

DECCAN Chronicle

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



NATION | 4
Mamata equates BJP with Trump



WORLD | 5
Democrats introduce impeachment article



SPORTS | 7
Vihari and Ashwin save Test for India

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

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

WEATHER



Max: 30.6°C
Min: 16.4°C
RH: 47%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partially cloudy.
Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 30/16 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+13,753)	(+184)
1,04,79,628	1,51,362
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+224)	(+1)
TS: 2,90,008	1,566
(+121)	(+2)
AP: 8,85,037	7,131

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,09,46,072
DEATHS
19,47,428
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
218

worldometers.info/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

COUNTER POINT



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.

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 Prime Minister Narendra Modi. 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 are 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 of Covid-19 vaccines.

Government of India has already decided that Covishield vaccine from

Serum Institute of India and Covaxin from Bharat 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.

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

Flight record



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 non-stop 16,000 km flight started at 8.30 pm (local time) on Saturday and landed at 3.07 am on Monday.

— PTI

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 Sharad A. Bobde expressed anguish over the agitating farmers, braving the biting cold of

winter. CJI Bobde, heading a bench that also comprised Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. 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

their implementation, 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, Mr 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 Tuesday 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
HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

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 schools, degree colleges and other vocational and professional institutions from February 1.

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 said.

"It has been a long time

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

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

since schools were opened. All classrooms, furniture and laboratories should be cleaned. Provisions like rice, dal and other food materials must be taken

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

■ Page 2: Get institutes ready by January 25: CM

Union minister Naik hurt in road mishap, wife killed

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
KARWAR, JAN. 11



Shripad S. Naik

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.

■ Full report on Page 4



Good knight
SMART SPRAY
NO GAS

INSTANT ACTION.
8 HOURS* PROTECTION.

8 HOURS* PROTECTION

Instant Action **Pleasant Fragrance** **700+ Sprays***

*Based on bio efficacy lab studies. *Based on spray volume. *Under controlled condition.

SHORT TAKES

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 reported 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 reported new cases in double digits.

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 allegedly ‘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 incidents 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.

The 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 are 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
HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

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 substances 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 procurement, stocking, sale and use of nylon-thread commonly called ‘Chinese dor’ or other synthetic (non-biodegradable) thread coated with glass or other harmful substances used for flying kites.

According to Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, any person found to be violating the

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 electricity facilities such as transformers, electrical sub-stations. 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 040-2323-1440.

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 with officials on <http://www.tsouthernpower.com/> www.tsouth-ernpower.com.

Decision premature, feel many parents

From Page 1

Sangeetha Rao, parent of a degree college first-year student, felt the decision was premature. “My 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 promised 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 schools.

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 during 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 Chronicle*.

Get institutes ready by January 25, says CM

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 video-mode. Students who did not have online facilities were in deep distress and could not pursue classes.

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

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

With Sankranti fast approaching and road 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 government as commercial carriers.

● **THERE IS heartburn 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 them.

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 plying on commercial basis.

Shaik Salaudhin, chairman 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 taxes get the most business when they are engaged during the Sankranti season. However, drivers of private vehicles with white number plates are utilising this opportunity to ply passengers between Telangana and Andhra, even though they do not pay higher taxes than 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,” Salaudhin protested.

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

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-

sary action. Over 2,000 Bar Headed Geese were found dead in Pong Dam lake in Himachal. More than 4.00 lakh birds died in Haryana. 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 humans 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 protected with PPE kits are permitted to provide feed and water.

Palle Pragathi transforms lives in villages: KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has expressed his appreciation that the Palle 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.

Under the Palle 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,” the Chief Minister stated.

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 environment. 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 identified at 19,027 places

CM WANTS DHARANI PORTAL READY

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 11

Dharani portal should be up and ready within a week’s time, ordered Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao addressing a meeting of district collectors and ministers at the Pragathi Bhavan on Monday. Whatever changes necessary, including additions to the portal, must be completed within this time, the CM underlined. Government advisers, secretaries and heads of departments also participated 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 register 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 List.

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, Vedikas 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 people 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 villages. The government also 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 panchayats 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 hindrance.

“There is no state except Telangana that has villages with as much greenery, cleanliness, and transparent governance. Due to increase in cleanliness, there are no cases of Dengue in the village this time,” the CM observed.

KCR said a majority of people of the state lived in villages. Officials and public representatives should realise that their main aim is to develop villages in a big way.

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 police 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 MANTLE

Seoul, Jan. 11: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has had his official party title changed, state media reported Monday, assuming a position previously 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 self-imposed 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 President-elect Joe Biden 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 foreign policy think-tank, Burns will be the first career diplomat to lead the CIA.

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

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

"Bill Burns is an exemplary diplomat with decades of experience on the world stage keeping our people and our country safe and secure," Biden said in a statement.

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

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 in New York.

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

But Haspel's long tenure in the agency included taking part in the torture of Al-Qaeda suspects after the September 1, 2001 attacks, now clearly illegal

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.

He was central in the back-channel negotiations by the previous adminis-

tration of Barack Obama that set the stage for the 2015 deal to limit Iran's nuclear capabilities — a deal that Trump summarily quit in 2018, with the support of Pompeo but not everyone in US intelligence circles.

At Carnegie since 2014, Burns defended the idea that Washington should remain a leader and support multilateralism as Trump radically reshaped the US world role, cancelling treaties, bullying allies, and taking a US-first, go-it-alone stance.

"If Donald Trump had been reelected for a second four years as president, then American democracy

would have gone straight into the intensive care unit," Burns said in an online conference last month.

After "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, long-term competition with China."

Meanwhile, the US 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 Kulyk, 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 said.

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 Ukraine.

— AFP

Democrats start impeachment of Trump in House

Washington, Jan. 11: Democrats began the process 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 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 in the 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. — AFP

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

Beijing, Jan. 11: China said on Monday that a group of experts from the WHO will arrive in the 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-

ian told a media briefing on Monday that China supported scientists 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 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

LIVE RICH FINANCIAL Chronicle

TUESDAY | 12 JANUARY 2021 | KARIMNAGAR

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	49269.32	1.00
Nifty 50	14484.80	0.96
S&P 500*	3,809.27	-0.40
Dollar (₹)	73.42	-0.23
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.01	0.60
Euro (₹)	89.26	0.43
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 50,000-mark, an unthinkable milestone a few years ago, as it closed above the 49,000-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 14,484.75, up 137 points, or 0.9 per cent.

With the ongoing massive rally, the BSE's market capitalisation is getting closer to the Rs 200-lakh crore mark, as it is now at Rs 196.56 lakh crore.

After the IT sector bellwether 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 benchmarks 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 cent).

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 weekly futures for the stock index derivatives.

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 BSE.

Recounting the day's market 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-

The index consists of 20 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

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

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 mining 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 fourth-largest 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 blog.

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 2020.

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 opens.

Women also face additional mobility restrictions. 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 UNEQUAL 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 services 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 of getting left behind, unable to acquire the skills required to participate 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 self-help groups and increase in the number of person days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme are some of them.

DECCAN Chronicle

12 JANUARY 2021

Will FM offer India the mega-stimulus it needs?

With 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 that could put the economy back on its tracks.

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

Of late, there have been several hints of the finance minister presenting an expenditure-heavy 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 revenue 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

It 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 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 taken 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 safety.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285
Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalpalay Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burrannur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advrt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



The Three Ks: Some old ideas revisited



Asad Durrani

View from Pakistan

Khursheed Ali Khan was no run-of-the-mill general. Behind 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 resolution”. These were Kabul, Kashmir and Karachi. The K word was to acknowledge the proposal's sponsor. A quarter century may have 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 Northern 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 Dialogue framework was wise, and there may have been even some collateral benefit 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 developments in the Valley clearly showed there were hardly any experienced hands in our Kashmir policy cells, and our responses were therefore limited to cartography and rewriting milestones.

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 its implosion — and all of us with our eyes wide shut.

Even a cursory look at this narrative suggests 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 evolving environment. A 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

— then in her second 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 private contractor. However, both mainstream 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 fly-by-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 hierarchy, working under the chief executive and essentially in an advisory role, would get enough traction due to its sound judgment. That could blow the myth of the State's claim to total wisdom.

No surprise there. 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 participated in several Track II initiatives, and an author and commentator

LETTERS

FARMERS STRIKE

Some farmers protesting against the new farm laws have died. Women and the elderly are also protesting, disregarding the bone-chilling 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 three laws.

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 others.

Kanishka
Nadargul

HELPING PUPS

The work done by civic bodies in association with volunteer groups to save abandon pups is praiseworthy. Kudos to the GHMC and volunteer teams for creating awareness 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
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

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 admitted.

Thirteen of them with bullet injured.

Aakar Patel



On Republic Day, time to reclaim our basic rights

This 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 majority 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 guaran-

teed 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 State.

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 committed.

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 Raj?

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 am.

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 chase.

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 clean-sweep of Pakistan and West Indies. Both Australia and India bagged 10 points each after the draw. — PTI

Racial abuse is upsetting: Rahane

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". — PTI

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 Government 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 top priority," he added. — PTI



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. — AFP

DRAWSOME!

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

Sydney, Jan. 11: Ravichandran Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari battled pain and a hostile Australian bowling attack while resolutely displaying 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 hands.

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

that Ashwin (39 no, 128 balls) and Vihari (23 off 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), 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 well. Just that we (especially me) didn't hold onto our catches," said

Australian skipper Tim Paine after the match.

The duo, in 42.4 overs, scraped their way for a 62-run stand, which certainly would have made Rahul Dravid proud on his 48th birthday.

Vihari hobbled with a torn hamstring but defended dourly, Ashwin got hit on the ribs but carried on manfully while also engaging in some chatter with Tim Paine and close-in fielders.

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 their job. — PTI

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 hamstring 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. — PTI

SCORECARD	
Australia 1st Innings 338	
India 1st Innings: 244	
Australia 2nd Innings 312/6 decl.	
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.	

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

VIHARI'S KNOCK WAS EQUAL TO SCORING A TON: ASHWIN

Sydney, Jan. 11: Ravichandran Ashwin on Monday equated Hanuma Vihari's unbeaten 23 off 161 balls in a match-saving stand of 62 runs with him in the third Test against Australia here to scoring a hundred.

"After Pujara and 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 hundred," Ashwin told *Channel 7*.

Ashwin said the confidence gained from productive net sessions helped him finally come good against Australia as he and Vihari saved the third Test.

"I have been batting well in the nets, so it was 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

young man from Andhra Pradesh.

For Rahane, the credit of the draw goes to all those, who performed in pressure situations responding to the team's requirements.

"This is as good as winning a Test match. When you come abroad and play a match like this, it was

TWEET

TALK

Really proud of #TeamIndia! Special mention to @RishabhPant17, @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
cricket legend

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 skipper

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

— 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. #AUSvsIND

— WASIM JAFFER
Former India batsman

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

— VIRENDER SEHWAG
Former India opener

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 #TestCricket #TeamIndia #fight

— 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, with left-arm pacer Pradeep Sangwan (3/20) leading from the front.

Delhi openers Shikhar Dhawan (23) and Hiten Dalal (24) started in an aggressive 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.

Mumbai never got going 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 player Shivam Dube hit a whirlwind 42-ball 36, 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).
Group-C	
■ Sportive CC 493/7 in 90 overs (Shanku Sameer 173 — 264b, 13x4, 6x6, Abhishek Murugan 159 — 156b, 22x4, 4x6, Nitish Kumar 34 n.o) vs Jai Bhagwatli.	■ Rohit XI 555 in 88 overs (Shanawaz Khan 149 — 180b, 13x4, 3x6, Aliga Vinay 133 — 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 Bhargadwaj 141 — 219b, 17x4, Aryan Krishna 70, Jaldev Goud 3/59, Takshit Rao 3/53) vs Secunderabad Nawabs 29/1 in 4 overs.	■ Balajai 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 Charaminar CC 129/4 in 39 overs.
■ Mahmood CC 264 in 85.3 overs (Tanay Nemani 56, Sriniketh Reddy 45, Durga Balaji 43, Nareesh Kumar 3/42, Amir Bin Ali 3/70) vs Apex 24 for no loss in 5 overs.	

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 five-wicket haul of the season.

Action resumed after the previous round was halted by a 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



Shaik Sameer Zinda Tilismath ran through the Evergreen batting line up to bowl them out for a humiliating 53. His figures read an impressive 9.5-3-35-6. Neel Chakravarthy played a good supporting role with 4 for 17.

Shaik Sameer of Sportive and Sarthak Bhargadwaj 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 to 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 Rayudu (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 centurions.

Among the other bowlers who

did well were Hyderabad Bottling's M. Radhakrishna (5/25), G. Trishank Gupta (5/47) of Charaminar CC and K. Pramod (5/82) of Goud's XI.

Brief scores (Day-1):

A-1 DIVISION (THREE-DAY)

Group-A

■ Budding Star 482/8 in 90 overs (Kamal 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 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.

■ Evergreen 53 in 18.5 overs (K. Swachit 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 (Rishiket Sisodia 39, Syed Askari 142 — 218b, 19x4, 2x6, Sagar Chaurasia 123 — 158b, 13x4, 3x6, Abhishek 65 n.o, Praneeth Raj 3/82) vs MP Colts.

■ Concordce 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. Dayanand 251 in 75.4 overs (M. A. 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 0, Sporting XI 0.

Group-B

■ Evergreen 53 in 18.5 overs (K. Swachit 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 (Rishiket Sisodia 39, Syed Askari 142 — 218b, 19x4, 2x6, Sagar Chaurasia 123 — 158b, 13x4, 3x6, Abhishek 65 n.o, Praneeth Raj 3/82) vs MP Colts.

■ Concordce 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).

Live on TV

BADMINTON

Thailand Open: Round of 32 from 7.30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

CRICKET

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament: Jharkhand vs Bengal from 11.55 am; Assam vs Tamil Nadu from 6.55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Everton from 1.45 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 2; Burnley vs Manchester United from 1.45 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 1

Printed and Published from Karimnagar by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, H.No. 1-2/1/12/1, Cherlabhupkur Road, Muggudpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 Telangana State

Regd. No. H/SD-2/2K RNI Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121161123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter



Exchange last year for a healthy 2021.



Flat 30% off* on MRP
on exchange of any old mattress with select models



Free premium pillows



Germ protection with **neem fresche**



Hurry! Offer closing in 3 days!

Visit your nearest Sleepwell store,
or call 85 88 88 88 86 to locate a store near you.

A **Sheela Foam** Product

Toll Free: 1800 103 6664
www.mysleepwell.com

**BAJAJ
FINSERV**
Available in select cities and stores.

*T&C Apply (to check the T&C, visit www.mysleepwell.com).
Scheme is not applicable on purchase from CSD Canteen.