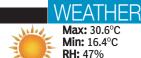
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 12 JANUARY 2021



Forecast: Partially cloudy. Misty morning. Max/Min

temp. 30/16 ºC

Rainfall: Ni



CASES DEATHS (+184)(+13,753)1,04,79,628 1,51,362

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+224)(+1)TS: 2,90,008 1,566 (+2)(+121)AP: 8,85,037 7,131

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



worldometers. in fo/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Margasira Bahula Chaturdasi till 12.24 pm Star: Mula till 7.37 am; then Purvashadha till 6.21 pm Varjyam: Shesha Varjyam up to 7.37 am; 4.43 pm to 6.14 pm Durmuhurtam: 9.05 am to 9.50 am; 11.06 pm to 11.58 pm Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR**

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 27, 1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.45 am **Zohar:** 12.34 pm **Asar:** 4.23 pm Maghrib: 6.05 pm **Isha:** 7.17 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM MOONSET 5.11 PM MOONRISE 5.51 AM



Our boys are amazing! They are firing even during massive power outage!

SHORT TAKES

Virushka blessed with baby girl

New Delhi: A baby girl was born to cricketer Virat Kohli and actress Anushka Sharma on Monday. "We are thrilled to share with you that we have been blessed with a baby girl this afternoon. We thank you all for your love, prayers and good wishes. Anushka and the baby are both healthy and we are feeling beyond blessed to start this new chapter of our lives. We hope you can respect

our privacy," Kohli tweeted.

NATION 4 Mamata equates



WORLD 5

Democrats introduce impeachment article

SPORTS 7

Vihari and Ashwin save Test for India



Vol. 20 No. 227 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

Flight record



BJP with Trump

The all-women crew of the inaugural flight of Air India from San Francisco to Bengaluru, from left, Capt. Papagari Thanmai, Capt. Zoya Aggarwal, Capt. Akansha Sonware and Capt. Shivani Manhas pose for a photo after the landing of their maiden flight, at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, on Monday. They flew on the Polar route over the North Pole region instead of the traditional Pacific Ocean Hong Kong or Singapore route. The nonstop 16,000 km flight started at 8.30 pm (local time) on Saturday and landed at 3.07 am on Monday.

SC hints at panel on farm laws To stay implementation of laws till committee submits report

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 11

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed its strong disappointment with the Narendra Modi government's handling of the farmers agitation seeking the repeal of three controversial farm laws. The court indicated that it intends to set up a committee that will examine the laws, and till it submits its report the implementation of the laws will be put on hold.

As the farmers' agitation entered Day 48 on Monday, Chief Justice Bobde expressed anguish over the agitating farmers, braving the biting cold of winter. CJI Bobde, heading a bench that also com-Justices prised Bopanna and Ramasubramanian, said:

"We propose to form a committee and if the government does not (on its own offer not to enforce the laws), then we will stay the implementation of the farm laws. We are doing this because you have failed to solve the problem. The government has to take responsibility. The laws have resulted in a strike and now you have to resolve the strike.'

Attorney-general K.K. Venugopal resisted the suggestion to stay the laws. In an apparent concession, CJI Bobde said that they will put on hold

implementation, their making a distinction between the stay of a law and the stay of its implementation. The court said staying the implementation of the laws will ease tensions and prevent the situation getting violent.

Objecting to any stay of the farm laws, Venugopal asserted the laws were beneficial for farmers, and said: "The laws are within the legislative competence of Parliament and are intended to benefit the farmers."

The court recalled that in past hearings, it had given the Centre an option to make a statement that it will not go ahead with the implementation of the laws.

Discomforted over the court's taking a dim view of the Centre's handling of the agitation, solicitor general Tushar Mehta protested and said that the court's observations were "harsh", insisting the government did its best to break the deadlock

and resolve the issue. "You did your best, but it did not seem to have any effect", CJI Bobde

then quipped.

The court is likely to pronounce orders on 'uesday on issues related to farm laws and the farmers' protests at Delhi's borders and may take a call on setting up a panel headed by a former Chief Justice to find ways to resolve the impasse.

TS schools, colleges to open from Feb. 1

KCR gives permission to Classes 9 to 12, degree

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC

It's time for a return to schools and colleges three weeks hence — drawing the curtains down on a season of prolonged shutdown. At a high-level meeting with ministers and district collectors on Monday, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced reopening of schools from Class 9 onwards, as also Intermediate degree colleges and other vocational and professional institutions from Febr-

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure that all arrangements are made for the reopening of both government and private schools. "Keep all educational institutions, hostels, and residential schools neat and tidy. Sanitation measures including cleaning of toilets should be taken up immediately," he

Parents worried, some relieved on reopening

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Some relief and more worry. Feelings are mixed as the state announced reopening of schools and colleges from February 1.

Predictably, most private school parents that Deccan Chronicle correspondents spoke to said they are worried over the health of their children herded back to schools and colleges in these still-unpredictable times. Seema Agarwal, parent of a Class 9 student said, "There is no need to

since schools were opened. All classrooms, furniture and laboratories should be cleaned. Provisions like rice, dal and other food "It has been a long time materials must be taken

open schools when kids are doing well with online classes. Most parents I know of are against this decision."

Parent of a Class XII student, Ashwin Gupta, said, "As online classes are fine and we see results, it should continue. In case of students with Class XII board exams, other ways of clearing their doubts should be found. Until a vaccine is given to all, we are not in support of sending our kids to school.'

> ■ Page 2: Parents feel decision premature

care of. If stocks are less, go for more of purchases," he

■ Page 2: Get institutes

Union minister Naik hurt in road mishap, wife killed

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs KARWAR, JAN. 11

Union Minister for Ayush and Defence Shripad S. Naik was injured while his wife Vijaya and his personal assistant died in an accident at Hosakambi on Monday night.

Police officials said that they were travelling from



Shripad S. Naik

Yellapur to Gokarna when the minister's car over-turned injuring all the six in the vehicle.

The injured were immediately rushed to the Ankola Taluk Hospital for treatment. Sources said that Vijaya Naik and the minister's personal assistant died in the road mishap.

Full report on Page 4

AP High Court dismisses

VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 11

In a major relief to the

state government busy with the Covid-19 vacci-State Election Commi-

Justice M. Ganga Rao heard the petition filed by the state government seeking declaration of schedule of elections for local bodies, imposing the model code of conduct and the consequential proceedings banning

transfers, as arbitrary as "illegal" on the ground they violated Article 14 of

urged the court to issue a direction to the SEC to stop further proceedings relating to the election process

for conduct of gram panchayat polls without holding proper consultations with the state government even as the Supreme Court had

Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

conduct elections would

hamper the mammoth

The court heard the arguments from advocate

RBI WARNS NPA OF BANKS WILL RISE TO 13.5%

Mumbai, Jan. 11: Banks' gross non-performing assets may rise to 13.5 per cent by September 2021, from 7.5 per cent in September 2020 under the baseline scenario, according to Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the Reserve Bank of India.

If the macroeconomic environment worsens into a severe stress scenario, the GNPA ratio may escalate to 14.8 per cent, the report said. 'The stress tests indicate that the GNPA ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 7.5 per cent in September 2020 to 13.5 per cent by September 2021 under the baseline scenario,' the FSR report added.

SEC local election order DC CORRESPONDENT

nation programme, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday suspended the order of the ssion (SEC) to hold gram panchayat polls. Issuing an interim order, the court posted the case for next hearing on February

Vacation bench judge

the Constitution. The government also

The Judge stated that the SEC issued the order

directed the SEC earlier to do so. The court opined that the impugned decision of the SEC was violative of

"The SEC's decision to

vaccination programme taken up by the Centre. It would also seriously affect the state government's efforts to check the Covid-19 spread as also its mutation, affecting the public health," the court observed.

general S. Sriram, SEC's standing counsel N. Ashwani Kumar, standing counsel for SEC and state election commis-Kumar and assistant solicitor general for Union of India represented by its secretary to the ministry of health and family welfare and also Union of India represented by home secretary, N. Haranath.

VACCINATION | DRIVE | KCR tells officials to be prepared to deal with any emergency

CM prepares TS after talk with PM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has ordered that the entire state government machinery be fully geared up for successfully implementing the Covid-19 vaccination drive starting from January 16 in Telangana as well as the

country.
Addressing a meeting of district collectors, senior officials of various departments and ministers at Pragati Bhavan on Monday, the CM took stock of the

entire situation. Subsequently, he participated in the video conference on Covid-19 vaccination drive addressed by Prim Minister Narendra Modi. Prime

Rao said before the vaccination process starts, officials must put in place each step needed to be taken promptly in case any of the vaccine recipients show an

adverse reaction. A separate room with doctors and medicines must be ready at each vaccination centre to deal with such cases. The Chief Minister said a committee headed by

Chief Secretary will monitor the entire exercise. He wanted all MLAs, MLCs, MPs, ZPTCs, MPPs, and ministers to actively involve themselves in the

vaccination drive. Arrangements already in place for administering the vaccine at 1,213 centres in the state, which include the Primary Health Centres (PHCs). There are 866 cold chain points for storing and transportation Coronavirus vaccines.

Government of India has already decided Covishield vaccine from

Biotech will be first given to Asha workers, staff at Anganwadis, and health, police and sanitary personnel, apart from others who are in the frontline during Phase I of the vaccination drive. Subsequently, those over 50 years will be vaccinated. It will be responsibility of police officials to ensure their personnel are vaccinated. Sarpanches and village secretaries will be responsible in making the vaccination a success, the Chief Minister said.

Serum Institute of India and Covaxin from Bharat

PM: VACCINE FOR HEALTH STAFF FREE

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India aims to achieve vaccination for about 30 crore people in the next few months and added that states will not have to bear the cost of inoculating 3 crore health workers.

■ Full report on Page 4





SHORT

TS RECORDS 224 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 2 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

With only 24,785 tests conducted to check for Covid-19 on Sunday, Telangana reported just 224 cases, down from 351 fresh Covid-19 cases on Saturday from 37,451 tests conducted that day.

Two more persons have been reported dead on Sunday after contracting Coronavirus. With this, the state has so far report ed 1,565 deaths due to the disease, along with 2,89,784 positive cases since the first Covid-19 patient in Telangana tested positive in Hyderabad on March 2, 2020.

State health department said 415 people have recovered on Sunday while 4,756 patients are still undergoing treatment in hospitals or are under isolation at home.

While Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 65 new cases, Ranga Reddy accounted for 30 Covid instances, Medchal-Malkajgiri 28, Warangal Urban 18, and Karimnagar 16 cases, while Khammam, Peddapalli and Nalgonda districts too report-ed new cases in double

POPULAR CHANNEL TO AIR IN KHAMMAM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Khammam, Jan. 11: A popular cable channel that was closed twelve years back came back in Khammam town. The popular cable channel, which had an agreement with Hathway, will air its channel along with the other channels from January 18.

Popular Channel managing director Sayyed Sadiq Ali said, We are re-entering into the Khammam market with innovative ideas, and we have designed special programs as per the taste of Khammam town viewers", he said, adding that Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar and his wife Vasantha Laxmi will inaugurate it on January 18.

FOREST OFFICERS ACCUSED OF POWER CUT

DC CORRESPONDENT KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, JAN. 11

The forest officials are alleged ly 'stopping' the power supply to the agriculture fields located in the forests where tiger movement is found with the fear that villagers and poachers may set up live electric wires as fencing targeting tigers since the villagers facing life threat with tigers in Penchikalpet and Bejjur mandals in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.

The local forest officials are sending possible harm to the tigers from the poachers and villages following the inci-dents of tigers killed two persons in separate incidents.

Farmers of Elkapalli in Penchikalpet mandal have alleged that the local forests officials had removed the power connections with the assumption that the villagers set up live electric wires as fencing to causing harm to the tigers moving in the area.

Elkapalli farmers alleged that forests officials have removed the existing transformer which supply power to agriculture motors where nine farmers had lands and cultivating paddy. The forest officials say that the lands are in the forest area where

tigers is moving.
Villagers of Elkapalli met
the Adilabad MP Soyam
Bapurao and requested him to take steps to restore the power connections in their village since they are unable to give

water to the standing crops.

Generally famers erect live electric wires as fencing around their agriculture fields to protect the standing crops from the forests animals especially wild boars.

Wild boars damage redgram and cotton crops and cause huge loss to the farmers since most of the agriculture fields locate in the forest areas or on the fringes of forests in agency areas. But, poachers also set up live electric wires to kill the tigers and antelopes to make big money. There were such incidents in the past in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. The villagers and poachers use the power supply directly from the electric line for setting up live electric wire as fencing and they remove connection to the live electric wires in the day time.

Traders, users of Chinese manja to be jailed, warns govt

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC

Chinese manja, made from unbreakable synthetic string, is harmful to the environment, and can be fatal to birds and cause grievous injuries to people, officials have cautioned. They urged people not to buy synthetic manja for flying kites this Sankranti and report to the authorities if they come across anyone selling such manja. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had banned threads coated with synthetic sub-stances for flying kites, four years ago.

The NGT further directed prohibition of the manufacture, sale, store, purchase and use of synthetic manja or nylon thread and all other similar synthetic thread used for kite flying.

The state government on January 13, 2016 imposed a complete ban on the pro-curement, stocking, sale and use of nylon-thread commonly called 'Chinese dor' or other synthetic (non-biodegradable) thread coated with glass or other harm-ful substances used for fly-

According to Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, any person power.com/> www.tssouth-found to be violating the ernpower.com.

orders or directions under the Act is liable to be punished with imprisonment of up to five years or with a fine of up to ₹one lakh or both. Causing injury to wild animals and birds or death with synthetic manja amounts to hunting under Section 9, which is punishable under Wildlife (Pro tection) Act, 1972 under Sec tion–51 with imprisonment of three to seven years and fine not less than ₹10,000.

Meanwhile, TSSPDCL CMD G. Raghuma Reddy issued a set of guidelines that people must follow for flying kites—as they get tangled in power lines.

"Fly your kite in an open area, far away from overhead power lines and elec-tricity facilities such as transformers, electrical substations. Only use cotton or linen string," he said.

Cases against violators

can be reported to Telangana State Forest Department on 24x7 helpline 1800-425-5364 or 040-

If a kite or any object is caught in the electrical lines the electricity department can be informed on 1912. People can get in touch officials

http://www.tssouthern-

Decision premature, feel many parents

From Page 1

Sangeetha Rao, parent of a degree college first-year student, felt the decision premature. daughter doesn't have much practical work for her course, so her classes can take place online. Can't this step wait until we have a vaccine, and it is safer for kids to be out on campus? At this point, no parent would be comfortable putting his or her kids at risk," she said.

Meanwhile, schools like Johnson Grammar School, Glendale Academy and Hyderabad Public School, among others, have prom-ised that all safety measures will be in place. For example, staggered entry and exit systems, lunch break in smaller groups, open space classes, and shortened class timings in schools are planned. Written consent will be taken from parents willing to send students to

Budget schools, while welcoming the decision, are worried about the hike in expenses for sanitization procedures, and pleaded that the government or local bodies take care of such requirements, as is done for government schools.

Telangana Recognised School Management Association (TRSMA) general secretary Sadulla Madhusudhan referred to the delay in announcement of a clear academic calendar and detailed guidelines.

"There are 11,000 schools in

the state under the Telangana state board that are lagging behind, compared to the ICSE and CBSE schools because of lack of clarity and negligence by the government," he said.

Government schools in the state, on the other hand, plead that sanitation workers and volunteers be given to them to ensure a sterile environment for the returning students and teachers. Chava Ravi, general secretary, TSUTF, said: "Unlike other sessions, no sanitation worker was provided for government schools dur-

ing 2020. The government should take over this procedure, with deep cleaning in all schools."

He also said that while they were hoping for classes to start after Sankranti holiday, a delay will allow parents to prepare themselves to send their kids back to school.

To decide on further modalities for intermediate and higher education institutes, a meeting will take place with all concerned officials in the next few days. While the intermediate board is planning to hold classes in shifts, in morning and evening batches, or subject combinations to ensure social distancing, the higher education board will hold a meeting with university heads to decide on the road ahead, senior officials told *Deccan*

Height of negligence



Within days, another private carrier bus gets stuck at the height barrier on the road underbridge at Alugaddabavi on Monday. The recurring problem is due to the the GHMC raising the height of the road during repairs. The driver too averred that earlier the vehicle used to pass under the barrier with ease. - GANDHI

Sankranti rush: Private vehicles hit taxi biz

Cab drivers with yellow number plates lodge complaint

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Sankranti fast approaching and road corporation transport corporation buses and trains unable to fulfil the demand of "set-tlers" from AP in greater Hyderabad, taxis are in great demand. Many individuals and families are hiring taxis to visit their hometown and villages in Andhra Pradesh.

However, there is heartburn among taxi owners with yellow number plates, which pay much higher taxes to govern-ment as commercial carriers. The yellow plate drivers are complaining that vehicles with white number plates are plying

among taxi owners with yellow number plates, which pay much higher taxes to government as commercial carriers.

ing state, which is not only illegal, but is also causing a huge loss to

Taxi unions with yellow number plates have lodged a complaint with the government in this regard. But there has been no response yet and no white plate vehicles have been seized for ply-ing on commercial basis. Shaik Salauddin, chair-

man of Telangana State Taxis and Drivers JAC told Deccan Chronicle, "Hyderabad city has around 1.25 lakh taxis,

which pay taxes quarterly to the government. These taxies get the most business when they are engaged during the Sankranti season. However, drivers of private vehicles with white number plates are utilis-

ing this opportunity to ply passengers between Telangana and Andhra, even though they do not pay higher taxes that commercial taxis do. As a result, we are suffering huge losses. Though we have reported the matter to road transport authorities, there has been no response from them,"

Salauddin protested. Vema Janardhan, who has been driving a commercial taxi since past 15 years, said they pay tax of ₹18,400 per annum.

Vehicles with white number plates are non-commercial and do not pay this huge tax. "They are illegally taking away our business causing heavy." business, causing heavy losses for us. Govern ment should punish those who are illegally snatching away our bre ad," Janardhan remarked.

Another yellow plate taxi driver Md. Faheemuddin pointed out: "After lockdown, our business had got shat-tered severely. This is our only business, whereas white plate taxis drivers do this business parttime. As they do not pay higher taxes, they are offering their vehicles at far lesser charges, which is seriously damaging our business," Faheemuddin

CM WANTS DHARANI PORTAL READY

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC

Dharani portal should be up and ready within a week's time, ordered Minister Chandrashekar addressing a meeting of district collectors and ministers at the Pragathi Bhavan on Whatever Monday. necessary including additions to the portal, must be com-pleted within this time, the CM underlined. Government advisers, secretaries and heads of departments also partic-

ipated in the meeting.
The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction that Dharani will make sale and purchase of lands 100 per cent transparent. In this regard, he wanted officials to make sale and purchase of agriculture lands more flexible by carrying out within a week necessary modifications in the Dharani.

Rao said, "Make the Dharani portal more user-friendly. Create a facility for NRIs to regis-ter lands based on their passport number. Modify Dharani in such way that companies and societies should be able to get passbooks for lands that they purchase. Earlier, details of those who did not provide their Aadhaar numbers had not been uploaded in Dharani. Give them one more chance to do so, he stated.

The Chief Minister asked district collectors to solve all disputes with regard to transfer of lands in agency areas within a month. "Create a facility on Dharani for those who book the slot to cancel or reschedule their slots. The list of prohibited lands should be updated regularly. Make changes as per the court verdicts. Put the land collected by the government from farmers under the Prohibited

Bar headed geese latest victim of avian influenza

DC CORRESPONDENT **HYDERABAD JAN. 11**

High altitude birds, particularly the Bar Headed Geese that are frequent visitors to the wetlands in the state are the latest victims of the Avian Influenza or bird flu, an official of the forest department said on Monday.

Union Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change has requested all the states to take preventive measures and control the spread of the influenza as also detect and report cases of bird deaths to the authorities for neces-

Over 2,000 Bar Headed Geese were found dead Pong Dam lake in Himachal. More than 4.00 lakh birds died in

sary action.

Harvana, Over 1.20 lakh ducks died in Kerala. The strains of bird flu confirmed are H5N8 and H5N1. These strains are zoonotic and have the potential to spread to ĥumans also.

As restorative measures, the field officers in the state have been asked to collect the carcasses of birds, pack them safely and send these to veterinary science laboratories for analysis. The general public has been

requested to be alert and if any dead bird is noticed, the information should be passed on to the wildlife crime control cell at Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad on toll-free 1800-425-5364.

The Nehru Zoo Park and the Kakatiya Zoo have taken prophylactic measures like the spread of bleaching and lime powder around enclosures, as also maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the area. Bird sections in the zoos have been closed to the public and only animal-keepers are permitted to provide

Palle Pragathi transforms lives in villages: KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Minister Chief Chandrashekar Rao has expressed his apprecia-Pragathi Programme is progressing well. With this and other programmes, the villages in Telangana State are becoming role models for others in the country, he said.

the Palle Under Pragathi, the chief minister is ensuring that every village has tractor, dump yards, plant nurseries, green belt — and also safe piped drinking water under the Mission Bhagiratha programme. "Such programmes are unique and not implemented in any other state. This is a feather on Telangana state's cap," Minister Chief

KCR pointed out that when Telangana State was formed, only 84 gram panchayats had their own tractors. Now, 12681 of the 12,765 gram panchayats have their own tankers and tractors with trolleys. In the past, there was destruction of forests but no attempt to start a forestry programme. Now, villages are turning greener and greener. The Chief Minister said

Telangana villages have become role models in clean and green environ-ment. Every village now has a plant nursery. There are 12,755 plant nurseries. The planting and protection of trees have been done with utmost responsibility. Of the saplings planted, 91 per cent survived in rural areas. In order to have one public garden in every village, a natural forest programme was launched as part of

Palle Pragathi KCR stated that the government would create 19,470 Village Natural forests in all the habitations in the state. Land is

and saplings planted at 15,646 places. Work is on the fast-track at other places. Earlier, there was no place for farmers to sit and chat. KCR said the government took special interest in constructing one Rythu Vedika at every cluster. While 2,601 Farmers Daises are under construction, were completed at 2,580 places. Dump Yards construction is going on at 12,736 places and 91 per cent of the work is complete. Compost is made at 9,023 dumping yards.

In the past, landless peo ple faced problems. For instance, there was no common burial ground. The state government decided to have one Vaikunta Dham at every village.

Such units are being constructed at 12,742 vilalso decided to create 'Drying Floors' for farmers to dry and thresh their produce. The facility is being created at 93,875

places in the first phase. Earlier, gram panchayats never used to pay their electricity bills on time, leading to major dues to the electricity companies. With new initiatives by the government, gram panchavats are paying their electricity bills on time. The government is releasing ₹308 crore to the gram panchayats without

fail.
This is helping gram panchayats take up developmental works without

There is no state except cleanliness, and Due to increase in cleanliness, there are no cases of Dengue in the village this

people of the state lived in villages. Officials and public representatives should realise that their main aim is to develop vil-

Get institutes ready by January 25, says CM storage places, water tanks, kitchens, canteen, all to be checked through

From Page 1

"It is important to keep all schools and colleges ready by January 25, both for classes to resume as well as for ministers to visit the welfare hostels and make sure they would be ready for occupation," the Chief Minister said.

Students were making do mostly with online classes in the past several months,

with teachers and students sitting at their respective homes and interacting via videomode. Students who did not have online facilities were in deep distress and could not pursue

Schools and higher education institutes are to follow guidelines issued by the Centre in

September for reopening of schools:

1. No force to be exerted on students to attend classes in schools; and consent by parents will be ensured for those who are willing to attend.

2. Students, teachers, and non-teaching staff must

wear facemasks and keep washing their hands at regular intervals.

4. A minimum of six-feet distance will have to be

3. Body temperature of equipment,

thermal

immediately.

of all areas, furniture, equipment, stationery,

maintained in classes and in school premises. 5. Arrange for thorough cleaning and disinfecting

Students with symptoms

of cold and cough will

have to leave the school

scanning.

campus and ensure air flow in indoor space. 6. Ensure availability in school or at contactable distance full-time trained

attendant/nurse/doctor and counsellor to take care of physical and men-tal health of students.

washrooms, laboratories,

libraries etc on school

talk about other than

deities and temples," Srihari said, adding,

the smart city develop-

ment funds are being

diverted. I demand them to

They keep alleging that

Srihari

liament.

DEBT I TALE They are trying to create religious hatred among people in State BJP has no contribution in TS: Kadiyam

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, JAN, 11:

BJP leaders have nothing to convince the people of Telangana to vote for them as their contribution to the state is zero. That is why they are trying to create religious hatred among the people, said MLC Kadiyam Srihari.

Speaking to the media, along with Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar and former MP Prof Seetharam Naik, on Monday, he warned the

Why they do not seek votes speaking about what development they did for the state and what they are going to do in the future.

BJP leaders against making silly inciting comments against the TRS leaders just for the sake of political mileage.

"History suggests that such kind of politics never succeeded in Telangana," he said asking the BJP leaders why they do not

what development they did for the state and what they are going to do in the Srihari said the BJP is in power in several states, but none of them have

seek votes speaking about

development and welfare schemes like in Telangana. "A relatively small and new state like Telangana has stood as a model for the entire country in implementing welfare. Right from the Prime Minister to various minisappreciated

Telangana

schemes. However, before the elections, the BJP leaders are coming and making comments against the state's governance," he stated. Accusing the BJP of not

implementing even the AP reorganisation act, he questioned the lack of progress of projects like Bayyaram steel factory, Kazipet Railway division, Tribal University in Mulugu among others.

Without sanctioning a single irrigation scheme or an institution, the BJP leaders have nothing to

prove the allegations with relevant proof. Referring to the tribal university-sanctioned in Mulugu, he said the state government has already handed over the required land and provided the required funds. But the central government is yet

to pass the bill in the paridentified at 19,027 places

hindrance. Telangana that has villages with as much greentransparent governance.

time," the CM observed. KCR said a majority of lages in a big way.

DECCAN CHRONICLE | KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 12 JANUARY 2021

OTHER STORIES

GOVT SANCTIONS P.G COURSES IN AGRAHARAM CLG

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC

The long-lasting desire of the students was fulfilled with the orders issued by the state government on Monday permitting to start the post-graduation (PG) courses in the Agraharam Government Degree College situated in the temple town Vemulawada of Rajanna Sircilla district.

Vemulawada Chennamneni Ramesh Babu, took initiation and spoke in the assembly during sessions held in March 2020 before the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and stressed the need of introducing PG courses at Agraharam government degree college.

Reacting to the request made by MLA Mr Ramesh Babu, the Commissioner of Higher Education department, Naveen Mittal on Monday issued the G.O.R.T 65 sanctioning the permission for running the MA (Telugu), MA (English) and M.Com PG courses allotting 60 seats in each course for the academic year 2020-2021.

The faculty members of the Agraharam government degree college appealed to the students living in surrounding areas who wrote PG admission tests and qualified to apply for the PG mentioned above cours-

₹119 CRORE **SANCTIONED FOR HIGHWAYS**

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, JAN. 11

Former minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said that the issue of three national highways in Khammam district including Khammam Aswaraopet. Kodad and Khammam-Kodad and Khammam-Warangal that were shaped to bad stage due to heavy rains will be solved soon.

He said that the Central government sanctioned ₹119 crore for the repairs of three roads. He said that the three roads were upgraded as national highways when looking after road and buildings minister. The centre decided to expand the three roads and evolved a detailed project report. It took some months to take up the

The roads were shaped to bad stage due to rains and vehicles' owners are suffering a lot with it. He said that urgent repairs should be taken up before taking up the expansion project. " poke about the issue with A Giridhar, who is working as a secretary for national high-

The officials asked the state road and buildings officials to send proposals for the repairs", he said, adding that the centre sanctioned Rs 119 crore for it. He said that the problems of vehicle owners would be solved with it.

The Centre decided to expand the three roads and evolved a detailed project

Cong to Centre: Withdraw decision on farm laws

Cong opened IKP and PACs centres and purchase the produce from farmers

DC CORRESPONDENT JAGTIAL, JAN. 11

Congress senior leader and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy on Monday, said that since there is no assurance of providing MSP to the agricultural products in the newly introduced agriculture bills by the central government, it must roll back its decision of implementation of new agri bills and the state government must continue purchasing of food grains through IKP and PACS centres without closing them.

As part of the call given by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), the congress leaders of the Congress party along with hundreds of farmers under the leadership of district unit president Adluri Laxman, in support to the farmer's protest in New Delhi staged a dharna and held a rastaroko at Tahasil chowrasta in Jagtial district on Monday.

The traffic was jammed for

more than three hours due to the rasta roko held by the Congress leaders and farm-

Speaking on the occasion, Jeevan Reddy alleged that for saving his illegally earned money, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is mortgaging innocent farmers' lives to the central government.

When the Congress government was in power, to avoid creating any problems to the farmers, it opened the IKP and PACs centres and pur-chased the produce from the farmers, but the TRS government says that it will incur a loss and is trying to close the

Where are those TRS leaders who participated in the Bharat Bandh. If the TRS government behaves stubbornly and does not open the purchasing centres, the TRS leaders cannot go to any vil-lages in the coming days. KCR said that the government incurred a loss of ₹3,500 crore during its seven years of ruling by opening purchasing centres in the

That means when the



Congress leaders, along with the farmers, hold rasta roko at Tahasil chowrasta in Jagtial on

KCR must apologies: Naini

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, JAN. 11

Minister Chandrashekar Rao, who stayed in Delhi for three days, did not express solidarity to the protesting farmers. It is an indication that he does not care for them and only bothered about his interests, said the district Congress committee president Naini Rajender Reddy.

Taking part in a protest at the Ambedkar Junction in Hanamkonda on Monday, he demanded the government roll back the new agriculture bills implemented by the central government. They conducted a rally in a

bid to lay siege to the collector office. However, the police thwarted their attempts and arrested the

Rajender Reddy said it had been 47 days since the farm-

able to allot the budget of at least ₹250 crore for two seasons in a year to the welfare and advancement of the farming sector, then KCR does not have any right to continue in Chief Minister post, he pointed

ers have been protesting against the farm laws near Delhi, but the Centre is refusing to give in.

Criticising the state government for failing to keep its stand on the farm bills, he accused the Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao of taking a U-turn regarding

Even the procurement of paddy has been withdrawn, he noted.

Afraid that PM Narendra Modi would expose his corrupt rule, KCR is now making amends to protect himself, Reddy said. "Because of his decision, the farmers were left in the lurch after KCR encouraged them to cultivate a fine variety of

He not only owes an apology but also needs to purchase them by providing minimum support price (MSP)," Reddy said.

think about the farmers' welfare, is it a shop or a business company to esti-mate profits and loss and then take up welfare activities, he questioned.

He demanded the central government to suspend the new agriculture bills that Does the government not are of no use to farmers.

LEADERS STAGE STIR IN SUPPORT OF FARMERS

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, JAN. 21:

On Monday, Congress party leaders and activists staged a dharna in front of the collectorate in support of agitating farmers and opposing three farm acts.
They have raised slogans

supporting the agitating farmers in Delhi and criticised the Central government led by the BJP for not accepting the farmers demands.

TPCC state general secretary Gandrath Sujatha said the central government is talking much about the farmers' welfare but in reality, is causing huge loss to the farmers on various accounts.

She said that BJP government is showing apathy towards the farmers though thousands of farmers are participating in the agitation daring the cold weather condi-

The DCC in-charge president Sajid Khan and Utnoor ZPTC Charu Latha

Adivasis told to give priority to educate kids

Elected public representatives on Monday called upon the Adivasis to give top priority to the education for their children so that the community could survive in the future. Addressing on the occasion of 34th death anniversary of Anthropologist Christoph Von Furer Haimendorf and Betty Ellizebeth at Marlavai in Jainoor mandal,

DC CORRESPONDENTZilla ParishadChair-KOMARAM BHEEM ASI-person Kova LaxmiFABAD, JAN. 11MLA Atram Sakku and other leaders insisted that parents should ensure that their children go for higher education so that they could get good jobs.

The leaders said education is the only weapon that can change the Adivasis's lives and live a better life and added that students should realise that they will not have good jobs with intermediate qualification.

Kova Atram Laxmi Sakku Adivasi students should avail free coaching to be offered by the district administration to write entrance for teacher and police constable jobs. Appeal to support TRS.Both the ZP chairperson and MLA Kova Laxmi and Atram Sakku appealed to the Adivasis and community and Rai Centre leaders to support the ruling TRS government which is working for the welfare of the Adivasis.

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Residents Coal town land row settled

KOTHAGUDEM, JAN. 11

Residents of the coal town, who have lived here for the past 40 years and were agitating for land rights, are heaving a sigh of relief, thanks to the implementation of GO No. 76.

According to available details, 13, 000 people, settled in Kothagudem for the last seven decades for various purposes, occupied the lands belonging to SCCL and constructed houses due to a lack of private land in the coal

They have been pressing for regularisation of lands with selling rights. The government took several years to get the lands from SCCL and to issue pattas to the residents Unlike the earlier GO

No 373, the present one has given them selling rights, which implies that they can sell their property and the government is giving them a chance to register these

About 720 members got land pattas on Monday in

Nakka Nageswara Rao, a resident waiting for land patta on his house in Kothagudem, said, "My days of agony have ended.

It is the happiest moment in my life. I can now sleep in my house without any fear GO No. 373 that was

issued fifteen years back has facilitated the residents to get pattas but not ownership rights. About 4,500 persons got

pattas under the GO but its implementation was

To settle the issue forever, the incumbent government issued GO No.

76 in July, 2019 and provided property rights to the residents. About 7,400 persons applied online for the land pattas. Kothagudem

Vanama Venkateswara Rao said that he will pursue the issue till the last patta is issued to the residents. "I want to end the issue

forever and the remaining people will be given pattas in fifteen days", he



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Announce PRC for govt staff: Goud

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, JAN. 11

The Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao leading Bangaru Telangana state into the dark and is trying to build it on the foundation of lies, alleged the former chairman of Legislative Telangana Council and former TNGO's president, Swamy Goud.

Swamy Goud participated in the dharna held under the Telangana Prantha Upadhyaya Sangam (TPUS) here in front of the Collectorate in Karimnagar on Monday. Swamy Goud warned CM

KCR not to betray teachers who are the nation builders. If they firmly decide then they would surely dethrone him from the CM chair. What is the use of achieving separate Telangana state when the employees and their family members are starving when there are tioned. CM KCR is trying to deceive the people with his mesmerizing words. He is also trying to create disputes among the government employees and teachers unions.

The government must call the teacher unions' leaders immediately and must dis-

Swamy Goud warned K. Chandrasekhar Rao not to betray teachers who are the nation builders. If they firmly decide they would surely dethrone him from the CM chair.

cuss with them to resolve their issues. Without filling the thou-

sands of posts vacant in various departments, the TRS government is playing with the lives of unemployed youth, he alleged.

He demanded the state government announce PRC immediately and give promotions and take up transfers such that both wife and husband can stay at one place and village, taking up the attender and scavenger posts in government departments immediately without

any delay. The former Katakam Mruthyunjay, TPUS district president, Ambati Venu Kumar, genersecretary Veeramalla Venkata Ramana Rao, former state president of TPUS Sagi Ramchander Rao, members N. Muralidhar Rao, Rajeshwar, Krishna Gopal and Co-chairman of retired employees union, Narahari Laxma

were were present.

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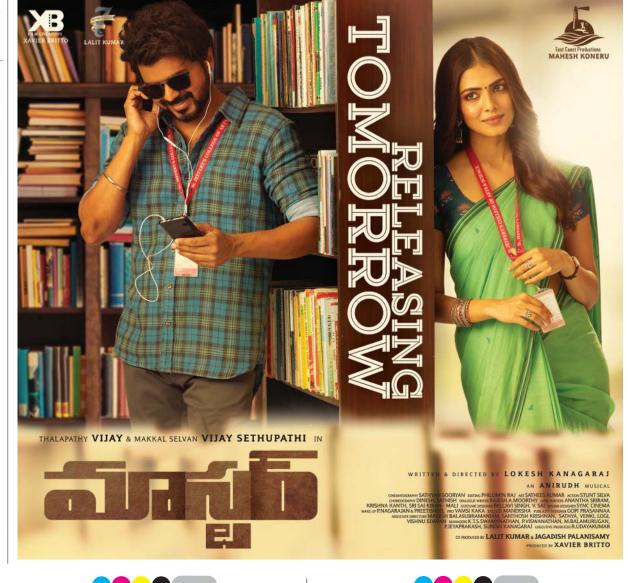
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SHORT TAKES

PDP YOUTH LEADER SENT TO 7-DAY REMAND

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN, 11

People's Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader Waheed Ur Rehman Parra was on Monday sent to a 7-day police remand in connection with an alleged politician-militants nexus and terror funding case by a court in Jammu.

A report received from the winter capital said that two days after arresting Parra, a special wing of the J&K police produced him before a court which granted it his custody till January 18 to enable it to interrogate him in connection with a case related to an alleged nexus involving politicians, militants and their Over Ground Workers (OWGs) and sympathisers and illegal money transactions.

The police sources said that the case in which the J&K police's Criminal Investigation Kashmir (CIK) wing rearrested Parra was registered by it under Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 sometime ago and has since filed over two dozen FIRs at various police stations across the Union Territory. The sources said that Parra will be brought

to Srinagar for questioning. The sleuths of the CIK had taken 33-year-old Parra in custody within the premises of a Jammu prison soon after he was released from over six week long detection at the weekend.

MP WOMAN SAVES GANG RAPE VICTIM FROM ABDUCTION

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 11

In a show of courage, a woman in a Madhya Pradesh village challenged four miscreants and rescued a 'gang rape' victim from them. Sribai Dhanak (54) of Abchand village under Sagar district fought singlehandedly with the four men who were trying to abduct a woman after allegedly gang raping her, and saved her from their clutches.

"It was around 1 am on September 29, the woman carrying two children, ran towards me pleading to save her. She was completely naked. I was then alone in my farmland harvesting the standing crop", Sribai recounted the incident before Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday. She tried to calm to protect her from the four miscreants who later surfaced and threatened to burn her alive by pouring petrol on her if she resisted their move to kidnap the woman.
"I had picked a 'lathi' (stick)

and dared them to come close to the woman. I held them back for nearly half-an-hour till my son, Debraj, landed there to take them on. Later, my son called the local police on his mobile phone, scaring the four accused to flee the spot", she recalled.

DIDI LIKENS BJP WORKERS TO TRUMPISTS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI I DC KOLKATA, JAN. 11

Equating the BJP workers with former US President Donald Trump's supporters, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Monday made a forecast that they would erupt like the violent Republican followers if their party loses the next election. In a fresh jibe, the Trinamul Congress supremo also branded the BJP as a "Bharatiya Junk Party" to mock it's fill-up of rank and file with tainted leaders from other parties

ahead of the Assembly polls. "They (BJP) first inflicted us with notebandi (demonetisation). Then Covid-19 left us grihabandi (home confinement). Next they will do jailbandi before putting entire India under confinement like Trump has been doing in the US. Like he insisted 'I won, I won' even after his defeat, they will also claim 'Hum Jeeta Hai, Hum Jeeta Hai' after their loss. There is no difference between them. They are same just like two sides of the same coin, Banerjee told a party rally at Ranaghat in Nadia.

Alleging the rule of "dictatorship through Presidential form of governance" across the country, she claimed, "The BJP is setting the central agencies after people to bring them on its side. Some people who minted lot of money have switched their side under the threat of either the CBI or ED.'

Delhi bans livestock from other states

8 samples sent to lab test positive for avian influenza; Dy CM asks people not to panic

DC CORRESPONDENT With agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN. 11

The national capital on

Monday confirmed bird flu cases after eight samples sent to a Bhopalbased laboratory tested positive for avian influenza. "All eight samples – four from a park in Mayur Vihar Phase 3, three from Sanjay Lake and one from Dwarka — have been found positive for avian influenza. The report of the test results arrived on Monday morning," said Dr Rakesh Singh from the animal husbandry unit of Development Department

However, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Monday asked people not to panic as there is no cause for concern. "Only samples of duck from Sanjay Lake have tested positive for bird flu. There is no cause for concern. Reports of other samples are awaited,' Sisodia said at a press briefing. The Delhi gov-ernment had also decided to ban the sale of processed and packaged chicken brought from outside the city as a precautionary measure, he said.

"The Delhi government is making all efforts to check the spread of bird flu and monitoring the situation. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is constantly in touch with officials. There is no need to panic as bird flu does not spread from one person to

another," he said. He said Sanjay Lake area was sanitised after the samples of ducks from there tested positive for bird flu, he said.

Sisodia also listed steps taken by the government to prevent the spread of the disease, especially since park areas in Delhi reported several deaths among crows and ducks in the last week.

The government has closed Ghazipur poultry market and banned entry of livestock from outside Delhi. Sisodia said that the

Delhi government has decided to ban sale of processed and packaged chicken brought from outside the city as a pre-cautionary measure. The poultry market



Horticulture team members gather geese for medication following reports of bird flu cases at Sanjay Lake in New Delhi on Monday.

Ghazipur has been temporarily shut down.

Meanwhile, Himachal Pradesh government on Monday banned the supply of all poultry products from other states for a week amid the bird flu scare, an official spokesman said.

In a statement issued here, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the ban was imposed to ensure that infection sources do come from other states through poultry items. Meanwhile, 122 more migratory birds of various species were found dead in Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary on Monday, wildlife department officials said. wildlife With this, the death toll

of migratory water birds has risen to 4,357. "Most of the dead birds stuck in the inaccessible

swampy areas have been retrieved and the area cleared of carcasses," Chief Wildlife Warden Archana Sharma said. Besides, around 215 other birds including crows have also been found dead in various parts of the state.

Five districts in Maha hit by bird flu, health alert issued

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 11

Maharashtra has become the ninth state in the country to be hit by bird flu as crows and birds from five districts were found positive for avian influenza by the Bhopal-based National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD). State Health Minister Rajesh Tope has called for a health alert to be issued across the state to tackle the disease.

The Bhopal-based lab confirmed that two crows from Mumbai died due to bird flu while three pond egrets and a parrot from neighbouring Thane were found positive for avian influenza virus. In addition to this, a chicken and two herons from Parbhani, while crows

from Beed and Dapoli (in Ratnagiri district) were infected by avian influenza virus.

from Apart Maĥarashtra, bird flu cases have so far been confirmed Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Himachal Pradesh, Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh

In Mumbai, 11 more dead crows were found near Tata Colony in Chembur's RCF area, whereas in Thane as many as 20 birds, including pond herons, parakeets have been found dead over the last four days. Some 800 chickens in a poultry farm were found dead due to bird flu at Muramba village in

'Culling of all birds will now be undertaken up to a

1km radius of the infected zone in Parbhani where the poultry samples were found positive. The district administration has decided to cull nearly birds Muramba village," Parbhani district collector Deepak Mugalikar said.

Maharashtra The animal husbandry department has so far recorded 1,205 deaths of birds various since January 8.

Tope said that there is a need to issue a health alert across the state to tackle the disease.

"It has now been confirmed that bird flu has entered Maharashtra. To prevent the spread of the disease, the health and animal husbandry departments should issue health alert," he said.

LUCKNOW ZOO

CLOSES AVIARY

FOR VISITORS

Lucknow, Jan. 11: The Lucknow Zoo has suspended its bird exchange programme and closed its aviary for visitors after Uttar Pradesh confirmed outbreak of the avian influenza when samples of a couple of bird carcasses in Kanpur zoo were found positive for the disease.

The Kanpur Zoological Park has already been closed for visitors till further orders.
"The bird section of

the Lucknow Zoo was closed on Sunday and the bird exchange programme has been temporarily suspended. The bird-exchange pro-gramme is carried out on a regular basis. Last year, we had brought two to three birds in exchange," Zoo official said. — PTI

SRIPAD NAIK INJURED IN ROAD MISHAP, **WIFE KILLED**

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

Union Minister for Ayush and Defence Shripad S. Naik was injured while his wife Vijaya and his personal assistant died in an accident at Hosakambi on Monday night.

Police officials said that they were travelling from Yellapur to Gokarna when the minister's car overturned injuring all the six in the vehicle.

The injured were immediately rushed to the Ankola Taluk Hospital for treatment. Sources said that Vijaya Naik and the minister's personal assistant died in the road mishap.

Four others including the minister were seriously injured. They were shifted to hospital in Goa.

Naik is being brought to Goa Medical College for further treatment, the official said.
Prime Minister

Narendra Modi has spoken to Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to ensure proper medical treatment for the minister, sources said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also spoke to Sawant about speedy medical treatment of Naik (68).

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa condoled the demise of Naik's wife and conveyed his wishes for Naik's speedy recovery.

Police said Naik, along with his wife, personal assistant Deepak, his close confidante Kiran, gunman and the driver were heading Yallapur from Gokarna on Monday night.

On the way, the driver lost his control over the car near Hosakambi village in Ankola Taluk of Uttara Kannada and the vehicle overturned.

'It was not a collision between vehicles. Prima facie it appears to be the case of the driver losing control of the car" a police officer said.

BJP will take care of Assam's unique culture, says Nadda

MANOJ ANANDI DC GUWAHATI, JAN. 11

Bharatiya Janata Party president J.P. Nadda on Monday said that his party will always take good care of the state's unique culture and language. Nadda, who is on a two-day visit to poll-bound Assam, addressed a public rally in Silchar. He highlighted the Modi governachievements while referring that the Bodo crisis which was hanging for nearly 50 decades as well the Bru-Reang crisis were resolved by the BJP-led government at the Centre. Targeting the Congress-

led opposition in Assam, Nadda said that the state got only ₹50,000 crore for development during the Congress regime, however, the Modi government provided ₹3 lakh crore for the development of the north-eastern state.

Listing down BJP government's achievements,



BJP national president J.P. Nadda addresses a public meeting in Silchar on Monday.

Nadda said that Assam is 100 per cent open defecation free, and out of the 11 crore toilets built, 35 lakh were built here. He also lauded the achievement of the state in the health sector while referring to the low mortality rate from the previous regime.
The BJP chief said,

"Lotus is blooming across India. The NDA always talked about giving importance to the state of Assam in India. If the identity of Assam has been strengthened at national level, it was done by the NDA government

ASSAM TO WAIVE MFI LOANS FOR WOMEN

DC CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI, JAN. 11

In a series of freebies announced by the government in the run up to the Assembly polls in April this year, Assam finance minister and senior BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Monday announced that the state government will waive off the loans borrowed by women from micro-finance

institutions (MFI). Sarma while addressing a public meeting said, "We have decided to waive off the loans taken by our mothers and sisters from MFIs as soon as possible so that they can lead a dignified life. We cannot let them be harassed by the brokers of MFIs."

Aim is to get 30-cr vaccinated: PM VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a meeting, through video conferencing, with the chief ministers and administrators of all states and Union states and Union Territories to review the status and preparedness for Covid-19 vaccination that will kick off from

January 16. The PM said India aims to achieve vaccination for about 30 crore people in the next few months and added that the state governments will not have to bear any cost towards the inoculation of the 3 crore health workers (including private sector), frontline workers, police, paramilitary and civil defence personnel, sanitation workers and revenue officials associated with containment and surveillance in the

however, remained silent on who pays for the rest of the population though the Union health minister Dr

will be free of cost for all. The PM said that the pri-

ority of who gets the vaccine first has been decided as per the advice of the experts and scientific community after consultation with the states. He also cautioned that there will be no out-of-turn vaccination for politicians and, instead of jumping the queue, they should wait for their turn. The PM's statement came after requests from Harvana and Punjab state government to include their elected representatives like

The Prime Minister said that the country is in a decisive phase of this fight, with the start of the world's biggest vaccination campaign from January 16. "From January January 16, India will begin the world's biggest vaccination campaign. It is a matter of pride that the two vaccines which have been given approval for emergency use are made in India," PM said. Harsh Vardhan had said He underlined that "the

MPs and MLAs in the first

phase vaccination list

this vaccination campaign is the identification and monitoring of those who have to be vaccinated. For this, a digital platform named CoWin has also been created using modern technology.'

The government will use Aadhaar to register gen-uine beneficiaries and for the timely second dosage. After a person receives the first dose of vaccination, CoWin will immediately generate a digital vaccination certificate. This certificate will also act as a reminder for the second dose, after which a final certificate will be given.

The PM noted that the booth-level strategy used for elections needs to be used here as well and added that during vaccination, people must maintain appropriate behavior to stave off any spread of infection. "We must continue to follow Covid-19 protocols during the vaccination campaign. All states and UTs must ensure that rumours around the vaccination

most important thing in allowed to spread," the PM

It is learnt that the government has placed order with the Serum Institute of India (SII) for its Covishield vaccine at a price of ₹200 per vial for the first 100 million doses. SII CEO had told the media that the vaccine is likely to be priced at about ₹1,000 per dose in the private market once the government allows for that. If the government does not fund or subsidise the vaccines for the rest of the population then the twodose vaccination schedule

will cost a person ₹2,000. Though the daily fresh cases of Covid-19 in India are on a decline — 16,311 cases were reported in the last 24 hours — the country is facing a fresh challenge lenge from the new variant of the mutated Covid-19 virus that has been imported through the UK returnees. The number of persons with the new variant of the virus has reached 96. In the last 24 hours the daily fatality fig-ures fell down below 200 and were 161 on Monday.

PEDOPHILE | HELD

CBI brings him to Delhi for detailed forensic, medical and psychological assessment

CBI probe finds 70 kids abused by UP govt engineer

with agency inputs

A CBI probe into the Uttar Pradesh child porn racket has revealed that 70 children were allegedly exploited by the Uttar Pradesh government junior engineer Ram Bhawan, who was arrested last year.

Sources in the agency said, "the victims include children as young as 4 years to adults of age 22 vears. Some of the exploited children are relatives of Ram Bhawan." The arrest-

ed junior engineer Ram Bhawan is now undergoing certain tests at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national capital, sources said, adding he will also be examined for his mental stability apart from HIV.

The CBI has brought the junior engineer to the national capital for a detailed forensic, medical and psychological assessment by a team of AIIMS doctors, officials said.

He will undergo tests to assess psychological state, voice analysis and potency

by experts, officials said.

The team of AIIMS experts will conduct an exhaustive analysis of his psychological condition, they said. His voice analysis will be done at Central Laboratory to compare it

with the voice in videos recovered during searches at his residence, they said. In addition, he will also undergo a potency test to discard any future claim by the accused about his inability to perform sexual

acts, they said. The accused is believed

tors that he was silently operating in the three districts — Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot — for the last 10 years, preying upon poor children between 5-16

years of age, they said. He used to buy their silence using cash and gifts of electronic gadgets such as mobile phones,

adopted by the accused helped him to keep away from the radar of investigating agencies.

officials said. The modus operandi

"Apart from the physical

recorded their acts using their mobile phones, laptops and other electronic devices. "It was further alleged

that these photographs and video films containing child sexual abuse material were published and transmitted by the accused using the Internet," CBI had said after the arrest.

In November, CBI arrested Ram Bhawan (40) for sexually abusing minors for several years and sell-

the accused also allegedly Internet. The CBI also arrested two other persons last week, including an engineer, for the sale and purchase of videos of sexual abuse of children over Instagram and other social media platform.

"Investigators also found that the porn videos the accused sold on the dark web were of high quality. The agency has in its possession about 100 videos found on pen drives and a laptop it received from an anonymous whistle-blow-

equipment during the searches it carried out as part of its investigation", sources said. The agency is also investigating the role of family members of Ram Bhawan, sources said adding if required the agency may also analyse their call detail records.

Meanwhile, it is also believed that another central probe agency — Enforcement Directorate - may initiate a separate

probe under the provisions of the Prevention of er. It recovered spy cam- Money Laundering Act.

SHORT TAKES

CHINA: NO BIRTH CONTROL IN XINJIANG

Beijing, Jan. 11: A Chinese official on Monday denied Beijing has imposed coercive birth control measures among Muslim minority women, following an outcry over a tweet by the Chinese Embassy in Washington claiming that government polices had freed women of the Uighur ethnic group from being "baby-making machines."

Xu Guixiang, a deputy spokesperson for the Xinjiang regional government, said Monday that birth control decisions were made of the person's own free will and that "no organisation or individual can interfere." "The growth rate of the Uighur population is not only higher than that of the whole Xinjiang population, but also higher than that of the minority population, and more significantly higher than that of the (Chinese majority) Han population," Xu said.

KIM ASSUMES **LATE FATHER'S**

Seoul, Jan. 11: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has had his official party title changed. state media reported Monday assuming a position previous ly held by his late father in what analysts said was a move to bolster his authority.

The North Korean economy is struggling in the face of selfimposed coronavirus isolation, and is subject to multiple sanctions over its banned nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

At the same time, nuclear talks with the United States have been deadlocked since the collapse of the Hanoi summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in February 2019. The ruling Workers' Party of Korea "unanimously adopted" a decision to elect Kim as general secretary at its congress on Sunday, the official KCNA news agency reported.

Biden taps career diplomat William Burns as CIA chief

Taps a retired veteran diplomat who helped lead secret talks with Iran

Washington, Jan. 11: US on Monday announced William Burns as his pick to lead the Central Intelligence Agency, tapping a retired veteran diplomat who helped lead secret talks with Iran.

Burns, along with Biden's nominee for director of national intelligence, Avril Haines, will be tasked with rebuilding the US spy community's reputation after it was heavily politicized under outgoing President Donald Trump.

Currently president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a leading Washington for-eign policy think-tank, Burns will be the first career diplomat to lead the

Presidents have generally turned to intelligence or military veterans or politicians to lead the largest, best-funded component of the sprawling US intelli-

gence community.
But Burns has deep experience in security and intelligence matters after decades in the US foreign service, including a stint as ambassador to Russia from 2005-2008.

"Bill Burns is an exemdiplomat with decades of experience on the world stage keeping our people and our coun-try safe and secure," Biden said in a statement.

Burns will replace Gina Haspel, an agency veteran who became the first female CIA director after moved Mike Trump Pompeo to be secretary of

One of Trump's most trusted aides, politically ambitious Pompeo was



In this file photograph taken on January 16, 2010, a reporter from Iranian television (L) asks a question of US diplomat Williams Burns (C) as he leaves a meeting of the Iran 6

accused of catering to his boss's whims and allowing intelligence material to be twisted to serve Trump's policy desires while he led he agency.

Haspel, in the position since 2018, has been more low-key and disciplined, intelligence experts say, and even openly fell out of favor with the president in his final months in office when Trump rejected intelligence that Russia was again meddling in the election to help him.

in the agency included taking part in the torture of Al-Qaeda suspects after the September 1, 2001 attacks, now clearly illegal

But Haspel's long tenure

activity that is one of the darker blemishes on the CIA's reputation — though Trump thought it was a good thing.

Broadly respected and having served in top positions under both Democratic and Republican administrations, Burns and Haines should have little trouble gaining approval by the Senate.

Burns, 64, served in the US diplomatic corps for 33 years, in jobs that took him around the world, including important roles in the Middle East in addition to his Russia posting.

"If Donald Trump had He was central in the been reelected for a second back-channel negotiations four years as president. then American democracy by the previous adminis-

into the intensive care unit," Burns said in an online conference last month. "erratic" and

"unsteady" policies under Trump, Biden will have "the most difficult inheritance that any new president has faced since Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the height of the Great Depression 90 years ago, he said.

"Recovering the power of America's example of our competence after the experience of the last few years is going to be a critical driver of our foreign policy."The biggest geopolitical test for the United States going ahead, he said, is "going to be managing an intense, longterm competition with China.'

Meanwhile, the Treasury placed sanctions Monday on four Ukrainians who aided President Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani in an election campaign effort to smear Democrat Joe Biden.

Former Ukrainian government officials Konstantin Kulvk. Oleksandr Onyshchenko, Andriy Telizhenko, and current Ukraine lawmaker Oleksandr Dubinsky were called part of an effort led by "Russian agent" Andrii Derkach to undermine Biden's presidential run, the Treasury

All four were in contact with or met with Giuliani in late 2019 as he sought to compile evidence that now President-elect Biden and his son Hunter were involved in corruption in

Democrats start impeachment of Trump in House

cess of impeaching President Donald Trump for a second time on Monday if Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet do not remove him from office.

Democrats introduced a resolution calling on Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment of the Constitution and remove Trump from the White House for being unfit to discharge his duties. Republicans blocked an

immediate vote on the resolution and Democrats followed up by introducing an article of impeachment of Trump for "incitement of insurrection" over his role in Wednes-day's storming of the US Capitol by his supporters.

The dramatic moves come just nine days before Trump is to leave the White House and President-elect Joe Biden is to be sworn in as the 46th

Washington, Jan. 11: president of the United Democrats began the prosentative Steny Hoyer of Maryland introduced the resolution calling on Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment and declare Trump "incapable of executing the duties of his office."Republican Representative Alex Mooney of West Virginia objected to passing the resolution by what is known as "unanimous consent" and it will be put to vote on Tuesday.

After Republicans blocked the resolution, a single article of impeachment against Trump was introduced Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

Trump was impeached by the House in December 2019 and now risks being the first president ever to be impeached twice.

It is unclear whether the body would hold a trial this time to consider the latest charges.

WHO TEAM TO FIND COVID ORIGINS **ARRIVES IN CHINA ON JAN. 14**

Beijing, Jan. 11: China ian told a media briefing country on Thursday for a long-anticipated probe into the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic, ending the uncertainty and delay which drew sharp criticism from the

world health body.
Experts from the WHO
will conduct a field visit to China on January 14, the state-run CGTN quoted China's National Health Commission as saying in a report. Confirming the visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lij-

said on Monday that a on Monday that China group of experts from the WHO will arrive in the around the world to conduct a global study on the origins and transmission routes of the virus.

Zhao declined to provide details of the schedule of the experts and whether they would be permitted to visit the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). US President (WIV). US President Donald Trump, who has termed coronavirus "China virus", has alleged that the virus may have emanated from WIV and called for a probe into it.
— PTI

E FINANCIAL

TUESDAY | 12 JANUARY 2021 | KARIMNAGAR

INDICATORS 1.00 49269.32 Nifty 50 14484.80 0.96 S&P 500* 3,809.27 -0.40 73.42 Dollar (₹) -0.23 Pound Sterling (₹) 99.01 0.60 0.43 89.26 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 48,866▲389 0.79 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 55.60 -0.70 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.924 0.00 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 1.131 2.14 * As of 8:30 PM IST

Vani Manja is Boehringer's country MD



Drug firm Boehringer Ingelheim said it has appointed Vani Manja as country MD for India, effective Jan. 1. Vani will look after the businesses in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. She will also join the board. Vani succeeds Sharad Tyagi, who retired on Dec. 31. She was formerly the global head of Boehringer Ingelheim's go-to-market and business steering organisation, based in Germany. She joined the group in the US in 2011.

■ Closer to ₹200-L cr m-cap milestone

Sensex moves past 49K-mark

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JAN, 11

India's most widely tracked equity index, the Sensex, seemed cruising to the 50000-mark, an unthinkable milestone a few years ago, as it closed above the 49000-mark for the first time, gaining 486.8 points to close the day at 49,269.32. The new record high came on positive global cues and third quarter

earnings expectations, fall in daily Covid cases and high expectations from the upcoming union budget. The Nifty 50 Index, too,

closed at a new high of 14484.75, up 137 points, or 0.9 per cent.

With the ongoing massive rally, the BSE's market cap-italisation is getting closer to the Rs 200-lakh crore mark, as it is now at Rs 196.56 lakh crore. After the IT sector bell-wether Tata Consultancy

Services posted impressive

third quarter performance last Friday, IT stocks made hefty gains on Monday, with the BSE IT Index moving up 3.63 per cent. Another sector that helped market bench-

marks gain close to 1 per cent was automobile. The BSE Auto Index was up 2.56 per cent. The top gainers included

Infosys (4.90 per cent), Wipro (3.87 per cent), Tech Mahindra (2.54 per cent). TCS (1.75 per cent) and HCL Technologies (6.09 per

TCS hit a new all-time high of Rs 3,224 before closing at Rs 3,175. TCS market capitalisation soared to Rs



NSE LAUNCHES DERIVATIVES ON NIFTY FINANCIAL SERVICES INDEX

New Delhi, Jan. 11: The National Stock Exchange on Monday launched derivatives on the Nifty Financial Services Index, which will give more flexibility to institutional and retail investors to manage their hedge. This is the first time the exchange has made available week ly futures for the stock index derivatives.

stocks and is designed to reflect the behaviour and performance of the Indian financial market, which includes banks, financial institutions, housing finance, insurance companies and other financial services firms.

The first day witnessed volumes of 1.4 lakh contracts being traded.—PTI

11.91 lakh crore, close to top company by market-cap, Reliance Industries (Rs 12.02 lakh crore) as the latter's stock price fell 1.8 per cent to Rs 1,897 on the

Recounting the day's mar-ket movement Shrikant Chouhan, analyst-equity technical research, Kotak Securities, said, "Another day with tremendous gains for the market. Markets closed higher for the day, led by auto, IT, pharmaceuticals and select FMCG stocks...It seems that the

market has gained momen-

tum due to the bright possibilities of bold announcements in the forthcoming union budget.

The top auto sector gainers included Tata Motors (11.11 per cent), Ashok Leyland (3.8 per cent), Maruti (2.75 per cent), Bajaj Auto (2.40 per cent) and Mahindra & Mahindra (2.37 per cent).

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers on Monday of equities worth Rs 3,138.90 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 2,610.13 crore.

NEXT TRANCHE OF MINING AUCTION SOON: MINISTER

tration of Barack Obama

that set the stage for the

2015 deal to limit Iran's

deal that Trump summarily quit in 2018, with the

support of Pompeo but not

everyone in US intelli-

At Carnegie since 2014, Burns defended the idea

that Washington should

remain a leader and sup-

port multilateralism as

Trump radically reshaped

the US world role, can-celling treaties, bullying

allies, and taking a US-

first, go-it-alone stance.

nuclear capabilities

gence circles.

New Delhi, Jan. 11: Coal minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said the next tranche of commercial mines auction will be launched this month and stressed that further rounds will continue thereafter.

Speaking at the agreement signing ceremony for commercial coal mining and launch of single-window clearance system, he said commercial coal mining has been made a part of the system now.

'The next tranche of commercial auction would be launched in January 2021, and further tranches will continue thereafter," he said.

Speaking at the function, home minister Amit Shah said the country has reached a position where the coal sector can be the biggest contributor towards the target of India becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

He said despite having the world's fourthlargest coal reserves, India is importing coal and this is not right for the country.

The coal minister said the single-window clearance portal is in the spirit of minimum government and maximum governance. At present, about 19

major approval or clearances are required before starting a coal mine. In the absence of a unified platform for clearances, the companies were required to approach different departments, he said.

Pandemic shrinks women workforce more than men

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 11

The coronavirus pandemic has affected women workforce disproportionately compared to men. The women labour force in India shrank by 10.5 per cent against 2 per cent for men between October 2019 and October 2020, finds the Asian Development Bank.

Despite being a universal crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women, says an ADB

Between March and April 2020, 37 per cent of the female workforce, or 15.4 million women, lost their jobs versus 28 per cent of men. The labour force shrank by 10.5 per cent for women versus 2 per cent for men between October 2019 and October

Women-owned small businesses, which largely operate in consumer-facing sectors such as textiles, food processing and handicrafts, witnessed a sharp demand shock, with revival being slow. In the informal sectors, anecdotal evidence points toward men being preferred for re-employment as the economy

Women also face additional mobility restric-tions. Even before Covid-19, only 54 per cent of women were allowed to go to a nearby market alone. Only 48 per cent could visit places outside their village or community by themselves, according to the National Family and Health Survey conducted in 2015-



IN AN UNEOUAL WORLD

Women-owned small businesses, which largely operate in consumer-facing sectors, witnessed a sharp demand shock

In March-April, 37% of the female workforce lost their jobs versus 28% of men

▶ The labour force shrank by 10.5% for women versus 2% for men between October 2019 and October 2020

16. With the pandemic, women now require strong reasons to leave home, inhibiting their ability to work, run businesses, study or even avail of health care serv-

ices and government aid. The pandemic has led to an increase in domestic work. On an average, women spent five hours per day on unpaid household and care-giving work compared to 30 minutes for men, according to a survey conducted in 2019. As school closures continue and families remain at home during Covid-19, women's care work has increased by

almost 30 per cent. Further, the digital gender divide has worsened inequity in access to education, health and work opportunities. In India, 63 per cent of adult women own a mobile phone compared to 79 per cent adult men. Only 21 per cent use mobile internet compared to 42 per cent adult men. Women are systematically denied access to technology, with phone use governed by male relatives. With online classes, telemedicine and work from home becoming the norm, women are at risk getting left behind, unable to acquire the skills required to partici-pate in a digital economy, say the ADB.

However, government has taken a few steps that have benefitted women. Direct cash transfers, free grains for ration cardholders, increase in collateral-free lending limits for women selfhelp groups and increase in the number of person days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment Guarantee** Programme are some of

Chronicle

Will FM offer India the mega-stimulus it needs?

ith the Union Budget just 20 days away, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman must be giving the final contours to her second full-fledged financial statement for the country — the third if one were to include the interim budget that she presented in 2019. Coming in the middle of a rare pandemic that wiped out several businesses in the service sector, plummeted consumer demand and left hundreds of thousands of people unemployed, all eyes in the country will be looking at Ms Sitharaman's Budget for relief.

Though the Reserve Bank and the government had announced steps, including a loan moratorium, emergency working credit, and cash transfers to women from the economically low-income families, the concerted action fell short of addressing the collapse of consumer demand. Despite its grandstanding announcements, the government had provided a stimulus that worked to be just around 1.2 per cent of GDP and the economy continued to wobble. The government, however, promised to unleash its economic firepower at a later stage, which raised hopes of a belated stimulus in the Union Budget

Without a credible revenue-raising plan, the Union **Budget 2021-22** may end up being a statement of intent rather than action.

that could put the economy back on its tracks. Of late, there have been several hints of the finance minister presenting an expenditureheavy Budget on February 1. However, there is no clarity on the avenues for revenue mop-up, especially in the wake of a not-so-healthy state of tax collections in a recession-hit economy. Some reports suggested the possibility of a cess – possibly named after Covid-19 — to raise rev-

enue to boost government spending. However, the jury is out on how a new tax that takes away money from people's pockets would help to revive consumer demand. It was suggested that it could be levied on super-rich individuals. But will it be enough to finance a mega stimulus that the people of this country are expecting from the government? The answer is very unlikely. Without a credible revenue-raising plan, the Union Budget 2021-22 may end up being a statement of intent rather than action. The government should, therefore, shed some of its worries about the fiscal deficit and unleash its spending power on productivity projects such as metro rail projects and dedicated freight corridors that have long-term utility of reducing India's dependence on imported fossil fuel. Alternatively, it could guarantee or refinance construction loans for subprime borrowers who already own land where they intend to build or rebuild houses. While this would be an expenditure neutral measure for the government, this step would create an upsurge in the construction activity that will have a positive ripple effect on many other sectors and create lakhs of jobs. The government could also ease up on fiscal deficit to invest on health infrastructure that the country woefully lacks by building primary healthcare centres on its land and let private healthcare professionals run it on a public-private partnership model.

Borrowing for creating value for the future generations is always seen as better than doling out handouts — a principle that the ruling BJP always claims it has believed in. The finance minister will hopefully be guided by this principle while preparing for the Union Budget on February 1.

Indonesia: Air disaster again

t is tragic but it was probably predestined that the New Year's first air disaster should occur in Indonesia, the country with the worst aviation $oldsymbol{\mathsf{L}}$ safety record with 104 civilian airliner accidents and over 1,300 related fatalities since 1945. Not much time flies by without the nation of 17,508 islands witnessing aviation incidents. The last major disaster was a Lion Air Boeing Max going down without giving the pilots a chance of re-establishing control of the aircraft thanks to the controversial anti-stall software programme. The event last week involved a much older Boeing 737-500 plane of Sriwijaya Airlines, which went down into the Java Sea, probably from mechanical failure or pilot error, which can be established only after studying data from the black boxes that divers have located.

Aviation is no more dangerous than it was before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, but pilots are complaining the downtime in 2020 due to severe travel curbs, when they have had to do with simulator training rather than frequent flying, may be affecting their performance somewhat. While aviation experts believe the plane climbing out of Jakarta may have been going too slowly for 10,000 feet altitude, the fall within a few seconds must have been horrendous. The budget flight had already faced a weather delay and Indonesian aircraft also face unique problems like flights through volcanic ash that may affect engine performance because of ingestion. And in any case, poor maintenance is a problem that has dogged Indonesian aviation.

The families of the 62 unlucky people on board may get some sense of closure only from the fact that it appears to be an accident, and not due to diabolical corporate carelessness as in the Boeing Max disasters or the Malaysian aircraft that may have been flown to extinction. However, it is no comfort that open skies in an era of lackadaisical attitude to air safety could be an invitation to such poor advertisements for aviation. Ironically, this comes as an all-woman crew steered Air India's longest flight over the North Pole on the way from San Francisco to Bengaluru, epitomising air

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The Three Ks: Some old ideas revisited



Asad Durrani

View from Pakistan

hursheed Ali Khan was no run-of-the-mill general. Sehind a laissez-faire demeanor, he was a serious practitioner of military art, with a sterling soldierly character. In a war game, he tasked me with making a plan, but then suggested I modify it to bring out a few lessons. Nothing unusual, except whenever a visitor would pick holes in my design, K always clarified why it was forced upon me.

As NWFP governor, he asked me — as I had recently left the service to outline a few ideas on how to address some intractable issues. The paper I wrote was titled Three Ks that defy reso-These were Kashmir and lution". Karachi. The K word was to acknowledge the proposal's sponsor. A quarter have may elapsed, but in a discussion the other day when similar subjects came up, I had to revisit my old thesis. It was based on some ideas that we from the military used to pester the political governments with, and having headed the National Defence College, one believed our core issues needed a structured approach. The concept was heavy on strategy and avoided concrete steps unless they were required to illustrate an argument.

It was really self-evident. Issues with a long gestation period — all three Ks were brewing for decades — would need to be thought through for the long haul. Over time, there would be developments needing adaptation or modification of original assumptions, even of plans.

In Afghanistan, for instance; after the Soviet pullout, infatuated with the resistance we realised at great cost that the tribesmen may have pur-

sued a common agenda against the occupiers, but were now rivals for Kabul's throne. A historian in the decision-making echelons would have sounded the right alarm. Genuine Afghan hands were strongly opposed to using unconventional warriors in set-piece battles like Jalalabad, and later against the North-ern Alliance. When the Taliban emerged as an anti-Mujahideen force, its momentum may have surprised us; but not the old Communist cadres growing beards to drive militia tanks and fly the

helicopters. Later we may have factored in the role of spoilers, but our counter-measures were mostly transactional. India's Afghan strategy was of course Kautilyan, but because of our neighbourhood advantage it could be contained. But our official sources exaggerated it to the extent that paranoid Afghans were convinced our involvement in Afghanistan was essentially to keep India out. After the Soviets left, America's interests were never aligned with ours. We still sucked up to them — and even believed post-9/11 that our bilateral ties were again "strategic".

Besides improving ties with Iran and Russia, and keeping China and Turkey on board, we did well to retain leverage with Taliban against great external pressure for two decades and could thus bring them to the table whenever required. But we now need some experts in Afghan psyche and those with credibility among the key factions to steer the intra-Afghan dialogue, or to disengage from this messy affair.

The Kashmir imbroglio was no less complex. Surprised by the robustness of the popular surge for independence in early 1990s, we never really got a handle over the multi-

ple challenges such movements present — providing an effective political umbrella; influencing the militancy so that it didn't lead to any unintended consequences; and creating the necessary rapport with resistance groups. Finding the right mix of military and non-military prongs required a more subtle direction than swinging between arming the resistance to abandoning it. Engaging India in the Composite Dialo-gue framework was wise, and there may have been even some collateral beneffit in Gen. Pervez Musharraf's four-point salvo; but if anyone believed Indians would voluntarily give up their position of advantage, he should have his head examined. After August 5, 2019, the handling of deve-lopments in the Valley clearly showed there were hardly any experi-enced hands in our Kashmir policy cells, and our responses were there-fore limited to cartography and rewriting mile-

I don't think I ever understood the rise and fall of Karachi, but it was quite clear our once vibrant multi-ethnic megapolis was heading for an implosion — and all of us with our eyes wide shut. Even a cursory look at

this narrative suggests

stones.

issues with roots in history, or simply too complex, were beyond the depth of our state structures. On core issues, one needed a core group to charter a course, steer its conduct. and adapt it to the evolvenvironment. bureaucratic or politically partisan system could not be entrusted with this not only because its key members were mostly on the move, but also as those at the helm often force the pace to add a

feather in their otherwise colourless cap. K took the paper to BB

After August 5,

2019, the developments in the Valley showed there were hardly any experienced hands in our Kashmir policy cells

incarnation as PM — who didn't seem terribly pleased as with the Taliban now taking big strides in Afghanistan, she didn't want to share the spoils of the "victory" with a hybrid group that had the Opposition on board. Nevertheless, she appointed a pretty clued-up security adviser, who all by himself had no sway with the hands on the Afghan wheel, which only moved in the military track. Before that Nawaz Sharif had made it clear his Kabul policy would be conducted by his kitchen cabinet, not the Afghan cell. Soon thereafter he outsourced the Kashmir struggle to a However, both main-stream parties had a common approach on Karachi: break up the MQM and let the devil take the hindmost.

It is of course unfair to put all the blame for flyby-night policies on the political leadership. Members of the Deep State were reluctant to permit any rank outsiders, regardless of experience or expertise, in the decision-making corridors. Who knows when a group, even if dominated by the civil and military working hierarchy, under the chief executive and essentially in an advisory role, would get enough traction due to its judgment. That could blow the myth of the State's claim to total wisdom.

surprise there. No People in power are always protective of their turf. But the worst part is that they seldom pick up the courage to tell their political masters, civil or military, that most of our festering issues may not be fixed in an estimative timeframe — and therefore their management should take priority over a wishful outcome.

A council of wise men has always been a good idea since Plato's days.

Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani (Retd) is a former director-general of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, has partici-pated in several Track II initiatives, and an author and commentator

FARMERS STRIKE

Some farmers protesting against the new farm laws have died. Women and the elderly are also protesting. disregarding the bonechilling cold and rain. The Supreme Court has assured people that it is there for them. It is foolish of the Centre to think that the farmers could be knocked out.

C.V.R. Krishna Hyderabad

REPUBLIC DAY

The 2021 Republic Day poses a challenge to the government. On one side an Army Parade will take the salute, respecting the National Flag and on the other farmers' tractors rally will demand the repeal of

G.V. Sudhir Secunderabad

NEW I-T DEPT

Why is the government not getting back the black money of politicians getting accumulated abroad over the last 70 years? (New I-T unit to check assets of Indians abroad, DC, Jan. 11). Due to the black money of tycoons who robbed banks, the common man is suffering. After these people are brought to justice. the government can go after oth-

Kanishka

HELPING PUPS

The work done by civic bodies in association with volunteer groups

to save abandon pups is praiseworthy. Kudos to the GHMC and vol unteer teams for creating aware ness about the issue (15 abandoned pups find new home, DC, Jan. 11). A huge applause to all animal lovers who came to the programme and adopted abandoned pups and made them a part of their families. Roshanara

Hyderabaa



3 killed, 30 hurt in firing in Varanasi

VARANASI, January. 11 Three persons including an eight-year-old boy were killed and more than 30 persons were injured today in a succession of clashes between police and angry student mobs which led to a police firing and imposition of a 12-hour curfew on the city

The deaths were announced by authorities of S.P. Gupta Hospital where 19 persons has been admit-

Thirteen of them with bullet injured.

Aakar Pate



On Republic Day, time to reclaim our basic rights

his month we will celebrate Republic Day, which is different from Independence Day. The difference may not be fully understood or appreciated. On August 15 we mark the anniversary of the day that India stopped being ruled by outsiders. We refer to this as freedom. On January 26, Republic Day, we mark the day when we put in force the laws that make the people of India sovereign. It must be noted that for some reason we mark Republic Day with a celebration of militarism. The marching in formation of armed men and their machines. We might want to ask those in parts of India which have experience of the military, such as the Northeast and Kashmir, what they make of this celebration or whether they consider this a proper way to mark the formation of the republic.

A republic is more than a democracy. A democracy is a system of maiority rule government through elected representatives. Universal adult franchise — meaning the right to vote for these elected representatives - is only one aspect of being a republic. The other two aspects are guaranteed fundamental rights and civil liberties. These are equally important and without them you can have a democracy but not a republic. These include the right to freedom of expression, right to peaceful assembly, right to freedom of religion, right to form associations and to practise any occupation and the right to life and liberty. You could have a nation where adults can vote and elections are carried out, but none of these rights and liberties exist in a meaningful way. It would be a democracy, but it would not be a republic. The rights would not really be with the people but with the State, meaning the government and those who run it.

To give you an example, Indians have the right to peaceful assembly. It is actually a fundamental right, meaning one that enjoys a high degree of protection from encroachment. But do Indians have the right to peaceful assembly? They do not. They have the right to make an application to the police and the authorities seeking permission for a peaceful protest. The State has the right to approve, reject or not respond. Similarly, the right to occupation does not exist (there is a Supreme Court judgment which says the rights of the cow surpass those of a butcher), nor does the right to freedom of religion as the new laws in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and several old laws and judgments show. The freedom of expression is legally criminalised in India through laws on sedition, defamation and contempt. Indeed, none of the rights and liberties that the Constitution saw initially as being "fundamental" are present in the original form today. It is safe to conclude that India is a democracy, but is it a republic? The reality is that today the rights are not with the citizen, they rest in the main with the State.

This has happened with the passage of time. The Constitution initially gave Indians all the rights referred to above in more or less unrestricted form, as they exist in other republics like the United States. It was the amendments that came later which began to cut away the freedoms to the extent that it can now be honestly said that they do not exist at all. The State appropriated sovereignty from the people. This happened, as many

will know, through footnotes to the Constitution, added as amendments to Part 3, which is the part on Fundamental Rights. The right to freedom of speech was now qualified. And the footnote reads that nothing shall prevent the State from making any law imposing reasonable restrictions on free speech which affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

Who will determine whether these restrictions are reasonable? The

The people, who through the Constituent Assembly had granted themselves the right to freedom of expression, were now made subordinate to their government.

The restrictions came not because of popular demand but because the government felt that it could not

allow people too much freedom. Similarly footnotes and their interpretations took away the real meaning of other rights, including the one to life and liberty.

The State in India can jail individuals without a crime having been com-

This is called preventive detention, and it upends Articles 21 and 22 through a footnote. What is the difference between a government that wants this power over citizens and the British Ŕaj?

The question is what can be done about this. The solution is obviously to get the State to undo the damage it has done over the years

Article 13 says that the "State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred by this Part and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of the contravention, be void" Clearly, the State has committed overreach against its citizens.

Our pledge on this Republic Day must be to use those parts of the Constitution that are still on our side and take back our rights and liberties lawfully from the State, which has usurped them. That would be truly worth a celebration.

> The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

SHORT

TAKES

Hyd dist meet for jumps & hurdles

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad District Athletics Association is conducting the Jumps. Hurdles. Middle and Long Distance Championships at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, on Friday, January 15, from 6.30

Following are the events and age categories in which competitions will be held: Boys and Girls 14 years: High Jump

Boys and Girls 16 years: 80 metres hurdles, high jump. Boys and Girls 18 years: 110 metres hurdles, 400m hurdles, high jump, triple jump and 2,000 metres steeple chase. Boys and Girls 20 years: 110 metres hurdles, 400 metres hurdles, high jump, triple jump and 3,000 metres steeple

India, Oz retain top-2 Test spots

Sydney: Australia and India on Monday held on to their top two positions in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings following the engrossing draw in the third Test here. India's remarkable show saw them stay marginally ahead of third-placed New Zealand in the WTC points tally. "An incredible battle in Sydney has helped both teams retain the top two spots in the ICC World Test Championship standings. A difference of 0.2 per cent between India and New Zealand," ICC wrote on its twitter handle. New Zealand had earlier achieved the number one position in the ICC Test Team Rankings for the first time in history following their cleansweep of Pakistan and West

Racial abuse is upsetting: Rahane

Indies. Both Australia and India

bagged 10 points each after the

draw. - PTI

Sydney: India skipper Ajinkya Rahane on Monday said the racial abuse that his teammates endured from the crowd during the third Test against Australia here was unacceptable and found support from his Australian counterpart Tim Paine, who said he stands with the tourists on this issue. "We have lodged a complaint and I spoke to the match referee and umpires whatever I had to speak. Whatever happened is not acceptable at all and shouldn't happen anywhere in the world and we were upset about it," Rahane said. Paine, who had won hearts by joining the Indian team's huddle on Sunday, said he did so to "make sure that the visitors knew that he and his team were against any sort of abuse'

Ind-Oz final Test is on at Brisbane

Sydney: The Indian cricket team is all set to leave for Brisbane on Tuesday after BCCI secretary Jay Shah's assurance to Cricket Australia ended the uncertainty over the fourth and final Test at the venue, which has reduced its crowd capacity to 50 per cent for the game.

"I want to thank the Queensland Govern-ment for their cooperation and willingness to working closely with CA and the BCCI so we can deliver the fourth Test as planned," CA interim CEO Nick Hockley said

in a statement. "...but more importantly delivering on a plan that places the safety and wellbeing of the players, match officials and the wider community as a top priority," he added.



Thailand Open: Round of 32 from

7.30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3 CRICKET

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20

from 11.55 am: Assam vs Tamil Nadu from 6.55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL English Premier League: Wolverhampton

(Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 2: Burnley vs Manchester United from 1.45 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 1

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Editor: Kaushik Mitte



Ravichandran Ashwin (left) is congratulated by captain Ajinkya Rahane as Hanuma Vihari (second from right) is congratulated by teammate Mohammed Siraj after play on the final day of the third Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday.

DRAWSOME!

Vihari, Ashwin pull off memorable draw to keep Test series alive

Svdney, Jan. Ravichandran Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari battled pain and a hostile Australian bowling attack while resolutely display-ing the largely extinct art of Test-saving batsmanship to snatch a remarkable draw for India after Rishabh Pant raised visions of an improbable win here on Monday.

Chasing a herculean target of 407, Pant (97 off 118 balls) and the ever-steady Cheteshwar Pujara (77 off 205 balls) produced an amazing 148-run stand before India were forced to down the shutters finishing on 334 for 5 in 131 overs when players shook

Sydney, Jan. 11: India captain Ajinkya Rahane

on Monday said the hero-

ic draw that his side pulled off in the third

Test against Australia

was as good as a victory

and especially commend-

ed Hanuma Vihari, who

battled the excruciating

pain of a hamstring

injury to stay at the

special knock. I think this

knock was more special

than his hundred (in 2019

in the West Indies) espe-

cially the way he batted

Rahane said after the

motivation, hunger and hang in there for your

team, that's what shows

the character of an indi-

vidual. It's all about what

the team wants and credit

to him. There was pres-

sure and the way he bat-

ted was special," said

Rahane, lauding the

"To show that kind of

after getting injured,

"...today we all saw that

crease

SCORECARD

Australia 1st Innings 338 India 1st innings: 244
Australia 2nd Innings 312/6 deci.

India 2nd Innings (Overnight 98/2): Rohit Sharma c Starc b Cummins 52, Shubman Gill c Paine b Hazlewood 31, Cheteshwar Pujara b Hazlewood 77, Ajinkya Rahane c Wade b Lyon 4, Rishabh Pant (wk) c Cummins b Lyon 97, Hanuma Vihari not out 23, Ravichandran Ashwin not out 39. Extras (lb-3, w-2, nb-6) 11. **Total**

(for 5 wkts in 131 overs) 334. FoW: 1-71, 2-92, 3-102, 4-250, 5-272. Bowling: Mitchell Starc 22-6-66-0, Josh Hazlewood 26-12-39-2, Pat Cummins 26-6-72-1, Nathan Lyon 46-17-114-2, Cameron Green 7-0-31-0, Marnus Labuschagne 4-2-9-0.

Draw is as big as win for Rahane

VIHARI'S KNOCK WAS EQUAL

TO SCORING A TON: ASHWIN

"After Pujara and well in the nets, so it was

The series stands at 1-1 going into the fourth Test in Brisbane but an Indian team which has turned 'mini-hospital' would be walking away with a lot of pride. They put up a proper fight in

Sydney,

Jan.

Monday equated uma Vihari's

Ravichandran Ashwin

unbeaten 23 off 161 balls

in a match-saving stand of 62 runs with him in

the third Test against

Australia here to scor-

Pant's wicket and with Vihari injured, it was going to be difficult to go

for a win. Touring

Australia is never easy

so Vihari can be proud

of himself. It was a

knock equal to scoring a

young man from Andhra

For Rahane, the credit

of the draw goes to all

those, who performed in

situations

adverse circumstances already soured by racist chants and abuses from the crowd here during the course of the game.

Pant's innings will be remembered for a long time but none can forget

11: hundred," Ashwin told

Ashwin said the confi-

dence gained from pro-

ductive net sessions

helped him finally come

good against Australia

as he and Vihari saved

great to spend some

time in the middle.

Chasing 400 in Sydney

was never going to be

easy, as the ball was

going up and down. That

knock by Pant set us up." he said. — PTI

responding to the team's

requirements.
"This is as good as win-

ning a Test match. When

vou come abroad and play

have been batting

Channel 7.

the third Test.

up," he said.

161 balls), battling a hamstring injury, put their bodies on line to save a game which could have been lost in a jiffy after their two best batsmen were gone on the day. Pat Cummins (26-6-72-1),

that Ashwin (39 no, 128 balls) and Vihari (23 off

Josh Hazlewood (26-12-39-2), Mitchell Starc (22-6-66-0) and Nathan Lyon (46-17-114-2) threw everything they had, peppering them with short balls, hitting the patches with a few

jumping from the spot. ..this one's a tough one to swallow. Our bowlers were superb, Lyon bowled cially me) didn't hold onto

really special as I said. It's

as good as victory. "Credit to Vihari,

Ashwin, (Rishabh) Pant,

(Cheteshwar) Pujara, the

way they batted. Rohit

(Sharma) at the start.

Everyone chipped in but

credit to those two guys

Pant, who has copped so

much flak in the past few

months, came good on

Monday with his exhila-

rating 97-run knock and

the skipper couldn't have

knock was really good and unfortunately he was

out on 97. Yes, he can drop

catches but as long as he

is learning, that is very

important. I am really

happy for Rishabh for the

way he batted today. It

was a really special

Pant was promoted to

No.5 on the day and

Rahane gave him credit

for executing the plan to

knock.

perfection.

Sagar Chaurasia

'The way he played the

been happier for him.

in the end."

got hit on the ribs but carried on manfully while also engaging in some chatter with Tim Paine and close-in fielders.

Australian skipper Tim

scraped their way for a 62-

run stand, which certain-

ly would have made Rahul

Dravid proud on his 48th

Vihari hobbled with a

torn hamstring but defended dourly, Ashwin

birthday

Paine after the match. The duo, in 42.4 overs,

Catches landed in no man's land and that was the slice of luck they needed. When Marnus Labuschagne was brought in the 112th over, one knew that they had done

HANUMA OUT OF FINAL TEST, MAY MISS ENG SERIES

New Delhi, Jan. 11: India's injury woes in the Test series against Australia compounded on Monday after the hero of their drawn game in Sydney, Hanuma Vihari, was ruled out of the fourth Test with a ham-string tear that could keep him out of action for

a considerable time. Vihari was taken for

scans after the match. A BCCI source confirmed that Vihari is unlikely to be fit in time for the next Test starting in three days. "The extent of Vihari's tear can only be ascertained after scan reports. But even if it's a grade 1 tear, he is out for at least four weeks and then will need some rehabilitation time. So it's not only Brisbane Test but also, he won't be a part of England Tests at home," a source said.

mention to @RishabhPant17,

Really proud of #TeamIndia! Special @cheteshwar1, @ashwinravi99 and @Hanumavihari for the roles they've played brilliantly. Any guesses in which dressing room the morale will be high?

#OneTeamOneCause #AUSvIND. - SACHIN TENDULKAR

Hope all of us realise the importance of pujara,pant and Ashwin in cricket teams..batting at 3 in test cricket against quality bowling is not always hitting through the line ..almost 400 test wickets don't come just like that..well fought india..time to win the series.

> - SOURAV GANGULY BCCI president and former India captain

Loved the fight and determination of India all day today. Starting with Pant and Pujara, and then for Vihari and Ashwin to withstand Australia and look largely in control for most of the day was very impressive. Can't wait for Brisbane now. #AUSvIND



— RICKY PONTING Former Australia skippe

A fitting birthday gift for Rahul Dravid. An extraordinary display of resistance, fight and patience by

— INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL

Unbelievable Grit, determination and character shown by #TeamIndia. What an unbelievably spirited effort and some serious grind. Well done men. test cricket at its best

K.L. RAHUL India batsman

Even a half-strength, battled, bruised, injured, ridiculed, abused, bio-bubble fatigued India is difficult for a full strength Australia to beat at home. No praise high enough for this herculean effort. Told you this is a damn good team. Cherish it.

- WASIM JAFFER

Feel so so proud of the Team, Pant showed why he needs to b treated differently & d grit showed by Vihari, Pujara & Ashwin was unbelievable

- VIRENDER SEHWAG

Some incredible fight shown today by @BCCI @cheteshwar1 @ashwinravi99 @Hanumavihari @RishabhPant17 and all involved in that performance throughout. Well done to my good mate @RaviShastriOfc. Long live test cricket.. #INDvAUS

> - SIMON DOULL Former New Zealand pacer

Delhi hammer giants Mumbai

Mumbai, Jan. 11: Delhi started their campaign at Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with a thumping 76-run win over domestic heavyweights Mumbai in an Elite Group 'E' game at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.

Put in to bat, Delhi rode on a blazing 74 off 37 balls by two-down Nitish Rana to post a mammoth 206 for 4 and then bundled out Mumbai for a meagre 130, left-arm Pradeep Sangwan (3/20) leading from the front.
Delhi openers Shikhar

Dhawan (23) and Hiten Dalal (24) started in an aggressivé manner putting 38 in 4 overs. However, Dhawan could not convert his start, and Delhi were 56/2 at one stage.

However, one-down Himmat Singh (53 off 32 balls) and Rana took the Mumbai attack to cleaners and added 122 for the third wicket.

The left-handed Rana hammered seven fours and five sixes, while Singh struck three boundaries and four maximums as Mumbai bowlers were made to toil hard.

in the chase as they lost half their side for 52. Mumbai batters Yashasvi Jaiswal (0), Aditya Tare (3), Suryakumar Yadav (7) Siddhesh Lad (4) and Sarfaraz Khan (15) fell cheaply. All-rounder and India

Mumbai never got going

player Shivam Dube hit a whirlwind 42-ball 63, with three fours and five sixes but that was too little and too late. India speedster Ishant Sharma, who returned to competitive cricket after sustaining a side strain during IPL, ended with figures of 2/16.

In Chennai, Bihar beat Arunachal Pradesh by 18 runs in their opening Plate group match. Opting to bat. Bihar were bowled out for 122 in 20 overs. In reply Arunachal faltered after a bright start and were restricted to 104/9. — *PTI*

BRIEF SCORES Delhi 206/4 in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 74, Himmat Singh 53; Shams Mulani 2/43) bt Mumbai 130 in 18.1 overs (Shivam Dube 63; Pradeep Sangwan 3/20, Ishant Sharma 2/16). Andhra Pradesh 107/6 in 20 overs (Ricky Bhui 39; Jayant Yadav 2/13, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/21) lost to Haryana 108/4 in 15.5 overs (C.K. Bishnoi 42 n.o, S. R. Chauhan 35).

Jaweed, Swachit, Sameer, Sarthak top performers

Sagar, Abhishek, Askari, Anurag, Rohit, Yash, Shreyas, Shanawaz, Vinay, Jayasuriya, Sankeerth, Radhakrishna, Trishank, Pramod also shine

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Mir Jaweed Ali and K. Swachit Kumar took the top honours in batting and bowling respectively in Monday's action at the Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-1 Division

three-day league matches. Jaweed scored an unbeaten double century while Swachit took 6 for 35 for his second fivewicket haul of the season.

Action resumed after the pre-High Court order that directed Union Bank of India team to be included in the league. The bankmen fared poorly on the first day though, allowing Budding Star to amass 482 for 8 in 90 overs. Jaweed smashed 32 boundaries in his 237 not out that came off 204 balls while his teammate Divesh Singh scored 103 to pump up the Stars' total. Right arm pacer Swachit of





Zinda Tilismath ran through the Evergreen batting line up to bowl them out for a humiliating 53. His figures read an impres-9.5-3-35-6. Chakravarthy played a good

supporting role with 4 for 17. Shaik Sameer of Sportive and Sarthak Bharadwaj of Khalsa scored their second successive centuries in the top league while Sagar Chaurasia of Cambridge XI registered his

second ton of the season. Sameer slammed 173 in 264 balls with the help of 13 fours and six sixes while his teammate Abhishek Murugan hit 159 as Sportive CC posted 493



for 7 against Jai Bhagwati. Sarthak's 219-ball 141 that included 17 boundaries took Khalsa 342 against Secunderabad Nawabs.

Sagar's 123 coupled with Syed Askari's 142 guided Cambridge XI to 432/8 in 90 overs against MP Colts. Anurag Vittal (169) and Rohit Ravudu (110) of Jai Hanuman; Yash Kapadia (155) and Shreyas Vala (128) of Deccan Chronicle; Shanawaz Khan (149), Aliga Vinay (133) and A. Jayasuriya (136) of Rohit XI: and G. Sankeerth (103 n.o) of Continental were the other cen-

Among the other bowlers who



Syed Askari Yash Kapadia Hyderabad were

Bottling's M. Radhakrishna (5/25), G. Trishank Gupta (5/47) of Charminar CC and K. Pramod (5/82) of Goud's XI. Brief scores (Day-1):

A-1 DIVISION (THREE-DAY)

■ Budding Star 482/8 in 90 overs (Kamal Budding Staf 462/9 in 90 Overs (Rainial Sawariya 71, Mir Jaweed Ali 237 n.o – 204b, 32x4, Divesh Singh 103 – 116b, 8x4, M. A. Khader 3/69) vs Union Bank of India. Jai Hanuman 457/9 in 90 overs (Anurag Vittal 169 – 201b, 19x4, 5x6, Rohit Rayudu 110 – 92b, 11x4, 6x6, Sai Purnanand Pao 35, Irfan Khan 55 C Purnanand Rao 35, Irfan Khan 55, C. Purnanand Rao 35, Irfan Khan 55, C. Durgesh 3/68, Chiranjeevi 3/104) vs BDL.
■ Deccan Chronicle 421/7 in 90 overs (Yash Kapadia 155 — 272b, 16x4, 2x6, Shreyas Vala 128 — 215b, 11x4, 2x6, A. Varun Goud 55) vs Central Excise.



Abhishek



Shanmukha 91, B. Yathin Reddy 49, R. Shiv Shankar 31, Mohd Mudassar 4/44, A. Aslam 3/48) vs Income Tax 11 for no loss in 5 overs ■ SBI vs Sporting XI (teams did not report to the ground). Points: SBI O, Sporting XI O **Group-B**

Evergreen 53 in 18.5 overs (K. Swachi **Kumar 6/35 — 9.5-3-35-6**, Neel Chakravarthy 4/17) vs Zinda Tilismath 155/8 in 58 overs (Shashank Lokesh 72, G

Aniketh Reddy 3/28)

Cambridge XI 432/8 in 90 overs Cambridge At 452/5 iii 90 overs (Rishiket Sisodia 39, **Syed Askarl 142** — **218b, 19x4, 2x6, Sagar Chaurasia 123** — **158b, 13x4, 3x6,** Abhishek 65 n.o, Praneeth Raj 3/82) vs MP Colts. Concorde CC 123 in 47.5 overs (M. Pratyush Kumar 51, **M. Radhakrishna 5/25**

— 11.5-4-25-5, Kavin Gupta 3/37) vs Hyderabad Bottling 109/3 in 26 overs (M. Radhakrishna 35 batting)



R. Davanand 251 in 75.4 overs (M. A.

Sportive CC 493/7 in 90 overs (Shaik Sameer 173 — 264b, 13x4, 6x6, Abhishek Murugan 159 — 156b, 22x4, 4x6, Nitish Kumar 34 n.o) vs Jai Bhagwathi.

Rohit XI 555 in 88 overs (Shanawaz Khan
149 — 180b, 13x4, 3x6, Aliga Vinay 133 —

133b, 25x4, 1x6, A. Jayasuriya 136 — 116b, 14x4, 2x6, V. K. Siddharth 58, Nitin Sai Yadav 30, K. Pramod 5/82 — 18-2-82-5,

Narayan Teja 3/95) vs Goud's XI.

Khalsa 342 in 80.5 overs (Sarthak Bharadwaj 141 — 219b, 17x4, Aryan Krishna 70, Jaidev Goud 3/59, Takshit Rao 3/53) vs Secunderabad Nawabs 29/1

Continental 419/7 in 90 overs (S.

Balaaji CC 145 in 43.2 overs (H. K. Simha 35, Geeta Krishna 31, **G. Trishank Gupta 5/47 — 14.2-2-47-5**, Mohd Adnan 4/38) vs Charminar CC 129/4 in 39 overs.

Mahmood CC 264 in 85.3 overs (Tanay Nemani 56. Sriniketh Reddy 45. Durga

Balaii 43, Naresh Kumar 3/42, Amir Bin Ali 3/70) vs Apex 24 for no loss in 5 overs.



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