-10,00,10,15,1,00,1,35,4,00,4,40,7,00,
8,10,10,00PM

INORBIT-10,00,10,30,1,00,1,45,4,00,4,40,7,00,
8,20,10,00,11,15PM

PVR IRUMANZIL-1,00,2,00,4,00,5,00,7,00,
8,00,10,00,11,00PM

PVR RK-10,00,11,00,2,00,5,00,8,00,11,00PM

MALLUPAR-10,20,11,00,1,20,2,00,
5,00,8,00,11,00PM



SANRANTHI BIGGEST BLOCKBUSTER SEE TODAY RED
NOW SHOWING

ASIAN SHIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR
11,15, 2,15, 6,00, 9,15PM

TARAKARAMA-KACHIGUDA
11,15, 2,15, 6,00, 9,00PM

SRI MAHALAXMICOMPLEX
11,15, 2,15, 6,15, 9,15PM

MALLIKARJUNA 70MM
11,15, 2,30, 6,15, 9,30PM

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY
11,30, 2,30, 6,30, 9,30PM

KONARK 70MM-DILSHUKNAGAR
11,15, 2,15, 6,15, 9,15PM

MANJU 70MM-SECUNDERABAD
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00PM

SREERAMULU 70MM-MOOSAPET
11,30, 2,30, 6,30, 9,30PM

RAMAKRISHNA 35MM-ABIDS
11,15, 2,30, 6,00, 9,15PM

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI
11,30 & 6,00PM

SUSHMA 70MM
11,15, 2,15, 6,15, 9,15

SRIDEVI CH.GUDA
11,15, 2,30, 6,00, 9,15

SAIRANGA 70MM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

JYOTHI R.C.PURAM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

SRI SAIRAM70
11,15, 2,15, 6,15, 9,15

SENSATION SUNSHINE
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

VYJAYANTHI70
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

SUPER70MM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

VIJETHA70MM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

SREEPREM70
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

ALANKAR70MM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

SRI SAIRAM70
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

SANTOSH HIBPATNAM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

SIVARANJANI70
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

GANESH70MM
11,00, 2,15, 6,00, 9,00

VENKATASAI70
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

MUKUND70MM
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

Cinepolis
11,00, 2,00, 6,00, 9,00

BVK MULTIPLEX - L.B.Nagar
10,30am, 1,15, 4,30, 7,30, 10,30pm

Balanagar - 9,05, 12,20, 7,20, 10,40

Chandanagar - 12,30, 7,30, 10,15pm

S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur
10,00am, 1,15, 4,30, 7,30,

LAWYER: EX-ROYAL STAFF WILL SHED LIGHT ON MEGHAN LETTER

London, Jun. 20: A lawyer for the publisher of the *Daily Mail* newspaper said on Wednesday that the Duchess of Meghan and Harry would be able to shed light on the creation of the letter when the case comes to trial. The former Meghan Markle, 39, is suing publisher *Associated Newspapers* for invasion of privacy and copyright infringement over five February 2019 articles in the *Mail on Sunday* and on the *MailOnline* website. —AP

Arguing against the duchess' privacy-infringement claim, attorney Antony White said "it's to be inferred that the letter was written and sent by the claimant

In the 50-second video, Ma congratulated teachers supported by his foundation and made no mention of his disappearance or official efforts to tighten control over Alibaba and other internet companies over the past six months.

The video appeared on Chinese business news and other websites.

The normally voluble Ma disappeared from public view after he irked regulators by criticising them in an October 24 speech at a Shanghai conference.

Days later, regulators suspended the planned multibillion-dollar stock market debut of Ant Group, a financial platform that grew out of Alibaba's payments service, Alipay.

That prompted speculation online about whether the 56-year-old Ma, China's biggest global business celebrity and a symbol of its tech boom, had been detained or might face

legal trouble. Alibaba and the government haven't responded to questions about him.

The Jack Ma Foundation said in a statement Wednesday: "Jack Ma participated in the online ceremony of the annual Rural Teacher Initiative event on January 20."

The foundation and Alibaba didn't respond to questions about Ma's status and when his next public event might be.

President Xi Jinping's government says anti-monopoly enforcement against internet companies will be a priority this year.

Alibaba's dominance in retailing and Ant's potential financial risks.

Anti-monopoly regulators warned executives Alibaba and five other tech giants in December not to use their dominance to block new competitors from entering their markets.

The central bank and other regulators have ordered Ant to overhaul its business before its market debut can go ahead.

Ma complained regulators had an antique "pawnshop mentality" and were hampering innovation, according to Chinese media. He appealed to them to make it easier for entrepreneurs and young people to borrow.

That clashed with the ruling party's marathon campaign to reduce surging debt in China's financial system that prompted fears about a possible bank crisis and led rating agencies to cut Beijing's credit rating for government borrowing.

Some people suggested the ruling Communist Party was making an example of Ma to show entrepreneurs couldn't defy regulators.

But finance experts said Xi's government was uneasy about Alibaba's dominance in retailing and Ant's potential financial risks.

President Xi Jinping's government says anti-monopoly enforcement against internet companies will be a priority this year. Alibaba and other companies have been fined for violating anti-monopoly rules.

Some social media services have been reprimanded for lapses in enforcing censorship.

In his October speech,



Jack Ma

and the government haven't responded to questions about him.

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China dismisses Pompeo Uighur genocide claims



Alexei Navalny

MOSCOW COURT DELAYS NAVALNY TRIAL

Beijing, Jan. 20: China's Foreign Ministry described outgoing US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday as a "doomsday clown" and said his designation of China as a perpetrator of genocide and crimes against humanity was merely a piece of wastepaper.

The US has previously spoken out and taken action on Xinjiang, implementing a range of sanctions against senior Chinese Communist Party leaders and state-run enterprises that fund repressive policies in the vast, resource-rich region.

Last week, the Trump administration announced it would halt imports of cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang, with Customs and Border Protection officials saying they would block products from there suspected of being produced with forced labour.

Many of the Chinese officials accused of having taken part in repression are already under US sanctions.

Pompeo's announcement doesn't require any immediate actions, although the US must take the designation into account in formulating policy toward China. China says its policies in Xinjiang aim only to promote economic growth and social stability.

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US state nixes methanol plant for supply to China

Olympia (US), Jan. 20: Officials in Washington state denied a key permit for a large proposed methanol plant

Tuesday, saying the project that aims to send the chemical to China to be used in everything from fabrics and contact lenses to iPhones and medical equipment would pump out too much pollution.

A significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions and inconsistencies with the Shoreline Management Act were the main reasons the permit was rejected for the project planned on the Columbia River, the state Department of Ecology said in a news release.

The \$2 billion Northwest Innovation Works plant proposed in Kalama would take natural gas from Canada and convert it into

methanol. It would then be shipped to China to make olefins — compounds used in many everyday products.

An environmental analysis done by the state agency found that the facility would be one of the largest sources of carbon pollution in Washington, emitting nearly 1 million metric tons a year within the state, and millions of tons more from extracting natural gas, shipping the product to Asia and final uses of the methanol, officials said.

"I believe we were left with no other choice than to deny the permit for the Kalama project," Ecology Director Laura Watson said in a written statement.

The company is backed by the Chinese government and has said the project will create 1,000 jobs and generate up to \$40 million in annual tax revenue.

—AP

SANKRANTI WINNER
KRACK
2nd WEEK
SAPTAGIRI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
BRAMARAMBA 70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM
RAJDHANI COMP-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
METRO 70MM-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM
SENSATION SUNSHINE-6.15, 9.15PM
OAMB CINEMAS 10.00, 12.40, 4.15, 7.00, 10.25PM
SRINIVAS 10.40, 1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 10.10PM
TIVOLI SKYLINE 10.05, 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.40PM
MALLAPUR 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM
PVR INORBIT-10.10, 1.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50PM
ICON-1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM/RK-1.25, 4.35PM
FORUM MALL-10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM
IRRUMMANZI-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 3.25, 6.35, 9.45PM
GALLERIA-10.00, 1.30, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM
ASIAN CINEMAS RADHIKA-10.40, 1.40, 7.35, 10.40PM
GPR-10.15, 1.15, 7.30, 10.45PM
UPPAL-10.45, 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.20PM
MCUBE-10.15, 1.20, 4.20, 7.05, 10.20PM
NARAPALLY-10.50, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.30PM
Dhanraj Productions Bolo Hau Say Yes To Love! Directed by Tarun Dhanraj
FROM TOMORROW METRO 70MM BAHADURPURA 11.30AM, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM SRI KRISHNA 70- MAHABOOBNAGAR 2.00, 9.00PM(2 SHOWS) SRI SAI VISUAL HOUSE 9849153511 FROM 22nd JAN SREEPREMATO & SIVASAKTHI 70MM

BOXOFFICE MASTER
IN CINEMAS NOW DEVI 70MM 11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairtabad 11.15am, 1.45, 4.45, 10.45pm AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli 12.35pm, 3.40, 7.15, 10.00pm TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad 10.00am, 1.15, 4.20, 7.35, 10.50pm FORUM MALL - Kukatpally 11.15am, 12.50, 2.50, 6.25, 10.00pm CENTRAL MALL - Punjagutta 9.55am, 1.05, 4.35, 7.40, 11.15pm GALLERIA MALL - Punjagutta 10.10am, 11.15, 2.50, 6.25, 10.00pm INORBIT MALL - Cyberbad 10.10am, 1.20, 4.45, 7.40, 11.20pm MOOSARAMBAGH 12.00pm, 3.35, 7.10, 10.45pm IRRUM MANZIL 11.00am, 2.35, 6.10, 9.45pm ICON MALL - Hitech City 3.05pm, 6.40, 10.15pm RK - Banjara - 1.00pm, 7.45pm PVR CINEMAS GPR MALL - Kukatpally 4.25pm, 7.20, 10.40pm M CUBE MALL - Attapur 10.20am, 1.20, 4.35, 7.25, 10.40pm CINEPLANET - Komppala 10.25am, 1.20, 4.20, 7.25, 10.45pm CINESQUARE - Uppal 10.35am, 1.20, 4.30, 7.25, 10.30pm MJR SQUARE MALL - Narampally 10.20am, 1.20, 4.30, 7.25, 10.40pm LAXMIKALA - Mosapet 10.45am, 2.20pm, 6.15, 9.50pm RADHIKA - Kapra - 10.15, 7.20pm SHIVA - Dilshuknagar - 2.15 & 6.00pm SHA - Chintal - 2.15 & 6.00pm INOX GVK MALL- Banjara 10.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 10.30pm GSM MALL- Miyapur 10.30, 11.15, 2.30, 6.00, 6.30, 9.00, 10.30pm MP MALL- Kachiguda 10.00am, 1.35, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00, 10.00pm PVR CINEMAS Cinépolis MANTRA MALL - Attapur 2.50pm, 6.50, 10.50pm DSL MALL - Uppal 2.50pm, 6.50, 10.50pm SUDHA - Shalibanda 10.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 10.30pm CCPL - Malkajgiri - 1.10, 2.00, 6.00, 6.00pm S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur 11.45, 4.10, 6.55pm PLATINUM - Mallapur 9.00am, 12.25, 6.30, 7.15, 10.40pm BVK - Mallapur - 10.15am, 4.25pm TALLURI - Eel X Road 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm Ameerpet - 10.00am, 1.15, 4.20, 10.45pm

2nd WEEK SAPTAGIRI 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM BRAMARAMBA 70MM-KUKATPALLY 11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM RAJDHANI COMP-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM METRO 70MM-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM SENSATION SUNSHINE-6.15, 9.15PM OAMB CINEMAS 10.00, 12.40, 4.15, 7.00, 10.25PM SRINIVAS 10.40, 1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 10.10PM TIVOLI SKYLINE 10.05, 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.40PM MALLAPUR 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM PVR INORBIT-10.10, 1.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50PM ICON-1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM/RK-1.25, 4.35PM FORUM MALL-11.30, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM IRRUMMANZI-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 3.25, 6.35, 9.45PM GALLERIA-10.00, 1.30, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM ASIAN CINEMAS RADHIKA-10.40, 1.40, 7.35, 10.40PM GPR-10.15, 1.15, 7.30, 10.45PM UPPAL-10.45, 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.20PM MCUBE-10.15, 1.20, 4.20, 7.05, 10.20PM NARAPALLY-10.50, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.30PM Dhanraj Productions Bolo Hau Say Yes To Love! Directed by Tarun Dhanraj FROM TOMORROW METRO 70MM BAHADURPURA 11.30AM, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM SRI KRISHNA 70- MAHABOOBNAGAR 2.00, 9.00PM(2 SHOWS) SRI SAI VISUAL HOUSE 9849153511 FROM 22nd JAN SREEPREMATO & SIVASAKTHI 70MM

—AP

SHORT TAKES

2 SECURITY MEN KILLED IN PAK TERROR ATTACK

Peshawar, Jan. 20: At least two security personnel were killed and one injured when unknown terrorists riding a bike opened fire at a Security Forces Road Protection team in northwest Pakistan late on Tuesday night, local police said.

The incident occurred in the jurisdiction of Gomal police station in Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering the South Waziristan tribal district. The policemen who died in the firing were identified as Sepoy Khalid and Sepoy Ayaz. The injured cop was identified as Sepoy Muhammad Ramazan.

Security forces rushed to the site, cordoned off the entire area and started a search operation to nab the fleeing culprits. No group claimed responsibility for the attack till the filing of this report.

LIBYA AMMO WAREHOUSE BLAST KILLS 3

Cairo, Jan. 20: A fire, followed by an explosion at an ammunition warehouse at a naval academy in western Libya killed three people, including two officers, a Libyan spokesman said Wednesday.

It was not clear what caused the overnight blaze at the academy in the town of Janzur, about 24 kilometres (14 miles) west of the capital of Tripoli, said Masoud Abdal Samad, the spokesman of the Libyan navy.

Four people were also wounded in the incident. Samad said the dead included Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ayoub, the head of the academy, and Brig. Gen. Salem Abu Salah, who ran the naval college.

The third person who died was not identified. Video footage that circulated online following the incident shows firefighters and ambulances rushing to the site where a building is engulfed in a huge fire.

2 BRITISH SIKHS CHARGED FOR STREET FIGHT

London, Jan. 20: Two British Sikh men have been charged following what Scotland Yard described as a large altercation involving swords and knives in Southall, west London. Sukbir Singh, 22, and Lakha Singh, 29, both residents of Southall here, appeared at the Willesden Magistrates' Court on Monday charged with affray and threatening a person with a blade/sharply pointed article in a public place.

"Police were called at around 00:20hrs on Sunday 17 January, to reports of a large group of around 30 men fighting with various weapons, including knives and swords, in the area of King Street," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "Officers attended and arrested two males, both aged in their 20s, on suspicion of violent disorder and affray. There were no reported injuries," the statement added.

The two men have been remanded in custody and will appear at the Isleworth Crown Court on February 15. The Met Police is appealing to witnesses to come forward.

INDIAN JAILED FOR MOLESTING S'PORE WOMAN

Singapore, Jan. 20: A 26-year-old Indian painter in Singapore was sentenced to nine months in prison on Wednesday for molesting a pregnant woman after following her to a lift lobby, according to a media report.

Kota Durga Prasad molested the three-month pregnant woman who was visiting her husband in Singapore on the night of September 5 last year, reported the *Channel News Asia*. Kota thought that the victim "looked pretty" and decided to follow her on seeing her crossing a traffic junction in the Jurong West residential area. He cycled behind her to a lift lobby of a housing block, where he approached her and asked for her phone number, the prosecution told the court.

The woman declined. The victim entered the lift when it arrived, and Kota followed her. When the woman tried to escape, Kota blocked her several times with his body and hands. The lift doors closed and the victim was trapped in the lift with Kota, who hugged her and put his face very close to her. The victim gave him her number after Kota cornered her and repeatedly blocked her attempts to flee.

DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED: BIDEN

Newly inaugurated US Prez, in maiden speech, calls on Americans 'to defend the truth and defeat the lies'

READY TO SERVE, SAYS KAMALA IN 1ST TWEET AFTER TAKING OATH

Washington, Jan. 20: Kamala Harris was on Wednesday sworn in as America's first woman Vice President during a historic inauguration at the West Front of the Capitol. Harris, 56, the 49th US Vice President, will serve as the deputy of President Joe Biden, 78, who also took the oath of office, becoming the 46th US President.

"With unity we can do great things," he said referring to the challenges ahead of him from fighting the Coronavirus to addressing racial injustice. "Unity is the path forward," he asserted, laying out his vision to defeat the pandemic, build back better, and unify and heal the nation.

Biden asserted that he will be the president for all Americans, all those who voted for him and those who did not vote for him. In his speech that lasted for 21 minutes, Biden praised Americans for rising to the challenge and reclaiming democracy. He mentioned the attempt to undo it at that exact location two weeks ago, and renewed his campaign goals of overcoming the pandemic, bringing racial justice and fighting climate change.

Biden also criticised those who have stoked anger and division, and asked those who opposed him to "hear me out." He called out those who lie for political power and profit. "There is truth, and there are lies," he added.

In a message to the international community, Biden said that he would rebuild the alliances frayed over the past four years. "We can make America once again the leading force of good in the world." "We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again, not to meet yesterday's challenges but today's and tomorrow's challenges," he said. "We will lead by the power of our example," he said in his message to the international community.

The 78-year-old veteran Democratic leader said: "We'll be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress and security". "America has been tested, and we have come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again. "We'll lead, not merely by the example of our power, but by the power of our example. We'll be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress and security," Biden said. Many world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have tweeted their congratulations to the new administration and expressed their optimism at working together. "My warmest congratulations to Joe Biden on his assumption of office as President of the United States of America. I look forward to working with him to strengthen India-US strategic partnership," Modi said. "My best wishes for a successful term in leading USA as we stand united and resilient in addressing common challenges and advancing global peace and security," he said.

— PTI

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That professional polish mixed with West Coast nonchalance signals a new way of dressing for the corollars of power, it said.

Harris opted to wear a dress designed by two Black designers for her historic inauguration as the US Vice-president. In opting to wear the dress designed by Christopher John Rogers and Sergio Hudson, Harris has sent her own message to the country that Black designers have arrived on the scene.

Emerging as a woman of conviction and dedicated towards her work, Harris makes sure her approachable personality is reflected through her attire, several US media outlets reported.

Her no-nonsense wardrobe often features sharp blazers, skinny pants, pearls and Converse sneakers. Her

has sent her own message

to the country that Black

designers have arrived on

the scene. Rogers is a young

Black designer from Baton

Rouge, and lives in New

York City. Hudson is a

Black designer from South

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quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	49,792.12
Nifty 50	14,644.70
S&P 500*	3,840.12
Dollar (₹)	73.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.92
Euro (₹)	88.74
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,758 ▲ 347
Brent crude (₹/bbl)*	56.42
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.942
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.101
As of 8:30 PM IST	0.009

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Dumping duty on newsprint for 5 yrs recommended

The DGTR has recommended the imposition of antidumping duty on newsprint—used in printing newspapers—from Australia, Canada, EU, Russia, Singapore and the UAE for five years. Its probe concluded that 'newsprint in rolls or sheets, excluding glazed newsprint' from these countries have been exported at dumped prices into India. The duty suggested is \$5.15-\$98.6 per tonne. FinMin takes the final call on duties.

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Hiring may surge in new academic year Education sector sheds 6 mn jobs

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JAN. 20

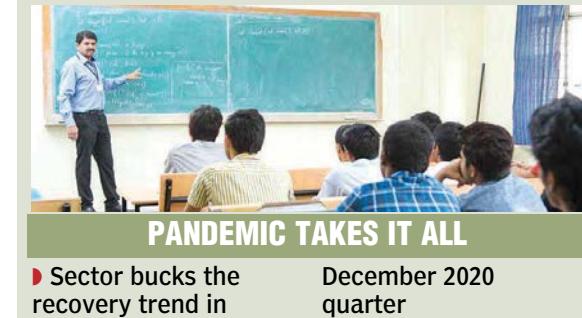
While most services sectors have been recovering in the past two quarters, the education sector has been witnessing a different trend. The sector has rather lost 5.4 million jobs by the end of the December quarter. Interestingly, the job losses had started even before the lockdown.

However, a silver lining is that once the schools reopen, Covid-19 restrictions may mandate schools to have fewer students in a classroom and this might raise the need for teachers.

The education sector, which had employed 15 million people in 2018 and 2019, had started showing weakness towards the end of 2019, according to a study by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Employment fell to 14.5 million in the March quarter of 2020, even before lockdown hit all sectors. It further fell to 9.7 million in the June-September 2020 quarters. In the December 2020 quarter, employment in education was down to 9.1 million.

From the 2019 levels, the sector has lost close to 6 million jobs.

In 2019-20, the industry has been witnessing a disruption with the adoption of technology. While new edtech start-ups have been emerging on the one hand, regular institutions have been increasingly embracing technology on the other, which led to lesser demand for manpower. Even the job forecasts for the sector had predicted



PANDEMIC TAKES IT ALL

- Sector bucks the recovery trend in services sector
- Education sector had employed 15 million in 2018 and 2019
- This came down to 9.1 million in the

lesser hiring," said Shanmugam Rooth, founder & CEO, Schoolguru Eduserve.

According to him, it was perceived that personalised care would increase the requirement of teachers and support staff. "Even the contract staff in government institutions were out of job," said Aditya Narayan Mishra, director and CEO of CIEL HR Services.

The situation is expected to continue in the March quarter. The ongoing vaccination drive may help education institutions reopen in the next academic year.

"Then we will probably see a surge in hiring. When institutions reopen, they will have to split students into smaller-sized groups. This will increase the requirement of teachers. Hence we expect the jobs in the sector to bounce back to 2019-20 levels by next academic year. Tech platforms also would be ramping up hiring," said Rooth.

According to Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive vice president, Teamlease Services,

several institutions in smaller cities have not been operating as earlier since the lockdown. This has impacted jobs of both teachers and support staff.

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SUNDARAM FINANCE TO GET NEW MD FROM APRIL

Chennai, Jan. 20: Non-banking finance company Sundaram Finance on Wednesday announced that it has made key changes in its management.

The changes include the appointment of Rajiv Lochan as managing director, succeeding T.T. Srinivasaraghavan with effect from April 1, 2021, the company said.

T.T. Srinivasaraghavan, fondly called as 'TT' among close circles, would retire after serving the organisation for over 38 years as of March 31, 2021.

It was during his tenure the balance-sheet of the city-based company grew from Rs 800 crore to over Rs 30,000 crore.

Srinivasaraghavan, during the last two decades, also led the group's diversification into a multi-product financial services provider, a company statement said.

Lochan, who is the current director (strategy), has over 25 years of experience in financial services and was a partner in the consulting firm McKinsey and Company. Recently, he served Kasturi and Sons as its managing director.

Commenting on the tenure of Srinivasaraghavan, Sundaram Finance chairman S. Viji said, "Under his leadership, the company demonstrated its traditional focus on asset quality and most importantly its adherence to values of prudence and customer focus."

— PTI

Mkt Momentum may take Sensex to 50000 zone

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JAN. 20

The Sensex is now poised to hit the 50000 landmark any time given the market momentum and Wednesday's 393 points gain on positive global and domestic cues. The 30-stock index closed at 49792 points after hitting an all-time high of 49874 in intra-day trade, as it gained further after Tuesday's big up-move by 843 points.

The Nifty-50 also closed at a new all-time high of 14644.70 up 123.55 points, or 0.85 per cent, after hitting a new peak of 14666.45.

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 2,289.05 crore, marking a big jump from the last few sessions' trend of subdued buying.

Analysts expect the Sensex to breach the 50,000 mark given the upward momentum seen



"Global cues were positive ahead of Joe Biden's inauguration as US President on Wednesday. Further comments from US Treasury Secretary nominee Janet Yellen backing for more stimulus to ride out a pandemic-driven slump buoyed global markets," said Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Schneider asked to list or give exit option

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Markets regulator Sebi has asked Schneider Electric President Systems to either list on a stock exchange within six months or provide exit to its investors under the delisting norms.

If the company opts for de-listing, the reference date for computing the floor price would be the date on which the company made the public announcement for the exit offer, the regulator said.

Further, the shareholders who had tendered their

shares in exit offer would be given an opportunity by the company for buying back the shares at the exit price, the Sebi said in an order passed on Tuesday.

Schneider Electric President Systems, a designer, manufacturer and supplier of standard and customised enclosure systems in India, was earlier listed on the Bangalore Stock Exchange (BSE) and Pune Stock Exchange (PSE).

Following the de-recognition of BSE and PSE in 2014 and 2015, respectively, the company moved to the

— PTI

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Laxmi, Showrya into SMTA semis

Hyderabad: Laxmi Siri Dandu and Showrya Syamala registered emphatic victories to sail into the semifinals of the All India Tennis Association C7 Under 14 tournament being held at the Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Moinabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

In the quarters played on Wednesday, Laxmi blanked Prisha Nikhil Shinde 6-0, 6-0 while Showrya Syamala got past Anish Jain with a 6-1, 6-3 scoreline.

THE RESULTS
Boys U-14 quarterfinals: Showrya Syamala bt Anish Jain 6-1, 6-3; Pratyush Jayaram bt Manav Siyas 6-4, 7-5; V. Dhiraj Reddy bt Shashank Sai Prasad 6-3, 6-1; V. Thirumurugan bt Murali Koushal 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-4.

Girls U-14 quarterfinals: Laxmi Siri Dandu bt Prisha Nikhil Shinde 6-0, 6-0; Prisha Nikhil Shinde bt Rithika Dagdu 6-1, 6-4; Rishitha Basi Reddy bt Sharvitha Reddy 6-0, 6-3; M. Princy bt Rithika Kakarlamudi 7-6 (7-3), 6-2; Ika Raju bt Ch. Malvika Reddy 6-0, 6-1.

VHR all praise for Siraj show in Oz

Hyderabad: Former Member of Parliament and chairman of the Cricket Federation of India V. Hanumantha Rao on Wednesday heaped praise on Hyderabad fast bowler Mohammed Siraj, who played a vital role in India's stunning series win against Australia on Tuesday.

"It's such a pleasure to watch cricketers from the city do so well on the international stage," he told a press conference at the Fateh Maidan Club which is nestled in the Lal Bahadur Stadium, venue for many an international cricket match in the centre of Hyderabad before the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium came up in Uppal.

"I also feel very proud that Siraj has played in the U-19 tournament that I have been conducting here annually for 10 years now. It's satisfying to see him perform on the big stage now, despite losing his father while the tough series was on in Australia, which meant he could not fly back home for the last rites. That speaks of his determination and strong attitude. We will felicitate him at a grand function once he returns from Australia," Mr Rao added.

Satwik, Abhirath, Neeraj, Ilyaan top shows

Krithik, Chandra, Sarthak, Sragvi, Buchi, Rohan, Abid, Nitin also do well in 3-day league

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20



Satwik Reddy, Abhirath Reddy, Ilyaan Sathani, Chandrasekhar, Yash Gupta, Sarthak

Continental CC 271 in 67.5 overs (N. Vigneshwar 52, M. Samith Reddy, T. Aaron Paul 42, Vijay Akash 3/40)

Group-C

Jai Bhagwathi 209 in 69.3 overs vs Charminar CC 52/1 in 90 overs (Aditya Mangat 64, N. Satwik Reddy 280 — 271b, 30x4, 9x6, Ali Kachi Diamond 54, Md Abrar Ahmed 4/14, Kush S 3/55, Venu 76, TVS Narayana 42, Sai Kiran 3/64).

Sporting XI 189 in 51.1 overs (Himalay Agarwal 82, Faisal Alvi 60) vs EMC 89/1 in 29 overs (Aman Rao 41 batting, Anirudh 31 bowling)

Group-B

Jai Hanuman 404 in 89.2 overs & 152/2 in 30 overs (Sal Purnandan Rao 45 batting, Anurag Vittal 64 bat) vs Deccan Chronicle 144 in 42.1 overs (Shreyas Vala 48, Pavan Reddy 45, Y. Shrawan Kumar 4/38, Anurag Vittal 3/57).

Evergreen 161 in 57.5 overs vs AOC 224 in 60.3 overs (Amit Pacherla 86, Ilyaan Sathani 6/48 — 14.3-1-48-6)

Zinda Tillismath 313 in 88 overs vs MP Colts 275 in 84.4 overs (Sai Sampath 64, Vaishnav Reddy 48, Ashesh Singh 42, Rahul C 39, Sal Sragvi 5/32 — 4-32-5)

Hyderabad Bottling 217 in 51.5 overs & 237 in 36.1 overs (J. Vinay Goud 73, P. Gaurav Reddy 48, B. Buchi Babu 5/33 — 8-0-33-5) vs Combined Districts 321 in 70.3 overs (K. Sai Charan 44, Md Khayum 73, Kevin Gupta 4/63)

Concorde CC 243 in 68.1 & 86/4 in 22 overs (Houzef Mirza 40 no., Saqlain Arafat 3/20) vs

Group-D

Jai Bhagwathi 209 in 69.3 overs vs Charminar CC 52/1 in 90 overs (Aditya Mangat 64, N. Satwik Reddy 280 — 271b, 30x4, 9x6, Ali Kachi Diamond 54, Md Abrar Ahmed 4/14, Kush S 3/55, Venu 76, TVS Narayana 42, Sai Kiran 3/64).

Mahbubnagar District 105 in 36.5 overs (A. Srikanth Yadav 11.5-3-29-5, Points: Mahbubnagar 5, Agarwal 0)

Hyderabad Titans 294/9 in 70 overs vs Yadav Dairy 96 in 41.1 overs (Suhandrea Neela 39, Nagashankar 5/34 — 13-0-34-5, Points: Titans 5, Yadav Dairy 0)

Balaji Blues 215 in 53.2 overs vs New Blues 174 in 32.2 overs (Vansh Sharma 5/35 — 11-3-35-5, Points: Balaji Blues 5, New Blues 0)

Nizam College 405 in 87 overs vs Green Turf 191 in 61.2 overs (Ayman Arif 62, Yashwan 5/49, Noman 3/36, Points: Nizam College 5, Green Turf 0)

Marredpally CC 306 in 77.1 overs vs Visaka 267 in 53.3 overs (A. Vigneshwar 117 — 130b, 11x4, 3x6, P. Jagadeesh 36, Md Furqan 3/65, Points: MCC 6, Visaka 0)

Deccan Wanderers 189 in 68 overs lost to Hyderabad Wanderers 190/2 in 60.2 overs (Varun Vinod 94 no., Ghazi Abbas 71), Points: Hyderabad Wanderers 5, Deccan Wanderers 0

Sai Satya 282 in 57 overs vs Sri Shyam 181 in 57.3 overs (Sehgal 3/52, Points: Sai Satya 5, Sri Shyam 0)

Medak District 454/7 in 90 overs vs Pasha Beedi 201 in 63.5 overs (Kush J 62, Hishant 4/37, Points: Medak 5, Pasha Beedi 0)

Classic CC 200 in 55.3 overs lost to Vijay Hanuman 202/8 in 61.2 overs (B. Bharath Teja 40, Stephen J 31 no., S. Raghavendra Rao 3/21, Points: Vijay Hanuman 5, Classic 0)

Canara Bank 180 in 58.3 overs vs Rushiraj 60 in 27 overs (MA Jaweed 4/19, Srinivas 3/9, Points: Canara Bank 5, Rushiraj 0)

Covid halts Praneeth and Srikanth run in Thailand

Bangkok, Jan. 20: Indian shuttler B. Sai Praneeth, one of the frontrunners to represent country at the Tokyo Olympics, has pulled out of the ongoing Thailand Open Super 1000 badminton tournament after testing positive for Covid-19 here.

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SHORT TAKES
Nadella, Pichai, MSK hail team

Washington: Top Indian American CEOs Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella on Tuesday congratulated the Indian cricket team on their historic Test series win in Australia in Brisbane on Tuesday.

"One of the greatest test series wins ever. Congrats India and well played Australia, what a series #INDvsAUS," tweeted Pichai, chief executive officer of Google and Alphabet.

"Last hour of the last day of the last test. Test series for the ages. Congrats to Team India!", Microsoft CEO Nadella wrote on the microblogging site. Nadella is a former cricketer himself, having played for the Hyderabad Public School (Begumpet) team while growing up in Hyderabad before he moved to the US.

Former Test cricketer and BCCI chief selector MSK Prasad too was effusive in his praise for Team India. "It's been an outstanding victory, especially after the humiliating defeat in Adelaide. Added to that the team has played the major part of the series without stars. This shows the mental strength of this new generation of players like Siraj, Vihari, Gill, Sharadul, Washington etc. I am extremely happy and proud to say that me and my colleagues played our part in unearthing this new talent and groomed them to this level," Prasad said.

More Covid cases linked to Oz Open

Melbourne: Three more people linked to the Australian Open have tested positive for Covid-19 in Melbourne, increasing to 10 those associated with the Grand Slam tennis tournament which begins on February 8.

Victoria state Emergency

Services Minister Lisa Neville confirmed the new cases had been detected on Wednesday,

adding that authorities are

"very confident" one of the

cases is a tennis player who is

shedding the virus and is not

infectious. The player is already

in hard lockdown as they were

on board a flight into

Melbourne with another positive case. The other two cases are a player and their support person. Those 10 positive cases

mean a total of 72 players

remain in hard lockdown after

being deemed close contacts of those positives on three charter flights into Melbourne from Abu Dhabi, Doha and Los Angeles.

— AP

Regd. No. HQ/SD/509/2021-23
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HEAT'S ON KOHLI

Victory under Rahane puts Virat in focus

New Delhi, Jan. 20: First things first. There is no imminent threat to Virat Kohli's captaincy in any format and neither is BCCI even remotely thinking on those lines.

But that's the news part of the story. When it comes to views, there are many — some are quite open about the theory of split captaincy and some are speaking about it in hushed tones.

Ajinkya Rahane's calm demeanour in India's biggest overseas series win has opened up a debate but to disappoint the fans of the Test vice-captain, there is little chance of a permanent anointment for him in the immediate future.

However, there could be a paradigm shift in how the leadership group in the Indian cricket team works when Kohli re-enters the dressing room after a month-long paternity break.

When Kohli left, it was a team that was down in the dumps — dismissed for its lowest Test score of 36. But a lot has changed since that fateful afternoon in Adelaide.

While head coach Ravi Shastri is absolutely right in saying that this team bears Kohli's "stamp and character" but from December 19 in Adelaide to January 19 in Brisbane, a few senior cricketers will be perceived a bit differently.

Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara and certainly Rahane, in their own little way, have created a legacy but post Brisbane, that legacy will need proper acknowledgement.

These four will not ask for it as they have now earned it after quite literally putting their bodies on line.

So when Kohli enters that Indian dressing room, he will remain the "first" but "among equals" in a leadership group that possibly will be more inclusive.

On Friday, when a question was put forth on this to stand-in skipper Rahane after the match got over but expectedly, his tight defence couldn't be breached.

"I don't want to think about all these things. This is a victory that we all need to enjoy and I will think about England series once I am back in India," Rahane dodged the question.

— PTI



Indian coach Ravi Shastri (right) talks to players in the dressing room with captain Ajinkya Rahane by his side after India beat Australia to clinch the Border-Gavaskar Test series 2-1 at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Pant is best keeper-batsman

Dubai, Jan. 20: India's Rishabh Pant became the top-ranked wicket-keeper batsman in the world after his sensational series-winning 89-run knock in the Brisbane match pushed him to a career-best 13th spot in the ICC Test batting rankings, issued on Wednesday.

Pant, who won many admirers for his fearless and mature batting, has 691 points in his kitty. South Africa's Quinton de Kock (677) is the next best wicket-keeper batsman in the list in the 15th position.

Australia batsman Marnus Labuschagne's first-innings century in Brisbane took him past India skipper Virat Kohli (862 points) to third position with a career-best 878 rating points. Kohli missed the action as he was on paternity leave.

Young India opener Shubman Gill continued his upward trajectory, moving up from 68th to 47th spot after a crucial 91 in the second innings of the fourth Test, which India won by three wickets on Tuesday.

Middle-order mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara moved up one place to seventh after his dogged effort, while Mohammad Siraj



India's Rishabh Pant hits a six during his match winning knock against Australia on the final day of the fourth Test at the Gabba in Brisbane on Tuesday. — AP

jumped 32 places to 45th after taking six wickets in the match, including a five-wicket haul in the second innings.

Debutant Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur too gained in

rankings following their useful contributions with both bat and ball.

Washington entered the

rankings in 82nd (batting)

and 97th (bowling) posi-

tions, while Thakur re-entered the batting list in 113th position and bowling list in 65th position.

Australia captain Tim Paine moved up three spots to 42nd after scores of 50 and 27 while fast bowler Josh Hazlewood leapfrogged

New Zealand's Tim Southee to the fourth spot after grabbing six wickets in the match, including a haul of five for 57 in the first innings.

England's Joe Root has returned to the top five with his highest rating points tally (738) in two years after scoring a first-innings 228 to help his team win the first Test against Sri Lanka by seven wickets in Galle.

Root has advanced six places, overtaking the likes of Pakistan's Babar Azam and Pujara in the process.

Jonny Bairstow (up five places to 58th in batting) and Sam Curran (up two places to 39th in bowling) also gained.

For Sri Lanka, Lahiru Thirimanne's progressed 12 places to 87th position

while left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya (up six places to 47th) and medium pacer Asitha Fernando (up 11 places to 96th) also gained.

— PTI

Smith axed, Sanju to lead IPL Royals

New Delhi, Jan. 20: Sanju Samson replaced Steve Smith as Rajasthan Royals captain after the Australian batsman and some other under-performing stars were released by their respective IPL franchises even as Chennai Super Kings retained veteran Suresh Raina for the upcoming 14th edition of the league.

The deadline for the eight franchises to submit the lists of retained and released players for the next season ended on Wednesday.

Samson was appointed to the top job after RR decided against renewing former skipper Steve Smith's contract.

Smith's contract ended in October 2020.

The Australians, smarting from a Test series loss to an injury-plagued India, took a hit as the likes of the explosive Glenn Maxwell and opener Aaron Finch too were released by Kings XI Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore respectively.

Also released by MI was Sherfane Rutherford, while Delhi Capitals decided to enter the next edition without English batsman Jason Roy, wicketkeeper Alex Carey, leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane and seamer Mohit Sharma.



Steve Smith

a surgery recently to treat an injured finger.

CSK's Harbhajan Singh and Mumbai Indians' Lasith Malinga were among the other big names to be released by their respective sides ahead of next month's auction.

Harbhajan was joined by the likes of Kedar Jadhav, Piyush Chawla and Murali Vijay who were also let go by CSK.

Also released by MI was Sherfane Rutherford, while Delhi Capitals decided to enter the next edition without English batsman Jason Roy, wicketkeeper Alex Carey, leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane, Alex Carey, Jason Roy.

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WHO'S IN, WHO'S OUT

■ **Chennai Super Kings — Players retained:** MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Narayan Jagadeesan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KM Asif, Josh Hazlewood, Karun Sharma, Ambati Rayudu, Suresh Raina, Imran Tahir, Deepak Chahar, Faf du Plessis, Shardul Thakur, Mitchell Santner, Dwayne Bravo, Lungi Ngidi, Sam Curran, Sai Kishore. **Released (6):** Harbhajan Singh, Shane Watson, Piyush Chawla, Kedar Jadhav, M. Vijay, Monu Kumar Singh.

■ **Delhi Capitals — Players retained:** Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Marcus Stoinis, Daniel Sams, Shimron Hetmyer, Chris Woakes, Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, Amit Mishra, Ishant Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Harshal Patel, Laitl Yadav, Pravin Dubey, Avesh Khan. **Released (6):** Glenn Maxwell, Karun Nair, Hardus Viljoen, Jagadeesha Suthich, Sandeep Lamichhane, Alex Carey, Jason Roy.

■ **Kings XI Punjab — Players retained:** K. L. Rahul, Chris Gayle, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mandeep Singh, Sarfaraz Khan, Deepak Hooda, Prabhraj Singh, Mohammed Shami, Chris Jordan, Darshan Nalkande, Ravi Bishnoi, Murugan Ashwin, Arshdeep Singh, Harpreet Brar, Ishan Porel. **Released (9):** Glenn Maxwell, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Tim Seifert. **Released (6):** Jonny Bairstow, Trent Boult, Rohit Sharma, Jason Roy, James Pattinson, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Sherfane Rutherford, Prince Balwant Singh, Diginvijay Deshmukh.

■ **Kolkata Knight Riders — Players retained:** Eoin Morgan, Dinesh Karthik, Nitish Rana, Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Rahul Tripathi, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins, Prithvi Shaw, Suresh Raina, Sam Curran, Mervin Kallicharran, Nidahas T. Balaji, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Mahipal Lohor, Kartik Tyagi, Andrew Tye, Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anuj Rawat, David Miller, Manan Vohra, Robin Uthappa. **Released (8):** Steve Smith, Ankit Rajpoot, Oshane Thomas, Akash Singh, Varun Aaron, Tom Curran, Anirudh Joshi, Shashank Singh.

■ **Mumbai Indians — Players retained:** Rohit Sharma, Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Chris Lynn, Anmolpreet Singh, Saurabh Tiwary, Aditya Taneja, Kieron Pollard, Hardik Pandya, Krutika Patil, Sunil Narine, Tim Seifert. **Released (7):** Lasith Malinga, Mitch McClenaghan, James Pattinson, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Sherfane Rutherford, Prince Balwant Singh, Diginvijay Deshmukh.

■ **Rajasthan Royals — Players retained:** Sanju Samson, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Jos Buttler, Ryan Parag, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Mahipal Lohor, Kartik Tyagi, Andrew Tye, Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anuj Rawat, David Miller, Manan Vohra, Robin Uthappa. **Released (8):** Steve Smith, Ankit Rajpoot, Oshane Thomas, Akash Singh, Varun Aaron, Tom Curran, Anirudh Joshi, Shashank Singh.

■ **Royal Challengers Bangalore — Players retained:** Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Yuzvendra Chahal, Devdutt Padikkal, Navdeep Saini, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Kean Richard Adam, Sam Zampa, Josh Philippe, Shahbaz Ahmed and Pavan Deshpande. **Released (10):** Aaron Finch, Chris Morris, Isuru Udana, Moeen Ali, Pawan Negi, Gurkeerat Singh, Mann, Shivam Dube, Dale Steyn, Parthiv Patel, Umesh Yadav.

■ **Sunrisers Hyderabad — Players retained:** David Warner, Kane Williamson, Rashid Khan, T. Natarajan, Abhishek Sharma, Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jonny Bairstow, Manish Pandey, Mohammad Nabi, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shreevats Goswami, Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, Vijay Shankar, Wridhiman Saha, Abidul Samad, Mitchell Marsh, Jason Holder, Priyam Garg, Virat Singh. **Released (5):** Sanjay Yadav, B. Sandeep, Billy Stanlake, Fabian Allen, Yarra Prithviraj.

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