



WINDOWS



Satya Nadella bats for global regulation on privacy

Says Covid accelerated digital transformation across globe
HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: A virtual conference between Telangana IT and Industry Minister KT Rama Rao and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella stressed on the need for digital transformation and creation of opportunities in intersection technology and healthcare and the promotion of start-ups.

On the concluding day of the two-day life sciences event 'Bio Asia 2021', Hyderabad-born Nadella spoke in a fire-side chat titled 'Charcha 2021 - Healthcare to Hit Refresh' with the Industry Minister.

Describing privacy as a human right, Nadella said he is hoping for a global regulation on safety and privacy of data that would make sure that tech products and services are safe to use. "Start-ups are shaping the future of healthcare with lots of breakthroughs in the domains of biology, patient care and drug discovery. I see many start-ups attracting huge investments and coming out with breakthroughs, including voice-based applications, for the healthcare sector," Nadella said. Stating that 2020 has been the year wherein the medical sector has gone through an evolution, he said there is no denial that there will be a lot of breakthroughs in the medical industries, precisely after witnessing such a global pandemic. "If we have to speak about the start-ups, there has always been a sense of craving in the industry to address certain gaps in the society. The start-up category has already shown tremendous potential in bringing in digital enablement in the medical industry and it is not just benefiting any specific segment but every possible individual in the country across cities and villages," the Microsoft CEO said. The year 2020 has set a major challenge to society and it is big time that technology has to move a step forward, Nadella said, adding: "Now with such a pandemic hitting the world, data will be playing a centrifugal role. Specially, to address a patient's health history, data will be at the core of any medical consultation."



NO INDIA-PAK CRICKET TILL THERE IS TERRORISM IN J&K: GAMBHIR

AARTI TIKOO SINGH
NEW DELHI

Member of Parliament and former star cricketer Gautam Gambhir has strongly opposed the idea of resumption of cricket between India and Pakistan until Islamabad stops cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.

In an exclusive interview to IANS at his home in the national capital, the star of the 2007 T20 India-Pakistan World Cup Final and 2011 India-Sri Lanka Final, Gautam Gambhir, said, "Ultimately, cricket does not matter. The lives of our soldiers do."

Though under international pressure, Pakistan claims that it has cracked



down on its terror groups, but it has continued to send armed terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir. In the last few weeks, terror attacks against civilians and security forces in the newly created union territory have increased too.

Gambhir, the national icon who was handpicked by the BJP in Delhi in the 2019

parliamentary elections, argued that Indian cricketers get paid handsomely for playing for the country but soldiers defend the nation selflessly. "I haven't done any favour to anyone by playing and winning for the country. But look at someone who is defending us on Siachen or Pakistan border,

risking his life for a small amount of money. They are the greatest heroes of our country."

As a child, Gambhir wanted to join the Indian Army but after playing the prestigious Ranji trophy while he was still in school, he was persuaded by his parents to play for India at the international level. "It was another way of standing up for the country. So I agreed," Gambhir, who now represents the East Delhi constituency in Lok Sabha, recalled.

Though his love for the military and the Indian Army uniform remains intense, he refuses to accept any honorary offers to join the territorial army meant for civilians in India.



DISHA RAVI GETS BAIL

Court terms police probe 'scanty, sketchy'

NEW DELHI: A Sessions Court in Delhi on Tuesday granted bail to climate activist Disha Ravi, who was arrested in connection with a protest that was tweeted by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. The court observed that the police investigation in the case was "scanty and sketchy".

PMO reviews surge in Covid-19 cases

Centre says 70% cases are from Kerala, Maharashtra

NEW DELHI

IN the wake of the rising cases of coronavirus in the country, an emergency meeting has been called at the Prime Minister's Office to review the coronavirus situation in the country. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan briefed the government on the emergence of new mutated versions of the virus.

The development comes after the government data showed that there are around 1.47 lakh active coronavirus cases in the country. The total number of cases reported since the pandemic began in China in December 2019 is now over 1.10 crore, with 1.56 lakh deaths linked to the virus. Addressing a press conference, Rajesh Bhushan stated that Maharashtra and Kerala continue to be the worst-affected states and among a handful seeing a surge in new cases that has worried the centre. Maharashtra has reported over 5,200 new cases in 24 hours, while Kerala has detected over 2,200. "There are still 2 states that have 75% active cases - Kerala & Maharashtra. Kerala has 38% of the total active cases of the country while Maharashtra has 37% of the total active cases. Karnataka has 4% & Tamil Nadu has 2.78% active cases," Rajesh Bhushan added. He also added that over 1.17 crore vaccine doses have been administered across the country — 1.04 crore 1st doses & 12.61 lakh 2nd doses. "Active cases continue to be less than 1.50 lakh.



Punjab imposes fresh curbs

CHANDIGARH: Amid growing concern over rising Covid-19 cases in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday ordered a slew of restrictions, including capping limit on indoor and outdoor gatherings, increased Covid testing and night curfew.

The Chief Minister capped indoor gatherings to 100 and outdoor to 200 persons from March 1, along with strict enforcement of mask-wearing and social distancing, with testing to be ramped to 30,000 a day. He said a decision on reducing occupancy in cinema halls will be taken after March 1.

Chairing a high-level virtual meeting to review the situation, he also authorised the Deputy Commissioners to impose night curfew in hotspots in their districts if needed, with micro containment strategy to be adopted.

Fuel prices resurge after two-day break



NEW DELHI: The petrol and diesel prices across the country continued their northward march after two days break taking its retail rates to unprecedented levels while burning bigger holes in the consumers' pockets.

The oil marketing companies raised the pump price of both petrol and

diesel by 35 paise per litre on Tuesday. With this, petrol is now priced at Rs 90.93 a litre and diesel Rs 81.32 a litre in the capital.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel price increased between 32-40 paise per litre depending on the level of local duty at the state level.

'STUFF OF OUR DREAMS'

NASA unveils never-before-seen video from Mars



LANDING OF ROVER ON THE RED PLANET

WASHINGTON

AFTER a long weekend without any updates or imagery from the Perseverance Mars rover, NASA released a spectacular bounty of video on Monday, including never-before-seen footage capturing the hair-raising descent to the surface of the red planet.

While previous landers captured still images during descent that later were

stitched together to form a sort of stop-action movie, Perseverance was equipped with "ruggedized" off-the-shelf video cameras to shoot high-resolution imagery of the rover's plunge to landing on the floor of Jezero Crater.

Over the weekend, engineers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where Perseverance was built, downlinked 30 gigabytes of data from the rover, including 23,000 images and video frames. That allowed them to give the public a bird's eye view of a landing on Mars.

"This is the first time we've been able to actually capture an event like the landing of a spacecraft on Mars," said JPL Director Michael Watkins.

"We will learn something by looking at the performance of the vehicle in these videos."

BJP leads in Gujarat municipal elections

AHMEDABAD

COUNTING of votes for elections to six municipal corporations in Gujarat has begun from 9am on Tuesday. These are the second set of elections to have taken place during the ongoing farmers' agitation after last week's Punjab local body elections.

In the northern state, the ruling Congress registered a comprehensive win while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was swept aside.

The result of the Gujarat municipal corporation elections, therefore, is very important for the BJP, which is the western state's ruling party as well.

Voting for 144 wards across six municipal corporations — Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar — took place on February 21. Among the voters



MIM opens account in Gujarat Bags 4 seats in Ahmedabad civic polls

AHMEDABAD: Counting of votes is underway for Ahmedabad civic corporation polls and the final results will be declared later on Tuesday. Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM has bagged 4 seats in Ahmedabad till now, opening its electoral account on Gujarat. Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is leading on at least 25 seats in Surat. It is, however, trailing on 13 seats in Rajkot and 16 seats in Ahmedabad.

were names like Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani and Karnataka governor Vajubhai Vala.

ter but their bodies have not been found.

Normally the missing are declared dead only when they are not traced for seven years after the incident responsible for their disappearance but in case of an extraordinary occurrence like the one witnessed in Uttarakhand special provisions can be made, he said.

The move to declare those who continue to be missing in the flash flood as presumed dead has been initiated to expedite the process of distribution of compensation among the affected families, he said.

136 missing in glacier disaster presumed dead

CHAMOLI

The Uttarakhand government has issued a notification authorising 136 people still missing after the flash flood in Chamoli district over two weeks ago to be declared "presumed dead".

Sixty-eight bodies have so far been recovered after the February 7 disaster. There is a tunnel in which around 35 people are suspected to have been trapped, but rescuers have not been able to reach it till now due to the sludge. Authorities say clearing the debris from the tunnel could take months.



A glacial lake was formed upstream of Tapovan over Rishiganga following the devastating flash flood which had demolished a 13.2 MW hydel project along the river besides causing extensive damage to the NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project along

Dhauliganga. Uttarakhand Health Secretary Amit Singh Negi said on Tuesday that the presumption of death can be made by officials in the affected district only in case of missing people who in all likelihood have died in the disaster but their bodies have not been found.

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Getting closer while sitting afar

Distance prevents intimacy from taking significance in a relationship. When two people are apart, it is too easy to idealise and romanticise each other

PUJA GUPTA

Is he/she worth waiting for does she/he feeling the same way I do? Am I kidding myself thinking long-distance can work? What if they find someone else? These questions and more are likely to haunt people in a long-distance relationship. Moreover, Skype calls and blinking chat windows can't replace physical presence. But this can be dealt with, wisely.

Long distance relationships are not a new concept in India. Increased globalization and rapid development across the country, has increased its prevalence, and has made it important to sustain such relationships as every couple at some point of time will have to face distance. With increased education, cultural maturity and the permeation of digital technologies in our lives, the value and significance of protecting relationships has grown.

A 2018 survey on long-distance couples found that while 27 percent had never lived near each other, about 50 percent of couples in the survey had met each other online. Hirak Patel, Counselling Psychologist, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, who shares a few coping mechanisms that couples follow to nurture a long-distance relationship

Mutual acceptance

Acceptance that in this phase, the person is not going to be around you physically. Accept the reason behind getting into this phase, the variable reasons could be due to a job switch, financial needs, family circumstances or any other. Acceptance helps the couple sail through the phase smoothly and keep the lamp of hope burning.

Communication is key

Communication is a key aspect



when people are in a long-distance relationship. Truthful communication and giving enough space is important. One needs to understand that there is some leeway that needs to be given. Communicate because you feel like it and do not force yourself into it. Sharing things about each other's day can help in maintaining a crucial connection even from afar.

Be balanced

Make sure your dependence and independence are well-balanced. Ensure your partner knows how much you need him/her, but don't cling, as that can make your partner feel trapped.

Using technology in different ways

Video call, writing an E-mail, surprising through letters, online gifting to maintain excitement in the relationship is good way to stay connected and express love.

Encourage listening

Show immediate appreciation when he/she listens to you properly and show interest when they are talking. You need to stay connected by sharing.

Doing activities together

There is a need to explore and experience things together when people are in a relationship, but in a long distance relationship, it becomes difficult. However, doing some activities together like watching a movie at the same time, virtually cooking together, or exploring one's day virtually could help the couple sail through. Also, make time for a holiday together as well.

Maintaining trust

Trust the foundation of all strong relationships. Even if there is a physical distance, attachment and emotional connection can be sustained effectively.

Trusting the partner becomes an important aspect for a relationship to sustain and thrive in distance. Giving the virtual and personal space to each other, respecting, and accepting the changes and avoid linking all issues and concerns to physical distance is important.

Distance prevents intimacy from taking significance in a relationship. When two people are apart, it is too easy to idealise and romanticise each other. It is a good feeling though but sometimes it can be delusional. It's too easy to overlook the mundane, yet important differences and get caught up in the drama of our minds instead of the boring truths of our hearts.

Taking initiative to understand these aspects is crucial in a relationship. Relationships can be complicated and difficult but if handled wisely it can go a long way to sustain a healthy and happy life.

Malaika Arora shares her diet, fitness regime

TWEET PATROL



BIPASHA BASU
@BIPSLUVURSELF

When you have to patao the birthday boy to share his breakfast spread with you #floatingbreakfast #monkeylove #monkeyprincebirthday @wmaldives https://instagram.com/p/CLoOyLKDWT7/?igshid=1i7sxzp4eypf4



Bollywood diva Malaika Arora advises her fans to follow a routine, eat right and work hard to bring balance between their body, mind and soul to the best of your abilities and become the ideal version of your own self.

Malaika, who launched Reebok's new range of walking products to encourage people to live a fitter, better lifestyle, believes eating right is the best way to maintain your health.

What's your fitness regime? How do you include walking in it?

I believe in having a routine which I choose to follow on a regular basis. I start my day with a good morning session of yoga and then I step outside to do a mix of other fitness activities as well like HIIT, walking, running, swimming and so on. Walking is a great way to improve and maintain your overall health and I make sure I do it for at least 30 minutes a day.

Which is your favorite exercise? How much time do you dedicate to exercise in a day?

My favorite exercise is doing yoga as I always begin my day with it. I usually dedicate 60 minute in a day for exercising.

Please share some benefits that you have personally seen when you included walking in your regimen

Walking is a risk-free form of exercise that helps you to maintain your overall health. When I feel I have put on a little weight, I feel walking is an effective way to reduce that weight and I have also seen a lot of toning in my legs and overall body while I indulge in walking as a regular fitness exercise.

While traveling, how do you take

care of your fitness regime?

I always make sure I dedicate some time to my fitness routine even when I'm travelling as exercising gives me inner peace and keeps my outlook positive.

How important do you think it is to focus on diet while trying to achieve a fit body and mind?

For achieving a fit body and mind, I believe eating right is the best way to maintain your health. The balance should be 30% exercise to 70% diet in order to achieve the body you wish for. If one wishes to follow a particular and strict diet, then they should always consult a doctor or a trainer and set up a diet best suited for their body.

Are you strict about your diet?

I keep making changes in my diet to see what really suits my body and provides the maximum benefits. Everyone's body is different and reacts differently to the intake of food.

What does your daily diet look like?

I don't believe in dieting as I eat what my body demands and what my mind desires, of course in moderation. I don't follow a particular diet and I eat what I like- be it Avocados or Biryani.

Any fitness advice to readers?

Each individual has their own fitness goals which they want to achieve. My only advice to my readers is to follow a routine, eat right and work hard to bring balance between your body, mind and soul to the best of your abilities and become the ideal version of your own self.



The perfect pair of shoes for brides-to-be



Spring wedding season is fast approaching, and brides-to-be must already be on their toes, planning everything down to the very last detail. Planning a perfect wedding is no small feat.

From doing rounds of multiple outlets every day to buy your dream lehenga, to visiting one jewellery store after another to finalise that perfect 'rani-haar', it can all feel a tad overwhelming at times. Owing to the ceaseless wedding checklist, brides generally tend to put off shopping for the perfect footwear till the very last moment, and then end up opting for the wrong pair due to time constraint. The right pair of shoes can make or break your entire look. Sometimes a perfect pair of shoes is all you need to add a

dash of magic to your entire ensemble; we all remember what it did for Cinderella, right?

Well, no need to fret just yet! We have Matteo Lambert, Chief Collection Officer, Bata India Limited, to help you make the correct choice that will help you be every inch of the gorgeous bride that you always dreamt of being. Here are a few tips from him:

For the glam goddess

A pair of glamorous golden or red chunky heels is the perfect pick for the bride who believes in keeping the glam quotient high and making a grand entrance. The best thing about chunky heels is that you can pair it with a number of outfits in your wedding

trousseau and have both your style and comfort quotient on point.

For the minimalist bride

If you are someone who likes to keep it minimal yet chic, you should go for footwear in pastel shades. From pumps to wedges to flats, pastel hues work phenomenally for all shoes styles. Shades like dirty pink, periwinkle blue, beige and lilac are going to be all the rage this wedding season.

For the hopeless romantic

If you are the quintessential romantic bride who wants the element of whimsy in her bridal ensemble, a pair of floral or be-

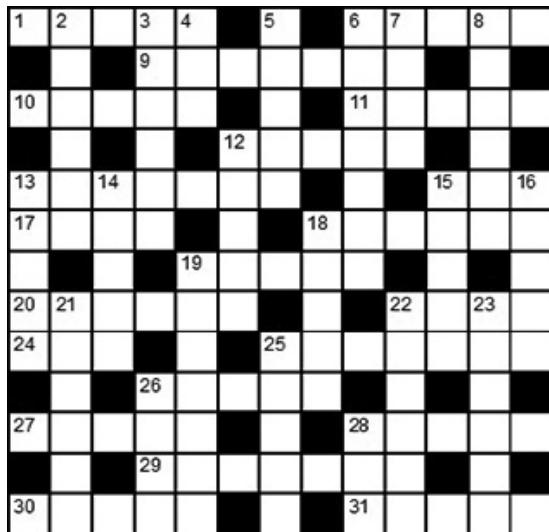
jeweled heels are the perfect choice.

For the laid-back bride

If you don't believe in the entire big-fat-Indian-wedding hoopla and just want to relax and enjoy with your loved ones, then a pair of ballet flats would be your ideal bet. Ballets will allow you to dance the night away without worrying about the blisters and pain.

For the modern bride

Most new-age, millennial brides know exactly what they are looking for and aren't big sticklers for rules and traditions. They love experimenting with the latest styles and giving it their own modern and quirky touch. For all such brides, sneakers would just be perfect. Sneakers are trendy, comfortable, stylish, and most importantly, easy to dance in!



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 23

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Author ____ C. Chaudhuri (5)
- 6 Weird or frightening (5)
- 9 Golf iron (7)
- 10 David's weapon (5)
- 11 Determined upon (3,2)
- 12 Weaves wool (5)
- 13 Feeling jealous (7)
- 15 Faucet (3)
- 17 Bustles or fuss (4)
- 18 Prestigious statuettes (6)
- 19 Energetic (5)
- 20 Occurrences (6)
- 22 Close up (4)
- 24 Grief stricken (3)
- 25 Hanoi is it's capital ? (7)
- 26 Of the upper hipbone (5)
- 27 Narrow valley (5)
- 28 Admit (3,2)
- 29 Transfixes on stakes (7)
- 30 Bunch on TV once (5)
- 31 Churchillian gesture (1-4)

Down

- 2 Upcountry (6)
- 3 Bugs (6)

Delve (3)

- 5 Throw or toss (5)
- 6 Rapturous delight (7)
- 7 Supplements (4)
- 8 Weather map line (6)
- 12 Leg joints (5)
- 13 Relaxes (5)
- 14 Chose by election (5)
- 15 ____ for a ride : fooled or deceived ? (5)
- 16 Sacred song (5)
- 18 Relating to sight (5)
- 19 Early Greek astronomer (7)
- 21 Great bravery (6)
- 22 Emphasise (6)
- 23 Exclaiming in amazement, joy, or surprise (6)
- 25 Pertaining to a vague nerve (5)
- 26 Footnote abbr. (4)
- 28 Monetary unit of Bulgaria (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 23



NEWS ROUNDUP

'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety' turns 3: Nushratt Bharucha recalls her 'first film to enter 100-cr club'

The romantic comedy Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety was released three years ago on this day. Actress Nushratt Bharucha recalls the film changed a lot of things for her professionally and helped her grow. "This film got a tremendous response from the audience, which is super fresh in my mind till now. It was my first film to enter the 100-crore club and I am just too grateful to have been part of it all. It was like a turning point of my career where I feel, I got the recognition that I had worked so hard for," she says.

The film was helmed by Luv Ranjan and also starred Kartik Aaryan and Sunny Singh Nijjar.

"I was very comfortable with Luv sir's style of shooting and working with Kartik and Sunny. We were all just enjoying every bit of the shoot. I really miss that experience and am glad that I had it," Nushrat adds.

The actress will be seen next in the horror film Chorri. She also has Hurdang and Janhit Mein Jaari in the pipeline.



Six held for cloning fingerprints for bank accounts

SHAHJAHANPUR

SIX people have been arrested by the Shahjahanpur police that has seized nearly 500 cloned fingerprints of beneficiaries along with their Aadhaar cards and bank passbooks.

The arrested persons include Gaurav, 26, a graduate who runs a photocopy shop in Kaant area.

Gaurav, who learnt fingerprint cloning using glue-gun

and adhesive online, has allegedly hacked nearly 500 bank accounts of the beneficiaries of various government schemes such as PM Kisan Samman Yojana, old age pension, etc, in connivance with bank mitras.

"It takes just Rs 5 to clone a fingerprint," Gaurav told the police.

IG Bareilly range, Rajesh Pandey, said, "We are trying to gather more information



about such gangs active in the state by sharing the information with headquarters."

The Shahjahanpur police unearthed the racket being run from Jalalabad area of the district after getting repeated complaints from several beneficiaries who had not received money from the government into their bank accounts.

SP, S. Anand, had handed over the case to the crime

branch, which found that though the money was credited into the beneficiaries' accounts, it was later withdrawn through Jan Suvidha Kendras being run by bank mitras.

Further investigations revealed the names of Shivram, Sunil Tripathi, Dev Vrat, Sandeep Singh, Shehrun, Rajveer and Hukum Singh, all of whom are bank mitras.

After gathering information, four accused - Shivram,

Sunil Tripathi, Dev Vrat and Sandeep Singh - were arrested with cloned fingerprints and several counterfeit stamps, while Gaurav was arrested later. During interrogation, it was found that Gaurav used to clone fingerprints for the bank mitras using glue-gun and adhesive that would cost him less than Rs 5 per cloning.

Gaurav is suspected to be involved with other gangs in the district as well.

Ensuring safety, dignity of women top priority: Yogi

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday reiterated his government's commitment towards ensuring safety and dignity of women and stressed that the 'Mission Shakti' has been launched in the state for this purpose.

The chief minister reviewed the progress of the mission and said it has had a positive impact on the society which is becoming more aware towards the safety and dignity of women, according to an official release.

He directed officials to start various departmental programmes relating to women empowerment under it from February 26 in view of International Women's Day on March 8. Adityanath asked for setting up reporting chowkis in every district for registering cases of crime against women and ensuring prompt action, the release said.

He also asked for appointing women at all community toilets set up in rural areas and also directed for effective implementation of schemes meant for



women such as the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangla Yojna and the Samohik Vivah Yojna.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said the mission is entering a new phase after having achieved great success in ensuring safety, dignity and self-reliance of women and girls. In view of the success of

the Mission Shakti campaign, all the district magistrates of the state will prepare a road map for the next one year to continue the mission even after April 2021.

Under the campaign, about 7.06 crore people have been made aware and this includes more than 4.27 crore women and

over 2.78 crore men, the official said. "Women and girls still suffer discrimination and gender inequality. In such a situation, effective communication has an effective role in helping them overcome these situations," said Manoj Kumar Rai, director, women welfare department and nodal officer, Mission Shakti.

Letter petition sent to HC in Unnao case

PRAYAGRAJ

A LETTER petition has been sent to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court urging him to take cognizance of the murder of two minor Dalit girls and the critical condition of the third in mysterious circumstances at the Babuhra village in Unnao.

The HC is yet to take cognizance of the petition.

In the letter petition, sent by one Nilim Dutta, who is chairman of Unified People's Movement, it has been stated that it does not inspire any confidence that the Unnao police would do justice in this present case.

Dutta was booked by Unnao Police for 'spreading misinformation' about the case through his tweets.

In this backdrop of the situation, the petitioner has requested the court to take cognizance of the matter and bring under its supervision, the investigation of the case and to hand



it over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Besides, the petitioner has also requested the court to direct the Uttar Pradesh government to shift the lone minor survivor, who is in critical condition, by air-ambulance to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi. Three

Dalit girls, aged 13, 15 and 17 years, were found unconscious at a field in Baburha village on February 17, 2021.

The three had gone to the family fields to collect fodder, according to their family members. Two of them died while being taken to hospital while the third was admitted to a Kanpur hospital.

College student found half-burnt near highway

SHAHJAHANPUR

IN a shocking incident, a student of BA second year was found in a half-burnt condition under mysterious circumstances near the highway on Nagaria crossing here, police said.

The woman, in her early twenties, was found without any clothes late on Monday evening. She is a student of the Swami Shukdevanand College.

The local residents who saw her, informed the police.

Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police, S.Anand, said that the woman has been admitted to a medical facility and is being referred to Lucknow for advanced treatment.

"She was able to give us the phone number of her father and we informed him. He said that when he went to pick up his daughter from the college around 3 p.m., she was not there. He waited for some time and then started searching for her," he said.

Patriotic curriculum in Delhi government schools

PURNA SINGH

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government has announced that it will start patriotic courses in its government schools in the academic session 2021-2022. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier announced the patriotic course, a day before Independence Day in 2019.

Now, after a review meeting on the development of the curriculum, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that it would be implemented in the next academic session. Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia said that the biggest difference in our education system is that it tries to impart knowledge but not to impart intelligence. The patriotic curriculum will try to bring intelligence to the center of education.

The government had already announced that the syllabus would be for students from KG to eighth grade. A statement issued by the Delhi government



said that the patriotic curriculum would include topics related to understanding oneself, family, school, community / society, nation and the world. It will implement various methods and pedagogy including storytelling, group work, mind mapping, role play and group reflection activities. The Delhi government has

earlier introduced many such courses for the all-round development of children. Happiness Curriculum is one of these. Now in Delhi, when Corona is under control, educational activities are going on loudly. Schools have been opened till 9th-11th. Simultaneously, the process of nursery admission has also started.

Father-son duo bail out rival, only to kill him

PILIBHIT

A man and his son have been booked for allegedly kidnapping and killing their rival after getting him released from a jail on bail. The wife of the deceased, Shaira Begum, a resident of Naugwan Pakadia village said that her husband Feroz Ali had a rivalry with Shabbir and his son Amir of Baghat.

"The father-son made several attempts to kill my husband but did not succeed. However, about four months ago, my husband, who had gone out of home for some work, did not return. I searched for him and later I came to know that he had been sent to jail in a case registered under the Arms Act. "When I inquired with the police through my lawyer on



January 29 and learnt that Shabbir and Amir had obtained a bail order for my husband just two days after he was lodged in the jail. They kidnapped my husband after he came out of the prison," she alleged.

"The father-son duo allegedly killed my husband and disposed of his body," Shaira added.

Shaira finally went to court when police failed to act on her complaint. Following the chief judicial magistrate's order, police have now booked Shabbir and his son Amir.

‘Sensitise students, parents about cyber threats, online bullying’

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government has directed schools in the national capital to sensitise students and parents about cyber bullying and online threats during COVID-19 pandemic and how to protect children from these risks.

The teaching and learning activities moved online since March last year when a nationwide lockdown was imposed in view of the pandemic. In a letter to school heads, the Directorate of Education (DoE) said school education has shifted from the carefree days of learning together in the safe school environment to online mode of gaining knowledge during COVID-19.



"The internet spaces are growing and multiplying and data security, privacy and protection is inadequate to keep a check on this.

It is important that everyone is aware of the risks that could be associated with being connected to internet," the Directorate of Edu-

cation (DoE) said in a letter to schools.

"In addition, the students need to be warned against these risks and it is extremely important for us to ensure that every possible step is taken towards giving our children safe spaces to learn that keep their innocence and cater to their curiosity in a non-harmful way," it added. The Directorate said a study has been conducted by India Child Protection Fund (ICPF) regarding online exploitation of children and increase in activities related to child sexual abuse material which indicates a sharp rise in demand for online child pornography during lockdown.

"Hence, it is imperative to make children and their parents aware

about the safe use of internet," it said. The DoE has asked schools to refer to guidelines on "safe online learning in times of COVID-19" which were jointly developed by the NCERT and UNESCO. The booklet containing the guidelines was released by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal in June last year. The booklet is aimed to "sanitise" the digital space and ensure that all stakeholders including teachers, students, and parents are safe as moved to digital modes. The book informs students about what cyberbullying is, what are dos and don'ts of the cyberspace as well as also gives a brief about the laws in the Indian jurisdiction to protect students and parents in case of any mishappening online.

Tea exports set for a steady rise

AFTER onion, potato and sugar, tea seems to have suddenly become a politically sensitive commodity. A couple of days ago, while remotely inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of some projects at a programme in poll-bound Assam's Dhekiajuli, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that some forces seated abroad were conspiring against India and they were not sparing even the Indian tea. Without naming the external or overseas forces, Prime Minister went to the extent of saying that the evidence that the government has, suggests the forces are seated abroad, ready to launch an attack on India's tea-based identity.

Interestingly, PM's comment came at a time when the Indian tea industry received some good news from at least one overseas market. Iranian buyers have initiated negotiations with the Indian tea trade to procure whole leaf teas to meet the country's domestic demand. The Gulf nation, which was severely

hit by the pandemic, is ready to pay good prices to the Indian tea exporters and the contracts will be signed by the second week of March when new season teas in small quantities will slowly start arriving in the market. Indian tea exporters are hopeful to achieve exports of nearly 54 million kg to Iran this year, a volume that had been achieved in 2019.

This has to be seen in the light of the fact that in 2020, India produced 1,255.60 million kilograms of tea, down 9.7 per cent from a year ago as floods damaged tea gardens in the north-eastern State of Assam - which accounts for over half of India's production - where output had already been cut by labour movement restrictions to contain the coronavirus outbreak. Lower output lifted average tea prices in 2020 by 31 per cent from a year ago to a record Rs 184.69 a kg, according to data compiled by the Tea Board. Although, the price rise supported the beleaguered Indian tea industry, which was struggling

with rising production costs, it has trimmed exports from the south Asian country.

The development on the Iran front, therefore, has certainly come as a booster. Significantly, Iranians are fond of tea and that country imports high quality tea from India (nearly 65-70 mn kg annually) and Sri Lanka.

Mind you that India's tea exports in the first 11 months of 2020 fell 18.2 per cent from the previous year ago 187.92 million kg, going by the Tea Board of India statistics. India, the world's second-biggest tea producer, exports CTC (crush-tear-curl) grade mainly to Egypt and Britain, with the orthodox variety shipped to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

Despite the Prime Minister having rung the alarm bell (albeit with a different agenda), Indian tea exporters are quite confident that tea exports are expected to rise as key importing countries are recovering from Covid-19 that limited their purchases last year. The political fear mongering notwithstanding, when it comes to actual business perspective, there is no reason to press the panic button, as of now.



Balochistan: In the crosshairs of history

ADITI BHADURI

THE year began on a subdued note with the assassination of journalist and activist Karima Baloch, one of Balochistan's few, fiery and brilliant women freedom fighters. Her dead body was found in a lake in Toronto, Canada. The death is strongly alleged to be that of the Pakistani deep state. It, however, did not ignite international passions as the farmers' protests in democratic India did, for example. Yet, this was not a one-off assassination. It was part of a broader pattern of continuous death, destruction and dispossession of an entire community by the very state that is meant to protect and ensure their rights. Just in September another Baloch female journalist was killed, her perpetrators went scot-free.

According to the Human Rights Council of Balochistan 18 murders and 28 people were forcibly disappeared in Pakistan's Balochistan province in September alone. The Voice of Baloch Missing Persons states that between 2002 and September 2018, at least 6,428 persons were forcibly abducted by security agencies. Prominent Baloch tribal leaders have been assassinated, forcing yet others to seek asylum abroad.

Yet, Balochistan rarely makes it to the headlines in the international media. This is what makes Balochistan: In the Cross-Hairs of History by veteran journalist Sandhya Jain a timely intervention.

Jain, in great details, traces the history of Balochistan's merger and inclusion in the state of Pakistan. Those who believe Jammu and Kashmir's merger with India is disputed, will find Balochistan's association with Pakistan even more tenuous. The province is strategically located: at the crossroads of Afghanistan, Iran and the Gulf, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.

In a cloak and dagger game, machinations of the British (for whom securing the province was essential to controlling the Gulf), the Muslim League, and its leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah, together with Baloch tribes jostling for power, the Khan of Kalat finds himself outwitted, and the territories which comprise Balochistan province today ceded to Pakistan. Thus, for instance, when Ahmed Yar Khan, the last Khan of Kalat, under tremendous pressure from Jinnah to sign the instrument of accession, when he only wanted to sign "an agreement on defence, foreign affairs and communications" summoned the Dar-ul-Awam to deliberate on the matter, it "voted unanimously for independence".

Ghaus Baksh Bizenjo made this impassioned speech: "We have a distinct civilization and a separate culture like that of Iran and Afghanistan. We are Muslims but it is not necessary that by virtue of being Muslims we should lose our freedom and merge with others. If the mere fact that we are Muslims requires us to join Pakistan, then Afghanistan and Iran, both Muslim countries, should also amalgamate with Pakistan. We were never a part of India before the British rule. Pakistan's unpleasant and loathsome desire that our national homeland, Balochistan, should merge with it is impossible to consider..."

From there follows a familiar pattern, seen in the earlier history of East Pakistan (and which ultimately decided its destiny as Bangladesh), in that of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, Northwest Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) -- the steady depletion of the natural resources of these provinces, the dispossession of its populace, the erosion of local autonomy, the negligence of development, suppression of ethnic identity and culture, demographic changes and the brutal crushing of any dissent or opposition.

According to the UNDP, 71 per cent of the population in Balochistan live below the poverty line, second only to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the country's poverty index. This should never have been the case. Afterall, Balochistan is a resource rich province, with natural gas, and mineral deposits including coal, chromites, barytes, sulphur, marble, iron ore, quartzite, uranium, limestone and 95 per cent of the world's asbestos.

Jain points out that 40 of the 50 minerals being mined in Pakistan currently are from Balochistan. Nevertheless, the province continued to languish in neglect and development, even as Baloch people alleged "internal colonization by Pakistan's demographically, politically and economically dominant province of Punjab". Thus, while gas from Balochistan's Sui gas fields reached Punjab in 1964, Quetta cantonment received gas only in 1982.

Never having acquiesced to its merger with Pakistan, the Baloch have rebelled periodically, with the latest ongoing round of insurgency breaking out in 2004. The Pakistani state and army have used high handed measures to quell it, which includes among other things, death squads. Unsurprisingly, the people of Balochistan have opposed Chinese and other foreign investments into the province to develop the strategic Gwadar port, part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor -- the flagship project of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as no local stakeholder is involved.

Jain points out that at the agreement signing ceremony over which then President Musharraf and Chinese premier Wu Bangguo presided in 2002, no Baloch representative was present. Consequently, the insurgency has also begun targeting Chinese interests and representatives in the province.

The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the ensuing jihad and civil war in that country has further exacerbated the agony of the province with an influx of refugees and arms adding to the economic duress, violence and chaos, while the drug trade of landlocked Afghanistan has introduced "drug economy" to the province.

Pakistan's support for the US war on terror encouraged its war against the Baloch as it received both funds, arms, and silence from the US in return. In fact, to Pakistan's credit it has got silence from major quarters: Balochistan rarely figures on the radar of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation or the Arab world, or even the EU or the UN. Turkey and Malaysia so vocal about rights of Muslims elsewhere have not uttered a squeak for the Baloch, Iran's suppression of its own Baloch dissidents makes it a partner for Pakistan. India alone espouses the Baloch cause but with many limitations; Baloch insurgency is blamed on Indian collusion by Pakistan.

Today South Asia stands at a cusp of major geo-political changes. There is the ascendancy of the Taliban in Afghanistan, US and NATO troops will soon be withdrawing from the region, the CPEC runs through Balochistan and other disputed territories, China, Pakistan, and Turkey have entered into a close alliance, each with its own view of exceptionalism, political Islam is gaining in currency, the problem of Balochistan acquires greater salience.

Rich in data culled from numerous sources with an extensive bibliography Jain has done a yeoman's service. A detailed work, the volume also delves into Baloch ethnicity, language, and culture. This is probably the author's greatest achievement -- she has not dealt with the subject through the prism of India-Pakistan rivalry. Given the paucity of literature on Balochistan and research on it being few and far inbetween this volume becomes a go-to book for a range of stakeholders and hopefully will further evoke interest in and awareness of such a critical a subject.

(Aditi Bhaduri is a columnist. The views expressed are personal)

How important are migratory birds in an era of climate change

As many as 1,349 species of birds have been recorded as of 2019, of which 78 are endemic to the country and 212 species are globally threatened

RAVI SHANKAR BEHERA,
NEELA MADHAB SAHU,
RANJIT K SAHU

MIGRATORY birds are seasonal guests with positive impacts. Birds from 29 countries fly to India every year. The country witnesses incoming of large flocks during September-October signifying the beginning of migration.

As many as 1,349 species of birds have been recorded as of 2019, of which 78 are endemic to the country and 212 species are globally threatened, according to the Government of India.

Migratory birds require nesting places and sufficient food for successful broods. Accelerated habitat loss during the last decade, including decreased area under water bodies, wetlands, natural grasslands and forests, have proved to be major impediments for them.

Overexploitation, unsustainable use of natural resource, population explosion along with increased weather variabilities and climate change has resulted in loss of biodiversity.

These factors have also adversely impacted the entire life cycle and survival of migratory birds. New approaches are needed to prevent the ill-effects and altered migration patterns of birds.

Migratory bird species are known to be indicators for the flyway region, as they use different biomes and habitats and face different pressures along the migration route. The Central Asian Flyway covers 30 countries, including India, at the tail end with huge landmass and habitat variations, especially the wetlands.

As daylight shrinks and food supply dwindles at the breeding sites, the birds take the cue and start migrating towards wintering sites in the South. The return journey begins in March or April.

Migration is also an adaptation mechanism to help birds overcome weather adversities and unavailability of food in colder regions. The importance

of bird migrations on the health of the ecosystems is well-established.

Birds often migrate to and from specific sites and hence, certain regions become identified with certain species. Pallikaranai in Chennai attracts a large number of flamingoes, ducks and waders.

Pulicat Lake on the Tamil Nadu-Andhra border hosts flamingoes; ducks and waders can be seen in Chilika lagoon in Odisha. Other notable sites to see migratory birds are the Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur in Rajasthan and Khijadia Bird Sanctuary in Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Some birds are passage migrants, like the spotted flycatcher, rufous-tailed scrub robin and European roller. They migrate through a large part of western India and over winter in Africa. Amur Falcons pass through India in December. Many birds arrive from temperate regions; the Siberian Cranes come to India in winter.

Importance of migratory birds

Migratory birds play several essential and indispensable roles in the ecosystems they reside in and travel through. Such birds raising broods end up acting as pest control agents by devouring insects and other organisms that harm the environment and crops.

Locust attack is one such disaster that stems from that absence of birds. Migratory birds help in dispersal of seeds, leading to maintenance of biodiversity along their routes.

Ducks can transport fish eggs in their guts to new water bodies. The droppings of birds, also known as guano, are rich in nitrogen and act as organic fertilizers. Egg shells can add calcium and other minerals.

Migratory birds form both prey and predator bases in ecosystems seasonally and can, therefore, have an ecological impact. Prevalence of migratory birds helps analyse the state of environment in an area.



Migratory birds require nesting places and sufficient food for successful broods.

Accelerated habitat loss during the last decade, including decreased area under water bodies, wetlands, natural grasslands and forests, have proved to be major impediments for them. Overexploitation, unsustainable use of natural resource, population explosion along with increased weather variabilities and climate change has resulted in loss of biodiversity

Challenges

In several parts of the world where they travel through or are resident, their eggs are poached and hunted down. Locals unaware of the benefits provided by migratory birds often indulge in behaviour adverse to survival of birds. Affluent people indulge in bird poaching to please their palate without giving any consideration to environmental consequences.

Loss of one mate can result in the death of the other and loss of the brood due to starvation affecting an entire family of birds and future generations. Along with loss of water bod-

ies and wild habitats, the dwindling of minor habitats in the vicinities of towns and villages, where smaller flocks often take refuge, is a major concern.

Increasing illumination at night adversely affects migration by confusing the birds. Degradation of the environment and increased pollutant levels jeopardise the life cycle and migration of birds. Heavy pollution of water bodies and presence of large amounts of pesticides leads to improper hatching and the loss of broods.

Birds can suffer from the effects of continuously feeding on fish and insects that have ele-

vated levels of heavy metals and toxins. Due to increasing encroachment and human interferences, increased fishing the availability of food becomes a challenge and birds can die of starvation.

Possible interventions

- Long-term monitoring programmes to assess the migration trends in birds, diseases monitoring and enumeration
- Educating school children, youth and the public on the importance of bird migrations and their impacts. Seeking local support for nesting and conservation of migratory birds
- Fishing activity to be minimised / abandoned / banned in the estuaries, rivers and water bodies during the migration season
- Adoption of sustainable organic agriculture practices by farmers to ensure chemical free water bodies and pesticide free prey base
- People need to ensure sustainable use of landscapes and ecosystem services, which can support the migratory bird's site, species and their population
- Conservation of wetlands, grasslands, natural habitats and forests with native species to help birds roost and build their nests
- Banning single use plastics and avoiding dumping of single use plastics in water bodies
- Specific rules, regulations, acts and treaties among nations and strict adherence to support conservation of migratory birds
- Modern technologies like drones can be used to track poachers in areas where birds converge
- Minimising night lights along the migration paths
- Promoting eco-clubs and citizens initiatives for awareness, conservation and protection of migratory birds and their natural habitats

(Courtesy: Down To Earth)

LETTERS

TRS reputation under a cloud

MADABHUSHI Sridhar Acharyulu brought to fore the chilling and declining values in the society as brutal and inhuman murder of advocate couple, Gattu Vamana Rao and Nagamani that took place in broad daylight and full glare of passing vehicles and people, sent a strange and unforgivable message the extent which the killers will stoop to, putting to shame even the predatory animals in the jungle in terms of zeal and resolve. The apathy by people to the event that was being enacted on the road too came into question in terms of human values and sentiments the present generation upholds against the dying individual who was struggling for life. People showed more initiative in recording the incident on their mobile cameras rather than attempting to call either police help or ambulance, speaks of the comatose mentality that has come to settle in the minds of people in general, in terms of apathy to a desperate situation being faced by a fellow human being in the throes of death.

The name of Kunta Srinivas who is a TRS Mandal unit president that the victim told a passerby leaves no room for any doubt about the involvement of TRS in the incident. This was corroborated later by the victim's father. The ball is in the court of the TRS for a fair and unbiased investigation into the case by the Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

II

THI article by Madabhushi has apt heading, humanity is under challenge (23 Feb). It is well known that the first few minutes are the most precious to save lives, then why not Good Samaritan emerged from among the crowd and how painful that a lot were using phones to record it. People spoke a lot praising police after the encounter of Disha convicts and police took the earliest elimination to appease the angry mob, then the people who prejudice the outcome and rather prompt an out of court judgement by police they lack the first thing to inform police. People who can't go forward to help victims how they speak of judgements? People made a big scene at Tihar jail after Nirbhaya convicts were hanged making a demigod, stop.

Dr T Ramadas, Visakhapatnam

III

THE well-presented article Humanity is under challenge (THI Feb 25) by Professor Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu pin points how human behaviour transforms into muteness and rejects to rescue fellow humans at the time of need. Such humans are more cruel in nature than killers. We call India is a spiritual nation but we never give up harming others for gaining sadistic pleasures. Very rarely we find the persons of valour to tender succour. Have we to believe that each succeeding generation will be observed plummeting lower and lower to its predecessors in morals and ethical fervour?

N Padmavathi, Hyderabad

Save Shabnam from the gallows

THE President of India and Chief Justice of India should as a very special case review the decision of rejection of mercy-petition and death-sentence of Shabnam, the first-ever woman-convict of death-sentence in India not for sake of Shabnam but for sake of his sober and sensible 12-year-old son. Hanging of Shabnam will be hanging of a career of a brilliant boy who performed so well despite his being in jail for initial six years after his birth in the jail as per jail-manual. This young boy has not done any crime, and as such he certainly is entitled to see her mother living though with a life-time imprisonment. A very well educated Shabnam though certainly guilty of most heinous crime can repent in the jail for rest of her life by teaching jail-inmates. It is time that all political parties, UP and central government should request President of India pardon of Shabnam not for herself but for sake of her loving 12-years old son.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, Delhi

Customer care

THE recent incident of United Airlines Engine failure causing debris to fall down created a big news in the US. This is the first time in United Airlines history engine failure had happened and immediately the management removed all its Boeing 777 currently in service. Today the fastest mode of conveyance as well the highest fare is air travel. Aviation Industry should look in to the safety of the passengers despite their utmost care at times these types of technical problems arise..I appreciate the immediate action taken by UA to induce confidence to its valued customers.

K Ragavan, Bengaluru



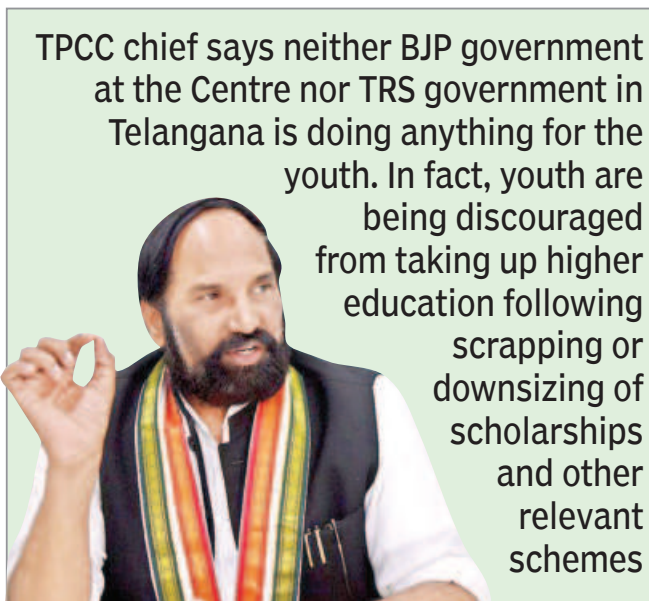
Uttam asks cadres to expose ‘communal BJP, corrupt TRS’

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MP Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy has exhorted the members of Youth Congress to take up agitations against the ‘communal’ BJP government at the Centre and ‘corrupt’ TRS government in the State.

Addressing the two-day training camp of Youth Congress in TRR Medical College complex in Patancheru on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Youth Congress has already served as a backbone for the Congress party. Citing different instances, he said that the Congress party had always won elections and retained power only when Youth Congress was stronger. He said a majority of successful politicians across the country began their careers from Youth Congress and therefore, it is often referred to as the launching pad for a good political career. He said that the members of Youth Congress should work the party in a disciplined and committed manner.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the responsibility of Youth Congress has increased due to the special circumstances prevailing in the country, espe-



cially in Telangana. He said neither BJP government at the Centre nor TRS government in Telangana was doing anything for the youth. In fact, youth were being discouraged from taking up higher education following scrapping or downsizing of scholarships and other relevant schemes.

He said the previous Congress government had implemented a fee reimbursement scheme, along with scholarships, to encourage youth from getting higher education with-

out any hurdles. However, he said the TRS government ruined the careers of lakhs of youths by not implementing the fee reimbursement scheme. As a result, lakhs of students were being deprived of scholarship for the last many years. Similarly, he said that the Central Government drastically cut down the budget for education. He pointed out that even after seven years of Telangana formation, the universities in Telangana have no permanent Vice Chancellor and most of

them do not even have 50% of staff.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014 elections on the promise of creating two crores jobs every year.

By now, the BJP government should have created at least 14 crore new jobs. However, he said nearly 30 crore people lost their jobs livelihood due to faulty policies of the Modi government. Similarly, he said KCR had promised one job for every household. However, he failed to create even one job for a village.

He said nearly 40% of sanctioned posts in the State government were vacant. He said that the Pay Revision Commission, in its recent report, pointed out that there were 1.91 lakh vacancies in different departments of the State Govt. He said nearly 30 lakh educated youth were unemployed in Telangana State.

They include nearly 19 lakh youth who got themselves enrolled with the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC). He said that the unemployment scenario in Telangana was so bad that the 11-member TSPSC has nine vacancies.

Govt flayed for delaying Sectt mosques, temple

It is accused of making false promises and dragging the issue to facilitate new structure

HYDERABAD

FORMER Minister & ex-Leader of Opposition in Telangana Legislative Council Mohammed Ali Shabbir has accused Home Minister Mahmood Ali of misleading the Muslim and Hindu communities on the issue of re-construction of two mosques and a temple in the Secretariat premises which were illegally demolished in July 2020 by the TRS government.

Referring to the statement issued by the Home Minister stating that the State government has postponed the date for laying foundation stones for reconstruction of two mosques and a temple, Shabbir Ali said that the Home Minister should clarify whether TRS government had officially fixed any date for foundation stone laying ceremony. “Three ministers and a few other leaders of TRS held an informal meeting with the select representatives of a few religious organisations. They did not even issue a formal statement although they apparently forced a few leaders to give a statement that the foundation stone would be laid on February 26,” he said in a media statement on Tuesday.

“It was Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao who has been lying on the issue since the demolition of three places of worship on the



Referring to the statement issued by the Home Minister stating that the State government has postponed the date for laying foundation stones for reconstruction of two mosques and a temple, Shabbir Ali said that the Home Minister should clarify whether TRS government had officially fixed any date for foundation stone laying ceremony

intervening night of 7-8th July, 2020, along with other structures in the Old Secretariat premises. In the first statement issued on 10th July, 2020, he claimed that minor damages had occurred to two mosques and a temple. He also directed the police department not to book an FIR as the mosques were Wakf properties and they were demolished illegally. But three days later, the State Government confessed before the High Court that all the structures, including the places of worship, in the Secretariat were razed to the ground. CM KCR then gave an assurance to a delegation of religious leaders that the demolished mosques and temple would be re-constructed at the same place within a month. He repeated the same statement on the floor of the Assembly that the foundation stone would be laid in the first week of October 2020 after the end of the Assembly session. He cheated

both, the Muslims and Hindus, by making false promises and dragged the issue to facilitate the construction of a new structure,” he said.

Shabbir Ali said that the Home Minister’s statement was only aimed at pacifying the Muslim and Hindu communities in view of forthcoming MLC elections and Nagarjuna Sagar by-polls. “The construction of the new Secretariat is going on in full swing, Roads & Buildings Minister Prashant Reddy is touring Delhi and other northern States to select stones. No place has been earmarked for the reconstruction of two mosques and a temple at the original sites in the new Secretariat plan. The design of the new mosque, which was circulated in the social media, is not official. KCR is not serious about reconstructing the places of worship at the same place. He is just buying time to suppress the agitation,” he said.

Mana Badi-Nadu Nedu Phase 2 from April 1

- Education Minister says Phase-1 works in schools will be completed in March
- Rs 2,570 cr is being spent to provide infrastructure facilities in 15,700 schools in the first phase
- Claims Rs 245 cr saved by involving parents’ committees in the implementation of the programme

AMARAVATI

MINISTER for education Audumlapu Suresh said that the first phase of works under Mana Badi – Nadu Nedu programme will be completed next month. He said infrastructure facilities provided in 15,700 schools at a cost of Rs 2,570 crore.

Speaking to media persons



Education Minister A Suresh addressing the media at the Secretariat on Tuesday

here on Tuesday, the minister said the second phase of Mana Badi Nadu Nedu will begin from April 1.

The state government launched first phase development works in 15,700 schools at a cost of Rs 3,669 crore in June last year.

He said Rs 2,570 crore was spent for this purpose in the past seven months adding that by involving the parents’ committees, the state government was able to save Rs 245 crore while providing infrastructure in schools.

Impressed by the scheme being implemented in the state, Delhi deputy chief minister inspected the developmental works in schools personally and praised the efforts of state government, he said.

The minister said 40,000 additional students got admission in 1,336 govt and private aided degree colleges this year. He said this year, admissions were conducted online and 2.60 lakh students got admissions in degree colleges.

Graft: 16 temple staff face axe

- 6 superintendents are among the suspended employees of Durga temple
- Endowments Dept issues orders following the detailed report by ACB which carried out extensive searches for 3 days
- The allegations of corruption and irregularities in temple affairs unlikely to be put to rest as Oppn is demanding action against the Endowments Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE endowments department suspended 16 employees, including superintendents, working in Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy temple (Durga temple) on charges of committing several irregularities in various sections of the temple. The temple executive officer, M V Suresh Babu, on Tuesday issued the suspension orders in this regard.

The endowments department has acted on a detailed report submitted by Anti Corruption Bureau



An ACB official inspecting computer records during searches at Durga temple recently

(ACB), which conducted searches for three days in the temple and seized several records and hard discs. The ACB conducted a detailed inquiry and collected information from various sections before submitting the report.

Irregularities were noticed in saris section, stores, sanitation section, tickets issuing section, leasing section, Prasadam tickets, etc., P Arjuna Rao, the commissioner of endowments, told the media on Tuesday that investigation would continue into the irregularities committed in the

temple and the department would take action against even the senior officials of the temple if their role was established. Temple EO M Suresh Babu issued orders suspending the following employees:

K Srinivasa Rao, superintendent, saris section, A Amruta Rao, superintendent, main stores, K Hari Krishna, superintendent, main stores, P Bhagya Jyothy, superintendent, sanitation, K Srinivasa Rao, superintendent, leases and Ravi Prasad, superintendent. J Yedukondalu, attendant, Prasadam tickets, P Rambabu,

record assistant, photo counter, K Ramesh, record assistant, Arjitsa Seva, P Ravi Kumar, record assistant, Darsanam tickets, M S Prakasa Rao, junior assistant, sanitation section, Ch Chennakesava Rao, junior assistant, saris section, B Nageswara Rao, senior assistant, saris section, G Yashwant, senior assistant, leasing section, Padmavati, senior assistant.

Stores is very important section as stocks for making Prasadam and Annadanam are handled by it. The ACB also noticed recycling of darshan tickets during Dasara celebrations. It particularly mentioned the leasing of security contract to Max Security Solution.

The officials also noticed that extra amount was paid in the sanitation contracts. The opposition parties have raised a hue and cry over the irregularities taking place in the temple. This storm is unlikely to subside with the suspension of 16 employees on Tuesday for committing irregularities as the opposition parties are demanding the scalp of endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas holding him responsible for the alleged rampant corruption in the temple affairs.

PLI scheme should fuel innovation: Amitabh Kant

Production-linked incentive facility launched for 10 major industrial sectors

HYDERABAD

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, announced for 10 key sectors including pharma and medical devices manufacturing among others, should lead the country towards drug innovations.

Speaking at a virtual interactive session at BioAsia 2021, Kant said some studies have indicated that the earlier scheme of 200 per cent tax incentive on Research and Development activities has been “misused”.

“There has been good enthusiasm for these schemes. We have received over 215 applications from about 83 manufacturers. I personally think that the PLI scheme should lead us self-sufficiency in API (active pharmaceutical ingredient), but it should lead us for a big

There has been good enthusiasm for these schemes. We have received over 215 applications from about 83 manufacturers. I personally think that the PLI scheme should lead us self-sufficiency in API (active pharmaceutical ingredient), but it should lead us for a big boost in innovative drug development

– NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant

boost in innovative drug development,” he said.

Telangana Minister for IT and Industries K T Rama Rao who also participated in the panel discussion, said moves such as reduction of

200 per cent tax incentive to the present 100 per cent would act as counterproductive for innovation and discourage innovation such as new drug discovery especially the NDA government’s

“Self-Reliant India” initiative.

“India is still known as a low-cost copycat destination. We don’t really enjoy it when it comes to IPR or innovative products etc... This manufacturing linked incentive- R&D subsidy which has been reduced, this kind of works counter-productive to what we are trying to achieve when the hon’ble prime Minister talks about self-Reliant India,” Rama Rao said.

Kant said there has to be greater cooperation between industry and academia for innovation and discoveries. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson, Biocon, Swati Piramal, Vice Chairperson, Piramal Group, Nilesh Gupta, Managing Director, Lupin Ltd. and Sri-ram Shrinivasan, India Life Sciences Leader, EY also participated in the panel discussion.

their objections online on the website cited.

The CMD\APSPDCL has informed that action will be initiated based on the judiciary approval, according to an official press release here on Tuesday.

Tenders for agri meters submitted for judicial preview

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TENDERS for installation of meters to agricultural services under APSPDCL were prepared and submitted to Judicial Preview Commission for

approval as per government GO.

The state government has sanctioned the scheme under ‘YSR Uchita Vyavasaya Vidyut Pathakam’ for installation of meters to all agricultural connections.

Tenders are uploaded on www.judicialpreview.ap.gov.in for general public and the same are available till March 3 up to 5 pm.

If the contractors\general public have any objections regarding the work, they can file

Mixed reactions to TS move on Classes 6-8

SABYA SINGH
HYDERABAD

THE State government’s decision to allow resumption of physical classrooms for Class 6 to 8 from February 24 has drawn mixed responses from parents and students. Many expressed disappointment that the government succumbed to the pressures of private schools even as there was no respite in Covid infections. However, a few welcomed the move, saying it was long due.

“My child can attend online classes as it’s a matter of a few months. What’s the hurry? Have adequate measures been ensured by the government in all schools. They could have waited till vaccination of teachers is completed,” observed a parent whose ward studies in Class 8 at a corporate school in the city.

Venkat, the joint secretary of Hyderabad School Parents Association (HSPA), recalled the Education Minister’s assertion recently that the schools would not function for Classes 6 to 8. It is clear that the private schools have mounted pressure on the department as well as parents. They just want to collect a hefty amount of fees from parents and the government also wants the same.”

“Physical classrooms are bet-



Will schools strictly follow safety guidelines? worry parents. They question rationale of running classes for a short time and allege pressure by private schools intent on collecting full fee

► Parents worry over Covid safety norms like sanitation, physical distancing

► Teachers body welcomes, terms it is a wise decision, insists on all safety protocols

ter for students to learn. But, many schools do not have required space for social distancing,” said N Sastry, whose son is studying in class 7 in a private school. But the Telangana State United Teachers Federation (TSUTF) feels it is a right decision to ensure that the academic year is not wasted. “It is heartening that the government finally agreed to our demands and permitted us to start 6, 7, 8 classes.

Similarly, TSUTF has asked the government to take steps to start primary schools in the first week of March. However, there is a need to be vigilant about the Covid regulations. Sanitary, workers should be hired in schools for sanitation management. Schools must follow regulations like to accommodate only 20 students per section,” said K Jangayya, the president of TSUTF.

TODAY'S QUOTE

India looks for self-reliance in silk

“THE central government is looking to ensure that India become self-reliant in the silk sector in the next two years. The recent Budget has brought cheer to the textile industry with the announcement of seven mega textile parks. Under the Silk Samagra Programme, the government of India dedicated specifically over Rs 2,000 crore for the development of silk.


— Smriti Irani, Union Minister



BORROWING

NTPC raises ₹900 cr via debentures

STATE-RUN power giant NTPC on Tuesday said it has raised Rs 900 crore through issuance of unsecured, redeemable, taxable, listed, rated non-convertible debentures. The NTPC has issued 9,000 unsecured, redeemable, taxable, listed, rated non-convertible debentures worth Rs 900 crore on February 23, 2021, a BSE filing stated.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	76.72	South	
Euro	92.35	African Rand	5.67
UAE Dirham	21.67	Hong Kong Dollar	10.73
Thai Baht	2.77	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	105.91	New Zealand Dollar	55.6
Australian Dollar	60.06	Saudi Riyal	21.22
Canadian Dollar	60.25	Swedish Krona	10.03
Swiss Franc	83.64	Singapore Dollar	57.52

DELHI WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Ramky Enviro in Chennai

RAMKY Enviro Engineers Limited (REEL), has inked a seven-year contract with the Greater Chennai Corporation to design and implement a state-of-the-art, IOT enabled solid waste collection programme. Ramky will cover four zones in Chennai including Thiruvathayur, Manali, Madhavaram, and Ambatur zones as a part of this programme which has been launched by Edappadi K Palaniswami, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. With this partnership, Chennai Municipal Corporation and Ramky Enviro aim to achieve 100 per cent waste segregation at source across all the households. Masood Mallick, Joint Managing Director of REEL, said: “Entering into this partnership reaffirms our commitment as a nation to progress towards cleaner and greener environment, a truly Swachh Bharat. Through this partnership, we aim to achieve the government’s vision of 100 per cent segregation in all households.”

Caterpillar's golden jubilee

CATERPILLAR, the manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, entered the 50th year of manufacturing in India. The company has a long history of equipping its machines with leading-edge technology to increase the safety, productivity and efficiency of its operational sectors. The company now has an established footprint with six state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, two R&D centres, five subsidiary entities, eight Caterpillar brands and numerous global support organizations. The company's strategy reflects the legacy and unparalleled commitment to meet its customers' needs in India and around the world with the best-in-class product solutions and service innovation. “Caterpillar has been part of India's growth story for many decades. We have been a key partner since the 1930s, and it is remarkable to witness the progress in this great nation over the years,” said Jim Umpleby, Chairman and CEO.

Soulflower's new product range

SOULFLOWER launched its range of new skin-care products. The products include gel moisturizer with Vitamin C, sandalwood soap, pigmentation lightening concentrate and natural Kumkumadi, among others. “The company provides every product made with such tenderness and for every occasion that everybody will fall in love with your skin again. Carefully woven into a thread of kindness, which is visible in all their creations,” the company said. When it comes to beauty, natural is always best. Inspired behind every product formulation is deeply rooted in natural, Ayurvedic rituals and includes the purest, most potent, hand-selected and natural ingredients to meet one's personalized needs, it added.

Aurobindo in solar power biz

AUROBINDO Pharma on Tuesday said it has inked a pact to acquire 26 per cent stake each in two Hyderabad-based solar power generating companies. The drug firm has entered into binding agreements to invest Rs 5.38 crore each in NVNR (Ramannapet I) Power Plant Pvt Ltd and NVNR (Ramannapet II) Power Plant Pvt Ltd, aggregating to Rs 10.76 crore, Aurobindo Pharma said. The company has invested in the two firms to avail the benefit of captive consumption of solar power, it added. “After making the said investments, the company will be holding 26 per cent of the share capital in each of the aforesaid solar power generating companies,” Aurobindo Pharma noted.

India will be self-sufficient in medical devices in next 5 yrs

Covid-19 pandemic shifted the country's focus to medical devices industry: Experts

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

SPEAKERS at a panel discussion on medical technologies at BioAsia 2021 observed that India would become self-sufficient in the manufacturing of medical devices in the country over the next five years. They said that the Covid-19 pandemic shifted the country's focus to medical devices industry especially medical consumables.

“New medical devices and other health related products were launched during the Covid-19 pandemic, making India realize the importance of self-reliance,” they maintained.

On the second day and final day of two-day BioAsia 2021, a panel discussion was held on “Medical technologies – the next big opportunity for India”.

Participating in the discussion, S Eswara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), said: “The central government will reduce the import burden of medical devices by promoting indigenous manufacturing of high-tech medical devices. The government also brought two medical schemes which are production linked incentive schemes (PLIs). The government is also encouraging new medical devices parks in the country.” On the incentives offered by the central government, he said:



“The government is providing five per cent subsidy for the manufacturing of medical devices. Besides, there are several other incentives being offered to life science sector in India,” Reddy said. Jayan Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce

Dept., Telangana, said: “The Telangana government is proactive when it comes to offering facilities and providing incentives to medical device makers. We at Hyderabad have been ahead of the curve but we realized there was a missing part. Then the Telangana government has developed an exclusive medical devices park in 250 acres. The park attracted

investments to the tune of Rs 1200 crore”.

We replicated China's model in Hyderabad for companies to have better facility to manufacture and produce the devices, he added. Dr Shravan Subramanyam, president and CEO, GE Healthcare India and South Asia, said “We are hungry to grow in medical devices space. Through

PLI scheme, we will plan to medical devices worth Rs 100 crore.” Madan R Krishnan, vice president and Managing Director, Medtronic India, said: “Our R&D in Hyderabad is world largest outside US and we also opened a state-of-art-facility. The



LIC launches Bima Jyoti plan

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

STATE-OWNED insurance and investment corporation, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, has introduced Bima Jyoti, a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings plan on February 22, 2021. The new plan offers a combination of protection and savings, which provides guaranteed lump sum payment at maturity and financial support to the family, in case of unfortunate death of the policyholder during policy term. The policy can be purchased offline through agent/other intermediaries as well as Online directly through website www.licindia.in

Guaranteed additions at the rate of Rs 50 per thousand basic sum assured will be added to the



policy at the end of each policy year. On death during the policy term after the date of commencement of risk, ‘Sum Assured on Death’ and Accrued Guaranteed Additions as per policy conditions is payable. On Life Assured surviving the stipulated Date of Maturity provided the policy is in-force, ‘Sum Assured on Maturity’ along with Guaranteed Additions, shall be payable. The plan also provides an option to receive death/maturity benefits in instalments subject to certain conditions. The minimum basic sum assured is Rs 100,000 with no upper limit. The policy can be taken for term of 15 to 20 years with premium paying term calculated as Policy term minus 5 years. The minimum age at entry is 90 days completed and maximum age at entry is 60 yrs.

‘Indian firms project 7.7% salary increase’

NEW DELHI

COMPANIES in India are likely to offer a 7.7 per cent salary increase in 2021, one of the highest among the BRIC nations, and higher than the average actual increase of 6.1 per cent in 2020, says a survey. Global professional services firm Aon Plc on Tuesday released insights from its latest Salary Increase Survey in India, as per which 88 per cent of the surveyed companies reported that they intend to increase salaries in 2021, as compared to 75 per cent companies in 2020, reflecting a positive business sentiment.

The study that analysed data across 1,200 companies from more than 20 industries noted that while salary increments indicate strong recovery, the Code of Wages could be a gamechanger. “We expect the increment dynamics for 2021 to play out over a longer period of time given the uncertainty and potential impact of forthcoming changes,” Nitin Sethi, partner and CEO of Aon's business in India, said.

Markets snap 5-day losing streak in choppy trade

Sensex settles at 49,751, Nifty gains 32 pts; ONGC spurts 5.5%

MUMBAI

MARKETS found firmer ground on Tuesday after five days of heavy losses as investors made a cautious return to select energy, banking and infra counters amid mixed global cues.

A spurt in Covid-19 cases and lack of fresh buying triggers continued to weigh on sentiment, traders said. After gyrating 667.46 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended just 709 points or 0.01 per cent higher at 49,751.41. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty settled 32.10 points or 0.22 per cent up at 14,707.80.

ONGC topped the Sensex gainers' chart, climbing 5.55 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, L&T, UltraTech Cement, SBI, NTPC

and Titan. Index heavyweight Reliance Industries rose 0.84 per cent after the company announced the contours of carving out of its oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business into an independent unit with a USD 25 billion loan from the parent, as it looks to unlock value by selling stakes to global investors like Saudi Aramco. On the other hand, Kotak Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech and HDFC were among the laggards, sliding as much as 3.87 per cent.

World shares were mixed ahead of Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's semi-annual testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, where he is expected to underscore the Fed's dovish

stance to boost growth. “Domestic market got back on its feet during the morning trade supported by strong Asian market while negative waves from European peers outweighed the gains by the end of the day. The expectation of strong global recovery as prompted by rising international commodity prices helped the market but was tempered due to elevated bond yield and virus cases. “Consequently, volatility has increased in the domestic front, but broad markets continue to be attracted with themes like mid and small caps, cyclicals, energy, PSUs, metals and industries,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. BSE metal, realty, basic materials, oil and gas, capital goods, power and consumer durables indices rose up to 3.71 per cent, while bankex, finance and telecom closed with losses.



Medak dist poised for big industry leap

State government initiatives like TS-iPASS helping entrepreneurs set up units with ease

K CHANDRASHEKAR
MEDAK

THE industrial growth in the Medak district, which is restricted to some pockets near Hyderabad is now poised to take a big jump with the Telangana Government's initiative of TS-iPASS.

Medak is a backward district with more than 80 per cent of the population dependent on agriculture. It has a low literacy rate and low per capita income. Industrialization is confined to a few places, closer to Hyderabad.

Most of the large and Small Scale Industries in the district are promoted by the people outside the district. The district has milk chilling centres in Zaheerabad mandal. The district lacks good storage facilities for preserving the products leading to huge wastage of the produce. Mango, guava and orange grown here are marketed in the district, the State capital and the mangoes are exported to other countries.



In the private sector, the important industries are Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, MRF Ltd., Aurobindo Pharma Ltd., Hetero Drugs Ltd., Mediacorp Technology Ltd., Neu-lund Labs Ltd., Biological E Ltd., Samkarg Pistons Ltd., ITW Signode India Ltd., Pennar Steels Ltd., Asian Paints Ltd., Ralchem Ltd., PSM Spinning Ltd., Kirby Building Systems Ltd etc.

The important products manufactured under the large and

medium sector are turbines, generators, electrical equipment, missiles, light combat vehicles, sugar, bulk drugs, formulations, (capsules, syrups, injections, tablets, powders), pesticides and formulations, V-belts, cotton and synthetic yarns, tires, tubes and flaps beer, cool drinks, electrical fans, refrigerators, air coolers, building systems, and CR-steel strips.

According to an official from the industries department, in Medak district 593 units were established



with an investment of Rs 6,209.03 crore providing employment to 21,793 people. The district is having major part of cable making, steel based, plastic and rice mills industries, the official added.

The official said that since the inception of the TS-iPASS, 1,299 units had applied and 1,094 were issued approval. The official said that total investments made were to the tune of Rs 5,192.64 crore providing employment to 16,236 people.

The official said that the district

Gati-KWE to set up surface transshipment centre

MUMBAI

EXPRESS logistics services provider Gati-KWE on Tuesday said it will set up a surface transshipment centre (STC) in Delhi at the Allcargo Logistics Park on the Western Peripheral Expressway with a capacity to process cargo for short-haul deliveries in north India and long-haul movements across the country.

The proposed facility is designed to process cargo loads of almost 100 trucks a day and to be spread over 1.5 lakh sq feet area at Farukh Nagar logistics park. It is expected to be functional from June this year, Gati-KWE - which is a part of Allcargo Logistics - said in a release. The company plans to come up with four more such tech-enabled state-of-the-art centres in future, it said without giving a specific timeline. The facility has been conceptualised to achieve economy of scale and provide unparalleled customer service, the release said.

India step into unknown territory with spot in WTC final at

AHMEDABAD

FACING the challenge of avoiding a defeat to keep their hopes of reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) final alive, India will step onto a Motera ground that has been reconstructed from scratch and hence is largely unknown to them.

To add to the challenge of a new pitch and the shiny seats -- that may make sighting slightly tough for fielders, the Indians will have to contend with the pink ball too. Despite being one of the three leading cricket bodies of the world, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was the last one of all the boards to get its team to play day-night Test cricket.

Up until now, Virat Kohli's boys have played just two Tests with the pink ball with the last one seeing them succumb to a record low total and a crushing defeat at the Adelaide Oval against Australia in December. India were shot out for 36 in the second innings of that first Test against Australia.

However, what can work for India is that both those Tests happened after England played their previous day-night Test match. England's last Test with the pink ball was in March, 2018 against New Zealand in Auckland whereas India played their first pink ball Test in November, 2019 and the second in December, 2020.

There is a possibility that India may ditch their strategy of playing three spinners which they employed in the first and the second Tests at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai as the pink ball is known to do a lot for seamers. Most of the wickets in day-night Tests have been taken by seamers and India's first and only home Test with pink ball (against Bangladesh) saw Ravindra Jadeja bowl just two



Match starts at 2.30pm

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Md. Siraj, Umesh Yadav.
England: Joe Root (c), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Zak Crawley, Ben Foakes, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

overs across two innings and R Ashwin bowled just five. Pace bowler Umesh Yadav, who scalped eight wickets in that Test is back after being declared fit and is likely to start.

Ishant Sharma, who will be playing his 100th Test, took nine wickets in that game and he too looks sure to start.

The choice will be between playing either a third seamer or a spinner. That India may go in with a spinner was hinted by Rohit Sharma, who said that the pitch will be helpful for spinners and won't be any different from the second Test.

England though will most likely bring back James Anderson and Jofra Archer, the latter in place of Olly Stone. The two pace bowlers missed the second Test, Anderson due to England's rotation policy and Archer due to injury. England's batting will once again revolve around Joe Root and Ben Stokes although the return of Jonny Bairstow could prove vital. The trio is rated as the visitors' best players of spin bowling.

India need to avoid defeat as a loss in any of the last two Tests would mean the end of their chances to reach the WTC final. They need to win at least two Tests and also ensure that they win the series. (ANS)

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Minnows Chandigarh hand Bengal five-wicket defeat

KOLKATA

MINNOWS Chandigarh pulled off a second straight upset win in the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Tuesday when they shocked former champions Bengal by five wickets here. Earlier, Chandigarh had beaten Haryana in their first match of the 50-over tournament.

Opener Arslan Khan scored 88 while Shivam Bhambri scored an unbeaten 71 as Chandigarh scored 257/5 wickets in 50 overs after restricting Bengal to 253/9 wickets in 50 overs at Eden Gardens.

Among bowlers, Chandigarh's Gaurav Gambhir, Bipul Sharma, and Gurinder Singh took two wickets each while Shahbaz Ahmed with 59 runs was the top scorer for Bengal.

Meanwhile, Rishi Dhawan starred with bat and ball in Himachal Pradesh's four-wicket win over Rajasthan in Jaipur. Dhawan took six wickets for 27 runs before scoring an unbeaten 73 to lead Himachal to victory with nearly 20 overs to spare.

BRIEF SCORES

Elite E (in Kolkata)

Bengal 253/9 in 50 overs (Shahbaz Ahmed 59, Abhimanyu Easwaran 35; Gaurav Gambhir 2/45) lost to Chandigarh 257/5 in 48.5 overs (Arslan Khan 88, Shivam Bhambri 71 not out; Akash Deep 2/53) by five wickets with seven balls remaining

Haryana 264 all out in 50 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 84, Arun Chaprana 28; Chetan Sakariya 3/63) lost to Saurashtra 265/9 in 49.1 overs (Sneil Patel 79, Arpit Vasavda 46; Mohit Sharma 2/30) by one wicket with five balls remaining

Services 274/7 in 50 overs (Ravi

Chauhan 118, Pulkit Narang 48 not out; Umar Nazar Mir 2/37) lost to Jammu and Kashmir 276/7 in 48 overs (Shubham Khajuria 84, Abdul Samad 63; Pulkit Narang 2/43) by four wickets with 12 balls remaining

Elite D (in Jaipur):

Rajasthan 199 all out in 47.5 overs (Mahipal Lomror 67, Arijit Gupta 45; Rishi Dhawan 6/27) lost to Himachal Pradesh 201/6 in 33.3 overs (Rishi Dhawan 73 not out, Prashant Chopra 39; Akash Singh 2/46) by four wickets with 99 balls remaining

Maharashtra 279/9 in 50 overs (Yash Nahar 119, Azim Kazi 104; Dhawal Kulkarni 5/44) lost to Mumbai 280/4 in 47.2 overs (Shreyas Iyer 103 not out, Shivam Dube 47; Satyajit Bacchav 3/59) by six wickets with 16 balls remaining

Delhi 354/4 in 50 overs (Nitish Rana 137, Dhruv Shorey 132; Sagar Trivedi 2/66) beat Puducherry 175 all out in 39.3 overs (Suresh Kumar 42, Sagar Trivedi 27; Kulwant Khejroliya 4/32) by 179 runs

Plate (in Chennai):

Arunachal Pradesh 222/7 in 50 overs (Rahul Dalal 123 not out, Kamsha Yangfo 24; Amlanjyoti Das 2/29) lost to Assam 226/5 in 36.4 overs (Sibsankar Roy 60 not out, Denish Das 59; Rakesh Kumar 4/58) by five wickets with 80 balls remaining

Manipur 148/9 in 50 overs (Jayanta Sagatpam 32, L Kishan Singha 29; Mayank Mishra 2/18) lost to Uttarakhand 152/3 in 23.1 overs (Jay Bista 71, Kamal Singh 41; L Kishan Singha 2/33) by seven wickets with 161 balls remaining

Nagaland 347/9 in 50 overs (Stuart Binny 80, Sudezhalle Rupero 65; Lalnunkima Varte 5/66) lost to Mizoram 318/6 in 50 overs (Pratik Desai 141, Taruwar Kohli 108; Nagaho Chishi 2/30) by 29 runs. (ANS)



“ కపిల్ చిట్స్ తో ప్రతి బంధం ఎంతో విలువైనది ”
‘ నమ్మకం మీద నిలబడిన బంధం చాలా బలమైనది ’

“ కపిల్ చిట్స్ ” మీ కలలకు సాకారం.