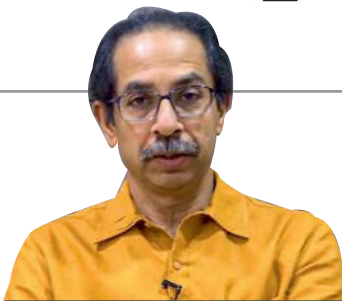


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 19 JANUARY 2021



**NATION | 4**

**Maharashtra eyes 'K'taka occupation**



**WORLD | 5**

**Navalny decries arrest on arrival**

**SPORTS | 8**

**High five for Siraj in Brisbane Test**



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

Vol. 20 No. 233 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

## Clogged roads



Two cranes try to lift a container truck which broke down on the Begumpet flyover causing a massive traffic jam from Panjagutta to Secunderabad on Monday.  
— S. SURENDER REDDY

## State postpones Covaxin roll-out

### Decision after staff refuses to take vaccine that is on trial

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A quickly planned rollout of Covaxin, a Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by the city-based Bharat Biotech, was on Monday equally quickly pulled back without any explanation by the state health department authorities.

Covaxin was to become a matter of pride for the state and the government, being a 'Made in Telangana' vaccine.

The launch of the Covid-19 vaccination on January 16 began with people get-

## WOMAN HOSPITALISED AFTER JAB

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A 29-year-old woman health worker who was given the Covid-19 vaccine jab at Uppal here on Saturday was admitted to Gandhi Hospital on Sunday even-

ing after she developed severe reactions. The woman's was the first such case of severe reaction vis-a-vis the Covid-19 vaccine in the state that started on Saturday.

■ Full report on Page 2

ing jabs of Covishield, manufactured by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India. The state received 20,000 doses of Covaxin which have remained in cold storage

at the State Vaccine Depot in Koti in the city.

Late Monday morning, the health department issued an invite to the media saying there would be a "roll-out" of a Covid-

19 vaccine at the office of the Director of Public Health at Koti in the afternoon. The guests of honour were to be health minister Etala Rajendar and IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao.

While the invite did not mention Covaxin being rolled out, it is self-evident this was the agenda as Covishield had been rolled-out and was being used across the state for vaccination of healthcare personnel.

■ Page 2: Staff were uneasy over clinical trials

## PALANISWAMI TO MEET MODI AHEAD OF POLLS

**G. BABU JAYAKUMAR and D. SEKAR | DC**  
CHENNAI, JAN. 18

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's scheduled visit to Delhi on Monday, ostensibly to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Jayalalithaa memorial and to discuss development plans for the State, led to tongues wagging in the political circles back home.

The political grapevine had it that Palaniswami has gone to explain to the Prime Minister and other leaders of the BJP the difficulties in allowing the T.T.V. Dhinakaran-led AMMK merge with the AIADMK at this point of time, especially ahead of polls.

■ Page 2: BJP fears Sasikala may split votes

## Mamata challenges rebel Adhikari on his home turf

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, JAN. 18

In a move that is being seen as a masterstroke to avenge Shubhendu Adhikari's desertion of her party and joining the BJP, Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced that she would contest the forthcoming Assembly polls from Nandigram, adding that she will also try to contest from her home constituency, Bhowanipore, which elected her in 2011 and 2016.

Mr Adhikari is the MLA of Nandigram in East Midnapore.

In her first visit to Mr Adhikari's home turf after his induction into the BJP, Ms Banerjee said that Nandigram is "lucky" for her since her movement against forcible land



acquisition there ousted the Communist regime a decade ago.

Soon after her announcement, Mr Adhikari vowed to ensure her defeat in Nandigram.

Ms Banerjee told a TMC rally, "Nandigram is a lucky place for me. If I contest here... how is it? It is my wish. I was thinking of it because I love the place... Our victory in the Assembly polls will start from here. It is a reincarnation of Nandigram. I

will field a good candidate in Bhowanipore which is also a place of my affection. It is like my elder sister while Nandigram is the younger one. I will contest polls from both the constituencies, if I can. But I will certainly contest and lead the poll campaign from Nandigram."

Mocking the BJP for causing defection in her party, Ms Banerjee observed, "Some are switching sides. Do not worry about them. They will be fought by locals. Those leaving the TMC were not around when the party was founded. Let them go. It is good. BJP is a washing machine which turns black into white. Washing Powder Bhajpa, Washing Powder Bhajpa! The BJP's situation is like that. But I will not allow them sell Bengal."

## SC lets Delhi cops decide on Jan. 26 farmers' protest

**PARMOD KUMAR and SANJAY KAW | DC**  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

The Supreme Court on Monday left it to the Delhi police to decide on the entry of protesting farmers into the national capital on Republic Day, as it heard the government's plea seeking an injunction against the tractor rally planned for January 26.

Sticking to their stand, the union leaders said the protesting farmers had a constitutional right to take out their tractor rally peacefully and said thousands of people will participate in the event. The proposed 50-km "kisan rally" will be led by women-driven tractors on Outer Ring Road and won't disrupt the day's big parade on Rajpath.

Farmers have started organising mock rallies in parts of Punjab and Haryana to encourage more people to join the "kisan tractor march" in large numbers.

The tenth round of talks between the government and the farmers' repre-

sentatives was on Monday pushed back by a day to January 20, with the Centre saying both sides want to resolve the stalemate at the earliest but it was "getting delayed due to the involvement of people of other ideologies".

"The government's ministerial meeting with the farmers unions will be held on January 20 at 2 pm at Vigyan Bhavan, instead of January 19," the agriculture ministry said in a statement.

A Supreme Court-appointed panel to resolve the crisis is, meanwhile, due to hold its first meeting on Tuesday.

In the Supreme Court, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde on Monday said the Delhi police was at liberty to invoke its powers under the law and it has the power to deal with law and order situations. "Who should be allowed to enter are all matters of law and order, to be decided by the police. We are not the first authority," Chief Justice Bobde said.



## JAGAN TO VISIT DELHI TODAY, TO MEET SHAH

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
VUJAYAWADA, JAN. 18

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy would visit New Delhi to meet Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

The CM will hold discussions with Shah on matters like the Amravati land scam wherein top names from the judiciary are said to be involved. Sources in the CMO said the AP government had sent a request to Shah for an appointment to discuss on several issues. The CM would be accompanied by advocate-general S. Sriram.

The visit gained significance also as AP is witnessing a series of attacks on temples and desecration of idols, and DGP Gautam Sawang had blamed those from the Telugu Desam and the BJP for their suspected roles to whip up religious sentiments.

Notably, when BJP leaders led by AP party chief Somu Veerajulu went to visit the temple at Ramateertham in Vizianagaram district for a study of the scene where the idol of Lord Rama was vandalised, the police had blocked their way. The BJP leaders raised a hue and cry over the police action and pointed out that the government had allowed YSRC MP V. Vijayasai Reddy, some ministers and even TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu to visit the spot.

The AP government requires the Centre's support on many matters of importance. It requires the central help in getting the President's nod for the AP Disha Bill meant to toughly deal with those involved in violence against women and children.

## WEATHER

Max: 29.2°C  
Min: 19.4°C  
RH: 51%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 29/19°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (+10,800)  
DEATHS (+141)  
1,05,71,658  
1,52,588  
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS  
(+206) (+2)  
TS: 2,91,872  
1,579  
(+81) (+1)  
AP: 8,86,066  
7,141

CASES AROUND THE WORLD  
9,56,83,835  
DEATHS  
20,43,728  
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES  
219  
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Shashti till 11 am  
Star: Uttarabhadra till 9.55 am  
Varjyam: 11.16 pm to 1.03 am (Wednesday)  
Durmuhurtam: 9.06 am to 9.51 am; 11.09 pm to 12.01 am  
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm  
JAMADI - ul - Akhri 5,1442 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.47 am  
Zohar: 12.37 pm  
Asar: 4.28 pm  
Maghrib: 6.10 pm  
Isha: 7.21 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 6.04 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.10 AM  
MOONSET TODAY 11.33 PM

## COUNTER POINT



Forget Bihar... now our priority is Assam and Bengal!

## SHORT TAKES

### Man held for fake GST invoices

**New Delhi:** GST officers have arrested one person for operating 46 fake firms and passing on fake input tax credit worth ₹82.23 crore, the Finance Ministry said on Monday. The officers of Central Goods and Services Tax Commissionerate, Delhi East, unearthed a network of fictitious firms being used to generate and pass on fake ITC.

### 3 killed in J&K encounter: IGP

**Srinagar:** The three youths killed in a gunfight with security forces in Lawaypora last month were involved in militancy, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said on Monday and added that police will soon convince their parents of it with concrete evidence.

### WhatsApp policy voluntary: HC

**New Delhi:** The Delhi high court on Monday said accepting WhatsApp's new privacy policy was a "voluntary" matter, and one can choose not to use or join the platform if one didn't agree with its terms and conditions. "It is a private app. Don't join it. It is a voluntary thing, don't accept it," the court said.

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Showing scant respect to a directive from the Supreme Court, the Ranga Reddy district administration has been sleeping over holding survey of some parcels of land situated in the controversial survey number 80 of Hafeezpet in the city.

The apex court had on December 16 last year directed the collector of Ranga Reddy district to undertake a survey as early as possible, and complete it in four weeks. In the order, the SC refused to interfere with a February

2019 order of the Telangana High Court, directing the collector to conduct a survey to settle a border dispute between Hafeezpet and Kondapur within three months.

The inaction of the revenue authorities drew attention in the wake of the recent property dispute involving former Andhra Pradesh minister Bhomma Akhilapuriya in the same survey number 80.

"The revenue authorities' inaction to resolve land disputes, or at least honouring the verdicts of honourable courts, including the Supreme Court, is

**THE APEX COURT** had on December 16 last year directed the collector of Ranga Reddy district to undertake a survey as early as possible, and complete it in four weeks.

leading law and order problems. It is this inaction on part of the district administration that has led to a spurt in land grabs and related crimes in the city," a senior police official said.

"Take this specific case of three parties engaged in border disputes," he said, adding that the revenue

department can easily resolve the fight by conducting a survey, as per court orders.

A border dispute between the three parties, one having a land in survey number 80 of Hafeezpet (Greater Golkonda Estates) and two others in survey number 97 of Kondapur (Kolla Madhava Reddy and V. Satyanarayana Rao) landed before the High Court two years ago.

The division bench comprising Justices M.S. Ramachandra Rao and T. Amarnath Goud did not agree with the state government's contention that

it owned land in survey number 80, which is part of CS No. 14 of 1958, which is pending before the court.

The bench referred to both the High Court and Supreme Court dismissing the state's plea several times against the inclusion of survey number 80 in CS 14 of 1958 and an application for condonation of delay of 38 years in challenging the inclusion. The court observed, "it is not open to Telangana state to set up any claim to land in Hafeezpet village."

Referring to the apprehensions of the two parties, Madhava Reddy and

Satyanarayana Rao, that the Greater Golkonda Estates might grab land under the guise of a survey, the High Court bench observed that the latter's land falls in survey number 80 of Hafeezpet and not in survey number 97 of Kondapur. "It is necessary to conduct a survey and demarcate land in both these surveys, which are part of different villages - Hafeezpet and Kondapur," it observed.

The court also observed and chided that government for becoming a 'vexatious litigant' in land matters.



SHORT TAKES

CONGRESS LEADER A. CHANDRASEKHAR JOINS BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Congress senior leader A. Chandrashekar, a former minister, joined the BJP on Monday at a public meeting in Vikarabad district headquarters.

BJP state affairs incharge Tarun Chugh, party state president Bandi Sanjay, BJP OBC president Dr K. Laxman, party vice-president D.K. Aruna and secretary Satya Kumar welcomed Chandrashekar into the party.

After the joining ceremony Chandrashekar stated that he was impressed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development of the country. Telangana staet can develop only under the leadership of Modi, he said, and expressed the hope that the BJP will come to power in the state in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The leader alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had failed to fulfil the promises to the poor. There is no development in Telangana state but the Kalvakuntla family has developed in the state with huge money and lands.

**HC SEEKS STATUS OF FLOOD RELIEF DISTRIBUTION**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Abhishek Reddy directed the GHMC commissioner to file a status report on the distribution of ₹10,000 flood relief to flood-affected persons April 18.

The High Court converted a letter addressed by Dr Sravan Dasoji, spokesperson of the Congress, stating that the government had failed in extending financial aid to the food victims, whose life was affected due to the torrential rains which hit the state in September and October last year.

**SHRC TAKES UP COPS BRUTALITY CASE IN JANGAON**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The National Human Rights Commission on Monday transferred the case of alleged police brutality and assault on a BJP leader in Jangaon to the State Human Rights Commission.

K. Karuna Sagar, a lawyer from Hyderabad, on the orders of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay, had lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission on the attack on BJP town president Pawan Sharma and four others in Jangaon on January 12 by Jangaon town station house officer D. Mallesh Yadav.

The NHRC, which investigated the incident, transferred the case to the state Human Rights Commission and ordered an inquiry. Earlier, Warangal police commissioner P. Pramod Kumar had directed West Zone DCP B. Srinivas Reddy to conduct an inquiry into the lathicharge on BJP activists by inspector Mallesh Yadav. Pramod Kumar instructed the DCP to take action against Mallesh Yadav and other police personnel if they were at fault.

● **THE NHRC**, which investigated the incident, transferred the case to the state Human Rights Commission and ordered an inquiry.

TRS leaders on Monday alleged that BJP was a “mafia party” as 26 Union ministers, including home minister Amit Shah, and 172 MPs from the party were facing criminal charges. Most of the MPs are out on conditional bail.

Given this obnoxious background, state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar has no moral right to criticise Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and the TRS, said ruling party MLAs Gade Kishore and Saidi Reddy along with MLC Shambipur Raju during a press conference here.

They alleged that the BJP leaders were playing with people's sentiments and their lives while Pragathi Bhavan embodies the state's progress and developmental activities. They challenged Sanjay for a discussion on development. They said the BJP leaders had not brought a single paise for the state from the Centre. The TRS leaders said that the Narendra Modi government was yet to bring black money stashed in foreign banks despite making tall claims. Instead, Modi has been protecting bank cheats and fraudulent characters.

They told the state BJP leaders not to daydream,



Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy addresses media in Huzurnagar Municipal Council meeting in Hyderabad on Monday.

Uttam: Land-grabbing is TRS hallmark now

TPCC chief sees TRS cadre hand in high-profile cases

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has alleged that land grabbing has become the hallmark of TRS leaders across the state.

Speaking to mediapersons after attending the Huzurnagar Municipal Council meeting on Monday, Reddy said that TRS leaders were involved in land grabbing in Hyderabad, Huzurnagar and all over the state, including land belonging to the University of Hyderabad.

He pointed out several

● **THE CONGRESS** leader said that the Bowenpally kidnap case, in which former minister of AP Akhila Priya has been named as the main accused, was more complicated than it was being presented by Hyderabad police. ‘There is more to it than the land dispute,’ he said.

high-profile cases of land grabbing, involving top TRS leaders, have been hitting the headlines ever since K. Chandrashekar Rao became the Chief Minister.

He said that Keesara MRO Nagaraju was caught red-handed by officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau while accepting a bribe of ₹1.1 crore.

The TPCC chief also pointed out that a video recording of minister Ch. Malla Reddy had gone viral on social media wherein he admitted that all land grabbers were TRS leaders.

The Congress leader said that the Bowenpally kidnap case, in which former minister of Andhra Pradesh Akhila Priya has been named as the main accused, was more complicated than it was being presented

by Hyderabad police. ‘There is more to it than the land dispute,’ he said.

Earlier, addressing the Council meeting, Reddy spoke about the widening of Huzurnagar main road. He said the road should have proper road dividers and central lighting. He pointed out that the Ring Road, 100-bed government hospital and Government Degree College, were all sanctioned and built at his initiative when he was an MLA. He said he would speak to the district collector and ensure stringent action against corrupt officials in the municipality.

Owaisi taunts Modi: Is China Prez getting a ‘housing sop’

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said China was building villages on Indian territory, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi if that there wasa special “Awaz Yojna” for Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Owaisi was reacting on a news report that a village had been built in Arunachal Pradesh by China. In a Tweet, he claimed, “Mr Modi is the weakest Indian PM,



no other PM has remained silent while China takes over Indian territory on

MULTIPLE fronts including Naku La (Sikkim), Ladakh & Arunachal (sic).”

He said the Prime Minister had refused to tell the country about the status of the land in Chinese control. The Prime Minister made “no demands on China to return our land and did not make a military effort to take back control from China. He did not even make efforts to avenge the deaths of our brave soldiers killed by China,” Owaisi said.

BioAsia kicks off on Feb. 22

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD JAN. 18

The 18th edition of BioAsia will be conducted one on February 22 and 23. Industries minister launched the logo for BioAsia 2021, with the theme ‘Move the Needle’, along with senior IAS officer Jayesh Ranjan and Shakthi Nagappan, director, Life Sciences, CEO of BioAsia,

Rama Rao said BioAsia was the state's flagship event and had

emerged as an important global meeting to deliberate on the opportunities, challenges and solutions for the life sciences sector. Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, “the 2021 event will have relevance more than ever,” Rama Rao said.

The event will provide a platform to deliberate on topics of paramount importance, essentially centered around dealing with Covid-19 and preparing for new realities of healthcare,

Ranjan said.

Nagappan the 2021 event, which is being held online for the first time, will have a wider global reach.

“We are anticipating participation of about 30,000 life sciences professionals from around the world,” the BioAsia CEO said. The event will be organised in partnership with the Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) and Ernst & Young LLP.

TRS dubs Make in India ‘false’, claims logo was designed abroad

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

They alleged that the BJP leaders were playing with people's sentiments and their lives while Pragathi Bhavan embodies the state's progress and developmental activities. They challenged Sanjay for a discussion on development. They said the BJP leaders had not brought a single paise for the state from the Centre. The TRS leaders said that the Narendra Modi government was yet to bring black money stashed in foreign banks despite making tall claims. Instead, Modi has been protecting bank cheats and fraudulent characters.

They told the state BJP leaders not to daydream,

following a few electoral successes, of coming to power in the state. The TRS will win the Nagarjunasagar byelection “200 per cent,” they said.

Pointing out that TRS leaders and elected representatives had resigned from the post for the sake of the statehood movement, they said that Union minister G. Kishan Reddy had fled from Hyderabad.

They said that BJP state in-charge Tarun Chugh did not have the courage to visit his home state Punjab because he feared the wrath of farmers. None from BJP can point fingers at the Chief Minister because Rao has been win-

ning the hearts of the people by implementing people-friendly measures to their utmost satisfaction.

They warned BJP leaders against crossing the limits and stated that the people would teach a befitting lesson in the days ahead.

MLC Raju said the Make in India Scheme was “false”. Even the logo was made outside the country, he claimed and added, “This is the situation of the BJP.” He said the BJP was playing politics on the Ram Mandir. “What relation does the BJP have with the Ram mandir when the Supreme Court gave a verdict to start construction of the temple,” he asked.

However, within an hour, the health department announced the vaccine roll-out was being “postponed” before going into total silence on the matter throughout the day.

According to inside sources, one of the possible recipients of the first dose of Covaxin was to be Director of Public Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao. It may be recalled that Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy had received a shot of Covishield on January 16.

Staff uneasy over clinical trials

From Page 1

Though everything was set for the “roll-out” of Covaxin on Monday, the reason for the “postponement” were intelligence reports that the government received from various parts of the state, of strong reluctance on part of several healthcare personnel to become part of a somewhat forced Phase-3 trial of a vaccine which had only emergency use approval.

Across the country, anyone receiving Covaxin doses as part of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, are required to sign a three-page consent form, agreeing to be part of

the trial and that they are doing so on their own accord and not under any duress from any quarter.

It may be recalled that the Centre had approved the use of Covaxin as part of the vaccination drive as one under a “clinical trial mode”.

This, it was learnt, was causing concern among potential recipients of this particular vaccine among some healthcare personnel in the state.

As per the action plan for vaccination, vaccine recipients do not have an option to choose between the two vac-

cines. It was learnt that the TRS government did not want the embarrassment of several potential recipients pulling out from taking the vaccine manufactured by a company based in Telangana state.

There was no word from Bharat Biotech either on the “roll-out” of a vaccine as announced by the health department or the subsequent decision to postpone the event.

By evening, it ended up that the only thing manufactured was a bit of embarrassment for all parties concerned.

Narsing Rao, Telangana fighter, dead

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Burugula Narsing Rao, senior Telangana armed struggle leader and Communist Party of India (CPI) member, passed away on Monday morning. He was 90.

Narsing Rao was admitted to a corporate hospital after he tested positive for Covid-19. He died owing to complications arising out of the disease.

Hailing from a village in Mahbubnagar district, Narsing Rao was born into a political family. He was active in politics right from

his student days. He played a vital role in fighting against the Razakars during Nizams' rule. He also fought for separate Telangana during the 1960s.

He was the nephew of Burugula Ramakrishna Rao, the first Chief Minister of the erstwhile Hyderabad State. He was the president of Nizam College Students Union when Hyderabad state merged with the Indian union. Narsing Rao's name figures in the generation of leaders from Telangana who saw it all — the Razakar movement, police action, Telangana armed struggle,

formation of Andhra Pradesh and movement for a separate Telangana of 1960 which became resurgent after 2000. Condolences with regard to the passing of the CPI leader have poured in from all over, including Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. “Rao's death is an irreparable loss to the state,” the Chief Minister observed, recalling the role paid by the late leader in Telangana armed struggle and the separate Telangana movement.

The Chief Minister said that Narsing Rao's demise is an irreplaceable loss to Telangana state.

BJP fears Sasikala may split votes

From Page 1

That Dhinakaran was also planning to fly to Delhi by a chartered flight only added fuel to the rumours, though fisheries minister D. Jayakumar, who accompanied the CM, told the media that the visit was to seek funds for the various schemes initiated by the state government and to invite the PM for the inaugural function. The BJP, it is said, is keen that the AIADMK's vote bank is intact when the alliance goes to polls, and does not want the AMMK to split it. The

perception is that the arrival of V.K. Sasikala, aide of J. Jayalalithaa, in the political scene could create a bigger rift in the party with many leaders and functionaries of AIADMK throwing their weight behind her.

In such a scenario, the AMMK could walk away with more votes that would otherwise go to the AIADMK and thus weaken the alliance, paving the way for an easy victory of the DMK in the elections. So, the BJP leaders are said to be putting pressure on the AIADMK to accept Sasikala and AM-MK into the party fold.

HEALTH WORKER HOSPITALISED AFTER VACCINE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A 29-year-old woman health worker who was given the Covid-19 vaccine jab at Uppal on Saturday was admitted to Gandhi Hospital on Sunday evening after she developed severe reactions.

The woman's was the first such case of severe reaction. The health authorities reported 11 cases of very mild reactions on Saturday while there were 25 such cases on Monday.

According to the hospital superintendent Dr Raja Rao, the condition of the woman admitted to the anaphylactic ward was being monitored

closely. She complained of vomiting, giddiness and general weakness on Saturday evening.

Doctors found that her temperature, pulse and BP recordings were normal, and the oxygen saturation was 100 percent in room air (without oxygen). Dr Rao said she was stable and responding to treatment.

Meanwhile, about 82 per cent of those who signed up for the vaccine turned up to take the jab on Monday. Director of Public Health G. Srinivasa Rao said 335 vaccination “sessions” were conducted on Monday in the 33 districts.

Yadadri temple city works to be complete this month

From Page 1

The reconstruction work is almost 95 per cent completed and the remaining works will be completed by month-end, officials said.

The YTDA was set up in 2015 when the Chief Minister visited the Yadadri temple after the state was formed, with the CM himself serving as chairman for the reconstruction work. Rao had declared his intent and his government's resolve to develop Yadadri at the same level as Tirumala.

When he announced the initiation of land acquisition and funding for the reconstruction and expansion, he

said that to facilitate devotees from around the world, a sacred temple city similar to the Vatican City would be created at Yadadri in Telangana state.

Over the course of over a year, the YTDA reviewed many a temple across India, studying in detail their architectural style and prepared nearly 800 draft plans, which were approved for finalization in 2016. The foundation stone laying ceremony of the main temple was held on Vijayadasami day the same year.

The construction of the main walls and sanctum sanctorum was carried out on 4.3 acres on the hill.

Madhavidhus, Tritala, Panchatala and Saptatala Rajagopuram complex, the octagonal walls and ancillary pavilions in various directions were completed by incorporating magnificent sculptures on Krishna rocks.

“The Yadadri temple construction work is being carried out in keeping with ancient architectural principles and in compliance with the highest standards of religious edicts. The timing of the inauguration of the temple will be decided by Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao in discussion with Veda pundits,” said G. Kishan Rao, vice-chairman, YTDA.

Court fines sarpanch ₹50K for hiding FIR on himself

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The Telangana High Court has imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on sarpanch G. Kumara Swamy of Laxmidivpet in Venkatapur mandal, Mulug district, for hiding the fact he was an accused in certain cases registered by police ag-

ainst some villagers in a land-related dispute.

He has been directed by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Abhishek Reddy to deposit the fine amount to the Telangana State Legal Services Authority within two weeks. Chief Justice reprimanded Sujatha Kurap-

ati, counsel for the petitioner, saying that as an officer of the court, she should have restrained the petitioner from suppressing facts. “When there is an FIR against the petitioner, how dare he approach the court with guts and say that he is not involved in any civil and criminal litigation,” the CJ asked.



## OTHER STORIES

## CONTRACT STAFF OF RIMS DEMANDS PENDING SALARY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JAN. 18

The contract employees of RIMS, Adilabad, on Monday staged a dharna demanding the payment of their pending salaries.

The leaders of the contract employees said the salaries are pending from November 2020, and said the authorities have cut the 10 per cent from the salary in February and March.

The leaders also demanded the cut in the salaries from 2016 to 2019 for drivers working at the RIMS, Adilabad and providing the uniforms to the fourth class employees by the Shakti society.

## NTR REMEMBERED ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
DAMMAPET, (BHADRADRI), JAN. 18

The services of Telugu Desam Party founder president and former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, NTR, are recalled on his death anniversary. Aswaraopet MLA Mecha Nageswara Rao garlanded his statue in Dammamet on Monday. He said that the common man got political posts because of policies implemented by NTR. He said that the poor are given a good place during his rule.

NTR had never cared for the rich individuals and identified the leaders that had discipline and sincerity. At one stage, the MLA has gone nostalgic while referring to the former CM's good things.

## KCR FAMILY IS LOOTING TS, SAYS ARVIND

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, JAN. 18

Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind said that My Home group owner J. Rameshwar Rao will be prosecuted in lands issue soon. In a mining land issue Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will also be jailed in future as he holds the mining ministry, he criticised. Telangana government is trying to allocate 630 acres to My Home group, he said. Ministers KTR, T. Harish Rao will also be jailed for their irregularities, he said.

BJP MP came down heavily on the ruling TRS party in a press conference in Nizamabad on Monday. Dharmapuri Arvind said that Kalvakuntla family is looting the Telangana state, he said.

Another movement is necessitated to throw away the TRS government in Telangana state, he said.

Arvind said that BJP state president Bandi Sanjay is a real patriot and Kalvakuntla family is traitors. He said that TRS leaders should mend their ways.

BJP is sticking to its comments as it is disclosing the atrocities of TRS government, he said.

## 19 PROJECTS SELECTED FOR MANAK AWARDS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, JAN. 18

Nineteen projects that were evolved by the students of Khammam level in the Inspire Awards-Manak (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) were selected to state-level.

The students of Khammam prepared 185 projects and 19 projects were noticed as excellent. Interestingly, about 14 projects were prepared by the students studying in government schools and the remaining five by private schools' students.

The education department organised the program online, and hundreds of students responded to it. The students formed as groups and submitted their projects.

The students showed immense interest in doing their projects. The students of Telangana Model School at Karepalli, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay in Naguloncha in Chintakani mandal and Zilla Parishad High School in Venkatapuram in Vemsoor mandal submitted good projects a model house that was on sensor-based one, a device to alert the drivers from sleepiness and voice-based device to alert the heart patients pulse beat.

## Gurukul schools gear up for reopening after Covid

Officials directed to ready schools, colleges for offline classes

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 18:

Mahbubabad district collector V.P. Gautam directed the district officials to make arrangements for the preparation of schools and colleges for the offline classes set to begin on February 1.

A comprehensive review of schools' reopening was held with education department officials at the Collector's office on Monday.

"9th and 10th class students in hostels, gurukuls and ashram schools are required to undergo rapid tests. The day scholars should also be tested if they have symptoms of fever and cold.

Students are advised to wear masks and adhere to social distancing," Gautam said.

The district panchayat officer Raghuvaran was directed to instruct the gram panchayat staff to clean the school premises and the classrooms of the schools and colleges. Measures should also be



Mahbubabad district Collector V.P. Gautam and education department officials held discussion during a meeting in Mahbubabad on Monday. — By arrangement

taken for the cleanliness of toilets, the Collector said.

Mahbubabad District Collector V.P. Gautam directed the teachers to meet each student's parents and motivate them to send their wards to schools and colleges without fail. He also wanted a report with the details of students who have dropped out.

"Teachers are expected to work hard to complete the 70 per cent of the syllabus after 30 per cent of the syllabus has been reduced in line with government regulations. Textbooks and two pairs of uniforms were handed over to the students," the Collector said.

The meeting was attended by education officer Somasekhara Sharma,

Social Welfare regional coordinator Rajyalakshmi, Gurukul Pratryusha, intermediate college officer Satyanarayana, Tribal Welfare deputy director Pocham, Minority Welfare officer Srinivas, Scheduled Castes Welfare officer Raju, district Panchayat officer Raghuvaran and others.

## Nine more vaccination centres in Khammam

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, JAN. 18

The Covid-19 vaccination drive gained momentum in Khammam district as nine more centres were opened on Monday apart from the six that were started on Saturday. The new centres are at Nelakondapalli, Tallada, Kusumanchi, Karepalli, Manchukonda, Kallur, Wyra, Tirumalayapalem and the district headquarter hospital. These centres administered the vaccine to 50 persons per centre on Monday. The figure of vaccinated persons per day will be increased slowly and may touch 7,500 at a later stage.

About 105 healthcare personnel were allocated to these centres. The number of centres will be increased in a phased manner. All PHCs and community health centres will be engaged for vaccination in the final stage.

Aasha worker Tejavat Soni was the first to be administered the vaccine on Monday in Kusumanchi primary health centre. Palair MLA K Upender Reddy attended the programme. Vaccine was administered to 50 persons here. Nearly 170 persons were administered the vaccine on the first day and there was no vaccination on Sunday. The list of persons to be administered the vaccine is in the App. Those in the list will get message in

## HEALTH WORKER COLLAPSES IN PANIC AFTER VACCINATION IN JANGAON

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 18

K. Venkata Lakshmi (42), a mid-level healthcare provider (MLHP) at primary health care center in Chennai village who received the Covid-19 vaccine in Palakurthy Primary Health Center (PHC) on Monday collapsed minutes after receiving the vaccine in the observation room. The officials immediately shifted her to the Jangaon District Government Hospital.

Primary Health Center (PHC), Medical Officer, Dr T. Priyanka, said that a total of 50 health workers were registered to take the vaccine at the centre. "After receiving the vac-

their phone on when and where to report for the vaccination. If the person has not reached the centre on the appointed hour, health personnel will make a call to his phone.

The district medical and health department received 153 vials on the first day and got another 200 vials for Monday. The cold chain system is being maintained in the vaccine supply. Government wanted to increase the daily vaccination number and keep ready the personnel for this. District medical and

## LOCALS DEMAND SAFETY SIGN BOARD AT JAMPANNA VAGU

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL JAN. 18:

In view of the mini Medaram jatara to be held from February 24 to 27, the locals demand the state government set up warning signboards where the Jampanna vagu is shallow.

Devotees come to the Jampanna vagu to take a holy dip before having darshan of deities Sammakka and Saralamma at the altars.

However, over the years, the jatara has seen several people drown in the stream. Just recently, two children from Reddigudem village fell in the stream and drowned.

Raghupathi Kurandula, a local resident, said there is a pressing need to set up warning signboards along the stream to warn people of shallow areas. "Even during the mini Medaram jatara, devotees in large numbers visit the shrine and take holy baths in the Jampanna vagu. Under these circumstances, the state must take relevant actions to avoid these mishaps," he said.

## Senior BJP leaders disappointed at missing EC posts

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JAN. 18

New leaders and some youngsters from erstwhile Adilabad district have been included in state BJP executive while some senior leaders in the existing panel were left out.

Many senior leaders have pinned hopes on getting into the state committees this time as the BJP's graph is rising in the state politics. The party did well in the Dubbaka and GHMC elections. Many MLA ticket aspirants hoped that if they got into the state executive, the way would be clear for them to contest the next assembly polls.

State BJP president Badi Sanjay had a major hand in the selection of leaders for the state executive. Some senior leaders are being sidelined. Leaders who unsuccessfully contested the assembly polls last time did not find a place in the new executive.

The number of executive committee members has been reduced to 90 this time as against 300 the last time. The number of party posts was also reduced.

Many senior leaders including former MPs and ministers who joined the BJP from other parties found to their dismay that they are not given any post. It is likely that such senior leaders will be accommodated in the soon-to-be-formed elections campaign committee.

These senior leaders may be made in-charge for districts and special invitees for the state and district committee meetings.

Senior BJP leader and state executive committee member last time Koyyala Hemaji who contested the Bellampalli assembly seat last time did not get a place in the state executive this time.

Even senior leaders Ravula Ramnath and

## FOUR ELEVATED AS BJP STATE EC MEMBERS

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, JAN. 18:

Two leaders from each district were inducted into BJP state executive committee. Party state president Bandi Sanjay declared the new committee details.

BJP senior leader Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta second time got elected as party state executive committee member. Youth leader K. Dinesh Kumar, who recently joined BJP from the ruling TRS party, was also elevated as state executive committee member.

In Kamareddy district, Banala Laxma Reddy and Neelam Chinna Rajulu were elected as state executive committee members.

Laxma Reddy had worked as BJP district president for two terms, and Chinna Rajulu served as district general secretary. Considering the social and regional equations, the party high command accommodated leaders in the state committee.

Ayyannagari Bhumanna from the Nirmal district did not get a place.

The same is the case with Ch. Suhasini Reddy who was state executive member last time from Adilabad district.

● BJP Telangana State president Badi Sanjay had a major hand in the selection of leaders for the state executive. Some senior leaders are being sidelined. Leaders who unsuccessfully contested the assembly polls last time did not find a place in the new executive.

## HIGH COURT DIRECTIVES ON CONDUCTING MBA, MCA COUNSELLING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The Telangana High Court on Monday gave two days to Telangana State Higher Education Council (TSHEC) and convener of ICET to take a decision on conduct of special counselling for admissions into MBA and MCA courses for the 2020-21 academic year.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Abhishek Reddy, made it clear that on failing to get any response from the authorities, it would issue directions about specific

dates in order to help students awaiting their degree supplementary exam results.

A student had filed a petition before the High Court stating that most of the students were losing the opportunity of getting admissions in MBA and MCA due to non-declaration of results of the supplementary exams.

Most of the students secured good scores and ranks in ICET, but they could not participate in counsellings conducted earlier, for want of degree results, the petitioner submitted.

## Youth Congress protests for ₹3,016 of unemployment dole

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 18

Demanding unemployment allowance, the Youth Congress leaders staged a protest in front of the Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar's camp office on Monday. The leaders demanded the TRS government keep its promise of paying Rs 3,016 per month allowance to the unemployed youth during the 2018 Assembly elections.

"It's been more than two years since the TRS came to power the second time, however, the promise remains unfulfilled. The Chief Minister has deceived the youth with his fake promises and left them without support," Warangal West in charge Thota Pavan said.

The activists reminded that the TRS Government vowed to generate employment opportunities by setting up Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, the industrial corridor between Warangal and Hyderabad. None of the



Youth congress leaders protest at Chief Whip D. Vinay Bhaskar's camp office in Warangal on Monday. — By arrangement

● It's been more than two years since the TRS came to power the second time, however, the promise remains unfulfilled. The Chief Minister has deceived the youth with his fake promises and left them without support Warangal West in charge Thota Pavan said

promises became a reality, reflecting the state government's incompetence, they added.

The Youth Congress leaders demanded the chief whip to raise the ever growing issue of unemployment in the Assembly. Later, the leaders submitted a memorandum to Vinay Aluvala

Karthik, Palle Rahul Reddy, Saketh Kumar, Thota Pavan, Ashwin Rathod, Mothe Venkatesh, Perumandla Ramakrishna, Avula Pavan Kumar, Vamshi Naik, Naveen Naik, Srikanth Reddy, Sairam Yadav, Akhil Kumar and Gudikandula Raj Kumar were present among others.

**FOR SALE PROPERTY**

**PLOTS**

✓ **PLOT FOR sale:** LRS paid 240Sq.yards, Uppal, NewVijayapuri Colony,Behind South India Shopping Mall, Near Rankers Techno School &Building for sale: 900sq.yards, 7000sqft building in 360sq.yards in Kokhokota, Wanaparthy District. School Recognition up to 2030. Contact 9 5 1 9 9 9 3 6 3 (HYMM/2021/C05871)

**SITUATION VACANT**

**GENERAL**

**FITDOCK GYM** Is Looking For Professional And Certified Trainers For Karimnagar Branch. Good Opportunity To Earn 30,000/- Plus Per Month Contact: Fitdock Gym Ramanthapur Opp D-Mart Hyderabad. Ph:9885755599/ 8 5 1 9 9 9 3 6 3 (HYMM/2021/C05866)

**MEDICAL**

**DUTY MEDICAL** Officers with MBBS qualification and 3 to 5 years of work experience required to

work for SVS Medical College Hospital, Mahabubnagar. Please send resume to: medicalsuperintendentsvsmch@gmail.com. Accommodation shall be provided. Contact: 9849158123, 8 8 2 6 7 6 9 4 0 1 (HYCL/2021/C02417)

**EDUCATIONAL**

**CAREER/ENTRANCE COURSES**

✓ **ONE-SITTING / Fasttrack:** Graduations (All), Post-Graduations (All), PG Diplomas, Polytechnic Diplomas, Secondary (10th) & Senior Secondary (12th), Provided Online results & Online verifications, Eligible for Private & Abroad. Ph:9912540011, 7337291133, www.hyderc.com (A/2021/C00094)

**DISTANCE EDUCATION**

✓ **CONTACT FOR NCTE:** Recognised: B.Ed./M.Ed. No Advance Fee. Only For Educational Consultants. Students Please no call. Contact regarding any Educational Problem/ Guidance, Shiksha Bharti. Varanasi. Email: shikshabharti188@yahoo.com Mob:9519759663, 9915103781. (HYMM/2021/C05866)

**NOTICE**

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

DECCAN Chronicle

**BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED / DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS at**

EDITION CENTRE : KARIMNAGAR

H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhuttur Road, Muggumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186

**900650508**

e-mail: krmadvit@deccanmail.com

**9121183123**



IN BRIEF

Digvijay donates for Ram temple

**Bhopal:** Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Singh on Monday donated ₹1,11,111 for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya through Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singh sent a letter to the Prime Minister, with the cheque to Ram Janmabhomi Teertha Khetra Trust, appealing him to ensure that inflammatory speeches were not made by the volunteers during collection of funds for construction of Ram temple from the people. The former chief minister said he was sending the cheque through the Prime Minister for deposition at the proper place since he was not aware of the right address to send the cheque. He also demanded for public audit of the funds raised earlier by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

ODISHA CONG CHIEF ATTACKED, BJP BLAMED

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 18

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik on Monday said he was attacked by some miscreants with BJP affiliations attacked his vehicle on Sunday night at Keonjhar. “The attack on me, my security personnel late on Sunday night was a handiwork of the BJP. Members of the saffron party’s youth wing carried out the attack. This is a clear case of political vendetta and desperation of Odisha BJP,” Patnaik alleged. He said that the miscreants thrashed his driver and personal security officer (PSO) and damaged his car. “I have lodged a police complaint. I was shocked to know that the miscreants were members of BJP’s state youth wing. This is a clear case of political vendetta and desperation of Odisha state BJP. Congress is raising relevant issues in the state and speaking out against the policies of BJP which is desperately trying to get a foothold in Odisha. Congress is the biggest hurdle for them,” he tweeted.

MEDIA TRIAL HINDERS JUSTICE: HC ON SSR PROBE

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 18

The Bombay High Court on Monday held that a media trial during the investigation of any case violates programme code under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act and does have an impact on the probe. While passing order on a bunch of petitions filed by former police officers, activists, lawyers and NGOs, seeking restrain order for electronic media in actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s death case, also observed that Press Council of India (PCI) guidelines will apply to electronic media along with print media till the time electronic media frame their own guidelines. The court had asked the Centre on October 29 last year as to why it should not frame guidelines on media coverage of sensitive criminal matters and ongoing investigations, and whether “excessive” reporting by the press amounted to interference in the administration of justice under the Contempt of Courts Act.

BORDER | ROW India says it takes necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty

Report: China has built village in Arunachal

**New Delhi, Jan. 18:** In a cautious reaction to a report that China has built a village in Arunachal Pradesh, India on Monday said it keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on the country’s security, and takes necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The ministry of external affairs said India has stepped up the construction of border infrastructure, including roads and bridges for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens. The response from the ministry came when asked about a report by NDTV channel, saying China has

constructed a new village in the disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh and it consisted of about 101 homes. The news channel said the report is based on satellite images accessed exclusively by it. “We have seen recent reports on China undertaking construction work along the border areas with India. China has undertaken such infrastructure construction activity in the past several years,” the MEA said. “In response, our government too has stepped up border infrastructure including the construction of roads, bridges etc, which has provided much needed

connectivity to the local population along the border,” it added. The ministry also asserted that the government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh. “Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India’s security and takes all the necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity,” it said. In its report, NDTV showed two images of the area where it said the village has been set up.

According to the channel, the first image dated August 26, 2019 did not show any human habitation but the second one of November 2020 shows a row of structures. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it. India and China are locked in a bitter border row in eastern Ladakh for over eight months. The army as well as the Indian Air Force have been maintaining a high state of operational readiness along the entire stretch of the LAC with China including

in the Arunachal sector in view of the eastern Ladakh standoff. India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in order to resolve the eastern Ladakh row, but no significant headway has been made for its resolution. Earlier this month, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat visited various forward posts near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and reviewed India’s operational preparedness. He also visited several key installations including “forward most air maintained” posts in Dibang Valley, Lohit sector and Subansiri valley, according to the Army. — PTI

580 persons report adverse effects after vaccination

Two people were reported dead; Govts deny deaths connected to jabs

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

As India intensified its vaccination drive against Covid-19, 580 persons were found to have Adverse Effect Following Immunisation (AEFI) with seven needing hospitalisation in the last three days. Two people were reported to be dead following the Covid-19 shots. A 52-year-old ward boy working in a Moradabad (UP) hospital, and a 43-year-old man in Bellary (Karnataka). However, both central and state governments denied that the death in Moradabad had any connection to the vaccination while the post-mortem of the second person is yet to be conducted.

Since Saturday, a little over 3.81 lakh health, sanitation and frontline workers have been vaccinated out of which over 1.48 lakh were immunised on Monday.

“Post-mortem by a board of three doctors revealed death due to cardiopulmonary disease (pockets of pus in lungs, enlarged heart) and is not related to vaccination,” Union health ministry official said about the death of the 52-year-old ward boy Mahipal Singh. However, the family of Mahipal Singh man alleged that his condition deteriorated after the jab.

Mahipal Singh was given a vaccine shot on Saturday. His family said he had minor pneumonia, cold, cough and fever before the vaccine, but his condition deteriorated after the jab and he was breathless. He died the next day.

However, the Uttar Pradesh government said the man died due to septicemic shock and cardiac arrest and the death was not related to the Covid-19 vaccination.

“An adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) committee probed the death of the man in Moradabad. The cause of death was septicemic



Relatives mourn the death of a family member, Mahipal Singh, at their residence in Moradabad district on Monday.

— PTI

Assam Cong questions efficiency of Covaxin, tells govt to instil confidence

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JAN. 18

Amidst the report of a few temporary side effects after the vaccination and poor turn out of recipients, the Assam unit of the Congress party has questioned the efficacy of Covaxin and asked the government to instil confidence among people before inoculating them.

The reaction of the

Opposition came after two medical colleges in the state witnessed a poor 40 per cent turnout on the first day and the officials feel that the use of the “contentious” Covaxin is one of the reasons for many health workers not turning up.

In Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital in lower Assam’s Barpeta, only 27 of the 100 listed beneficiaries came for vaccina-

tion, while at Tezpur Medical College and Hospital, only 52 of the 100 listed beneficiaries turned up.

Leader of Opposition in the Assam Assembly, Debabrata Saikia told reporters that the doctors in Delhi and Tamil Nadu were reluctant to take the vaccines as Covaxin has been given the nod for political gains as elections for the five states are due in

spring.

“The vaccine rollout has been done hurriedly without complete trial. The Centre has done it to reap benefit in polls. It is sad that the vaccination has become a political game as the inoculation drive kicked off without efficacy data and other considerations. Human life can’t be compromised in pursuit of private profit and political gains,” said Saikia.

shock and cardiac arrest and it has nothing to do with the vaccination,” the state’s additional chief secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters in Lucknow. State officials said no major side effects have

been reported among others vaccinated.

Chief medical officer Milind Chandra Garg said that the cause of death was a cardiac problem. He added that some employees were suffering from fever after taking

the shots. “They were facing general problems but not like Mahipal,” he said.

The second person who died on Monday too was vaccinated on Saturday. The cause of his death, as per Union health min-

istry, was anterior wall infarction with cardiopulmonary failure.

Of the seven people needing hospitalisation, three are from Delhi, two in Karnataka, and one each in Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

RESOLUTION DEMANDS STATEHOOD FOR PUDUCHERRY

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 18

The open assertion of the DMK’s Puducherry unit on Monday to field candidates in all the 30 constituencies for the Territorial Assembly elections is seen as harbinger to the splintering of the Congress-DMK alliance not just in the Union Territory but also in Tamil Nadu.

Though all is seemingly well with the DMK-Congress alliance in Tamil Nadu with even Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and DMK’s Youth Wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin sharing the stage at a jallikattu event at Avaniapuram in Madurai on Pongal Day, that relationship between the two allies has been going south for quite some time in Puducherry.

On Monday, DMK members boycotted the crucial Assembly session called to pass a resolution against the Centre’s farm laws and also to demand Statehood for the Union Territory on the pretext of attending a meeting called by S Jagathrakshan, DMK’s newly appointed in-charge for Puducherry. Jagathrakshan, DMK MP representing Arakkonam, vowed to lay down his life in the event of the DMK failing to win all the 30 constituencies in the elections. Though it is not clear whether he aspires to become the next CM, as it is rumoured in some circles, or not, he had made it clear that the alliance with Congress was over. In fact, the DMK has not been participating in any of the programmes of the Congress.

Will incorporate ‘K’taka-occupied areas’: Uddhav

**Mumbai, Jan. 18:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said his government is committed towards incorporating into the state the areas of Karnataka where Marathi-speaking people are in majority.

This will be the “true tribute” to martyrs of the cause, the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) said in a tweet.

Maharashtra claims Belgaum and some other areas, part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency but currently in Karnataka, on linguistic grounds.

Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, a regional organisation fighting for the merger of Belgaum and some other border areas with Maharashtra, observes January 17 as the ‘martyrs’ day’ for those who laid down their lives for the cause in 1956.

“Bringing Karnataka-occupied Marathi-speaking and cultural areas in Maharashtra will be the true tribute to those who accepted martyrdom in the boundary battle. We are united and committed towards it. Respects to the martyrs with this promise,” the CMO tweeted.

Maharashtra claims certain areas, including Belgaum, Karwar and Nippani which are part of Karnataka, contending that the majority of population in these areas is Marathi-speaking.

The dispute between the two states over Belgaum and other border areas is pending before the Supreme Court for many years.

Thackeray last year appointed Maharashtra ministers Eknath Shinde and Chhagan Bhujbal as co-ordinators to oversee the state government’s efforts to expedite the case related to the boundary dispute.

Protests erupted in parts of Karnataka on Monday including in the district headquarters city of Belagavi on Monday in a strong condemnation of Maharashtra Chief Minister’s statement on the sensitive border issue.

Political leaders cutting across party lines came down heavily on Thackeray. “There is no question of giving even an inch of land from Karnataka to Maharashtra. He should give up issuing statements just for political reasons,” Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa told reporters on Monday. “I am pained at

GOVT NAMEBOARDS IN TAMIL ON K’TAKA BORDER VANDALISED

**Erode (TN), Jan. 18:** Sign and name boards of the Tamil Nadu government in Tamil and English on the state’s border with Karnataka were allegedly damaged by a fringe group from the neighbouring state for the second time in ten days, police said here on Monday. The group claimed that Thalavadi in Tamil Nadu’s Erode district ‘belonged’ to Karnataka.

The incidents come against the backdrop of a row between Maharashtra and Karnataka over some border areas where Marathi speaking people live predominantly.

Following the back to back incidents and a call for protest against it by Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, armed police personnel have been deployed at (Thalavadi taluk, Erode district) Tamil Nadu’s border with Karnataka (Chamarajanagar district), they said. Such incidents have been brought to the notice of police in Karnataka, they added.

On Sunday, sign and name boards, including one by Erode District Panchayat, were damaged by unknown miscreants, Thalavadi police said, adding they inspected the spot and posted adequate number of armed policemen to avert such incidents in future.

Such boards inform people about the beginning of the limits of Tamil Nadu state. — PTI

Maharashtra Chief Ministers remarks that can disturb the prevailing harmonious atmosphere. I expect Uddhav Thackeray, as a true Indian, to show his commitment and respect to the principles of federalism in letter and spirit,” Yediyurappa said in a tweet. On Monday, pro-Kannada organisations held demonstrations and burnt Thackeray’s effigy in parts of the state.

A few pro-Marathi activists led by local units of Shiv Sena and Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti had organised the ‘Martyrs Day’ in Belagavi on Sunday.

They demanded merger of Belagavi, Karwar, Nippani, Bidar and Bhalki with Maharashtra. — PTI

‘Tandav’ makers issue apology

AMID STIR, SHIVRAJ DEMANDS BAN ON WEB SERIES

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 18

Amid protests by Hindu bodies against Saif Ali Khan-starrer ‘Tandav’ released by OTT giant Amazon Prime, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday demanded a ban on the web series for hurting religious sentiments of Hindus.

Chouhan met Union information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi to place his demand, saying that the web series sought to denigrate Hindu deities.

Meanwhile, state medical education minister Viswas Sarang wrote a letter to Javadekar demanding to frame laws for censorship of films released on OTT platform to deny misuse of the platform by ‘vested interests’.

Khan and Zeeshan Ayyub.

At the end of a tense day that saw debate escalate around the show, which balances intrigue in Delhi’s corridors of power and touches on current issues such as student unrest and farmer protests, the cast and crew of Tandav, which literally translates to ‘dance of destruction’, issued a statement in a bid to defuse the situation. — PTI



## SHORT TAKES

SAMSUNG CHIEF  
JAILED OVER  
FRAUD CHARGES

Seoul, Jan. 18: Billionaire Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong was sent back to prison on Monday after a South Korean court handed him a two and a half-year sentence for his involvement in a 2016 corruption scandal that spurred massive protests and ousted South Korea's then-president.

In a much-anticipated retrial, the Seoul High Court found Lee guilty of bribing then-President Park Geun-hye and her close confidante to win government support for a 2015 merger between two Samsung affiliates. The deal helped strengthen his control over the country's largest business group. Lee's lawyers had portrayed him as a victim of presidential power abuse and described the 2015 deal as part of "normal business activity."

Wearing a mask and black suit and tie, Lee was taken into custody following the ruling. He didn't answer questions by reporters upon his arrival at the court.

FRENCH MUSLIM  
COUNCIL ACCEPTS  
RULES BY MACRON

Paris, Jan. 18: France's Muslim federations agreed on Sunday on a "charter of principles" requested by President Emmanuel Macron in his bid to eradicate sectarianism and extremism.

Macron urged the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) to devise the charter in November, after the jihadist killing of a schoolteacher who showed cartoons of the Prophet Mohamed to students. The charter rejects "instrumentalising" Islam for political ends and affirms equality between men and women, while denouncing practices such as female circumcisions, forced marriages or "virginity certificates" for brides.

It also explicitly rejects racism and anti-Semitism, and warns that mosques "are not created for the spreading of nationalist speech defending foreign regimes".

"This charter reaffirms the compatibility of the Muslim faith with the principles of the Republic, including secularism, and the commitment of French Muslims to their complete citizenship," CFCM president Mohammed Moussaoui said.

ITALY PM TO  
LAUNCH BID TO  
SAVE GOVT

Rome, Jan. 18: Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte was due to address parliament's lower house on Monday at the start of a make-or-break week in a crisis that could bring down his government.

Against the backdrop of Coronavirus pandemic that sparked fresh restrictions at the weekend, Conte will seek a show of support with lawmakers ahead of a crucial vote in the upper Senate the following day.

His coalition government, in power since September 2019, was plunged into turmoil by the withdrawal last week of former premier Matteo Renzi's Italia Viva party.

Conte was to speak at midday to the Chamber of Deputies, where his coalition partners including the Democratic Party (PD) and Five Star Movement (M5S) have a majority of support.

The real test will come on Tuesday, however, when he addresses the Senate and faces what will effectively be a vote of confidence.

JAPAN SLAMS  
KOREA ON  
BROTHEL RULING

Tokyo, Jan. 18: Toshimitsu Motegi, in a diplomatic policy speech in Parliament, said a recent South Korean court ruling ordering Japan to compensate 12 South Korean women who were sexually abused in Japanese military brothels during the war was "an abnormal development absolutely unthinkable under international law and bilateral relations."

"We strongly urge South Korea to correct the violation of international law as soon as possible" and restore healthy relations, Motegi said.

The Seoul Central District Court ruled on Jan. 8 that the Japanese government must give 100 million won (\$91,360) to each of 12 elderly women who filed lawsuits in 2013 over their wartime suffering as "comfort women."

## Chilly slide



Young men slide on a snow covered street in the Balat District of Istanbul on Monday. Extreme cold and snow have hit large parts of Europe, with freezing temperatures causing causing railroad tracks in Poland to crack and snow blanketing most of the Turkish city of Istanbul.

— AFP

## Navalny decries 'mockery of justice' in airport detention

Moscow, Jan. 18: Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny said on Monday his treatment was beyond a "mockery of justice" as he was brought before a hastily organised court a day after his dramatic airport arrest.

With calls growing in the West for Navalny's release, he was brought into a courtroom set up at a police station in Khimki on the outskirts of Moscow where he was taken following his detention on Sunday night.

Police seized Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most prominent opponent, at a border control post at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport less than an hour after he returned to Russia from Germany for the first time since he was poisoned with a nerve agent in August.

In a video posted by his

team from inside the hearing, an incredulous Navalny said he did not understand how a court session could take place at a police station and why no one had been notified until the last minute. "I've seen a lot of mockery of justice, but the old man in the bunker (Putin) is so afraid that they have blatantly torn up and thrown away" Russia's criminal code, Navalny said.

"This is ultimate lawlessness."

In another video, Navalny called for the hearing to be open to all journalists, after only pro-Kremlin media were allowed to attend.

"I demand that this procedure be as open as possible, so that all media have the opportunity to observe the amazing absurdity of what is happening here," he said.

— AFP

EU chief demands  
Navalny's release

Brussels, Jan. 18: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Monday joined the international chorus of condemnation against Russia's arrest of opposition figure Alexei Navalny and demanded his release.

"I condemn the detention of Alexei Navalny," she said in a statement.

"The Russian authorities must immediately release him and ensure his safety," Von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, also repeated Brussels' call for an independent investigation into an attempt on Navalny's life.

The 44-year-old returned to Russia on Sunday from

Germany, where he received treatment after being poisoned with what experts say was the Novichok nerve agent.

There have been calls for more Western sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin's government following the latest arrest.

But von der Leyen did not address what would be a decision for the EU member states, saying simply: "We will monitor the situation closely."

"We also continue to expect a thorough and independent investigation on the attack on Alexei Navalny's life," she said.

— AFP

Another 3 million in lockdown as  
Covid-19 cases increase in China

Beijing, Jan. 18: Nearly three million people were put under lockdown in China Monday after a surge in coronavirus cases linked to a travelling salesman in the country's northeast.

While China has largely brought the virus under control, a sharp rise in cases in the past few weeks has prompted fresh lockdowns, travel restrictions and multiple rounds of mass testing. Monday saw three million residents of two cities in northeastern Jilin province placed under new measures, as China reported 109 new infections.

More than 19 million people across China's northeast are now barred from leaving their homes.

— AFP

France, UK boost  
vaccine campaign

Paris, Jan. 18: France and Britain on Monday joined a growing list of nations starting mass vaccinations for all elderly citizens as the UK began demanding all arrivals quarantine to try and halt the spread of a new Covid-19 variant.

The French drive aims to cover all people over 75 and comes after Brazil and India, which figure among the worst-affected countries, administered their first jabs over the weekend.

Health Minister Olivier Veran said more than one million vaccinations are being targeted by January and between 2.4 and 4 million by February.

France had earlier offered vaccinations to residents of retirement homes and health workers on the frontline.

Britain on Monday extended its own vaccination campaign to people over the age of 70, after first attending to over-80s, and frontline health workers and care givers.

— AFP

W.H.O DEMANDS  
FAIR ACCESS TO  
COVID VACCINE

Geneva, Jan. 18: The world is on the brink of a "catastrophic moral failure" if rich countries hog Covid-19 vaccine doses while the poorest suffer, the head of the WHO said on Monday.

World Health Organisation director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus denounced the "me-first" attitude of wealthy nations and also blasted vaccine manufacturers for chasing regulatory approval in rich countries rather than submitting their data to the WHO to green-light vaccine use globally.

— AFP

Biden all set for  
busy 1st week

Washington buzzes with increased security

Washington, Jan. 18: President-elect Joe Biden's top advisors on Sunday outlined his plans to tackle the nation's multiple crises while balancing the impeachment trial of Donald Trump, as an historic inauguration week opens in the United States.

Washington was under the watch of thousands of National Guard troops and ringed with security barriers ahead of Biden's swearing in on Wednesday, in a nation still rattled by the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

Pro-Trump protests planned at state capitols nationwide got off to a quiet start with only small groups of armed demonstrators gathering in states including Ohio, Texas, Oregon and Michigan.

"The events of the past few weeks have proven just how damaged the soul of America has been and how important it is to restore it. That work starts on Wednesday," Biden's incoming chief of staff Ron Klain said.

"We're inheriting a huge mess here, but we have a plan to fix it." As the president-elect prepares to take power in a city where only two weeks earlier Trump supporters launched a violent attempt to overturn the election, Biden faces overlapping crises: not only the pandemic but a struggling economy, climate change and racial tensions.

Biden wants the Congress to act quickly on a massive, \$1.9-trillion stimulus package to revive the economy, and he plans a blitz to accelerate America's stumbling Covid vaccine rollout.

His target of seeing 100 million doses of coronavirus vaccine injected within his first 100 days in office is "absolutely" achievable, top US scientist Anthony Fauci said on Sunday.

"The feasibility of his goal is absolutely clear, there's no doubt about it," said Fauci, who will be Biden's chief advisor on the virus, as he was

FBI screens troops  
ahead of function

Washington, Jan. 18: US law enforcement agencies are screening National Guard members to make sure they do not pose a security risk during President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, a four-star general said in comments broadcast on Sunday.

Following the January 6 riots at the Capitol building in support of outgoing President Donald Trump, it emerged that some of those involved had current or former ties to the military.

General Daniel Hokanson, who heads the National Guard Bureau, was asked by CBS News on Sunday if troops were being checked as they

arrived in Washington.

"In coordination with the Secret Service and the FBI, they're screening all the personnel that are coming in," Hokanson said.

Much of Washington resembles a fortified compound in a war zone, with most of the downtown area blocked off, security fences topped by razor wire and about 25,000 National Guard troops deployed to the capital.

In a recent letter to all US troops, the Joint Chiefs of Staff told service members the January 6 riots were "inconsistent with the rule of law" and said troops "must embody the values and ideals of the nation."

— AFP

VP-ELECT HARRIS  
TO RESIGN FROM  
HER SENATE SEAT

Wilmington (Delaware), Jan. 18: Vice president-elect Kamala Harris will resign her Senate seat on Monday, two days before she and president-elect Joe Biden are inaugurated. Aides to the California Democrat confirmed the timing and said Gov. Gavin Newsom was aware of her decision, clearing the way for him to appoint fellow Democrat Alex Padilla, now California's secretary of state, to serve the final two years of Harris' term.

Padilla will be the first Latino senator from California, where about 40 per cent of residents are Hispanic. Newsom announced his choice in December, following intense lobbying for the rare Senate vacancy from the nation's most populous state.

— AP

Fearing Biden, Erdogan  
tries to mend ties with EU

Ankara, Jan. 18: Facing a potentially hostile US administration, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is trying to break his isolation by mending EU relations, torn by what the bloc views as his bellicose foreign policy.

Ties between Ankara and Brussels have plunged to a nadir not seen since Turkey formally opened talks to join the bloc in 2005, a process which is now frozen.

And while Erdogan speaks of turning "a new page", the list of European grievances is long.

Most recently, Brussels began drawing up a list of sanctions over Turkey's hunt for natural gas in the eastern Mediterranean, which triggered a naval

standoff with Greece last year. But older suspicions simmer. Erdogan's direct military interventions in the Syrian and Libyan conflicts raised hackles in Europe, while his vocal backing of Azerbaijan in the six-week Nagorno-Karabakh war upset Armenia's allies across the West.

And he has made the animosity personal by attacking French President Emmanuel Macron's treatment of Muslims, which Europe counters by pointing to Turkey's grim record on human rights.

Some believe this standoff is unsustainable for Erdogan. "Ankara cannot afford an escalation with both the US and Europe, especially with an economy this fragile," a European diplomat said.

— AFP

## DISASTER | RUINS

At least 84 got killed and thousands left homeless after 6.2-magnitude of earthquake

## Indonesian medics exhausted by quake casualties

Mamuju (Indonesia), Jan. 18: Medics battled exhaustion and the risk of Covid-19 as they raced on Monday to treat scores of people injured by a devastating earthquake on Indonesia's Sulawesi island.

At least 84 were killed and thousands left homeless by the 6.2-magnitude quake that struck early on Friday, reducing buildings to a tangled mass of twisted metal and chunks of concrete in the seaside city of Mamuju.

Doctors in hazard suits treated patients with broken limbs and other injuries at a makeshift medical centre set up outside the only one of the city's hospitals that survived relatively intact — one was flattened by the violent tremor.



Rescuers lead a sniffer dog during a search operation at the ruins of a building collapsed in earthquake in Mamuju, in Indonesia on Friday.

— AP

A handful of doctors and nurses worked "non-stop" in the first couple of days after the quake until reinforcements arrived, but it was still barely enough

amid shortages of medicine and other supplies.

"We were completely overwhelmed at one point," said Indahwati Nursyamsi, director of

West Sulawesi General Hospital.

"My nurses were also quake victims and had to help their families." Medics scrambled to quarantine Covid-19 positive patients in a bid to prevent an outbreak at the crowded open-air triage centre.

Some with coronavirus have been put in a prayer room — common in the Muslim majority nation — at the back of the hospital.

The hospital was trying to open up more rooms for surgery and erect additional tents outside to treat the injured.

But fears that another quake could bring down the building added to the challenges as patients, and some staff, refused to stay inside.

— AFP

Trapped Chinese miners  
send SOS after a week

Beijing, Jan. 18: At least 12 gold miners trapped hundreds of metres underground in China for more than a week have sent up a note warning that they are injured, surrounded by water and urgently need medicine.

Twenty-two workers were trapped more than 600 metres from the mine's entrance after a blast eight days ago near Qixia city in eastern Shandong province.

After days without any signs of life, rescuers heard knocking sounds on

Sunday afternoon as they drilled through the mine's shaft.

A note was sent up on a line from the depths below saying that at least a dozen of the miners are still alive, but that they urgently needed help as their health deteriorates.

"We are in urgent need of medicine, painkillers, medical tape, external anti-inflammatory drugs, and three people have high blood pressure," the note read.

The condition of the other ten workers is

unknown. Four people were injured, according to the note, which was crumpled, water-stained and scrawled in pencil on pages ripped out of a notebook.

"We wish the rescuers won't stop so that we can still have hope. Thank you," the note read.

The writer of the note asked rescuers to send down some medication from his car, and warned that there was a large amount of underground water where the miners are trapped.

— AFP



# DECCAN Chronicle

19 JANUARY 2021

## Tejas decision a good one, but much more left to do

In a historic decision, the Cabinet Committee on Security on January 13 approved the country's largest-ever indigenous defence deal when it cleared the procurement of 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk 1-A — ten of which are to be trainers — for the Indian armed forces from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd at an approximate cost of ₹47,000 crore, closing the circle that began with the commissioning of the LCA project in the 1980s.

The first rollout is expected in 2023-24, and then on 16 aircraft are to be manufactured every year on present reckoning. To start with, the indigenous content is to be 50 per cent, to be stepped up to 60 per cent within a short time-frame. HAL would be outsourcing the job to more than 550 domestic vendors.

This gives us an idea of the technological and economic spinoffs of the LCA programme for the Indian economy as a whole, going beyond the military aspect of acquiring a fighter jet at home which is billed as the workhorse of the future for the Indian Air Force, filling the gap left by the hoary MiG-21s of Soviet manufacture, which have been phased out.

**The good news is that the LCA Mk-2 version with a bigger engine is in its design stage and is expected to be ready for trials next year.**

If high-level efficiency is ensured in the production of the Tejas Mk 1-A by HAL, the country will make valuable savings of foreign exchange spent on importing costly fighter jets from Western sources. What's more, in time, the Tejas will be ready for export too. Some countries are said to have evinced an interest. The realisation of sale will, of course, depend on a host of political, strategic and economic considerations, and the prospect of readying the fighter for export will potentially add to India's strategic muscle and offer a certain latitude in dealing with the world.

The Tejas Mk1-A — a fourth-generation fighter — is a single-engine, lightweight, highly agile, all-weather, multi-role fighter aircraft capable of air-to-air refuelling. It has Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile capability, and updated avionics and flight control software. The good news is that the LCA Mk-2 version with a bigger engine is in its design stage and is expected to be ready for trials next year. As of 2019, the IAF is committed to procuring 324 Tejas Mk1-A fighters of different variants. That signifies the workhorse role visualised for this sophisticated fighter.

The domestic manufacture of the Tejas Mk 1-A is a signpost of enormous value, although it has been more than three decades in the making, starting from the conception stage when the Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) was set up in 1984. The ADA designed Tejas in collaboration with Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC) of HAL.

To find true liberation from imports in the strategic sphere of fighter aircraft manufacture, it is now crucial to look at the propulsion aspect for upgrade. India's LCA is fitted with the GEF-404 engine. In the wake of the 1998 nuclear test, the United States had held up the supply of these engines. It is therefore important to return special focus to the development of the indigenous Kaveri engine, which has been in the works for decades. To achieve cent per cent indigenous content, radars and avionics will also need to be manufactured domestically. Only a country that can grow its own food and has the ability to defend itself can ultimately avoid being at anyone's beck and call.

## WhatsApp: A lot to explain

The Mark Zuckerberg-acquired WhatsApp is throwing up as many headaches as its parent Facebook these days because netizens are getting smarter about their data privacy. In an temperate push to monetise data out of WhatsApp, the popular messaging platform, Facebook got into a tangle that saw millions of individual users and groups sign off and download apps like Signal and Telegram that are less intrusive of personal territory like online data. It may have come as a shock to most Internet users that an app promising end-to-end encryption, and which routinely declines law enforcement enquiries with the excuse that it has no access to user chats, should talk of sharing user data with Facebook.

It is largely true that netizens sign off much of their rights over prized personal information when they sign on to social media platforms and the like. Big Tech has never been averse to building up their businesses and making money out of a large number of users running into millions. The leaks of personal data from breaches by hackers or emanating from sheer carelessness of the machinery that is supposed to ensure security of data have not stopped people from their modern-day existence in an inter-connected world. The advantage is very much with those who keep data as citizens seem to have no rights in the absence of a regulatory framework to govern the Internet.

A parliamentary committee has summoned Facebook and Twitter officials to question them on the misuse of social media and online news platforms, but it is a long-drawn process that might not lead to foolproof measures to safeguard citizens' rights. Big Tech may have done signal service to the world in cutting off the communication of hate propaganda by maverick users like Donald Trump, but it must do a lot more to earn people's trust that it will not recklessly monetise their online presence by compromising their privacy. No algorithm has been invented yet that exposes the cavalier ways of the giants of the new economy. It is up to Internet users to be most discerning in signing on.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

K. SUBHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

**Vizakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Vizakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

**Rajahmundry:** Venugiri, Dhwaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

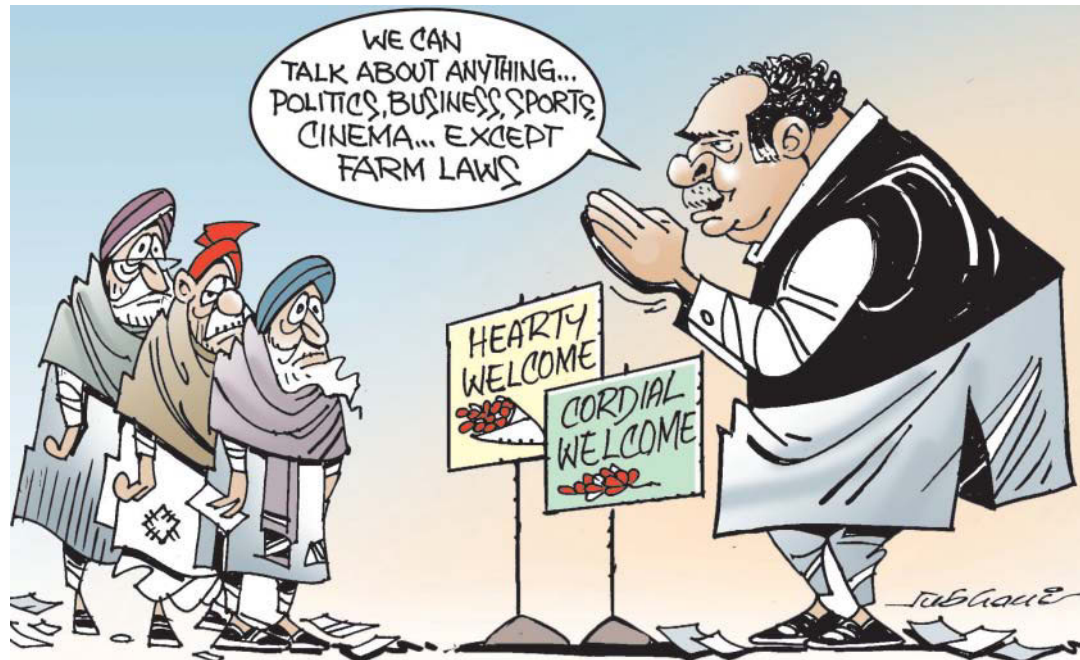
**Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burrampur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



## Thoughts on democracy as Trump exits, finally...



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray  
Reflections

Not long before Donald Trump became the first-ever American President to be impeached for a second time — this time with a real possibility of conviction — his daughter Ivanka chose to remind the world of the close ties between her father and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The opening and closure in record time of a study centre in Gwalior that exalted Nathuram Godse, the killer of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, also occurred almost simultaneously.

It is the legal action against Mr Trump by America's senators and congressmen that grips the world's attention. The impeachment proceedings threaten to overwhelm President-elect Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan to end "a crisis of deep human suffering" by speeding up the supply of coronavirus vaccines and financially helping Americans who are still struggling with the economic disaster caused by the grim pandemic. It even distracts notice from the contradictions, if not crisis, of democracy that Mr Trump's rantings and ravings have unwittingly highlighted. For it should never be forgotten that 74 million Americans voted for the man who now seems bent on destroying the edifice on which he stood.

While he is believed to have broken many constitutional norms during his four years in the White House — including trying desperately hard to thwart the peaceful transition of power to his legitimately elected successor — millions of Americans had endorsed his excesses. The January 6 rioters who stormed the US Capitol

building in Washington chanting "Hang Mike Pence" and "Where's Nancy?" clearly saw both the Republican vice-president and the Speaker of the House — the first and second in the line of presidential succession — as national enemies.

There is footage available of the rioters beating a police officer with a flagpole as the crowd chanted "USA" and crushing another officer repeatedly in a door. The violence resulted in five deaths; more might have perished if the police hadn't distracted the mob from breaching the debating chambers long enough to whisk every legislator away to safety. The outrage to civilised governance was infinitely worse. Some Republicans, after encouraging or standing by mute as the President attacked the democratic process for months, have shaken consciences. Ten of them joined all 222 Democrats in the House vote accusing Mr Trump of "incitement of insurrection" that was passed on January 13, a week after the attack.

Even those who concede that Mr Biden obtained more votes can ask if that invalidates the views of 74 million Americans.

A similar question arose in 2000 when George W. Bush defeated Al Gore by winning 271 electoral votes, one more than a majority, despite Mr Gore receiving 543,895 more votes nationally. Many Americans did not regard it as a satisfactory outcome, but they accepted it without protest.

The flaw goes back to 507 BC when the Athenian Cleisthenes introduced demokratia, or "rule by the people", from demos, "the people," and kratos, or "power". Setting aside

the claims of Vaishali, Athens was the first democracy for the Western world. But it was a far cry from the universal adult suffrage which we identify with democracy today, and which can be indistinguishable from mob rule. In the middle of the 4th century, for instance, Athens boasted about 100,000 citizens (sons and daughters of citizens), some 10,000 metoikoi, or "resident foreigners", and 150,000 slaves. Only male citizens above 18 were a part of the demos, meaning only about 40,000 people could participate in the democratic process.

Around 460 BC, under the rule of the general Pericles (generals were among the only public officials who were elected, not appointed), Athenian democracy began to evolve into an autocracy (Herodotus' "the one man, the best") which eventually led to Mao Zedong's concept of "people's democratic dictatorship". The premise was that the party and the State represented the people and acted on their behalf to preserve the "dictatorship of the proletariat", and save the government from collapsing into a "dictatorship of the bourgeoisie", or liberal democracy. Mao famously used the term on June 30, 1949, commemorating the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

However, not all democracies are killed by Army coups or declarations of emergency. Many are destroyed from within. The urge to perpetuate a particular group's stranglehold on power or the plea that a mere head count does not adequately reflect the mood and temper of the people explains opportunistic

**However, not all democracies are killed by Army coups or declarations of emergency. Many are destroyed from within.**

devices like Gen. Ayub Khan's "basic democracy" (Pakistan), King Mahendra's "panchayati democracy" (Nepal) or "guided democracy" (Indonesia). Mr Trump's "America First" slogan is strongly echoed in the implicit argument that India's majority feels disenfranchised unless it enjoys special privileges. Hence the Hindu Mahasabha's attempt to propagate the "true nationalism which Godse stood for" through an eponymous library.

Three years ago, the Mahasabha installed a statue of Godse and was about to organise prayer meetings there, but the statue was removed. This second try has to be seen in the context of the constitutional dismemberment and demotion of Jammu and Kashmir, motivated tinkering with academic curriculums, triumphalism over the new Ram temple in Ayodhya, Hindutva trolls, opposition to interfaith marriages and attacks on Muslims in the name of cow protection. WhatsApp and Twitter are said to be the main instruments for hounding the community.

In view of such similar populist moves, it was not surprising that 39-year-old Ivanka Trump, a senior adviser to her father, should choose this moment to recall her 2017 visit when she led a high-powered delegation to the Global Entrepreneur Summit in Hyderabad. "As the world continues to battle Covid-19, our countries' strong friendship in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity is more important than ever," she tweeted, paying particular tribute to Mr Modi by name.

Given the association with a man who is widely accused of desperate attempts to subvert democracy, it's a compliment the Prime Minister of an India that is still proud of being the world's largest democracy could have done without.

*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*

### LETTERS

#### ARROGANT ROHIT

Instead of expressing regret for his irresponsible batting, Rohit Sharma had the temerity to state that playing in that manner was his role in the team (*Rohit's dismissal underlines lack of judicious shot selection, DC, Jan. 18*). The BCCI needs to take such shocking remarks seriously and pull him up. The money he earns by playing for India does not merit such irresponsible shots. The junior players had to bat with great care to pull the team out of the mess. The BCCI better drop him from the series against England.

C.B.V. Reddy  
Medchal

#### MILLSTONE

Once the US troops leave Afghanistan, the Taliban will surely take the country back to the stone age (*Afghan: Get US to stay on, DC, Jan. 18*). Indian assets and investments are already targeted by Haqqani with aid from ISI, Pakistan. Not only in self interest, but also in the global interest, the US is duty bound to protect the country. Otherwise, to prevent Afghanistan from being a global terrorist hub, it is better for UN to depute a peace keeping force.

P.H. Hema Sagar  
Secunderabad

#### ROUTINE CAMPAIGN

BJP is adopting its 'routine' campaign. It habitually brands opponents as corrupt and anti-national. (*Expose KCR failures, graft: BJP to cadres, DC, Jan. 18*). Having all investigating agencies under it, they fail to be specific on corruption charges against opponents.

B. Raghunadha Rao  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### PM to begin election campaign in State

HYDERABAD, January. 18

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will inaugurate tomorrow the election campaign of the Ruling Congress in Andhra Pradesh at Rajahmundry in the rice-rich district of East Godavari.

Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy left by air this morning for Vijawada en route to Rajahmundry to receive her.

Aakar Patel



## Nehru a model of modernity... Why his vision & legacy endures

I was being interviewed for my book and was asked a question unrelated to it — Why does Hindutva hate Jawaharlal Nehru so much? It is an interesting question and has two parts to the answer. To know it, we must first understand what Nehru was and what he wanted.

Before Independence, Nehru wrote a series of works through which he aligned himself to India as a civilisational entity of the sort that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh also approves of. He traces the modern nation to its origins in the Indus Valley Civilisation (discovered only a few years before he wrote *Glimpses of World History* and only 15 or so years before he wrote *The Discovery of India*) to the periods of the first and second millennia after Jesus Christ.

But having acknowledged that India was ancient, Nehru sought also to align it to the modern world and the era he was a part of and the future that he saw for all mankind. To that end he used the State as an instrument to modernise the country. Nehru based his strategy on two things — heavy industry and higher

education. India had limited resources but these two would get priority.

You could argue about whether the strategy was good, bad or indifferent, but it would be difficult to say that he did not execute what he sought out to do. Having determined that he was going to modernise this civilisational entity he set about doing it because Nehru was not only a man of vision (you could argue with him about whether your vision was better) but also a man of action.

He began building institutions, including some which are today called "navratnas", but were then nothing and needed to be built. Some such examples are Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (1964), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (1956), Steel Authority of India (1954), Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (1964), Indian Oil Corporation (1959), Isro (formerly INCOSPAR) 1962, Department of Atomic Energy (1954), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (1954). And then Nehru set up the Indian Institutes of Technology (1951), the Indian Institutes of Management (1961), the National Institute of Design (1961), and the

Sahitya Akademi (1954).

The list goes on and on. Why were all these set up? They were set up because they were the means through which Nehru determined India would be modernised. He inherited a pre-modern economy, where the vast majority of production lay in agriculture and that agriculture was being largely managed by farmers whose means of farming had changed very little for over a thousand years.

Nehru did not inherit a trillion-dollar economy. He had to figure out how to get India there.

The problem is that nobody in the world of Hindutva has any vision — good, bad or indifferent — when compared to Nehru, and that includes our Prime Minister. He can offer us statements like "\$5 trillion economy" but he does not say, because he does not himself know, what needs to be done to get us there. More important, he does not know what the State needs to do differently to get there. You can only build institutions if you can think of what to do with them. The reason that Narendra Modi has not built institutions while Jawaharlal Nehru was

so prolific is because Mr Modi does not have even Nehru's starting point.

Nehru had said: Heavy industry and higher education! What does Narendra Modi say? If the answer to that is difficult for you to come up with, it is because there is no answer. This is the first reason that the BJP and Hindutva adherents hates Nehru: Jealousy.

The second reason is that Nehru was not a fraud nationalist. He was a real one. He did not only name China, he fought against it. Nehru lost because Nehru fought. And he fought because he could not bear the thought of surrendering any land of his precious India.

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar said at the Ramnath Goenka Lecture on November 14, 2019 that Nehru should have accepted Zhou Enlai's offer on the border dispute during Zhou's 1960 visit to India. What was that offer? That India should accept the Karakoram range as the Sino-Indian boundary. This is where the Line of Actual Control exists today. But this was not acceptable to Nehru. He wanted the border much further into Tibet.

And he was willing to fight for it. He may have lost, yes, but he did not give up India's claim.

This is unlike Mr Modi, who has not only given up the claim, but is also unwilling even to name the opponent for fear of what China might do. This is the second reason that the BJP and Hindutva hate Nehru. He was a nationalist who exposed thoroughly their own fraudulent nationalist credentials.

The name Nehru is used far too loosely in today's times without much understanding of what he really stood for because we have not explained his thinking in simplified terms.

He is not only much superior to whatever came after him, particularly as we see now in a period of economic collapse and national security failures, but he is a model for modernity. He died more than 55 years ago but is still spoken about and his legacy is all around us today. Of how many Prime Ministers, and that includes this current one, will we be able to say that?

*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	48,564.27	-0.96
Nifty 50	14,281.30	-1.06
S&P 500*	3,768.25	-0.72
Dollar (₹)	73.28	-0.31
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.18	0.49
Euro (₹)	88.47	0.27
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,332▲117	0.24
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	54.87	-0.42
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.957	-0.52
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.087	-0.92

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

Maruti Suzuki increases prices of most vehicles

Maruti Suzuki India said it has increased the price for select models by up to Rs 34,000 to offset adverse impact of rising input costs. The new prices are effective from January 18. While the company did not specify the models, according to dealer sources the price hike impacts most of its models, but select variants of certain models have been left untouched in price hike. Last month, Maruti said it would hike prices from January.

Cure.fit acquires US-based digital fitness firm Onyx



Health-tech startup Cure.fit said it has acquired California-based fitness company Onyx. The company, however, did not disclose the value of the deal. Cure.fit's acquisition of Onyx is a step towards improving its computer vision technology for its at-home fitness product and expanding its international business, a statement said. Onyx specialises in body tracking technology and personalisation of workout feedback.

Skootr leases over 3.25-L sq ft space in H'bad

Managed office space operator Skootr has inked the largest office space leasing in this segment in Hyderabad for catering to large multinational clients wanting customised office space. Rajat Johar, country head, Skootr said, "With the Covid-19 outbreak, employees' priorities have changed to health, safety and hygiene. This has led to occupiers shifting their base from Grade B assets to Grade A office space." He added that Skootr provides 'space as a service.'

IRFC IPO: Retail portion oversubscribed

The initial public offering of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) was subscribed 65 per cent on the first day of subscription on Monday. The offer received bids for 80,89,30,700 shares against 1,24,75,05,993 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE. The category reserved for non-institutional investors was subscribed 9 per cent and retail individual investors, 1.25 times.



■ Import of appliances, furniture, EV parts to get costlier Budget may raise duties by 5-10% to aid local mfg

AFTAB AHMED & MANOJ KUMAR  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

The government is considering hiking import duties by 5-10 per cent on more than 50 items, including smartphones, electronic components and appliances in the upcoming budget, three government sources privy to the discussions told Reuters on Monday. The move to increase import duties is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-reliant India campaign that aims to promote and support domestic manufacturing, said the sources, who asked not to be named as the discussions are not public. One of the sources said

FOCUS ON SELF-RELIANCE

Customs duty hikes part of revenue raising and Atmanirbhar Bharat plan

Govt seeking additional revenue of about ₹120,000 crore-₹21,000 crore from duties

Duty hikes could hurt Swedish furniture maker Ikea and electric vehicle maker Tesla

the government was seeking to target additional revenue of about Rs 20,000 crore-21,000 crore from the moves, as it looks to shore up revenue amidst the pandemic-driven slowdown. Two of the government sources also said the duty hikes could impact furniture and electric vehicles, potentially hurting the likes of Swedish furniture maker Ikea and Tesla,

which is planning to launch its cars in India this year. Both Ikea and Tesla executives have previously expressed concerns about the steep duty structure their products already face in India. The list of items likely to attract steeper duties is set to include appliances such as refrigerators and air-conditioners too, three of the sources said.

The sources said the proposals may still be tweaked further before they are finalised. India has in recent years taken a series of measures that industry executives say discriminate against foreign companies. Government officials say such taxes are essential to promote India as a destination for local manufacturing and to support domestic businesses. "This is part of revenue raising and Atmanirbhar Bharat plan," said one of the government sources. Last year, India raised import taxes on a wide range of products such as footwear, furniture, toys, electrical and electronics items by up to 20 per cent. —Reuters

Beware of tricky January, budget moves of mkt

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, JAN. 18

Sensex and Nifty-50 fell close to 1 per cent for the second session in a row on profit taking amid negative global cues, though foreign portfolio investors were still buying shares. The Sensex closed 470 points down at 48,564 while the Nifty-50 closed 152.40 points lower at 14,281.30. The broader market fall was even sharper with the BSE Mid-cap Index down 2.01



per cent and BSE Small-cap Index, 1.89 per cent. "The news of fresh Covid cases in China has spooked the markets across the globe, including India, as participants are worried about global economic recovery," said

Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking. It's time to remain cautious as the January-February period has seen big market falls in the past—the biggest fall after a sharp rise took place on January 21, 2008—and later between 2015 and 2018 the market saw sharp falls post-Union Budget. With little headroom for the government to present a popular budget, profit taking before budget day cannot be ruled out.

"Unusual strength in the dollar index and sustained run up in the commodities have battered the sentiment of the equity market. It has triggered selling in commodities and the Nifty Metal Index closed 4.57 per cent lower," said Shrikant Chouhan, analyst-equity research, Kotak Securities. Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 650.60 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers by Rs 42.51 crore.

RBI forex intervention to touch \$93 bn by Mar.

Mumbai, Jan. 18: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to spend at least \$20 billion more to support the rupee and increase the forex kitty through the remainder of the financial year, taking its overall forex intervention to \$93 billion, according to a report. The report by the Wall Street brokerage Bank of America Securities also expects the central bank to raise banks' HTM (held-to-maturity) limits of excess government securities by 2 per cent of their books to fund the fiscal deficit if high forex intervention limits its open market operations (OMOs). So far this fiscal, the RBI's forex intervention has touched \$73.7 billion, according to the assessment by brokerage's India economists Indranil Sen Gupta and Aastha Gudwani. They also feel the RBI to intervene with \$45 billion in 2021-22 if the current account deficit (CAD) stays 0.5 per cent of the GDP. After eight years, the RBI under the current governor Shaktikanta Das has been building up the forex reserves, which as of

January 15 stood at \$586.1 billion, a lifetime high. While delivering the Nani Palkhivala lecture last Saturday, Das repeated his resolve to not let the 2008 or 2013 run on the rupee to be repeated again. "Our BoP (balance of payment) forecasts place RBI forex intervention at \$93 billion (\$73.7 billion so far) in 2020-21 and \$45 billion in 2021-22 if the the CAD remains at 0.5 per cent of GDP, which is dependent on the crude oil averaging at \$50 a barrel," the report said. It said since high forex intervention is limiting OMOs, the RBI is expected to raise banks' HTM limits by 2 per cent of their books to fund the fiscal deficit. The report further said it is sure the RBI will continue to buy forex when the dollar is weakening and let the rupee depreciate when it strengthens. On Saturday, Das had said, "To mitigate global spillovers, EMs (emerging markets) like India have no recourse but to build their own forex reserve buffers, even though at the cost of being included in the currency manipulators list." —PTI

Total to buy 20% in Adani Green for \$2.5 bn

BAIJU KALESH, MANUEL BAIGORRI, FRANCOIS DE BEAUPUY & P. R. SANJAI  
JAN. 18

Total SE has agreed to a \$2.5-billion deal that includes a minority stake in India's renewables major Adani Green Energy Ltd, as it expands its efforts to diversify beyond oil. Paris-based Total will acquire 20 per cent of Adani Green, take a board



seat and add a 50 per cent stake in a portfolio of operating solar assets with capacity to transmit 2.35 gigawatts of power to consumers, the company said on Monday in a statement.

The deal is the third in a week for Total in the renewable area, following the acquisition of a French biogas producer and of a stake in a large US solar portfolio. The French oil and gas giant and its European peers are increasingly investing in clean power and renewable fuels amid mounting pressure from investors, governments and consumers to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. —Bloomberg

WhatsApp rival Hike goes off the air in India

SARITHA RAI  
JAN. 18

Hike, the messaging app backed by SoftBank Group Corp. that aimed to compete against WhatsApp in the world's second-most populous country, shut down and vanished from app stores on Monday. The startup valued at \$1.4 billion in a 2016 funding round announced its app was going off the air earlier this month without explanation. The app started by billionaire-family scion Kavin Bharti Mittal has failed over several



years to displace Facebook Inc's rival app as India's go-to venue for social media and mobile communications. The country remains WhatsApp's largest market globally. Hike, backed also by

Chinese WeChat-operator Tencent Holdings Ltd, has in recent years ventured into adjacent areas such as no-frills phones and expanded even into spheres such as mobile entertainment. On January 6, Mittal—son of Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman of Bharti Airtel Ltd—announced the closure of Hike StickerChat. Its demise coincides with a growing global backlash among technology experts, privacy advocates, billionaire entrepreneurs and government organisations against WhatsApp's new

policy of reserving the right to share user data with the broader Facebook network. Over the past year or more, Mittal has steadily diversified Hike into social and virtual-mobile products. His company will continue to develop its Vibe social media app and work on a new gaming product called Rush, he wrote on Twitter. "India won't have its own messenger," Mittal wrote. "Global network effects are too strong (unless India bans Western companies.)" —Bloomberg

LEXUS DRIVES IN SEDAN LS 500H NISHIJIN AT ₹2.22 CR



MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, JAN. 18

Japanese luxury car maker Lexus, the arm of Toyota, on Monday introduced a new variant of its flagship sedan LS, called the Lexus LS 500H Nishijin priced at Rs 2.22 crore at New Delhi showroom while the entry level variant the LS 500h costs Rs 31 lakh less at Rs 1.91 crore. The brand has given the LS 500h a few crucial updates across the range. Although priced higher, it rivals the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, Audi A8L, and the BMW 7 Series. The new LS 500h Nishijin variant has interiors crafted with an expression of style and comfort, featuring a unique collaboration involving traditional Japanese crafts. It is inspired by the path of the moonlight on the sea, a rare phenomenon witnessed for a few days before and after a full moon. Lexus India president P. B. Venugopal said the new Nishijin variant and improvements to the flagship model have been introduced following positive response of the LS 500h in India. "These upgrades keep in line with the sophistication and craftsmanship of the Lexus LS 500h flagship luxury model," he pointed out. These will deliver optimum performance with cutting-edge technologies, while keeping in mind the environmental benefits and the comfort, Venugopal said. There is no change to the engine. It continues to pair a 3.5-litre petrol engine with an electric motor, generating an output of 358PS.



## SHORT TAKES

## Chandrasekhar suffers stroke

**Bengaluru:** Former India cricketer B.S. Chandrasekhar has been hospitalised after suffering a stroke but is recovering well and is set to be discharged in the next couple of days, his family said on Monday. The 75-year old legendary former leg-spinner complained of “tiredness and fatigue” on Friday evening and his speech became a “little bit cluttered”, his wife Sandhya Chandrasekhar Bhagwath said, describing the health scare as a “very, very minuetest stroke”. “Chandra is recovering very well, and he will be back home on Wednesday or Thursday,” she said. On advice of doctors, the Mysuru-born Chandrasekhar was admitted to the Aster RV Hospital, where he was kept in the emergency care unit for observation. — PTI

## Eng win opening Test in Lanka

**Galle, Sri Lanka:** Jonny Bairstow and Dan Lawrence held their nerve in a 62-run unbroken stand to guide England to a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday on the fifth and final morning of the series-opening Test. England ensured they didn't have any more hiccups in erasing the remaining 36 required on the last day after Sri Lanka had set up a tricky 74-run target on a turning wicket. England had slumped to 14/3 late on the fourth evening, included a crucial run-out of their captain Joe Root for just 1, before Bairstow and Lawrence combined to usher the tourists to 76/3. Bairstow remained unbeaten on 35 and Lawrence finished 21 not out. — AP  
**Brief scores: Sri Lanka 135 & 359 vs England 421 & 76/3** (Bairstow 35 not out)

## Dungdung stars in hockey girls win

**Santiago, Chile:** Striker Beauty Dungdung scored a hat-trick as the Indian junior women's hockey team thrashed their Chilean counterparts 5-3 in a high-scoring match to make a successful return to competition following a year-long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The striker from Jharkhand scored in the 29th, 38th and 52nd minutes, while Lalrindiki (14th) and Sangita Kumari (30th) also registered their names on the scoresheet for India. Chile's goals were scored by Simone Avelli (10th), Paula Sanz (25th) and Fernanda Arrieta (49th). The match started with the Chile junior team retaining most of the possession, and scoring in the 10th minute as Avelli was on the end of a perfect pass to score the hosts' opening goal. — PTI

## 72 players in Oz Open quarantine

**Melbourne:** The number of players in hard quarantine swelled to 72 ahead of the Australian Open after a fifth positive coronavirus test was returned from the charter flights bringing players, coaches, officials and media to Melbourne for the season-opening tennis major. That means they won't be allowed to leave their hotel rooms or practice for 14 days, creating a two-speed preparation period for the tournament. Other players in less rigorous quarantine will be allowed to practice for five hours daily. Australian Open organizers confirmed late Sunday that the latest case involved a passenger on the flight from Doha, Qatar to Melbourne who was not a member of the playing contingent. But all 58 passengers, including the 25 players, now cannot leave their hotel rooms for 14 days. — AP

## Live on TV

## BADMINTON

**Thailand Open:** Round of 32 matches from 7:30 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

## CRICKET

**Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 Tournament:** Haryana vs Kerala from 11:55 am; Mumbai vs Andhra Pradesh from 6:55 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Printed and Published from Karimnagar by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhukkur Road, Mugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 Telangana State Regd. No. HSP-272K RNI Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121181123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter

## NEWBIES STING

Siraj's five-for and Shardul's 4/61 keep India in contention

**Brisbane, Jan. 18:** Indian pacers Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur produced another inspirational effort in adverse circumstances but India were set a a challenging target of 328 by Australia as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy headed towards an exhilarating finale in the fourth Test here.

The target is a tricky one and the Indian batsmen would get a fair idea whether to go for it by lunch on the final day, which is Tuesday. This was after Siraj and Thakur combined to share nine wickets while dismissing Australia for 294 in their second innings.

Siraj (19.5-5-73-5) punched way above his weight with his maiden five-wicket haul but couldn't prevent hosts from posting an imposing target for his team in only 75.5 overs of the second innings batting.

At stumps, India were 4 for no loss with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill at the crease.

The highest target chased at Brisbane is 236 and that was seven decades ago which is an indicator why this Australian ground can be equated with Fort Knox. The home team hasn't lost a game here since 1988.

Thakur's dream Test match also got better with figures of 4/61 and a match haul of seven wickets. The most poignant moment was his apparent joy when he took the catch to help Siraj pip him to the coveted five-for landmark.

As Siraj showed that scuffed red kookaburra acknowledging the 957 people in the stands on the first working day of the week, the most generous applause came from his partner in crime, who walked a foot behind him clapping with gusto.

The possibility of rain adds to the excitement and the changing weather did affect the contours of Australia skipper Tim Paine's facial expressions which exhibited relief and despair in equal measures. Among the two captains, Paine is supposed to be the enforcer but this Indian team hasn't stopped surprising their detractors with a spirit, which has made this series one of the finest played in recent times. — PTI



Paceman Mohammed Siraj (right) points to the sky to pay tribute to his father who passed away in India while the bowler was on national duty in Australia, as he celebrates his fifth wicket with teammate Mayank Agarwal on the fourth day of the fourth Test against Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane on Monday. — AFP

## Mum's call did wonders for Siraj

**Brisbane, Jan. 18:** Mohammed Siraj revealed how a phone call with his mother and the memory of his late father spurred him on to a five-wicket haul in the final Test against Australia on Monday.

Siraj, playing only his third Test, ably deputised for the injured Jasprit Bumrah in Brisbane, where India need a draw to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with the series locked at 1-1.

It has been an emotional series for the 26-year-old, who lost his father in November and welled up with tears during the national anthems in Sydney.

"I am very thankful that I got five wickets. It was a very tough situation for me because I lost my dad recently," said Siraj.

"I called up home and I felt strong after talking to them and to my mother. She motivated me to feel strong. So I was mentally strong and my focus was to make sure my dad's dream comes true."

## SIRAJ'S MAIDEN 5-WICKET HAUL IN TESTS

- Mohammed Siraj recorded the best bowling in Tests by taking 5/73 against Australian in the fourth Test.
- The right-arm medium pacer from Hyderabad also became the 18th Indian to take five wickets in an innings in Australia.
- Kapil Dev holds the Indian record of taking the highest number of five-wicket hauls in Australia. He claimed five five-wicket hauls in 21 innings of 11 Test Down under.
- Siraj's previous best bowling was 3/37 on debut in the second Test of the series at Melbourne.
- Shardul Thakur also recorded his best bowling after taking 4/61 on Monday. His previous best was 3/94 in the first innings of the fourth Test.

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

Siraj's father, an auto rickshaw driver from Hyderabad, died on November 20 as India prepared for the start of their tour.

## 'CRACKS ON GABBA CAN BE CONFUSING'

An emotional Siraj struggled to describe his maiden five-wicket haul in words but sounded a word of caution about the cracks on the Gabba surface creating confusion in the Indian batsmen's minds on the final day.

He believed that there are a few spots on the surface, from where the ball might rear up awkwardly when his team sets out to chase a record target of 328 on Tuesday to win the series against Australia.

"When they bowl, obviously there will be some confusion, it will play in the mind of the batsmen that there are cracks on the pitch but our batsmen are prepared for this. We will come to know only tomorrow," Siraj said. — Agencies

## DRAWN TEST SERIES WILL BE WORSE FOR HOSTS: PONTING

**Brisbane, Jan. 18:** Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting feels a drawn Test series against a severely depleted India will be a worse result for the hosts than the loss they suffered at home in the Border Gavaskar Trophy two years ago.

The injury-ravaged Indian team has shown great resilience and grit throughout the current tour of Australia. In the ongoing fourth and final Test, the tourists are without their premier fast bowlers, skipper Virat Kohli and a few specialist batsmen.

"I think a drawn series will be worse than the loss a couple of years ago," Ponting told *cricket.com.au*.

"That's the way I look at it, considering how hard India have found it going through 20 players in a series, (Australia) having (David) Warner back for the last couple of games, (Steve) Smith back for all them that they didn't have last time around."

"A draw would not only feel like a loss to them but be a worse result than last series," he added.

The 46-year-old batting great backed Australia to eke out a win, saying the Indian resilience is bound to crack. — PTI

## SYED MUSHTAQ | ALI TROPHY

## Jharkhand defeat Hyd in super over

**Kolkata, Jan. 18:** Jharkhand saw off the challenge of Hyderabad via a super over in an Elite Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Monday.

Jharkhand restricted Hyderabad to 139/8 in 20 overs, with Vikash Singh and Vivekanand Tiwary picking up three wickets each.

B. Sandeep (37) was the top-scorer while Himalay Agarwal and Buddhi Rahul contributed 26 each as Hyderabad posted a modest score.

In reply, Jharkhand started in earnest with skipper Ishan Kishan (27) and Utkarsh Singh (29) going on the attack. The dismissal of Kishan by T Ravi Teja did not seem to deter Utkarsh and Virat Singh, who went for their shots.

In the super over, Kishan smacked two sixes off C. Rakshann Reddy while Roy hoisted one over the boundary as Jharkhand ended up with 23 runs. Hyderabad could only muster 14 for one.

Jharkhand are in third place with 12 points after completing their engagements in the group while Hyderabad are fifth with 4 points. Odisha beat Assam by four wickets to finish at the bottom with one win.

Tamil Nadu, who have so far won all their four games, meet hosts Bengal (three wins from four games) in the final Group B match.

## BARODA GO INTO KNOCKOUTS UNBEATEN

Unbeaten Baroda qualified for the knockout stage as they finished on top in Group C following a 12-run win over Gujarat in Vadodra on Monday.

Baroda had come into the final Elite Group C match, after winning their first four games.

Baroda rode on an unbeaten 59 by Vishnu Solanki and a whirlwind 17-ball 34 by Abhimanyusingh Rajput to post a competitive 176/4 and then restricted Gujarat to 164/9 to eke out a win.

In Alur, Mandeep Singh led from the front with an unbeaten 99 to help Punjab trounce Tripura by five wickets and storm into the quarterfinals as table-toppers from Group A.

Defending champions Karnataka also remained in the hunt for the last-eight berth, securing a five-wicket win over Uttar Pradesh that took their net run-rate to 0.292.

## BRIEF SCORES

■ Hyderabad 139/9 in 20 overs (B. Sandeep 37, Himalay Agarwal 26, Rahul Buddhi 26, Vivekanand Tiwari 3/25, Vikash Singh 3/36) tied Jharkhand 139/9 in 20 overs (Utkarsh Singh 29, Anukul Roy 28, Ishan Kishan 27, Ajay Dev Goud 4/22). **Super over:** Jharkhand 23/0 beat Hyderabad 14/1.

■ Uttar Pradesh 132/8 in 20 overs (Abhishek Goswami 47, Karan Sharma 41, J. Suchith 3/21, Praveen Dube 3/15) lost to Karnataka 136/5 in 19.5 overs (Shreyas Gopal 47 n.o., Sharma 2/23) by five wickets.



## Sindhu &amp; Co. eye improved results

**Bangkok, Jan. 18:** Indian shuttlers, including Olympic hopefuls P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, will hope to give a better account of themselves at Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament, starting here on Tuesday, after a lacklustre show last week.

The Indian players seemed to struggle with their fitness as none of them could cross the second round at the Yonex Thailand Open, the first event of the Asia leg here.

Barring Kidambi Srikanth, it was the first tournament for the whole Indian contingent in nearly 10 months.

If Olympic silver medalist Sindhu struggled to keep pace with her first-round opponent Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt, London Games bronze winner Saina simply ran out of steam in the second round.

Among others, world No. 13 B. Sai Praneeth looked a mismatch against Thailand's Kantaphon

Wangcharoen, while former world No. 1 Srikanth and 2014 Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap were either forced to withdraw or retire after suffering calf muscle pulls.

Sindhu, a medal contender at Tokyo Games, has been training at London for last two months and she will be itching to go deep in the draw when she opens against world no 12 Busanan O., who had outlasted Saina last week.

Saina, who recently recovered from Covid-19 and had to go through the ordeal of a false positive test last week, will however have an imposing task as she faces fourth seed and home favourite Ratchanok Intanon in the first round.

In the men's singles, Praneeth will need to find his rhythm when he takes on Daren Liew of Malaysia, while Srikanth, faces Thailand's Sittthikom Thammasin, an opponent he has beaten twice in the past. — PTI

## JAPAN'S PM VOWS OLYMPICS WILL BE PROOF OF VICTORY OVER VIRUS

**Tokyo, Jan. 18:** Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed on Monday to get the pandemic under control and hold the already postponed Olympics this summer with ample coronavirus protection.

In a speech opening a new Parliament session, Suga said his government would revise laws to make anti-virus measures enforceable with penalties and compensation.

Early in the pandemic, Japan was able to keep its virus caseload manageable with non-binding requests for businesses to close or operate with social distancing and for people to stay home. But recent weeks have seen several highs in new cases per day, in part blamed on eased attitudes toward the anti-virus measures, and doubts are growing as more contagious variants spread while people wait for vaccines and the Olympics draw closer.

Suga pledged to achieve the Olympics as a proof of human victory against the coronavirus. "We will have full anti-infection measures in place and proceed with preparation with a determination to achieve the Games that can deliver hope and courage throughout the world," he said. — AP

## Messi sees red as Bilbao lift Super Cup

**Madrid, Jan. 18:** Lionel Messi lost his cool after another Barcelona collapse, hitting an opponent away from the ball and being sent off for the first time while playing with the Catalan club in the team's 2-3 loss to Athletic Bilbao in the final of the Spanish Super Cup.

Inaki Williams' goal in extra time gave Athletic the lead and a come-from-behind win. Barcelona had little chance of recovering when Messi swung his right arm toward the head of an Athletic player while trying to free himself. Messi was shown the red card following a video review.

After Athletic scored in the 90th minute to seal a 2-2 draw and force extra time, Williams netted the

title-clinching goal with a neat curling shot from just inside the area, with the ball hitting the far post before going into the top corner.

The goal three minutes into extra time secured Athletic their third Super Cup title, and first since they beat Barcelona in the 2015 final. The Basque Country club also won the title in 1984.

Barcelona were seeking their 15th Super Cup title, and third in the last five seasons. It was also looking to end their title drought after going without a trophy last season, something that hadn't happened since 2007-08.

It was an even match at the La Cartuja Stadium in Seville, with neither team creating many significant



Athletic Bilbao players celebrate after winning the Spanish Supercopa final against FC Barcelona. — AP

scoring opportunities. Barcelona opened the scoring with a shot from the middle of the area by Antoine Griezmann in the 40th minute but Athletic

equalized two minutes later.

## MAN UTD STAY TOP

Manchester United maintained their three-point

advantage over Liverpool at the top of the Premier League but were denied a famous win at Anfield by Alisson Becker's heroics in a 0-0 draw on Sunday.

Liverpool remain third after failing to score for a third straight league game, but were grateful to their goalkeeper to extend a 68-game unbeaten home run in the League as he denied Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba late on.

United are now unbeaten in 12 league games as they bolstered their claim to be title contenders for the first time since former manager Alex Ferguson retired eight years ago.

But Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men may rue the chance to open up a six-point gap against the champions. — AFP