

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 13 JANUARY 2021



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**Shuttler Srikanth miffed with Covid test**



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## WEATHER

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

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

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+14,130)	(+162)
1,04,93,758	1,51,524
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+301)	(+2)
TS: 2,90,309	1,568
(+197)	(+2)
AP: 8,85,234	7,133

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,16,21,114
DEATHS
19,60,776
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
218

worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Margasira Bahula Amavasya till 10.32 am  
**Star:** Uttarashada till 5.27 am  
**Varjyam:** 2.03 pm to 3.35 pm  
**Durmuhurtam:** 12.02 pm to 12.42 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
**Jumadi ul-Awwal 28, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5.45 am  
**Zohar:** 12.34 pm  
**Asar:** 4.24 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.05 pm  
**Isha:** 7.17 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 6.51 AM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 6.12 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



Season's rangoli!

## SHORT TAKES

### Tesla set to enter India

**New Delhi:** American electric car maker Tesla has registered its Indian arm amid indications that the company is set to enter the country's automobile market. According to a regulatory filing, the firm has registered Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt Ltd with RoC Bangalore. The company has been registered as an unlisted private entity with a paid up capital of ₹1 lakh.

### WhatsApp clears air on privacy

**New Delhi:** WhatsApp on Tuesday said its latest policy update does not affect the privacy of messages as the Facebook-owned company sought to address concerns around security of user data on the platform. In a blog-post, WhatsApp emphasised that it does not share users' data for ads.

### 11 Indian cos in top 500 valuable

**Mumbai:** Eleven private Indian firms have made it to the list of 500 most valuable companies across the world, and the country is ranked 10th on the chart, as per the *Hurun Global 500* report. Reliance Industries leads the pack which includes TCS, HDFC Bank, HDFC Ltd, ICICI Bank, ITC.

## TS lets kids choose study format

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 12**

Schools will opt for the blended form of learning from February 1 through online and offline platforms, the education department clarified on Tuesday in detailed guidelines for the partial reopening of schools from February 1.

It said the digital classes being conducted through Doordarshan and TSAT and other digital plat-

● **STUDENTS OPTING TO study from home or those choosing to go to school can do so after obtaining the consent from parents or guardians.**

forms will continue along with physical classes.

Students opting to study from home or those choosing to go to school can do so after obtaining the consent from parents or

guardians. All teachers handling Classes 9 to 12 have to attend school daily. Schools will function as per regular school timings while ensuring physical distance of at least six feet between two students, through a customised seating plan.

Wearing masks will be mandatory, students suffering from cold, cough and fever shall not be allowed to attend school. Children will also be pro-

vided mid-day meals at school. The headmaster will be required to prepare a medical plan for the school or hostel, and isolation rooms for staff and students in case of Covid-19 symptoms.

A separate sanitation, logistic and medical plan will be furnished by the district education officers to the Director of School Education by January 18.

■ **Page 2: Colleges to have one-bench one-student**

## Vaccines arrive in Hyd amid prayers and hope

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 12**

Telangana state on Tuesday received its first supply of Covid-19 vaccines amidst intense excitement, hope and prayer. The 3.64 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine, from Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune, were flown in a special cargo flight, easily one of the most waited upon aircraft ever to land at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here.

As news broke early in the morning that SII was shipping out the vaccine to different parts of the country, including Hyderabad, a Vaccine Task Force set up by the airport authorities got active, as did the officials of the state health department.

When the special Spicejet cargo flight landed at 11.30 am, it did not take long for the boxes containing the vaccine to be moved to an insulated transportation van. As it left with what is possibly the most precious cargo, the van, a government vehicle with its paint peeling off, looked very nondescript.

Taking no chances with a cargo that can save lakhs of lives, the police provided an escort that ensured that the trip from the airport to the state vaccine centre in Koti was without incident.

■ **Page 2: Vaccines received amidst prayers**



Covid-19 vaccines are being received by the employees of Telangana State health department at Koti on Tuesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## State gets 3.64 lakh doses for launch

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 12**

All arrangements have been made for starting the Covid-19 vaccination in Telangana state from January 16. The arrival of 3.64 lakh doses of Covishield in the city on Tuesday marked the first serious intervention in the battle against Covid-19 and officials thorough-

ly reviewed preparations for the vaccination drive.

According to the health department, of the 139 'session sites' — locations where the vaccination will kick off — Hyderabad city will have the most at 14, followed by 11 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, eight in Ranga Reddy, and six in Sangareddy.

■ **Full report on Page 2**

## HC stops GHMC road on UoH land

**VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 12**

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday restrained the GHMC and the state government from laying a road on land belonging to University of Hyderabad (UoH). The GHMC had started work on the 100-feet-wide road from the ISB Road to the colonies allotted for government employees and TNGOs. The court would hear the case two weeks hence.

The court said it would

not approve of such intrusion in the guise of developmental works and public purpose. Such takeover cannot be done without following the acquisition process and without getting a nod from the Union Cabinet.

As per the case, the Ranga Reddy collector had asked the Cyberabad police commissioner office to discuss the handover of the land with the university authorities. The talks failed on January 6 and the road works were initiated the next day. This led

to the filing of the case.

The vacation bench headed by Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili issued status quo orders restraining the GHMC from going ahead with the road-laying works and asking it to ensure that the road that is laid is not to be damaged.

Justice Shavili was dealing with a petition from the Registrar of UoH, who sought court intervention to stop the laying of the road over land in Survey no. 25 of Kanch Gachibowli of

Serlingampally mandal. Sudharshan Reddy and Sumanth, counsels for the university, said the university had been opposing the laying of the approach road through its land ever since 2012.

They said that by virtue of the Union secretary's order in 2011, land alienation or parting of land belonging to the Centre must get approval from the Union Cabinet. Violating this rule, the collector forced the university authorities to discuss the issue.

## Indigo to begin flights to connect Kurnool with Bengaluru, Chennai, Vizag

**AIR | LINK**

**DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JAN. 12**

Kurnool airport near Orvakal is all set to launch commercial operations in a month from now in February. Indigo, which emerged as a successful bidder under UDAN-4 scheme, may have flights from here to Bengaluru, Chennai, and Vizag.

Incidentally, finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy had during his recent trip to New Delhi met Indigo representatives seeking expediting of commercial operations.

Aviation sources said Kurnool airport may as well become a centre for running flight training operations. This is because air traffic at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports has increased and running training operations from these centres is becoming increasingly difficult. Given the proximity of Kurnool airport from both these locations, the possibility of setting up training facilities at Kurnool will be advantageous for all angles.

Logistically Kurnool is at the midpoint between

● **Orvakal Airport is spread over 970 acres at a distance of 20 km from Kurnool city. The airport has a runway length of 2,000 metres x 30 metres. It will have four parking bays, which can be utilised for and up to ATR-72 / Q-400 aircraft.**

● **Logistically, Kurnool is at the midpoint between Bengaluru and Hyderabad and on the flight path to Chennai from RGIA, Shamshabad, said an Airports Authority of India (AAI) official.**

M.K.V. Srinivasulu, nodal officer who is over-

seeing finishing works at the Orvakal airport, said Indigo Airlines staff had visited the airport and assessed its readiness last month. They are visiting again on January 20 or the last week of this month.

Once that is over, commercial flights will start taking off and landing at Kurnool, the gateway of Rayalaseema. Originally, the airport was scheduled to start commercial operations by Deepavali but missed the deadline.

Orvakal Airport is spread over 970 acres at a distance of 20 km from Kurnool city. The airport has a runway length of 2,000 metres x 30 metres. It will have four parking bays, which can be utilised for and up to ATR-72 / Q-400 category of aircraft. The airport has Advanced Air Traffic

Advisory System (AATAS), along with fire-fighting and rescue capacity.

The selected bidder will get the Kurnool airport on long-term lease for construction of hangar, buildings, facilities, and infrastructure for carrying out trainee flights and or aerospace activities. The airport is 350 km from Vijayawada, 200 km from Hyderabad, and 360 km from Bengaluru.

The nearest major international airport is Hyderabad, about just 200 km from Kurnool.

## SC stays farm laws, forms expert panel

### Farmers refuse to meet court-appointed panel

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 12**

In a major breather to the Narendra Modi government that's caught in a cul-de-sac over the ongoing farmers' agitation, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the implementation of the three controversial farm laws for now, restored the Minimum Support Price System (MSP) that was prevalent before the enactment of farm laws and set up a committee of four agriculture experts to examine the laws and submit a report within two months.

The two months, the court said, will start from the date of its first sitting and the first sitting has to take place within 10 days from Tuesday's order.

The clarification of the three-member bench of the Supreme Court, that the suspension of the implementation of the three laws is not indefinite, and that the court will take a final call on the farm laws only after it examines the committee's report, seems to suit the government which is resisting the farmers' demand for repeal of the laws but is agreeable to making amendments.

There is no power which can prevent us from forming a committee. We want to solve the problem. We want to understand the ground situation. This is not politics.

**SHARAD A. BOBDE, Chief Justice of India**

The farmer unions, however, were not pleased and reiterated that they will not participate in the court-ordered committee process, charging that "all the members of this committee are pro-govt and had been justifying the laws of the government."

They added that they would not call off their protest until the newly enacted legislations are repealed.

"It is clear that the court is being misguided by various forces even in its constitution of a committee. These are people who are known for their support to the three Acts and have actively advocated for the same," a statement issued by All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) said. Having stayed the imple-

It is clear that the court is being misguided by various forces even in its constitution of a committee. These are people who are known for their support to three laws

**ALL INDIA KISAN SANGHARSH PANEL**

mentation of farm laws "until further orders", the court also directed that the farmers' land holdings shall be "protected" and no farmer shall be "dispossessed or deprived" of his/her title of land as a result of any action taken under the farm laws.

"While we may not stifle a peaceful protest, we think that this extraordinary order of stay of implementation of the farm laws will be perceived as an achievement of the purpose of such protest at least for the present and will encourage the farmers bodies to convince their members to get back to their livelihood, both in order to protect their own lives and health and in order to protect the lives and properties of others," the court said.

## Surging sale of cocks hints at big Sankranti betting

**DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, JAN. 12**

Contrary to perceptions, a last-minute surge is witnessed in sale of Prize Cocks as a prelude to the three-day Sankranti festival beginning Wednesday. In spite of the Covid-19 situation and less of money supply, punters are getting set for the traditional cockfight sport.

Heavy betting is unlikely because of non-arrival of well-heeled software engineers, cine actors etc this time due to travel restrictions.

Growers of fighter cocks are worried that prize cocks might not fetch good money this time. "Yet, there is a sudden surge in sales in the past two days. Many have done the purchase at the rate of ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 per cock," a source told this newspaper.

This year, there is more enthusiasm in East Godavari compared to West Godavari that was usually on top in organising cockfights. Youths in East Godavari are more enthused because of the

much-trumpeted campaign for cockfights there; and they are already going in for betting.

According to sources, a huge ground was being readied in Kesanakurru in Konaseema. Two prominent communities are participating in the cockfight on Wednesday and Thursday. A community from Konaseema area and another from Kakinada will reach the village to participate in the traditional sport.

They are reportedly planning 20 contests a day and the betting range may be between ₹10,000 and ₹3 lakh.

Many communities will go for co-betting with big-wig punters. Cockfight grounds are being prepared at Kandrakota, Vetlapalem, G. Medapadu, Madhavapatnam, Achampet in limited numbers.

A general feeling is that the government may allow cockfights as freely this time as in the past. But, the government is still vigorously campaigning against the blood-letting sport.

## SENSEX HITS NEW RECORD, NEARS 50,000 LEVEL

**Mumbai, Jan. 12:** Equity indices vaulted to fresh lifetime highs for the third session on the trot on Tuesday as investors remained in risk-on mode amid unabated foreign fund inflows.

Overcoming a wobbly start, the 30-share BSE SENSEX surged to its all-time peak of 49,569.14 during the day, propelled by robust buying in index heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank. The index finally finished at its new closing record of 49,517.11, up by 247.79 points or 0.50 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 78.70 points or 0.54 per cent to a fresh closing peak of 14,563.45. It scaled a record level of 14,590.65 during the session.

On the Sensex chart, SBI was the top gainer, rallying 3.65 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ITC, Axis Bank and NTPC.

## 3 CAPITAL WORK TO BEGIN BY JUNE, SAYS AP

**DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 12**

The YSR Congress government is likely to achieve its plan of having three capitals — Executive, Legislative and Judiciary — in the next four to five months, adviser to government (public affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy stated on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here, he said all necessary steps for decentralisation of administration have been taken.

He warned that the government will take firm action against those trying to create differences within the society in the name of religion and caste. In this regard, he went on to accuse TD leaders of trying to divert people's attention through such acts.



## IN BRIEF

More vehicles  
for Wakf team

**Hyderabad:** The Wakf Board has provided three four-wheelers to its task force team to facilitate mobility.

Wakf Board Chairman Mohammed Saleem flagged off the vehicles on Tuesday.

He said the board had strengthened the protection section and taken action to remove the encroachments. "We are availing the services of senior advocates in the cases involving prime properties," he said.

MAN SENTENCED  
TO 7 YEARS RI  
FOR KILLING SON

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

A 63-year-old man was convicted to seven years of rigorous imprisonment on Tuesday for murdering his son at their residence in Nerredmet.

The accused, Pagadala Mohan Rao Naidu, 63, killed his son Mahender Naidu, 28, who had lost his job and took to drunk. Police said he would come home drunk and quarrels with his parents. His father reprimanded him and warned him to change his behavior but in vain. On October 13, 2018, after another drunken quarrel, Mohan Rao, in a fit of rage, stabbed his son to death. Following a complaint from his wife Pagadala Usharani, Mohan Rao was booked for murder.

BONSAI GETS  
STOLEN FROM  
EX-DGP'S HOUSE

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

A 15-year-old casuarina bonsai tree was allegedly stolen from the house of former director-general of police, V Appa Rao, in Jubilee Hills. About three years ago, another costly variety, a jade bonsai, was stolen from the house, police said.

"We received a complaint from Appa Rao and his wife, Sri Devi, on Monday, stating that the tree, which was kept in their garden outside the house was noticed missing by their gardener while he was watering the plants. He remembered the bonsai being in its place three days ago," said the police.

The police, who have registered a case and are investigating, said though the retired officer's house had two CCTV cameras, both were defunct for quite some time.

GOVERNOR CALLS  
YOUTH SOUL OF  
NATION

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Tuesday described youth as the "soul of the country," and expressed anguish at some youth taking their lives. "It pains me to know that some youngsters commit suicide over trivial reasons," shesaid. The Governor was speaking at the inaugural of Yuvotsav-2021, part of the 21st National Conference of the Student Company Secretaries.

The event was organised on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti on January 12, celebrated as the National Youth Day.

She said had the youth been reading Vivekananda's teachings, they would have found strength to face adversity. Dr Tamilisai urged youngsters to believe in themselves, and not to give in to despair. She asked them to march ahead with "unshakable determination to realise your goals and make the country proud," and advised them to "follow the 3H mantra — think by the head, feel by the heart, and work by hand."

She recalled that her father had gifted her a book of Swami Vivekananda which gave her great strength. "Whatever I am today, it is because I get strength from Vivekananda's powerful teachings that inspire and motivate me to strive for excellence," Dr Tamilisai said. Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, Moulana Azad National Urdu University in-charge Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.M. Rehmatullah and BJP MLC N. Ramachander were the guests of honour.

● **THE GOVERNOR** was speaking at the inaugural of Yuvotsav-2021, part of the 21st National Conference of the Student Company Secretaries.

## ‘Safety must even after vaccination’

Covid-19 inoculation does not mean it is a licence to start partying, says Doctor Guru N. Reddy

The arrival of vaccines for Covid-19 in India and the nation-wide drive to vaccinate people against this disease, is a welcome development but it should not be misunderstood by anyone that it is a licence to start partying, according to Dr Guru N. Reddy, senior physician and founder director of Continental Hospitals.

Dr Guru Reddy said there may be an impression that taking the vaccine for Covid-19 is a passport to freedom but the safe and wise action is to continue with wearing masks and maintaining physical distance.

"This requires to be fol-

lowed until we achieve a 80 per cent herd immunity," Dr Guru Reddy said. Herd immunity refers to a majority of the population developing resistance to a disease.

In an exclusive interview with **Balu Pulipaka**, Dr Guru Reddy answered questions on Covid-19, safety and efficacy of vaccines and why he believes India got 'lucky' with the disease.

**Excerpts:**

**Q Are the vaccines safe? What are the reasons for apprehensions over taking the vaccine?**

A. Simply put, when anything is new and untested it is natural for people to



**DR GURU N. REDDY**, Senior physician and founder director of Continental Hospitals.

be apprehensive. In the West, the apprehensions are rooted in the unfounded fears that vaccinations

lead to autism. In **We have to take a historical perspective, see the history of vaccinations over so many decades that have been absolutely safe, like the polio vaccine. We have to take refuge under this fact, believe and extrapolate that the Covid vaccines will be safe.**

India, this is not an issue though awareness of autism is increasing here. We have to take a histori-

cal perspective, see the history of vaccinations over so many decades that have been absolutely safe, like the polio vaccine. We have to take refuge under this fact, believe and extrapolate that the Covid vaccines will be safe. Also their safety prospects are based on their development.

**Q What are the important takeaways for India from its Covid-19 experience?**

A. We have been just lucky from the standpoint of the percentage of people infected, the unusually low casualty rates.

We have not had a second wave so far and the absence of variants of the

virus has helped us. I also feel that the way we reacted to Covid-19 is because of our demographic dividend, we have a large number of younger people and I believe we have significant induced immunity.

While herd immunity needs 80 per cent of people developing resistance, 60 per cent is not bad either.

**Q What about the healthcare systems?**

A. Covid has also brought in a significant awakening of awareness of healthcare infrastructure which has never been tested rigorously. Those responsible for governance have realised what state the healthcare was in.

The private sector too realised that it was vulnerable. This has been a major awakening.

Another thing that has come to the fore is the cost of healthcare, something that our country always debates, unfortunately because the government washed its hands off this subject but laments that the private sector is charging a lot.

We have taken care of thousands of patients and there needs to be a better perception of what goes into taking care of patients. India also needs a strong third party payer system such as insurance companies or the government should pick up the cost.

COLLEGES TO  
HAVE 1-BENCH  
1-STUDENT RULE

From Page 1

In the case of junior colleges, those with fewer than students 300 students and having sufficient accommodation shall be permitted to run in the regular shift, from 9.30 am to 4 pm. Colleges with more than 300 students will be run in two shifts, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

There is another option of running the second year in the morning shift and the first year in the evening shift. A decision must be taken by respective principals by January 16.

One bench-one student rule will be applied in junior colleges to ensure social distancing. Not more than 30 students will be allowed in a class. Unlike schools, online or audio-visual lectures will continue to be telecasted only till March 31 at revised timings. These instructions will be applicable for private colleges as well.

The time table for intermediate first and second-year exams will be issued separately.

In case of degree and professional courses, the government has waived the minimum attendance requirement in the examinations for the current semester.

Written consent from parents, wearing of masks by students, staff, visitors, maintaining physical distance on campus, even during lunch hours has been made mandatory in colleges. In the case of residential colleges, special care at dining, dormitories, washrooms have been advised.

Principals of colleges will be required to prepare a customised plan for conduct of classes in accordance with the guidelines by January 18, including an academic and logistic plan which will include seating and shift system arrangements.

The commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education will issue a revised academic calendar for 2020-21 in respect of degree and professional courses.

STATE REPORTS 301  
NEW COVID CASES,  
TWO MORE DEATHS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Telangana state registered 301 new Covid-19 cases and two more deaths on Monday, the state health department has said. The caseload stands at 2,90,309 and the toll 1,568. The department also said that on Monday, 293 Covid-19 patients had recovered.

On Monday, 34,431 Covid-19 determination tests were conducted and results for 675 were awaited. Private labs conducted 2,214 tests.

With 58 new cases, Hyderabad city and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) areas topped the state, followed by 27 cases in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 16 in Ranga Reddy, 12 in Warangal Urban, 11 in Karimnagar, and 10 each in Mancherial, Nizamabad, and Yadadri-Bhongir districts.



A cold freezer container for the Covid-19 vaccine has been arranged at the Shamshabad airport, in time for the roll-out that began on Tuesday.

— R. PAVAN

## Govt set to start Covid-19 vaccination

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

All arrangements have been made for starting the Covid-19 vaccination in Telangana state from January 16. The arrival of 3.64 lakh doses of Covishield in the city on Tuesday marked the first serious intervention in the battle against Covid-19 and officials thoroughly

reviewed preparations for the vaccination drive.

According to the health department, of the 139 'session sites' — locations where the vaccination will kick off — Hyderabad city will have the most at 14, followed by 11 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, eight in Ranga Reddy, and six in Sangareddy.

These districts have the most number of hospitals

in the state. Every one of the 33 districts will have vaccination centres, hospitals, many government, and some private, to start off with. While January 16 will mark the formal launch, come January 18, the number of session sites will be increased to 1,213 which will also include some primary healthcare centres. "From Monday the drive

to vaccinate all 3.1 lakh healthcare workers will begin and we will have 1,400 vaccination centres," Dr G Srinivasa Rao, Director of Health Services, told reporters after receiving the vaccines at the state vaccine storage centre at Koti in the city.

Earlier in the day, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a tele conference

with all collectors to once again go over the preparations for the vaccination drive.

He directed the collectors to ensure that arrangements are made at the identified launch sites in their districts as per operational guidelines including measures for dealing with any cases of adverse effect following immunisation.

Vaccine received  
with fanfare

From Page 1

As the van carrying the 31 boxes of Covishield vaccine bottles, each carrying ten doses, reached the cold storage at Koti, it was time for the health department officials to invoke the powers of the Almighty and seek divine blessings for the vaccines.

A quick round of Hindu, Muslim and Christian prayers later, the van doors were thrown open by Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, who donned the role of the master of ceremonies for the day. It was not just prayers that greeted the

vaccines upon their arrival at the storage. The entrance to the building was festooned with marigolds.

Even the door leading into the cold storage had some roses stuck on it with tape, celebrating the occasion. The arrival of the van and loading it with the vaccine took a few minutes more than anticipated as a large scrum of crews from television news networks jostled to get some shots of the prayers, the inside of the van, the shifting of the boxes into the building which was managed after Dr Rao's multiple appeals to leave some room were heeded.

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Elected representatives who hoped to be among the first lot to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, but have been left to wait for their turn, will however get to be a part of the launch of the vaccination programme.

It may be recalled that the government had requested the Centre that elected representatives be included in the frontline warriors category so they can get the vaccine along with medical professionals. This request, first made by health minister Etala Rajendar and then taken to the notice of the

Centre again by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, did not find favour.

On Tuesday, echoing Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's call to elected representatives to take part in the vaccination launch and facilitate the exercise, Rajendar wrote to all elected representatives request-

ing them to play an active role in ensuring the success of the vaccination drive. "Your contributions during the lockdown period were unparalleled and a value cannot be placed on them. You stood by the frontline workers, shoulder to shoulder, and for that I thank you on behalf of the Telangana state

government," Rajendar wrote.

Medical professionals and hospital staff will get the vaccine first, followed by staff from other frontline departments such as the police, civic sanitation staff. They will be followed by those older than 50 years.

After this comes the turn of those younger than 50 but with comorbidities and only then comes the turn of those who are otherwise generally healthy.

Rajendar, in his letter, urged all elected representatives to create awareness about the vaccination and its importance as the state embarks on a new exercise to put an end to Covid-19.

Sanitise schools, appoint  
service staff, say teachers

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

In the wake of the schools reopening, the Telangana Progressive Teachers Federation (TPTF) has demanded that the state government immediately appoint school service personnel, as well as issue instructions to primary health centres and gram panchayats to take responsibility to sanitise the premises of all schools. They wanted the government to create a fund for the purpose. They

● **AMONG OTHER** demands are maintaining transfers for teachers of all categories of employers and promotions for all cadre posts, as well as transfer of about 352 AP native teachers working in Telangana state and 17 spouse teachers.

suggested that the government raise awareness among parents. Among other demands are maintaining transfers for teachers of all categories of employers and promotions for all cadre posts, as well as

transfer of about 352 Andhra Pradesh native teachers working in Telangana state and 17 spouse teachers. They further demanded that vacancies in all government institutions should be filled without delay. Annual exams may be planned in six subjects, the TPTF said, in May for Class 10 after physical teaching for at least three months. The teachers body demanded that the government submit a Pay Revision Committee report as per past tradition and invite teacher unions for talks.



Former judge Vilas Afzalpurkar inspects the Musi river near Babu Ghat on Tuesday.

— R. PAVAN

visited Chaderghat, the High Court area, Babu Ghat, and other spots

where the river flows. The report would be filed by the expert committee

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Justice Vilas Afzalpurkar, a former Judge of the High Court, on Tuesday inspected the Musi river as part of a committee set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Sources said Justice Afzalpurkar inspected the restoration work taking place at the river.

According to officials, Justice Afzalpurkar would file a report and submit it to the NGT. "He



## OTHER STORIES

YOUTH PROTEST  
TO CLOSE  
BELT SHOPSDC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, JAN. 12

Kusumanchi, a mandal head-quarters, witnessed a variety stir on Tuesday. Youth staged dharna in front of a licensed liquor shop demanding the excise department to waive belt shops and to sell the liquor at MRP.

The youth led by Jonnalagadda Ravi, Bari Bhadram and Mohammad Rafi staged dharna in front of the liquor shop. Jonnalagadda Ravi said, "Various brands are not available in the liquor shops, but being sold in belt shops more than MRP prices", he said.

There are four licensed liquor shops in Kusumanchi mandal and 400 belt shops. Ravi alleged that the liquor shops were formed as syndicate and exploiting the people of the mandal. The brands like Kingfisher beer, Royal Stag and Mc Dowell whisky will not be available in the licensed shops but sold in belt shops. Ravi demanded the government to conduct an enquiry on the liquor shop 'Danda' in the Kusumanchi mandal. He said that the liquor traders are earning crores of rupees by cheating people and the government.

EFFORTS TO TRAP  
TIGER TAKES  
RELIGIOUS TURNDC CORRESPONDENT  
KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD,  
JAN.12

Forest officials' reported attempt to catch a tiger by using a cow as bait in this district has taken a religious turn with BJP MLA Raja Singh strongly opposing this and invoking the 'gomatha' concept. Raja Singh noted that cow is worshipped by Hindus. Gorakshana Samitis are likely to organise protests.

Forest officials swung into action after a tiger killed two persons. Later, the officials said they noticed tiger movement near Talai village and Kandi Bheemanna temple area in the forests of Bejjur mandal and concluded that this was the killer tiger. The MLA said forest officials should use other methods, like setting up cage, to catch tigers.

A cage has been used by officials to catch tiger near the Kandi Bheemanna temple area off Papanna village. Forest staff waited from atop a watch tower for arrival of tiger. Also, using a cow as bait, forest officials reportedly hoped to get at the tiger and tranquilize it with help from a veterinary doctor.

Forest officials were tight-lipped over Raja Singh's statement.

TALASANI: GOVT  
TO SUPPORT  
POULTRY SECTORDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that no case of bird flu had been found in the state, and that the government would support the poultry industry in all possible ways.

The government had responded to media reports that birds had died in Nalgonda, Warangal and Peddapalli districts and collected and tested 276 samples, but received a negative report, the minister said. Another 1,000 samples were tested separately in the last three days and all were negative.

With a direction from Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Srinivas Yadav and health minister Etala Rajendar along with MP Ranjith Reddy held a meeting with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, veterinary department officials and poultry industries representatives at BRK Bhavan.

After the meeting, Srinivas Yadav said the animal husbandry and medical departments were alerted as per the Chief Minister's directives immediately after receiving information that bird flu was spreading in other states.

He said 1,300 rapid response teams have been set up.

Health minister Etala Rajendar pointed out that bird flu does not transfer to humans. Chicken and eggs provide high value protein at low cost, there was no harm consuming boiled chicken and eggs.

Minister: Khammam to  
be tourism hub soon

Goud says, healthy and happy atmosphere persists

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, JAN. 12

Khammam town got a slew of sports and tourism projects on Tuesday on the eve of Sankranti festivities and ahead of the municipal corporation elections.

The Lakaram tank bund witnessed the laying of foundation stones and inauguration of different projects. Excise minister V. Srinivas Goud laid the foundation stone for the suspension bridge on Lakaram tank and musical fountain at a cost of ₹10 crore. He inaugurated the food street.

The minister also laid the foundation stone to the Haritha Budget Hotel at Bypass Road, also costing ₹10 crore. "Khammam is growing fast and the town is spreading to new areas. A healthy and happy atmosphere persists and it stands as the ideal town in Telangana state, Goud said.

Minister Goud commenced various sports facilities in Sardar Patel Stadium — a residential hostel for sportspersons, skating rink, cricket turf



Ministers Srinivas Goud and P. Ajay Kumar lay foundation stone of suspension foot bridge project in Khammam on Tuesday.

wicket and sand track for athletics — provided at a cost of ₹1.31 crore.

Goud said that the state government had brought a new sports policy to help sportspersons from the state perform well in national and international events.

"The government has sanctioned the setting up of 100 stadiums and several changes are taking

place in the sports sector. Different facilities are being provided not only to the athletics but also the coaches, Goud said.

The minister laid the foundation stone to the Neera project, Thativanam, at Ramannapet at a cost of ₹28 lakh in 49 and 50 divisions. He said that the government is encouraging caste-based trades and about 3.75

crore toddy saplings were planted and ₹16 crore tree tax was waived.

Goud has also laid the foundation stone to the BC Bhavan to be built at Bypass Road with the cost of ₹2 crore. He said that the government had opened 3000 BC residential schools for the educational development among Backward Classes.

THOTI ADIVASIS  
STAGE DHARNA  
AT ITDA OFFICEDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JAN. 12

The Thoti Adivasis who are considered as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) on Tuesday staged a dharna in front of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) project officer building, Uttoor demanding the state government to take steps for the welfare and development of the Thoti community which is on the verge of extinction. A team of Thoti leader submitted a memorandum to project officer Bhavesh Mishra.

Addressing on the occasion, Thoti community leader Marsakola Tirupati said officials are neglecting them on various counts though their population is on drastic fall and state government should prepare a special package for their welfare and development. He said their demands include allocation of 2bhk to all the Thoti families and 3 acre land to each Thoti family and welfare schemes with the ₹8 crore that are sanctioned for the welfare of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGS).

## 11,200 frontline staff to get vaccine: Collector

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, JAN. 12

Those undergoing vaccination from January 16 should be kept for 30 minutes observation after the vaccination. The medical teams were also asked to be ready with a reaction treatment kit for any symptoms.

"The 30 minutes observation is a must practice during the vaccination for all purposes. Enough

care will be taken after the vaccination," collector R.V. Karnan said. The centres that will be administering Covid-19 vaccine from January 16 should have various facilities including a waiting room, vaccination room, observation room, oxygen cylinders, reaction treatment kit and 108 vehicles.

Collector said that the dry run was completed successfully. The vaccina-



R.V. Karnan

tion will be held in six centres on the first day including district head-

quarters hospital, Mamata General Hospital, Ankura Private Hospital, the primary health centre of Bonakal and community health centres of Sattupalli and Madhira.

The first phase vaccination process commenced on January 16 in 42 centres until January 23. Collector said that the public representatives should extend all cooperation to administer the

vaccine to the health workers at Gram Panchayat level.

About 11,200 persons like Anganwadi workers, health workers, government medical, and health department personnel were identified for the first phase vaccination. An SMS message will be sent to the person to be vaccinated, and they should come to their respective centres for the vaccination.

Keep welfare hostels and  
schools ready: GangulaDC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JAN. 12

State minister Gangula Kamalakar on Tuesday advised officials to keep facilities ready at the government-run welfare hostels and residential schools by January 25, in view of reopening of educational institutions from February 1.

In a review meeting with officials of BC welfare and civil supplies departments, Kamalakar told them to provide stocks of both fine-variety rice and ration for cooking and also ensure sanitizing the hostels and residential schools.

Nearly 71,000 students are accommodated at welfare hostels and residential schools. Of these, around 12,900 students of Class 9 and 10 and over 30,800 students of Inter and degree are in BC welfare hostels. Around 27,300 students from Class 9 to PG are in residential schools.

"Provide all the basic



Minister Gangula Kamalakar along with concerned officials in a review meeting on reopening of hostels and residential schools, in Karimnagar on Tuesday.

facilities required for these students immediately. Follow Covid-19 guidelines and provide masks and sanitizers to students. Since the schools, colleges and hostels remained closed for more than nine months, all precautions must be taken and focus attention on sanitization before reopening the hotels, schools and colleges," he said.

Altogether, about 8,500 metric tonnes of fine variety rice will have to

be supplied to these hostels. Around 74,000 metric tonnes of rice is stored with the food and civil supplies department. "Provide the required stocks to these institutions before January 25," he told the officials.

Chairman of the civil supplies department Mareddy Srinivas Reddy, commissioner Anil Kumar and chief secretary B. Venkatesham were among the officials present.

Govt to distribute dairy units  
to farmers in subsidy: KoppulaDC CORRESPONDENT  
JAGTIAL, JAN. 12

In view of providing an alternative income source to the farmers, the government has decided to start a pilot project for distribution of dairy units through the SC Corporation. It is the responsibility of the officials to speed up the distribution of dairy units to the beneficiaries, said welfare minister Koppula Eshwar in a video conference held with the officials concerned on Tuesday.

Eshwar said the pilot project would be run at Dharmaram mandal of Dharmapur constituency of Jagtial district.

About 40 farmers were selected through the SC Corporation. They will be given dairy units,

He ordered officials of the veterinary department to create awareness among the beneficiaries about insurance, tagging, watering, fodder, sheds and other important factors while rearing cattle.

each unit comprising four cattle costing ₹4 lakh. The government is giving a subsidy of ₹2.4 lakh to each beneficiary, he said. The cattle are to be imported from Haryana.

He ordered officials of the veterinary department to create awareness among the beneficiaries about insurance, tagging, watering, fodder, sheds and other important factors while rearing cattle.

The documentation process of 34 beneficiary-

ies was completed and the six members are left pending, he added. The minister ordered bank officials to coordinate with the MPDOs and speed up the documentation process of the remaining six beneficiaries so that the dairy units can be distributed by the end of February. Eashwar warned officials to not give any scope for irregularities in implementation of the pilot project and also not allow beneficiaries to sell the distributed dairy units under any circumstance. Additional collector Laxminarayana, Peddapalli revenue divisional officer Shankar Kumar, district welfare officer Suguna were among those who were present.

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## AUCTION NOTICE (PROCLAMATION OF SALE)

Auction Sale under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, of the immovable property mortgaged to The Gayatri Co-Operative Urban Bank Ltd., Korutla Branch at Korutla, Jagtial District for recovery of the secured debt of Rs. 8,50,476/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Six Only) and interest & other charges there on from 01-07-2018 of which the property brought to sale.

a) Date & Time of Auction : 16-02-2021 at 11:00 AM  
b) Place of Auction : House No. 4-5-36/1, Ravindra Road, Town & Mandal Korutla, Dist. Jagtial.  
c) Reserve Price : Rs. 14,13,720/-  
d) Amount of Secured Debt : Rs. 8,50,476.00 + Interest & other charges from 01-07-2018  
e) Name of the Borrower : Sri. Jindam Rajeshkar, S/o. Yathirajam  
f) Name of the Mortgagee : Sri. Jindam Rajeshkar, S/o. Yathirajam

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:  
House No. 4-5-36/1. Admeasuring total area 80.73 Sq. Yards or 67.49 Sq. Mts., with RCC plinth area 448.60 Sq. Fts. situated at Ravindra Road, Korutla Town and Municipality, Mandal Korutla, District Jagtial, bounded by: East: House of Jindam Gangulabai House No. 4-5-37, West: Open Place of Jindam Shivrajam (4-5-36/Part), North: Road, South: 8 feet wide Road.

Terms and Conditions of the Auction:  
i) The property shall be auctioned on "AS IS AND WHERE IS" condition.  
ii) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% (Rs. 1,41,372/-) of the Reserve Price of the property being auctioned as a refundable earnest money deposit before commencement of auction by way of cash or money order or Banker's Cheque or D.D. drawn in favour of The Gayatri Co-Operative Urban Bank Ltd., Korutla Branch, Payable at Korutla.  
iii) The property shall be sold to the highest bidder. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day of the sale in Cash/D.D. drawn on a Nationalised Bank and the Balance within 15 days from the date of sale.  
iv) The sale certificate will be issued in the name of the successful bidder only, after payment of the entire bid amount and other charges, if any. The successful bidder shall bear all expenses like stamp duty, registration fee etc. for getting the sale certificate registered in his/her favour.  
v) In case of default in whatsoever manner by the successful bidder in adhering to the terms and conditions of the sale, the earnest money and other amounts deposited by him/her as the case may be, shall be forfeited.  
vi) The purchasers should make their own enquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues, etc. of the property by themselves before participating in the auction. The Bank is not aware of any encumbrance in respect of the said property.  
vii) The Authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons therefor and also to modify any terms and conditions of this sale without any prior notice.  
viii) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending bidders may contact the manager, Korutla Branch, Cell Nos. 9296992217, 8335908890 during office hours from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on all working days and they are at liberty to make their own assessment/enquiry about the property.

Place: JAGTIAL  
Date: 12-01-2021  
Authorized Officer  
The Gayatri Co-Operative Urban Bank Ltd.,



MYADAM KISHAN RAO

DOB: 10-02-1936

DOD: 12-01-2021

With deep sorrow, we inform the  
sudden demise of our beloved

Founder



The light which used to show the right path of living, taught us the aim of life is sacrifice. After enlightening us, the light has suddenly disappeared. We pay homage to this noble soul.

Inserted by:  
Family & Staff

Final rites on 13-01-2021 Wednesday, 11:00am  
at Mahaprasthanam Swarg Vatika, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.



## SHORT TAKES

## EC DISCUSSES SECURITY FOR STATE POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

The Election Commission of India on Tuesday held a meeting with the Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla to discuss requirement and availability of the Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) during the upcoming Assembly polls in several states.

Other related issues, including law and order situation, transfer posting of officials were also discussed.

Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry will be held this year.

The term for Tamil Nadu Assembly ends on May 24; Kerala June 1; West Bengal May 30; Puducherry June 8; and Assam May 31.

The ECI had in December issued an advisory to states saying in order to ensure free and fair election, states should ensure that the officers directly connected with conduct of elections in an election going state/UT are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerably long period.

## INDIAN ARMY IS EVER READY, SAYS NARAVANE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

Army chief General M.M. Naravane asserted on Tuesday that Indian army is “alert and ever-ready to meet any challenge” from China and there has been no reduction in Chinese deployment in friction areas in Eastern Ladakh.

“We are prepared to hold our ground as long it takes to achieve our national goals and objectives,” said Army chief.

“It is not only the Eastern Ladakh but we have maintained a high state of alertness all along the Northern borders as of now, keeping the threat perception in mind. We have gone in for a winter posture and deployment,” he said.

Gen Naravane said that not much should be read in Chinese withdrawing troops from depth areas in the Tibetan plateau that were there for training. “There has been no decrease in strength either on the Chinese side or our side as far as the friction points are concerned,” he said.

He said that all logistics aspects have been taken care of, whether it is clothing, ration or habitat and “as a result of all this, our operational preparedness is of a very high order and the morale of the troops is high.” “We keep saying that we are prepared to meet all challenges. But last year we had to walk the talk and actually rise up to the occasion and show that we are indeed prepared to meet all these challenges,” he said.

## SC panel on laws pro-govt: Farmers

## Unions say they never demanded the SC form a committee to resolve impasse

New Delhi, Jan. 12: Agitating farmer unions on Tuesday disapproved of the committee appointed by the Supreme Court to break the deadlock over the acts and said they will continue their protest against the three legislations.

Addressing a press conference at Singhu Border here, Union leaders claimed the members of the committee are “pro-government”, and asserted they will not appear before it.

The Supreme Court earlier in the day stayed the implementation of the controversial farm laws till further orders and set up a four-member committee to resolve the impasse between the Centre and the farmer unions protesting at Delhi’s borders over the legislations.

“The members of the SC-appointed committee are not dependable as they have been writing on how agri laws are pro-farmer. We will continue our agitation,” farmer leader Balbeer Singh Rajewal told the

presser. The farmer leader said that unions never demanded the apex court form a committee to resolve the impasse over the laws, alleging the Central government is behind these developments.

“We are against the committee on principle. It is the government’s way to distract attention from the protest,” he said. The farmer leaders said the Supreme Court can repeal the farm laws suo motu.

Another farmer leader Darshan Singh said they will not appear before any committee, adding Parliament should discuss and resolve this issue. “We don’t want any external committee,” he said. However, the farmer leaders said they would attend the January 15 meeting with the government.

The four members of the committee are BKU president Bhupinder Singh Mann, Shetkeri Sangathana (Maharashtra) president Anil Ghanwat, South Asia Director for International

Food Policy Research Institute Pramod Kumar Joshi, and agriculture economist Ashok Gulati.

During the hearing, the top court sought the cooperation of the protesting farmers and made it clear that no power can prevent it from setting up a committee to resolve the impasse.

Thousands of farmers, mostly from Haryana and Punjab, have been protesting at several border points of Delhi since November 28 last year, demanding a repeal of the three laws and a legal guarantee to the minimum support price (MSP) system for their crops. Farmer leaders welcomed the SC’s order to stay the implementation of three farm laws on Tuesday, but said they would not call off their protest until the legislations are repealed.

The Sankhyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of around 40 protesting farmer unions, has called a meeting later in the day to decide the next course of action. —PTI

## All states to receive vaccine by Jan. 14

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 12

The central government has started procurement and transportation of the Covid-19 vaccines for the nationwide inoculation drive that begins from January 16. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said on Tuesday that the entire doses of 1.10 crore of Oxford vaccine Covishield by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and 55 lakh of Covaxin from Bharat Biotech — will by January 14 reach all states and Union Territories.

Bhushan said already 54.72 lakh doses of the vaccines have reached designated national and state-level stores till Tuesday afternoon. He clarified that apart from the ordered vaccines, Bharat Biotech is also giving 16.5 lakh doses

of its Covaxin for free to the government as a goodwill gesture.

“55 lakh doses of Covaxin are being procured from Bharat Biotech. For 38.5 lakh doses the price is ₹295 each, excluding taxes. Bharat Biotech is providing 16.5 lakh doses for free as a goodwill gesture which ultimately brings the cost of Covaxin down to ₹206 per dose,” Bhushan said.

The 1.1 crore doses of Covishield vaccine are being procured from SII at the cost of ₹200 per dose, excluding taxes. More vaccines will be ordered in the coming days. Covaxin will also be supplied to Brazil and other countries.

NTI Aayog member (health) Dr V.K. Paul said both Covishield and Covaxin have been tested on a large number of people and “are the safest with

no risk of any significant side effect.”

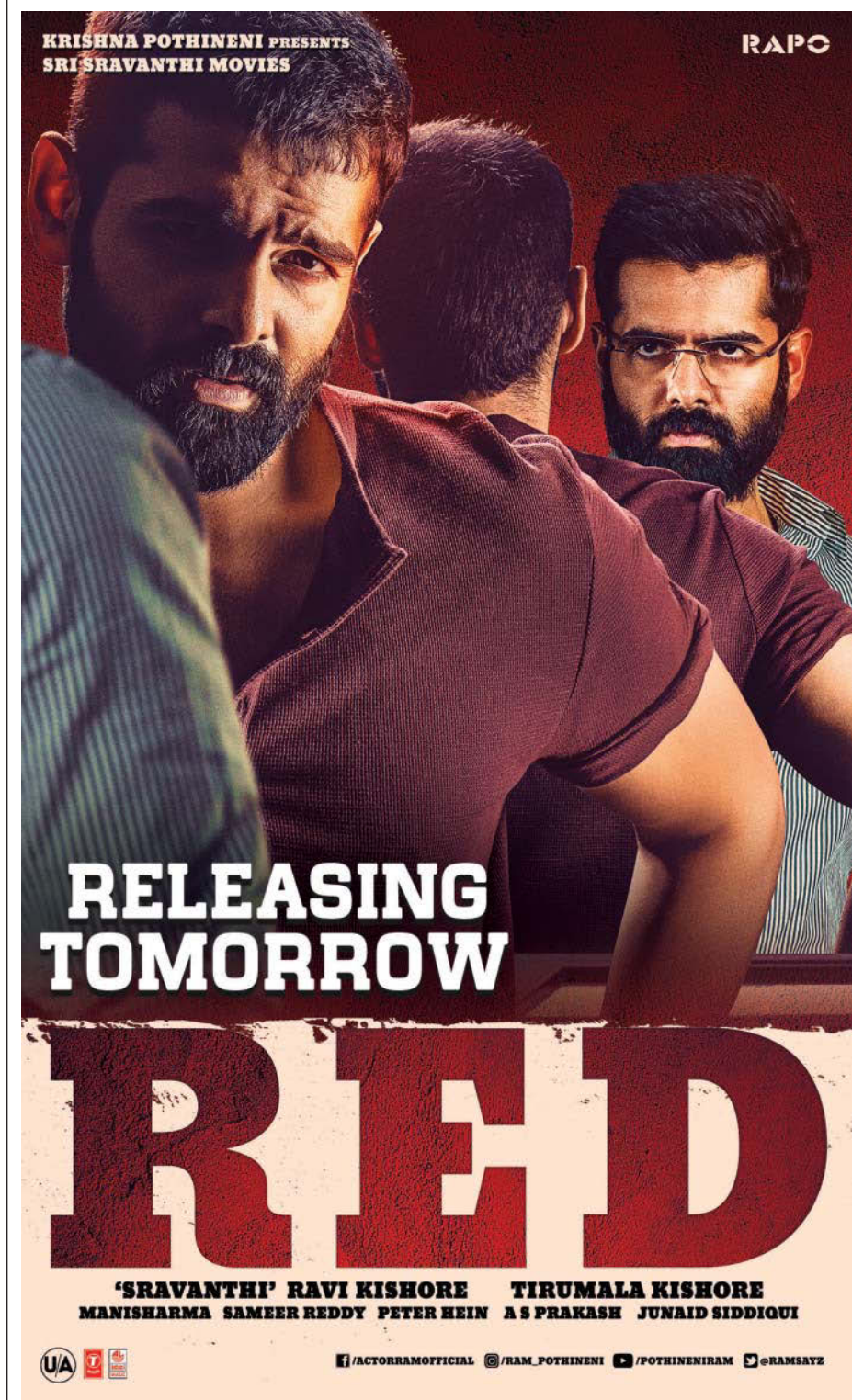
The health secretary said that four other vaccine candidates by Zydus Cadila, Russia’s Sputnik V, Biological E and Gennova are also in advanced stage of clinical trials and once they are cleared by the Drugs Controller General of India, they will be available to people.

As the first shipment of the vaccines rolled out, SII CEO Adar Poonawala said it was a historic and emotional moment for his team and he hoped that the vaccine reached everyone this year. Covishield vaccines were initially brought to the four Central Government Medical Stores Depots — at Chennai, Karnal, Kolkata and Mumbai — and then dispatched to different regional medical stores in

states. Bhushan said some big states have multiple stores. For instance, Uttar Pradesh has nine, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have four each, Kerala has three, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan two each.

Meanwhile, the Health Secretary said the Covid-19 situation is still worrisome across the world and even though daily cases are declining in India. The official said the effectiveness of the vaccines can be observed only after 14 days, till then people must maintain Covid-appropriate behavior and follow protocols like masks, distancing etc.

The country on Tuesday reported 12,584 fresh cases and 167 new deaths in the last 24 hours. This was the lowest in the last seven months.





## SHORT TAKES

MINE BLAST:  
EFFORTS ON TO  
FREE 22 CHINESE

Beijing, Jan. 12: Rescuers are seeking to free 22 Chinese workers trapped underground for more than two days following an explosion at a partially built gold mine in the country's east, state media reported on Tuesday.

Some 300 rescuers were seeking to clear obstructions to reach the workers, whose condition remains unknown, the reports said. The mine in the eastern province of Shandong was under construction at the time of the explosion. The cause of the blast has not been announced.

Mine managers did not report the explosion to authorities in the city of Yantai until Monday evening.

China's mining industry focused on coal used to be the world's deadliest, suffering more than 5,000 fatalities a year from explosions, floods and gas leaks.

2 CAPITOL COPS  
SUSPENDED  
AFTER ATTACK

Washington, Jan. 12: Democratic Representative Tim Ryan of Ohio says two US Capitol Police officers have been suspended as a result of their actions during last week's attack on the Capitol. Ryan told reporters on Monday that one of the officers took a selfie with someone and the second officer put on a "Make America Great Again" hat. He says of the latter that the "interim chief determined that to be qualifying for immediate suspension". Thou sands of pro-Donald Trump insurrectionists stormed the Ca pitol, forcing lawmakers to flee and hide. Five people died, in cluding a Capitol Police officer.

The congressman says Capitol Police are looking at everybody involved that could have potentially facilitated the incursion "at a big level or small level in any way". Capitol Police did not immediately reply to a request for more details.

## US Acting Homeland Security chief quits

Wolf resigns over the storming of the US Capitol by outgoing President Donald Trump's supporters

'Armed protests' planned at  
all capitols, Washington: FBI

Washington, Jan. 12: The FBI is warning of plans for armed protests at all 50 state capitals and in Washington in the days leading up to President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, stoking fears of more bloodshed after last week's deadly siege at the US Capitol.

An internal FBI bulletin warned that, as of Sunday, the nationwide protests may start later this week and extend through Biden's January 20 inauguration, according to two law enforcement officials who read details of the memo

to *The Associated Press*.

Investigators believe some of the people are members of some extremist groups, the officials said. The bulletin was first reported by ABC. "Armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols from 16 January through at least 20 January, and at the US Capitol from 17 January through 20 January," the bulletin said, according to one official.

The officials were not authorised to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. The FBI issued at least

one other bulletin — they go out to law enforcement nationwide on the topic — before the riots last week.

On December 29, it warned of the potential for armed demonstrators targeting legislatures, the second official said. Army General Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters Monday that the Guard is also looking at any issues across the country. The riots followed weeks of online calls for violence in Washington in the waning days of Donald Trump's presidency. — AP

AFTER FROSTY FEW DAYS, PENCE,  
TRUMP APPEAR TO REACH DÉTENTE

Washington, Jan. 12: President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence appear to have come to a détente after nearly a week of silence, anger and finger-pointing. The two met Monday evening in the Oval Office and had a "good conversation," according to a senior administration official. It was their first time speaking since last Wednesday, when Trump incit-

ed his supporters to storm the Capitol building as Pence was presiding over certification of November's election results.

During their conversation, Trump and Pence pledged to continue to work for "the remainder of their term" — a seeming acknowledgement that the vice president will not pursue efforts to try to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump. — AP

ed his supporters to storm the Capitol building as Pence was presiding over certification of November's election results. During their conversation, Trump and Pence pledged to continue to work for "the remainder of their term" — a seeming acknowledgement that the vice president will not pursue efforts to try to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump. — AP

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Biden names two PIOs  
to Office of WH Counsel

## INDIAN-AMERICANS IN BIDEN ADMIN

Washington, Jan. 12: US President-elect Joe Biden on Monday named two Indian Americans — Reema Shah and Neha Gupta — to the Office of the White House Counsel.

Shah, who had served on the debate preparation team for Biden on the Biden-Harris Campaign, has been named as Deputy Associate Counsel while Gupta, currently an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for the Biden-Harris Transition, has been named as Associate Counsel in the Office of the White House Counsel. Shah was an associate at Latham & Watkins and a Bristow Fellow in the Office of the Solicitor General at the Department of Justice. She served as a law clerk to Justice Elena Kagan on the US Supreme Court and Judge Sri Srinivasan on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

Originally from New Jersey, Shah is a graduate of Harvard College, Cambridge University and Yale Law School.

On the other hand, Gupta served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, where she was general counsel to several city agencies, litigated constitutional and statutory challenges to city laws and administrative decisions, and participated in the office's affirmative public protection advocacy.

Previously, Gupta clerked for Judge Michael Daly Hawkins of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge Richard Seeborg of the US District Court for the Northern

1. Neera Tanden, Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
2. Dr Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General  
3. Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General  
4. Ali Zaidi, Deputy National Climate Advisor  
5. Gautam Raghavan, Deputy Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel  
6. Bharat Ramamurti, Deputy Director for the National Economic Council for Financial Reform and Consumer Protection  
7. Vinay Reddy, Director of Speechwriting  
8. Rohini Kossoglu,

Domestic Policy Advisor to the Vice President  
9. Shanthi Kalathil, Coordinator for Democracy and Human Rights  
10. Mala Adiga, Policy Director to Dr Jill Biden  
11. Tarun Chhabra, Senior Director for Technology and National Security  
12. Sumona Guha, Senior Director for South Asia  
13. Aisha Shah, Partnerships Manager, Office of Digital Strategy  
14. Sabrina Singh, Deputy Press Secretary, Office of the Vice President  
15. Vedant Patel, Assistant Press Secretary

POMPEO HEADS  
TO EUROPE ON  
HIS FINAL TRIP

Washington, Jan. 12: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will make his final trip abroad as America's top diplomat this week, the State Department said Monday. With just a week before president-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated, the department said Pompeo will visit Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday. While there, Pompeo plans to meet with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and Belgium's foreign minister. He will then return to Washington, capping foreign travel for his two-and-a-half years as President Donald Trump's secretary of state.

— PTI

— AP

FINANCIAL  
Chronicle

KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 13 JANUARY 2021

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S&P 500*	3,803.94 0.11
Dollar (₹)	73.25 0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	86.01 -0.05
Euro (₹)	81.51 -0.05
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,946.297 0.60
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.43 1.38
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.931 0.12
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.168 0.034

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

Karnataka Bank  
Q3 profit rises  
10% to ₹135 cr

Private sector lender Karnataka Bank reported a 10 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 135.38 crore for the December quarter on account of a decline in bad loans. The Mangalore-headquartered bank had reported a net profit of Rs 123.14 crore in the year-ago period. Total income declined to Rs 1,868.62 crore from Rs 1,993.68 crore. The gross NPAs eased to 3.16 per cent of assets from 4.99 per cent.

■ Only 40-57% of claim amounts reimbursed  
Insurers go stingy  
with Covid claims

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, JAN. 12

Though the number of Covid-19 claims settled by non-life insurance companies has risen sequentially during the December quarter, the claim amount settled by them against the amounts claimed, has not increased in the same proportion. This indicates that policyholders are now paying a significant portion of the claim amount from their pockets owing to disagreements between hospitals and insurers on charges.

Sample this, during October to December 27, the total number of claims reported were 4.23 lakh, of these 83 per cent, or 3.51 lakh, claims were settled. However, in value terms, claims worth Rs 6,235.8 crore were reported, of which only 57 per cent, or Rs 3,578.50 crore were settled.

Similarly, during July to September 2020, there were 2.94 lakh Covid-19 related claims reported to insurers. Of these, 62 per cent, or 1.82 lakh, claims were settled. However, in terms of value, the reported claim amount was Rs Rs 4,629.30 crore, of which insurers settled claims worth Rs 1,842.3 crore, or a mere 40 per cent of the reported claim amount.

A senior official of an insurance company said, "The pendency appears big (claims pending) because the Covid treatment is long drawn. Patients after discharge continue to remain in



## Cadila aims to supply 150 mn doses

CHRIS KAY  
JAN. 12

Cadila Healthcare Ltd, a drugmaker working to develop an indigenous coronavirus vaccine, said it expects to supply between 100 million to 150 million doses of its candidate this year.

The Ahmedabad-based firm's ZyCoV-D vaccine was approved to com-

mence with final stage human trials in December; and it is recruiting 30,000 volunteers for its phase 3 tests, according to a presentation filed with the stock exchanges on Tuesday. Cadila's plasmid DNA candidate doesn't use an infectious agent, like other vaccines, and instead introduces the DNA sequence encoding the antigen. —Bloomberg

quarantine and use medicines for nearly two months after discharge and they submit the final bills only after that."

On policyholders bearing a part of the cost of treatment, the official said, "We have come across a few hospitals where the cost of the PPE kits worn by the medical staff is not equally distrib-

uted between all the patients in a ward but only to the insured patients in the ward. There are several items which are not payable by us and have been communicated to the hospitals."

Take the case of N. Akhter, a 76-year old female who suffered from breathlessness due to Covid-19 infection. Her

Philippines may  
tap meat, fish  
freezers for vaccine

ANDREO CALONZO  
JAN. 12

The Philippines is preparing cold storage for Covid-19 vaccines, with government telling industry groups with facilities for storing meat and fish to be ready to help in keeping and distributing the shots.

The Philippine cold chain industry expects revenues to hit 20 billion pesos (\$416 million) by end-2023.

Local cold-chain logistics operators can help distribute the vaccines throughout the archipelago, as low-temperature storage facilities are mostly in cities, said Anthony Dizon, president of the Cold Chain Association of the Philippines. The group is waiting for the government's final decision on which shots to buy, he added. —Bloomberg

one-day bill in the intensive care unit of a top South Mumbai hospital was around Rs 33,000. Out of which, the insurer, however, did not pay Rs 5,318 charged for disposable gown, PPE kits, shoe cover and face mask and Rs 600 charged for resident doctor visits. So, the patient has to pay nearly Rs 6,000 per day from her pocket.

TATA CHEMICALS  
IN TALKS FOR  
ARCHEAN'S  
IND. SALT UNIT

BAJU KALESH &  
P R SANJAI  
JAN. 12

Tata Chemicals Ltd is in advanced talks to acquire the industrial salt unit of Chennai-based Archeon Group that could value the business at Rs 450 crore (\$61 million) at a minimum, according to people familiar with the matter.

The board of Tata Chemicals is set to discuss the potential offer as soon as this month, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is private.

A representative for Archeon declined to comment, while a representative for Tata Chemicals didn't provide any immediate comment.

The Archeon unit, with a production capacity of 3 million tonnes, makes industrial salt used as an intermediary in the manufacturing of products from detergents, textile dyes to plastics and glass.

A potential deal could offer a reprieve to Archeon, which has been struggling to service its debt obligations for the past two years. The company, founded in 1982, has businesses spanning from industrial salt, fertilisers to mining. In 2018, India Resurgence Fund, a JV between Bain Capital and Piramal Enterprises invested \$156 million in Archeon's marine chemical business. —Bloomberg

Amazon tells  
Sebi to suspend  
Future-RIL deal

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, JAN. 12

After receiving a validation for Singapore tribunal's interim award from Delhi High Court, Amazon has once again asked markets regulator Sebi to suspend the Future-Reliance deal. It has also asked the Sebi to instruct stock exchanges not to issue any approval letter to Future Retail.

In the letter dated January 5, Amazon informed the regulator about the constitution of the arbitral tribunal by Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) in the arbitration proceedings initiated by Amazon against inter alia FRL, Kishore Biyani and Rakesh Biyani. A three-member tribunal consisting of Singaporean barrister Michael Hwang Albert van den Berg and Jan Paulsson have been formed at the SIAC.

"We wish to highlight that in view of the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal, the interim award passed by the Emergency Arbitrator stands automatically extended for the duration of the Arbitration Proceedings unless it is reconsidered/ modified/ vacated by the Arbitral Tribunal," Amazon said in the letter seen by *Financial Chronicle*.

Hence, Future Retail continues to be expressly enjoined and restrained by the interim award from taking in any steps in furtherance...In October, Amazon had received an interim order from SIAC barring Future Retail from taking any step to dispose of or encumber its assets or issuing any securities to secure any funding from a restricted party. Amazon wants the Sebi to take action by suspending review of the impugned transaction (Future's transaction with Reliance), and not granting any no-objection in relation to the same. It also wants the regulator to direct Indian stock exchanges not to issue any no-objection/ approval letter to FRL.

Amazon has been writing letters to regulators and stock exchanges from October 3 on this matter.



## SHORT TAKES

## Warner says sorry to Siraj and India

**Sydney:** Australian batting star David Warner on Tuesday condemned the racist slurs hurled at Indian players, particularly pacer Mohammed Siraj, during the third Test here and said such behaviour by the spectators was not acceptable.

Siraj and senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah were abused for two consecutive days by the crowd. Play was, in fact, halted on the fourth day for a few minutes after the Indian team complained to the umpires, which led to the expulsion of six spectators from the stands and an unreserved apology from Cricket Australia. "I'd also like to say sorry to @mohammedsirajofficial and the Indian team as racism, and abuse is not in any way acceptable or tolerated anywhere at any time, and I would expect better from our home crowd," Warner said in an Instagram post. — PTI

## Hyderabad win second match

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad defeated Odisha by 11 runs in the second round of their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament being played in Kolkata. Put in to bat, Hyderabad made a modest 153 for 8 with the help of knocks by Tilak Varma (44), Tanmay Agarwal (34) and Himalay Agarwal (22). Odisha were restricted to 147 for 4. **Brief scores:** Hyderabad 153/8 in 20 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 34, Tilak Varma 44, Himalay Agarwal 22, Suryakant Pradhan 3/34, Ankit Yadav 2/23) bt Odisha 147/4 in 20 overs (Govind Poddar 50, Subranshu Senapathi 43 n.o., Rajesh Dhuper 30 n.o., C. V. Milind 2/24, T. Ravi Teja 2/40). **Points:** Hyderabad 4, Odisha 0.

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## BAD START!

Sindhu, Praneeth lose on return to action in Thailand



P. V. Sindhu

**Bangkok, Jan. 12:** World champion P. V. Sindhu suffered a shock defeat on her return to international badminton, losing in three games to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the opening round of Thailand Open Super 1000 event here on Tuesday.

Months after the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the international calendar, Sindhu, seeded sixth, returned to action with a 21-16, 24-26, 13-21 defeat to world No.18 Blichfeldt in a 74-minute battle.

In the men's singles, world No.13 B. Sai Praneeth too suffered a straight game loss to Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen on his return to competition. Frontrunner to represent India at the Olympics, Praneeth went down 16-21, 10-21 to the world No.15.

Earlier in the day, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy claimed a 21-11, 27-29, 21-16 win over the Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Widjaja.

However, the women's doubles pair of Ashwini and N. Sikki Reddy couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down 16-21, 7-21 to fourth seeded Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.

Sindhu made a good start, opening up a 6-3 lead and never allowing her opponent an advantage, to take the opening game.

In the second game, the Indian once again moved 11-8 ahead but the Danish girl turned the tables at 15-14. After a neck-and-neck battle, it was Blichfeldt who showed better nerves to make a roaring comeback. — PTI

**Bangkok, Jan. 12:** Former world number one shuttler Kidambi Srikanth got a bloodied nose after undergoing multiple Covid-19 tests and miffed at the poor treatment of health officials at Thailand Open, the Indian on Tuesday called it "unacceptable".

"We take care of ourselves for the match not to come and shed blood for THIS. However, I gave 4 tests after I have arrived and I can't say any of them have been pleasant. Unacceptable," an upset Srikanth wrote on his twitter handle.

The 27-year-old, who is scheduled to open his campaign on Wednesday against fellow Indian



Kidambi Srikanth shared images after his Covid Test in Thailand which left him bleeding from the nose.

Verma, shared photographs of his nose bleeding after he was tested for the fourth time.

## SAINA &amp; PRANNOY CLEARED TO PLAY AFTER COVID TEST DRAMA

**Bangkok, Jan. 12:** Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and H.S. Prannoy were cleared to compete in the Thailand Open after they tested negative for Covid-19, invalidating their previous positive results that forced them out of the tournament hours earlier on a chaotic Tuesday.

Both the Badminton World Federation and Badminton Association of India confirmed the development. "Both Saina Nehwal and H.S. Prannoy have been cleared to participate in the ongoing Thailand Open after the

fourth-round tests reports confirmed that both shuttlers have been tested negative for Covid-19," BAI said in a statement.

The national body said it was possible after it took up the matter with BWF. "BAI have taken up the matter with topmost BWF officials to ensure if tests were negative, matches for respective players should be rescheduled and no walkover is given," BAI added.

Earlier in the day, chaos gripped India's campaign when Saina was forced out following a positive Covid-19 test. — PTI

## Arjun &amp; Akshath best performers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 12

Leg-spinner G. Arjun and top order batsman P. Akshath Reddy emerged the top performers in Tuesday's action in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-1 Division three-day league matches.

Arjun took seven wickets while conceding just 48 runs for Balaaji CC against Charminar while Akshath hit 176 to help Income Tax take a first innings lead.

P. Saaketh Sai Ram (101) of Central Excise; Venkata Chaitanya (6/61) of Concorde; Amrith Yadav (6/13) and Aryan Cariappa (5/53) of Sportive; Apex's S. Vikranth (150 n.o.) and Ranjith Kumar (126); N. Surya Teja (100 n.o.) Jai Hanuman; Evergreen's G. Aniketh Reddy (5/30); Rahul Singh (5/35) of AOC; Zinda Tilismath's N. Anirudh Reddy (5/58); Ensonse's Md Junaid Ali (111) and P. Shiva (100); Osama Bin Wasim (5/44) of Khalsa; and Nitin Sai Yadav (5/54) of Rohit XI were the other performers.

**Brief scores (Day-2):**

**A-1 DIVISION (THREE-DAY)**

**Group-A**

■ R. Dayanand 251 in 75.4 overs & 3 for no loss in 2 overs vs Income Tax 395 in 80.1 overs (P. **Akshath Reddy 176 — 152b, 15x4, 7x6**, D. Swaroop Kumar 59, A. Vamshivardhan Reddy 49, Shiva Singh 42, M. A. Shanmukha 3/96)

■ Deccan Chronicle 421/7 in 90 overs vs Central Excise 242 in 63.2 overs (P. **Saaketh Sai Ram 101 n.o. — 142b, 8x4, 3x6**, T. P. Anirudh 78, Md Abdul Adnan 4/61, E. Vidyannand Reddy 3/41) & 116/3 in 17 overs (Y. Chaitanya Krishna 55 batting, P. S. Chaitanya Reddy 38, E. Vidyannand Reddy 3/26)

■ Jai Hanuman 457/9 in 90 overs & 239/2 decd in 39.5 overs (Shashidhar Reddy 62, N. **Surya Teja 100 n.o. — 122b, 9x4, 1x6**, Sai Purnanand Rao 51) vs BDL 120 in 34.1 overs (Harish 34, Thejodhar 49, Irfan Khan 3/25, Rohit Rayudu 4/21) & 14/1 in 2.5 overs.

■ Budding Star 482/8 in 90 overs vs Union Bank of India 363/7 in 79 overs (Harsh Shankpal 95, Neeraj Bist 77, Arjun Yadav 56 n.o.)

**Group-B**

■ Concorde CC 123 in 47.5 overs & 149 in 34.3 overs (M. Radhakrishna 4/9) lost to Hyderabad Bottling 255



P. Saaketh



N. Anirudh

in 59.5 overs (M. Radhakrishna 49, B. Harshith 35, P. Praneeth Reddy 55, B. Akhilesh Reddy 30, **Venkata Chaitanya 6/61 — 16-3-61-6** & 16/2 in 0.4 overs. **Points:** Hyderabad Bottling 6, Concorde 0.

■ Evergreen 53 in 18.5 overs & 288 in 39.3 overs (Ishan Sharma 72, Chandan Sahani 95, **N. Anirudh Reddy 5/58 — 7.3-0-58-5**) lost to Zinda Tilismath 160 in 60.2 overs (G. **Aniketh Reddy 5/30 — 13.2-3-30-5**) & 184/5 in 37.5 overs (Shashank Lokesh 90 n.o., Sai Suprith Yadav 35). **Points:** Zinda Tilismath 6, Evergreen 0.

■ AOC 113 in 36.1 overs & 297/4 in 40 overs (Amit Pachera 86, Shivam Tiwari 48, Sachin Shinde 58 n.o., G. Rahul Singh 48 n.o.) vs Combined Districts 177 in 52.2 overs (Md Afreedi 46, **Rahul Singh 5/35 — 15.2-6-35-5**) & 83/6 in 17 overs

■ Cambridge XI 432/8 in 90 overs vs MP Colts 286 in 83 overs (Ashesh Singh 61, Vaishnav Reddy 47, Rahul 92, Sampath 48, Ashish Srivastav 3/67) **Group-C**

■ Balaaji CC 145 in 43.2 overs & 236/6 in 40 overs (R. Vamshi 55, S. Ganesh 36, Pabba Nilesh 36, G. Trishank Gupta 4/37) vs Charminar CC 178 in 43.2 overs (Ali Diamond K 40, **G. Arjun 7/48 — 17.5-6-48-7**) & 119/4 in 29 overs (Ali Diamond K 40 batting)

■ Sportive CC 493/7 in 90 overs bt Jai Bhagwathi 155 in 31.2 overs (P. Akshat 54, Abhinav Kumar 44, **Aryan Cariappa 5/53 — 9-1-53-5**) & 168 in 34.3 overs (A. Yuvaraju 68, Arnab K 36, **Amrith Yadav 6/13 — 5-0-13-6**). **Points:** Sportive 8, Jai Bhagwathi 0.

■ Mahmood CC 264 in 85.3 overs & 38/2 in 5 overs vs Apex CC 431/8 decl in 82.1 overs (**Ranjith Kumar 126 — 10-4b, 23x4, 2x6**, S. Vikranth 150 n.o. — 163b, 18x4, 2x6, Lokesh Reddy 3/100)

■ Khalsa 342 in 80.5 overs & 74/3 in 17.3 overs (Harshit 37 batting) vs Secunderabad Nawabs 236 in 67 overs (Takshit Rao 40, T. Harish Singh 56, Jaidev Goud 88, **Osama Bin Wasim 5/44 — 14-2-44-5**)

■ Rohit XI 555 in 68 overs bt Gouds XI 192/9 in 50.2 overs (K. Krithik Reddy 89 n.o., **Nitin Sai Yadav 5/54 — 17.2-2-54-5**) & 145/9 in 23.4 overs (V. Srujan 44, V. K. Siddharth 3/51, Nitin Sai Yadav 3/5). **Points:** Rohit XI 8, Goud's XI 0.

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