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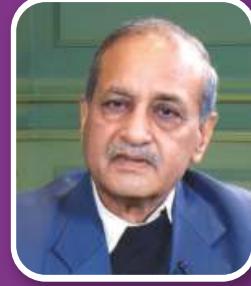
On the **BYJU'S IAS**  YouTube Channel

### This Week's Sessions

26<sup>th</sup> January 9:00 pm

#### UNDERSTANDING THE NUANCES OF THE PERSONALITY TEST

with Prof. (Dr.) D.P. Agrawal,  
Former Chairperson, UPSC



27<sup>th</sup> January 9:00 pm

#### IMPORTANT INT'L RELATIONS TOPICS FOR PERSONALITY TEST

with Mr. Amit Das Gupta (IFS),  
Former Ambassador



#### Programme Schedule

Date	Session
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Internal Security related issues in a post-COVID world
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Indian Culture and its various facets
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Tackling the fundamental questions
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Psychology of Body Language
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Electoral Reforms & role of the Election Commission of India
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Indian Judiciary: Role, challenges & the way forward
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Indian Economy: Towards a \$5 Trillion dream
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Climate Change & Environmental Degradation: Issues & Solutions
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	What are 'Good Communication Skills'?
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	How to maximise your marks in the Personality Test

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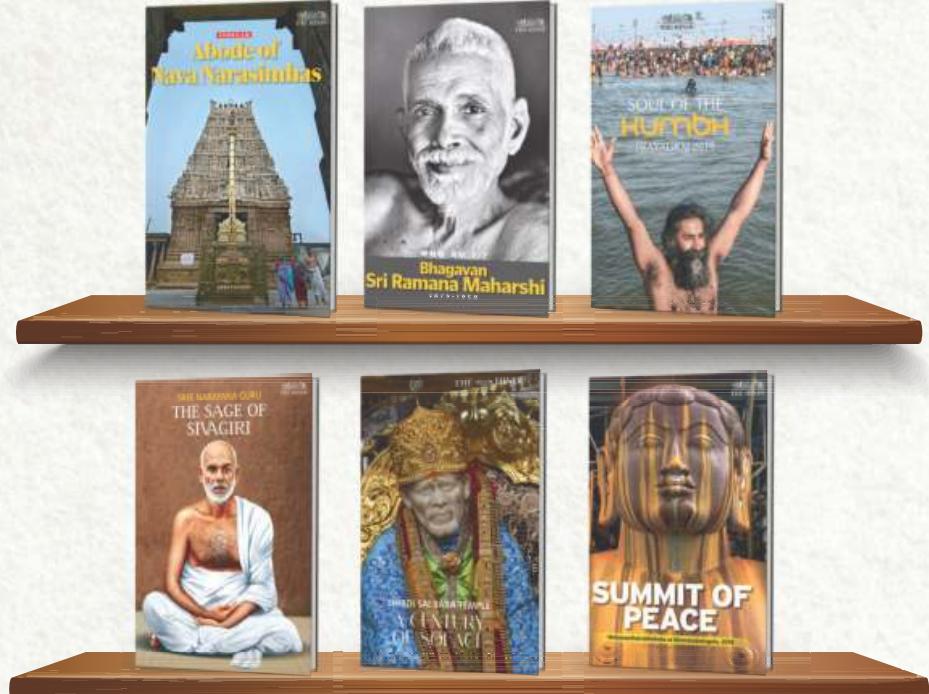


# THIS REPUBLIC DAY

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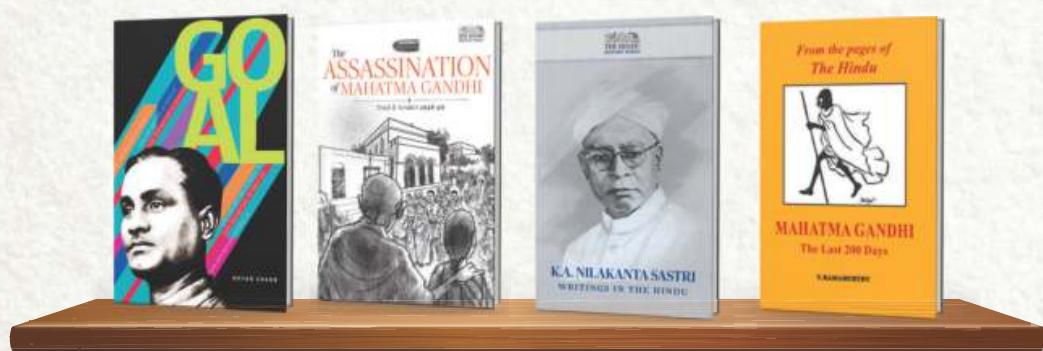
## SHRINE Series



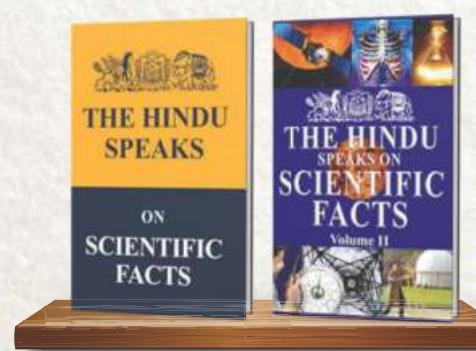
## PREMIUM Series



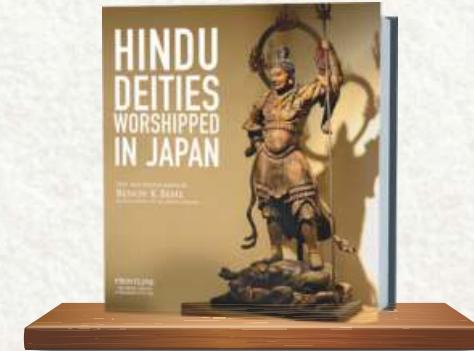
## HISTORY Series



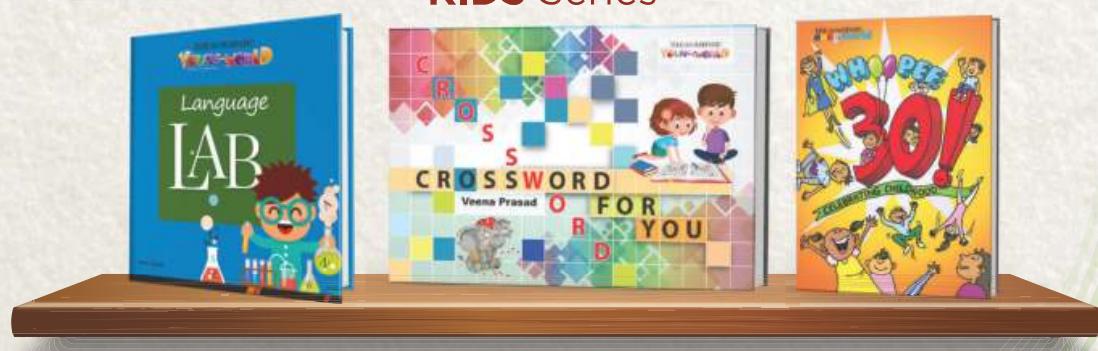
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NEARBY



Delhi may be heading towards herd immunity

NEW DELHI  
The fifth round of seroprevalence survey has indicated that Delhi's population could be heading towards attaining herd immunity against COVID-19, sources said. The survey has found that in one district, 50-60% of the sample population have developed antibodies.

[NEWS ▶ PAGE 12](#)

Final hearing against U.P. conversion law on Feb. 2

LUCKNOW  
The Allahabad High Court has deferred the final hearing of the writ petition filed against the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020 to February 2 citing the petition moved by the Yogi Adityanath government to transfer the case to the Supreme Court.

[NEWS ▶ PAGE 12](#)

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## Bridge to U.P. closed ahead of farmers' rally

Protesters all set for Republic Day tractor parades in Delhi

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
ANUJ KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police closed the Signature Bridge over the Yamuna on Monday night after tractors tried to enter the capital from Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers on hundreds of tractors from Baghpat were "threatening" to enter Delhi at the Loni border, said Raj Raja, SP (Rural), Ghaziabad.

"They are directionless and leaderless. They want to go to Red Fort. They were told to take the prescribed route via the Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressway to reach the Ghazipur border but they refused and are misbehaving with the police. They are using abusive language and are agitated," Mr. Raja said, adding that extra forces had been called in. "The orders are to be as patient with them as possible but right now they are refusing to listen," he said.

Protesting farmer unions had received permission to hold tractor parades in three border areas of Delhi along three pre-determined routes, with strict condi-



Obstacle course: Security personnel keeping watch at the Ghazipur border on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

tions specifying the number of tractors and that they would not enter the capital until noon, by when the Republic Day parade on Rajpath would be completed.

**March to Parliament**

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) also announced a Samsad march to Parliament on February 1, the day when the Union Budget will be presented, as the next phase of its protest, keeping up the momentum from Republic Day. Dharmendra Malik, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said both the Uttar Pradesh and Delhi

police were trying to instigate farmers to turn violent.

"Those coming from Baghpat to Ghazipur border had to either pass via Delhi or take the Bhopura route in Ghaziabad to reach the U.P. Gate. But both routes have been blocked by the police and farmers are being told to go back 40-50 km and enter through the KGP Expressway. It is impractical and a way to needle farmers at night. We are trying to negotiate with the administration," he said.

[CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10](#)

[MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGES 3, 4 & 7](#)

## India, China troops clashed at Naku La

### 10th round of talks soon

Minor face-off last week, says Army; no info to offer, says Beijing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

At the 9th round of Corps Commanders talks on Sunday, India and China had a "candid and in-depth exchange of views" on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control, and both sides agreed to hold the 10th round at an early date to "jointly" advance de-escalation.

"It is clarified that there was a minor face-off at Naku La area of north Sikkim on January 20, 2021, and the same was resolved by local commanders as per estab-

"The two sides agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops," a joint statement said.

They agreed to continue their "effective efforts" in ensuring the restraint of the frontline troops, and stabilise and control the situation along the LAC in the Western sector of the China-India border.

lished protocols," the Army said in a statement.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing in Beij-

ing that he had "no information to offer" on the incident but "would like to stress the Chinese border troops are committed to upholding

peace and tranquillity along the border with India".

The clash occurred as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops attempted to intrude into Indian territory, a defence source said. There were some minor injuries on both sides, but the situation was resolved and under control, the source added.

There was a clash at Naku La on the night of May 9 last, which also saw injuries on both sides. There was a clash at Pangong Tso also at that time as the nine-month-long stand-off began at several locations across eastern Ladakh.

[CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10](#)

## States told to stop rumours on vaccines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has written to all the States and the Union Territories to check the spread of misinformation on the two COVID-19 vaccines, and advised them to take penal action against those disseminating wrong news.

[CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10](#)

## Govt. is committed to farmers' welfare: Kovind

All reforms face doubts, says President

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Addressing the nation on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day, President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday asserted that Indian armed forces are "adequately mobilised to thwart any attempt to undermine national security" while reiterating the country's

commitment to peace.

Amid the on-going tensions with China, President Kovind said the "path of reforms gives rise to initial misapprehensions" but the government is committed to the welfare of the farmers.

[CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10](#)

Padma Vibhushan for SPB, Abe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and late singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam were on Monday named for the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award in India, while singer K.S. Chithra will get the Padma Bhushan.

[RELATED REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 11](#)

 BOEING

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This Republic Day, Boeing remains dedicated to the inspiring progress of India and proudly supports the nation's focus towards becoming a global leader in aerospace and defence.



## 7,408 health workers get COVID-19 shot

91.5% of daily vaccination target achieved on Day 6 of drive

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A total of 7,408 healthcare workers were vaccinated in Delhi on Monday - the highest since the vaccination drive started on January 16.

Also, there were 14 "minor" adverse events following immunisation (AEFI), the Delhi government spokesperson said. Of the 14 AEFI, 13 were from using Covishield and one from Covaxin.

The number of people vaccinated on Monday, the sixth day of drive in the city, was 91.5% of the target of

8,100 for the day.

On the first day of the vaccination on January 16, 4,319 healthcare workers were vaccinated. On Monday, the figure was 3,598, on Tuesday it was 4,936, Thursday's number was 5,942 and 6,967 on Saturday.

Delhi uses both vaccines for COVID-19 - Covaxin and Covishield - from the first day.

The increase in the number of vaccinations is due to better trust, change in policy allowing people not in the daily list of beneficiaries to also get vaccinated, and

awareness classes for healthcare workers, according to officials.

The city is currently inoculating about 2.4 lakh healthcare workers whose names have been registered with the government, and it is voluntary.

Delhi witnessed 148 new cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 6,34,072, according to the health bulletin released by the State government. Also, five more deaths have been reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths to 10,813.

## CM applauds sacrifices by 'corona warriors'

'Delhiites, govt. collectively strengthened health infrastructure'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressed the people at the Republic Day celebrations held at the Delhi secretariat here on Monday, where he commended the contributions and sacrifices made by corona warriors during the pandemic.

The Chief Minister said the people of Delhi and the Delhi government had collectively strengthened health infrastructure, which was why Delhi's health system was intact even after a "severe novel coronavirus outbreak."

"If not for COVID-19, we would have celebrated the occasion at Chhatrasal Stadium along with our families and children. I hope that this year we will be relieved of the pandemic," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He said on November 11, there were 8,500 COVID-19 cases in a single day, which was the highest in any city in the world. Despite this, Delhi had 7,000 vacant dedicated COVID-19 beds in hospitals. He said, unlike in other cities, there were no patients lying in hospital campuses or on roads.

"This was a tough phase,



Arvind Kejriwal •

across the world, in Delhi. Until now, around 3,12,425 people have been treated under home isolation," he said.

"Our corona warriors did a commendable job during the pandemic. To salute their contributions, I personally went to the homes of around nine corona warriors, who lost their lives, to provide honorary assistance of ₹1 crore to their families," he also said.

## Health cards

Meanwhile, health cards were going to be issued for the people of Delhi this year. "You can take this health card to any government hospital. You will have a health ID, you will not be required to carry any documents or medical slips because all your health record and history will be stored in that health card," he also said.

"We will start with government health infrastructure first, including hospitals, mohalla clinics, polyclinics, dispensaries, society hospitals, and later on private hospitals will be added. Our Health Information Management System (HIMS) will be completed this year," he also said.

Doctors from the city, he said, led the way by taking the initiative in relation to plasma therapy. "Our doctors initiated home isolation, which was started for the first time



A worker pasting a sticker notifying mandatory wearing of masks as a precaution against COVID-19 at the venue of the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Monday. • AP

## Some viewers to miss out as Republic Day parade changes route

Daryaganj locals still hope for a glimpse

Siddharth, who owns a helmet shop in Daryaganj, said every year, because of the parade, several maintenance works are carried on the main road in Daryaganj but this year, due to the ongoing strike by the civic bodies, even garbage on the road has not been picked up. "During the dress rehearsal for Republic Day, some people came to pick up the garbage but look, a day before the parade how dirty it is," he said, pointing to a heap of packing garbage.

While some shop owners complain that the Republic Day exercise hampers their business as they are made to shut shop for several hours the day ahead of the function, others see it as a sense of pride that they are contributing to an event that is the pride of the nation.

"Although the marching contingents will not pass our shops, we are participating in the operation to secure the route as we have been told that the tableaux will pass this road. I see it as a contribution to the nation that we do not do business for a few days," said Arun, a book store owner.



Delhi's tableau showcasing the ongoing redevelopment of Chandni Chowk. • R.V. MOORTHY

## Delhi's tableau revives effort to restore heritage of Shahjahanabad

It is city's first float after three years

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

The inclusion of Delhi's tableau showcasing the ongoing redevelopment of Chandni Chowk during Republic Day celebrations here on Tuesday has resurrected efforts to restore more of Shahjahanabad's heritage.

Marking Delhi's return to festivities on Rajpath via a float proposed by it after three years, the tableau, showcasing 1.3 km of redevelopment work between the Red Fort and the Fatehpuri Mosque, will be the only other "live" tableau apart from the Ram Temple-themed Uttar Pradesh float.

With mini contingents of four cyclists each riding along on either side to promote it as a means of commuting will mark possibly the first time that bicycles will run on Rajpath as part of a State float.

According to government sources, apart from taking up work related to facade restoration on the stretch, which has been featured in the tableau, the Public Works Department has also been directed to redesign the Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Kashmere Gate as a Heritage Road.

Delhi tableau in 2019 was part of a contingent depicting different facets from Mahatma Gandhi's life.

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- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

हम विश्व के सर्वश्रेष्ठ गणतंत्र बनें, माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के इसी सपने को साकार करने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार राष्ट्र गौरव के प्रति हर क्षण समर्पित है। अंत्योदय और समानता के आदर्शों को सर्वोपरि रखते हुये प्रदेश के हर वर्ग का विकास हो। हर नागरिक आत्मनिर्भर बने एवं प्रदेश के विकास में भागीदार हो। इसी कामना के साथ अपने गणतंत्र को सशक्त बनाने के लिए आइये, हम सब मिलकर तिरंगे की शान बढ़ाएं।

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- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के तहत 40 लाख से अधिक घरों की स्वीकृति/निर्माण 27 हजार 101 करोड़ रु. किसानों को हस्तांतरित ● स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के अंतर्गत 2.61 करोड़ शैक्षालयों का निर्माण
- 1.28 करोड़ घरों को निःशुल्क विद्युत कनेक्शन ● उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत 1.47 करोड़ गैस कनेक्शन निःशुल्क वितरित
- 4 लाख सरकारी नौकरी ● एम.एस.एम.ई. में 2.5 करोड़ रोजगार ● किसानों को विभिन्न योजनाओं में 2.53 लाख करोड़ रु. का भुगतान
- गेहूं, गन्जा, चीनी, आलू, दुध, आम एवं आंवला उत्पादन में प्रथम स्थान ● 5 एक्सप्रेस-वे का निर्माण ● 52 मेडिकल कॉलेजों का निर्माण
- 1.35 लाख विद्यालयों में ऑपरेशन कायाकल्प के अंतर्गत बुनियादी सुविधाओं का विकास ● 29 एयरपोर्ट का विकास

**THE HINDU**  
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Timings	
<b>DELHI</b>	
TUESDAY, JAN. 26	
RISE 07:13 SET 17:56	
RISE 15:35 SET 05:08	
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27	
RISE 07:12 SET 17:57	
RISE 16:31 SET 06:02	
THURSDAY, JAN. 28	
RISE 07:12 SET 17:58	
RISE 17:32 SET 06:54	

### WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Dense fog/very dense fog likely in some/ isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Saurashtra & Kutch

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	23.5	11.9	Kozhikode	—	34.0	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	25.8	12.4	Kurnool	—	33.9	19.7
Aizawl	—	20.4	6.7	Lucknow	—	15.3	10.6
Allahabad	—	14.1	9.0	Madurai	—	31.8	19.2
Bengaluru	—	29.4	16.3	Mangaluru	—	35.8	21.3
Bhopal	—	22.5	11.4	Mumbai	—	30.6	16.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.9	20.0	Mysuru	—	32.2	15.8
Chandigarh	—	19.0	12.5	New Delhi	—	18.4	7.4
Chennai	—	31.4	22.2	Patna	—	19.4	12.4
Coimbatore	—	29.4	19.5	Pond Blair	—	30.4	22.5
Dehradun	—	21.4	8.1	Puducherry	—	31.7	21.0
Gangtok	—	12.7	4.9	Pune	—	32.3	16.6
Goa	—	33.0	22.0	Raipur	—	32.4	17.5
Guwahati	—	26.0	11.8	Ranchi	—	24.9	11.6
Hubballi	—	31.0	18.0	Shillong	—	16.0	5.0
Hyderabad	—	33.2	18.4	Shimla	—	12.4	2.8
Imphal	—	24.2	3.3	Srinagar	—	7.6	7.0
Jaipur	—	21.4	7.7	Tiruvananthapuram	—	32.2	23.1
Kochi	—	31.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	31.4	20.9
Kohima	—	16.8	6.0	Vijayawada	—	31.6	20.0
Kolkata	—	26.6	15.3	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	21	.71	.43	.94	.139	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.7	.79	.20	.94	.97	■■■■■
Chennai	..—	.13	.24	.76	.79	■■■■■
Delhi	10	.15	.58	.449	.392	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.6	.49	.23	.102	.102	■■■■■
Kolkata	46	.23	.101	.345	.210	■■■■■
Lucknow	13	.42	.80	.328	.177	■■■■■
Mumbai	14	.37	.30	.326	.278	■■■■■
Pune	..—	.153	.51	.144	.113	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	20	.62	.33	.133	.128	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rupnagar, Punjab. Overall air quality index (AQI) score of 500 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Elor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 47.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Traffic Police on Monday asked commuters to avoid routes where farmers will take out the tractor rally on Republic Day.

The rally will start from three borders of Delhi and traffic will remain affected on the routes and roads leading to them.

The first rally will start from the Singhu border to Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar, DTU, Shahabad Dairy, Barwala village, Pooth Khurd village, Kanjhawala T-Point, Kanjhawala Chowk, Kutubgarh, Achandi Border and Kharkhoda toll plaza.

The second rally will start from the Tikri border and pass through Nangloi, Baprola village, Najafgarh, Rohtak Bypass (Bahadurgarh) and Asoda toll plaza. The Ghazipur rally will pass through Road Number 56, ISBT Anand Vihar, Apsara border, Hapur Road, Bhopura, IMS College, and Lal Kuan, the police said.

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**Mr. N SELVA KUMAR**

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**THE HINDU**

India's National Newspaper

At least 500 women to attend the rally, some will drive tractors

Singhu border. "Four other friends and I have come to Delhi to join the tractor rally. I was following the entire movement on social media and was planning to join it. It will be a memorable day to be part of kisan tractor rally on Republic Day," said Mr. Singh.

**Shoulder-to-shoulder**

Kuldeep Singh from Fazilka district reached the Singhu border still wearing his wedding dress. He got married two days ago and has come to support his brothers.

make our contribution to this movement," she said.

**A crucial moment**

The activist, who hails from a family of farmers in Jharkhand, added that the rally was a crucial moment in their agitation, which was "no less than a freedom struggle".

Social activist Zeba Khan said women will take part in the rally shoulder-to-shoulder with male farmers.

Ms. Khan claimed that at least 500 women will attend the parade.

"Women's contribution was invaluable during India's freedom struggle. On Tuesday also, we will be there to

Gurmeet Singh, a protesting farmer from Patiala, said women's participation was key to the success of the agitation. "These are not just any women. These are daughters of farmers, and their participation will be proof of what the farmers are capable of," he asserted.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police has given No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the tractor rally after leaders agreed on 37 conditions in a meeting with the police, said a senior police officer.

**Celebrating 72<sup>nd</sup> REPUBLIC DAY**

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Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

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**“**

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600022 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).

Regd. DL(ND)-11/610/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/4940 • ISSN 0971-751X • Vol. 11 • No. 21

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My client Mr. Ravinder Singh & Ms. Hemlata are availing housing loan from LICHLI K.G. Marg, New Delhi to Purchase the Free-hold Residential Entire First Floor Built on Plot No. 14 area 60 sq.mtr. situated at Pkt-9, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi 110024. The said plot was registered in the name of my client by virtue of Sale Deed dated on 15.04.2008 with document no. 6759 in his favour. Praveen Sharma has lost and misplaced the original Sale Deed regn. on 15.04.2008 and regarding same the police complaint has also been lodged on 21.01.2011 with Police Station. If any body finds the misplaced Original document, the same may be returned to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. K.G. Marg, New Delhi. If anybody misappropriates or steals the same, he shall be liable to criminal prosecution. Anybody having interest in the said flat shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned on Telephone No.: 0120-4164364, 9891191962 & 9891191961 as applicant is claiming the above property to LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to general public that my clients LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD, F-205, SECOND FLOOR, ADITYA PLAZA-II, SECTOR-14, COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, KAUSHambi, GHAZIABAD-201011, have sold the Residential Plot No. 1001/11, Deed dated 11.05.2011 which is registered as Doc. No. 10635, Addl. Book No. 4, Vol. No. 17596, on pages 67 to 142 entered on 11.05.2011 with Register-I-V Ghaziabad in respect of plot No. 1001/11, Deed No. SF-1, Second Floor With Roof Rights, II/117, Gyan Khand-II, Indrapuram, Tehsil Loni, District Ghaziabad-201011 in the name of Sh. Deepak Kumar & Sh. Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi who is sole and absolute owner of the said Flat who has been Misplaced from the office of Sh. Naveen Kumar Singh Advocate Chaudhary, 1 B Block, Sector-14, Rohini, New Delhi, Ghaziabad. Any person(s) having come into possession of the aforesaid document and/or any person (s) who is/are having knowledge of the same, are requested to inform the undersigned hereby, so as to general public that who ever finds the said document mentioned here in above may kindly return the same to LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD, F-205, Second Floor, Aditya Plaza-II, Sector-14, Commercial Complex, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201011. Address, or shall inform the undersigned on Telephone No. 9810075779/701193251.

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**LOST & FOUND**

IT IS notified for the information that my original Qualifying certificate of Main, Secondary Examination of the year 2016 and Roll No. 9151675 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name: Divyanshi Aggarwal - Roll No: 9151675 - Phone No. 9891891239

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Enquiry No. 1274/QM/PC-2189 Dated: 21-01-2021

Short Description:- Procurement of MS ERW Pipes and Fittings etc.

Quantity = As per NIT

Last date & time for downloading of documents 25-02-2021 up to 11.30 A.M.

Last date & time for receipt of e-tenders 25-02-2021 up to 11.30 AM.

Last date & time for opening of e-tenders 04-03-2021 at 12.00 Noon.

Tender Specification can only be downloaded from website [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in). Details regarding E-Tendering is available on website www.pspcl.in

Note- In case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender, the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office (intending Officer - 96461-17731) and/or M/s GePNIC Contact number 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284, 0120-4001002 well in time. All the prospective bidders are requested to get their digital signatures well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Superintendent/HQ,  
Chief Engineer/QM,  
GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat

Key No. GHTP/3/2021  
PBD PR 76155/12/54/2021/1037ASHOK KUMAR  
GURUGRAM

The Haryana government on Monday announced a last-minute change in the Republic Day programme of Chief Minister Manohar Lal and several of his Cabinet colleagues reshuffling the districts where they were earlier scheduled to unfurl the national flag. Mr. Lal, earlier slated to preside over the Republic Day celebrations at Panipat, will now be the chief guest at Panchkula.

In an unprecedented move, the Haryana government came out with a revised list of chief guests for the Republic Day function at several districts almost two weeks after the initial list on January 8. Though no reason was assigned for the revision in the list, the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues programmes to the districts hit by the ongoing farmers agitation over farm laws have been cancelled.

A query to Chief Secre-

tary Vijai Vardhan in this connection did not elicit any response.

Panipat, where Mr. Lal was earlier slated to unfurl the national flag, is also seen as one of the districts hit by the agitation. Mr. Vardhan will now be the chief guest at Panipat function.

Besides Mr. Lal, the pro-

gramme for the unfurling of the Tricolour by his Cabinet colleagues – Agriculture Minister J.P. Dalal, Archaeology &amp; Museums Minister

Anoop Dhanak and Women &amp; Child Development Minister Kamlesh Dhanda – at Rohtak, Sirsa and Fatehabad were also cancelled. As per the revised list, the respective Deputy Commissioners of the three districts will now be the chief guests at the Republic Day functions at these places.

While Mr. Dalal will now preside over the function at Rewari, Mr. Dhanak and Ms. Dhanda will unfurl the national flag at Faridabad and Nuh respectively.

Govt. official killed, buried

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA

A government official, Ajay Kumar, was killed and buried at a secluded spot along a river in Patna district following a tiff with a fertilizer vendor, drawing fresh criticism of the Nitish Kumar government on Monday. Kumar was posted as the block agriculture officer at Masauni, and had been missing since January 18.

OBITUARY &  
REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

S.R.NATARAJAN (63), Retired Senior Assistant Regional General Manager (Adv.) THE HINDU, Kolkata. Passed away on 24-01-2021. Address: Flat A21, AVM ASTA, Vadapalani, Chennai - 600026. Mobile: 9432268995

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Government seeks interest in setting up digital infrastructure in schools

Date Extension : Corrigendum

DoSE&amp;L, Government of Jharkhand have invited detailed proposal from reputed OEM/companies regarding providing digital infrastructure to schools under Ardhash Vidyalay Yojna vide ref. letter no 64, dated 18.01.2021 (PR No 239550, dt 19.01.2021). The last date for submission of applications of intent along with details is being extended from 25.01.2021 to 08.02.2021.

Interested OEMs/ companies may send their applications of intent at admin-jepc@jharkhandmail.gov.in with copy to jepcjharkhand@gmail.com OR hardcopy to Administrative Officer, JEPC (Jharkhand Education Project Council, State Project Office, Old HEC High School JSCA Stadium Road, Sector 3, Dharwara, Ranchi-843004, Jharkhand) with the details by 6 PM on 08.02.2021.

Sd/-

(Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh)

Director, Primary Education

School Education &amp; Literacy Department

Government of Jharkhand

Ref. letter no 16/V1-01/2021/103 dated 25/01/2021

PR 240076 Human Resource Development (20-21)\_D

Corrigendum

/Ranchi, Date:-22/01/2021

Please refer to PR no. 238408 and Tender ref. no.CADsec1/01-PLAN-4/2020/Trans/708 regarding Global tender for purchase of Gliding equipment from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or their authorized representatives. The last date of bid submission is extended as follows:-

Last date of Bid Submission :- 01/02/2021; 1800 Hrs

Last date of Submission of hard copy of EMD and Bank Guarantee:- 03/02/2021; 1100 Hrs

Date and time of opening of bids :- 03/02/2021; 1130 Hrs

Rest terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-

(Rajesh Kumar Sah)

Under Secretary

PR 240034 Civil Aviation (20-21)\_D

Office of Executive Engineer

Ty.Div.P.W.D.Berinag

National Competitive Bidding (E-tendering)

(E-Tender Notice)

Latter No. 139/3A

The Executive engineer Ty Div. Public Works Department Berinag Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Single Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available form date 03-02-2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

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Directorate of Information and Publicity, Government of NCT of Delhi



# Punjab CM urges farmers for peaceful R-Day event

'Centre should pay heed to the troubled voices of cultivators'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh on Monday appealed to farmers to ensure that the Republic Day event remained peaceful, just as their anti-farm law protests had been so far.

He urged the Union government once again to heed the troubled voice of the farming community in the true spirit of the Indian Republic.

**'Peace is hallmark'**

"Peace has been the hallmark of your [farmers'] democratic protests all these months, and should remain integral to your agitation in the days ahead, including the Republic Day Tractor Rally into the national capital," said the Chief Minister, in his Republic Day eve message.



CM Amarinder Singh

know, and our forefathers strove to build, cannot be destroyed or demolished on the whims of a few."

**'Threat to federalism'**

Capt. Singh lamented that the federal structure on which India's polity was founded was facing one of its biggest threats under the present Indian regime.

The brazen manner in which the three farm laws were pushed through, without debate or discussion, could not, and should not be accepted in the world's largest democracy.

**'State subject'**

The Centre had no power to legislate on a State subject, which agriculture was, and the implementation of the farm laws violated every principle of Constitution and the federal structure it stood for, he added.

## Hold elections to Sunni Waqf Board, HC tells U.P.

Appoints official as administrator for polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Monday set aside an order of the Uttar Pradesh government extending the term of the U.P. Sunni Central Waqf Board for the second time and ordered it to conduct elections and form the new board by February 28.

Election of such bodies could be deferred "only in most emergent and extraordinary circumstances," the HC noted. The administrative decisions taken by the board during its extended term would be invalidated after the court set aside the government order of September 30, 2020, by the State government extending the term of the Board.

The court was hearing two petitions filed to examine the validity of the orders, July 1 and September 30, 2020, by the State government extending the term of the Board.

The State government had in July extended the term of the board for six months with effect from April 1 after failing to elect the members on grounds of the lockdown.

The petitioners argued that the Waqf Act, 1995 does not empower the State to extend the term of an elected board and asserted that it acted beyond its authority and for certain extraneous considerations.

## Financial aid pours in for Odisha sisters

They worked as labourers to clear their college dues

SATYSUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Financial assistance poured in for Loji Behera, a diploma engineer, who along with her sisters opted to work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), to arrange money to clear outstanding fee in engineering college and fund her higher studies in Puri district.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Saurabh Shamshery directed the Principal Secretary to ensure elections are held and give charge to the new board by February 28.

The court was hearing two petitions filed to examine the validity of the orders, July 1 and September 30, 2020, by the State government extending the term of the Board.

The State government had in July extended the term of the board for six months with effect from April 1 after failing to elect the members on grounds of the lockdown.

The petitioners argued that the Waqf Act, 1995 does not empower the State to extend the term of an elected board and asserted that it acted beyond its authority and for certain extraneous considerations.

carried the story titled "Odisha sisters work for MGNREGS to pay fees" on front page highlighting financial crisis of the girl and her family. She was unable to undertake higher studies due to fund crunch.

**Civil engineer**

Despite being a diploma engineer in civil engineering, Ms. Behera had to carry mounds of earth on her head while laying a road under MGNREGS near her Goraipidha village under Chainpur panchayat in Puri district. The story has since gone viral.

"Today ₹30,000 has been

given to Ms. Rosy Behera as an interim measure to clear her backlog dues out of Chief Ministers Relief fund. We are also ensuring that she takes up her higher education without any hurdles in the future," Puri district administration replied to *The Hindu* in Twitter. It also posted picture taken during handing over of the cheque.

Moved by the heart-touching account of sisters, who along with their family members resorted to drudgery to accumulate fund, readers from different parts of India and abroad came forward to take care of her higher studies.

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\* This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

## MLA booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAIPUR

Behror MLA Baljeet Yadav and six others have been booked in connection with an alleged attack on the son of a BJP leader in Alwar district of Rajasthan, police said on Monday. The MLA has rejected the allegation.

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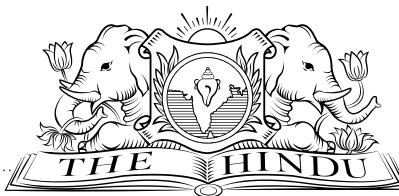
To  
People of Haryana On

# REPUBLIC DAY

**“**The Constitution of India has a special identity across the world. The fundamental rights enshrined in our constitution give us the rights as citizens of a free democratic Nation. India has touched glorious heights in various fields due to the strenuous efforts of its people. On the solemn occasion of Republic Day, let us come together and take a pledge to march on the path of progress and make the Nation and State 'Aatmanirbhar'.”

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana





## Overzealous threat

Bihar police circular on social media posts reveals low tolerance for criticism

The warning by the Bihar police of legal action being taken against users of social media for "offensive" posts targeting the government, its Ministers and officials, betrays both hypersensitivity and ignorance of the law. It represents an unacceptable combination of low tolerance for criticism and a zeal to cow down the public. The Economic Offences Wing, which also deals with cyber-crime, has sent a circular to the department secretaries that they could inform the wing about such "offensive posts" so that it could act against them, terming such actions as "against prescribed law". Presumably, the action contemplated is for an alleged cyber-crime. Even though the letter from the Inspector General of Police concerned makes no mention of any specific penal provision, it is a possible reference to Section 66A of the IT Act, as there is no other section that deals with "offensive" remarks. Section 66A, which dealt with "Punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc." was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015, as being too broadly defined. The Act's remaining penal provisions pertain only to other offences – sending obscene or prurient messages, hacking, stealing computer resources, identity theft, personation, and violation of privacy. There is nothing specific in the law that would render strong, even offensive and intemperate, criticism of the government a cyber-offence.

The tenor of the warning suggests that the cyber-crime wing may initiate proceedings against those who post offensive messages. However, it ought to be remembered that the police cannot register FIRs for defamation, as the offence can only be dealt with by way of criminal complaints before magistrates, and cannot be the subject of a police investigation. The government, indeed, has the power to institute criminal defamation cases through public prosecutors, if the alleged defamation is in respect of the official duties of public servants, but such measures do not exactly shore up a regime's popularity. In response to criticism, the State government has clarified that the proposed action would only be against rumour-mongering and insulting language. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has reacted by daring the government to jail him for exposing its wrongdoing. CM Nitish Kumar has not helped his cause by claiming that the government's good work is not reaching the people because of criticism on social media. There is much on social media that can be seen as crimes (hate speech, inflammatory and insulting remarks or defamation), but it ill-behaves an elected government to take note of these, unless the offenders are influential enough to cause major social divisions and foment violence. The government would do well not to act on the police circular, lest it be seen as an attempt to suppress its critics and those who make allegations of corruption.

## Split in the middle

Oli's authoritarian style bodes ill for the fledgling democracy in Nepal

The political crisis triggered by Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's decision to dissolve Nepal's Parliament and call fresh elections led to a vertical split in the ruling party, with the rival faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' sacking Mr. Oli from its general membership. The Prachanda faction of the Nepal Communist Party had removed Mr. Oli as the party's chairman earlier. It had issued a notice to him seeking an explanation for his decision to recommend Parliament's dissolution, to which he did not respond. Following this, the central committee of the Prachanda bloc met on Sunday and decided to expel Mr. Oli. His aides have rejected this, saying their leader remains the PM. This puts Nepal and its fractious communist movement in limbo. Mr. Oli has claimed that he represents the party, while Mr. Prachanda and Madhav Kumar Nepal, a former PM and leader of Mr. Oli's erstwhile Communist Party of Nepal (UML), have ruled out any future compromise with the PM. The constitutional validity of the decision to dissolve Parliament is being reviewed by the Supreme Court. Also, the Election Commission will decide which faction could retain the party's name and symbol, the Sun. These decisions will have a lasting impact on which side would emerge stronger.

Mr. Oli was elected PM in February 2018 after his CPN-UML fought the 2017 general election in an alliance with the Maoists. Within months of coming to power, the CPN-UML and the Maoist Centre of Prachanda merged to form the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), which gave him nearly two-thirds majority in Parliament. But the pre-election unity did not last long. When the government was formed, the tacit understanding between the CPN-UML and the Maoists was that Mr. Oli and Mr. Prachanda would share the five-year term. But Mr. Oli refused to step down after two and a half years, pushing the NCP into a bitter intra-party feud. The widening rift was not along the former UML-Maoist ideological lines. Rather, Mr. Oli's authoritarian style of governance and refusal to share power led to an erosion of support for the PM in the top echelons of the ruling party. To overcome his own weakness within the party and deny his rivals power, he dissolved Parliament. It is a typical case of greed for power and personality clashes trumping over the greater interests of a party, a government or a nation. When they formed a united front, it was a historic opportunity for Nepal's otherwise divided communists to script a brighter future for the fledgling republican democracy. But in three years, Nepal is in chaos – Parliament has been dissolved, the PM has been sacked from the ruling party, and the party is split down the middle. Mr. Oli cannot escape responsibility for the crisis Nepal is in today.

# The script of another 'parade' on Republic Day

The protesting farmers have revitalised the democratic polity and the Republic now stands morally recharged



HARISH KHARE

The January 26 'parade' on the Rajpath in the nation's capital is permanently lodged in the national imagination as the finest republican rite. The ritual is designed to underline the republican nature of our governing arrangement, by demonstrating to ourselves – and, to the world – that the armed forces formally offer salute and respect to the civilian authority, symbolised by the President of India. This theme will be re-affirmed this year also, notwithstanding that the traditional parade has over the years been used to 'show-case' India's military might. There will be no dilution of this national celebration.

Yet, the capital will also witness another parade – a parallel march by the (protesting) farmers, all in their loose-fitting uniforms of insurrection. This tractor rally can only be showcased as a veritable carnival of defiance and a festival of protest. Never before has the Republic been presented with such a rival celebration of democracy.

### A crisis by the functionaries

The contrast between the two celebrations brings the nation face to face with a crisis creeping upon us – a crisis of legitimacy of traditional politics. Ironically enough, the crisis has been precipitated by those very functionaries who are entrusted with the responsibility

of upholding the Republic and nourishing its democratic sustainability.

As the farmers protest the three contentious "farm laws", the government argues that it is merely trying to 'reform' the agriculture sector. The NITI Aayog managers and other corporate hired hands are entitled to chant the 'reform' mantra. But each and every 'reform' entails a certain social cost and economic pain, and it is the task of democratic politics to strive for a balance between pain and gain through a process of conciliation and compromise.

However, that traditional responsibility no longer finds favour with the rulers of the "new India". Consequently, the farmers, too, have felt compelled to go beyond the traditional intermediaries of political parties and have confronted the Narendra Modi regime with a non-party upsurge. The farmers' siege is not just against these three laws; they are challenging three crucial elements in Mr. Modi's inexorable authoritarian project.

### It is only one voice

First, the Modi project vehemently insists on denying authenticity to voices other than those from the Sangh Parivar. The ruling clique arrogates to itself not only the monopoly of *desh bhakti* but also claims a total control over wisdom, *gyaan*, initiative and inspiration; correspondingly, it denies legitimacy to civil society and its voices. Not for it a contraption such as a National Advisory Council. All non-Parivar non-governmental organisations are suspect in its eyes, just as the very idea of a social movement is denied any va-



REUTERS

lidity.

Predictably, the ruling clique has vindictively used the agencies of the state – the Central Bureau of Investigation, the National Investigation Agency, the Enforcement Directorate, the intelligence agencies, the income-tax man, etc – to harass, coerce and eventually neutralise and silence dissent and dissenters. It continuously updates its blue book of tricks – how to disrupt, discredit and diffuse democratic dissent; and, it has perfected the standard operating procedure on how to use and manipulate the media to demonise democratic ideas, sentiments, grievances and anxieties.

### Manipulate and marginalise

Second, the Modi project is pivoted on an unprecedented use of the state's resources to manufacture consent for the ruling clique and to fabricate adulation for the Leader. In this quest, society's inherent capacity for notions of nationalism, patriotism, xenophobia have been cynically exploited; the armed forces and their valour have been manipulated for the ruling clique's narrow partisan ends. Third, all these exertions and excesses have resulted in the marginalisation of the traditional politi-

cal parties; the manufactured euphoria and exultation for the ruling clique have been used to devalue the most sacred site of traditional politics – Parliament. Conventional wisdom holds that in a parliamentary democracy, the Opposition must have its say while the government must have its way; now, the Opposition is not even allowed a say. Once Parliament got degraded, it was easy to browbeat the other constitutional institutions – the judiciary, the Election Commission of India, etc – into becoming the ruling clique's enablers.

Cumulatively, parliamentary democracy stands debilitated as the effective instrument of compromise, conciliation and harmony. And the government reaps what it has sown. Unsurprisingly, the farmers see no merit in the three laws almost dubiously passed by Parliament; nor do they trust the government's assurance, no trust in its word; and, even the Supreme Court was indirectly conveyed that its intervention was not going to make a difference.

### Misreading the farmers

Having choked off all conventional avenues of negotiations and grievance-resolution, the Modi government found itself confronted in a losing stand-off with the farmers. With all the familiar arrogance of an authoritarian regime, the ruling clique failed to read the Punjab protesters. They represent an old tradition of defiance of the imperial imposition. For want of a better term, let us call it the Bhagat Singh constituency. The farmer-activists have re-discovered the old spirit of defiance and are happily prepared for consequences

and sacrifices. For the first time in the last seven years, the ruling clique has not been able to win the moral argument.

### Bad optics for government

On the contrary, for the first time, there is an Opposition that is not prepared to cede any kind of moral superiority to the Modi regime. The optics are all to the government's disadvantage – small and marginal farmers fighting to safeguard themselves against the predatory corporate giants and the ruling clique has to position itself in this fight against the small man. Worse, the farmers have blunted the Modi regime's standard operating procedure in dealing with Opposition voices and groups – unlike the Shaheen Bagh protest, the farmers could not be demobilised as Pakistani agents, or as the Khalistai agents provocateurs; worse, a Hindu-Muslim divide could not be introduced. The onus was and remains on the Modi regime to fire the first shot.

The farmers have created their own imaginary Stalingrad, exhilarated in defiance, unyielding in defence of their land – and they have worked out a morally-uplifting narrative, with heroes, martyrs and joyful sacrifices. They have displayed discipline, solidarity and purpose in challenging the Modi regime and its authoritarian encroachments. In this insubordination, bordering on subversion, the protesting farmers have revitalised the democratic polity and the Republic stands morally recharged. No small achievement this.

*Harish Khare is a senior journalist based in Delhi*

# The time for – not mass but targeted vaccination

In the endemic phase, which India seems to be entering, the strategy should aim to prevent deaths, eradicate COVID-19



M.S. SESADRI & T. JACOB JOHN

While the COVID-19 pandemic rages on in the United States and the United Kingdom, the scene is very different in India with the peak having passed in mid-September 2020, and there now being a current sustained down-trend. In the last four weeks (December 24-January 21), the reported average daily infections were 22,263; 15,805; 15,541 and 13,956. The epidemic phase is coming to an end, and the endemic phase, imminent.

### The dynamics

A person-to-person transmitted infection is endemic, when, on the average, each infection reproduces another, for 'reproduction number'  $R = 1$ . When  $R = > 1$ , daily infections increase, signalling rapid spread – the ascending limb of an epidemic curve. Post-peak, the curve declines, with  $R = < 1$ . Finally, when  $R$  settles down to  $< 1$ , infection is endemic – daily number of new infections remains stable with minor fluctuations.

The transmission dynamics of 'endemicity' is interesting. During this steady state, the population is a pool of individuals wherein one infected person infects only one other person, the number of daily infections remaining constant. By our estimates of the daily new births in India, by age six, around 54,000 survive over time. There-

fore, we add 54,000 susceptible subjects daily to the pool, disturbing this equilibrium. If, in spite of this addition, daily infections remain constant, it implies that new infections equal the susceptible subjects entering the pool. In India, during the COVID-19 endemic phase, average daily infections will be ~54,000 with minor fluctuations.

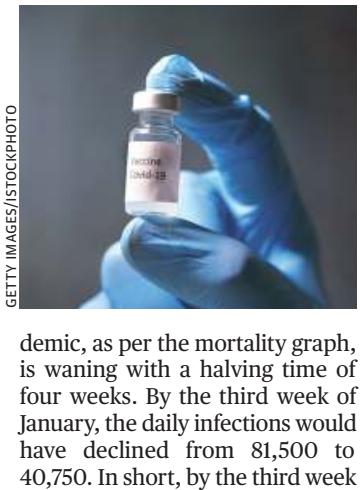
Only a fraction of total infections is detected by current testing strategy. To get the true numbers, we need to use arithmetic and the principle of triangulation.

The reported numbers can be used to compute the true number. During January 15-21, the reported daily number averaged 13,956. The currently popular rapid antigen test detects only 50% of infections; so, the actual number of new infections is double that number, about 28,000.

Nowadays, we mostly test symptomatic individuals, who account for only about half of total infections. Hence, the daily new infections may be 56,000, only 2,000 more than 54,000 – India is very close to reaching endemic state.

Can we corroborate this with the most unequivocal numbers that we have, namely mortality statistics?

The average daily COVID-19 deaths were 163 last week. As mortality certification is only 20% in India, the estimated number of daily COVID-19 deaths (highest estimate) may be five-fold – 815. Our COVID-19 case-fatality is 1%, occurring approximately four weeks from the initial symptoms. Therefore, the number of infections four weeks ago (third week of December) was about 81,500. The epi-



GIFTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

demic, as per the mortality graph, is waning with a halving time of four weeks. By the third week of January, the daily infections would have declined from 81,500 to 40,750. In short, by the third week of January 2021, India could have already entered endemic phase.

The shape of the epidemic curve in India, a large monophasic wave, negates urban-rural delay in the spread of the novel coronavirus infection; presumably because of the 'leaky lock-down' even the first sero-survey showed considerable rural spread. Therefore, another wave is unlikely.

When the epidemic enters the endemic phase, herd immunity threshold (for COVID-19 ~60% of population infected) is reached. Now is a critical moment in COVID-19 epidemiology – to design appropriate vaccination strategy for the current endemic phase.

### Action after a missed chance

In Europe, the U.S. and Brazil, where there is on-going rapid epidemic spread, the appropriate strategic objective is mass vaccination to curtail spread. This window of opportunity to curtail the epidemic was missed in India – the emergency-use authorisation of vaccines was too late.

In the endemic phase, which In-

dia seems to be entering, the strategy should be carefully crafted to eliminate COVID-19 deaths and to eradicate the viral infection altogether from the country. Now is the time for targeted, instead of mass vaccination.

Vaccinating health-care staff is a humanitarian and public health imperative; we need a well-protected workforce to deliver care confidently to vulnerable patients without unwittingly transmitting the virus. The public health system need not be taxed – when the vaccine is supplied to health-care institutions, staff manage the rest.

Young people have gradually resumed normal day-to-day activities, transport services restored, educational institutions opening up, and movie theatres permitted to operate. The 60% of the population which got infected for reaching herd immunity threshold are predominantly healthy youngsters. The elderly and the vulnerable with comorbidity who remained cocooned are at risk of infection, severe disease and mortality.

**What the priority should be**

India's first priority should be targeted vaccination to prevent deaths. Citizens above 55 years and those below 55 with diabetes, hypertension, obesity, chronic lung, heart and kidney diseases should be vaccinated first – through local governments (corporations, municipalities and panchayats), utilising already available data in the Aadhaar database. Enumeration, registration and vaccination by appointments need not be delayed any further.

As schools reopen, children could acquire infection at school

and transmit it to parents and grandparents. Priority vaccination of teachers and ancillary staff would be an essential strategy, along with all protective measures – masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene – until vaccination is approved in children.

An opportune priority is to design an innovative approach for the elimination of the coronavirus infection from the country, in our self-interest and to encourage the resolve for global eradication. Now is the time to lay its foundation; delays may render the disease non-eradicable for two biological reasons.

**Mutations, animal reservoirs**

The virus is mutating and new 'variants' are emerging. If new 'strains' emerge, the present vaccines may not be protective and new vaccines may have to be designed. Eradication must pre-empt such eventualities.

Second, now the virus transmission is only human to human, there is no animal reservoir. Animals of the feline (cat, tiger, lion, leopard) and canine (dogs, raccoons) families are vulnerable to human-animal transmission, but not vice-versa. *Mustelidae* (mink, weasels, ferrets and badgers) and *Cervidae* (farmed deer) are vulnerable and can transmit the virus to humans. They may form animal reservoirs, rendering eradication impossible.

Before these risks become real, COVID-19 must be eradicated.

*M.S. Seshadri is Medical Director and consultant Physician, Thirumalai Mission Hospital, Ranipet, Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Dr. T. Jacob John is former Professor of Clinical Virology, CMC Hospital Vellore*

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rigorous imprisonment with compounding of sentences for various offences. It also brings to the fore why Forest Department officials do not tag the elephants that frequent human habitation with Radio-frequency identification and track them. Another important point is the forest area demarcation on how much deviation/reduction has occurred from the original.

**Elephant set on fire**

The diabolical act of miscreants setting fire to an elephant in the Nilgiris is most heart-rending; more horrendous than the cracker-ridden food-ball or electric fence killing of pachyderms. Punishment needs to be commensurate with the level of cruelty and, therefore,

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**

A sentence in an article, " Burning Bad" (Open Page, February 24, 2021) said: "In Malappuram district, an elephant died after biting a pineapple with a crude bomb inside..." The incident happened in Palakkad district.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Vaccination progress

India is off to a good start in its plans to immunise 250 million people by July (Inside pages, "Million shots in under a week", January 25). Although we took less than a week to vaccinate a million compared to the United States (10 days) and the United Kingdom (18 days), India still has a 'mountain to climb'. Challenges lie ahead in the supply and disposal of auto-disabled syringes which will prevent reuse and possible reinfection, tracking the doses, prioritisation in the elderly, and preventing fraud over access to vaccines/fake vaccines.

**Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN,** Vellore, Tamil Nadu

■ Vaccine hesitancy was not pre-emptively addressed by the policymakers as it involves the entire population of India. Being a public good, the vaccine must be proven beyond any doubt that it is safe from all angles. Building confidence is the first step to win over the people. The haste in rolling out Covaxin should have been avoided. We should be governed by well-established scientific protocol as we are trying to build scientific temper in India. Let us shun vaccine nationalism.

**D. K. GEORGE,** Muavattupuzha, Kerala

**Biden and work ahead**

The only palpable reason for the Donald Trump

administration to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was to show the agreement signed by its predecessor, the Obama administration, in a bad light. As it was the U.S. which reneged on its commitments under the agreement, it is for it to restore and live up to them. For Iran, it is

# Can the Biden-Harris team save the planet?

The U.S. administration needs to do much more than just rejoining the Paris Agreement



SUJATHA BYRAVAN & SUDHIR CHELLA RAJAN

After four years of egregious anti-environmental policies during the Trump years, climate change activists and the general public can breathe a sigh of relief now that the Biden-Harris team has taken office in the White House. The new administration has been quick to rejoin the Paris Agreement on its very first day in office. A return to the Obama era, however, would be tragic if that simply means a continuation of the U.S. bullying poor nations to impose harsh restrictions on their carbon emissions without financial and technical support, protecting corporate interests at the expense of the global commons, and failing to acknowledge its own massive contribution to the climate crisis.

Still, the U.S. was once at the forefront of generating widespread awareness on climate change. Its scientists and political leadership were keen to take ambitious strides to address the challenge. What changed in the intervening years?

#### A brief history

In 1957, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, chaired by MIT scientist Thomas F. Malone, launched its First General Report on Climatology addressed to the Chief of the Weather Bureau, stating: "In consuming our fossil fuels at a prodigious rate, our civilization is conducting a grandiose scientific experiment". The next year, Charles Keeling, along with his mentors Harry Wexler and Roger Revelle, began the now famous measurements of atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide at Mauna Loa in Hawaii, producing reliable evidence of the relentless rise in anthropogenic greenhouse gases over subsequent decades.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson's Science Advisory Committee produced a report entitled "Restoring the Quality of our Environment", which pointed to rising concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, attributed them principally to the burn-



File photo of Joe Biden (right) and John Kerry in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 2019.

REUTERS

ing of fossil fuels, and warned that these levels could increase further by 25% by 2000, leading to a 0.6°C to 4°C rise in average global temperature, depending on the role of other factors. Global average temperature was already about half a degree warmer than at the end of the 19th century and the evidence was clear that mining vast quantities of fossil fuels from the earth and burning them in engines was responsible.

By the 1970s, human-induced climate change was a widespread area of concern among weather and climate scientists. In 1979, a report of the National Research Council, commissioned by President Jimmy Carter and chaired by Jule Charney from the University of California, Los Angeles, noted that a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> over pre-industrial levels could lead to global warming of about 3°C. A year earlier, the U.S. Congress passed the National Climate Program Act "to enable the United States and other nations to understand and respond to natural and man-induced climate processes and their implications". Funding for the programme was ambitious, amounting to over \$120 million for the first two years.

#### Corporate lobbies

The increased scientific and Congressional interest in addressing climate change was matched by mounting alarm within the fossil fuel industry. Recently exposed documents and internal memos show that major oil companies like Exxon and Shell organised themselves strategically to raise a concerted attack on climate

science. The 1970s was characterised by the energy crisis, associated with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries oil embargo, but the roles played by American banks, oil companies and dollar hegemony in precipitating the crisis are only now being unravelled. That crisis resulted in "petro-dollars" consolidating the strength of the fossil fuel industry and financial institutions for at least the next two decades. Much of this clout was used to build a mammoth campaign against environmental action, particularly around climate change.

On June 24, 1988, headlines on *The New York Times* front page read, "Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate." In his testimony, the Director of NASA's Institute for Space Studies, James Hansen, said humans had transformed global climate for decades to come. The same year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the United Nations to provide the public scientific information on climate change. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to address climate change was signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

The Second Assessment Report of the IPCC (1995) reaffirmed a "discernible human influence on global climate". Frederick Seitz, past President of the National Academy of Sciences, denounced the report publicly. Seitz was the founding chair of the George C. Marshall Institute, a tobacco industry consultant, and also a prominent "skeptic" on global warming.

Other conservative organisa-

tions were simultaneously working to muddy the facts, pointing at red herrings in the science. All had direct or indirect links to the fossil fuel industry.

Under intense lobbying by the industry-sponsored Global Climate Information Project, which recruited labour unions of miners and automobile workers, the U.S. Senate passed the Byrd-Hagel Resolution unanimously in July 1997. The Senate resolved that the U.S. should not sign a climate treaty to limit its emissions without developing countries agreeing to the same limits. This effectively prohibited the U.S. from ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, which placed limits on the growth of emissions from rich countries.

#### Various policies

In the subsequent two decades, the Koch Family Foundation alone spent \$125 million to finance nearly 100 groups that attacked climate science and policies. Still, the momentum generated by the growing movement of scientists, activists and youth is beginning to have some effects. The urgency is compelling. Keeling curve emissions are more than 410 ppm in 2020, compared to 313 ppm when measurements began in 1958. The Green New Deal offers a framework that needs further strengthening. If John Kerry, Special Envoy for Climate, integrates U.S. foreign aid or other means of support with climate targets by other countries, including China and India, then the U.S. is merely going back to business as usual. While the U.S.'s re-entry into the Paris Agreement may be by the stroke of a pen, regaining political legitimacy on climate requires the government to take responsibility in causing and aggravating the global climate crisis; commit to technology and funds for poorer countries; take on bigger emission targets; not bend over for the fossil fuel lobby which funds Democrats and Republicans; clean up the role of lobbyists in climate regulatory and policy organisations within the U.S.; and recognise and break up elite networks that have benefited by sustaining climate myths.

*Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies science, technology and development and Sudhir Chella Rajan is author of 'A Social Theory of Corruption'*

# Budgeting in a time of crisis

Keynesian economics offers guidelines for preparing the Budget



T.C.A. RAMANUJAM & T.C.A. SANDEETHA

The Great Depression wrecked the economies of the U.S. and Europe. In the words of Jonathan Alter, when Franklin Roosevelt became the American President in 1933, he was told: "Mr. President, if your programme succeeds you would be the greatest President in American history. If it fails, you will be the worst one". Roosevelt replied: "If it fails, I will be the last one".

Today the U.S. is facing its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Like Roosevelt, President Joe Biden is launching the American Rescue Plan to revive the economy. His \$1.9 trillion plan proposes \$1,400 per-person payments, increased unemployment benefits, assistance to local governments, support for accelerated vaccine rollout, investments to get children back in school, and a minimum wage of \$15 an hour.

In India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1, 2021. The pandemic has severely affected growth. The government was quick to announce a package of ₹20 lakh crore. Fiscal deficit could overshoot the target set by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. Spending more is going to be difficult. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, unemployment, both rural and urban, is surging, and health and infrastructure budgets are getting stretched. How much can the government afford to spend and in what direction? Can Keynesian economics offer guidelines?

#### The Paul Krugman principles

Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman has offered advice against too much of caution in dealing with the economic mess. He has laid down the rules for budget-making. The first rule is to not doubt the power of the government to help. Government spending can be hugely beneficial. The Affordable Care Act, for instance, led to a decline in the number of Americans without health insurance, and gave people a sense of security. The second is to not be obsessed with debt. Economists agree that debt is far less a problem than conventional wisdom asserts. Interest rates are low by historical standards. The burden of servicing debt is low. The third rule is to not worry about inflation. We can run a 'hot economy' with low unemployment and large budget deficits, without runaway inflation. The fourth is to not count on bipartisan

support.

#### The Indian context

India's GDP is estimated at ₹200 lakh crore. The first priority for spending should be health and infrastructure. India has only five beds for 10,000 Indians and ranks 155th on bed availability in the Human Development Report of 2020. Experts opine that the government should increase healthcare spending from 1.5% of the GDP to 2.5%.

The National Infrastructure Pipeline aims to invest ₹111 lakh crore by 2025 in over 6,800 projects. The proposal to set up a Development Finance Institution is still on the anvil. The Chinese government has entered into building social housing projects. As pointed out by the economists in *India Today*, expenditure on infrastructure can have a large multiplier effect on economic output.

Suggestions have been made for the introduction of an urban employment guarantee scheme on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This will be far better than direct cash transfers. The stumbling block to budgetary efforts to spend can be the resource crunch. Despite historic lows in fuel prices, the government chose to increase fuel prices to record levels. The Goods and Services Tax has been a big source of revenue. There is a strong case for reducing GST tariff. Cess or surcharge can be levied on the super-rich. Disinvestment must go on at high speed. The average tariff must come down to 10% from its current level of 14% by 2024, as suggested by Professor Arvind Panagariya. He wrote: "With several key reforms - new labour codes, new farm laws, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, low corporate profit tax, single nationwide GST and widespread digitisation - already in place, the addition of privatisation and trade liberalisation would nearly guarantee a double digit growth and millions of additional well-paid jobs for the masses in the post-Covid-19 decades."

Ms. Sitharaman has left significant imprints in the Budgets she has presented. The lowering of corporate tax rates, the introduction of the option to choose the tax rate both for companies and for individuals up to fixed monetary limits, the introduction of the Vivad se Vishwas scheme without sacrificing revenue, and the structured infusion of fiscal stimulus without accelerating inflation all point to a right approach to Budget-making. We can expect a never-before Budget to be presented to meet the crisis created by COVID-19. The super-rich must co-operate without insisting on tax concessions.

*T.C.A. Ramanujam is a former Chief Commissioner, Income Tax; T.C.A. Sangeetha is an Advocate, Madras High Court*

# How China might tackle the Biden presidency

Joe Biden will face a China that believes increasingly in taking the fight to the opposition

JABIN T. JACOB

With a new administration taking over in the U.S., how can we expect China to deal with the legacy of hardline China policies left behind by former President Donald Trump?

One, Beijing may try deflection. It may talk about being misunderstood and of overriding "common interests", as Foreign Minister Wang Yi did in December, or spout vague inanities such as "cooperative competition", as former Chinese diplomat Fu Ying did in November 2020 in *The New York Times*.

Two, since the paramount concerns for American leaders have usually been economic ones - jobs, exports and competitiveness, among other things - there could be a degree of appeasement in the form of limited or selective access for American agricultural produce and private enterprises.

Three, since climate change is a priority for the Democrats - as the appointment of John Kerry as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate suggests - there will be plenty of Chinese 'concessions' on this front too. But these will inevitably be linked to American concessions on other fronts potentially driving a wedge between the principal actors in the U.S. national security establishment on China policy.

Four, ideological competition is now a feature of Chinese foreign policy and it will be impossible for the Communist Party to not also attack the U.S. directly for faults both real and imagined. On the eve of the Biden inauguration, the Chinese Foreign Ministry repeated the allegation that the U.S. was the source of the novel coronavirus. The announcement of sanctions against senior Trump administration officials later was another sign of an increasingly no-holds-barred approach to the U.S.

Five, and related, we can expect China to continue to highlight and exaggerate domestic dynamics in the U.S. as a way of explaining away U.S.-China tensions as well as other American problems around the world. The attempt is to showcase China's own

political system in a positive light while criticising American-style democracy as somehow flawed or in decline. As Yuan Peng, head of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, declared, "The United States is sick, China has stabilized, and the world has changed".

Six, as China has increasingly done in recent years - from New Zealand to Nepal - it will more confidently interfere in U.S. domestic politics. Last year, U.S. officials claimed that China had attempted to interfere in elections.

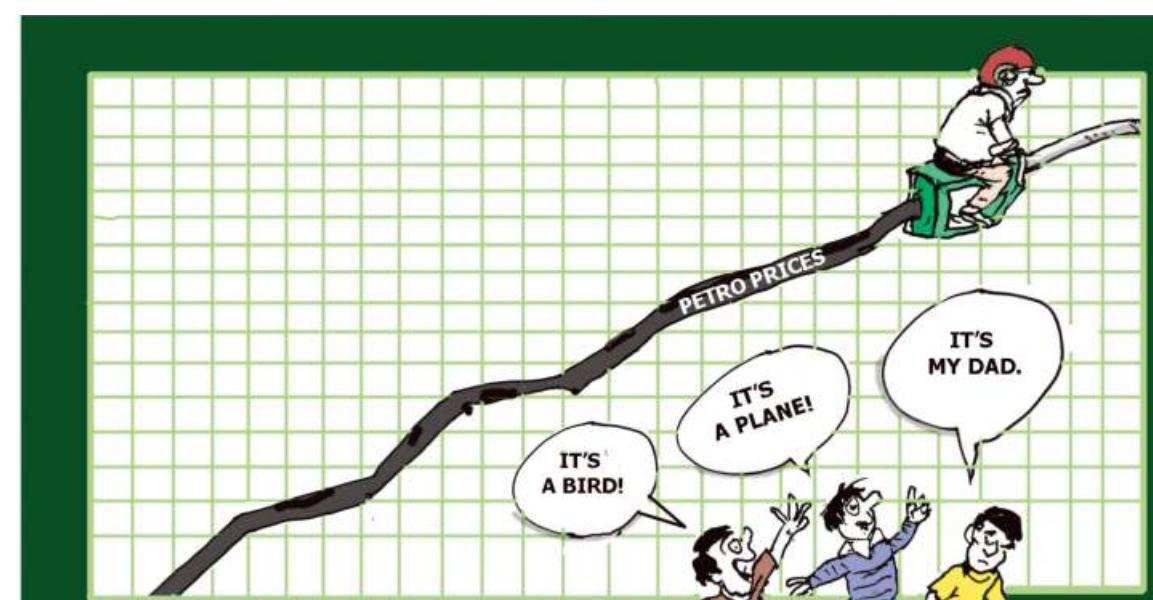
Seven, China will sustain pressure against American allies and partners everywhere - note, for instance, Beijing's provocations against Japan in the East China Sea and economic coercion against Australia.

Elsewhere, China's conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty with the European Union on the eve of the Biden presidency is a classic divide-and-rule tactic against the West. Beijing has been helped along by the unilateralism and walking out of multilateral regimes of the Trump administration, all of which President Joe Biden will be hard pressed to repair.

Finally, China will continue to suborn foreign private enterprises to do its will. The inability of American and other foreign enterprises to acknowledge, let alone take a stand against, the oppression of China's Uyghur minority should be a concern for the Biden administration as too the reality that most Western and Japanese enterprises remain reluctant to leave China despite their governments asking them to.

Under Mr. Biden, American pressure on China's domestic political and economic system and on its external policies is not going to be particularly unexpected for the Chinese leadership. But he will also face a China that believes increasingly in taking the fight to the opposition.

*Jabin T. Jacob is Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Uttar Pradesh. He tweets @jabinjacott*



#### DATA POINT

## Unsafe at home

Complaints received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) regarding crimes against women reached a six-year high in 2020. Over 70% of these complaints were of physical or psychological violence at home. It is likely that long lockdowns led to a spurt in such incidents. However, this could only be the tip of the iceberg as 86% Indian women who experience domestic violence do not seek help. By *The Hindu Data Team*

**CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN** | In 2020, as many as 23,722 complaints of crimes against women were received by the NCW, the highest since 2014. The number of complaints registered have risen sharply since 2017.

**NATURE OF CRIME** | The chart shows the 10 types of crimes for which the NCW recorded the most complaints in 2020. Of the complaints, 71% were regarding infringement of a woman's right to live with dignity, domestic violence, and marital and dowry-related harassment.

**STATE-WISE** | The chart plots the number of domestic violence complaints recorded in a State in 2020 against the number of complaints received per one million women. U.P. received the most number of complaints.

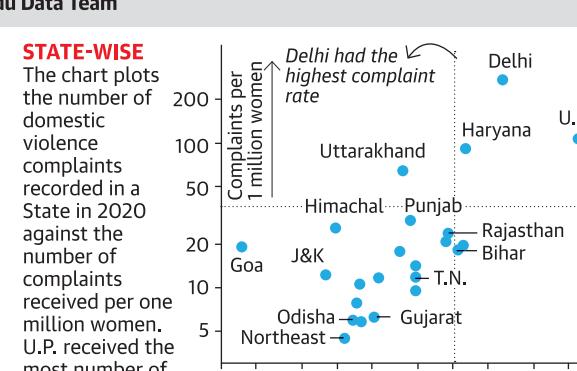
**BURIED IN SILENCE** | About 86% women who experienced violence never sought help, and 77% of the victims did not even mention the incident(s) to anyone. The table shows that women who were subjected to both physical and sexual violence sought help more compared to those who suffered only one form of abuse.

**Type of violence**

Type of violence	Never told anyone	Told someone	Sought help from a source
Physical	79.5	9	11.6
Sexual	80.6	9.5	9.8
Physical & sexual	61.3	9.9	28.8
Total	76.6	9.1	14.3

*Among the 14.3% of victims who sought help, only 7% reached out to relevant authorities – the police, doctors, lawyers or social service organisations. But more than 90% of the victims sought help only from their immediate family*

*Source: National Commission for Women, NFHS*



*Among the 14.3% of victims who sought help, only 7% reached out to relevant authorities – the police, doctors, lawyers or social service organisations. But more than 90% of the victims sought help only from their immediate family*

#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 26, 1971

#### DMK manifesto

(From an editorial)

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam election manifesto issued in Madras on Sunday [January 24] shows that the party continues to treat the regional language as its trump card with the electorate. It declares that whatever be the opposition there will be no change in the two-language policy and no place whatsoever for Hindi. There are, of course, few advocates of Hindi in Tamil Nadu but it still remains true that it would be useful to know that language if one has to go beyond the confines of the State or seek employment in the Central Services. But the burning issue to-day does not concern Hindi; it is all about the study of English in higher educational institutions. If past experience is any guide, it seems that the D.M.K. is not very anxious to promote the study of English even where it is an indispensable tool of learning.

The manifesto also reveals that the D.M.K. retains its provincial outlook in regard to economic planning. The Indian peninsula with its vast population forms a ready-made common market where free movement of capital, labour and goods could bring dividends to all corners of the country. Resources being limited, there is need for careful planning and location of major projects. This does not suit the book of the D.M.K. which has mounted an attack on the Planning Commission and demanded greater provincial autonomy. It seems to believe that the Centre should be left only with the responsibility for defence and foreign affairs and that the States should do the rest. In fact, the historical tendency in other federal systems has been just the reverse.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 26, 1921

#### Famine in China

The Lieutenant Governor has received the following telegram from the British Home Relief Committee, Peking: - "Appalling famine in China. Millions facing death and starvation. Available funds are totally inadequate. Position now desperate. Money urgently needed. One pound saves a life. Expenditure is under closest supervision. Kindly use best endeavours... Burma to contribute liberally to the fund opened by the Viceroy." The message is published with the hope that the appeal will meet with immediate and generous response. The Lieutenant Governor's Private-Secretary will receive donations.

## FROM PAGE ONE

**Bridge to U.P. closed ahead of farmers' rally**

Earlier in the day, a Punjab union, the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC), declared its intention to defy the police conditions by heading for Delhi's Outer Ring Road, instead of the approved routes. The group, which had previously defied directions to lift a rail roko in Punjab, said it would not take any decisions "under pressure from the government".

Leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is representing a coalition of thousands of farmers protesting on Delhi's borders, sent multiple delegations to the KMSC leadership, pleading with them to change their plans for the sake of the whole movement.

The SKM has also announced a Samsad march to Parliament on February 1, the day when the Union Budget will be presented, as the next phase of its protest, keeping up the momentum from Republic Day.

Tuesday's rallies are expected to attract 1.5 lakh tractors, and will display the extent of support for the farmers' demands, not just in Punjab and Haryana but from across the country, said Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal.

Balbir Singh Rajewal, who heads a faction of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said

the Samsad March would be undertaken on foot, and would only be the beginning of programmes planned during the upcoming session of Parliament.

"After we march round the route on Republic Day, no one will go home. Those who have come from Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, as well as those who have come from Odisha or other faraway place – we will not go home until the government listens to our demands and repeals the three laws," said Mr. Rajewal.

Protesting farmers are demanding that three new agricultural reform laws be repealed, and that a new law be enacted to guarantee remunerative prices for farm produce. As they enter the capital for the first time on Tuesday, union leaders say they are determined to keep the protest peaceful, but may be stymied by conditions announced by the Delhi Police on Monday evening.

The No Objection Certificate for the tractor parades, issued by Delhi Police, has 37 conditions, including one on the numbers of participants.

(With inputs from Vikas Vasudeva in Chandigarh and Saurabh Trivedi in Delhi)

**India, China troops clashed at Naku La**

Responding to questions on the Naku La incident, Mr. Zhao said, "We urge the Indian side to work in the same direction with us and refrain from actions that might escalate or complicate the situation along the border. We hope both will take proper actions to manage the differences and take concrete actions to safeguard the peace and stability along the border."

The Communist Party-run *Global Times* quoted Chinese military sources as saying that reports of injuries on both sides were

"fake". "There is no record of this incident in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) front line patrol logs," the newspaper said. "In recent days, the focus of the military's top leaders on both sides has been the ninth round of corps commander-level talks, not a new border clash... There have been minor frictions between the front line forces of the two countries, but if there had been friction involving casualties, it is impossible for them not to be recorded in the Chinese patrol logs."

Mr. Kovind said as the protests by the farmer unions demanding repeal of the three laws has continued for over two months outside Delhi.

Noting that India is now referred to as the "pharmacy of the world", given its ability to supply medicines to the world, the President urged citizens to come forward to get vaccinated following all the protocols.

Calling 2020 as a year of learning, he said India stands today confident after

**Govt. is committed to farmers' welfare: Kovind**

"The path of reform at the initial stages may cause misapprehensions but the government is singularly devoted to the farmers' welfare," Mr. Kovind said as the protests by the farmer unions demanding repeal of the three laws has continued for over two months outside Delhi.

Lauding the farmers for ensuring food security by making India self-reliant in foodgrains and dairy products even after facing several natural adversities and the COVID-19, he said a grateful nation is committed to farmers' welfare.

The President paid tribute to the 20 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives at Galwan valley in Ladakh last June during a face-off with the Chinese troops.

Noting that India is now referred to as the "pharmacy of the world", given its ability to supply medicines to the world, the President urged citizens to come forward to get vaccinated following all the protocols.

Calling 2020 as a year of learning, he said India stands today confident after

a year of 'unforeseen ordeal', converted adversity into an opportunity with the Prime Minister's call to Atmanirbhav campaign and foiled expansionist attempts at the borders.

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Lauding the farmers for ensuring food security by making India self-reliant in foodgrains and dairy products even after facing several natural adversities and the COVID-19, he said a grateful nation is committed to farmers' welfare.

The LDF government had authorised the CBI to probe the nearly six-year-old "sexual favours for official pa-

participation" case against a few Congress leaders, including Mr. Chandy, last week.

Mr. Chandy said an innate fear of defeat had prompted the government to resurrect disproven claims of sexual exploitation against the Con-

gress leadership. The brazen attempt to cast a slur on the Congress leadership would backfire on the government.

All India Congress Com-

mittee general secretary K.C. Venugopal, former Ministers Adoor Prakash and A.P. Anil Kumar, Hiby Eden, MP, and A.P. Abdullahkutty, now a top BJP functionary, are the other respondents in the case.

The case is centred on a set of charges raised by a woman accused of defrauding scores of citizens of their life savings by persuading them to invest in a non-existent solar power generation scheme.

But this failed to resolve the problem as a fresh wave of discontent surfaced.

The highlight of Mon-

day's reshuffle was Health and Family Welfare Minister K. Sudhakar getting back

to the Medical Education port-

folio, taken away from him in the first round of reshuf-

fel.

But this meant the Medi-

cal Education Department

was taken away from J.C.

Madhuswamy, who was al-

ready upset over being

stripped of the Minor Irrigation and Law portfolios.

In fact, supporters of Mr.

Madhuswamy even threat-

ened that he may not wish

to continue in the Cabinet if

he continued to be "igno-

red". Now, Mr. Madhus-

wamy has again been given

Minor Irrigation while Mr.

Yogeshwar has to be content

with Tourism and Ecology.

Post-mortem examination on

the 45-year-old female health

worker who died a few days

after taking the COVID-19

vaccine in Telangana, was

conducted on Monday. The

woman got vaccinated at the

Urban Primary Health Centre

in Warangal Urban on Janu-

ary 19 and died on Sunday.

Juvenile accused of assault found hanging

KOCHI One of the six juvenile

accused in a case of assault,

the video of which had gone

viral on social media last

week, was found hanging in

his house at Kalamassery here

in Kerala on Monday. The

video showed a group assau-

lting a 17-year-old allegedly

for having an affair with the

sister of one of the accused.

There is, therefore, a

need to check all such

kinds of unfounded scare-

mongering relating to the

safety and immunogenicity

of the vaccines," the letter said.

"However, it has been re-

ported that unfounded and

misleading rumours are cir-

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</div

**THE PADMA AWARDEES**

**PADMA VIBHUSHAN**



S. P. Balasubrahmanyam  
(posthumous)  
Art, Tamil Nadu



Belle Monappa Hegde  
Medicine,  
Karnataka



Maulana  
Wahiduddin Khan  
Spiritualism, Delhi



Shinzo Abe  
Public affairs, Japan



B. B. Lal  
Archaeology, Delhi



Narinder Singh  
Kapany  
(posthumous)  
Science and  
engineering, U.S.



Sudarshan  
Sahoo  
Art, Odisha



K. S. Chithra  
Art, Kerala



Tarun Gogoi  
(posthumous)  
Public affairs, Assam



Sumitra Mahajan  
Public affairs,  
Madhya Pradesh



Nripendra Misra  
Civil service,  
Uttar Pradesh



Keshubhai Patel  
(posthumous)  
Public affairs, Gujarat



Rajnikant Devidas Shroff  
Trade and industry,  
Maharashtra



Tarlochan Singh  
(posthumous)  
Public affairs, Bihar



Kalbe Sadiq  
(posthumous) Spiritualism,  
Uttar Pradesh

The awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhavan annually in March or April

The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year  
The awards are given in various disciplines/fields of activities, such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service

This year, the President has approved the conferment of 119 Padma awards, which includes 102 Padma Shri awards

Of the 119 awardees, one is a transgender and 29 are women

10 of the awardees are foreigners, non-resident Indians, persons of Indian origin or belong to the Overseas Citizenship of India category

As many as 16 persons have been selected posthumously

CBI bags 30 police medals this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The CBI has bagged 30 President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service awards this year.

The President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service have been awarded to six officials, while the Police Medals for Meritorious Service have been conferred on 24.

Joint Directors Sampat Meena and Vineet Vinayak, Additional Superintendent of Police Saraladas Mishra, Deputy Superintendents of Police Vivek Dhir and Surender Kumar Rohilla, and Head Constable Basant Singh Bisht have got the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

Among those recognised for meritorious service are Deputy Inspector-General Abhay Singh, Superintendents of Police Manish Viresh Surti and Prasanna Kumar Panigrahi, Additional Superintendents of Police Prahlad Kishore Jha, Richhpal Singh and Letkhola Hangshing, Deputy Superintendents of Police Ismail Babalal Pendhari, Rama Raman Tripathi and Devraj Vakkada, and Inspector Rajaender Singh Gosain.

Sub-Inspector Naresh Kumar, ASIs Srigopal Sharma and Samshar Singh Datal, Head Constables K.K. Sasi, Shiv Dutt Sharma, A. Damodharan, Tapan Kumar Barua, Prasad Thanakappan, Ramesh Chand and Naran Meramanbhai Bhochiya, constables Anand Rajaram Pandhare, Avinash Kumar and Prasad G, and Office Superintendent Ranjini Subramanian also received the award for meritorious service this year.

## Paswan, Gogoi to get Padma Bhushan

1971 Bangladesh war veteran Lt. Col. Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahid will get Padma Shri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Legendary singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, who died last year, will get the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award in the country, posthumously.

Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, cardiologist B.M. Hegde and B.B. Lal, the archaeologist who claimed to have discovered temple remains at Ayodhya, will also get the Padma Vibhushan recipients.

### No film stars, cricketers

The Padma Bhushan will be conferred posthumously on former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, former Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, former Gujarat Chief Minis-

ter Keshubhai Patel and Shia cleric Kalbe Sadiq.

The 1971 Bangladesh war veteran Lt. Col. Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahid and Bangladeshi artist Sanjida Khatun will get the Padma Shri.

Former Minister Bijoya Chakravarty, left, and musician Bombay Jayashri have been selected for Padma Shri. Rajni Bector of Mrs Becktor's Food Specialities, a Punjab-based company making biscuits and bakery products and whose initial public offering was oversubscribed last year, has been selected for the Padma Shri.

Sangkhumi Bualchhuak from Mizoram will be given the Padma Shri in the social work category. Sindhuai Sapkal from Maharashtra, known to help orphans, will get the Padma Shri. Professor C.L. Sapru from Jammu and Kashmir, who died last year, will get the Padma Shri posthumously.

None of the 21 ITBP men who faced the PLA in Ladakh were honoured.

cial said the ITBP's proposal was still under consideration.

Deepam Seth, Inspector-General, Northwest Frontier headquarters, and ITBP Deputy Commandant Rajesh Kumar Luthra will receive the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPMDS). Mr. Seth is part of the Corps Commander delegation that is engaged in talks with China's People's Liberation Army.

Mr. Luthra has been selected for displaying courage and presence of mind to defuse a face-off with Chinese troops at Ladakh in June 2019, while Assistant Commandant Anurag Kumar Singh will get a gallantry medal for the second time for undertaking a counter-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017.

The Border Security Force won 20 Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG), five PPMDS and 46 Police Medals for Meritorious Service (PMMS).

As many as 16 personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) will also be decorated. The Jammu and Kashmir Police will get 71 medals, including 52 for gallantry.

## Galwan hero gets Maha Vir Chakra honour

President approves award of 455 gallantry and other defence decorations on the eve of Republic Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Colonel B. Santhosh Babu, Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar regiment deployed in Galwan during Operation Snow Leopard, who lost his life along with 19 others in the violent clash with Chinese troops in June, has been posthumously selected for the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), the second highest wartime gallantry award of India.

They are one MVC, five Kirti Chakras, five Vir Chakras, seven Shaurya Chakras, 134 Sena Medal, one Nao Sena Medal, four Vayu Sena Medal (all gallantry), 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), four Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM), 51 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), 11 Yudh Seva Medal (YSM), 46 Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), including for two COVID-19 warriors, eight Nao Sena Medal (devotion to duty), 14 Vayu Sena Medal (devotion to duty) and 134 Vishisht Seva Me-

tej Singh from 3 Punjab. In addition, the President has announced one Kirti Chakra posthumously and three Shaurya Chakras, one of which is posthumous.

The President has ap-

proved award of 455 gallantry and other defence decorations to the armed forces personnel and others on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day celebrations, the Defence Ministry said.

They are one MVC, five

Kirti Chakras, five Vir Chakras, seven Shaurya Chakras, 134 Sena

Medal, one Nao Sena Medal,

four Vayu Sena Medal (all gallantry), 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), four Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM), 51 Ati Vishisht Seva

Medal (AVSM), 11 Yudh Seva

Medal (YSM), 46 Sena Medal

(Devotion to Duty), including

for two COVID-19 warriors,

eight Nao Sena Medal

(devotion to duty), 14 Vayu

Senya Medal (devotion to duty) and 134 Vishisht Seva Me-

dal (VSM), including 13 CO-VID-19 warriors.

In the first combat fatalities in 45 years on the Line of Actual Control, 20 soldiers

were killed after they were

attacked by Chinese troops

in the Galwan valley on the

night of June 15.

The incident occurred

amid a "de-escalation" pro-

cess in Galwan after a

month-long stand-off be-

tween troops at several

points along the LAC in La-

dakh and Sikkim.

Col. Babu led from the

front with absolute com-

mand and control despite

hostile conditions to deter

vealed the number of casualties on its side. Col. Babu was tasked with establishing an observation post in face of the enemy and he successfully executed the task, organising and briefing his troops about the situation with a sound plan, the citation said.

### Stiff resistance

"While holding the position, his column faced stiff resistance from the adversary who attacked using lethal and sharp weapons along with heavy stone pelting from adjoining heights. Undaunted by the violent and aggressive action by overwhelming strength of enemy soldiers, the officer in true spirit of service before self, continued to resist the enemy attack till his last breath, inspiring and motivating his troops to hold ground."

For conspicuous bravery in the face of enemy, exemplary leadership, astute professionalism and supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, Col. Babu was selected for the MVC posthumously.

### War memorial

The names of the 20 personnel have also been inscribed at the National War Memorial in the national capital.

The Army said that while three soldiers including Col. Babu were killed in the clash, 17 who were critically injured at the location and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high-altitude terrain, died later.

A senior government offi-

## 'WhatsApp treating Indian users differently is cause for concern'

Centre tells Delhi High Court it is looking into the matter



The plea said WhatsApp's new privacy policy violated the Right to Privacy.

formation security.

The submissions were made before Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva during the hearing of a petition by a lawyer against the new privacy policy of WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook.

Mr. Sharma said though the issue is between two private parties – WhatsApp and its users – "the scope and expanse of WhatsApp makes it a germane ground that reasonable and cogent policies are put in place,

which is being done by the Personal Data Protection Bill".

He added, "The Personal Data Protection Bill is being discussed by the Joint Committee of Parliament."

Taking note of the fact

that the matter is being

looked into at the highest

level, Justice Sachdeva adjourned the hearing in the

case to March 1.

In the meantime, Justice Sachdeva declined to grant the plea of petitioner Manohar Lal to issue notice to WhatsApp. During the hearing, WhatsApp counsel submitted that a communication had been received from the government seeking certain information on the privacy policy on January 18.

Mr. Lal, in his petition, claimed that WhatsApp's new privacy policy violated the Right to Privacy guaranteed under the Constitution. The new policy "virtually gives a 360-degree profile into a person's online activity" without there being any supervision of the government, it stated.

The plea had said WhatsApp changed its privacy policy in an arbitrary manner and even made it compulsory for its users to accept its terms and conditions, failing which the accounts and services would be terminated after February 8, 2021 for the respective users.

Later, WhatsApp clarified that "No one will have their account suspended or deleted on February 8 and we'll be moving back our busi-

ness plans until after May".

said Mr. Mehta. The court fi-

## SC gives two weeks to govt. on Rajoana's plea

He is in jail for Beant Singh's killing

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday that a decision on the mercy plea of Balwant Singh Rajoana, who has been in jail for 26 years for the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, would have "some repercussions".

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta sought three weeks' time. "Why three weeks? What are you doing? You said you will take a decision before Republic Day..." Chief Justice Bobde asked Mr. Mehta.

"What are they doing? It has been 26 years of jail for him [Balwant Singh]... Your Lordships have given them [the government] a long rope," said advocate Mukul Rohatgi for Balwant Singh.

"He is in jail for 26 years, yes, but he is in jail for the assassination of a former Chief Minister of Punjab," Mr. Mehta responded.</p

## IN BRIEF

**Tata may hold trials of Moderna vaccine in India**

BENGALURU  
Tata Medical & Diagnostics is said to have started initial discussions with Moderna Inc. for a partnership to launch its COVID-19 vaccine in India. Tata could team up with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to carry out clinical trials of Moderna's vaccine candidate in India, a report added, citing officials.

**Former Barc head back in jail from hospital**

MUMBAI  
The Bombay High Court on Monday was informed that Partha Dasgupta, former CEO and MD of Barc and accused in the TRP manipulation case, was shifted back to Taloja Central Jail from J.J. Hospital. Public prosecutor Deepak Thakare submitted Mr. Dasgupta's medical report to a single judge bench of Justice P.D. Naik, showing that he is in stable condition.

**Jayati Ghosh appointed to UN advisory panel**

NEW YORK  
Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh is among the 20 prominent personalities appointed by the UN to a high-level advisory board that will provide recommendations for the Secretary-General to respond to the current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-COVID-19 world. Dr. Ghosh, 65, is currently a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Pilot dies after Army chopper crash lands**

JAMMU  
A pilot, who sustained injuries after an Army chopper crash landed in Jammu's Lakhanpur on Monday evening, died of his injuries in the hospital, said an Army official. Another pilot too was injured in the incident that took place at 7.50 p.m. "A Dhruv helicopter crashed on a routine patrolling crash landed near Basoli Morh," officials said.

**Cong. announces panels for poll-bound Assam**

NEW DELHI  
The Congress on Monday announced eight panels ahead of the Assembly elections in Assam around April-May. The panels have been composed to balance different factions of the Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC). APCC chief Ripun Bora will head the pradesh election committee.

**NCPHR urges State to appeal against HC order**

NEW DELHI  
The apex body for child rights, NCPHR, on Monday requested the Maharashtra government to appeal against an order by the Bombay High Court where the judge said groping a minor without "skin to skin contact" was not sexual assault. Chairman of NCPHR Priyank Kanooongo wrote to Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Sanjay Kumar.

# Accelerated vaccine drive soon

Centre proposes additional sites for the campaign and walk-in vaccinations

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
JACOB KOSHY**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government is all set to accelerate the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccination drive by setting up additional vaccination sites and allowing walk-in vaccinations for those from the same group who have been registered in the Co-WIN system.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, and head of the National Expert Group on Vaccination (NEG-VAC), said the next few weeks would see the government working at speeding up the coverage for the priority group.

The government rolled out the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive on January 16 and has so far vaccinated nearly two million healthcare workers.

While the government aims to inoculate three crore healthcare and frontline workers free in the first round of the vaccination drive, there have been concerns that this is around half of the ideal target and that the drive needs to be accelerated to cover the targeted number by July.

**Optimal use**

"India has enough vaccine stock to cover its target population for the first phase. We will be escalating the speed of coverage by bringing in additional vaccination sites and also allowing walk-in vaccination. And while zero wastage of vaccination is often not possible, the go-



In full swing: A healthcare worker vaccinating a frontline staff at the KIMS hospital in Hyderabad on Monday. ■ AFP

## Revised trial protocol sought on nasal vaccine

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD**

The clinical trial of Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine for COVID-19 is likely to take some time to get off the ground with an expert committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation directing the vaccine maker to submit a revised trial protocol.

On an application from Bharat Biotech, seeking permission for clinical trial

overnment is also working on ensuring optimal use of all resources and maximising safe coverage of its population in the fastest possible time," Dr. Paul said.

On the procurement and distribution of vaccines in India, K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, said the government was in regular contact with companies – the Serum Institute of

of the Chimpanzee Adenovirus Vectored COVID-19 intranasal vaccine (BBV154), the committee said the firm should generate safety and immunogenicity data in Phase-I clinical trial, with 75 subjects, in the proposed doses as per the protocol.

Thereafter, it should submit the data for consideration of the committee to proceed to Phase II clinical trial.

India and Bharat Biotech – on stockpiles, procurement and distribution.

"Procurement and distribution have to be integrated and this is done by the Co-WIN IT structure. This structure is robust and is constantly being monitored and improved. How much to procure depends on stocks, distribution pipelines and use. All three are increasing at speed," he said.

Professor Vijay Raghavan added that the snapshots of early days would not necessarily be representative of the rapid rate of rise.

"Vaccines – during the pandemic in particular – are made for use, and this is happening to the fullest. India is among the largest vaccine users and manufacturers in the world. Our responsibilities nationally and internationally are immense and are being monitored by NEVGAC. The Health Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry are also in step to make sure that India meets our international responsibilities keeping in mind that all of us need to be safe for each of us to be safe," he said.

"So far they have managed to keep up with the demand. If a vial of vaccine is opened it has to be used within four hours otherwise it remains in the cold chain setting and have a specified expiry period. We are trying to reduce wastage of vaccine to minimal," he explained.

**348 'adverse events'**  
India has so far vaccinated 1.9 million healthcare workers 10 days into its vaccination drive. On Monday, 3,34,679 were vaccinated in 7,171 sessions.

There were no deaths reported on Monday in those who had been recently vaccinated, with the tally so far remaining at 8.

However, there were 348 reports on Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI), a sharp jump from the 10 reported on Sunday.

India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani's wealth more than doubled between March and October 2020, reaching \$78.3bn

He jumped from being the 21st richest person in the world to the sixth richest

# Delhi may be heading towards herd immunity

'50-60% of sample subjects have antibodies in one district'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI**

The outcome of the fifth round of the seroprevalence survey has indicated that Delhi's population could be heading towards attaining herd immunity against COVID-19 infection, sources said on Monday.

The survey has found that in one district, 50-60% of the sample population have developed antibodies, they said.

For the survey, which ended a few days ago, samples of over 25,000 people from various districts across the city were collected, the sources said.

Delhi's population is over two crore, spread across 11 districts.

Experts say herd immunity is said to have been developed in a population segment if 50-60% of those are found to have the presence of antibodies in a seroprevalence survey.

This is the fifth such exercise that was conducted here, but the Delhi government has not given any official version on it.

The first seroprevalence survey, done from June 27 to July 10 by the Delhi government in association with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), had used 21,387 samples and found that around 23% of the people surveyed had an exposure to the novel coronavirus.

The exercise in August showed 29.1% people had antibodies. Also, 79 of the 257 people who had tested positive and then recovered, and were part of the survey done in the first week of August, however, did not have the antibodies, according to a report released later.

In the survey in September and October, the figures stood at 25.1% and 25.5%. The exercises were undertaken for a comprehensive assessment of the situation and to formulate strategies based on its findings.



People watching the Republic Day parade rehearsal in Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# Final hearing against U.P. conversion law on Feb. 2

SC refuses to entertain State government's plea to hear case

**OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW**

The Allahabad High Court has deferred the final hearing of the writ petition filed against the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020 to February 2 citing the petition moved by the Yogi Adityanath-led government to transfer the case to the Supreme Court.

On Monday, the State government said an application to transfer the petition was pending in the top court. Reports said the SC declined to accept the plea and said it would not intervene in the case.

A Bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Siddhartha Varma listed the matter for February 2. The court is hearing a bunch of PILs challenging the constitutional validity of the ordinance.

On January 18, the HC had



verted their religion to that of their partner in marriage.

It is settled law that in the garb of protecting women, laws cannot deny them autonomy and right to take decisions as adults, the AAIJ said, stressing that the State cannot promote gender stereotypes.

**Original writ**  
In the original writ, petitioner Saurabh Kumar of Prayagraj prayed for the ordinance to be declared ultra vires saying it was "both morally and constitutionally repugnant".

Following this, the HC had issued a notice to the government and sought its response.

The State government in a counter affidavit filed through Special Secretary, Home Department, defended the ordinance and said it was safeguarding community interests.

## Govt. asserts stance on UPSC retest

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI**

The Union government on Monday made it clear in the Supreme Court that it cannot afford to give another chance to the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) aspirants, including "last-attempters", who claimed their preparations for the October 4 prelims were severely restricted due to COVID-19.

In a 13-page affidavit filed before the court on Monday late, the Department of Personnel and Training said it was "curious to note that the petitioners, who participated in the examination with open eyes, only approached the Supreme Court after the results of the examination was declared".

Giving an additional attempt or relaxation of age for some candidates would amount to extending differential treatment. It would lead to an "un-leveling of the playing field".

The increase in his wealth alone could keep 40 crore informal workers out of poverty for at least five months, the report said.

The rise in fortunes of the top 100 billionaires is enough to give every one of the 138 million poorest Indian people a cheque for ₹94,045, the report released on the opening day of the World Economic Forum in Davos said.

The wealth of just the top 11 billionaires during the pandemic could easily sustain the MGNREGS or the Health Ministry for the next 10 years, it said underscoring the deepening inequalities due to COVID-19 where the wealthiest escaped the worst impact of the pandemic while the poor faced joblessness, starvation and death.

Mukesh Ambani, who emerged as the richest man in India and Asia, earned ₹90 crore an hour during the pandemic when around 24% of the people in the country were earning under ₹3,000 a month during the lockdown.

Till October, 32 crore students were hit by closure of schools, of whom 84% resided in rural areas and 70% at-

tended government schools.

Oxfam's survey across five States said close to 40% of teachers in government schools feared that a third of the students would not return once schools reopened. It was estimated that out of school rates would double in a year. Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims were likely to see a higher dropout rate. Girls were also most vulnerable as they were at risk of early and forced marriage, violence and early pregnancies, it noted.

Unemployment of women rose by 15% from a pre-lockdown level of 18%, which could result in a loss of India's GDP of about 8% or ₹15 trillion.

Women who were employed before the lockdown were also 23.5 percentage points less likely to be re-employed compared to men in the post-lockdown phase.

## HC rejects bail plea of Yes Bank founder

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI**

The Bombay High Court on Monday rejected the bail plea filed by YES Bank founder Rana Kapoor who is lodged at Taloja Central Jail in the money laundering case.

Senior advocate Harish Salve represented Mr. Kapoor and argued before a single bench of justice PD Naik that there has been no money laundering, but a simple loan transaction.

Even the directions of the constitutional courts to the Law Commission have become dead letter," Mr. Upadhyay submitted.

The petition said the lack of a specialised body in the Law Commission handicapped the government's push for legal reforms and review of the existing laws.

A Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde issued notice on a petition filed by advocate A.K. Upadhyay to direct the Chairperson and Members till date.

The government approved the constitution of the 22nd Law Commission on February 19 last. However, it has not appointed the Chairperson and Members till date.

The petition said the lack of a specialised body in the Law Commission handicapped the government's push for legal reforms and review of the existing laws.

## Respect right to vote, exercise franchise sincerely: President

Digital voter ID cards launched on National Voters Day

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday said it was important to respect the right to vote, which was something that people around the world had struggled to achieve.

Addressing the Election Commission's National Voters Day celebrations virtually, Mr. Kovind said he would like to remind that "we should always respect the valuable right to vote. The right to vote is not a simple right; people around the world have struggled a lot for this", a Rashtrapati Bhawan statement said.

Mr. Kovind said it was the responsibility of all, particularly the youth, to exercise their franchise with sincerity.

Earlier in the event, Law

would be able to download their digital cards from Monday.

Mr. Prasad said ordinary Indians knew that they could unseat any political party or leader, no matter how popular they were.

**Awards given**  
During the event, where Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioners Sushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar spoke, the Election Commission gave out awards to officials and civil society members for their contribution towards holding elections.

The digital voter ID cards would be available for download by all electors with valid EPIC numbers from February 1, while new electors who applied for EPICs in November and December

## Centre's prescription for SAM includes yoga, herbs

'Identify such children and refer them'

**JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI**

AYUSH Centres, yoga, medicinal herbs and indigenous traditional practices are part of the Central government's prescription for severely acute malnourished (SAM) children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development in its guidelines issued to various State governments has advised that a drive be conducted to identify such children and if necessary they should be referred to hospitals and AYUSH centres for treatment.

"States shall launch a drive for identification of SAM children for referral to hospitals [if required] and AYUSH centres in accordance with the detailed action plan approved by the District Nutrition Committee to be finalised in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer. This exercise shall be completed by January 31, 2021," reads the guidelines issued on January 13 and uploaded on the website of the Ministry recently.

Though the guidelines were about nutrition, there was no mention of the impact of COVID-19 on malnourishment levels though global experts have alerted that there will be increase in wasting, stunting and under-five deaths.

"The Science of AYUSH is a system that builds and promotes health and wellness and can address the requirements of nutrition by tapping into the indigenous traditional practices," the guidelines harped.

It said AYUSH Centres must leverage "principles and therapeutics of Ayurveda as modalities of intervention for community nutrition and health problems".

■ MN-NDE

Innovative and stylish, Asus' Zenbook 14 UX435, which features the best processor Intel has to offer, ticks a lot of boxes



# Greatness for the do-er

PRADEEP KUMAR

A battery large enough to last just shy of 12 hours of work-from-home routine, a processor capable of faster – and efficient – multitasking, a set of functional speakers that will not make you reach for the earphones almost immediately, and a graphics card that does not let you regret a light gaming session: the ASUS ZenBook 14 UX435 has all this, and more.

One of the first laptops on sale in India that has the 11th gen Intel Core processor, the Zen-

Book 14's latest iteration is on the pricier side, retailing at ₹99,990. For that price, however, you also get a touch screen laptop.

#### Sleek and stylish

Although its design is not an upgrade on the previous iteration, the sleek UX435 is a looker. The laptop, with a lightweight aluminium body, weighs just 1.19 kilograms and has a side profile of less than 17 millimetres.

The unboxing itself is an experience. The product arrives in a neatly-packed suitcase style

box which, when you open it gently, pushes the laptop out towards you – very sci-fi. Hidden beneath the component boxes is a laptop pouch, the charging cable and manuals.

The USB-C charger is efficient in juicing up the 63 Watt-hour lithium-polymer battery. The first charge to a 100% did take a while (around two-and-a-half hours) but subsequent charges took significantly less time. Whilst ASUS claims that the battery only needs 49 minutes to charge from 0% to 60%, we noticed that it took closer to an hour.

#### Power on

The battery standby time is incredible – and is likely to comfortably last days (we checked for three days – with minimal activities such as checking emails for 15 minutes and typing out a couple of documents, using the laptop for around 30 to 45 minutes a day, the drop in charge was less than 30% from 100%).

Notably, the battery's performance comes to the fore when the UX435 is loaded with tasks. Since it is designed to be used as a business laptop, we opened multiple tabs on Google Chrome, and for good measure opened multiple browsers as well. The UX435 had no lag for up to 18 tabs on Chrome, and had barely noticeable lag whilst switching between different browser applications. We topped it off by opening a media

file using an app such as VLC, and tried opening a downloaded PDF attachment right after – the UX435 soldiered on effortlessly.

We managed to do all this for over five hours continuously, and the laptop still had enough juice to power through for another couple of hours.

The UX435 offers a select variant of ports including two Type C Thunderbolt 4 ports – which you can use for charging as well as connecting to other 4K devices



**Feature rich** This Asus laptop comes with a ScreenPad, which offers a mixed experience ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**CPU:** Intel Core i7-1165G7 processor (or) Core i5-1135G7 processor

**Display:** 14.0" (16:9)  
LED-backlit Full-HD (1920x1080) 60Hz display; 92% screen-to-body ratio

**Operating system:** Windows 10 Home

**Graphics:** Intel Iris Xe Graphics (or) NVIDIA GeForce MX450

**Memory:** Up to 16 GB 4266 MHz LPDDR4X onboard

**Storage:** Up to 1TB PCIe 3.0 x2 NVMe SSD

**Connectivity:** WiFi 6 + Bluetooth 5.0

**Camera:** HD infrared (IR) webcam

**I/O ports:** 2 x Thunderbolt 4 USB-C with full range of charging, 1 x USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A, 1 x standard HDMI 2.0b, 1 x 3.5 mm audio jack, 1 x MicroSD Reader

**Touchpad:** ScreenPad 2.0 (FHD) (2160 x 1080) IPS-level Panel

**Audio:** Certified by Harman Kardon, Array microphone with Cortana voice-recognition support

**Battery:** 63 Wh lithium-polymer battery

**Dimensions:** 319 x 199 x 16.9 mm

**Weight:** 1.19 kg

the in-built Intel Iris Xe, and since its purpose is more business than gaming, we did not bother testing it with games that would demand much more out of the processor. Basic games and those that can be downloaded off the Microsoft Store worked like a charm with absolutely no lag noticed even while switching between games.

#### Gimmicky innovation?

Perhaps the most innovative of the UX435's features is the ScreenPad 2.0; where you expect to find the touchpad, you now find a second screen on this Windows 10 laptop. Toggling between the touchpad and the ScreenPad is easier – it happens at the touch of a button on the ScreenPad. The versatility of the touchpad notwithstanding, it does come across as a bit gimmicky from Asus. We are given to believe that the ScreenPad is best served when using the My Asus application which lets you synchronise your mobile phone with the laptop, and monitor apps, make or pick calls, and send texts from the ScreenPad. Its versatility also, unfortunately, makes the ScreenPad a tad less touch-responsive than the touchpads on your average laptop models. More than once, we had to find the left and right click button on the touchpad to close an application because a mere touch gave no response.

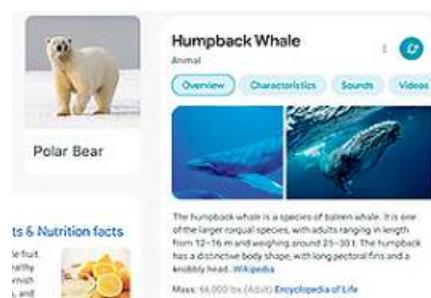
Another design element that elevates the UX435 experience are the hinges beneath the screen, which lifts up the body just enough to provide the user with a comfortable typing experience (the chiclet style, backlit keyboard is a major plus although the model we received had one faulty key) as well as give enough breathing space for the laptop when it heats up. On that topic, heating is not an issue to worry about on the UX435 despite the heavy use.

To sum up, the Asus ZenBook 14 UX435 is perhaps one of the best business laptops available in the market at the moment. If not for gimmicks like the ScreenPad, which leaves a lot to be desired, despite its innovative touch, the UX435 could indeed have been 'the best' business laptop in its price bracket on the market.

es. There is a single USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type A port alongside an HDMI port and the standard options – an audio jack and a MicroSD Reader. The speakers serve a functional purpose; you don't have to struggle for clarity, but at the same time it does not emit deep bass notes.

The laptop comes with two different variants of graphic cards: the one we received had

## TECH-A-BYTE



### Googling, made easier

Google has decided to change the way search results appear on users' mobile devices. The tech giant's redesign is focussed on simplifying search in a way people get results faster and easier.

"We started with organising web pages, but now there's so much diversity in the types of content and information we have to help make sense of," Aileen Cheng, designer who led the visual redesign, states in a January 22 piece 'A Google designer takes us inside Search's mobile redesign' on Google's The Keyword blog.

To make text easier to read, Google has added larger and bolder text along with the results and section titles. The update also includes Google's own font. "Bringing consistency to when and how we use fonts in Search was important, too, which helps people parse information more efficiently," Cheng said.



### Back to basics

Microsoft has reversed its decision to increase Xbox Live Gold membership price after a backlash from the online gaming community. "We messed up today and you were right to let us know," the company said in a blog post titled 'No Changes to Xbox Live Gold Pricing[Update]'. "Connecting and playing with friends is a vital part of gaming and we failed to meet the expectations of players who count on it every day."

Xbox Live Gold pricing will remain as: \$9.99 for 1 month, \$24.99 for 3 months, \$39.99 for 6 months, and \$59.99 for retail 12-months, in the U.S., Microsoft noted. The software giant also said that gamers "no longer need" an Xbox Live Gold membership to play free-to-play games such as Fortnite, Call of Duty, and Halo on Xbox.

## GAMESPOT

JULIAN ALMEIDA

Think what you want about the live-action films starring Timothy Olyphant and Rupert Friend as the red-tie-toting character Agent 47, but the World of Assassination series has always been a killer game, literally. The games often gift players detailed sandboxes, or episodes, in the form of intricate assassination simulations. While the Hitman series has played around with storytelling in the past, the World of Assassination trilogy comes with an engaging story, which comes to a satisfying and emotional conclusion with Hitman 3.

Starting with 2016's reboot of Hitman, Agent 47 and his handler and friend Diana Burnwood have been contracted to take down high-ranking members of a mysterious organisation known as Providence. These missions take you around the world in pursuit of high-profile targets while uncovering the secrets of a shadow client and their link with Providence and Agent 47. Sounds complex but intriguing, right?

Hitman 3 strings together a series of memorable episodes, which are large, deviously designed, levels. The most notable and widely-discussed one takes place in Dartmoor, England, where you go undercover as a private detective commissioned to solve a murder at a mansion, while planning your assassinations. This sums up everything I love about this trilogy, especially its dark

sense of humour that occasionally veers on goofy, though Hitman 3 slightly more serious compared to its predecessors as it digs deep into 47's mysterious past.

**Subterfuge and sabotage**  
At its core, Hitman 3 is a third-person stealth-action game with an objective to enter a level unknown and escape, having undertaken your kills. The best outcome, of course, is to eliminate just the target and leave the scene clean like a professional. You

can also go in guns-ablazing, but that is not where the fun is. Hitman is all about subterfuge and sabotage as you can factor disguise and the environment in your plans. Hitman 3's non-playable characters' AI is fairly competent in discovering you, so you have to be careful. Though there are still gaps in plausibility – don't people see the same chiselled jawline and barcode-tattooed bald head appearing in a suit and then as a waiter, or that he is pointing a camera – a new gadget in this

#### Bullets and fistfights

Screenshots from Hitman 3

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# A killer ENDGAME

After racking up a body count across the globe, Hitman 3 finally closes the World of Assassination trilogy with that familiar but refined formula



#### HITMAN 3

**DEVELOPER & PUBLISHER:** IO Interactive

**PRICE:** ₹1,499 on PC (Epic); ₹3,999 PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X & S

ding some warmth to an otherwise cold-blooded game.

Hitman 3 is the closest you will get to travel in this pandemic, and it is the most fun you will have in a game. Just make sure to play it from the beginning, if you are a newcomer, especially since IO Interactive has overhauled the 2016 Hitman to the same fidelity. Happy hunting, 47.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel

shine, especially in HDR. Hitman 3's levels are the real star here. Even the ambient storytelling can serve as a clue, so take the time to eavesdrop to find opportunities. While Hitman 3 does have fewer levels than the previous games, the levels have high replay value.

Voice by South African-born BAFTA-winning David Bateson, Agent 47's deep rumble is a welcome and familiar sound, consistent across all the games since the first in 2000, ad-

ditionally adding some warmth to an otherwise cold-blooded game.

Hitman 3 is the closest you will get to travel in this pandemic, and it is the most fun you will have in a game. Just make sure to play it from the beginning, if you are a newcomer, especially since IO Interactive has overhauled the 2016 Hitman to the same fidelity. Happy hunting, 47.



**Volunteering together**

Ravneet Kaur and Manjot Singh in front of the women's tents on Delhi's Ghazipur border

■ SUNALINI MATHEW

# The couple that came in to the cold

This Bengaluru husband and wife are volunteering at the farmers' protest in Delhi, helping with everyday organisation and in keeping spirits high

SUNALINI MATHEW

It's early evening at the Ghazipur border's protest site, and the wood fires have just begun to be lit.

An elderly man walks up to Manjot Singh, 30, and asks him when the movie screening will begin at Sanjhi Sath (loosely translated to 'our meeting place').

Manjot assures him he will have it up soon. The space, a 60x20 foot tent is where leisure time activities are organised: movies, discussions, even a time to paint, with the plan to begin yoga and meditation. People can volunteer to give lessons too.

Manjot and his wife, Ravneet, 29, are both Bangaloreans, and are a part of various organising committees here. "Some we are in charge of, and some we are members of," he says, of their combined roles leading the Sanjhi Sath, of his wife's of looking after the women's needs. He's a part of the IT committee, running the free wifi for students and the group's social media handle @kisanetkamorcharghazipur on Instagram.

The couple, now married for eight years, live in Jayanagar in Bengaluru, Manjot working as a technical consultant for firms across the world, Ravneet in her second year of Law Studies.

"We were following the protest from the beginning, but that didn't satisfy us," says Manjot, as he picks up pakoras and distributes them down the line to people. For Ravneet it is the additional push of being a law student. The couple is originally from Udhampur Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand.

Here, they stay at the Radisson nearby, "because we often need wifi .....

**Manjot Singh, 30, an IT pro and his wife, Ravneet, 29, a Law student, are both Bangaloreans, and are a part of various organising committees on Delhi's Ghazipur border, where the farmers are protesting.**

to work." Manjot sometimes needs to take international calls and he laughs about how he does so to a background of slogan shouting, while Ravneet attends classes online or reads her books while sitting at the store catering to women's needs.

It has been 28 days now, and the couple who came for just three days to begin with, says they keep extending their stay by a few days at a time. "We wait for a meeting to happen, and when that is inconclusive, we postpone our departure," she says.

At home, they live an ordered life, sleeping at 10 pm, waking early to exercise and then begin work. Here, they are at the site sometimes as late as 3 am, and there is no fixed work. "We may be needed to clean the *dal*, or sweep. Sometimes a bus load of people will arrive and we need to arrange tents and mattresses," he says.

What they have gained are new relationships. "We have had people come up to us and introduce themselves as our relatives," says Ravneet, laughing, as people come up to her, one greeting her, a child hugging her, and someone just wondering when the tea will be ready.

Both agree that the biggest lesson from the protest has been the sense of community. Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs living side by side, even chanting each other's religious sayings, so everyone feels a part of the fold.

# Run in the CARIBBEAN

How West Indies batsman Nicholas Pooran is gearing up to play some fast-format cricket

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

A meme featuring Nicholas Pooran circulated among cricket lovers a few months ago, and it was not negative.

The meme featured two pictures: one of the cricketer lying in a hospital bed in 2015 and another of him in 2020 flying across the boundary rope to attempt what was described as 'the best save in cricket history'.

The Caribbean cricketer became a familiar face among Indian fans not just for his heroic saves but also his exploits with the bat during the IPL. Pooran promises to continue the entertainment in the upcoming Abu Dhabi T10, a 10-over, fast-paced cricket format. Excerpts from a video call:

### T20 is already fast-paced. How exciting is T10?

• The IPL is fun all right, but this is a high-intensity tournament. It is not much thinking to be honest, but more about executing your skills. The batsmen look forward to striking the ball and having a good time.

As a cricketer, what are the qualities you need to possess to excel in such a format?

• Practice makes perfect, and I spend a lot of time on the nets. It is about finding yourself in good positions to execute your skills, regardless of whether you are a batsman or a bowler.



You are captaining your side (Northern Warriors) for the first time. How do you see that role?

• It is a new challenge for me. This format is so quick that you need to make judgement calls within a short span of time. I hope I do make some good decisions and contribute to our team's success.

Growing up watching cricket in the Caribbean, did you have a captain/player you looked up to?

• I didn't have one, but at the moment, I look up to Pollard (Keiron), from whom I have learnt a lot of cricket from. I'm trying to get some ideas from him!

Does cricket also have to package itself to keep staying popular among TV audiences?

• What people need is excitement, and T10 gives them that. As it is just an hour-and-a-half game, it is ideal for someone to catch before they log in to work or even after work hours.

Your breathtaking fielding effort in the IPL has been hailed as the best ever. Would you put that down to instinct or many days of training hard?

• A bit of both. And add game awareness to that. I think things like this do not happen by chance; I have been practising that for a while now.

Tell us more about how crucial fielding is, especially in faster formats.

• It (fielding) can change the game sometimes. When bowlers are under pressure, a brilliant catch or save can lift their spirits. When you take a run out, it is still a wicket, and so



Your accident in 2015 was career-threatening. What did it teach you?

• To appreciate life and everyone around you. At that time, I would keep thinking if I would get a chance to play the game again. Now, I try to live every day as my last, and be a much better individual.

Abu Dhabi T10 matches will be aired live on Sony Six and Sony Ten 3 (in Hindi) from January 28 to February 6

**Big hitter**  
Nicholas Pooran  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It also means a lot of travelling and bio-bubbles, which can be challenging...

• Well, I am still alive and coping (smiles). At some places I have toured recently, the bubble and quarantine periods were different. It is challenging because I feel sportsmen need to go out and get distracted from the game, especially if things are not going your way on the field. It is fine if everything is going your way, unlikely most times.

Your accident in 2015 was career-threatening. What did it teach you?

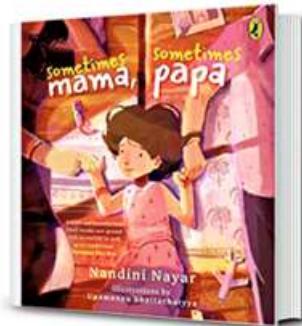
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**Big hitter**  
Nicholas Pooran  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Keeping it real

Nandini Nayar's new book *Sometimes Mama, Sometimes Papa* addresses the changing dynamics of family structure



NEERAJA MURTHY

For the last 21 years, Nandini Nayar has been spreading the joy of reading among children. With over 300 short stories and 55 books for children of all ages, the writer's new picture book *Sometimes Mama, Sometimes Papa* with illustrations by Upamanyu Bhattacharya (published by Penguin Random House) addresses the concerns of a little girl Keya, whose parents no longer live together. Keya is fine with the changes with two homes and two schedules, but one situation makes her wonder – if she has to choose between her mama and papa.

Nandini did not want it to be slotted as a book about divorce but rather on how families are different. Without mentioning the D word or even 'separated', she delicately tackles the issue and picks relatable instances to talk about a child's life. "The book addresses the dynamic nature of the family structure and helps children understand that these changes do not necessarily mean a shift in their relationship with their parents," she says.

**Growing concern**  
She trains her eye on the growing concern among urban parents while juggling different roles. "Sometimes the parents have to stay

apart because of the demands of a job, family or simply because they don't want to stay together. How does this impact a child? It is vital to reassure children that no matter what happens, their parents will always be there with them and for them."

She had been working on the story for two years to get its tone right in "275–300 words" for a picture book. The challenges were many – not to romanticise the topic and give an unrealistic picture. While small things matter, she kept away the issues which do not resonate with the little ones. She chose to do it in an aesthetic way to convey reality and make her young readers realise the circumstances behind the tough situation.

Nandini has written about family structures in her earlier books too. In *The Curious Case of The Sweet and Spicy Sweet Shop* (Penguin Random House), she subtly explains why it is important to follow one's dreams. "I was sort of questioning the idea of a family. In India, we put a lot of importance on obeying and doing what the family does; I am trying to suggest that you can be respectful of your family, but also need to find what

you want to do, else life can become like a prison," she points out.

Charting her journey with words, she observes children's literature is now more open to contemporary topics. In a set of four books in *The Diary of an Indian Schoolgirl* series (*Apoorva's Fat Diary, Meanie.com, Dear Aunty, Laugh Out Loud*, published by Mango Books), Nandini discusses issues like body shaming, peer and exam pressure, child sexual abuse, the importance given to passing exams over enjoying learning.

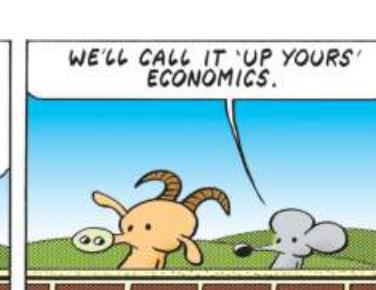
Nandini has also worked on English textbooks for school and university students and facilitates online creative writing workshops for children and adults. She recently won seven prizes in various categories in the Competition for Writers of Children's Books 2019 (English).



### POOCH CAFE



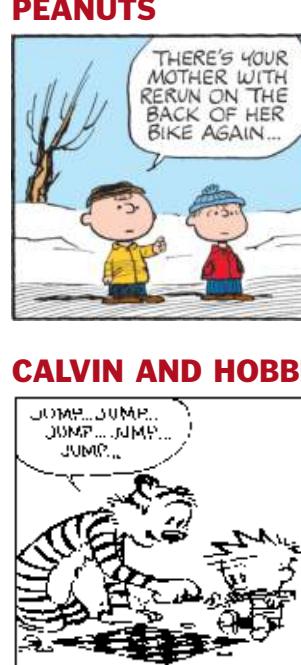
### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



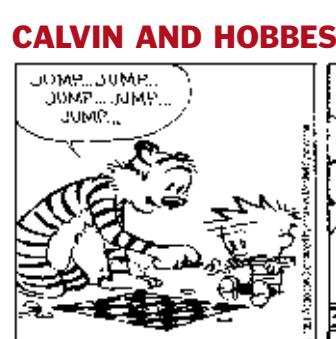
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



### PEANUTS



### TIGER



# At Davos forum, Xi warns world leaders against 'new Cold War'

'Rejecting, threatening or intimidating others will push the world into division'

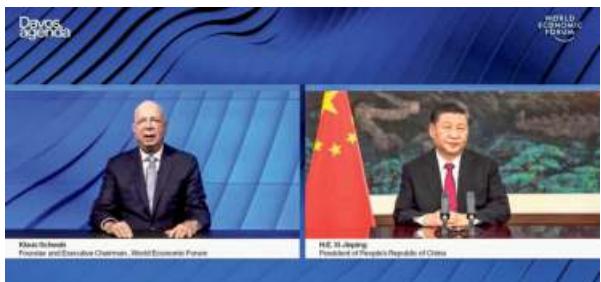
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned global leaders at an all-virtual World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos on Monday against starting a "new Cold War", and urged global unity in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Having largely curbed the spread of the pandemic within its borders, Mr. Xi wants to position China as a key player in a new multilateral world order as the U.S. remains crippled by the pandemic.

"To build small cliques or start a new Cold War, to reject, threaten or intimidate others... will only push the world into division," said Mr. Xi, adding that confrontation will lead to a "dead end".

In a swipe at moves targeting China launched by the previous U.S. government, Mr. Xi said confrontation "will always end up harming every nation's interests and sacrificing people's welfare".



Power point: WEF founder Klaus Schwab, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the virtual Davos meet on Monday. ■ AFP

The Chinese leader also reaffirmed Beijing's ambitious climate pledges to slash carbon emissions by 65% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 – both significant commitments as China emits a quarter of the world's greenhouse gases.

Meeting these targets will require tremendous hard work from China. But we believe that when the interests of the entire humanity are at stake, China must step forward, take action and get the job done," he said.

In virtual format because of the pandemic, this week's event is headlined: "A Crucial Year to Rebuild Trust."

The big names from Europe will be German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who heads the European Union executive.

**Shift to Singapore**  
U.S. President Joe Biden will not appear at Davos. John Kerry, the special climate envoy, will be attending the virtual event.

Following the first virtual

session, Davos will move in May to Singapore, far from the luxury Swiss ski resort where it has taken place since it was launched in 1971, the brainchild of German professor Klaus Schwab.

The stated reason for the change is health and safety, as the city-state has recorded just 29 COVID-19 deaths.

But there is also an economic background to the move underscored by French insurance-credit group Euler Hermes, who said in a study this month that the "world's economic centre of gravity" (WECC) has been moving towards Asia since 2002.

Booking growth of 2.3% last year while other major economies slumped, China is now on course to equal the size of the U.S. economy in 2030, two years earlier than the analysts predicted before the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 crisis could accelerate the shifting global balance towards Asia," Euler Hermes said.

## Uganda High Court orders end to Bobi Wine's house arrest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KAMPALA

Uganda's High Court on Monday ordered security forces to end their confinement of presidential election runner-up Bobi Wine.

Mr. Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulani, has been under de-facto house arrest at his home outside the capital, Kampala, since he returned from voting on January 14. He won

won 35% of the vote, according to official figures.

Sitting at the court's Civil Division in Kampala, Justice Michael Elubu ruled: "The continued indefinite restriction and confinement of the applicant to his home is unlawful and his right to liberty has been infringed."

"Having found that the restrictions are unlawful it is hereby ordered that they are lifted," added Justice Elubu.

Ugandan security forces have in the past disregarded court orders to release individuals or have immediately re-arrested people freed by the courts.

"Several hours later, the military still surrounds my home, blocking access to all! Perhaps (as always) waiting for Gen. Museveni's orders on the next course of action," Mr. Wine wrote on Twitter, after the judgment.

## Moderna says vaccine is effective against variants

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. biotech firm Moderna said on Monday its vaccine should remain protective against key coronavirus variants while the unrelenting pandemic led to tightened border restrictions worldwide.

In the face of deepening fears over new virus strains, Moderna offered some good news from lab studies of the variants first identified in

## Russia hits out at U.S. over Navalny rallies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Russia formally protested to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on Monday over social media posts it said promoted anti-Kremlin demonstrations and accused U.S. tech giants of interfering in its internal affairs.

On Saturday, tens of thousands rallied in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister held talks with the U.S. Ambassador to register dissatisfaction over the Embassy's messages, Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakhارова said.

She said Sergei Ryabkov expressed "strong protest" over the U.S. Embassy "spreading posts supporting illegal rallies in a number of Russian cities on social networks and on their Internet platforms".

Ahead of the rallies, Russia's media watchdog Roskomnadzor ordered several social media platforms, including YouTube and Instagram, to delete calls for demonstrations that were posted on their platforms.

Mr. Biden has been undoing a number of his predecessor Donald Trump's policies – such as those that were viewed as divisive, or harmed particular minority groups, or promoted American retrenchment from the world. However, Monday's order is in the same thematic direction as at least some

## Biden to sign executive order to boost 'Buy American' rules

It requires federal govt. to raise its purchase of domestic goods

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

U.S. President Joe Biden will sign an executive order on Monday requiring the federal government to increase its purchases of American goods, relative to foreign goods.

Monday's order asks agencies to update the existing 'Buy American' government procurement rules –

including by requiring an increase in the amount of domestic content that has to go into products being sold to the federal government and updating how the composition of products is measured. It also increased the government's price differential for American products relative to foreign ones. The order also mandates the creation of a new senior position to oversee the "Buy American" programme and a website to publish any waivers to the sourcing requirements.

"We are encouraged by these new data, which reinforce our confidence that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should be protective against these newly detected variants," said CEO Stephane Bancel.

However, out of caution, Moderna will carry out more tests adding a second booster of its vaccine – to make three shots in total.



Joe Biden

of Mr. Trump's policies that sought to use the power of the federal government – \$600 billion a year in contracts – to promote domestic rather than foreign industry. Some two-thirds of the purchases were made by the Defense Department.

Manufacturing jobs have been on the decline in the U.S. over the last two decades, not just because sourcing abroad was more cost effective but also due to a significant increase in requirements.

Mr. Trump ran a campaign in 2016 promising a manufacturing resurgence. In the first 30 months of the Trump administration, U.S. manufacturing added just under 5,000,000 jobs – a stronger record in this respect than the last 30 months of the Obama administration. However, Mr. Trump's

trade war with China followed by the pandemic was bad news for manufacturing job growth. There are some 60,000 fewer manufacturing jobs now in the U.S. than when Mr. Trump took office, according to AP Fact Check.

"This order is deeply intertwined with the President's commitment to invest in American manufacturing, including clean energy and critical supply chains, grow good-paying, union jobs, and advance racial equity," an announcement from the White House said.

### Impact on India

While the order will impact several countries that trade with the U.S. government, Indian manufacturers are not likely to be impacted in a significant way.

"I seriously doubt there will be a significant impact on Indian exporters," Mark Linscott, a former Assistant U.S. Trade Representative told *The Hindu*.

"U.S. procurement is already very restricted for India because India is not part on any trade agreement with the U.S. covering government procurement. U.S. statistics show that India is not among the top 20 foreign suppliers to the U.S. procurement market," he said.

## 'U.S. to reinstate travel bans'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden will reimpose a COVID-19 travel ban on most non-U.S. citizens who have been in Britain, Brazil, Ireland and much of Europe, a White House official said on Sun-

day, as the new administration ramps up its pandemic response.

Mr. Biden will also on Monday extend the ban to travellers who have recently been to South Africa amid warnings that new, more transmissible coronavirus

variants are already establishing themselves in the U.S., the official said.

Former President Donald Trump had announced an initial ban on January 31, 2020, which was extended to European countries on March 14.

**KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE**

Office of the Chief Engineer, Renewable Energy & Energy Savings – Thiruvananthapuram  
Tender ID: 2021\_KSEB\_408003\_1 'Appointment of EPC Contractor for the design as per site conditions, erection, testing and commissioning of LSGD - Mahbar 2 Grid tied SPV projects Viz Ground mounted SPV Power plant on the land owned by Peralassery Grama Panchayat, Rooftop SPV Power plants on the buildings owned by Panoh Block Panchayat and Farmers Training Centre, Vengin with a total installed capacity of 305 kWp in 31st location including Operation & Maintenance of the plant for the first 5 years from the date of handing over' PAC : Rs.1,26,77,750/-, Last Date : 16-02-2021  
Office of the Chief Engineer, Supply Chain Management – Thiruvananthapuram

1.Tender ID: 2021\_KSEB\_407981\_1 'Supply of 20MVA, 110kV/11kV 3 phase transformer – 20 Nos. \* PAC: Rs.36,46,20,000/- Last Date : 09-02-2021, 3 PM  
2.Tender ID: 2021\_KSEB\_407994\_1 'Supply of (1) 220kV 120N Tension Composite Polymer Insulator - 300Nos. (2) 220kV 90kN Suspension Composite Polymer Insulator - 20 Nos. (3) 110kV 120kN Tension Composite Polymer Insulator - 71 Nos. (4) 110kV, 90kN Tension Composite Polymer Insulator - 792 Nos. (5) 110kV 90kN Suspension Composite Polymer Insulator - 3025 Nos. \* PAC : Rs.2,34,56,400/- Last Date : 08-02-2021, 3 PM  
Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://etenders.kerala.gov.in) & [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in)  
Ref. PR/MC1/E 266/E-Tender/2021

Office - Kumbh Mela officer (Medical & Health) Kumbh Mela 2021, Rishikul Government Ayurvedic college campus , Haridwar Uttarakhand. e-mail - [kumbhmelaelah@gmail.com](mailto:kumbhmelaelah@gmail.com)

Letter No-E-Tender/KM 2021/2020-21 Date 25.01.2021

**Short Term Tender**

National Competitive Bidding (E-Tender)

The Mela Officer (Medical & Health) Kumbh Mela 2021, Hardwar Uttarakhand on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand Invites Tender of Following Boat Ambulance Supplies By E-Tender (Two Bid System Process). Information regarding tender shall be available on <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 25.01.2021

- Date of online publications :- 25.01.2021, Time-10.00 A.M.
- Document download Start Date :- 25.01.2021, Time-10.00 A.M.
- Bid Submission Start Date :- 25.01.2021, Time-10.00 A.M.
- Bid Pre Meeting :- 28.01.2021, Time-03.00 P.M.
- Bid Submission End Date :- 01.02.2021, Time-12.00 P.M.
- Technical Bid Opening Date :- 01.02.2021, Time-03.00 P.M.

Tender No	Name of Tender	Tender Tentative Cost (in lakhs)	E.M.D. In Rs.	Tender form fee in Rs.
ET-32	Supply of Boat Ambulance	40.00	80000.00	1000.00

Note- Following documents have to be submitted by bidder in original form in Mela office (Medical & Health) Kumbh Mela 2021 Date 01.02.2021 at 12 PM the opening of technical bid.

1- Demand Draft of Tender form fee and EMD

Mela Officer (Medical & Health)  
Kumbh Mela 2021  
Haridwar (Uttarakhand)

**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**

Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Lakes Division-2&3, Room No.309, 3rd Floor,  
New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.  
No.EE-283(Lakes)/TN-11/2020-21 Date: 25-01-2021

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Two Cover System), (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Development of Arekere Lake-1 <sup>st</sup> Ward No.193 - Call-2.	260.95
2.	Development of Hulimavu Lake-1 <sup>st</sup> Ward No.193 - Call-2.	435.00

**Calendar of Events:** (1). Pre Bid meeting of tender: 30-01-2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the O/o the Chief Engineer, Lakes Division Room, No.202, 2nd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002. (2). Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: 05-02-2021 up to 4:00 p.m. (3). Opening of Technical Bid Tender Document: 08-02-2021 at 4:00 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

**Sd/-**, Executive Engineer, Lakes Division-2&3, BBMP,

**HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHAMITRA ON 14410**

**6 Feet**

**Wear Mask**

**Follow Physical Distancing**

**Maintain Hand Hygiene**

THE HINDU DELHI  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

**UT OF LAKSHADWEEP**  
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED  
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)  
Ph: 0484-2323448/458  
Web: [www.lndlci.nic.in](http://www.lndlci.nic.in)  
E-mail: [amindiv@asianetindia.com](mailto:amindiv@asianetindia.com)

Dt. 25.01.2021

**TENDER FOR DEPLOYMENT OF OFFICERS ON VESSELS**

CHERIYAM, THINNAKARA

LACCADIVES

UBAIDULLA, BPT KILTAN & BPL KALPITI

E-tenders are invited from ship management companies for deployment of qualified officers on the above Cargo barges and Tugs operated by LDCL vide Tender No. S/Vessels/Mgmt/Barges & Tugs/2020-21. For details and E-tendering please visit website <https://tendersutl.gov.in>. Tender due on 15.02.2021 at 2.00 PM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk: 0120-4001002,

## MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	48348	-1.09
US Dollar	72.94	0.04
Gold	48509	-0.72
Brent oil	55.5	0.10

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	523.65	-12.15
Axian Paints	2513.95	-82.70
Axis Bank	658.40	13.90
Bajaj Auto.	4168.95	79.45
Bajaj Finance	9198.90	127.90
Bharti Airtel	580.85	3.90
BPLC	387.30	-8.75
Britannia Ind	3613.55	5.55
Cipla	836.80	28.50
Coal India	131.85	-1.35
Divis Lab	3569.05	24.35
Dr Reddys Lab	5082.40	45.50
Eicher Motors	2869.55	-103.05
GAIL (India)	132.95	-1.10
Grasim Ind	1069.75	65.75
HCL Tech	947.50	-38.30
HDFC	2551.40	-38.05
HDFC Bank	1462.85	19.30
HDFC Life	680.40	-7.00
Hero MotoCorp	3474.95	100.05
Hindalco	240.30	1.10
Hind Unilever	2399.60	-9.75
ICICI Bank	538.05	4.25
IndusInd Bank	849.15	-44.15
Infosys	1325.10	-15.75
Indian Oil Corp.	93.45	-2.25
ITC	207.80	-2.90
JSW Steel	382.45	7.05
Kotak Bank	1794.40	-33.60
L&T	1361.30	-0.80
M&M	794.55	-3.85
Mauri Suzuki	7981.50	-67.35
Nestle India Ltd.	17415.25	-174.35
NTPC	93.20	-0.85
ONGC	91.35	-1.40
PowerGrid Corp	190.20	-4.00
Reliance Ind	1941.00	-108.60
SBI Life	862.85	0.30
State Bank	280.95	-2.75
Shree Cement	23255.65	-438.65
Sun Pharma	586.40	11.20
Tata Motors	279.15	-10.20
Tata Steel	651.95	4.95
TCS	3291.30	-11.80
Tech Mahindra	972.05	-8.80
Titan	1499.85	8.65
UltraTech Cement	5368.40	-166.40
UPL	588.15	21.20
Wipro	437.25	-7.50

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 25		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.74	73.06
Euro	88.37	88.76
British Pound	99.50	99.95
Japanese Yen (100)	70.05	70.36
Chinese Yuan	11.23	11.28
Swiss Franc	81.98	82.35
Singapore Dollar	54.82	55.07
Canadian Dollar	57.23	57.49
Malaysian Ringgit	17.98	18.07

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



**Kotak bank net up 16% as bad loans improve**  
NEW DELHI  
Kotak Mahindra Bank on Monday reported a 16% increase in standalone net profit to ₹1,854 crore for the third quarter ended December, as the bad loan situation improved. Total income rose to ₹8,124.9 crore during the quarter under review from ₹8,077 crore in the year-earlier period, Kotak Mahindra Bank said.

**GoM defers merger of BSNL and MTNL**  
NEW DELHI  
A Group of Ministers (GoM), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, is learnt to have deferred the merger of public sector telecom firms BSNL and MTNL due to financial reasons, according to government sources. The GoM has also approved the sale of 6,000 sq. m. of BSNL land in Noida to the Central Board of Secondary Education at the rate of more than ₹1 lakh per sq. m. PTI

**Lupin's generic kidney drug gets USFDA nod**  
NEW DELHI  
Drug firm Lupin on Monday said it has received nod from the U.S. health regulator to market its generic Sevelamer Carbonate tablets that are used to control phosphorus in people with chronic kidney disease on dialysis. The company has received approval to market its Sevelamer Carbonate tablets in the strength of 800 mg, Lupin said in a statement. PTI

**Open to digital version of fiat currency: RBI**  
MUMBAI  
Amid increasing popularity of virtual currencies in various parts of the world, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said it was open to exploring the possibility of a digital version of fiat currency. "The RBI is exploring the possibility as to whether there is a need for a digital version of fiat currency and in case there is, then how to operationalise it," the RBI said in a booklet. PTI

# 'Green' tax mooted for personal vehicles older than 15 years

May vary on type of fuel, vehicle; transport vehicles older than 8 years to pay levy

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Owners of old vehicles will have to pay the government a 'green' tax as a penalty for polluting the environment, which will be much steeper if you reside in one of the more polluted cities in India.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has approved a proposal to levy a 'green tax' on old vehicles.

Personal vehicles will be charged a tax at the time of renewal of Registration Certification after 15 years. The levy may differ depending on fuel (petrol/diesel) and type of vehicle. The proposal will now go to the States for consultation before it is for-



Diluted norms: A new scrappage policy will apply to PSU- and govt.-owned vehicles older than 15 years. ■FILE PHOTO

mally notified. It includes 10-25% of road tax on transport vehicles older than eight years at the time of renewal of fitness certificate.

The proposal on green tax

also includes steeper penalty of up to 50% of road tax for older vehicles registered in some of the highly polluted cities in the country. The Minister also approved a wa-

tered-down policy of deregistration and scrapping of vehicles, bringing only those vehicles owned by government departments and PSUs and are older than 15 years under its ambit.

## Effective April 1

The policy will come into effect from April 1, 2022.

In 2016, the Centre had floated a draft Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme that aimed to take 28 million decade-old vehicles off the road. A panel of secretaries suggested the scheme may combine a phased regulatory approach for capping the life of vehicles along with stricter emission norms.

## Tech lifts L&T net to ₹2,467 cr.

Divestment, real estate sale also aid profit; revenue dips 2%

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

L&T reported a 5% rise in consolidated net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 to ₹2,467 crore on account of higher profit from the information technology and technology services (IT & TS) segment and sale of commercial property by its realty division.

The PAT also included gains on divestment of ₹209 crore from discontinued operations.

"The gain of divestment is towards further adjustments accrued against the sale of the electrical and automation business to Schneider Electric SE in the previous quarter and sale of the U.K.-based marine control and automation systems subsidiary to Rolls-Royce Power



R. Shankar Raman

Systems AG," L&T said.

Gross revenue dropped 2% to ₹35,596 crore. "It was a quarter of turnaround for the whole industry," said R. Shankar Raman, whole time director and CFO.

## Significant orders

"It is a blockbuster quarter for the company in terms of order book. We have signifi-

cant order inflow this quarter," he added.

However, he said COVID-19-related restrictions continued to have an impact on project-site execution.

The consolidated order book of the group stood at a record ₹31,061 crore at December 31, registering a growth of 9% over the March 2020 level.

"We are hopeful of maintaining the momentum and are expecting a good Q4. Now, it is a problem of plenty," said S.N. Subrahmanyam, CEO & MD, L&T.

Stating that the price rise in cement and steel was alarming, he said, "The price rise is not warranted and not justified in the current economic scenario. Hope rationality prevails," he added.

## CII calls for broadband infra fund

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Monday pitched for a 'Broadband Infrastructure Fund' with a token allocation of ₹5,000 crore by the government in the upcoming Budget.

"[The] CII has suggested that the government make a token budgetary allocation of ₹5,000 crore in the upcoming Budget 2021-22 towards building the Broadband Infrastructure Fund," the industry body said, adding that rapid acceleration in the creation of digital infrastructure would be an effective tool for inclusive digitalisation that would help boost economic growth and employment.

# Govt. may tweak customs duty on a host of goods in Budget

Levy on telecom gear, rubber products likely to be reworked

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The government may tweak customs duty in the Budget next week on several goods, including furniture raw materials, copper scrap, certain chemicals, telecom equipment and rubber products, to promote domestic manufacturing and exports, sources said.



duties on coal tar pitch, and copper scrap, while raising the levies on certain finished goods like refrigerator, washing machine and clothes dryer, one of the sources said.

The government is already taking steps to boost domestic manufacturing such as introduction of production-linked incentives scheme (PLI) for several sectors including air conditioners and LED lights.

"Tweaking of duties on these goods would help promote self-reliant India campaign and boost domestic manufacturing," they added.

Last year, the government increased import taxes on several products such as furniture, toys, and footwear.

## 'GST dues paid to States total ₹78,000 crore'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday released ₹6,000 crore to States as compensation for implementing the Goods and Services Tax, after raising the funds through a special borrowing window to meet the compensation shortfall.

The Finance Ministry said that ₹78,000 crore out of the ₹1 lakh crore of GST compensation, to be raised through borrowings for this year, has now been disbursed to 23 States and the three Union Territories with legislative assemblies – Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir. "The amount released this week was the 13th instalment... borrowed at an interest rate of 5.3083%," it said.

## Amazon moves Delhi HC; seeks arrest of Biyani

E-tailer wants Reliance deal stopped



Kishore Biyani

of Mr. Biyani, his daughter Ashni and seven other members of the founder family as well as three other officials, including a company secretary of the Group.

Amazon sought the Biyani family to be directed to disclose their assets, including movable and immovable property and the same be attached.

Also, it sought 'detention'

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Mohsin S/o Lt. Sultan R/o Chamanpura Gali No. 1, Nai Sadak, Jodhpur, Rajasthan has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case E.F.I.R. No. 020001/20, dated 21.08.2020 u/s 379/41/482 IPC registered at PS Madhu Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said Mohsin could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Mohsin has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mohsin is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.03.2021.

By Order

Sri Viplav Dabass,  
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 59, Third Floor,  
DP/70/Crime/2021  
(Court Notice) Shahdara, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Chayangt

# Sibley, Buttler and spinners help England sweep series

The two guide the team home with an unbeaten 75-run stand after Bess and Leach combine to skittle out Sri Lanka for 126

## ENGLAND IN LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GALLE

Dom Sibley and Jos Buttler anchored a run chase after a jittery start as England defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second Test to sweep the series 2-0 here on Monday.

Sibley and Buttler added an unbeaten 75 as Root's men, who were struggling at 89 for four, got to their target of 164 in an extended final session on the fourth day. The result gave England a second successive Test whitewash in Sri Lanka after winning all three matches in 2018 too.

### Deadly combo

England was given a deadline to finish in the day after spinners Jack Leach and Dom Bess took four wickets each to skittle out Sri Lanka for 126 in its second innings.

Left-arm spinner Ramesh Mendis claimed three



**Too strong:** England recorded a second successive Test series whitewash in Lanka. ■ TWITTER/SLC

wickets that gave Sri Lanka hope and helped him to his Test-best match figures of 10 for 200.

Debutant spinner Ramesh Mendis got the key wicket of

skipper Joe Root, who scored 11 after his 186 in England's first innings total of 344, to add to the scare given to the tourists.

Embuldeniya took Zak

Crawley for 13 and then ended Jonny Bairstow's stay after a quickfire 29, putting England's nerves on edge, but Sibley calmly moved to his third Test half-century.

Sri Lanka started its second innings early in the day with a lead of 37 but it all came to an end in the afternoon session. No. 10 Embuldeniya top-scored with 40.

He was the only batsman to score more than 20 as Sri Lanka collapsed from 29 for one in its second innings.

Embuldeniya put up some resistance with a ninth-wicket stand of 48 with Suranga Lakmal, who made 11 not out, before Root took the final two wickets with his off-spin.

Leach's left-arm spin got Kusal Perera trapped leg before for 14, and off-spinner Bess sent back Oshada Fernando for three in the first session.

### Mathews falls cheaply

First-innings centurion Angelo Mathews was then bowled by Bess for five and Dinesh Chandimal fell to Leach, with James Anderson taking a superb running catch.

## SCOREBOARD

**Sri Lanka – 1st innings:** 381.

**England – 1st innings:** Z. Crawley c Thirimanne b Embuldeniya 5, S. Sibley lbw b Embuldeniya 0, J. Bairstow c O. Fernando b Embuldeniya 28, J. Root run out 186, D. Lawrence c Thirimanne b Embuldeniya 3, J. Buttler c O. Fernando b Mendis 55, S. Curran c Thirimanne b Embuldeniya 13,

D. Bess c Thirimanne b Embuldeniya 32, M. Wood c Thirimanne b Embuldeniya 1, J. Leach lbw b Perera 1, J. Anderson (not out) 4, Extras (b-8, lb-3, nb-5): 16; Total (in 116.1 overs): 344.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-19, 2-29, 3-37, 4-37, 5-47, 6-66, 7-70, 8-78, 9-126.

**England bowling:** Anderson 2-0-6-0, Curran 2-0-9-0, Bess 16-1-49-4, Leach 14-1-59-4, Root 1.5-0-2.

**England – 2nd innings:** Z. Crawley c Fernando b Embuldeniya 13, D. Sibley (not out) 56, J. Bairstow lbw b Embuldeniya 29, J. Root b Mendis 11, D. Lawrence c Dickwella b Embuldeniya 2, J. Buttler (not out) 46; Extras (lb-4, nb-3): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 43.3 overs): 164.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-17, 2-62, 3-84, 4-89.

**Sri Lanka bowling:** Lakmal 16-7-31-0, Embuldeniya 42-6-137-7, Fernando 10-2-31-0, Perera 32.1-4-86-1, Mendis 16-1-48-1.

**Sri Lanka – 2nd innings:** K. Perera lbw b Leach 14, L. Thirimanne c Crawley b Leach 13, O. Fernando c Crawley b Bess 3, A. Mathews c Bess 5, D. Chandimal c Anderson b Leach 9, N. Dickwella c Lawrence b Bess 7, R. Mendis c Buttler b Leach 16, D. Perera c Crawley b

Bess 4, S. Lakmal (not out) 11, L. Embuldeniya c Bairstow b Root 40, A. Fernando b Root 0, Extras (b-3, nb-1): 4; Total (in 35.5 overs): 126.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-19, 2-29, 3-37, 4-37, 5-47, 6-66, 7-70, 8-78, 9-126.

**England bowling:** Anderson 2-0-6-0, Curran 2-0-9-0, Bess 16-1-49-4, Leach 14-1-59-4, Root 1.5-0-2.

**England – 2nd innings:** Z. Crawley c Fernando b Embuldeniya 13, D. Sibley (not out) 56, J. Bairstow lbw b Embuldeniya 29, J. Root b Mendis 11, D. Lawrence c Dickwella b Embuldeniya 2, J. Buttler (not out) 46; Extras (lb-4, nb-3): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 43.3 overs): 164.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-17, 2-62, 3-84, 4-89.

**Sri Lanka bowling:** Embuldeniya 20-3-73-3, Perera 13-3-1-39-0, Mendis 10-0-48-1.

**Player-of-the-match and series:** Root.

**England won by six wickets and clinched the two-Test series 2-0.**

'Need to be at our best to beat India in India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GALLE

Skipper Joe Root said on Monday that England will have to be on top of its game to beat India in its backyard.

"We've got four very important games against arguably the best team in the world in their own conditions," said Root. "We will have to be on top of our game to win out there."

"We're going to have seven or eight days with no cricket, six days in quarantine and then three very important days of prep ahead of the series."

**WTC final to be held from June 18 to 22**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The start of the inaugural World Test Championship final has been pushed back by eight days and will now begin at Lord's on June 18, keeping in mind the proximity with the next IPL's summit showdown.

The final of the inaugural championship was tentatively scheduled to begin on June 10.

India is leading the table with 430 points (PCT 71.7), followed by New Zealand (420, 70) and Australia (332, 69.2).

**Bangladesh wraps up series in style**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CHITTAGONG

Bangladesh beat the West Indies by 120 runs in the third One-Day International here on Monday to sweep the series 3-0 and gain the full 30 points for the ODI Super League.

**The scores:** Bangladesh 297/6 in 50 overs (Tamim Iqbal 64, Mushfiqur Rahim 64, Shakib Al Hasan 51, Mahmudullah 64 n.o.) bt West Indies 177 in 44.2 overs (Rovman Powell 47, Mohd. Saifuddin 3/51).

## The propellers

As the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy quarterfinals get underway in Ahmedabad on Tuesday, a look at the players who spearheaded their teams' campaigns.

BARODA	
Kedar Devdhar	5 innnings, 207 runs
<b>Lukman Meriwala</b>	
5 innnings, 226 runs	11 wickets
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	
Ankit Lamba	5 innnings, 160 runs
<b>Rahul Chahar</b>	
5 innnings, 11 wickets	
<b>BIHAR</b>	
Shasheem Rathour	5 innnings, 142 runs
<b>HARYANA</b>	
Shivam Chauhan	5 innnings, 214 runs
<b>PUNJAB</b>	
Arun Chopra	5 innnings, 8 wickets
<b>HIMACHAL</b>	
Prashant Chopra	4 innnings, 156 runs
<b>PANKAJ JASWAL</b>	
5 innnings, 9 wickets	
<b>RISHI DHAWAN</b>	
5 innnings, 9 wickets	
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	
Devdutt Padikkal	
<b>TUESDAY'S MATCHES</b>	
Punjab vs. Karnataka, NOON   Tamil Nadu vs. Himachal, 7 P.M.	

## Azam confident as Pakistan faces South Africa test

Conditions suit us more because most of us have played here, says the home captain

### SA IN PAKISTAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI

Babar Azam will make his Test captaincy debut on Tuesday against a tough South Africa team that is touring Pakistan for the first time in more than 13 years.

The second Test will be played in Rawalpindi from Feb. 4, followed by the three-match T20I series in Lahore from Feb. 11-14.

Pakistan is out of the race to qualify for the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June while South Africa has only a mathematical chance to make it with India, New Zealand, Australia and England among the top contenders.

**Proud moment**  
"I missed the series against New Zealand, but it's a proud moment for me that I am doing my captaincy debut in my own country," Azam said on Monday.

"South Africa is a good team. You can't take them lightly, but conditions suit us more because most of us have played here," he added.

South Africa last toured

venue for the first Test — when South Africa toured in 2007. "We should not think about past, we should focus on what's ahead of us," Azam said.

"It's a fact that we don't

have a good record against them, but we have prepared well and we hope to give our best against them this time."

Pakistan has included six uncapped players in a 17-man squad. Opening bat-

ting man Imran Butt and left-arm spinner Nauman Ali could make their Test debuts on Tuesday.

Azam also said Pakistan might go with an additional spinner along with Yasir Shah.

"We have practised here for a week now and the wicket looks a bit slow," Azam said.

South Africa also has left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj to pose problems for the home team. The tourists have been practising for the last six days to get used to the conditions.

"I'm sure this Pakistan team is going to be tough," South Africa captain Quinton de Kock said when the team arrived.

"I think our biggest challenge is the conditions that we could face and not knowing the things that we have to deal with."

Chelsea fires coach Lampard

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Frank Lampard was fired by Chelsea on Monday, halfway through his second season in charge of the London club after being unable to replicate his success as the club's record scorer in his first Premier League managerial job.

Chelsea has lost five of its last eight Premier League games and dropped to ninth place, despite Lampard benefiting from nearly \$300 million spent on new

players for this season.

Chelsea said the performances had not shown "any clear path to sustained improvement" — making a change of managers necessary.

"This was a very difficult decision for the club, not least because I have an excellent personal relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him," owner Roman Abramovich said.

"He is a man of great integrity and has the highest of work ethics. However, under current circumstances we believe it is best to change managers."

"On behalf of everyone at the club, I would like to thank Frank for his work as head coach."

## Relentless Atletico rallies to get past Valencia

### EURO LEAGUES

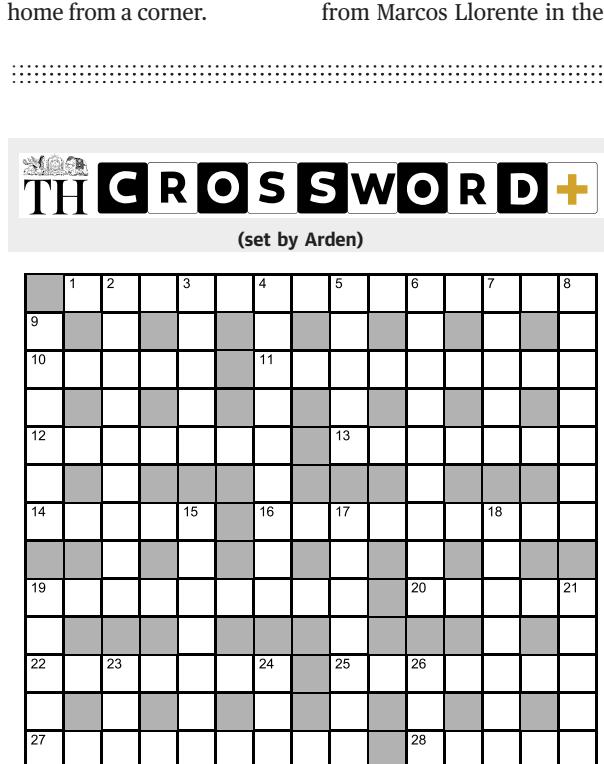
REUTERS  
MADRID

Joao Felix and Luis Suarez combined to devastating effect as Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Valencia 3-1 at home on Sunday to continue its relentless pursuit of the LaLiga title.

Valencia took a shock lead in the 11th minute with an unstoppable long-range strike from Serbian midfielder Uros Racic but the league leader responded in the 23rd when Felix stuck out a foot to prod home from a corner.



REUTERS



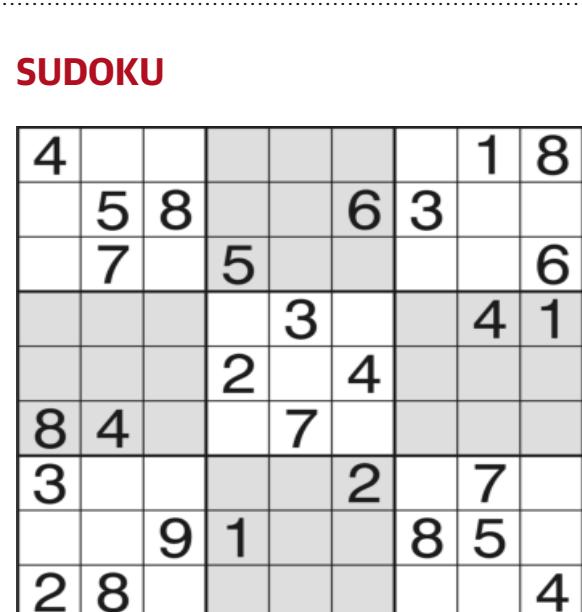
**ACROSS**

- 1 Doubts are back, ideas follow (6,8)
- 10 Runs away with the last tender (5)
- 11 Thousands on the run to get highest bid (5,4)
- 12 Fancy tusker losing heart to girl (7)
- 13 Relationship after half an hour with a Shakespearean character (7)
- 14 Compound featured in a cowboy movie essentially (5)
- 16 With less American money invested, you get strength (9)

Are you the crosswords type?  
Use your digits, key in your answers...  
<https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>

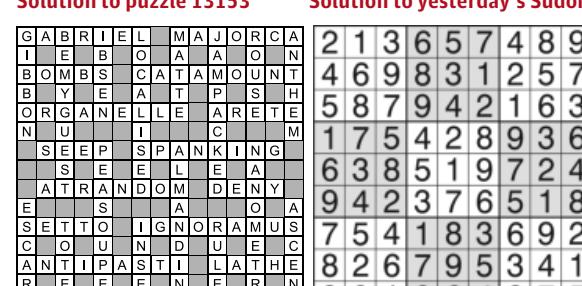


### SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13153



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

### FA

## IN BRIEF

**Indian women lose thriller to Argentina-B**

**Buenos Aires**  
The Indian women's hockey team suffered its second consecutive loss on the tour of Argentina, going down 2-3 to the host's B side. Salima Tete (6th) and Gurjit Kaur (42nd) scored for India while Sol Pagela (25th), Constanza Cerundolo (38th) and Agustina Gorzelany (39th) did so for the home side. PTI

**India women junior team beats Chile**

**SANTIAGO (CHILE)**  
The visiting Indian women's junior hockey team pipped the Chile senior side 2-1 in the sixth and final match to end the tour unbeaten. PTI

**India U-16 beats UAE in football friendly**

**NEW DELHI**  
Suhail Ahmed Bhat struck the target in the 79th minute from Taison Singh's cross as India's U-16 football team earned a 1-0 victory over their counterparts from UAE in Dubai. PTI

**England to host New Zealand for Tests**

**LONDON**  
England will host New Zealand for two Test matches in June for the home side's first games of the summer. It will be the first time that New Zealand plays Tests in England since 2015. The matches will be played at Lord's (June 2-6) and Edgbaston (June 10-14). AP

# Yashvir bests Neeraj's mark

Dawar (1,500m) and Ankita (5,000m) also set new records

## ATHLETICS

## SPORTS BUREAU

Indian athletics got back on track in style with three new meet records on the opening day of the 18th National Federation Cup Junior (u-20) Championships here on Monday.

Haryana's Yashvir Singh bettered Neeraj Chopra's six-year-old javelin mark.

The 19-year-old Yashvir had a best attempt of 78.68m to go past Neeraj's 76.91m effort at the 2015 edition in Hyderabad. Also registering new meet records were Sunil Dawar of Madhya Pradesh in 1,500m and Ankita of Uttarakhand in 5,000m.

## The results:

**Men, 100m:** 1. Saurabh Rajesh Naitam (Mah, 10.51s), 2. Abhin B. Devadiga (Kar, 10.54), 3. Aaditya Tomar (UP, 10.89); **1,500m:** 1. Sunil Dawar (MP, 3:48.54), 2. Sree Kiran (TN, 3:51.17), 3. Mohammed Nur Hasan (UP, 3:55.21); **10,000m:** 1. M. Sathish Kumar (TN, 30:17.47), 2. Sushant Manohar Jetha (Mah, 31:22.14), 3. Ama-



Yashvir Singh.

resh Kumar Prajapati (Del, 31:23.96); **Javelin:** 1. Yashvir Singh (Har, 78.68m), 2. Jay Kumar (UP, 72.29), 3. Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rai (Pun, 66.38).

**Women, 100m:** 1. Taranjeet Kaur (Del, 11.70s), 2. Anjali P.D. Dileesh (Ker, 11.88), 3. Sudeshna Hanmant Shiva (Mah, 11.91); **1,500m:** 1. Ankita (Utk, 4:27.54), 2. Pooya (Har, 4:28.61), 3. Megha (Har, 4:44.75); **5,000m:** 1. Ankita (Utk, 16:37.90), 2. Chattru Gunnaram (Raj, 17:06.03), 3. Supriti Kachhap (Jha, 17:08.30); **High Jump:** 1. Tanu (Har, 1.66m), 2. Kevina Ashwinne Annabi (TN, 1.63), 3. Sphuriti Subhash Mane (Mah, 1.60); **Shot Put:** 1. Rekha (Har, 14.14m), 2. Kavita Kumari (Raj, 13.23), 3. Simranjeet Kaur (Del, 12.53).

## Ajay stuns Sanjith

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Ajay Malik beat second seed Sanjith Devineni of the US 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the first round of the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament on Monday.

## The results (first round):

**Boys:** Aarav Samrat Hada (Nep) bt Kartik Parhar 6-2, 6-1; Vishesh Patel bt fateh Singh 6-1, 6-0; Krishan Hooda bt Aayush Bhat (USA) 4-6, 6-0, 6-2; Anargha Ganguly bt Kartik Saxena 6-0, 7-5; Heerak Vorai bt Daksh Agarwal 6-3, 6-4; Dhruv Tangri bt Aditya Chopra 6-4, 6-2; Neelam Devaharshit (USA) bt Krishang Raghuvanshi 4-6, 6-3, 1-0 (retd.); Aman Dahiya bt Tejas Ahuja 6-2, 6-1; Chirag Duhan bt Dhanush Patel 6-3, 6-1; Dhuv Hirpara bt Nithilan Eric 6-0, 6-3; Torus Rawat bt Siddhant Sharma 6-3, 6-0; Ajay Malik bt Sanjith Devineni (USA) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

**Girls:** Sanjana Sirimalla bt Ananya Manchanda 6-2, 6-1; Renne Singla bt Ilia Jha 6-2, 6-1; Vaishnavi Adkar bt Shreya Bhat 6-0, 6-1; Aarni Reddy Yellu bt Anjali Rath 6-3, 6-1; Sachi Sharma bt Hetvee Chaudhari 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; Bhakti Shah bt Lakshanya Vishwanath 6-3, 6-4; Shruti Ahlawat bt Riyah Dugar 6-3, 6-1; Riya Uboveja bt Kotisha Modak 7-5, 6-3; Veda Raju Prapurna bt Pavitra Parikh 6-4, 6-6, 6-3; Sudipta Kumar bt Vidhi Jani 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

## Unbeaten Forest Flame primed for feature event

**BENGALURU:** Forest Flame, who unbeaten in all her five starts and continues to be in great heart as evidenced by her morning trials, appeals most in the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore (2,400m), the stellar attraction of the season to be run here on Tuesday (Jan. 26) afternoon. Stablemate Lagarde may add pep to the finish in the field of nine runners. There will be no false rails.

**1. SADDLE UP CUP** (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 6-y-o & over, 1-30 p.m.: 1. She's Superb (3) S. Shiva K 60, 2. Legend Is Back (12) R. Pradeep 59, 3. Nostradamus (11) S. John 58.5, 4. Premier Premises (2) Darshan 58.5, 5. Tiger Returns (8) Rayan 58.5, 6. Aerospool (4) Asgar 58, 7. Blarney Stone (7) Arshad 58, 8. Glorious Days (10) A. Imran 58, 9. Master Of War (13) Trevor 58, 10. Azeeemki Princess (5) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 11. Fierce Fighter (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 12. Savisa (6) S. Shareef 56, 13. Shaktiman (9) S.K. Paswan 55.5 and 14. Eco Bonita (14) M. Naveen 54.5.

**1. TIGER RETURNS,**  
**2. NOTRADAMUS,**  
**3. MASTER OF WAR**

**2. TOTALIZATOR CUP** (DIV. I, 1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 2-05: 1. Sherwin (14) S. John 60, 2. Black Whizz (3) S. Shareef 59, 3. Handsome (13) Ganeshwar 59, 4. Lovely Sierra (11) Ashish Asbar 58.5, 5. Zhu Zhen (2) S. Saqlain 58.5, 6. Adela (9) R. Sheler 56.5, 7. Benignity (10) Chetan K 56.5, 8. Decorum (5) Jagadeesh 56.5, 9. Dynamical (8) Darshan 56.5, 10. Niche Cannabis (6) Trevor 56.5, 11. Perfect Impression (1) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 12. Praia Do Cassino (12) P.P. Dhebe 56.5, 13. Halfsies (7) M. Naveen 55.5 and 14. Shanghai Queen (4) P.S. Chouhan 55.

**1. SHERWIN,**  
**2. DYNAMICAL,**  
**3. HANDSOME**

**3. INDIAN REPUBLIC TROPHY** (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-40: 1. Devils Magic (2) Sriram 56, 2. Enrichment (5) Al Sharaf 56, 3. Kensington (3) S. John 56, 4. Linkin Park (7) R. Marshall 56, 5. Thousand Words (6) A. Imran 56, 6. Turkoman (1) Sandesh 58, 7. Lightning Flame (4) Darshan 54.5, 8. Pecanwood (8) Antony 54.5 and 9. Scintillating Lass (9) Suraj 54.5.

**1. SCINTILLATING LASS,**  
**2. DEVILS MAGIC,**  
**3. PECANWOOD**

**4. T.B. HANUMANTHARAJ ME-MORIAL TROPHY** (1,400m), rated 30 to 30, 3-15: 1. Sea Of Cortez (13) Likith Appu 60, 2. Ashwa Mudrika (10) P.S. Chouhan 59, 3. Benefitation (3) Md. Aliyar 58.5, 4. Fictioneer (14) Vinod Shinde 56.5, 5. Cavallini (12) Md. Aliyar 56, 6. Ombudsman (2) Darshan 56, 7. Speaking Of Stars (8) Zervan 55.5, 8. Classic Charm (7) A. Imran 55, 9. Aleef (5) S. Asgar 54.5, 10. Exclusive Mandate (6) Neeraj 54.5, 11. Amazing Angel (9) Chetan H 57, 12. Marco Polo (1) Jagadeesh 54, 13. Twinkle Feet (II) T.S. Jodha 54 and 14. Watchmystars (4) Suraj 54.

**1. WATCHMYSTARS,**  
**2. CLASSIC CHARM,**  
**3. SEA OF CORTEZ**

**5. KUMARARAJAH M.A.M.**  
**6. MUTHIAH TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 3-50: 1. Kvasir (3) J.H. Arul 60, 2. Regal Music (10) S. Mubaraka 59.5, 3. Life Awaits (7) Rayan 58, 4. Side Winder (13) Md. Aliyar 57.5, 5. The Response (9) M. Naveen 57.5, 6. Animal Queen (11) Saddam H 57, 7. Big Boon (1) Tauseef 56, 8. Hokkaido (5) Suraj 55.5, 9. Alpha (2) P.P. Dhebe 55, 10. Royal Resolution (8) Sandesh 54.5, 11. Wings Of Desire (6) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 12. Del Mar (14) R. Marshall 54, 13. Donna Bella (4) S. Shareef 50.5 and 14. Skyfire (12) P. Surya 50.

**1. DEL MAR,**  
**2. WINGS OF DESIRE,**  
**3. GOLDEN MEMORY**

**7. MYSORE RACE CLUB TROPHY** (1,600m), rated 75 & over, 5-10: 1. Automatic (3) Suraj 60, 2. Brave Lady (7) Ashish Asbar 55, 3. Sir Supreme (1) Arshad 55, 4. Knight Templar (2) Roma Victor 55, 5. Akash 50.

**1. KNIGHT TEMPLAR,**  
**2. ROMA VICTOR,**  
**3. AKASHA PRO**

**8. TOTALIZATOR CUP** (DIV. II, 1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-45: 1. Rainbow Rising (2) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Ultimate Power (3) S. Saqlain 59.5, 3. Amalfi Sunrise (10) Saddam H 59, 4. Golden Memory (7) Darshan 59, 5. In A Breeze (12) Suraj 59, 6. Nayaab (4) Ranjeet Singh 57, 7. Activated (9) R. Marshall 58.5, 8. Handsome Rocky (13) Tauseef 58.5, 9. Paradise Beckons (6) Trevor 58.5, 10. Rosy Rapunzel (1) Gnaneshwar 58.5, 11. Capital Gain (14) Rayan 57.5, 12. Je Ne Sais Quoi (11) B. Nayak 57, 13. Heavenly Angel (8) Chandrashekhar 56 and 14. Flora (5) S. Asgar 55.5.

**1. IN A BREEZE,**  
**2. PARADISE BECKONS,**  
**3. GOLDEN MEMORY**

Day's best: **KNIGHT TEMPLAR** Double: **SCINTILLATING LASS - DEL MAR**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 6, 7 & 8.

## CFC salvages a draw

## ISL 2020-21

## SPORTS BUREAU

An Esmael Goncalves penalty earned Chennaiyin FC (CFC) a crucial point in a 1-1 draw against Indian Super League (ISL) leader Mumbai City FC (MCFC) at the GMC Athletic Stadium in Bambolim on Monday.

With the stalemate, Mumbai City FC extended its unbeaten record to 12 matches and retained its lead at the top.

**The result:** Chennaiyin FC (Esmael Goncalves 76) drew with Mumbai City FC 1 (Barholomew Ogbeche 21).

**Tuesday's match:** NEUFC vs ATKMB.

## Majcen stars for Churchill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Luka Majcen's magnificent performance helped Churchill Brothers post a 2-0 win over Sudeva Delhi FC in the Hero I-League here on Monday.

**The result:** Churchill Brothers 2 (Luka 19, Miranda 36) bt Sudeva Delhi FC 0; Gokulam Kerala FC 4 (Jiteshwor 23-OG, Adjah 31, Jestin 39, Sharif 8) bt Neroca 1 (Songpu Singsit 88).

लुका माजेन शासन

# गणतंत्र दिवस

## की सभी प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

प्रिय प्रदेशवासियों,

गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर मैं आप सभी को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ एवं बधाई देता हूँ। बाबा साहब डॉ. भीमसदा आर्केडकर सहित उन सभी महान् संविधान निर्माताओं को भी शत-शत नमन करता हूँ, जिन्होंने विभिन्न जातियों, धर्मों व क्षेत्रीय विभिन्नताओं के होते हुए भी हम सभी को एकता के सूत्र में पिछोने वाला संविधान दिया।

मैं अपने संवर्तन संग्राम के नायकों, देश की सीमाओं व देश की आजिंकों के अन्तर्गत सुखासा में शहीद हुए सेनिकों की स्मृति को भी नमन करता हूँ। प्रदेशवासियों की ओर से राज्य आन्दोलन के अमर शहीदों को भी शत-शत नमन करता हूँ। आईये, गणतंत्र दिवस की इस पावन बेला पर हम सभी संविधान के मूलभूत आदर्शों की रक्षा एवं राज्य तथा राष्ट्र के सर्वांगीन विकास के लिए संकल्पबद्ध हों।

जय हिन्द-जय उत्तराखण्ड

त्रिवेदे सिंह रावत

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

**बातें कर... कान ज्यादा**

• गैरसैण राजधानी परिक्षेत्र के अवस्थापना विकास के लिए अगले 10 वर्ष में ₹25 हजार करोड़ किये जायेंगे एवं

• श्रद्धालूओं की सुविधाओं और चारधाम के विकास की वृद्धि से चारधाम देवस्थानम् बोर्ड का गठन

• ई-फैब्रिनेट, ई-ऑफिस, सी.एम. डैटा बोर्ड उत्कर्ष, सी.एम. हेल्पलाइन 1905, पारदर्शी ट्रांसफर एक्ट के तहत कार्य संस्कृति में गुणात्मक सुधार

• अत्मनिर्भर उत्तराखण्ड और 'वोर्क लॉन्ग लॉन्ग' के लिए सरकार ने की वडी पहला। मुख्यमंत्री स्वरोजगार योजना से युत बन रहे आत्मनिर्भर

• '13 डिस्ट्रिक्ट - 13 न्यू डेस्टीनेशन' से नए प