

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 9 JANUARY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 30.0°C
Min: 21.3°C
RH: 56%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partially cloudy. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 30/19 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+17,626)	(+208)
1,04,30,330	1,50,800
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+346)	(+2)
TS: 2,89,135	1,561
(+319)	(+1)
AP: 8,84,490	7,127

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

8,88,93,141
DEATHS
19,13,630
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Bahula Ekadasi till 7.16 pm
Star: Vishakha till 12.31 pm
Varjyanam: 4.14 pm to 5.43 pm
Durmuhuram: 6.52 am to 8.20 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Jamadi-ul-Awwal 24, 1442 AH PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.44 am
Zohar: 12.33 pm
Asar: 4.22 pm
Maghrab: 6.04 pm
Isha: 7.16 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.48 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.58 PM
MOONSET 2.22 PM
MOONRISE 2.41 PM

COUNTER POINT



Can't we add our party colour to the vaccine?

SHORT TAKES

Delhi's quarantine rule triggers chaos

New Delhi: A last-minute revision of coronavirus testing and isolation rules for those arriving in Delhi from the UK led to chaos at the Indira Gandhi Airport on Friday with passengers complaining that the changes had taken them by surprise and left dozens — many with infants — scrambling to find solutions. The confusion arose from Delhi government notification issued early Friday, which said passengers arriving from the UK have to undergo seven days' institutional quarantine followed by a seven-day home quarantine even if they test negative for the virus.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Court directs state officials to file a status report within a month

TS gets HC notice on Jiyaguda dump

- Garbage dumped at Jiyaguda includes human excreta cleared from private septic tanks, animal carcasses and litter from various areas in the city.
- There was no response from the GHMC in spite of numerous representations made by residents.
- A law student from Osmania University, Pavan Kasturi, wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court on the matter. The court took cognisance of the letter and converted it into a public interest litigation (PIL). Earlier, the court had issued notices to the GHMC and the Pollution Control Board (PCB) to explain the matter.

Avinash Desai as amicus curiae to assist it in this matter. He would inspect the place and explain the situation to the court.

The garbage dumped there includes human excreta cleared from private



WORLD | 9

Trump not to attend Biden inauguration



SPORTS | 13

Smith saves Australia with a century

TABLOID

Sailing through the turbulence



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Vol. 84 No. 9 Established 1938 | 24 PAGES | ₹6.00

My Home name pops up in Bhuma land row

Akhila kin says Praveen in deal with realtor

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC
KURNOOL, JAN. 8

The sensational arrest of former AP minister Bhuma Akhila Priya took an interesting turn with her family members alleging the involvement of realty giant My Home group.

Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Jagat Vikhyat Reddy, brother of Akhila Priya, alleged that the complainants in the case against his sister had entered into an agreement with My Home group headed by J. Rameshwar Rao over the property in dispute.

The Hyderabad police booked a case against the former AP minister, charging her with kidnapping three brothers — Praveen Rao, Sunil Rao and Naveen Rao — distant relatives of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and brothers-in-law of his personal assistant Jagat Reddy.

Vikhyat Reddy said Praveen Rao's father was an advocate and worked for his father, the late Bhuma Nagi Reddy. It was well known that the property in Survey No 80 of Hafeezpet belonged to the Bhuma family. "After my father and Praveen Rao's father died, the three brothers hatched a conspiracy along with A.V. Subba Reddy to take

away all our properties," he alleged.

Vikhyat Reddy told the media that Praveen Rao had entered into an agreement with My Home and lent the property. "There is involvement of big shots including an MP and a business magnate. They want to threaten us and take away our properties," alleged Vikhyat Reddy.

He appealed to the Chief Minister to get the case investigated thoroughly and render justice to the family. A similar demand was made by Naga Mounika, sister of Akhila Priya, who went a step ahead and urged the CM and minister K.T. Rama Rao to settle the dispute based on merits.

■ Page 2: We own property: Akhila Priya's brother

26/11 brain gets 5-yr jail in Pak

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
LAHORE, DELHI, JAN. 8

"It has become routine for Pakistan to come up with such farcical actions prior to important meetings," said MEA

Mumbai attack mastermind and Lashkar-e-Taiba operations commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi was sentenced to five years in jail on Friday by a Pakistani anti-terrorism court here in a terror-financing case, amidst growing international pressure on Islamabad to bring to justice terrorists roaming free in the country.

Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore Judge Ejaz Ahmad Buttler sentenced Lakhvi, a UN proscribed terrorist, on three counts with a fine of PKR 100,000 (\$620). His punishment will run concurrently.

India dismissed it as a farcical action and said that "the timing of these actions clearly suggests that the force be equipped with arms and bulletproof jackets as is done in Assam."

Heading a bench, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde said it was sad and distressing to see forest guards wearing slippers

and armed with lathis while on duty to protect huge tracts of forest land.

"With little of protective gear in them to meet threats from armed poachers, their plight is sad. Also, they being inside the forest, they cannot even seek urgent help."

"We think the situation is serious. Forest guards would have difficulty protecting vast tracts of uninhabited land. It is difficult to imagine how law can be enforced by unarmed forest staff fac-

ing poachers carrying arms with them," CJL Bobde said.

Sitting with Justice AS Bopanna and Justice V Ramasubramanian, the CJL also suggested that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) expand its footprints to deal with the illegal trade in wildlife.

Appearing for the central government, solicitor general Tushar Mehta agreed to look into the proposal for arming the forest guards and expanding the role of ED.

Farmers dig in heels, say ready for Lohri in Delhi

Refuse to bow down to Centre; prepare for long haul protest

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 8

Thousands of protesting farmers and their supporters will end up celebrating two harvest-related festivals — Lohri and Makar Sankranti — in freezing cold at Delhi borders this year as the eighth round of talks between their 41 union leaders and the Centre on Friday failed to end the deadlock over the new farm laws.

Holding their ground on the repeal of the three laws, the farmers told the government that their "ghar wapsi" can take place only after "law wapsi". But the Centre told unions that it cannot and will not repeal these laws, asserting the laws have been welcomed by a large section of farmers in other states across the country, and asked the unions to think about the interests of the country.

There was palpable disappointment on the faces of the farmers' leaders returning from the meeting where, many said, the discussion between the two sides was "heated".

Refusing to budge, farmer leader Darshan Pal said the protesters will not leave Delhi borders even if they are directed to do so by the Supreme Court which is to take up issues related to the new laws on Monday. The protesting farmers have also decided to go ahead with their planned protest on Republic Day.

Lohri and Makar Sankranti — two important north Indian festivals — fall on January 13 and 14 respectively and the next round of discussions with the government is sched-



Women family members of a farmer practice driving a tractor on the outskirts of Amritsar on Friday. Women have been training to take part in a tractor rally on Republic Day in Delhi to protest against the Centre's agricultural laws.

THERE WAS a heated discussion, we said we don't want anything other than repeal of laws. We won't go to any court, this (repeal) will either be done or we'll continue to fight.

KAVITHA KURUGANTI,
Farm union leader

GOVERNMENT urged that if farmer unions give an option other than repealing, we'll consider it. But no option could be presented, so the meeting was concluded.

NARENDRA S. TOMAR,
Agriculture minister

uled to take place on January 15.

All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) member Kavitha Kuruganti, who was also present in the meeting, said the government has told unions that it cannot and will not repeal these laws.

"There was a heated dis-

ussion, we said we don't want anything other than repeal of laws. We won't go to any court, this (repeal) will either be done or we'll continue to fight. Our parade on January 13 will go on as planned." All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hanuman Mollah said.

In the meeting room at Vigyan Bhawan on Friday, "Discussion was taken up but no decision could be made. Government urged that if farmer unions give an option other than repealing, we'll consider it. But no option could be presented, so the meeting was concluded and it was decided to hold the next meeting on January 15," the minister said.

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was taken up but no decision could be made.

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KCR will take a call on school reopening soon

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

Key decisions on Covid control, vaccination and reopening of educational institutions, as also matters relating to land and revenue, are expected from a meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao here on Monday.

Ministers, district collectors and officials from the health, education, revenue, panchayat raj, as also municipal and forest departments will attend the meet.

The CM recently reviewed issues related to revenue department and several decisions are pending. The agenda included discussions on pending mutations, regularisation of sada bainas, setting up of revenue tribunals.

■ Full report on Page 4



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COMMERCIAL

BALANAGAR MAIN road facing North East corner land 1100 Sq.Yds. with ten LP Gas Station Rs.3.20 Lakhs, per month with option or vacant land. Contact: 9866691479/ 9951114780. (S/2021/C01774)

COMMERCIAL 2FLOORS for sale 2350ft each. Shops for sale variants sizes sagar commercial complex, Balanagar st, good neigborhood, ph no 9848636276, no agents (W/2021/A000897)

✓ 2000SF COMMERCIAL property for Sale in Chevella Town Contact details: 8123500599. (HYMM/2021/C05547)

✓ CHIKKADAPURAM, MUSHERABAD Prime, Commercial Plot for Sale Total area 62 Sq.yds, 2000 Sq.ft. 3 Cr Ready occupy. Contact: 9884520320/ 9966337066. (HYCL/2021/C02213)

COMMERCIAL SHOP for sale. Ground floor, Backside Dilukhnagar Bus Depot. 180 Sq. Main road, BRS Paid. Contact: 9849284667/ 7959503827 (HYCL/2021/C02280)

COMMERCIAL HMDA Approved 1211yds North & East Face Corner Plot on Kompalley to Medchal Medicity Hospital 100feet Road. Near Kishapanth & 36yds East Face Plot on Patancheru. Iskcon to Pashamallaram Mainroad Face DTPC Approved Plot Near Yadagirigutta Center Of Wangalpa to Aler. Ph:9396677837 (HYCL/2021/C02264)

INDEPENDENT BUILDING for sale 254 sqds constructed area 10.00 ft. at Panjgutta colony, 2nd bit from main road. Contact: 98499003888. (A/2021/C00473)

RANGUNI TWO shops main road, ground floor, 13'6 height, 1021 Sq.Ft. and 2042 Sq.Ft. new or lease. Ph: 8328309363/ 9849045634. (S/2021/C01830)

SECUNDERABAD JADE Arcade 1000 Sq.Ft. 75yds. Thimmapur Main road building. 1000 Sq.Ft. 80 lacs. Banjara Hills Road No.12, 680 Sq.Ft. @ 36 lacs. Call: 9248028889/ 995152705. Gated community 3BHK Machapur @ 1.6 Cr. Kondapur @ 1.6 Cr. Vizag @ 3.2 Cr, 4 Cr. (S/2021/C01838)

SHAMSHABAD/ BANGALORE NH road, Ghansimayaguda Venture 2nd bit plots 229 and 256 Sq.Yds, 36 feet. East frontage internal road. Contact: 9866691479/ 8074611848. (S/2021/C01775)

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TWO READY to occupy (BHk Flats for Sale) in East, Maredpally Secunderabhad in a gated community, 1st floor and 2nd floor. Villa for sale in Attapur Eden Vista West facing 5,145 Sqft, handover in 3months. If interested kindly Contact: 9000333726. (HYMM/2021/C05506)

DOUBLE BEDROOM

FLAT FOR Sale. 2 BHK, 1st Floor, 850 Sq.Ft, Chirag Ali lane, Abids, beside Hotel The City Park. Contact: 9848208779. (S/2021/C01871)

✓ SWARNADHAM NAGAR, Dairy Farm, Bowenpally, Hyderabad to occupy 2BHk flats for sale 1070 &1030 Sq.Ft Flats available centrally located accessible to market & main road. Ph:946582868/ 9246377793. (HYCL/2021/C02271)

2BHk SEMIFURNISHED Flat with Woodwork For Sale or Lease Walkable Distance From Road No 1 Banjara Hills Venkataramana Colony, Kharibatla. Contact: 9177881111/ 9444020905. (HYMM/2021/C05556)

✓ JUST FOR Rs.19,35,000/- (Rs.1800/-per Sq.Ft) Luxury 283 BHk Flats in Gated Community Apartments. Free Amenities & Car Parking, Clubhouse & Swimming pool, Shopping mall. Pre-Launch Offer near Celina Resorts, Before Genome Valley, Shamirpet. Call: 7995108999. (S/2021/C00140)

2BHk DELUXE Flat, Trimurghy Main Road, East Facing, 100% Vastu, 1020ft, 300 Sq.Ft. covered bike and car park, 10+ yrs old, newly built. Flat with vitrified flooring, 3 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 32Lakh fixed. No negotiable. Cash party preferable. Ph:9373827005. (HYCL/2021/C02221)

EAST ANANDBAGH, Malkajgiri Municipal S.V.Ramana's Paradise Apartment, Flat No.206, 2BHK, near entrance of New road over bridge, Hyderabad-500047. Ph:7019115159/ 8197209215. (S/2021/C01863)

THREE & MORE

3 BHK premium Flats 2100 sqft for sale in Landmark happy living project at Gagan Mahal Road, Domluga, Hyd. For details contact: 9000846111. (A/2021/C00470)

GACHIBOWLI NEAR Narsingi, exclusive luxury project, Muppa Insignia by Muppa Akshaya Projects. 2Cellars+ Ground+8Flors. 112Aparts 2&3BHK for sale. Sizes 1210 to 1810sqft. Apartments for possession for interiors in one year. Contact: 98495339003. (HYMM/2021/C05340)

HITECH-CITY JUBILEEHILLS/ Manikonda/ Shaikhpura premium 2, 3 & 4 BHk ready to occupy under construction 1100 sft to 5200 sft for sale. Best gated clusters with world class amenities. Ph:9246596972. (S/2021/C01887)

HURRY- ONLY Few Available, Jay Raj Residency, 3BHK New Super Deluxe Flats, Building on Completion Stage. Good Vastu, At Pragati Colony, Andheri Ghant Jatra Road (Model Home Ready) GHMC Approved & Bank Loan Available. Contact: 9849010077, 9100015559. (HYMM/2021/C05546)

STERLING HEIGHTS- 3 BHk Luxury Flats 60+per cent. Gated Community with club house & amenities. Guntur Pochampally near Kompalley 3 BHk Starts from 56.18 lacs onwards. Modi Builders 767712010. (B/2021/C00782)

3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3600/- Sft in gated community with club house & amenities @ Hayathnagar Nr L.B.Nagar 3 BHk Starts from 43.05 Lacs onwards. Mod. Builders 767712010. (B/2021/C00753)

3 BEDROOM 7thfloor East facing 1530Sft with car parking near Lingampally Ry station for 80Lakhs Contact: 8897433577 (HYMM/2021/C05266)

HIGHWAY FACING Ghatkesar HMDA Commercial & Residential Open Plots With 75% Bank Loan. Mono. Ph:961385006/ 996345009 (HYMM/2021/C05549)

LOTS FOR Sale ECL Chakirupur Reddy Colony, 220, 3300 & 1765Gsqft East Facings W/F 300 220& 440 Good Locality Ph:903213175, 8074195459 (HYMM/2021/C0543)

HYDERABAD @KOMPALLY/ Medchal Town KLR Ventures 18,000/- Per Sqyd, HMDA Plots Fully Developed, Gated Community, Bank Loan available. Contact: 88687785050 (HYMM/2021/C05419)

HMDA OPEN Plots for Sale at Ghatkesar with all amenities, fully developed a Mega New Project on Wariangal to Hyderabad highway facing project. Ph:984908826, 9849549981. (HYMM/2021/C05517)

PATANCHEUR @ISNAPUR HMDA Open Plots For Sale, All Developments Completed, Ready to Construction & Plot Registration. Contact: 9849602786 (S/2021/C00141)

✓ SHAMSABAD DUPLEX VILLAS 267yds 3500ft in gated community with all amenities. Price: 1.9Cr. Contact: 903067411, 9246365692. (HYMM/2021/C05346)

3 BHK Flat for sale in Srinagar Colony Banjara Hills, 2300 Sq.Ft, good neighbourhood, ph no 9848636276, no agents (W/2021/A000897)

EMERALD HEIGHTS 3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 350ft. Sit in gated community with club house & amenities @ Pochampally near Infosys Campus from Rs.47.60. Lacs onwards Mod. Builders 767712010. (B/2021/C00754)

✓ SHAMSABAD HILLS 267yds 3500ft in gated community with all amenities. Price: 1.9Cr. Contact: 903067411, 9246365692. (HYMM/2021/C05346)

✓ KPH COLONY, Near Temple Bus Stop, (3BHK 1465 sft.) (2BHK 1095 sft, w/f) 100% vastu. New flats. For Sale Ph:9347729232. (HYMM/2021/C05471)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

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DAMMAGUDA 150 Sq.Yds, G+1 house for sale. West face. 9/9 laks. Contact: 628176819. (S/2021/C01782)

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IN BRIEF

GHMC sprays anti-larval fluid

Hyderabad: The entomology wing of the GHMC on Friday sprayed anti-larval fluid to contain dengue-causing mosquitoes at the Shah Hatim Lake in the Golconda area. The staff sprayed pyrozin oil using drones. Tolichowki corporator Dr Ayesha Humera said that there are many water bodies in and around Golconda Fort which are the potential habitat of mosquito larvae. She said to check dengue, the GHMC authorities were requested to start a drive against mosquitoes.

Manuu to hold Foundation Day

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) will organise its 23rd Foundation Day celebrations on Saturday. Chief guest Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, will deliver his address online at 11.30 am. Prof. S M Rahmatullah, Manuu Vice-Chancellor, will preside. The programme will be streamed live on Manuu's Instructional Media Centre (IMC) YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/imc-manuu.

Half-burnt body of woman found

Hyderabad, Jan 8: In a suspected case of self-immolation, the half-burnt body of an unidentified woman was found near the airport here on Friday. Airport personnel noticed the body and informed the police, who after going through the CCTV footage, said it was suspected that the woman immolated herself. A case had been registered. — PTI

JAPAN KEEN TO EXPAND REACH IN TELANGANA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

Japan is keen to expand its presence in Telangana and continue its ties that have seen companies like Toshiba invest in the state, as well as the country's collaboration in infrastructure projects such as the Outer Ring Road project in Hyderabad.

Tama Masayuki, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan at Chennai, during a seminar on 'India-Japan Business Promotion Opportunities & Road Ahead — Post Covid', organised by FTCCI and Asa Bhanu Japan Centre, said the Consulate-General will continue to work with FTCCI and Asa Bhanu Japan Centre to promote economic activities and cultural exchanges between Telangana state and Japan. Ramakanth Inani, President, FTCCI, said India and Japan have a high degree of congruence in religious, political, economic and strategic interests. FTCCI suggested that Japan open an office of the Japan External Trade Organisation in Hyderabad.



Cops detain University of Hyderabad students trying to block earthmovers from clearing ground for the laying of a road on land belonging to the university, in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, on Friday. — P. SURENDRA

UoH students protest against land grabbers

Over 100ft of university compound demolished near ISB

**HARLEEN
MINOCHA | DC**
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

LAST YEAR, the student union said, there were two major land encroachment attempts, allegedly supported by the state government officials.

without prior notice or any information to the university authorities.

The issue has been a longstanding one, with several complaints lodged by the university on the matter over a decade. Last year, the student union said, there were two major land encroachment attempts,

allegedly supported by the state government officials. The students now demand support from the university management to find a permanent solution to the issue.

Explaining the issue on an administrative level, Prof. Vinod Pavarala said, "This is not a new issue. It has been going on for years now, between the university management and the district administration. The land practically belongs to the government, leased out to the university for a period of 99

CITY GIRL DUPED IN MARRIAGE BY OMANI NATIONAL

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

The family of a young woman, allegedly cheated by two marriage agents who hid information about the groom being mentally unsound, is now seeking justice and the woman's return from Oman, where she was taken to after her wedding to an Omani national.

The agents also did not give the ₹1 lakh mehr (dower) that was promised to the woman's family.

According to Fatima Begum from Gazibanda, mother of the young woman, two agents, Sayeed of Nawabsahab Kunta, and Qadeer of Moghalpura, came to her house and informed that a rich Omani family was in search of a bride for their son and convinced the family to negotiate with one Abdullah who was acted as an agent from the bridegroom side from Muscat.

Fatima Begum said, "After consecutive meetings, our family agreed to marry our youngest daughter in her mid-20s, to Saleem bin Nasser Al-Salmi in Hyderabad on November 10, 2019. During the nikah, three relatives of Saleem who were present left for Oman five days later."

She said her daughter went to Muscat on December 25 last year. Once there, her daughter was shocked to see the abnormal behaviour of her husband and later came to know that he was mentally unsound. Her daughter was being forced to do odd jobs and take care of her husband, the mother added.

Fatima Begum, mother of six daughters, said when her daughter wanted to return to India she was not allowed as the passport was snatched. She contend that Sayeed and Qadeer deliberately kept them in the dark about the mental condition of Saleem.

She approached Amjadullah Khan Khalid of MBT for help. Khan advised her to lodge a complaint with the local police.

TS vaccine dry run encounters glitches

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

The state-wide Covid vaccine dry run on Friday confirmed some problems that the health department has been encountering with software and programmes used to register beneficiaries for the actual vaccination drive.

Friday's dry run was the second in the state after a similar but limited exercise that took place on January 2 in Hyderabad and Mahbubnagar. According to Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, the dry run was conducted as per the directions of the Centre.

The Centre has been getting more active each day with respect to the Covid vaccination drive, holding meetings with all states. These exercises are to be stepped up in the days to come. It is expected that vaccine deliveries will begin soon, most likely in the next few days. The Centre is expected to announce a date, sometime in the second week of this month, when the drive will begin across the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting with the Chief Ministers on Monday to discuss the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out plan.

Dr Srinivasa Rao said during Friday's dry run, which saw 917 'vaccination sessions' covering 21,777 'beneficiaries', it was found that the Co-WIN software has certain pin code issues and it was jumbling up beneficiaries' details between neighbouring health facilities and districts. The programme was seen to be updating slowly and details of not all the beneficiaries were updated.

It is expected that such issues will be resolved before

COVID-19 CASES SPIKE IN RANGA REDDY DISTRICT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

Ranga Reddy district, that abuts Hyderabad city, and Warangal Urban district, covering the state's second largest city of Warangal, have recorded a slow upward creep in daily cases of Covid-19 since January 5.

According to the daily Covid-19 bulletin issued by the state health department, Ranga Reddy district saw 34 cases on January 5, followed by 36 on January 6, and 41 on January 7. Warangal Urban recorded 13 cases on January 5, 14 on January 6, and 18 on January 7.

The GHMC area over the same period, saw a slight dip in daily cases. The health department said GHMC area recorded 82 cases on January 5, 71 on January 6, and 66 on January 7.

The latest addition to the Covid-19 caseload was 346 for Thursday, along with two more deaths from the disease, the department said. The total cases so far stand at 2,89,135, and 1,561 people have died from the disease. As on Thursday, 2,82,574 people were deemed to have recovered, including 397 on Thursday.

the vaccination drive begins. On Friday, some ministers and health department officials fanned out across the state to oversee the dry run and identify issues that need addressing.

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PANEL IN ACTION

Commission to work with govt to make policy recommendations

Women's panel to work on helpline

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

The newly-appointed Telangana State Women's Commission, headed by V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy, a former minister, took charge at the Buddha Bhavan on Friday, in the presence of TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao.

Sunitha Laxma Reddy, who has earlier served as women and child development minister, said that there are challenges that lay ahead due to non-functioning of the commission for two-and-a-half years, and that she will analyse the situation in the next few weeks.

They have prioritised the women's helpline number in the state — 181 — and have kept the She Teams initiative on their priority agenda, saying that the commission will work with the government to implement it effectively, soon.

"The 24x7 helpline number, 181, will be available for women across the state. It will respond immediately and connect them wherever necessary with the police, ambulance, and other emergency services, as well as the nearest Sakhi centre,"



V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy assumes charge as chairperson of Telangana State Women's Commission at Buddha Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. — R. PAVAN



Blatantly violating Covid guidelines, TRS workers seen without face masks and no social distancing at Buddha Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday.

Covid-19 norms go for a toss

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

In the celebration of a fully functional Women's Commission in Telangana, Covid-19 safety protocols, and social distancing norms were thrown in the winds on Friday.

At a time when the state is witnessing up and down swings in Covid-19 infections, with a 65 per cent rise overnight three days ago, it was not just visitors, even

but even political leaders did not seem concerned.

Hundreds of people gathered in a small room for the ceremony on Friday at the Women's Commission office in Tank Bund.

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao, and women and child welfare minister Satyavathi Rathod attended the event along with several party leaders and activists on Friday. The cadre and well-wishers from across the state were cooped up in a small space, without Covid-19 safety measures and many of them did not wear masks.

When asked, cops on duty had no answers, whereas authorities from the department present at the event said that such a huge gathering wasn't anticipated. "Party workers and cadres from various districts came down. We did not know this would happen, and we were caught off-guard," said an official.



SHORT TAKES

**MAJ GEN (RETD)
S.N. BHASKAR
DIES AT 96**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

Major General S.N. Bhaskar (retd) from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, and former chairman and managing director of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), passed away here on Thursday. He was 96.

Maj. Gen. Bhaskar (retd) was born on November 20, 1924 and was commissioned into the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers at the age of 24. He was awarded the Ati Vishishit Seva Medal in 1979 and retired with distinguished service in 1980.

After retirement from the Army, he led BEML as its chairman and managing director and improved the company's efficiency and production. He is credited with turning BEML into a success story for which he was awarded the Padma Shri in 1984.

According to a news release, Maj. Gen. Bhaskar (retd) passed away at his residence in Banjara Hills due to old age and the last rites were performed on Friday at Swarg Vatika crematorium.



Shiv Sena Reddy

**SHIV SENA
REDDY IS NEW
STATE YC CHIEF**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

The Indian Youth Congress (YC) announced Shiv Sena Reddy as president of the Telangana Youth Congress on Friday, following an election and an interview.

The elections were conducted in September last year in which Shiv Sena Reddy secured 59,967 votes. The Congress called the top three contestants and conducted interviews in December last.

On Thursday night, the YC Election Commission announced Shiv Sena Reddy as president of the TS unit. Shiv Sena Reddy thanked YC president B.V. Srinivas, joint secretary Krishna and Manickam Tagore, the state Congress incharge, and other key leaders.

**TURMERIC
FARMERS PLAN
AGITATION**

NARENDER PULLOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, JAN. 8

As the peak marketing season is approaching, turmeric farmers would intensify their agitation for remunerative price for their produce. Farmers of Nizamabad, Jagtial and Nirmal districts will unitedly fight for better price for turmeric this season. A meeting will be held in Amroor on January 8 to press the demand, their leaders said.

Turmeric is cultivated on a huge scale in north Telangana districts and the region caters to the needs of national and international markets. The price of the produce is now around ₹6,000 per quintal. Farmers say the cultivation, thus, is not profitable.

Farmers said turmeric will reach Nizamabad agriculture market yard soon. This is one of the biggest markets in the country for turmeric sales.

Other than the BJP and TRS, political parties have in general extended their support to turmeric farmers. Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind said he is ready for a debate on having a turmeric board set up in Amroor. "I initiated steps for the setting up of a regional spices board centre in Nizamabad, which is greater than the turmeric board," he said.

"I promised to get a turmeric board centre for the region in the last Parliament elections, but the regional spices board in Nizamabad would benefit turmeric farmers more than that," he explained at the Bodhan public meeting.

BJP national general secretary and Telangana state in-charge Tarun Chug also promised that the central government would give assistance to turmeric farmers if the Telangana government offered a market intervention price of ₹10,000 per quintal of turmeric. Farmers are waiting for the decision of state government.

Schools on TS agenda

CM meet to decide on school reopening, vaccination

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

Key decisions on Covid control, vaccination and reopening of educational institutions, as also matters relating to land and revenue, are expected from a meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao here on Monday.

Ministers, district collectors and officials

resolution of issues included in Revenue Part B. It will also determine the action required to expedite resolution of revenue-related matters.

The Chief Minister is likely to discuss ways to check the spread of Covid-19 and its new strain in the state. He would finalise a plan of action for the vaccine jab including matters of storage and supply. The meeting

would also discuss the date and modalities for resumption of classes in educational institutions.

The implementation of rural and urban development programmes will also come up for review. Matters of funds distribution will also be discussed. The meeting will review implementation of the Haritha Haram aimed at increasing the greenery in the state, the CMO said.

Bandi takes on minister Ajay ahead of KMC polls

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, JAN. 8

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay on Friday accused transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar of large-scale corruption. He remarked that Ajay needs to be administered a "corruption vaccine" to unearth his benami contracts in Khammam district.

Sanjay charged that Ajay has nothing to do with separate Telangana movement and became a minister after spending crores of rupees. He sought to point out that Ajay was in YSR when the Telangana movement was on. "So far, he has changed four parties like a chameleon," Sanjay remarked, taking objection to Ajay's criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The state BJP president accused the minister of encroaching on 3.5 acre Nagarjunasagar Project canal land in Survey Nos. of 93 and 94, that he said was valued at ₹70 crore in the open market, and committing malpractices in the medical college that Ajay is running. He underlined that while roads in Khammam town are at most 60 feet wide, those along the minister's Mamata Medical College are of 100 feet. Sanjay claimed that all development works going on in Khammam district are being taken up with funds being received from the Central government. He maintained that the results of the Dabbala byelection and GHMC polls will repeat in Khammam Municipal Corporation (KMC). "The saffron flag will be hoisted atop the KMC," he declared.

The TS BJP chief had visited Khammam to ready his party activists for the ensuing civic body elections. He interacted with people from various sections of the society, including businessmen, academics, teachers and professionals in the VVC complex. He also addressed a meeting of party activists on forming booth-level committees.



State BJP president and MP Bandi Sanjay being welcomed by a large number of party workers in Khammam on Friday. — AMARAVADI SRIVARSHA

TRS leaders warn Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

TRS MLAs hit out at BJP leaders including state affairs incharge Tarun Chugh and state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar over their comments against Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and the state government.

Government whip Guvala Balaraju, MLCs Shambipur Raju and M.S. Prabhakar conducted a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Friday to speak in defence of the Chief Minister.

Balaraju accused the BJP leaders of obstructing development and alleged that they were spreading false propaganda against TRS government for their political gains.

Balaraju stated that the Centre had not allocated funds to the state, and asked why the BJP leaders including Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy could not demand that the Centre

give importance to the state.

The MLA said that Chugh and Sanjay were dreaming of coming to power in 2023 but they would not be able to do so even in 2048. "There is no scope for the BJP and the people will not give them a chance," Balaraju said. He also said that the TRS was a secular party and does not provoke in the name of religion and caste.

Responding to comments that Telangana state was becoming "bimaar," Balaraju said, "Telangana is not bimaar, the BJP and its leaders are bimaar," Balaraju said.

Balaraju said that Sanjay had forgotten he was a Parliament member and was using filthy language against the Chief Minister. With regard to Chugh, the TRS MLA said that he should first give a statement on the safety of women in Uttar Pradesh, against the backdrop of the rape and murder of a 50-year-old woman in Badaun.

MLC Prabhakar stated that Sanjay does not have political sense and must first read the GHMC Act and then comment against the state government. He said that the GHMC Council meeting will be arranged as per the norms of the GHMC Act.

Prabhakar said TRS leaders were being patient as they had been instructed by the Chief Minister to maintain restraint.

"If over 60 lakh TRS members react, the BJP leaders would think twice about their fate before making statements to burn the state," the MLC said. The BJP could not draw 300 members for its meeting at Bodhan, he claimed.

MLC Shambipur Raju asked Sanjay and Nizamabad MP D. Arvind where they were when Hyderabad and Warangal were affected by floods. He said that Sanjay should get additional funds for Telangana state before issuing statements.

CM, HIS FAMILY INVOLVED IN LAND SCAMS, SAYS BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

BJP senior leader and former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and his followers of being involved in the Hafeezpet land issue.

He alleged that with the support of Rama Rao, the mafia was

occupying land parcels. He accused the leaders of the ruling party of misusing powers to create fake documents and encroaching lands.

The government has not taken any action against the land mafia, he pointed out.



Police detain protesters as they try to enter the state Secretariat on Friday demanding construction of Masjid which was demolished recently.

— P. SURENDRA

CONG PROTESTERS BID TO STORM SECTT FOILED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

Protestors from the Congress tried to storm the Secretariat premises to offer Friday prayers at the site where two mosques stood before the complex was demolished.

This led to scuffles between them and police personnel posted at the place.

Earlier this week, the Tahreek Muslim Shabban organisation had issued an ultimatum to the state government that if they are not allowed to pray at the location where the mosque stood earlier, they

would storm the compound and offer prayers. The group had set January 24 as a deadline for the government to comply with its demand saying that the demolished mosque was Wafiq property and the government had no right to demolish it.

FIRST-EVER ROAD SAFETY CHECKPOST INAUGURATED ON NH-44

Hyderabad: The first-ever road safety checkpost in the country was inaugurated near the Raikal toll plaza on National Highway 44 on

Friday. Inaugurating the facility, Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said road accidents were on the rise due to the lack of safety awareness

while driving and the new checkpost aims to educate road users on safety aspects. More such facilities were in the line, he said.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The memory of the righteous is blessed
Proverbs 10:7



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Memorial Service will be held today,
9th January @ 10:30 a.m.
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Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

Contact: 800873300, 9959606396

(S/2021/D01046)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



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Inserted by: G. GOPINATH ROY

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DOD: 03 - 01 - 2021

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* Azmat Hussain with Zayyad

* Syed Arshad Hussain with Riaz,

Zuhair Zubayr "n" (USA)

* Azra Hussain with Rafath and Urusa (KSA)

* Azma Hussain with Abid, Haseeb and Muhsin (KSA)

* Mehvish, Anwer and Aynur (UK)

Contact: +919949125737

(S/2021/D01045)

OBITUARY



JULIUS BRAGANZA
Date of Birth 12th August 1925
Date of Expiry 8th January 2021

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

HYDERABAD

(CA-3500)

OBITUARY



Shri. BOORUGU MURALIDHAR
Our heart felt condolences
to the grieved Family.

Inserted by:
Kylas Gurumani, Belday Srinivas
Revoori Sena, Musthyla Sudhakar

(S/2021/D01044)

SHRADHANJALI



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at our residence 12-2-823/C/74, SBL Colony,
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Family: Beena Rani, Rahul, Anupam & Sadhika
Ph. 9704143903, 9866666090

(S/2021/D01047)

39TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"Those who die in the Lord will live forever."

Isaiah 26:19

Late HENRY LEWIS

SHORT TAKES
**AKHILA PRIYA'S
BROTHER: WE
OWN PROPERTY**

From Page 1

She alleged that Praveen Rao's agreement with My Home had triggered the arrest of her sister. "We own the property," she claimed.

It is learnt that Praveen Rao offered some money to the Bhuma family but the latter did not agree for a compromise as the amount offered was "very meagre".

Meanwhile, knowledgeable sources said Akhila Priya had made desperate attempts to reach out to MLC K. Kavitha. When her attempts failed, Akhila Priya drove up to Kavitha's residence but the two could not meet. Sources said Kavitha did not want to intervene in the land dispute.

Akhila Priya also tried to reach out to AP ministers M. Sucharitha and B. Rajendranath Reddy but failed. TD Telangana president L. Ramana coordinated with her sources close to the former minister said.

**INTER FIRST-YR
CLASSES IN AP
FROM JAN. 18**

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 8

Intermediate first-year classes will start on January 18 in Andhra Pradesh. Education minister Adimulapu Suresh announced this here on Friday.

The minister said that based on directions from the AP High Court, first-year admissions were done offline and the process would be completed by January 17. Admissions would be taken up online in the next academic year.

The academic year for 2020-21 would continue up to May, 2021. The schedule for examinations will be announced shortly. Some 30 per cent of the intermediate syllabus was reduced due to the prevalence of Covid-19 regulations. Subject-wise details were sent to the respective colleges. Practical examinations for inter students would be held as usual. The minister warned of stern action against junior college managements if they conducted classes without government permission. He said recognition would be withdrawn if any junior college failed to follow directions from the government, be it on collection of fees or on compliance with guidelines on Covid-19. He urged parents to alert the government on any irregularity.

**GRAM PANCHAYAT
ELECTIONS IN AP
FROM FEB. 5-17**

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 8

State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar on Friday said that the gram panchayat polls would be held in four phases from February 5 to 17. Voting will be from 6.30 am to 3.30 pm. Counting of votes will also be done over four phases. The government has said that the the government will be busy with the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

As per the schedule, the SEC will issue the election notification on January 23 for Phase-I, January 27 for Phase-II, January 31 for Phase-III and February 4 for Phase-IV. The last date for nominations is January 27, 31, February 4 and 8 respectively. Polling where necessary will be held on February 5, 9, 13 and 17. Counting of votes and declaration of results are scheduled for Feb. 5, 9, 13 and 17 from 4 pm. The election of upa sarpanch after declaration of results to be held on February 5, 9, 13 and 17.

While issuing the schedule here on Friday, the SEC said that it had intended to hold the elections in the second or third week of February but that would extend election process into March. Ramesh Kumar said that the State Election Commission has advanced the schedule which will commence on January 23 and will conclude on February 17.

The SEC has opted for the four-stage gram panchayat elections keeping in view the Covid safety protocols, he said.

The SEC expressed its fullest confidence in the state government machinery to help it conduct polls.

KTR: Tech growth in state will create jobs

IT minister launches science and technology cluster

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

● **THE HYDERABAD** cluster will be led by the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RIC), and aims to bolster nationwide scientific collaboration.

ideas."

The office of the principal scientific adviser (PSA) to the Centre has proposed the establishment of mega S&T clusters in four cities that have strong organisations, institutions and industries focused on science and technology — Hyderabad, Bengaluru, National Capital Region (NCR)-Delhi and Pune — to develop a futuristic roadmap for science and technology in India.

"We are looking to help launch at least five large impactful companies over the next five to seven years, which will benefit millions, genera-

ate wealth, and create over 1,00,000 jobs across the country. In the longer term, our goal is to make Telangana state the best

centre of excellence for life sciences, agriculture and digital technology," Rama Rao said, speaking at the event.

Free water scheme launch on Jan. 11

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

A scare over spread of bird flu has led to a sharp drop in demand for chicken in the city and a fall in price. There so far is no report of any instance of bird flu, known also as Avian Bird Influenza in the state, while some other states have seen its spread.

Experts said there was no need for panic and eating well-cooked poultry products is safe. The poultry market has always been the victim of such rumours.

The sales have dropped in the last three days. Our sale was close to 400kg per day. It has come down to 150 kg now. As for price, two days back it was ₹118 per kg, which dropped to ₹108."

Nampally chicken market has both wholesale and retail outlets. These have not seen any drop in sales, whereas the price has gone

down. Stated Md Iqbal of Tawakal Chicken Centre, "At retail, we are selling for ₹95 per kg; three days back it was ₹110."

Dr Madhusudan, assistant director animal husbandry, said, "There was no trace of the bird flu here. Rumors affected the market."

Dr Zeenath Fathima, nutritionist and dietitian, said, "Chicken, eggs and poultry are the best sources of protein and immunity. They are energy boosters. If at all there is any virus, well-cooked meat poses no harm. During this season and also when so many diseases are around, it is rather advisable to include meat and eggs in regular diet."

Jagan to reconstruct 9 demolished temples

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 8

Hyderabad, Jan. 8: Bharat Biotech said that the Phase-I clinical trials of its new intranasal antidote for the killer virus will begin in February-March this year. The manufacturer has recently received emergency use approval for its Covid-19 vaccine called Covaxin. Bharat Biotech is also working on developing another vaccine, for which it tied up with Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis for the novel "chimp-adeno-virus" (Chimpanzee adenovirus), a single dose intranasal vaccine for Covid-19.

"BBV154 (intranasal Covid-19 vaccine) pre-clinical testing has been completed for toxicology, immunogenicity and challenge studies. These studies have been conducted in the USA and India. Phase I human clinical trials will commence during February-March," an email reply from the city-based vaccine maker said. — PTI

The CM started with performing puja for development and expansion of Kanaka Durga Temple at an estimated cost of ₹77 crore. Foundation stones for eight other temples followed, while he unveiled two separate plaques at a place where Saneeswara Swamy temple is to be constructed.

Later, Jagan Mohan Reddy reached atop Indrakeeladri hill and had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga amid chanting of Vedas by pandits. The CM was presented a memento and portrait of Goddess Kanaka Durga as well as prasadams by temple

SIT TO PROBE OFFENCES ON TEMPLES

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 8

The AP government on Friday formed a Special Investigation Team headed by additional director ACB, G.V.G. Ashok Kumar, to investigate offences relating to temples, including desecration of idols, in a flurry from September 2020 across the state.

The Director General of Police issued a memo constituting the SIT with 16 members including its chief and superintendent of police, Krishna district, M. Ravindranath Babu, additional SP, SIB, S. Sridhar, additional SP, CID, and L.V. Srinivas Rao as members.

The forensic science lab director has been asked to accord top priority to any request for support made by the SIT. Agencies like CID and intelligence will also extend support to the SIT for the investigation. In a separate development, the Andhra Pradesh IPS Association condemned the "malicious propaganda" targeting some officers, accusing them of religious bias in the context of the temple attacks.

Varla Devasthanam, Ministers Vellappalli Srinivasa Rao, Botla Satyanarayana Rao, Perni Nani, Kodali Nani, temple executive officer M. V. Suresh Babu and several public representatives and officials were present on the occasion.

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SHORT TAKES

DOLPHIN BEATEN TO DEATH IN UP; THREE ARRESTED

Pratapgarh (UP), Jan. 8: A dolphin was beaten to death by a group of men in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh, leading to the arrest of three people, police said on Friday.

According to police, some people killed the dolphin on December 31 in the Sharda canal near Kotharia village in the Nawabganj police station area, about 70 km away from the district headquarters.

A Forest Department team rushed to the spot on getting information and took the dead dolphin in custody.

During investigation, names of three persons belonging to Rae Bareli district surfaced and they were arrested on Thursday, ASP (West) Dinesh Dwivedi said.

Those who killed the dolphin were not able to take it away because of its weight, the ASP added.

PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 8

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention — the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) that provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians — will be held on Saturday in a virtual format.

The MEA had recently said, "In view of the sentiments of our vibrant diaspora community, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, is being organized on 9th January 2021, despite the ongoing Covid pandemic. The convention will be held in virtual format, as were the PBD Conferences held recently in the run up to the Convention. The theme of 16th PBD Convention is 'Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat'."

The PBD convention will have three segments."

The PBD convention will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will feature a keynote address by the President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi who will be the chief guest.

STONE-PELTING: MP MULLS TRIBUNALS

RABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC
BHOPAL, JAN. 8

Madhya Pradesh government is mulling to set up tribunals to try cases of stone-pelting in the state.

The state law department has prepared the draft Bill seeking to deal with people involved in stone-pelting strongly and it is going to be placed before the state cabinet for approval, sources said on Friday.

The draft Bill proposes to set up tribunals in the state to try cases of stone-pelting, a senior officer of state law department told this newspaper unwilling to be quoted.

The draft Bill has provided that the proposed tribunals have to dispose of the cases within 6 months, he added.

The draft bill would be referred to the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for his scrutiny before being placed in the state cabinet for approval, sources said.

Sources said the draft Bill has proposed to confiscate the properties of the attackers to compensate the losses caused by them.

Even the places of worship which would be found to be harboring the stone throwers would be confiscated as per the draft Bill, sources added.

DIGITAL MOVE Items like cars also can be now purchased online

CSD canteens go online

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 8

Army, Navy and Air Force personnel and veterans will now be able to purchase cars, motorcycles, and white goods (washing machines, TVs, and refrigerators among others), online from CSD canteens.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched the online portal for purchase of items against firm demand (AFD) from CSD canteens.

This will benefit 45 lakh CSD beneficiaries includ-

K'taka may start Covid vaccination from Mon.

State set to receive 13.90 lakh vaccine vials in a couple of days

Bengaluru, Jan. 8:

Karnataka Health Minister K. Sudhakar on Friday said the state is expected to receive 13,90,000 vials of vaccine against Covid-19 in a day or two, and it is likely to be administered starting from January 11.

"The big good news for Karnataka is that I have received information from the Union Health Ministry that tomorrow (Saturday) or the day after probably we will be receiving 13,90,000 vials of vaccine for the state. It's a big happy news for all of us," he said.

Speaking to reporters after visiting a private hospital here, where vaccination dry run is being conducted, Sudhakar said, the vaccination will be first administered to healthcare workers.

"We have registered 6.30 lakh healthcare professionals in Karnataka till date. Those who are left out, may be in some medical or dental colleges, we have requested them to register," he said adding that health workers will be followed by those with comorbidities, those above 60 years and those in other departments like Police and Revenue working against the pandemic.

Later speaking in Chikkaballapura, Sudhakar said, the vaccine vials that will come will be distributed to all the districts and probably it will be administered from Monday itself.

Covid-19 vaccination dry run is on at a total of 263 different health facilities across Karnataka on Friday.

It is being held in 24 district hospitals, 20 medical colleges, 43 taluk hospitals, 31 community health centres, 87 primary health centres, 30 urban primary health centres and 28 private facilities in the state.

The minister who visited some facilities, where the dry run is going on said, arrangements and preparedness were quite good, and the process is being followed as per the guidelines issued.

The first round of the dry run, an exercise for end-to-end testing of Covid-19 vaccination process was held in five districts of Karnataka-Bengaluru (including BBMP), Belagavi, Kalburgi, Mysore and Shivamogga on December 2 as per the government of India guidelines.

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the Covid-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network will track details of potential beneficiaries and those who receive the vaccine shot will be given electronic certificates. — PTI

82 people have tested positive for UK variant

New Delhi, Jan. 8: The number of people who have tested positive for the new United Kingdom variant of SARS-CoV-2 has climbed to 82 in India, the health ministry said on Friday. The number of such people stood at 73 till January 6, it added.

"The total number



Mumbai hospitals are all set to carry out the vaccination drive for Covid-19. At Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar, a five-room vaccination centre with separate entrance and exit has been created near the main gate.

— Rakesh Jadhav

Delhi makes quarantine must for UK returnees

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a meeting with the chief ministers of states and union territories on Monday to discuss the Covid-19 vaccine rollout plan.

The meeting will be held through video conferencing.

On Friday, another round of dry run for the Covid-19 vaccination programme was conducted across the country to check the delivery system and preparedness of those trained.

All flight operators have to take special permission from the government before varying the Covid-19 vaccines packed in dry ice.

Airlines staff has to be trained to handle the vaccine consignments appropriately and there should be constant monitoring of Co2 emissions from dry ice.

Meanwhile, Delhi government announced new rules for the United Kingdom returnees in view of rising cases of a new mutant variant of the Covid-19 virus detected in that country. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that all passengers arriving in

The MoCA has asked airlines to follow "well-defined procedures that meet global safety standards and requirements based on local conditions."

All flight operators have to take special permission from the government before varying the Covid-19 vaccines packed in dry ice. Airlines staff has to be trained to handle the vaccine consignments appropriately and there should be constant monitoring of Co2 emissions from dry ice.

Passengers complained that they had got tested prior to boarding flights and were carrying their negative report in order to fulfill the Indian government's requirement for flying in.

India has allowed a restricted number of flights from the UK for the time being, a move opposed by the Delhi government which has just overcome a major third wave and is still struggling to keep infection levels under check.

ON FRIDAY, another round of dry run for the Covid-19 vaccination programme was conducted across the country to check the delivery system and preparedness of those trained.

The city from the UK, even though negative in tests must go through 7-day institutional quarantine and 7-day home quarantine. All those who test positive will be taken to institutional isolation centre.

At Delhi airport there was utter chaos and anguish among passengers as they were caught unawares with the new directive coming while their flights had already taken off. Several took to social media to air their grievances while some posted pictures of infants who were travelling on board and were now without baby food.

The state has so far recorded 3,31,396 Covid-19 cases, including the 245 new cases reported since Thursday. As many as 24,482 tests were conducted on Thursday, the government said on Friday.

While the prices of tickets have mostly remained the same, online booking and payment in digital mode is being encouraged by the halls.

The decision to open cinema halls and theatres came as the state continued to show a downward trend in Covid-19 cases.

The state has so far recorded 3,31,396 Covid-19 cases, including the 245 new cases reported since Thursday. As many as 24,482 tests were conducted on Thursday, the government said on Friday.

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The state has so far recorded 3,31,396 Covid-19 cases

SHORT TAKES

MAJOR MAOIST HIDEOUT BUSTED IN ODISHA

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 8

Security forces on Friday seized huge haul of arms and ammunition, including hand grenades and other explosives, after busting a major Maoist hideout in Kandhamal district.

Kandhamal superintendent of police Vinit Agarwal said the Maoist camp was busted during a joint combing operation by Special Operation Group (SOG) jawans and district voluntary force.

"Based on reliable intelligence inputs, an anti-Naxal operation was launched in the region on Thursday by a joint team of SOG and DVE. During the combing exercise, Maoists opened fire at the security forces and the latter also retaliated. We seized a huge cache of ammunition from the spot after the exchange of fire," said Agarwal. The SP also informed that grenades, detonators, splinters, explosives, batteries and other various literature and camp articles used by the Maoists were seized from the hideout.

Taking advantage of dense forest cover and hilly terrain, the ultras however managed to escape from the spot.

"The exchange of fire lasted for over 30 minutes and 15-20 Maoists suspected to be inside the camp managed to flee and save their lives. We have intensified combing operations in the region and are trying to apprehend the ultras," Agarwal added. On October 26, a country-made revolver, claymore mine and other explosives were seized from a Maoist dump in Malkangiri district.

BENGAL GOV. TO MEET AMIT SHAH IN DELHI TODAY

Kolkata, Jan. 8: Amid the growing political turbulence in poll-bound West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will be meeting Union home minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Saturday.

He had last met Shah in October 2020.

"Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will fly to New Delhi on Friday night. His engagements include calling on the Union home minister Amit Shah on January 9," Raj Bhavan sources said.

Dhankhar, who had been at loggerheads with the TMC government since taking charge as the Bengal governor, has criticised the Mamata Banerjee dispensation on several occasions over the "worsening" law and order situation in the state.

BJP leaders in Bengal have been demanding imposition of President's Rule in the state, citing "breakdown of the rule of law" as reason.

Elections to the 294-member Bengal Assembly are likely to be held in April-May.

RAUT DEFENDS UDDHAV'S POST ON 'SAMBAHJINAGAR'

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 8

Even a day after Congress' protest, the reference to Aurangabad as 'Sambajinagar' on Maharashtra CM's official Twitter handle remained unchanged. Shiv Sena spokesperson and the Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut defended the Maharashtra CM's official post, while Congress leader Ashok Chavan reminded the Uddhav Thackeray-led party that it was leading a coalition government.

In Nashik, Raut said that popular demand is above the Common Minimum Programme (CMP). It should not be necessary to run the government only as per what is written in the CMP, which is meant for ensuring food, clothes, and shelters. "It is not mentioned in the CMP to not make a decision over the popular demand," Raut said.

The Congress has been contending that as it is not a part of the CMP, therefore, such issues should be avoided in order to ensure smooth functioning of the government.

Rebutting to Sena's popular demand, Chavan, who is also PWD minister in Thackeray-led government, said that it is a coalition government. Personal agenda can not be implemented. "This subject (name changing) is not on our priority list. Whenever such controversial issues come before the MVA government, all the constituents of MVA must sit together and resolve the issue," he added.

Budaun case: Main accused held

The mahant was arrested in a late-night crackdown that ended his 5-day run

Budaun (UP), Jan. 8: A priest, who is the main accused in the alleged gang-rape of an anganwadi worker in this Uttar Pradesh district, was quizzed throughout Friday night after his arrest in a late-night crackdown that ended his five-day run.

The "mahant", Satya Narayan, was hiding in a forest area near the house of one of his followers in Mewali village under the Ughai police station, from where he was picked up, the police said.

The priest, who is in his 50s, was immediately arrested and interrogated by a police team.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sankalp Sharma said the sub-inspector in-charge of the area, Amarjit Singh, was suspended on Friday.

The station house officer (SHO) of the Ughai police station, Raghvendra Pratap, was suspended earlier for a "delay in informing higher authorities, laxity in taking action, dereliction of duty and failure in taking

speedy action" and a case under IPC section 166A (public servant disobeying law) has been registered against the two officers.

They had informed senior officials about the incident after a delay of 17 hours, the SSP said.

He said the priest is being questioned and further action will be taken in accordance with the information provided by him.

Some more people are on police radar and they are also being questioned, the SSP said, adding that all the angles are being looked into and the case will be solved soon.

The priest will be taken for a medical examination and produced before a local court for seeking remand later in the day, the police said.

The 50-year-old woman, who had gone to a temple, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Sunday. Her family members accused the temple priest and his accomplices of raping and killing her.

A case was registered against the accused and

HORRENDOUS INCIDENT

- THE 50-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, who had gone to a temple, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Sunday.

- HER FAMILY members accused the temple priest and his accomplices of raping and killing her.

- THE PRIEST is being questioned and further action will be taken in accordance with the information provided by him.

"shameful", with the Congress comparing it to the Nirbhaya case.

Following the incident, Bareilly ADG Avinash Chandra had visited the crime spot and announced a reward of ₹50,000 on the priest's arrest.

"Based on complaints from the family members and the post-mortem report, a case has been registered under sections 376D (gang-rape) and 302 (punishment for murder of the IPC)," he had said.

The ADG had said a second opinion on the post-mortem report was being sought from medical experts and only after that, any conclusion could be drawn.

Budam Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Yashpal Singh said the woman died of trauma and excessive bleeding.

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victim's body to her house, saying it was found in a dry well on the temple premises.

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DECCAN Chronicle

9 JANUARY 2021

True picture of economy emerges in official data

In the wake of the information revolution, governments, too, are becoming savvy in the art of sophisticated media management that enables them to have their say in direct interaction with the people beyond the traditional print and TV media. However, such management also leads to the sowing of doubts in the minds of people as they struggle to sift real facts from managed news. Something similar may have happened in the case of the official Indian narrative about the economy.

The lockdown — the toughest in the world — had wiped out nearly 25 per cent of the country's productivity, but there was no official admission. Government officials did not directly comment on the sorry state of economic affairs even though several agencies, including the Reserve Bank of India, had painted a grim economic scenario. The moment of truth may have come when the National Statistical Office (NSO), a statistical body under the Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation, released its report on the economic outlook.

On Thursday, NSO projected a 7.7 per cent contraction for the Indian economy in 2020-21, highlighting the damage that the coronavirus has inflicted on the Indian economy.

Though the contraction has become slightly milder after September 2020, making many analysts suggest a V-shaped recovery, the real picture has not become any better.

According to NSO data, the business of services like trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcast is expected to shrink by 21.4 per cent, construction sector which has a multiplier effect on other industries is expected to shrink by 12.6 per cent,

mining and quarrying are projected to witness a degrowth of 12.4 per cent, and manufacturing is projected to lose productivity by 9.4 per cent. When such key segments of the economy are witnessing a degrowth, the economy can never be said to be in pink of its health. The impact of such widespread deceleration in the economy is evident in unemployment that has been left unaddressed for a long time.

In a recent report, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) said the unemployment rate in the country rose sharply to 9.1 per cent in December 2020, which is the highest since the beginning of India's recovery from the lockdown in June. The jobless rate stood at 10.99 per cent in June 2020. Unemployment in urban India rose from 7.1 per cent to 8.8 per cent.

While there is an improvement in hiring intentions in some sectors, a survey conducted by Manpower Group claims that it would take at least nine months for the country to reach pre-Covid levels. This scenario presents a tightrope walk for the government, as jobs will not increase unless economic output rises. Higher economic output and consumer confidence, however, are mutually dependent. People will not splurge unless they are confident about their financial future, which once again depends on the country's economic growth. Therefore, the role of the government and rich corporations assumes greater significance to spur economic growth of the country.

FB, Twitter: Action too late

Facebook and Instagram have banned Donald Trump "indefinitely", or at least until the end of his term. He will be denied access to his 35 million followers on Facebook but retains the key to addressing 88 million followers on Twitter because that platform has not taken as bold a stand and had locked him out only for 12 hours on the fateful day. Of course, social media, often criticised for being the publicity megaphone for the likes of the obtrusive US President, had acted belatedly and only after all that distressing violence had taken place on Capitol Hill. They were clearly guilty of bolting the doors after the horses had fled.

The action against Mr Trump is a warning shot that should have come long ago when he was blatantly misusing the social media after having built up his influence on them and misused the platforms to challenge the election results. The influence that the likes of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube wield as a platform linking people in the US, Europe, India and many other countries is huge. It is on record that the social media have been used as a vehicle for hate and not only in the obvious case of Trump and his acolytes. However, the conspiracy theorist QAnon also used other sites like Gab and Parler to gather members for the attack on democracy.

The point is social media has been guilty of allowing extremism to grow. Its lackadaisical attitude to curbing toxic content while chasing advertisement revenue based on number of users has led us to such a pass. It was never in the public interest to allow hate to come to a boil and let violence result from people operating in closed social media networks. By his perverse actions Mr Trump has become a stark warning to those who use the social media for nefarious purposes. In India, Facebook and others have been as reluctant to shut down unacceptable use to whip up communal passions and outright hate based on religion despite warnings from the government and civil rights groups. Will they reform at least now?

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Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



"Now the new year reviving old desires
The thoughtful soul with his bottles retires
With good wishes for friend and foe alike
And for saints and even for consummate liars."

— From Rubaiyat of Bachchoo
Ka Adda

Of Chinese virus, Spanish flu, UK strain: Do points of origin matter?

The soon-to-be ex-President Donald Trump insists on calling the Covid-19 plague the "Chinese virus". Very many viruses have been given adjectival and territorial names. The least antagonistic is "common cold". It blames no nation, continent or species as do the descriptions like "Spanish flu", "Asian flu", "swine flu" and "bird flu".

The last two are comparatively innocuous but Mr Trump's insistence on calling this worldwide pandemic "Chinese" is part of his nastiness and his attempt to deepen the antagonism between Americans and all things Chinese.

I don't know if there was any malignant intention on the part of Britons who christened that infliction "Spanish". Just part of British xenophobia

contempt. I have no doubt that if Mr Trump is challenged, he will produce evidence that the Covid-19 pandemic originated in Wuhan. He might even say that it was deliberately set free from a laboratory there in accordance with some devilish Chinese world domination strategy.

Incidentally, there is now an invitation from Wuhan scientists for objective observers to re-examine the common claim that the epidemic originated in that city. What the result of this challenge will be is yet to be seen.

Britain is, as I write, gentle reader, under a severe lockdown. The last two weeks have seen an exponential rise in the number of cases of infection and the number of deaths as a result. I use the word exponential literally, as the graphs of the spread that are plastered on the TV screen each day and night are the shape of the ones that we studied for our Pune University maths degrees.

The increase in person-to-person transmission of the pandemic, scientists say, is owing to the virus having mutated. The mutation is, the epidemiology and science tell us, is much more easily transmitted through the air. And now this muta-

tion, is with some justification, known in Spain as the "British virus".

Referring to it as such is possibly motivated by Spanish revenge.

The phrases "British variant", "British mutant virus" and other such descriptions are spreading through the world media and, of course, occasioning a backlash in Britain, even though the fact stands that the mutant strain and its effects were first noticed in this country. Nevertheless, there is a sense of shrill protests of victimisation from those who challenge the description.

One of the shrillest protesters is a character called Roger Helmer, who used to be a British Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and is a supporter of the jingoistic United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP).

His tweet, reported in *Private Eye*, says "it was FIRST IDENTIFIED in the UK" and that is not tantamount to it originating in the UK. Earlier last year, Mr Helmer had objected to the characterisation of Mr Trump's contention that this pandemic was a "Chinese virus" as racist.

So, is it racist to mention 'Chinese food' or 'Indian curry' or 'Korean Kimchee' or 'German Sauerkraut'?

So why not 'Chinese virus'?" he tweeted to his followers.

One may wonder how many of his followers have now noticed a flaw, dissension or even hypocrisy in his statements.

I don't tweet (though I can whistle ineffectually), but if I did, I might point out to poor Roger that if a virus first identified in China can be called the "Chinese virus", then a variant of it which was first identified in Britain... "Gedit Roj, me ole fruitcake!"

And then there is the question of what characterises a flu as Spanish. Does it say, "tonight we drink, tomorrow we kill the gringos!" as it threatens to infect another human, or "hasta la vista?" as it is expelled or killed by a vaccine?

The gaping flaw in poor Roger's argument is that "Indian curry" carries in its flavour everything that characterises Indian cuisine. If I want, which I frequently do, a "Goat sausage", I want it not just because it originates in Goa, but because it contains the ingredients and flavours particular to that region — a bratwurst or a Polish-garlic sausage won't do just as well. Whereas Covid-19 doesn't carry the characteristics of anything Chinese and its variant,

apart from infesting places where the sun never sets, has nothing British about it.

Of course, viruses, just like us Parsis, are sometimes named after the things we do and sometimes after the places from which we come. So, a Parsi called Batliwalla must have ancestors who dealt in bottles — and it should be quite clear what my distant relatives Russi Immoralewingswalla and Imoji Feromonereplacementwalla do for their living.

And moving on to places, Satarawalla and Poonawalla come from the places with those names. What has always been a dilemma for my family is the origin of our surname "Dhondy". It certainly doesn't derive from the town of Dhond in Maharashtra, so eliminating geographical origins, we come to professions. Now in some Gujarati dialects the word might mean stonebreaker, which points to the option that my ancestors could have been stone masons.

The other possibility, which we pointedly disregard, was that they were perhaps put to breaking stones in an institution as guests in the colonial era of His Imperial Majesty, the King Emperor.

Subhani



Reassert 'core' values & halt democracy's decay

Ashwani Kumar

In his book *The Age Rights* (1990), Prof. Louis Henkin, a celebrated scholar of international law, had claimed "*human rights is the idea of our time, the only political-moral idea that has received universal acceptance*". However, an objective analysis of the situation throughout the world, including India, belies that claim.

This disquieting conclusion flows from a distressing institutional response to the egregious infringement of human rights, raising a profoundly important question on the functioning of our democratic institutions. Repeated abuse of several stringent laws with punitive consequences has resulted from a reversal of the presumption of innocence in favour of the accused, declared by the Supreme Court as a human right. (Bhramajeet Singh Sharma, 2005)

Demonstrated arbitrariness in investigative processes and the failure of the Indian State to enact a comprehensive anti-custodial torture law question our willingness to civilise ourselves in the use of State power. Denial of basic human rights to undertrials, poignantly exemplified in the refusal of a sipper to an 80-year-old undertrial priest suffering from Parkinson's disease and the refusal of jail guards to allow an incarcerated public intellectual access to a pair of spectacles must shame the nation. This, despite Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer's binding edict in the Sunil Batra case as early as 1978, that fundamental rights "do not part company with the prisoner at the prison gates..." Indiscriminate arrests of citizens on charges of sedition are etched in public memory as a repressive act of State power intended to crimi-

nalise dissent.

Unconscionable arrests for inter-faith marriages mischievously labelled as "love jihad" have scarred the constitutional conscience. Heart rending sights of a dog nibbling at a dead woman's body inside a hospital, and the reported beating to death of a dalit worker just because he had served himself a mouthful of food while clearing the leftovers, condemn us irretrievably as a heartless society. Are we then really a people who can claim that they live in the shelter of each other? Despite the Supreme Court's repeated directives, trials by the media continue to infract the citizens' right to liberty, fair trial and reputation.

As the highest forum of

democracy, Parliament too cannot escape its share of responsibility for our faltering record on human rights. The three controversial agricultural reforms laws affecting the economic condition and dignity of millions of India's farmers, passed in both Houses of Parliament without any discussion by a voice vote, is a recent illustration. The enactment of often abused "broad" laws without thoughtful deliberation have had grave consequences for the liberty and dignity of citizens.

The offices of the Lokpal,

the Central Information Commission and the National Human Rights Commission have remained largely dormant in practice, except for the occasional and unenforced interventions.

Our national leaders, captive to personal animosities and dwarfed by timidity in the face of power, remain obsessed with a "manipulative conversation about our future", with little time to address themselves to the defining challenges of our times.

Thus politics, citizenship

and the rule of law

are being undermined.

The Supreme Court

has failed to lean consistently in favour of individual rights against the State. Given the national context, Chief Justice S.A. Bobde's recent suggestion of a restricted recourse to Article 32 in bail matters is rather unfortunate and in some ways is a denial of its *raison d'être*. Citing with approval Ronald Dworkin's assertion of a right to individual dignity against the government in Puttaswamy (2017), the court's recent record in enforcing this right is, at best, mixed.

The need to reclaim a consistent vocabulary of constitutional discourse rooted in intellectual integrity is self-evident.

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consistency and wisdom of its judgments,

not in the "coercive power of judges, but the deference and respect which is paid to them and their acts from an opinion of their justice and integrity"

(Badarkanta Misra, 1974).

The continuing incarceration of public intellectuals, political leaders, academics and dissenters, even where the weight of evidence against them is prima facie weak, has regrettably blemished the court's otherwise sterling record as the sentinel of our fundamental rights.

The Supreme Court's profound pronouncements in Shreya Singh (2015), Shabnam (2015), Puttaswamy (Supra), Nambi Narayan (2018), Navtej Johar (2018), Anuradha Bhasin (2020) and several earlier decisions notwithstanding, its inability to enforce its own judgments has dent its standing as a designated guardian of constitutional principles. Deference of its hearing on the Rohingya petitions, the challenge to the Citizenship

and the Aadhaar

cases, the court's

inability to hold the

State accountable

for its actions

denuded of its larger purpose, thrives on the tyranny of the strong over the weak and is bereft of any inspiring moral appeal.

However, the nation's greatest regret is that having declared human dignity anchored in deference to human rights as a core constitutional value (Common Cause, 2018), the Supreme Court has failed to lean consistently in favour of individual rights against the State. Given the national context, Chief Justice S.A. Bobde's recent suggestion of a restricted recourse to Article 32 in bail matters is rather unfortunate and in some ways is a denial of its *raison d'être*. Citing with approval Ronald Dworkin's assertion of a right to individual dignity against the government in Puttaswamy (2017), the court's recent record in enforcing this right is, at best, mixed.

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Clearly, this is our moment of reckoning. We must acknowledge the truth of a diminished Indian democracy and our collective failures. Hopefully, the process of democratic erosion can be arrested with the citizens' collective assertion of our core constitutional values. Despite the disappointments, we can take comfort in history's abiding lesson — that the ideals of freedom, equality and justice are best secured in the consciousness of an enlightened people and that no one can diminish the appeal of dignity or extinguish the flame of liberty as long as it burns brightly in our hearts. We know that "the history of the world is none other than the progress of consciousness of freedom" and "the arc of the moral universe bends towards justice".

In these testing times, when the centre has ceased to hold, a relentless pursuit of human dignity admits of no bystanders. To recall Thomas Paine's felicity: "When my country... was on fire about my ears, it was time to stir. It was time for every man to stir."

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HYDERABAD, JANUARY 8 The ₹35-crore Air Force Academy at Dundigal, about 30 km from here will be formally inaugurated on January 16 by Union Defence Minister Jagannath Reddy.

The Academy is intended to centralise the training facilities to Air Force personnel at one integrated establishment. At present the training centres are situated at Jod

SHORT TAKES
POLICE CHIEF QUILTS AFTER MOB INVASION

Washington, Jan. 8: The US Capitol police chief handed in his resignation Thursday, a day after Congress was invaded by a mob egged on by President Donald Trump, a source close to the agency said.

Steven Sund "is resigning effective January 16, 2021," the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, hours after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called for his resignation, following sharp rebukes for what many criticised as a lack of preparation.

POMPEO SAYS US NOT 'BANANA REPUBLIC'

Washington, Jan. 8: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday hit back at assertions that a mob attack on the Capitol showed the United States to be a "banana republic." A number of foreign critics as well as former US president George W. Bush made the analogy after rioters stirred up by President Donald Trump rampaged through a session of Congress that certified his loss to Joe Biden.

"The slander reveals a faulty understanding of banana republics and of democracy in America," said the top US diplomat, a staunch Trump loyalist, as two other members of the cabinet resigned over Wednesday's violence.

"In a banana republic, mob violence determines the exercise of power. In the United States, law enforcement officials quash mob violence so that the people's representatives can exercise power in accordance with the rule of law and constitutional government," Pompeo wrote on Twitter. Bush in a statement Wednesday made veiled criticism of the "reckless behavior" of members of his Republican Party in fueling the "insurrection." "This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic -- not our democratic republic," Bush wrote.

STAY ON, LAWMAKERS TO WH STAFF

Washington, Jan. 8: US lawmakers urged White House staff to stay in their jobs amid a spate of resignations in protest at President Donald Trump's support for the attack on Congress by his followers.

Senior Republican Senator Lindsey Graham urged top Trump aides to keep working for the final 14 days of the administration, naming chief of staff Mark Meadows, White House Counsel Pat Cipollone, and National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien.

"Most Americans will never know the service that Mark Meadows and Pat Cipollone and those under their charge provided to this country over the last year," Graham said in a press conference.

"Those who believe you should leave your post now to make a statement, I would urge you not," he said.

"To Robert O'Brien: you have been a good counsel to the president, you have been a steady hand. I've been missing your phone calls; Robert, stay on." "To those in the national security apparatus, we need you now more than ever." It was "a traumatic and entirely avoidable event as supporters of the President stormed the Capitol building following a rally he addressed," said Chao, the wife of Senate majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Earlier Thursday, former chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said he was quitting his diplomatic post.

Cops lenient with mob, severe with anti-racists

Los Angeles, Jan. 8: Like many Americans, President-elect Joe Biden on Thursday accused US authorities of treating a pro-Trump mob that stormed the Capitol more leniently than last year's anti-racism demonstrators.

"No one can tell me that if it had been a group of Black Lives Matter protesters yesterday... they wouldn't have been treated very, very differently than the mob of thugs that stormed the Capitol," Biden said in an address from his hometown in Delaware.

"We all know that's true, and it is unacceptable," said Biden, who will take over the White House on January 20, after winning November's election in part due to strong support

COPS REJECTED OFFERS FOR HELP

Pentagon asked if National Guard was needed, Justice Dept reached out with FBI

Washington, Jan. 8: Three days before supporters of President Donald Trump rioted at the Capitol, the Pentagon asked the US Capitol Police if it needed National Guard manpower.

And as the mob descended on the building Wednesday, Justice Department leaders reached out to offer up FBI agents. The police turned them down both times, according to senior defence officials and two people familiar with the matter.

Despite plenty of warnings of a possible insurrection and ample resources and time to prepare, the Capitol Police planned only for a free speech demonstration.

Still stinging from the uproar over the violent response by law enforcement to protests last June near the White House, officials also were intent on avoiding any appearance that the federal government was deploying active duty or National Guard troops against Americans. The result is the US Capitol was overrun Wednesday and officers in a law enforcement agency with a large operating budget and experience in high-security events protecting lawmakers were overwhelmed for the world to see.

Four protesters died, including one shot inside the building. A Capitol Police officer died Thursday after being injured in the Wednesday melee.

The rioting and loss of control has raised serious questions over security at the Capitol for future events. The actions of the day also raise troubling concerns about the treatment of mainly white Trump supporters, who were allowed to roam through the building for hours, while Black and brown protesters who demonstrated last year over police brutality faced more robust and aggressive policing.

"This was a failure of imagination, a failure of leadership," said Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, whose department responded to several large protests last year following the death of George Floyd. "The Capitol Police must do better and I don't see how we can get around that."

Acevedo said he has attended events on the Capitol grounds to honour slain police officers that had higher fences and a stronger security presence than what he saw on video Wednesday. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said that as the rioting was underway, it became clear that the Capitol Police were overrun. But he said there was no contingency planning done in advance for what forces could do in case of a problem at the Capitol because Defense Department help was turned down.

"They've got to ask us, the request has to come to us," said McCarthy. US Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, under pressure from Schumer, Pelosi and other congressional leaders, was forced to resign.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked for and received the resignation of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael Stenger, effective immediately. Paul Irving, the longtime Sergeant at Arms of the House, also resigned. — AP



Demonstrators hold a banner calling for impeachment of US President Donald Trump during a protest outside the Barclays Centre in Brooklyn, New York on Thursday, a day after pro-Trump mob stormed and trashed the Capitol. — AFP

Trump promises smooth transition

Under pressure, President condemns supporters for storming US Capitol

Washington, Jan. 8: US President Donald Trump has finally condemned the mayhem caused by his supporters in the US Capitol, saying they do not represent America, as the beleaguered President vowed to ensure a "smooth, orderly and seamless" transition of power to President-elect Joe Biden.

In a new video message, a day after he urged the crowds to head for the Capitol, where they forced their way inside, Trump said America is, and must always be a nation of law and order.

"Like all Americans, I am outraged by the vio-

lence, lawlessness and mayhem. I immediately deployed the national guard and federal law enforcement to secure the building and expel the intruders," Trump said in the recorded video posted on YouTube on Thursday and released by the White House.

The demonstrators who infiltrated the Capitol have defiled the seat of American democracy, he said.

"To those who engaged in the acts of violence and destruction, you do not represent our country. And to those who broke the law, you will pay. We have just been through an

intense election and emotions are high, but now tempers must be cooled, and calm restored," he said.

Delivered in monotone and read from a teleprompter, Trump's remarks bore little resemblance to those on Wednesday, in which he told his rioting supporters, "We love you."

Trump, who is facing pressure from members of his Republican Party and a potential impeachment, also accepted the result of the election and pledged a smooth transition of power to Biden. Biden will be sworn in as the 46th US President on

January 20. Amidst the chaos and violence, US Congress on Thursday early morning verified the Electoral College victory of Biden and Harris.

"Now, Congress has certi-

fied the results a new administra-

tion will be

inaugurated on January

20th. My focus now turns to

to ensuring a smooth,

orderly and seamless transi-

tion of power," Trump said.

"We must get on with the

business of America. My

campaign vigorously pur-

sued every legal avenue to

contest the election re-

sults. My only goal was

to ensure the integrity of

the vote and so doing, I

was fighting to defend American democracy," said the President.

Trump said that he con-

tinues to strongly believe

that the US must reform

election laws to verify

the identity and eligibil-

ity of all voters and to en-

sure faith and confidence in all

future elections.

Observing that the

moment calls for healing

and reconciliation, Trump

said that 2020 has been a

challenging time for

Americans. A menacing

pandemic has upended the

lives of our citizens, iso-

lated millions in their

homes, damaged our econ-

omy and claimed count-

less lives, he said. — PTI

TRUMP NOT TO ATTEND BIDEN'S INAUGURATION

Washington, Jan. 8: President Donald Trump said Friday he won't attend President-elect Joe Biden's Inauguration on January 20. He will be the first incumbent president since Andrew Johnson to skip his successors inauguration.

To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th," Trump tweeted. Trump offered no clues for how he would spend his final hours in office. Biden will become president at noon on January 20 regardless of Trump's plans.

On Thursday, Trump delivered a video statement admitting his presidency would soon end. — AP

RIOTERS MAY FACE CHARGES OF SEDITION

Washington, Jan. 8: The top federal prosecutor for the District of Columbia has said that "all options are on the table" for charging members of the violent pro-Trump mob that stormed the US Capitol — including sedition charges.

Michael Sherwin, acting US attorney for DC, said prosecutors plan to file 15 federal cases on Thursday for crimes including unauthorised access and theft of property, and investigators are combing through reams of evidence to bring additional charges.

"All of those charges are on the table. ... We will bring the most maximum charges we can," he said. — AP

Prevent Trump access to nuke codes: Pelosi

Washington, Jan. 8: US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday spoke to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about preventing "unhinged" President Donald Trump from initiating military actions or a nuclear strike.

Pelosi in a letter to Democratic members of the House of Representatives said that she spoke with Gen. Mark Milley "to discuss available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes and ordering a nuclear strike."

Reiterating her demand to remove President Trump from office, she said, "The situation of this unhinged President could not be more dangerous."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked for and received the resignation of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael Stenger, effective immediately. Paul Irving, the longtime Sergeant at Arms of the House, also resigned.

ous, and we must do everything that we can to protect the American people from his unbalanced assault on our country and our democracy."

"Nearly fifty years ago, after years of enabling their rogue President, Republicans in Congress finally told President Nixon that it was time to go," she wrote.

"Today, following the President's dangerous and seditious acts, Republicans in Congress need to follow that example and call on Trump to depart his office immediately. If the President does not leave office immediately and willingly, the Congress will proceed with our action," Pelosi said.

Trump is set to leave on January 20 when Democrat Joe Biden is to

be inaugurated. Pelosi is meeting with the House Democratic caucus Friday to consider impeachment proceedings against the President.

She and Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer have called on Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to force Trump from office.

The 25th Amendment allows for the President to be removed from office by the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet.

"Following an horrific assault on our Democracy, our Democratic Caucus showed to the country and to the world that we would not be diverted from our duty to validate the election of President-elect Joe Biden," the senior politician said.

— Agencies

Pence says no Trump ouster

Washington, Jan. 8: US Vice President Mike Pence is opposed to using the constitution's 25th Amendment to force President Donald Trump from office, despite pressure from Democrats and some Republicans, the New York Times reported Thursday.

While Pence has not spoken publicly about invoking the mechanism, never used before in US history, the newspaper cited a person close to the VP saying he is against the radical move.

The calls to remove Trump came after supporters who he had encouraged invaded and shut down the US Congress Wednesday as it was poised to certify the election victory of Trump's rival, Democrat Joe Biden.

"By inciting sedition, as he did yesterday, he must be removed from office." The Times said Pence's stance is supported by several Cabinet members, whose backing would be necessary to carry out a 25th Amendment removal.

Democrats in the US House of Representatives said that if the 25th Amendment is not invoked they will move quickly to impeach Trump.

"We have a limited period of time in which to act," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler, who led the successful impeachment of Trump a year ago, before the president was ultimately acquitted by the Republican-led Senate.

— AP

Trump considering self-pardon: US media

Washington, Jan. 8: Embattled President Donald Trump has discussed with his close aides the possibility of pardoning himself before leaving the office on January 20, US media reports have said, amid growing calls for his removal from the White House.

According to CNN, some of those conversations happened in recent weeks, and Trump has asked about the legal and political consequences of a self-pardon.

The news comes as Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike rebuked Trump's conduct as thousands of his supporters stormed the US Capitol building on Wednesday and clashed with police, resulting in four deaths and interrupting a constitutional process by Congress to affirm the

victories of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris in the November 3 election.

It is not clear if the issue has come up since Wednesday's mayhem at the Capitol building fomented by the President's rhetoric or after his recent controversial call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, the report said, citing multiple sources.

The president has also asked for legal opinions on whether he has the authority to issue a self-pardon and has been advised on the potential political fallout, it said. The New York Times reported on Thursday that Trump has suggested in conversations since Election Day that he wants to pardon himself. — AP

Capitol storming: Two Cabinet members quit

Washington, Jan. 8: Two members of Donald Trump's Cabinet resigned Thursday with days left in the administration.

"Impressionable children are watching all this, and they are learning from us," she said in a letter to Trump.

"They must know from us that America is greater than what transpired yesterday." Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who is married to Republican Senate majority Leader Mitch McConnell, earlier said it was "a traumatic and entirely avoidable event as supporters of the president stormed the Capitol building following a rally he addressed." "It has deeply troubled me in a way I simply cannot set aside," she added.

— AFP

from Black voters. On Wednesday thousands of protesters — spurred on by a speech given by President Donald Trump — marched to the seat of the US legislature, where some broke down barriers and doors to invade the building in an unprecedented act that played out on live television. But police officers in charge of security held off using tear gas until intruders had reached the heart of the building, where they roamed freely, ransacking offices. US media reported that some law enforcement officials even opened doors for them. The scene stood in stark contrast to last year's anti-racism protests in the nation's capital and beyond. — AFP

INDIA TO CHAIR UNSC'S CRUCIAL TALIBAN, LIBYA SANCTIONS COMMITTEES

United Nations, Jan. 8: India will chair the crucial Taliban and Libya sanctions committees and the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council during its tenure as non-permanent member of the powerful 15-

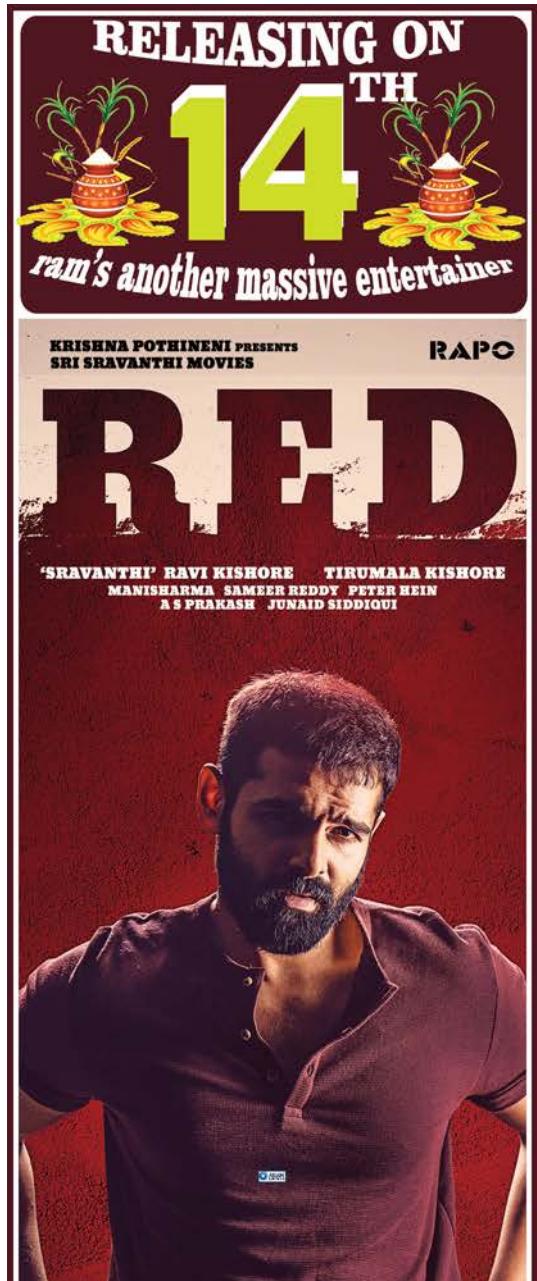
nation UN body. India, which has been at the forefront of the years-long efforts to reform the UNSC, began its two-year tenure at the Council on Friday last.

"The UN Security Council establishes sub-

sidiary bodies on specific issues, including on the sanctions regimes". "I'm happy to announce that India has been asked to chair three important committees of the Security Council, which include the Taliban Sanctions Committee, Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Libyan Sanctions Committee," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said in a video message.

— PTI

CINEMA



Beijing slams US envoy tour

Taiwan welcomed the visit, saying it symbolises friendship between them

United Nations, Jan. 8:

China on Thursday warned the United States would pay a "heavy price" if its United Nations Ambassador Kelly Craft made good on plans to travel to Taiwan next week.

Democratic and self-ruled Taiwan lives under the constant threat of invasion by authoritarian China, which views the island as its own territory and has vowed to seize it one day by force if necessary.

Beijing opposes any diplomatic recognition of Taiwan and has pushed to keep it isolated on the world stage.

Outgoing US President Donald Trump has sent multiple senior officials to Taipei over the last year as he clashed with China on a host of issues such as trade, security and human rights.

Craft's January 13-15 visit will come just a week before the inauguration of US President-elect Joe Biden and creates a fresh

diplomatic headache

for the incoming

administration.

"The United States

will pay a heavy price

for its wrong action," a

statement from the Chinese mission to the UN said in response to the planned trip next week by Craft.

China strongly urges the United States to stop its crazy provocation, stop creating new difficulties for China-US relations and the two countries' cooperation in the United Nations, and stop going further on the wrong path."

The American UN mission said on Thursday evening that Craft would meet with Taiwanese officials and other members of the diplomatic community.

"During her trip, the Ambassador will reinforce the US government's strong and ongoing support for Taiwan's international space," the American statement said.

It opposes any move to change Taiwan's current status by force.

Senior US officials have made visits to Taiwan before but they became more common and prominent under Trump.

Last year three prominent trips were made, including by health secretary Alex Azar, the first by a cabinet official.

— AFP

UAE announces reopening of borders, airspace to Qatar

Dubai, Jan. 8:

The United Arab Emirates announced on Friday that it would reopen its borders and airspace to Qatar after boycotting the tiny energy-rich country alongside its Gulf allies since 2017.

The decision to restart commerce and

travel would take effect on Saturday. Foreign Minister Khalid Abdullah Belhoul was quoted as saying by the UAE's state-run WAM news agency.

The move comes after Saudi Arabia declared a breakthrough in settling the yearslong rift

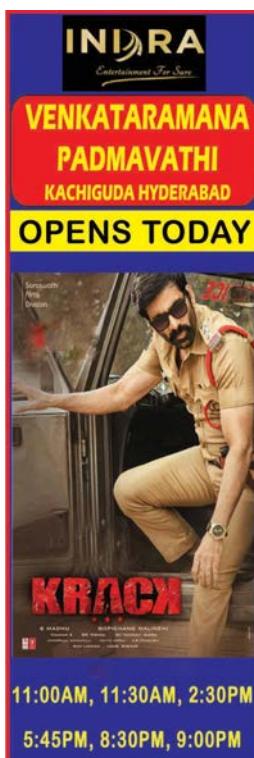
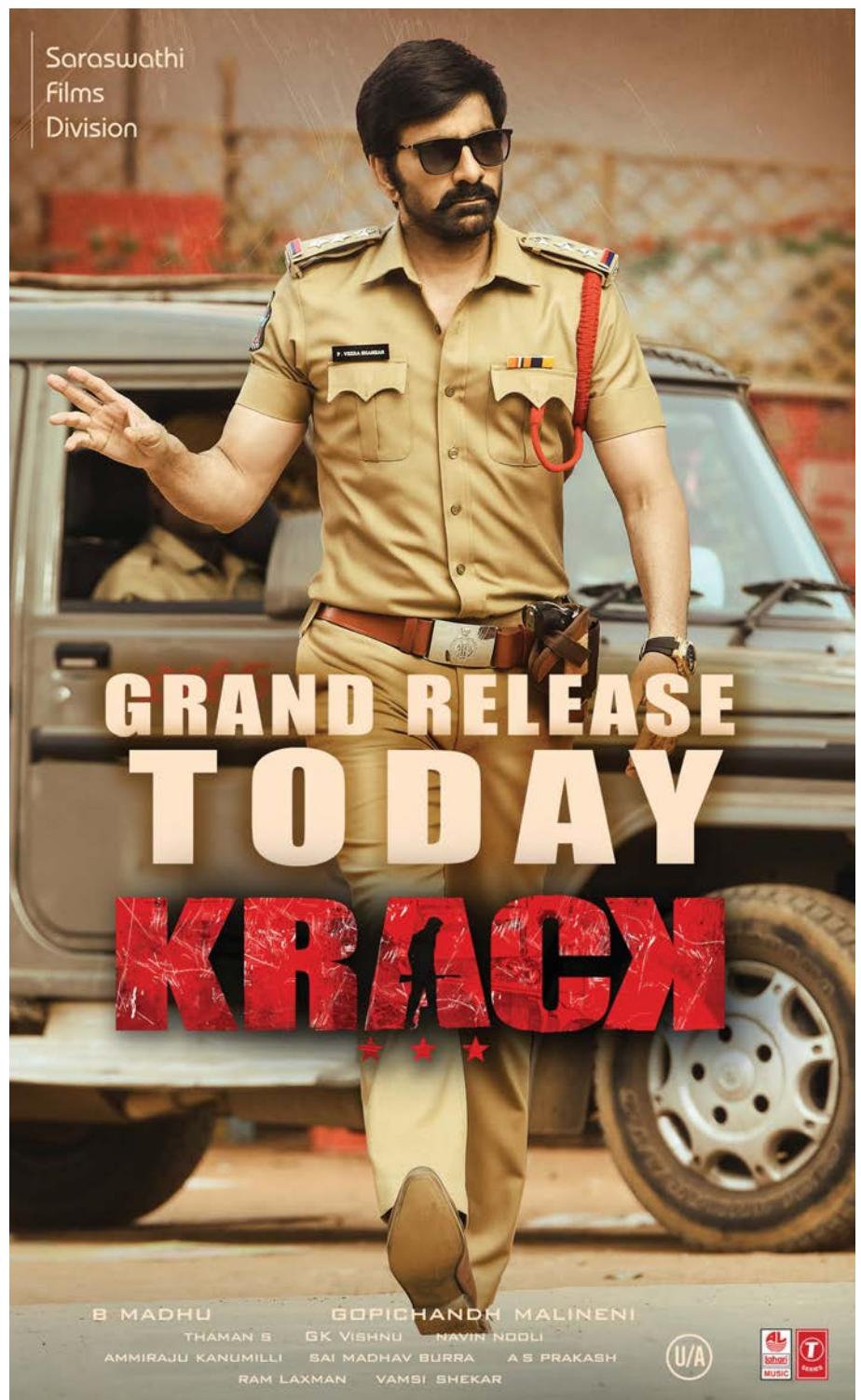
with Qatar during the annual Gulf summit this week, saying the kingdom would restore diplomatic ties and that its allies would follow suit. Saudi Arabia announced the reopening of its airspace and borders with Qatar earlier this week.

— AP

ASIAN CINEMAS
TODAY'S SCHEDULE
KRACK 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM
4:30 PM, 6:00 PM, 7:40 PM
9:15 PM, 10:40 PM
DIRTY HARI 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:10 PM
CHITHAKKOTUDU 2 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:10 PM
SOLO BRATHUKE SO BETTER 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:10 PM
WONDER WOMAN 84 7:15 PM
ASIAN SHIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR
ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA
ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY
ASIAN CINESQUARE-UPPAL
ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR
ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY
ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET
ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL
MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE AT: www.bookmyshow.com

TIVOLI catch the stars
TODAY'S SCHEDULE
KRACK 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM
4:30 PM, 6:00 PM, 7:40 PM
9:15 PM, 10:40 PM
DIRTY HARI 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:10 PM
CHITHAKKOTUDU 2 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:10 PM
SOLO BRATHUKE SO BETTER 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:10 PM
WONDER WOMAN 84 7:15 PM
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EXTREME
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PONGAL ATTRACTION
GRAND RELEASE TODAY

KRACK

SANDHYA70MM-RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K DIGITAL PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
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SANDHYA35MM-RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K DIGITAL PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

SUDARSHAN35MM-RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K DIGITAL PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

DEVI70MM-RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K DIGITAL PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
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4.30,6.50,7.10,7.20,7.29,5.55,10.10,10.20,10.25PM

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6.30PM, 6.45PM, 9.00PM, 9.30PM, 9.45PM

ASIAN Sivagange-11.00,11.15,2.15,5.45,6.00,9.00,9.15PM
Radhika-10.10,10.20,10.25,10.40,10.45,12.55,1.10,1.35,4.05,4.20,
7.05,7.20,7.35,10.05,10.20,10.35PM

Mcupe-9.50,10.15,10.30,10.45,12.55,1.10,1.25,1.40,3.35,
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Gor mall-10.00,10.15,10.30,12.55,1.30,4.00,4.15,4.30,7.00,
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Cinquare-9.50,10.05,10.20,10.35,10.45,12.45,1.00,1.15,1.30,
1.40,3.45,4.15,4.30,4.40,6.45,7.00,7.15,7.30,7.40PM
9.45,10.10,10.40PM

9.50,10.15,10.30,10.45,12.50,1.10,1.40,3.50,4.10,4.25,
4.40,6.50,7.10,7.25,7.40,9.50,10.10,10.40PM

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9.00,10.00,10.30,11.00,12.00,1.00,2.00,3.00,4.00,
5.00,6.00,7.00,8.00,9.00,10.00pm

10.00,10.30,10.45,1.00,1.30,1.45,4.00,4.30,4.45,7.00,
7.30,7.45,10.00,10.30,10.45PM

10.30,12.00,1.30,4.30
Prasads
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PVR Inorbit mall-10.05,10.30,11.30,12.00,12.30,2.00,3.00,
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Rk complex-11.00,12.00,3.30,5.30,7.00,9.00,10.00,10.30pm

Central-10.30,11.30,12.15,2.00,3.00,3.45,5.30,6.30,
7.15,9.00,10.00pm

Galleria-10.00,10.30,11.30,12.00,12.30,2.00,3.00,4.00,5.30,
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Forum-10.00,10.30,11.00,11.30,12.00,12.30,2.00,2.30,3.00,
3.30,4.00,5.30,6.00,6.30,7.00,7.30,9.00,9.30,10.00,10.30,11.00

Icon city-10.15,11.15,12.15,1.15,2.45,3.45,5.15,6.15,7.15,8.45,
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Irrummanjal-10.00,11.00,11.30,12.00,12.45,1.30,2.30,3.30,5.00,
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Musarambar-10.00,10.45,11.30,12.15,1.30,2.15,3.00,3.45,
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Balanagar-10.45,11.15,12.15,2.15,2.45,3.45,6.15,7.15
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Chandanagar-10.45,12.15,2.15,3.30,5.45,7.00,9.15,10.30pm

2 10.30,11.30,12.30,2.00
Gold-10.00,10.15,1.15,
3.45,5.30,7.15,9.00,
10.00,10.45pm

INOX GVR-10.00,10.15,10.45,11.15,1.30,1.50,2.20,2.50,5.00,
5.25,5.55,6.25,3.30,9.00,9.30,10.00pm

Mr-9.00,10.10,10.45,11.30,1.40,2.20,3.05,5.05,5.55,6.40,7.00,
8.50,9.30,10.15pm

Gsm-10.00,10.15,10.45,11.15,11.45,12.10,1.10,1.50,2.20,2.50,
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Ccp-11.00,11.30,12.00,2.35,3.05,3.35,6.10,7.10,9.20,
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Mantra-11.00,11.20,11.40,12.00,2.35,2.50,3.15,6.10,6.25,6.50,
7.10,8.45,10.30,10.45pm

Sudhi-11.00,11.30,12.00,12.30,2.35,3.05,4.05,6.10,6.40,7.10,
9.40,10.10,10.50pm

Dsl-11.00,1.30,12.00,2.35,3.05,3.55,5.20,6.10,6.40,7.10,9.45,
10.20,10.45pm

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Karthikeya exhibitors release

SANKRANTHI DHAMAKHA
MASS MAHARAJ RAVITEJA ACTION BLOCKBUSTER

KRACK
FROM TODAY

BRAMARAMBA70MM-KUKATPALLY
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SIVAPARVATHI70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

VISWANATH70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.45,2.45,6.45,9.45PM

ARJUN70MM-11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

MEGHA70MM-11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

AMB 70MM
11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

BR Hitech 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

ALANKAR 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

V KACHIGUDA
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

GOKUL 70MM
11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

VIMAL 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

NARTHAKI 70MM
11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

SREERAMANA 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

SUSHAS 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

JYOTHI R.C.PURAM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

LAXMI KARMA NGHT
12.00,3.00,7.00,10.00PM

SRI DEVI CH.GUDA
11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

AARADHANA 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

SAIRAM 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

SVC EESHWAR 70
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PADMAVATHI KACHIGUDA
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SENSATION SUN
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YADAGIRI 70MM
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DIRTY HARI
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SREE RAMULU 70MM
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ANJALI 70MM
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JYOTHI IDA BOLLARAM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

SAI POOJA 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

GANESH 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

VENKATESA 70MM
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SANTOSHIBPATNAM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

MAHALAXMI 70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

SUPER 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

RANGA 70MM
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

ASIAN CINEMAS
13th JAN

ADV.BKG. OPENS NOW

MASTER

ASIAN SHIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR

ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA

ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY

ASIAN CINESQUARE-UPPAL

ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR

ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY

ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET

ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL

MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLI

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SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

KRACK TELUGU 2D (U/A)

9:30AM, 9:40AM, 9:55AM, 10:00AM, 10:15AM, 10:20AM, 10:35AM, 12:35PM, 12:50PM, 1:40PM, 3:40PM, 4:00PM, 4:10PM, 4:25PM, 4:30PM, 6:50PM, 7:10PM, 7:20PM, 7:25PM, 7:30PM, 9:55PM, 10:10PM, 10:15PM

DIRTY HARI TELUGU 2D (A)

11:00 AM, 1:50 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:25 PM, 10:25 PM

DIRTY HARI TELUGU 2D (A)

11:00 AM, 1:50 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:25 PM, 10:25 PM

WW84 ENGLISH 2D (U/A)

4:20 PM, 10:30 PM

SOLO BRATHUKE SO BETTER TELUGU 2D (U/A)

7:35 PM

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London mayor declares 'major incident' in hosps

Surge in new virus strain overwhelms NHS, British capital

UK approves Moderna jab for rollout against Covid-19

London, Jan. 8: London mayor Sadiq Khan on Friday declared a major incident, warning hospitals in the British capital could soon be overwhelmed after a surge in Coronavirus infections linked to a new strain.

"The stark reality is that we will run out of beds for patients in the next couple of weeks unless the spread of the virus slows down drastically," Khan said in a statement, urging greater support from the central UK government.

"We are declaring a major incident because the threat this virus poses to our city is at a crisis point. If we do not take immediate action now, our NHS (National Health Service) could be overwhelmed and more people will die." An estimated one in 30 Londoners now have the virus. The number of patients in the capital's hospitals has grown by 27 percent over the last week and the number of ventilators has increased by 42 percent.

Khan hopes the decision will put pressure on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take further measures to combat the spread.

The mayor has written to Johnson asking for greater financial support for Londoners who need to self-

isolate, daily vaccination data, the closure of places of worship and for face masks to be worn routinely outside of the home.

control," said Khan. "The number of cases in London has increased rapidly with more than a third more patients being treated in our hospitals now compared to the peak of the pandemic last April," he added.

following a robust and thorough assessment of all the available data is an important goal to have achieved and I am proud that the agency has helped to make this a reality," said Dr June Raine, MHRA Chief Executive. "I want to echo that our goal is always to put the protection of the public first."

International arrivals from anywhere in the world, including India, will now be required to prove a negative Covid-19 test taken up to 72 hours prior to departure for the UK, as part of new measures announced on Friday to contain the spread of new variants of Coronavirus circulating internationally.

PTI/AFP

He also urged Londoners to play their part by sticking more closely to the rules. "I am today imploring them to please stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary for you to leave. Stay at home to protect yourself,"

Iran's top leader bans vaccines from US, UK

Tehran, Jan. 8: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Friday banned Iran from importing of American Pfizer-BioNTech and Britain's AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccines, a reflection of mistrust toward the West.

In a televised speech, he said the import of American and British vaccines were "forbidden," referring to the surging death tolls from the virus in both countries. "I really do not trust," them, Khamenei said of those nations.

"Sometimes they want to test," their vaccines on other countries, adding, "I am not opti-

mistic (about France)," either. However, Khamenei okayed the import of vaccines from other "safe" places, and remains supportive of Iran's efforts toward producing a vaccine. The country began testing its vaccines on humans December.

Authorities said then that US-based benefactors plan to deploy scores of thousands of Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus to Iran.

Iran retains routes to vaccines despite sanctions, including through its participation in COVAX.

International banks and financial institutions are reluctant to deal with Iran for fear of American penalties.

— AP

WHO: Poorest countries to get vaccine soon

Geneva, Jan. 7: The world's poorest countries can expect to start receiving their first Covid-19 vaccine doses between the end of January and mid-February, the World Health Organisation said on Thursday. Vaccination is already under way in some of the world's weakest nations, including the United States, Britain, European Union countries and Canada.

Covax, the globally-pooled vaccine procurement and distribution effort, has struck agreements to secure two billion doses — and the first of those will start rolling out within weeks, said the WHO's head of vaccines, Kate O'Brien.

Covax aims to secure vaccines for 20 percent of the population in each participating country by the end of the year, with funding covered for the 92 lower- and lower-middle income economies involved in the scheme.

It is co-led by the WHO, the Gavi vaccine alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

Since early December the number of cases has grown from about 400 to 770. The relatively low 15-17 cases added each day would reassure most countries, but they have shocked

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	48,782.51
Nifty 50	14,347.25
S&P 500*	3,811.72
Dollar (₹)	73.24
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.61
Euro (₹)	89.64
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,763.614
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	55.52
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.892
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.088
* As of 8:30 PM IST	0.017

Gold bond issue price fixed at ₹5,104 per gm

The issue price for the Sovereign Gold Bond has been fixed at Rs 5,104 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21-Series X will be open for subscription from January 11 to January 15. "The nominal value of the bond...works out to Rs 5,104 per gram of gold," the RBI said. Investors applying and paying online will get a discount of Rs 50 per gramme.

Forex reserves swell \$4.48 bn to record \$585.32 bn



The country's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$4,483 billion to touch a record high of \$585.324 billion in the week ended January 1, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended Dec. 25, the reserves had declined by \$290 million to \$580,841 bn. Foreign currency assets climbed by \$4,168 bn to \$541,642 bn. Gold reserves rose by \$315 million to \$37,026 bn. The special drawing rights with the IMF stood at \$1,510 bn.

Manipal buy of Columbia Asia gets CCI nod

The Competition Commission of India approved acquisition of Columbia Asia Hospitals by Manipal Health Enterprises. The approval came after Manipal Hospitals in November 2020 said it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals in India. The acquisition will be for Rs 2,100 crore, sources had earlier said. The combined entity will have a presence of 27 hospitals across 15 cities.

MG Hector SUV facelift launched at ₹12.89 lakh

MG Motor, the British iconic car brand now owned by Chinese giant SAIC Motor, has rolled out the all-new seven-seater version of the Hector Plus SUV and the MG Hector SUV facelift with prices starting at Rs 13,34 lakh and Rs 12,89 lakh, respectively. The facelift for the Hector introduced about 18 months after the mid-size SUV's launch in India and updated Hector Plus get a few cosmetic and equipment upgrades.

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■ Lower margins, higher loan growth seen Q3 to be a mixed bag for lenders

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, JAN. 8



Third quarter (Q3FY21) earnings for banks are expected to be a mixed bag this season. While credit flow and collection efficiency could slightly improve quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), driven by a bounce back in the retail sector and sustained momentum in agriculture, the asset quality recognition could be delayed again by a quarter due to the Supreme Court's impending decision on loan recast. Hence, gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratios might be a tad better QoQ, with lenders reporting asset quality adjusted for the SC verdict. Other income may dip sequentially due to lower treasury gains and fee income.

The Supreme Court in its order last year had banned banks from marking defaulted loans as non-performing assets (NPAs). The apex court had earlier directed banks not to recognise fresh NPAs, till further orders in the interest of the public interest litigation (PIL).

"For our banks, we see better QoQ loan growth of 2 per cent versus one per cent in the last quarter, although net interest margin (NIM) may contract by 10 basis points to 3.4 per cent due to the flow-through impact of lower deposit rates. Provisioning could remain elevated as banks might be conservative on future recognition. Consequently, net profit may decline by 17 per cent QoQ to Rs 9,280 crore," said Gaurav Jani, analyst, Centrum Broking. SBI is expected to report better advances growth."

Provisional data released by private banks showed slight improvement in loan growth sequentially during the December quarter compared to the September quarter. According to analysts,

large banks are likely to report better credit growth. The country's largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank, reported a loan growth of 16 per cent for the quarter ended December 2020. In a BSE filing, HDFC Bank said, its advances aggregated to about Rs 10.82 lakh crore as of December 31, a growth of around 16 per cent. The total loans and advances for Yes Bank grew by 1.8 per cent to Rs 1.69 lakh crore.

"For our banks, we see

better QoQ loan growth of 2 per cent versus one per cent in the last quarter, although net interest margin (NIM) may contract by 10 basis points to 3.4 per cent due to the flow-through impact of lower deposit rates. Provisioning could remain elevated as banks might be conservative on future recognition. Consequently, net profit may decline by 17 per cent QoQ to Rs 9,280 crore," said Gaurav Jani, analyst, Centrum Broking. SBI is expected to report better advances growth."

Sharekhan said, "even though overall credit growth has been weak on system levels, at 5 per cent over the previous year, larger and well placed banks such as HDFC Bank, ICICI, SBI are expected to report better advances growth."

FPOs NO LONGER NEED MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION FROM PROMOTER

New Delhi, Jan. 8:

Capital markets watchdog Sebi on Friday relaxed the framework for follow-on public offers (FPOs), a move that will help promoters of companies to raise funds more easily through this route.

The applicability of minimum promoters' contribution norm and the subsequent lock-in requirements for the issuers making FPO have been done away with by the regulator, as per a notification.

Earlier, promoters had to contribute 20 per cent towards a company's FPO. Besides, in case of any issue of capital to the public, the minimum promoters' contribution was required to be locked-in for three years.

The regulator said the relaxation would be available for companies which are frequently traded on a stock exchange for at least three years. Also, such firms should have addressed 95 per cent of investor complaints.

The issuer company needs to be in compliance with the LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations for at least three years, according to Sebi.

—PTI

Unsure waters

Emission targets leading to slowdown in ship orders



that has turned into a slump with the subsequent global trade disputes and the pandemic. Orders fell almost 10 per

SBI RAISES DISCOUNTS ON HOME LOANS BY 30 BPS

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, JAN. 8

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), on Friday announced further interest concession of upto 30 basis points (bps) on home loans and full waiver on processing fees. One basis point is one hundredth of a percentage point.

The higher interest concession would be based on the loan amount, the creditworthiness of the borrower and the location of the property and would be available till March 2021.

"The largest home loan lender has sweetened its past offers and now provides higher interest concession based on loan amount, the creditworthiness of the borrowers and the location of the property. SBI believes that it is important to offer better rates to customers displaying good repayment history. SBI home loan interest rates are linked to Cibil score and start from 6.80 per cent for loans up to Rs 30 lakh and 6.95 per cent for loans above Rs 30 lakhs.

Interest concessions up to 30 bps is also available in eight metro cities for loans up to Rs 5 crore," the lender said in a statement.

Customers can also apply via Yono app or from homeloans.sbi/www.sbloansin59minutes.com and get additional interest concession of 5 bps, the bank said in a statement.

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 6,029.83 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 2,372.54 crore.

TCS soared to a new life time high of Rs 3,127.55 on the BSE and finally closed

TCS beats estimates after Covid drives digital boom

SARITHA RAI

JAN. 8



Tata Consultancy Services Ltd beat expectations after record deal wins underscored a global shift toward digitization during the pandemic.

Asia's largest software outsourcing provider reported profit rose to Rs 8,700 crore (\$1.2 billion) in the quarter ended December, compared with the average estimate of Rs 8,590 crore. Sales climbed to Rs 42,020 crore.

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The market closed at a new record high, led by buying in IT & auto stocks, with third quarter earnings expectations and global cues boosting investor sentiments.

The Sensex gained 689 points or 1.43 per cent to close at 48,782 while the Nifty-50 closed at 14,347.25, gaining 209.90 points, or 1.48 per cent.

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 6,029.83 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 2,372.54 crore.

The rally was led by the IT stocks, BSE IT index was up by 3.55 per cent, on high expectation from TCS result, which was to be announced by the company after the market hours," he said.

TCS soared to a new life time high of Rs 3,127.55 on the BSE and finally closed

at Rs 3,120.35. Other gainers included Infosys (3.95 per cent), Wipro (5.75 per cent), Tech Mahindra (5.64 per cent) and HCL Tech (3.13 per cent).

"At present, the rotational buying across the sectors is helping the index to inch higher," said Ajit Mishra, vice president, Religare Broking.

BSE Auto Index also gained 3.37 per cent, led by gains for Maruti Suzuki (5.94 per cent), Eicher Motors (4.23 per cent), Mahindra & Mahindra (3.51 per cent) and Hero MotoCorp (3.31 per cent) and Bajaj Auto (2.75 per cent).

Indices inch up on rotational buying

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, JAN. 8

The market closed at a new record high, led by buying in IT & auto stocks, with third quarter earnings expectations and global cues boosting investor sentiments.

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BOEING WILL PAY \$2.5 BN & CONFESS ITS STAFF MISLED REGULATORS

DAVID KOENIG

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8

Boeing will pay \$2.5 billion to settle a Justice Department investigation and admit that employees misled regulators about the safety of its 737 Max aircraft, which suffered two deadly crashes shortly after entering airline service.

The government's propaganda arm toward the end of last year ordered news outlets to strictly invoke the official line on the investigation into the tech giant and prohibited them from engaging in extended analysis without permission, the FT said, citing two sources.

Jack Ma's empire has become the most prominent target of China's campaign against the technology industry, which as so far torpedoed affiliate Ant Group Co.'s \$35 billion initial public offering and led to an antitrust investigation at the e-commerce giant.

Boeing blamed two ex-pilots who helped determine how much training was needed for the Max. CEO David Calhoun said their conduct doesn't reflect Boeing employees as a whole or the character of Boeing.

Prosecutors said Boeing employees gave misleading statements and half-truths about safety issues with the plane to the Federal Aviation Administration, then covered up their actions.

"Boeing's employees chose the path of profit over candor," said David Burns, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's criminal division.

Boeing blamed two ex-pilots who helped determine how much training was needed for the Max. CEO David Calhoun said their conduct doesn't reflect Boeing employees as a whole or the character of Boeing.

Clarifying a December 28, 2020 notification, the Department of Revenue in the ministry said "cash purchase" of jewellery, bullion and precious gems and stones of value more than Rs 2 lakh is not allowed without KYC in the country for the past few years.

This continues, the official said.

—AP

—PTI

Hyundai stock turns red hot on reports of tie-up for Apple car



Euisun Chung

father as the group's chairman in October, has been pushing for technologies, including electric and driverless vehicles to turn the carmaker into one of the world's leaders.

Hyundai Motor will spend more than 60 trillion won (\$55 billion) in those areas over the next five years and in 2019 set up a \$4 bil-

lion autonomous-driving joint venture with a General Motors Co. spin-off.

It plans to release its first electric vehicle this year.

Any collaboration with a big tech company could boost that push. Apple has said it will take at least five years to introduce an autonomous, electric vehicle, according to people familiar with the plans, meaning that it's in no hurry to decide on potential auto-industry partners.

With Friday's stock surge, Euisun Chung is now worth \$5 billion and his father's wealth has jumped to \$7.4 billion. The two directly hold about 8 per cent of Hyundai Motor.

—Bloomberg

CHINA ORDERS MEDIA TO CENSOR ALIBABA COVERAGE

SHORT TAKES
IOC member not sure of Olympics

Tokyo: A senior member of the International Olympic Committee has said he can't be certain the postponed Tokyo Olympics will open in just over six months because of the ongoing pandemic in Japan and elsewhere. The comments by Canadian IOC member Richard Pound to British broadcaster the BBC came as Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a state of emergency on Thursday for Tokyo and surrounding prefectures.

I can't be certain because the ongoing elephant in the room would be the surges in the virus, Pound said speaking about the future of the Tokyo Games. Japan's emergency order, which is largely voluntary, will be in force until the first week of February. It's crunch time for Tokyo. Organizers say the Olympics will take place, but they are not expected to reveal concrete plans until spring. — AFP

Fifa ex-president Blatter in hospital

Geneva: Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter has been taken to hospital, a Swiss newspaper said on Thursday, but media insisted the disgraced official's life was not in danger.

"My father is in hospital. He's getting better every day. But he needs time and rest," his daughter Corinne Blatter

Andenmatten was quoted as saying by Blick, which said the he was in a serious but non-life-threatening condition.

"On behalf of my family, I ask for privacy," his daughter said.

Blatter was removed from office in 2015 after 17 years at the head of world football's governing body.

He was suspended from football for six years over a two-million Swiss franc payment to then UEFA boss Michel Platini in 2011. Blatter and Platini are now being investigated for alleged "fraud" and "breach of trust" in Switzerland. — AFP

Colaco goals earn win for Hyderabad

Vasco: Hyderabad FC piled further misery on NorthEast United, extending the Highlanders' winless run to six games with a thumping 4-2 victory in the Indian Super League here on Friday.

Hyderabad took the lead through goals from Aridane Santana (3rd minute) and Joel Chianese (36th) before a penalty from Federico Gallego (45th) and Benjamin Lambot's strike (45th) helped NEUFC draw parity before the break.

Hyderabad settled the tie in their favour in the second half through late goals from substitute Linton Colaco, who scored in the 85th and 90th minutes.

The first half was a dramatic and open-ended contest with both sides creating ample chances.

The North East side fashioned more opportunities and despite a two-goal deficit, fought their way back with two goals late in the opening half. — PTI

Honda riders in third 1-2 at Dakar

Al Qaisumah, Saudi Arabia: With the opening third of the Dakar Rally completed, Monster Energy Honda Team riders now aim to consolidate positions which will allow them to attack in the second half of the race. Thursday saw another one-two for the Honda CRF450 RALLY, with Kevin Benavides and Jose Ignacio Cornejo occupying the top two places in fifth stage.

Kevin Benavides claimed the day's victory spoils after a ferocious performance from start to finish. Cornejo also collaborated in the Honda one-two. The Chilean, who opened the track for much of the 456-kilometre special, finished second on the day, a minute behind his teammate.

Live on TV

CRICKET

Australia vs India: Third Test — Day Four from 5 am (Sunday) on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

BIG Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Sydney Thunder from 1.45 pm on Sony Six, HD

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Bengaluru FC vs East Bengal from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

FA Cup: Everton vs Rotherham United from 5.30 pm; Stoke City vs Leicester City from 8.30 pm; Arsenal vs Newcastle United from 11 pm; Manchester United vs Watford from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Southampton vs Shrewsbury Town from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

STEVE RUNSMITH

Smith scores century but Jadeja, Gill star for India

Sydney, Jan. 8: Steve Smith's typically gutsy hundred was neutralised by Ravindra Jadeja's four-wicket haul and rookie Shubman Gill's fluent half-century as a resolute India reached 96/2 after dismissing Australia for 338 on the second day of the third Test here on Friday.

The Indian bowlers, especially Jadeja (18-3-62-4) and the ever-dependable Jasprit Bumrah (25.4-7-66-2), were brilliant with their length on a flat SCG deck where Smith (131 off 226 balls) along with Marnus Labuschagne (91 off 196 balls) raised visions of a 450-plus total by taking the side to 206 for 2 at one stage.

But in the end, 338 was all they managed in a little less than 106 overs with none of the other batsmen making any telling contribution.

It was only fitting that Jadeja's split-second brilliance from the deep found Smith short of his crease.

Then it was the calm and collected Gill (50, 101 balls), who was assured during those cover drives off Nathan Lyon and equally breathtaking while presenting his forward defence to Pat Cummins.

The 21-year-old and Rohit Sharma (26 off 77 balls) added 70 in 27 overs but more importantly set the stage for skipper Ajinkya Rahane (5 batting off 40 balls) and Cheteshwar Pujara (9 batting off 53 balls) to cash in on the batting-friendly conditions on the third day.

It was Gill's maiden Test half century in just his second match.

The Australian attack looked more insipid than ever and Rohit, playing his first game in nearly two months, did all the hard work for nearly two hours before failing to check an uprise drive that was pouched by the bowler.

But it was a day when India had two openers, who were both ready to pull the fast bowlers during their opening spells and dominate Lyon with precise footwork. — PTI

BCCI ALL SET TO DUMP I.M.G. AS IPL ORGANISER

Sydney, Jan. 8: The BCCI has decided to part ways with International Management Group (IMG), which has held the events rights of the IPL since its inception, a top Board official revealed on Friday.

"Yes, we have sent them a termination notice," the official said.

It has been learnt the notice was sent earlier this week and the board plans to run its premier tournament with its own set of professionals from this year. The UK-based company had retained the event rights for the IPL in 2017 for a five-year period till 2022.

The 2021 edition is expected to be held in its usual window of March-April but it is not yet decided whether it will take place in India or overseas like the 2020 one.

A mini auction before the IPL is expected to be held in February. — PTI



Australia's Steve Smith celebrates after scoring a century against India on the second day of their third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday. — AP

Smith laughs off form slump

Sydney, Jan. 8: Former Australia skipper Steve Smith dismissed talk of a form slump but credited a more positive attitude after his battling century against India in Sydney on Friday.

He reached three figures in a Test for the first time since 2019, smacking 131 for his 27th ton to help steer Australia to a first innings 338.

But it was a day when India had two openers, who were both ready to pull the fast bowlers during their opening spells and dominate Lyon with precise footwork. — PTI

his form among pundits and the media.

But Smith said he was never worried, pointing out that he hit pulsating back-to-back centuries in the limited-overs series against India late last year.

"I read a lot of things and plenty of people said I was out of form so it was nice to come back into form, if that's what you want to call it," he said.

"I mean, it was only about three or four weeks ago that I scored two hundreds at the Sydney

Cricket Ground. So yeah, it kind of just makes me laugh sometimes when people say that kind of thing."

"I missed out in the first two Tests obviously and came back today and scored some runs and helped I guess put us in a decent position." Smith struggled against the spin of Ravi Ashwin in Adelaide and Melbourne and admitted he made some adjustments to his game, which helped him build his near-flawless score. — S. PERVEZ QAISER

On-top Jaddu relishes field day



India's Ravindra Jadeja (left) celebrates after taking the wicket of Australia's Nathan Lyon during Day Two of the third Test match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday. — AFP

run-out will stay with me," said the Saurashtra all-rounder.

Jadeja has been a live wire on the field during this tour with some fantastic catches like the one he took running back-

wards at the MCG to dismiss Matthew Wade or this run-out at a crucial juncture when Smith could have added an extra 25 to 30 runs.

Jadeja also said that the plan was to vary pace of

his deliveries and create angles since there was not much turn on offer.

Jadeja returned with figures of four for 62 in 18 overs besides getting rid of centurion Steve Smith with a brilliant direct hit. "The idea was to create pressure as this wasn't a wicket where you would get chance in every over. You can't bowl all deliveries at same pace on this wicket as there was no turn on offer. You had to mix and match and create angles," said Jadeja.

For India's top multi-skilled cricketer, the focus has also been on producing all-round performances. "Not just last 12-18 months, from the time I started playing, that's what has been my role. Whenever I am playing, I try to contribute in both departments of the game.

"And whenever I have been given opportunities, more often than not, I have delivered," Jadeja further added. — PTI

Quarantine cloud over Brisbane Test

Sydney, Jan. 8: A new three-day lockdown in Brisbane has put Cricket Australia in a spot of bother as it makes desperate efforts to hold the fourth and final Test against India in the Queensland state capital from January 15.

The Lockdown was announced less than 24 hours after top cricket board officials from India and Australia were engaged in a discussion on relaxation of hard quarantine measures for the visitors.

"Cricket Australia exec-

tives are urgently trying to determine the impact of a three-day lockdown in Brisbane on next week's fourth Test at the Gabba, which was already under a cloud because of India's hesitation to fly north and be subjected to tighter bio-security restrictions," the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

"A hotel quarantine worker's positive test to the more contagious UK strain of Covid-19 is the latest spanner in the works for CA's hopes to close out the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series at

the Gabba," it further wrote.

While Cricket Australia were ready to allow a capacity crowd of 36,000, the fluid health situation might warrant a change in the spectator policy.

"The health scare in the city, however, has left those attendance caps in jeopardy," the newspaper stated.

On Thursday, The BCCI wrote to CA seeking relaxation in hard quarantine protocol of Brisbane, reminding the host board that the visitors are done with the strict isolation

virus cases in Brisbane. "The Queensland government is fully entitled to protect its people. Similarly I believe the BCCI is fully entitled to protect its team. I think that's something we should never forget," Gavaskar said during commentary on Channel 7.

Gavaskar said that Indian team is not unjustified in demanding that the players are together at the ground for 10 hours, they should be at least allowed to mingle in the hotel. — PTI

HC vacates stay on HCA league

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 8

League matches by accommodating it in any of the groups constituted by the HCA.

Granting relief to the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), the Telangana High Court on Friday vacated an interim stay and granted its permission to conduct the current format of the League matches as scheduled.

Justice Challa Kodandaram was dealing with a petition filed by HCA secretary R. Vijayamand, who pleaded with the court to vacate the stay granted two days ago.

The judge had issued the stay for immediate stopping of the League matches on the ground that the HCA had violated court directions vis-a-vis permitting the Union Bank of India team (former Andhra Bank team) to play in the

Team Kun Cricket Club, it could not be accommodated in the same group.

Dr K. Lakshmi Narasimha, counsel for Union Bank, brought to the notice of the court that there was no Group D and no request was ever made to the HCA by the then UBI team to change its name to Team Kun Cricket Club.

Later, HCA agreed to include the UBI team in Group A. With that, the judge vacated the stay.

THREE SHUTTLERS ARE BANNED FOR MATCH-FIXING



Srihitha Mandava poses with the trophy after winning the U-14 category at the Classic Golf Course in Gurugram.

SRIHITHA WINS UNDER 14 GOLF

Hyderabad, Jan. 8: The Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Friday handed life bans to three Indonesian shuttlers for involvement in match-fixing, manipulation and betting.

The sport's governing body said, "Eight Indonesian players who knew each other, and competed in lower-level international competitions mostly in Asia up until 2019, breached BWF Integrity Regulations related to match fixing, manipulation and/or betting on badminton."

"Three of them were found to have coordinated and organised others into being complicit in the behaviour and have been suspended from all badminton related activities for life," BWF said in a statement.

"Five others were suspended for between six to 12 years and fined between \$3,000 and \$12,000 each," BWF said. — PTI



Jarrett Allen (left) of Brooklyn Nets reaches for a rebound above Joel Embiid of Philadelphia 76ers during their NBA game in New York on Thursday. Nets won 122-109. — AP

Harris scores as Nets snare 76ers

Los Angeles, Jan. 8: Joe Harris scored a team high 28 points as the Brooklyn Nets shook off the absence of two stars to snap the Philadelphia 76ers' five-game winning streak with a 122-109 victory on Thursday.

Caris LeVert scored 22 points and had 10 assists as the Nets cooled off the NBA's hottest team despite missing their two top players Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving.

Harris got the job done, finishing two points shy of his career high as the Nets posted their second straight double-digit win after dropping four of five.

LeVert, who started in place of Irving, made the most of his opportunity. He scored 18 points by half-time as the Nets shot 45.4 percent and scored 35

points off 20 Philadelphia turnovers.

Stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons had quiet nights for the 76ers. Embiid scored 20 points on seven-of-14 shooting while Simmons had just 11 points.

PORTLAND HUNT WOLVES

Elsewhere, Damian Lillard delivered 39 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as the Portland Trail Blazers breezed past the Minnesota Timberwolves 135-117.

C.J. McCollum tallied 20 points and Jusuf Nurkic finished with 17 points and seven rebounds for Portland.

D'Angelo Russell and Anthony Edwards scored 26 points apiece for the Timberwolves.

— AFP

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