



THE HANS INDIA



Forecast: Mostly sunny. Temp: Max.26°C. Min.14°C. Humidity: 21% Sunrise: 07:02 Sunset: 05:24

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WINDOWS

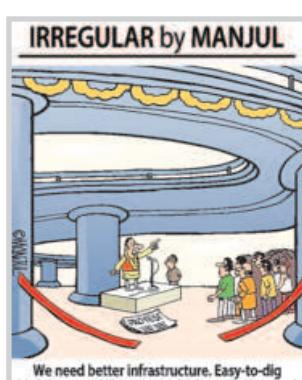
An aerial view of the frozen Phuktal river, which is a tributary of Indus river, as temperatures drop below zero degrees in Leh, Tuesday

Mobile tech for Covid vaccination drive: PM

NEW DELHI: With the chances of a Covid-19 vaccine being available soon increasing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the mobile technology will be used for mass inoculation against the pandemic. He also called for the timely roll-out of 5G or 5th generation mobile networks that can deliver multi-Gbps peak data speeds. Speaking at the India Mobile Congress (IMC), Modi has mobile technology has helped provide benefits worth billions of dollars to millions. The same is responsible for billions of cashless transactions and contactless interface on toll booths. "It is also with the help of mobile technology that we will embark on one of the world's largest covid-19 vaccination drive," he said. ▶ P6

Lead & nickel cause of 'Eluru disease'

ELURU: Lead and nickel content in drinking water and milk was primarily established as the root cause of the mysterious disease in Eluru city of Andhra Pradesh, which so far resulted in over 500 people falling sick. Based on the preliminary finding of the expert teams from AIIMS and other state and central institutions, health officials presented a report to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy here on Tuesday stating that lead and nickel were found to be the causative agents for the mysterious disease, citing a report prepared by the AIIMS experts.



BHARAT BANDH PEACEFUL

Normal life hit in several States

NEW DELHI

NORMAL life was disrupted in several parts of the country on Tuesday as shops and commercial establishments stayed closed, transport was affected and protesters squatted on key roads and rail tracks in response to a 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmers demanding repeal of the agri laws.

As the bandh ended peacefully, farmers' leaders termed their show of strength a success. The nationwide shutdown was observed in around 10,000 places in 25 states, claimed Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav.

Emergency services were exempted and banks, too, continued operations as the pan-India shutdown, backed by most Opposition parties and trade unions, rolled out noisily but peacefully with its impact felt in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, the epicentre of the snowballing protests, as well as in states such as Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar and Jharkhand.

The pandemic appeared to recede into the back-



Farmers during their ongoing protest against the Centre's farm reform laws, near the Ghazipur border in New Delhi, Tuesday

Would have gone to support farmers if not stopped: CM

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

ground as security was stepped up across the country, restive crowds demonstrated in some places and the numbers swelled at Delhi's border points. Protesters also blocked railway tracks at several places in West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

From the Rajasthan capital Jaipur, where 'mandis' were closed but shops open, there were reports of clashes between workers of the state's ruling Congress and the BJP. Continued on Page 5

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday addressed AAP members from his residence here and said he would have gone to support the protesting farmers in their Bharat Bandh movement if he was not stopped. After hours of drama out-

side Kejriwal's residence over his alleged house arrest, the Chief Minister came outside and addressed the party members.

Continued on Page 5

Shah meets farmers ahead of crucial talks

NEW DELHI

A day before the government's crucial sixth round of talks with representatives of protesting farmers, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met a select group of union leaders in a bid to break the deadlock.

Sources said 13 farmers' leaders were called for the meeting, which began after 8 pm. The farmer leaders included eight from Punjab and five from various nationwide organisations.

Sources said the participating leaders included Hannan Molah of the All India Kisan Sabha and Rakesh Tikait of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU).

Continued on Page 5

Tap entrepreneurial talent: Venkaiah

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

STRESSING on fostering student-entrepreneurship, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu underlined the need for the universities to establish close linkage with industries to mentor and handhold students who come up with novel business ideas.

Addressing The India Global Entrepreneurs' (TiE) Global Summit - 2020 through a video conferencing in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the Vice-President asked the universities to set up incubation centres to tap and nurture entrepreneurial talent among youngsters. He also appealed to the corporate sector to come forward to fund and promote the entrepreneurial ecosystem on the university campuses.

Mentioning that youth comprises about 65 per cent of India's population, Venkaiah Naidu laid emphasis on tapping the energies of the talented youth and added they

should be job creators rather than job seekers.

He suggested the launch of a special drive to promote entrepreneurship among women.

Describing India as home to the world's third largest start-up ecosystem, Venkaiah Naidu said about 50 per cent of the Tech start-ups are confident of reaching revenues of pre-Covid-19 level. "This certainly is optimistic news and I am sure, things would look up for all Indian start-ups in near future," he added.

Talking about challenges thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Vice-President said that this is the time to turn adversities into opportunities and called upon the youngsters to come out with innovative ideas to meet emerging challenges.

For the entrepreneurship ecosystem to be effective, the Vice President stressed the need for the private sector to work hand-in-hand with NGOs, universities, and governments.

KT Residency



Mt Everest is nearly a metre taller!

NEW DELHI

WHILE you were locked down and in the middle of a pandemic, the world's highest mountain Mount Everest added 0.86m to its height.

Nepal and China have jointly announced that the new height of Everest, which is on the border between the two countries, is 8,848.86m (29,032 ft).

China had earlier put the height at 8,844.43m, four metres lower than Nepal's estimate. Now it seems that surveyors from both countries have agreed on the new height.

Mountaineers had suggested a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015 which killed nearly 9,000 people in Nepal may have altered the height of Everest.

Continued on Page 5

Delhi air quality turns 'severe' again

NEW DELHI

DESPITE negligible stubble burning, there seems to be no respite from the pollution in the national capital as the air quality index inchéd closer to the 'severe' category on Tuesday afternoon.

The city's air quality index stood at 392 micrograms per cubic meter, which is in the "very poor" category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 18 out of 36 pollution monitoring station in Delhi showed severe air quality index reading.

Jahangirpuri has the most noxious air at 439.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has advised sensitive groups to avoid all physical activity outdoor and move activities indoors. If asthmatic, then keep relief medicine handy, it emphasized.

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Why using sunscreen is important during winter

PUJA GUPTA

It's that time of the year when you say hello to all your jackets, hoodies and warm clothes. Winter is finally here and so are your winter skincare routines. Though people often wonder why they need to wear sunscreen during the winter if they are not exposed to the bright sun. Having said so, it is wrongly believed that the sunscreen is more of an option than a necessity during the winter months. While we conveniently associate cold weather with dry skin and windburns, most people are unaware that the winter UV rays can be every bit as damaging as the summer sun.

Megha Asher, Co-founder and COO of Juicy Chemistry, explains: "The ozone layer acts as Earth's sun-shield and absorbs harmful UV rays. The ozone layer is actually at its thinnest in the winter. Windburn and sunburn also act in unison during the rough winter months. The freezing temperatures and vicious winds that leave your skin dry and agitated allow for UV rays to have a better shot at your skin."

Wearing sunscreen on exposed skin, especially when the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., will keep you protected from these damaging rays, she says.

If you're planning to be outdoors applying sunscreen is very important. For adequate protection, select broad-spectrum sunscreens and lip balms with a minimum of 30 SPF with titanium dioxide or zinc oxide as the active ingredient, for those



Using sunscreen in the winter can help restore some of your skin's depleted moisture

"Having said that the sun's rays are known to accelerate the skin's ageing process. Sunscreens protect skin from the sun's rays and add moisture back into dry skin, addressing two concerns at once. The daily application of the right sunscreen slows the ageing process and makes the skin looking more youthful."

The majority of UV exposure in our entire life is UVA which contributes to skin cancer and premature ageing. We are exposed to UVA rays every time we step out of our house. UVA penetrates through clouds and also window glass, therefore it is imperative to wear sunscreen even when you're indoors, Asher points out.

This season be ready with your healthy and ever-glowing skin with the right sunscreen to bring that winter glow!

If you are a person who is keenly interested in fashion, you must have seen the evergreen winter fashion sensibility, here we present to you some essential fashion tips that you should definitely incorporate in your 2020 winter looks.

Layering up keeps you warm and makes you look chic

Low temperatures during winter won't let you sport casuals (tank tops, ripped jeans, etc.), and it does demand multiple layers of clothes. Layering up

TEJAL SINHA

Keeping the trending styles in view and prioritizing the baby's health, the brand manufactures Organic Babies Clothes that suit your baby's taste without taking a toll on his or her sensitive skin.

The brand understands that the love for toddler supersedes everything else and presents nothing short of the best range of unisex baby clothes. From bodysuits and rompers to tees, pants, and skirts; we offer a wide range of boys', girls' and unisex organic babies' clothes stitched for supreme comfort.

Shikha Kumar, Director of Nino Bambino and a mother of two shares, "Nino Bambino was inceptioned in 2014 when I had my second baby. The need for organic clothing in the Indian market

Nino Bambino is a baby wear online shopping unit dedicated to manufacturing comfortable, stylish, low-cost organic clothing for babies up to the age of 3

quality sustainable clothing." They are an organic clothing line for babies with the aim to offer trendy, functional, and sustainable baby clothing. They provide unique and desirable designs that are also easy on the pocket.

After intensive research on developing this idea over the past years, they have recently launched the brand for the Indian Market. The key personnel associated with the brand have many years of experience in baby apparel manufacturing, designing and the organic cotton industry.

The collection at Nino Bambino provides 100% certified organic cotton apparel and accessories for babies. With experience in designing and manufacturing organic cotton baby apparel and having catered to the international market, the brand has been launched with the aim to bring organic clothing to Indian



made us think about venturing into basic baby clothing for the new parents. The advantage that we got was of the already established export business into organic baby clothes. It is the need of the hour, as there is growing demand and shortage of good



Shikha Kumar with her children

not affect the ecosystem. Sustainability is needed for their gentle skin. Chemical free, eco-friendly clothing is required especially in the Indian scenario.

Sharing about their initial challenges, Shikha says that it was a challenge to make some people understand the difference between organic clothing and how useful these are for the baby's skin.

The pandemic has in fact helped us in a positive way by increasing our online sales; since the entire world is purchasing online. Some of the sustainability factors during the pandemic were maintaining quality and customer service. Being a mom yourself, you have ready models at home to do all the R&D and get their views on the kind of clothes that



they would be keen to wear. These kids have been growing as the brand is growing. The market is growing at the moment and we are happy to play a small role in making this incredible change in people's mindset about organic and eco-friendly clothing in India," concludes Shikha.



Your style quotient this season

is a common winter trend that can make you look super chic. For example, a turtleneck under a jacket or coat is always classy.

Pairing your top with pants can look great too, with the correct color combination.

Bring your boots out of storage this season

Wearing boots can make your feet stuffy. But in winter, you need to protect your feet from the harsh weather. So if you have them, it is time to use those. Not only do boots warm your feet, they also change the look. Ankle-length boots look great with jeans. Thigh-high boots also allow you to wear dresses without

letting your legs feel the cold.

The dramatic puff sleeves are now bigger than ever

Puff sleeves are increasingly becoming popular in fashion shows. However, these dramatically big sleeved blouses, dresses, jackets and more are not just for runways. In this cold season, wear these extraordinary sleeves to protect your arms in a stylish way. If these outfits make you look like a giant bubble, wear a belt with the dresses, and tuck the blouses in high-waist jeans.

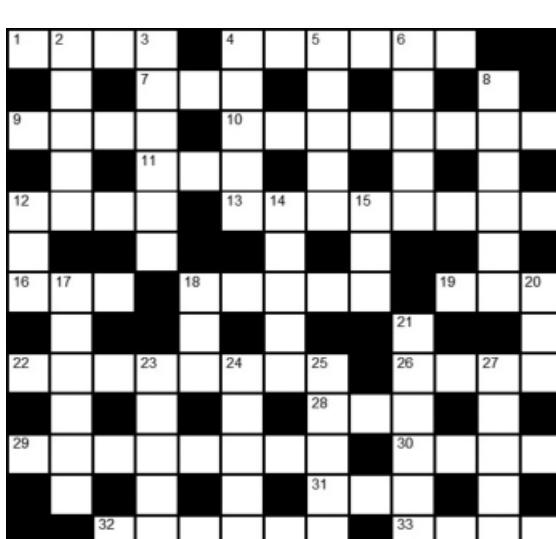
Coats with neutral tones for a sophisticated look

Pairing up your lighter toned outfits

with trench coats, over coats, maxi coats of neutral colors can make you look uber-stylish and sophisticated. Varying neutral shades like sand, camel also look nice with darker outfits, so investing in them is not a bad idea.

Beanies are the classic combination of street and chic style

In winter, you have to cover your ears. Wearing a beanie lets you do so while making you look stylish. There are many ways to style with a beanie. You can pair a black one with leather jacket for a street hip look, or go the other way with a knitted neutral toned beanie. You can also colour coordinate your beanie and coat.

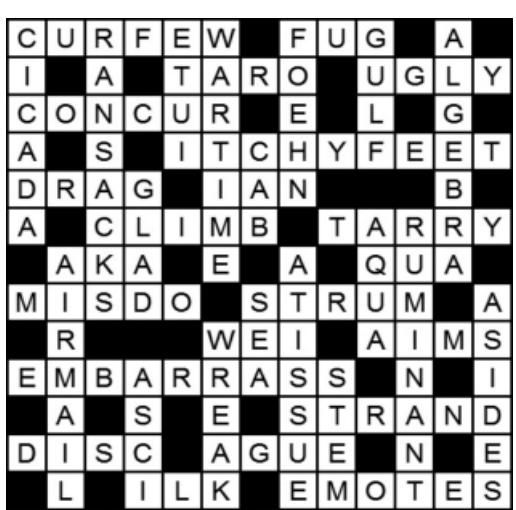


CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Damage (4)
- 4 Interjection that expresses surprise (2, 4)
- 7 Dread (3)
- 9 Hard work (4)
- 10 oneself : said or did the same thing over again? (8)
- 11 Illustrative craft (3)
- 12 Division of a hospital (4)
- 13 Eye-pleasing (8)
- 16 Marry (3)
- 18 Exactly (5)
- 19 Curve (3)
- 22 Shell fragments (8)
- 26 Clothes (4)
- 28 Append or join (3)
- 29 Produced as offspring (8)
- 30 Dubious (4)
- 31 Sever (3)
- 32 Nymph of Greek myth (6)
- 33 Tale (4)
- 2 Fragrance (5)
- 3 Disease of the body (6)
- 4 Assigned place (5)
- 5 Tokyo's land (5)
- 6 Small glass bottles (5)
- 8 Type of cricket bowler (6)
- 12 Impress greatly (3)
- 14 Please or entertain (5)
- 15 Confer knighthood on (3)
- 17 Reverberated (6)
- 18 Small seed (3)
- 20 Type of lettuce (3)
- 21 Peculiarity (6)
- 23 Ancient marketplace (5)
- 24 Dent (5)
- 25 Cut surgically (5)
- 27 Postpone (5)

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 8



SUDOKU

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SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 8

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| 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 |

NEWS ROUNDUP

Hina Khan: 'Wishlist' will leave an nagging pain in people's hearts

Actress Hina Khan says working on film Wishlist had a positive impact on her, and made her reconsider her choices in life.

"This film is very special to me; I can positively say that it has made me retrospect and reconsider my choices in life. One of the biggest takeaways for me while playing Shalini was that the best laid plans can go astray, sometimes it's about simply going with the flow and believing that things will right themselves. I'm sure it's something that will bring a smile to people's faces but at the same time leave an aching pain in their hearts," Hina said.



Also starring Jitendra Rai, the film is about what happens when forgotten dreams are brought to life by a 'Wishlist'. It is directed by Rahat Kazmi.

film, all we want to tell everyone is that it's never too late to find happiness - it's about believing in the individualistic meaning of life and coming to terms with it."

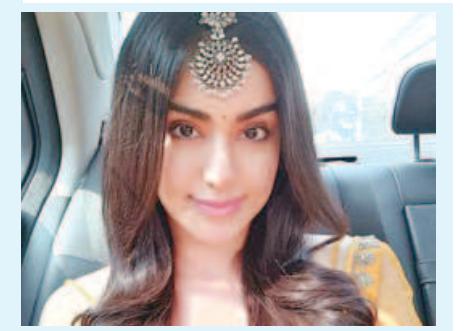
The film will go live on MX Player on December 11.

TWEET PATROL



ADAH SHARMA @ADAH_SHARMA

Morning riyaz with my grandmother, my superstar, my superhero #PartyWithPaati



DELHI WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020

FARMERS' AGITATION

Free medical treatment pulls needy from nearby villages

GAURAV SAINI
NEW DELHI

BABLI has come to the Singhu border along with her two children, aged eight and twelve, to see a doctor at one of the medical camps attending to protesting farmers and others alike.

"My elder daughter, Babita, has a cold and cough. The other, Sakshi, is very weak. My neighbour suggested that I come here," the 34-year-old resident of Kondli village said.

Over the last few days, many from her village have come to the protest site seeking free medical advice.

"The doctor has given us a cough syrup and some medicines. They also conducted a test on my younger daughter and gave iron and calcium tablets," Babli said.

Bhim Singh from Alipur accompanied his elderly father, Mangat Singh, who suffers from severe knee pain.



"My father's knees hurt a lot and his legs swell up in winters. We heard of free medical camps from some-

one and came here. We cannot afford costly treatment," Bhim Singh, 41, said.

According to Dr Anshu-

man Mitra from Kolkata-based non-profit, Medical Service Centre, there are around 12 such medical

camps operational 24X7 at the Singhu border.

Doctors, nurses and paramedics at his camp, Dr Mitra said, examine around 200 people a day. Around 30 per cent of them are from poor families in neighboring villages, he said.

"Most of the cases are related to cold, cough, stomachache, skin and eye infection, allergies and general weakness," Dr Mridul Sarkar said.

The medical staff has been working round-the-clock. A large number of patients pack the camps in the afternoon. The crowd thins at night, but no one is sent back even if it is 2 am, Dr Mitra said.

There have been a few "chronic" cases, too.

Dr Davinder Kaur from Social Upliftment Movement India said her team has examined a few patients suffering from heart diseases, hypertension and

hyperglycemia.

"We generally ask them to bring their prescription along, if they are already taking medicines. If not, we advise them accordingly," she said.

Almost all of the medical camps have nebulizers, auto-camped external defibrillators, BP machines, blood sugar testing kits etc.

Most patients are aged above 50. They come with complaints of muscle pain, indigestion, acidity, cold and cough, she said.

Kaur, who came to the medical camp at 10 am, had already examined 107 patients by 3 pm.

"Around 40 per cent of these patients are from the neighbouring villages of Kondli, Singholi and Alipur," she said.

A few medical camps, including the one being run by India Youth Congress, have got an ambulance, too, in case someone needs emergency hospitalization.

Gaurav Kaushik, a volunteer at the IYC health camp, said a lot of people have been coming to camp from nearby villages for free consultation.

"We are happy to help them. Everyone is welcome," he said.

Farmers have been observing "Bharat Bandh" on Tuesday, the 13th day of their protest against the new farm laws.

Farmer leaders had on Monday appealed to their affiliates to not force anyone to observe the shut down against the three recently enacted agriculture-related laws.

Appealing to everyone to join the "symbolic" bandh, farmer leaders had said they will block key roads during their "chakka jam" from 11 am to 3 pm as part of their stir, which has drawn people from northern states especially Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

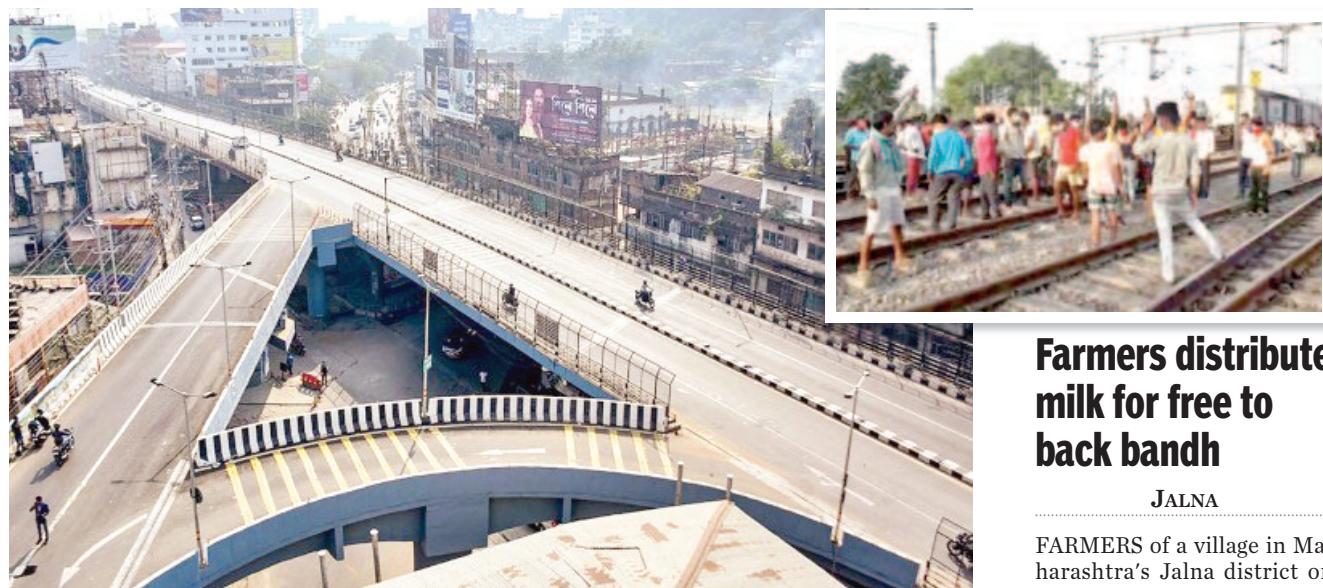
25 protesters escape death on rail tracks

PATNA

AROUND two dozen RJD supporters had a providential escape on Tuesday morning as they rallied on the rail tracks in Nalanda district of Bihar even as party workers disrupted train services in quite a few other districts as well. A video clip that went viral on social media showed the RJD supporters holding posters and banners in support of 'Bharat Bandh' and trying to stop the oncoming Rajgir-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express at the Pawapuri railway station.

As the group waved RJD flags, train driver perhaps did not notice them due to fog. RJD supporters ran helter-skelter and saved themselves in the nick of time as the train sped past them.

Rashtriya Janata Dal's Nalanda district leader Ashok Kumar Suman confirmed the incident and accused the railways of "inhuman behaviour". The RJD supporters later stopped another train at the station.



Ganeshguri flyover wears a deserted look during the nationwide strike, called by farmers to press for repeal of the Centre's agri laws, in Guwahati on Tuesday

32-yr-old farmer found dead at Tikri border

SONIPAT

A 32-year-old farmer from Haryana's Sonipat was found dead at Tikri border on Tuesday, on a day the farmers' protest in and around Delhi entered 13th day with a Bharat bandh called by them.

The farmer was identified as Ajay Moor, a resident of Sonipat's Gohana area. His family members have been informed, police said.

"Moor had been sleeping in an open park. Today morning he was found dead. The body has been sent for the post-mortem examination," a police officer said.

Prepared for 3 months, say farmers as rations hit

SINGHU BORDER

representatives against the Centre's agri laws was underway.

The 'Bharat Bandh', however, hit the supply of essentials, including rice, wheat flour, lentils, oil, milk, soap and toothpaste, for the pro-

testers camping at the border for the 13th day on the trot.

"Obviously, the rations supply will be hit. But we have enough stacked up for another 2-3 months. We have come prepared for a long haul," Gurjant Singh from Panipat said.

Sikh teens offer water, food to protesters, cops

NEW DELHI

EVEN as farmers continued to rally at the Ghazipur entry point on the Delhi-UP border on Tuesday morning, a band of four spunky Sikh teenagers were busy offering water and snacks to policemen and protesters at the spot.

Prabhjot Singh, Jaideep Singh, Harjinder Singh, and Navneet Singh told IANS that they were residents of Zilmil Colony in

Delhi and had arrived at the protest spot along with their family members and volunteers of Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha to do 'sewa' or voluntary service.

"We came here this morning and will leave later in the day. We have come here to serve the people gathered here. We also do community service at the gurdwara in our area," said the four youngsters, who are students of Classes 4, 6, and 8.

testers camping at the border for the 13th day on the trot.

"Farmers in the village said they would not sell the milk anywhere because of the bandh. They gave it to our volunteers in the village and we distributed it to villagers for free," Kale said.

The live dashboard reported that 43,435,568 patients have recovered from the COVID-19 worldwide.

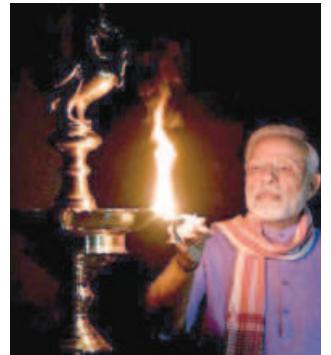
'Light lamp against Covid' most retweeted in politics

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's tweet about lighting a lamp to join the country in a drive to mark the fight against COVID-19 pandemic has become the most retweeted post in politics on the micro-blogging website for the year.

Twitter India in a blog post on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's April 5, 2020 tweet about lighting lamps of hope and good health during the COVID-19 pandemic became the most retweeted tweet in politics.

"During his 9 PM - 9 Mins' public address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi requested the people of India to light lamps from the safety of their homes as a symbolic gesture of solidarity towards one other. This tweet became the most retweeted



tweet by a politician," Twitter India said.

The people of India had switched off all the lights for 9 minutes at 9 PM on April 5 and lit candles, diyas, or flashlight, to mark the country's fight against Coronavirus as appealed by the Prime Minister. PM Modi had joined the people by lighting a lamp after turning off all lights at his residence in the drive.

India second on global ranking in Covid numbers

LONDON

to be the most affected country by the virus with its total cases nearing 15 million.

As per the latest update, the US has reported 14,933,847 cases and 283,631 deaths, the most in



the world. As many as 5,714,557 have recovered from the virus across the US.

India and Brazil continue to be the second and third most affected countries from the pandemic with 9,677,203 and 6,623,911 cases respectively. Brazil has reported 177,317 deaths, the second-highest number of fatalities after the US.

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It's time for robust cybersecurity steps

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to roil the global economy, enterprises are swiftly embracing digitisation in their bids to reach out to end customers. This acceleration towards digitisation, however, has given rise to higher cyberattacks and raises the importance of cybersecurity. With an astronomical rise in people working from home, shopping online, and being digitally more active, ransomware attacks and data breaches have been a common occurrence throughout this year. In the US alone, the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) has reported that the cyberattack complaints have reached up to 4,000 per day. A report by Cisco said that every three out of four organisations in India have witnessed 25 per cent rise in cyber threats. Many of these attacks are Covid-19 themed phishing emails, mails purporting to come from various government agencies, and fake copies of various advisories among others. Starting from IT services firm Cognizant to ecommerce player BigBasket,

many large enterprises have seen data breaches this year due to cyberattacks. Given the elevated level of attacks, cybersecurity threats have imposed heavy costs on the global economy. A recent report by cybersecurity firm McAfee revealed that the growing cybercrime incidents now cost the world economy more than \$1 trillion, or more than one per cent of global GDP. This is 50 per cent higher than the earlier year. Apart from the heavy financial costs, these cyber incidents have led to lost work hours, disruption in the workflow, and higher downtime among others. However, due to the rise in cyberattacks, the cybersecurity market has got a demand boost. The growth rate of the cybersecurity market is likely to be 12-15 per cent next year as compared to around eight per cent projected earlier. According to Forrester, the global cybersecurity market is likely to reach \$270 billion by 2026 from \$173 billion in 2020. The demand for cybersecurity products and services will be driven by all

three segments- hardware, software, and data. Apart from laptops and desktops, even the security of mobile phones will supplement this demand trend. As the world gets its first vaccine against the pandemic in the UK, the global economy is all set to come back to a normal pace in the coming one year. However, the pace of digitisation among organisations seems irreversible. Therefore, every organisation should have a sound IT infrastructure with cybersecurity measures to thwart the evil designs of attackers. Even, updating firewalls and anti-virus software across the digital interfaces including laptops is a must for efficient remote working. Having a backup of all critical systems is also an essential part of secured communications. Even every individual should be aware of the basic nature of any cyberattack to avoid data breach incidents. Further, governments around the world should also initiate steps to strengthen cybersecurity protocols to protect their valuable data. Otherwise, the cost of cybercrimes will go much beyond \$1 trillion. Additionally, the adverse impacts of such cybercrimes will be manifold. So, it is time for robust cybersecurity steps as digitalisation is on the rise.

Farm laws: Who are they meant to serve?

KAVYA DATLA

FARMERS make up 60 per cent of the Indian population; farming 18 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. Marginal farmers comprise 85 per cent of the total population of farmers.

The monthly income of agricultural households from cultivation has recorded a marginal increase since the national census in 2011. In 2016, the average monthly income of agricultural families was estimated around Rs 3,140. Almost 52 per cent of total rural agricultural households were estimated to be under heavy debt.

The average annual debt amount per agricultural household is estimated to be around Rs 1,04,602. These trends can be associated with increasing farmer distress, urban migration and suicide rates in rural India, especially among farmers.

Earlier this year, the Union government passed three heavily contested farm bills in Parliament. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) bill, which aims to dismantle existing trade and distribution monopoly, is enjoyed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the Agricultural Produce Market (APMC). This Act will now allow farmers to sell outside of their designated districts APMC, thereby advancing their interaction with the market directly.

The second is the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, which focuses on creating avenues for farmers to engage in contract farming through verbal or written contracts. This bill paves the way for farmers to access national and corporate markets. The last is an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which, cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes have been deregulated.

Together, the three bills aspire to liberalise and deregulate the market for the agrarian sector. The bills bring long-awaited reform to a key segment of the Indian economy. As the thrust for development took this turn, it also left the farm sector dealing with outdated laws and systems. The Farmers Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services bill creates opportunities for farmers to engage in contract farming, selling their produce outside the APMC and expanding their access to market.

The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce bill breaks the monopolistic situation afforded to the APMC-FCI structure. The amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 changes the limitations on stockpiling and allows for states to become commercial.

The three bills seek to transform agriculture in India. It would be beneficial to analyse the strengths and weakness of these bills through the lens of the market economy and potential impacts on the socio-economic situation of the farming community.

With the passing of the bills, the Union government has intended to liberalise farming with the short-term goal of doubling their current average monthly income. The government aspires to dereg-



In rushing the farm bills through Parliament on strength of numbers, the Union government seems to have handed short end of the stick to States and farmers

ulate the sector and offer farmers the freedom of choice to sell their produce without restraint. The bills will empower farmers through greater market access and expanded opportunities for commercial outcomes. By eliminating the APMC monopoly, the bills do away with the long-standing challenge of middlemen. The bills could also lead to an open market, enabling improved price discovery, supply chain efficiencies and dynamic market linkages.

The liberalisation of the market will introduce corporate and private investments in the industry. These investments can strengthen infrastructure, improve tools and modernise the sector. The open-market structure also allows the farmers to sell their produce online, an important change in an increasingly digital universe.

The increase in competition can potentially work to increase prices for farmers who are currently at the mercy of middlemen. In addition to these benefits, the availability of contract farming provides farmers with a price assurance instead of subjecting them to market uncertainty. There is also the possibility of firms providing farmers with input material as a part of contracts, thereby reducing input costs.

By amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the government does away with stockpiling restrictions on several commodities. In doing so, the government intends to stabilise prices by driving supply chain efficiencies through access to stock.

These bills have the potential to create a similar impact as the New Economic Policy of 1991. This, however, is dependent on several independent actors and their motives.

By loosening the grip of APMCs, the government risks the possibility of farmers receiving prices below the minimum support price (MSP). A similar law was passed in Bihar in 2006 when the state abolished APMCs. A recent study con-

ducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research reported an increased volatility in grain prices.

Bihar witnessed fractured growth in agriculture after the repeal of the mandi system in 2006. These experiences have influenced a few agricultural economists, who believe that rebuilding the existing system might be a better course of action than tearing it down to introduce a new system altogether.

Another weakness in the plan is the lack of policy-level support for transporting farmer produce. At least 85 per cent of the Indian farming community comprises marginal farmers who do not have access to markets or transportation facilities.

The bills also create a sudden power vacuum in the market, thereby creating uncertainty in the production market. In case of gradual collapse in APMC systems, the government has not currently envisioned an alternate price setting mechanism.

Agriculture falls in the state list under the Constitution of India. However, the existence of Entry 33 in the concurrent list gives both the Centre and states the power to control production, supply and distribution of products in trade and commerce related to agriculture. With several state governments expressing dissent over the bills, it is likely that they would undermine the bills by exercising their power.

Rajasthan did this by designating all potential market areas as state-controlled areas. This blocks the Centre's intention to create an open market in the absence of state regulations. Rajasthan is an example of how states might circumvent the bills by utilising their existing power.

It is also difficult to ensure that the big corporates do not enslave the already marginalised farmers. By allowing both verbal and written contracts, the Centre places the farmers at the vulnerable end of the bargain with no redress.

It is highly likely that big corporates

bury the farmers in an avalanche of legal resources. There is no denying that there is a widely disproportionate access to legal resources between farmers and corporates and there seems to be no real law in place to safeguard the interests of the farmers. Both farmers and consumers run the risk of exploitation by placing the market in the hands of big businesses.

To build trust among farmers and the states would be to include a mandate for MSP, as recommended by the Swami-nathan Committee, within the ambit of the bills. Another would be to plug the holes in the current system instead of trying to dismantle and introduce a new structure. The government also needs to make it mandatory for firms to draw up written contracts in vernacular languages and do away with verbal contracts. It may also be necessary to de-clutter the complexities surrounding export and import of agricultural produce, in alignment with the new bills. The agricultural sector could also benefit greatly if the bills achieve harmony with the provisions related to self-help groups and farmer producer organisations to incentivise collectives, aimed especially at marginal and small holding farmers.

Despite being visionary in intent, the bills come with their own share of loopholes. In rushing the bills through parliament on the strength of numbers, the Union government seems to have handed the short end of the stick to the states and farmers. A greater degree of consultation could have provided much needed impetus for the realisation of the vision for transformation. By not considering the voices of important stakeholders, the government has sown the seeds of mistrust and is currently facing a backlash.

Some states are contesting the bills in the Supreme Court, while others are trying to circumvent their way around them. In order to truly transform agriculture in India, the central government needs to be far more inclusive in their planning and decision-making processes. It also needs to assure the farmers that the bills are not an attempt to phase out government procurement. Overall, the bills need significant amendments before vision can turn into reality.

(Courtesy: Down To Earth)

Satish Chandra K, Hyderabad

cialists should find out the exact cause of the disease and do all possible things to stop any recurrence of such tragic incidents. The Chief Minister should also look into possible lapses in the system due to which such incidences happen.

Srilatha Poluru, Vijayawada

Make sacrifices to take on BJP

ANY move to take on the BJP will have to be two-pronged. The first step should be to fight the elections; do what it takes to evolve a convincing message, communicate it to the people, and encourage them to vote. If they are serious, Opposition parties will have to make great sacrifices in this regard. The Congress, for example, may have to accept that it is a party in rehabilitation, refrain from thirsting for political power and, instead, have its politicians provide their voice to the larger direction agreed to by a combined Opposition. In other words, it has to actively play a supporting role till the middle space and its own link to ground reality are nursed back to a viable scale. The Opposition needs an excellent secretariat, which addresses the bandwidth spanning voters to corporates. This is something the Congress can contribute to provided it shakes off the residual vanity stemming from being India's grand old party.

The second step is that of government formation should a future election grant these parties such an opportunity. Parties that refrain from making this exercise murky will genuinely gain the respect of the people, es-

specially of those in the electorate wishing for an end to right-wing rule. For the Congress, focus shouldn't be the next national election that an Opposition manages to win but the polls thereafter. It is a measure of how challenging the path ahead is and how much the Congress needs to restructure. First the musical notes, then the orchestra, and only after that a maestro, if there is one.

Satish Chandra K, Hyderabad

Don't scrap post-matric scholarship for SC students

RECENT media reports indicate that Ambedkar's 75-year-old 'post-matric scholarship' scheme (PMS) is in peril of being scrapped. The government is possibly considering a reduction in the Central government's share to only 10 per cent, which amounts to near withdrawal and leaving the entire burden of 90 per cent on the States, which they are unwilling to bear. Obviously, this will reduce the already low educational attainment of the SCs in the days to come. The question being raised is as to why the government should pick a scheme for poor SC students with less than Rs 2.5 lakh annual family income? From the records of preceding years, it does not look as if the shortage of funds is due to Covid-19, as the decline in allocation for the scheme had begun much before the pandemic set in. The facts seem to suggest that it is an outcome of the recent trend of low priority to higher education for the SCs.

Prabhakar Rao M, Warangal



Reckless British behaviour

ASAD MIRZA

FOR once maverick Boris Johnson seems to have taken a correct step, but he faced public and his partymen's ire over the decision.

To counter the corona pandemic, different countries adopted different strategies and took different safety measures, almost everywhere these steps were supported and adhered to willingly by their citizens. However, the response of the British public and some politicians too in this regard seems to be quite different. Many had opposed the earlier lockdown rules and last week they also resisted the new safety measures proposed by the Johnson-administration.

Last week the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a rebellion by his own party's backbenchers in the House of Commons. Members of his party refused to vote in favour of the new three-tier coronavirus system that replaced the national lockdown in England from December 3 onwards.

The proposals passed as expected despite the level of dissent from within the Conservative Party. With Labour MPs whipped by the leadership to abstain on the vote, 291 MPs in total voted in favour and 78 against the new rules. 55 Tory MPs opposed the plans, which makes for Johnson's biggest rebellion since the general election. The previous largest was over the 10 p.m. curfew, opposed by 44 Tories.

The issue that sparked the revolt was supposed to be core to Conservative Party values - freedom and the health of the economy. Mainly the tussle is over matters of economics, allowing people to do Christmas shopping and relax at restaurants and pubs without any restrictions. Under Johnson's plan, much of England will still remain under stringent rules after the national lockdown's expiry on December 2. People across the UK will face limits on household mixing, in addition to tougher rules for pubs and restaurants, which are already weathering the impact of lockdown, in addition to social mixing rules.

Most British feel that the government is curbing their right to freedom by imposing stricter rules on shopping, visiting restaurants, friends and families. "Freedom is not an absolute, but it should be regarded as precious," Graham Brady, a senior Conservative told the House of Commons during the debate on new restrictions. "If government is to take away fundamental liberties of the people whom we represent, they must demonstrate beyond question that they're acting in a way that is both proportionate and absolutely necessary," he said as Johnson looked on. "I believe the government has failed to make that compelling case." Boris Johnson had earlier appealed to his colleagues to hold their nerve and back the restrictions until vaccines becomes widely available. "The end is in sight," Johnson said. "All we need to do now is to hold our nerve until the vaccines are indeed in our grasp and indeed being injected into our arms."

MPs said the new three-tier restrictions are too harsh and risk damaging the economy. They also complained that areas with low rates of infection would be grouped together under the same strict rules as regions where the virus is still spreading.

During the parliamentary debate ahead of the key vote on new Covid-19 regulations, lockdown-sceptic Tory MPs stressed that the restrictions would have a further negative impact on the economy, education, mental health and more.

One of Johnson's backbenchers said the "stab at an impact assessment" this week had "all the hallmarks of an essay crisis". The cost-benefit analysis released on Monday was criticised for containing little new or detailed information.

Interestingly, the vote also showed fissures in the opposition's Labour Party. 15 Labour MPs led by Jeremy Corbyn also broke their party whip by voting against the proposals. Some opposed on the basis of wanting a 'zero Covid' strategy; others due to lack of financial aid.

Keir Starmer, the Labour Party's chief in his speech during the debate said that the prime minister "pretends that the restrictions might not be in place for long" despite knowing that "tough restrictions will be needed until a vaccine is rolled out -- and that may be months away".

Starmer stressed the need for continued restrictions and said that as it would not be in the national interest to vote against these restrictions. So, the labour will allow the regulations to pass. But termed this as another wasted opportunity. He described the steps taken by Johnson-government as mere short-termism and described Johnson as a PM stuck between his backbenchers and the national interest.

The response of the British public and politicians, both, shows that unlike Indians, the British just want to continue their normal life with no alarm for the Covid-19 threat, except those who have been affected. The latest official figures on Covid-19 deaths in the UK put the number at 60,000. However, the core British value seems to be money and merriment. Unlike Indians, which across the spectrum observed their festivals in a restrained manner, plus the Muslims in the UK who celebrated two Eids under restricted conditions, a majority of the British public wish to celebrate Christmas with normal gaiety and festivities.

Perhaps the Brits could have learnt a lesson from the Italians, who are able to ride over the worst of the first wave of Covid's devastation, by adopting tougher safety measures.

On the one hand the Britishers bemoan the worsening economic conditions, but they don't seem to be in a mood to hear and obey the government regarding Covid precautions and in addition blame the government for not providing enough economic packages to the business class. For once the maverick Boris Johnson seems to have taken a prudential step to safeguard the health and lives of the Britishers, but a vast majority seems in no mood to listen.

For the lawmakers, a winter of more tough decisions about further restrictions on people's movements and whether to raise taxes or cut spending to pay for the government's response to the pandemic lies ahead. The risk for Johnson is that Tories who rebelled on December 1 will be emboldened to do so again, potentially inflicting future defeats. A sizeable Tory revolt will embarrass Johnson and could foreshadow other parliamentary battles, which he has to face, including over the terms of Britain's Brexit divorce from the European Union.

Also the manner in which the British public and politicians have responded to the government's safety measures, have dented their image. Britishers who are usually considered to be a stickler for rules have emerged in this episode as the ones who consider gaiety and merriment more paramount than their own safety and to restore their earlier image of being sensible citizens will take a lot of initiatives on their part.

(The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

AP CM should look into cause of mystery disease

THIS is with reference to the report 'Eluru mystery illness: No common factor established' (Dec 8). It is quite heartrending to read that one person died and more than 450 have been admitted to hospital with a mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh. Over the weekend, hundreds of people in Eluru collapsed and experienced seizures and nausea, and some reportedly foamed at the mouth.

According to reports, 455 people had been taken to hospital and 200 had since been discharged. The mystery outbreak has increased the burden on the healthcare system in Andhra Pradesh, one of the States worst affected by coronavirus with over 800,000 cases.

Specialists from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences travelled to the State to investigate. Tests were being done to try to determine the cause of the illness, including looking into possible food or water contamination or airborne poisoning. Some of those who collapsed complained of burning eyes. Specialist doctors are still working on finding out the cause of this disease and we are waiting for results from the labs. However, the State government and the Health department off-

icials should find out the exact cause of the disease and do all possible things to stop any recurrence of such tragic incidents. The Chief Minister should also look into

possible lapses in the system due to which such inci-

dences happen.

Srilatha Poluru, Vijayawada

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next national election that an Opposition manages to

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Satish Chandra K, Hyderabad

Don't scrap post-matric scholarship for SC students

RECENT media reports indicate that Ambedkar's 75-year-old 'post-matric scholarship' scheme (PMS) is in peril of being scrapped. The government is possibly considering a reduction in the Central government's share to only 10 per cent, which amounts to near withdrawal and leaving the entire burden of 90 per cent on the States, which they are unwilling

Land registrations at village secretariats after survey in AP

► Chief Minister reviews the YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakk-Bhoomi Rakshana, which is set to start on Dec 21
 ► Directs setting up of mobile tribunals to settle land disputes with necessary vehicles and equipment
 ► Asks officials to remove apprehensions among people caused by false propaganda by some vested interests on the comprehensive land survey



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review on comprehensive land survey at Tadepalli on Tuesday

AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said land registration services should be provided at village secretariats once the comprehensive land survey is completed in the state and the changes required for this should be made in village secretariat set up.

He reviewed the survey programme titled 'YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakk-Bhoomi Rakshana', scheduled to be launched on December 21.

He instructed setting up of mobile tribunals to solve the land disputes with vehicles and other equipment. "Comprehensive land survey will benefit the people. Attempts are being made to disrupt the programme by vested interest by propagating false information and creating confusion among the people. To remove any apprehensions, accurate information should be provided to people," he said while directing the officials to be alert to false information being spread by a section of media on the comprehensive land survey and create awareness among people on its benefits.

The Chief Minister said best training and orientation should be given to the staff who participate in the comprehensive land survey.

He directed the officials to secure the records after the completion of the survey in such a way that no one can tamper with them and added that the security features should be tough and the hard copy should be with the landowners.

He directed the officials to set up a new college in Tirupati in at least 50 acre for training in survey. The college should be constructed along with comprehensive survey, he said.

The survey to be conducted in 1.26 lakh sq km across the state in villages, hamlets, towns, and cities except for forest lands. It will be held in more than 17,000 villages in three phases. Of them, 5,000 villages will be covered in the first phase, 6,500 in the second phase, and 5,500 villages in the third phase.

The survey will be conducted in 3345.93 sq km in towns and cities covering 10 lakh open plots and 40 lakh assessment lands and 2.26 crore acre land belonging to 90 lakh pattaar passbook holders.

A land titling card consisting of a unique identification number, measurements of the property, name of the owner along with the photo, and total area would be given after the survey. Digitised Cadastral Maps would be prepared after the completion of the survey.

All details of the lands in the

village would be in the maps. Survey stones would be installed once the marking of land is completed.

Digitised property register, title register and a register for complaints would be made available at village secretariats.

The Officials said each mandal will have one drone team, a data processing team and a resurvey team.

As many as 9,400 surveyors were given training by Survey of India and for the remaining people, it will be completed soon.

The officials said an MoU would be signed with Survey of India on December 9.

Deputy Chief Minister Dharmendra Krishna Das, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, CCLA (chief commissioner of land administration) Neerab Kumar Prasad, principal advisor Ajeya Kallam, and other officials were present in the meeting.

Covid cases continue to fall in AP

► State sees 551 new cases, 4 deaths in 24 hrs

AMARAVATI

CONTINUING the declining trend, state reported 551 new cases of coronavirus on Tuesday, pushing the gross positives to 8.72 lakh.

The latest bulletin said 744 patients had recovered in 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday, making it a total of 8,60,368 so far.

The state reported four fresh Covid-19 deaths in a day, taking the total to 7,042.

The number of active cases fell further to 5,429. Only Krishna district continued to report a higher daily caseload as 108 fresh cases were added in 24 hours.

The four other hotspot districts of Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur and West Godavari, added between 50 and 100 each.

The eight remaining districts reported below 50 new cases each, with Kurnool (3) and Anantapur (8) logging only a single digit score.

In fact, Kurnool now has only 79 active cases, the lowest in the state and going by the trend it may soon be fully rid of the pandemic, health department authorities say.

Shepherdess hurt in crude bomb blast

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

A woman was injured when a crude bomb exploded near railway track in Renigunta mandal in Chittoor district on Tuesday evening. According to Renigunta CI Anju Yadav, a shepherd Sasikala of Tarakarama Nagar noticed a box near the railway track and tried to open it with a stick, when crude bomb in it blew up causing severe injuries to the woman.

Onlookers immediately alerted the Renigunta police. On the receiving of information, Renigunta Urban CI Anju Yadav and her team rushed to the spot and took up the investigation.

The injured woman Sasikala was shifted to Tirupati Rua hospital for treatment. Bomb disposal squad personnel also visited the spot and collected the specimens from the explosion site.

Farm laws game changers: BJP

AMARAVATI

EVEN as Bharat Bandh was observed in the state, BJP AP president Somu Veerraju on Tuesday supported the new Central farm laws, even as his party colleagues tried to explain their finer points through explanatory videos and slides.

"I am with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I will not support to Bharat Bandh," said Veerraju.

S Vishnuvardhan Reddy, state BJP general secretary, claimed that the farm laws would be a game changer for farmers. "They will help them increase their incomes. It will empower them. They will also help increase India's GDP and achieve the full potential of agriculture sector," he claimed.

Vishnuvardhan said people need to know about the Acts properly and asked them to read them before protesting against the government. He criticised the Congress for participating in the protests.

BJP Rayia Sabha member G V L Narasimha Rao claimed that the new laws were aimed at giving freedom to farmers, who he claimed had suffered decades-long manipulation at the hands of some government players

and middlemen. "These are revolutionary laws. Many governments deliberated but did not dare to implement them," he asserted.

He claimed that similar recommendations were made in the Swaminathan report during the UPA government in 2005.

He claimed that farmers did not have the power to sell their crops anywhere in the country unlike other small businessmen or artisans. "There is no fault of the farmers... they have been brainwashed with lies that some injustice is happening to them," he said.

HAZARE ON FAST

Farmers' protest should spread across country'

NEW DELHI

SOCIAL activist Anna Hazare on Tuesday sat on a day-long hunger strike to support agitating farmers who have called Bharat Bandh demanding repeal of the Centre's agri laws.

Anna Hazare also said the agitation should spread across the country so that the government comes under pressure to act in the interests of cultivators. In a recorded message, Anna Hazare appreciated farmers' protests at the borders of Delhi saying no violence has taken place in the last 10 days of the agitation.

"I appeal to the people of the country that the agitation which is going on in Delhi should spread across the country. The situation needs to create pressure on the government, and to

achieve this, farmers need to hit streets. But no one should resort to violence," said Anna Hazare who began his fast in Ralegan Siddhi village in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

He said this was the "right time" for farmers to come out on streets and get their issues resolved. "I had backed this cause earlier also, and will continue to do so," he said. Anna Hazare also expressed the need to grant autonomy to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and to implement the recommendations of the M S Swaminathan Commission.

The octogenarian warned of agitation if the government fails to grant autonomy to the CACP and implement recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission.

Delhi air quality turns 'severe' again

Continued from PI

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), a central government agency, said that dominating factors influencing air quality are making a swift transformation from biomass to intense winter cooled stagnation conditions, lowering of boundary layer height and fog formation.

"Surface winds are likely to be picking up slightly and the AQI is forecast to be in the very poor category for the next two days. AQI is likely to improve and stay in the middle-end of the very poor category on 11th December," the forecasting agency stated.

The contribution of stubble burning to the pollution crisis is also negligible at one per cent, according to the SAFAR.

No effect on trade, claims CAIT

NEW DELHI

BHARAT Bandh called by farmers' organisations on Tuesday had no effect on trading activities across the country, said the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). CAIT and the All India Transport Welfare Association (AITWA), the largest transport sector organisa-

tion on Monday, gave a nationwide call to traders and transporters to keep their business establishments open during 'Bharat Bandh'. Besides the bandh, there is also a call for no vehicular movement - Chakka Jam - across the nation from 11 am to 3 pm. "As usual the markets in Delhi and across the country remained fully operative conducting

smooth business activities, including

Delhi," the CAIT said. "Movement of goods all over the country also remained unaffected," the largest traders body added. The CAIT claimed that more than seven crore business establishments were completely open throughout the country and business activities continued unabated.

Bharat Bandh peaceful

Continued from PI

In Delhi, where most main markets were open, tension spiralled with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleging that Delhi Police had put Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal under house arrest till evening. City police denied the claim. Farmer unions had threatened to block national highways and occupy toll plazas across the

country during a 'chakka jam' protest from 11 am to 3 pm. All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah described the shutdown as a show of strength by the farmers. "We are standing by our demand that we want a complete repeal of the three laws and will not accept any cosmetic changes... If our demands are not met, we are ready to take our agi-

Bandh passes off with no incidents, normal life hit

AMARAVATI

THE Bharat Bandh in protest against the controversial new farm laws passed by the Centre, passed off without any incident in the state with the state government lending support by suspending APSRTC bus services. Even the state Secretariat opened after 1 pm on Tuesday as the government did not arrange buses in the morning for the employees to reach Velagapudi.

There was not much impact on normal life as the supporters of the bandh mostly confined their protests to bus stations and highways where traffic blockades were held. Educational institutions, however, remained shut on the advice of the state government while banks and other Central government offices functioned normally.

The Left parties took out protest marches in different towns of the state demanding that the Centre scrap the new farm laws that would benefit only the corporates and not the actual farmers.

Leaders and cadres of Left and Congress parties enforced the Bharat Bandh in Vijayawada and other major centres in the state. Left parties and others opposing the three laws protested in Tirupati where the BJP is eyeing the Parliament seat that fell vacant due to demise of Balaji Duraprasad.

In Vijayawada, CPI state secretary K Ramakrishna, CPM

- YSRCP govt extends support by suspending RTC bus services
- Secretariat too was opened after 1 pm
- Congress and Left actively enforce the shutdown in Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajamahendravaram and other major centres

gress led a bike rally in support of the farmers.

Like other places, Nellore police have also tightened security in the district to prevent untoward incidents, even as supporters of Left parties protested in Guduru, TP Guduru, and other places.

The TDP too supported the bandh. TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu called for a national debate on the farm laws and wanted the Centre to build a consensus after deliberating with the farmers and the farmers associations.

He said minimum support price should be made a statutory right for the farmers and not be at the mercy of someone. The ruling YSRCP, which was pushed on to the defensive as it supported the farm laws in Parliament, said it hoped a solution to the ongoing crisis would be found soon, particularly over the minimum support price issue.

State agriculture minister K Kannababu, in a statement, said the YSRCP supported the farm laws on the condition that they would not harm the farmers interests in any way. "We supported the new legislation only after the Centre gave a categorical assurance that MSP will be strictly implemented and that the farmers interests will be protected. We wish the talks between the Centre and the farmers' unions will soon bear fruit and solve the current crisis," Kannababu added. PTI



Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

V-DAY: UK rolls out Covid vaccine

Continued from PI

On Saturday, Russia began vaccinating thousands of doctors, teachers and others at dozens of centres in Moscow with its Sputnik V vaccine. That programme is being viewed differently because Russia authorised use of Sputnik V last summer after it was tested in only a few dozen people.

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock, usually reserved, said he felt "quite emotional", adding that 70 hospitals in the

country would start the vaccine programme.

The mass inoculation will raise hope that the world may be turning a corner in the fight against a pandemic that has crushed economies and killed more than 1.5 million, although ultra-cold storage and tricky logistics will limit its use for now.

The UK has recorded 61,000 Covid-19 related deaths - more than any other country has reported in Europe, and over 1.7 million cases.

Mt Everest is nearly a metre taller!

Continued from PI

There have been several discussions about what the reason for the change could be, including the devastating earthquake of 2015. Scientists say that the height of the tallest mountain could be increasing due to plate tectonics.

According to a 1954 measurement by Survey of India, the height of Everest is 8,848 metres.

However, the new height measurement is still to be analysed by scientists and mapmakers around the world.

Would have gone to support farmers if not stopped: CM

Continued from PI

"If I was not stopped, I would have gone and supported the protesting farmers in their Bharat Bandh movement."

I am glad that Bharat Bandh was a success. I prayed for the protesting farmers while sitting inside," Kejriwal said.

Earlier, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said at a press conference that "on the instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi

Police has put the Chief Minister under house arrest. No one is being allowed to leave the house nor anyone from outside is being allowed to go into the house.

Meanwhile, DCP Anto Alphons termed AAP's allegations of house arresting Kejriwal baseless.

He said police forces have been deployed outside the Chief Minister's residence to prevent confrontation between 'AAP' and BJP workers.

Later, Sisodia and some AAP members were allowed inside to meet Kejriwal shortly after which the party

TRS will fight until farm laws are repealed: KTR

- The working president of the pink party sits in protest along with party workers in Shadnagar in support of Bharat Bandh
- Says the new farm laws will not only affect the farmers, but also the poor and middle income groups who will have to shell more money on agri commodities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR



TRS party working president KT Rama Rao and activists staging a rasta roko in support of Bharat Bandh called by the farmers' organisations at the Burgula Gate near Shadnagar on National Highway-44 on Tuesday

ALLEGING that the new farm laws were for benefiting the corporate sector, Telangana Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday said that the party would be with farmers of the country with a long-term action plan against the laws, and fight until these laws were repealed.

The TRS leaders and activists staged a rasta roko in support of Bharat Bandh called by the farmers' organisations at the Burgula Gate near Shadnagar on National Highway-44. Addressing the protestors, Rama Rao referred to the farm laws as black Acts and said that these would not only affect the farmers, but also the poor and middle class sections as the prices of essential commodities would go up. The corporate forces would involve in hoarding and creating artificial shortage of food grains, thereby increasing the prices, said the TRS leader.

"The farm laws are not in the

interest of farmers. Almost 80 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal and they can't fight with the big corporate forces. There is nothing about Minimum Support Price in this Act. If there are market yards, the farmers would at least get the MSP," opined KTR.

Stating that any democratic government should withdraw its decision if it is not liked by the people, the TRS leaders added that there was no democratic spirit in the BJP government. He alleged that though the BJP lacked strength in Rajya Sabha, it passed the Acts by closing the doors. Rama Rao said that the TRS government was providing

Rs 7,300 crore to the farmers through Rythu Bandhu and benefitting over 58 lakh farmers through the scheme, he said.

Adding that TRS would stand by the farmers of the State and the country, the State Information Technology Minister said, "The TRS will create awareness about the farm acts by going to every village. A long-term action plan will be prepared and protests will be carried out till the government withdraws these Acts. Stating that the agitation was not new for the TRS, he said that the Centre had given one more chance to the party to fight for the cause of farmers.

The TRS leader said that though the Agriculture subject was a State subject, the Centre brought these "black Acts" to remove powers of the State government. Responding to the allegations of not providing support to "fine rice", he informed that the Food Corporation of India has announced to stop the procurement if the State government gives any additional support other than MSP.

TRS party Parliamentary leader K Keshava Rao said the party had protested in the Parliament. "Since it is corona time, we are at different places in Parliament. The government did not give a chance to talk and neither allowed for division," Rao said.

BJP, TRS anti-farmer, lambast Cong netas

Senior leaders join protests in support of Bharat Bandh, demand repeal of new farm laws

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



Nalgonda Congress MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy addressing a press conference after participating in Bharat Bandh protest, on Tuesday

TELANGANA Congress leaders hit the streets on Tuesday in support of Bharath Bandh called by Kisan Unions in protest against the new farm laws enacted by the BJP-led NDA government. Senior leaders Mallu Bhatti Vikramarkha, Ponnala Laxmaiah, Revanth Reddy, Mallu Ravi, Jagga Reddy, K Laxma Reddy, Sampath Kumar among others staged protests on highways, market yards, bus stations expressing support to the farming community.

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarkha accused the Centre of implementing anti-farmer policies. He along with senior leader and hundreds of party activists staged a protest at Shamirpet on Hyderabad. Farmers came to the protest site in tractors and raised slogans against the Centre.

Bhatti slammed the BJP for the new farm laws that are against the interests of the agriculture community. He was also critical of CM K Chandrashekhar Rao, whom he accused of blackmailing the farmers to sow crops selected by him only. He said KCR was rallying behind farmers as he was getting scared of farmers uniting to fight against the

said laws. It was time Rao was also taught a lesson, Bhatti felt.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president & MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy demanded that the BJP government immediately withdraw the contentious new farm laws to protect the interests of farmers.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhawan on Tuesday, he urged CM KCR to convene a special session of Legislative Assembly to pass new laws to override BJP govt's anti-farmer Acts. He said that the new farm laws would benefit a few corporations like Ambanis, Adanis, Amazon and Walmart while the rights and interests of poor farmers would be suppressed.

The senior Congress leader

said that the 'Bharat Bandh' was successful in Telangana as Congress cadre participated in protests across the State.

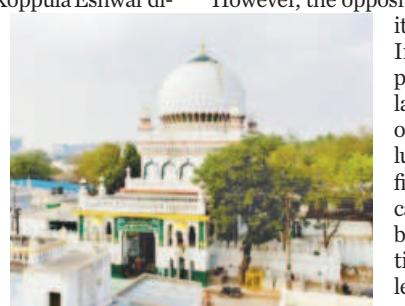
TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy took part in a protest held at Shadnagar. Former MP Mallu Ravi staged a sit-in protest in front of Nagarkurnool bus depot. Jagga Reddy along with his son staged a protest on the highway in Sangareddy to express solidarity with farmers.

Former MP Madhu Yashki Goud said that KCR had sent KT Rama Rao and Kavitha onto the streets in wake of setbacks in Dubbaka and GHMC elections. He said that both BJP and TRS are same to same as both governments are anti-farmer.

Govt to probe Dargah land encroachments

M D NIZAMUDDIN
HYDERABAD

IN the light of Government Order 15, which bans registration of the Waqf Board properties, Minister for Minorities Welfare Koppula Eshwar directed higher officials to cancel registration of illegal encroachments of lands attached to Dargah Hazrat Hussain Shahwali. According to sources, the minister directed Principal Secretary Ahmed Nadeem and other higher officials to look into the alleged land encroachments issue in Manikonda Jagir. He asked Nadeem to initiate action after verification.



of about 1,652 acres in about 78 survey numbers in Manikonda Jagir village in Serilingampally Mandal of Rangareddy District.

"The Waqf Board and Dargah have successfully contested the title suit in the High Court. However, the opposite parties have challenged

it in the Supreme Court of India and the case is still pending. Unfortunately, land sharks are grabbing the open lands with active collusion of the government officials using fake and fabricated documents. They have been entering into transactions that are absolutely illegal and unlawful. There is a need to protect the available prime lands from further grabbing and encroachment," said the General Secretary of Association, Syed Ifteqar Hussain, and Waqf Properties Protection Cell President Nayemullah Shareef. They urged the minister to issue instructions to the registration department for cancellation of registrations which were done earlier and block further registrations.

New agri laws unfortunate: HM

HYDERABAD

IT'S unfortunate that the Government of India enacted the anti-farmer laws, said Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali, while addressing a protest rally on Tuesday, which was held in solidarity with the Bharat Bandh called by the farmers across the nation. Agricultural associations are expressing their displeasure, all the age groups from children to old age are protesting in the chilled winter on roads against the laws to be implemented by the BJP. But the Centre is not presenting any positive response for the farmers, Ali said. He claimed that the Telangana government was performing better in providing useful schemes for the farmers from providing electricity to providing farm loans. Telangana is always supportive and expecting the same support from the Centre for the farmers of India.

Revanth Reddy condemns Centre's anti-farmer laws

Says the new laws will sound death knell of MSP and market yard purchase systems, while taking part in Bharat Bandh protest at Shadnagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

TELANGANA State Congress working president and Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy participated in a dharna during Bharat Bandh in Shadnagar on Tuesday. Farmers unions across the country called for Bharat Bandh against Centre's farm bills.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy said the new farm Bills would spell doom to the market yard system. "The new laws do not specify that the contract price should be above minimum support price (MSP). It is clear that the new laws do not empower or protect or give price assurance to the farmers. They are meant to give freedom to companies to contract farmers, but nothing for farmers. It will promote hoarding of food commodities by corporates," he said. The new anti-farmer laws would sound death knell of MSP procurement and market yard purchase systems, the MP said adding that only farmers had freedom to stock earlier, but now, companies were also getting unlimited stocking. "This leaves farmers to the mercy of big agribusiness companies which will control the market," he alleged.



TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy participating in a protest during Bharat Bandh in Shadnagar on Tuesday.

He said the farm laws were the Central government's plot to formulate "black laws", which would ensure that the farmer will not get minimum support price and let the agriculture sector go into the hands of corporates.

"The Telangana State government is not assisting farmers. They have not provided any assistance to the farmers during the floods. Their crops were completely damaged during the floods, but the State government did nothing to help the farmers or to provide relief to them," he said. He reminded the government that during its tenure of six

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MLA threatens man; video goes viral

A video showing a TRS MLA and his followers threatening a man during the Bharat Bandh has gone viral on social media, much to embarrassment of the ruling party legislator on

Tuesday. The video shows Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and his followers threatening a man for questioning the MLA for the traffic barricades and nuisance caused during the Bharat Bandh. The MLA and his followers were seen pushing away the man in the video.

Interim stay on Dharani portal extended till tomorrow

Advocate General declines to divulge the details pertaining to the safety measures taken by the government to safeguard the collected data stating that such details cannot be made public



LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

LEGAL NOTES

A division bench headed by the Chief Justice Raghabendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B Vijayen Reddy on Tuesday has extended the interim stay directing the officials to restrain from collecting Aadhaar and caste details from the owners of non-agriculture properties till December 10.

The High Court has refused to allow the State government to go ahead with the registration of non-agricultural properties through Dharani portal and said, "Nothing prevents the State government to go ahead with the registrations with the old procedure."

The bench opined that the governments come and go, but the sensitive data such as Aadhaar and caste details collected needs to be protected. There is neither any rule nor mechanism brought by the State government to safeguard the sensitive data and inform the citizens clearly where the citizen has to go if his data is breached or exposed by the government or any third party, the bench added.

Advocate General Banda Shivamanda Prasad informed the court that the State government was taking all precautionary measures to ensure that the massive data pertaining to the owners of non-agriculture and agriculture is safeguarded, but declined to divulge details per-

AgriGold case: Notices served to TS, AP govts

HYDERABAD

A High Court division bench comprising of Justices MS Ramachandra Rao and Amarnath Goud on Tuesday heard the plea filed by Telangana AgriGold Customers And Agents Welfare Association represented by its president Andalu Ramesh Babu seeking to direct the Telangana and AP governments to appoint a committee to conduct sale/auction of properties owned by the AgriGold Farms Limited to mobilise the money to return to the depositors.

The High Court bench, however, dismissed the interim plea filed to allow one-time settlement with banks and allow them to sell attached assets.

Senior Counsel for AgriGold L Ravichander informed the court that they have recently applied for permission to develop 23 assets through joint ventures in 15 to 60 months and raise Rs 2,040 crore and deposit Rs 105 crore in

taining to the safety measures taken by the government, and added that such details cannot be made public.

The Advocate General sought

advance in a court account. The High Court has issued notices to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments, Union Finance Ministry, Enforcement Directorate, concerned banks and petitioner Andalu Ramesh Babu to submit reply affidavits on AgriGold application.

Further, the AP Counsel Samson said that the Telangana High Court would report to the Chief Justice tomorrow to transfer the trial of the AgriGold case to the Amravati High Court through the AP Advocate General.

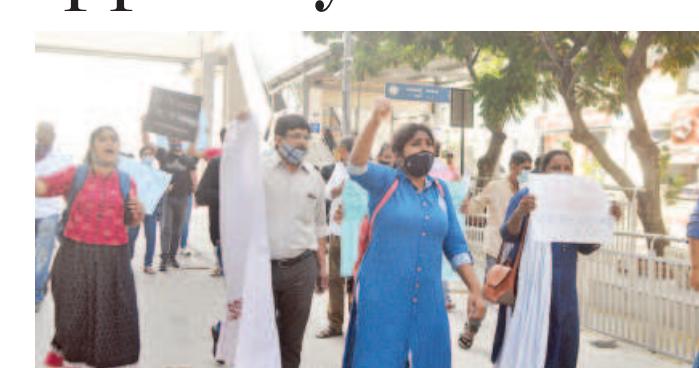
The bench of Justice MS Ramachandra Rao has already clarified that the Chief Justice has the power to give administrative directions as it is not possible to give legal directions on the transfer of the AgriGold case.

Senior Counsel for AgriGold L Ravichander informed the court that they have recently applied for permission to develop 23 assets through joint ventures in 15 to 60 months and raise Rs 2,040 crore and deposit Rs 105 crore in

a day's time to file the counter affidavit, to which the bench extended the interim stay till December 10 and adjourned the matter.

Techies support ryots' cause

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



Forum of IT Professionals staging a stir in support of farmers' protest against the newly enacted farm laws, at Raidurg Metro Station on Tuesday.

Photo:-Srinivas Setty

not just not about farmers, as the bills also got connection with information technology. As this issue is not an issue of a farmer or farming community alone but also

for the entire nation as a whole, we are directly or indirectly associated with farmers. So, a group of IT professionals decided to stand solidarity with the farmers."

3rd T20I

Australia deny India clean-sweep

Hosts win final T20 International by 12 runs after going down in the first two matches

SYDNEY

RIDING on wicket-keeper-batsman Matthew Wade's 80 and Glenn Maxwell's 54 and a combined haul of five wickets for 64 runs in 10 overs by spinners Mitchell Swepson, Adam Zampa and Maxwell, Australia defeated India by 12 runs in the third and final T20 International at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The win restored some pride for Australia as they had lost the series 2-1 after going down in the first two matches.

The Aussies had won the ODI series 2-1 prior to the T20Is.

India, who lost KL Rahul on just the second ball of the innings as the opener held out to deep mid-wicket, kept losing wickets at regular intervals as the top-order caved in.

Only skipper Virat Kohli kept up the fight, making 85 of 61 deliveries. At one point in time, it seemed that Kohli and Hardik Pandya would tilt the game in India's favour as they took 20 runs in the 16th over and 13 runs in the 17th over to bring the equation down to 43 off 18 balls.

However, Pandya was dis-

missed off the first ball of the 18th over for a 13-ball 20 and soon after that Kohli was dismissed on the first ball of the 19th over.

Swepson was the star for Australia picking three for 23 in his four overs. He removed Shikhar Dhawan (28 off 21), Sanju Samson (10 off 9) and Shreyas Iyer (first-ball duck).

Earlier, Wade's 80 and a quick-fire 54 from Glenn Maxwell helped Australia set an imposing 187-run target for India.

Put into bat, Australia didn't have a great start as they lost skipper Aaron Finch in the second over. Finch was caught by Hardik Pandya at mid-off off Washington Sundar and went back to the pavilion without troubling the scorers.

Wade, who was leading the hosts in the second T20I in the absence of injured Finch, however, kept scoring boundaries at the other end and carried the Australian innings forward.

Australia moved to 51/1 at the end of the powerplay. Finch and Steve Smith added 65 runs for the second-wicket before Smith was

dismissed by Sundar in the 10th over at his individual score of 24.

But Wade, who had scored a well-rounded 58 in the second T20I, brought his second consecutive fifty in the 11th over bowled by left-arm pace bowler T Natarajan. Glenn Maxwell, who came into bat next, then stitched another 50-plus partnership with Wade to take Australia on course for a big score.

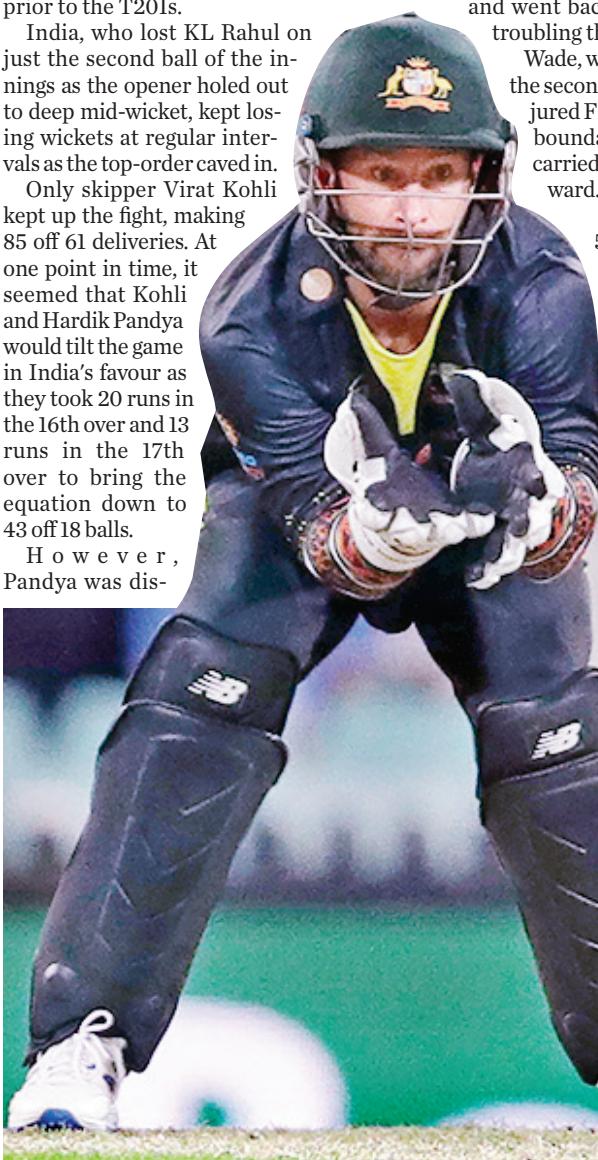
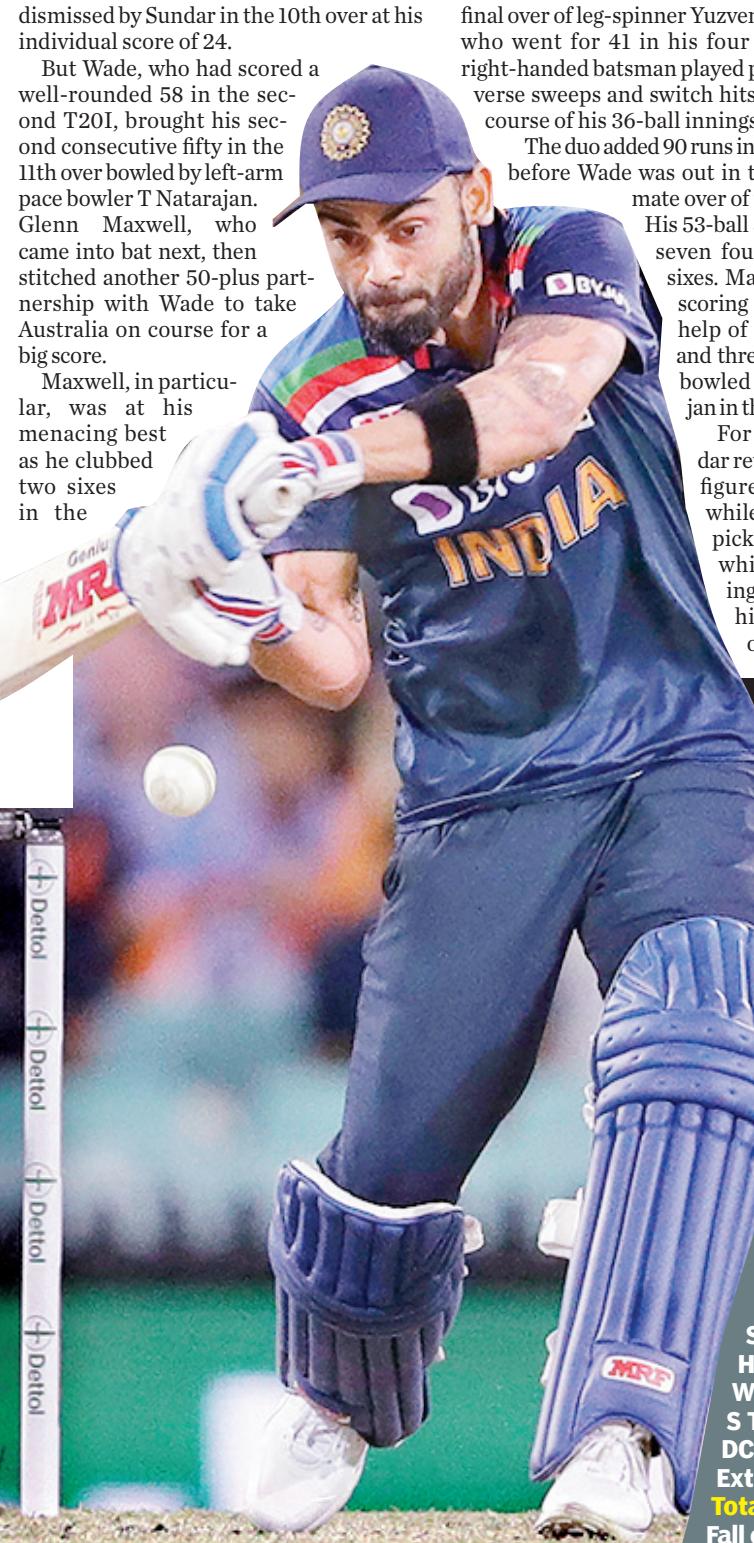
Maxwell, in particular, was at his menacing best as he clubbed two sixes in the

final over of leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal who went for 41 in his four overs. The right-handed batsman played plenty of reverse sweeps and switch hits during the course of his 36-ball innings.

The duo added 90 runs in just 53 balls before Wade was out in the penultimate over of the innings.

His 53-ball 80 included seven fours and two sixes. Maxwell, after scoring 54 with the help of three fours and three sixes, was bowled by Natarajan in the final over.

For India, Sundar returned with figures of 2/34 while Natarajan picked a wicket while conceding 33 runs in his four overs. (IANS)



India's captain Virat Kohli bats during the third T20 international against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Australia on Tuesday

NZ vs WI: Roach, Dowrich out of second Test

WELLINGTON

WEST Indies will be without premier fast bowler Kemar Roach and wicketkeeper-batsman Shane Dowrich when they take on New Zealand in the second and final Test beginning Friday at the Basin Reserve.

Both are set to return to the Caribbean: Roach due to the death of his father, and Dowrich for personal reasons, reports ESPNcricinfo.

Roach had returned with figures of 3/114 in the first Test, which the Black Caps won by an innings and 134 runs at the Seddon Park. Wicketkeeper Dowrich suffered a hand injury on the first day of match and did not bat in either innings.

Windies Test squad: Jason Holder (captain), Roston Chase (vice-capt), Jerome Blackwood, Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shammar Brooks, John Campbell, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Chemar Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Keemo Paul.

Pak team except one allowed to leave isolation

AUCKLAND

PAKISTAN'S cricket squad has been given permission to leave managed isolation in Christchurch by the New Zealand health ministry but one of their positive cases will remain behind as they continue to recover.

A total of 52 Pakistan members have been granted the approval to end their managed isolation stint on Tuesday. Another man, who repeatedly tested negative, will also be released from the Auckland quarantine facility on Tuesday. He was placed there on arrival in New Zealand because he was displaying symptoms.

The 54th member of the group will remain in the quarantine facility until he fully recovers from Covid-19. (IANS)



Reached dizzy heights with single kidney: Long jumper Anju

NEW DELHI

gold medal in the IAAF World Athletics Finals in 2005 in Monaco.

She won a bronze at 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games and a gold at the Busan Asian Games the same year. Four years later she clinched a silver at the Doha Asian Games.

Anju also won a gold at 2005 Incheon Asian Championships, and a silver two years in the same competition, in Amman.

"Anju, it's your hard work, grit and determination to bring laurels for India supported by the dedicated coaches and the whole technical backup team. We are so proud of you being the only Indian so far to win a medal in the World Athletic Championship!" tweeted sports minister Kiren Rijuji in reply to Anju's tweet. (IANS)

Long jumper Anju Bobby George, winner of the historic bronze medal at the 2003 World Athletics Championship, on Monday revealed that she reached the pinnacle of her career with a single kidney.

Believe it or not, I'm one of the fortunate, among very few who reached the world top with a single KIDNEY, allergic with even a painkiller, with a dead takeoff leg. Many limitations still made it. Can we call, magic of a coach or his talent," Anju, 43, tweeted on Monday.

Anju made history when she won the bronze medal by clearing 6.70 metres at the 2003 World Championships in Athletics in Paris. Later, she won a

gold medal in the IAAF World Athletics Finals in 2005 in Monaco.

She won a bronze at 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games and a gold at the Busan Asian Games the same year.

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Anju also won a gold at 2005 Incheon Asian Championships, and a silver two years in the same competition, in Amman.

"Anju, it's your hard work,

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We are so proud of you being

the only Indian so far to win a

medal in the World Athletic

Championship!" tweeted

sports minister Kiren Rijuji in

reply to Anju's tweet. (IANS)

Last week Hyderabad youngster Sneha stunned her senior colleagues with a confident start-to-finish victory, which was her second in a professional event.

Giving her company from the amateur ranks will be Hunar Mittal,

who signalled her arrival with a

Tied-second finish with seasoned

Amandeep Drall, who despite fin-

ishing behind Sneha took the win-

ner's cheque as the top pro.

This week the field is star-stud-

ded with the participation of

three of the Indians who played

on the Ladies European Tour dur-

ing the summer.

Tvesa had a superb season in

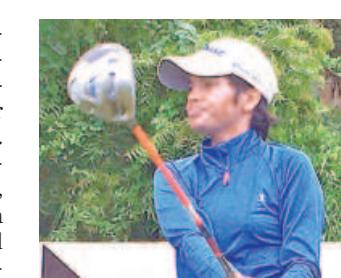
Europe, though she skipped the

Order of Merit, and in 10 starts she

made eight cuts including a T-4 at

Flumserberg Ladies Open and T-

10 at Ladies Open de France.



Europe, though she skipped the Order of Merit this season and had a best finish of T-52 in Dubai, also plays this week alongside Lakhmehar Pardesi and Geetika Ahuja.

Interestingly, there is one

Diksha Dagar, one of the only two Indians to have won a title on the Ladies European Tour, also played 10 events, including a team event. She made the cut in four of the individual events in what was a modest season for her. Last week she finished out of the Top-10 in the 7th Leg, a rare occurrence for Diksha on the domestic Tour. This week she is out to make amends.

Astha Madan, another player who made three starts on the LET this season and had a best finish of T-52 in Dubai, also plays this week alongside Lakhmehar Pardesi and Geetika Ahuja.

Interestingly, there is one more player in the field who won back-to-back events in 2020, but that was before Covid intervened and halted the Tour. Pranav Urs won the second leg as an amateur and then turned pro and immediately won her first start in paid ranks at the third leg.

Sneha will tee off in the com-

Kohli rules out Pandya for Tests

SYDNEY

INDIA skipper Virat Kohli has ruled out any chance of Hardik Pandya getting called up into the Test squad saying that the player can make the Test grade only as an all-rounder.

There had been calls for the inclusion of the all-rounder into the Test squad only as a pure batsman after the Baroda player showed an ability to bat deep and with patience in the One-day International series.

Pandya had made a couple of 90s in the three-game ODI series and also played a match-winning knock at the back-end in the second match of the T20 International series on Sunday. He has been unable to bowl as he is not yet game-ready as a bowler, according to his own admission.

For India, Sundar returned with figures of 2/34 while Natarajan picked a wicket while conceding 33 runs in his four overs. (IANS)

team. If you have seen (Test series) in South Africa and England, his bowling gave the team that balance. He will be available for Tests only as a pure all-rounder," said Kohli in the post-series media interaction.

Pandya, who was the man of the series in the T20Is, too was asked about it at the end of the third T20I on Tuesday. He said he will return home and not play the Tests.

"I think I should head back home and spend some quality time with my family. I haven't seen them for four months. Maybe in the future (for Test cricket), I don't know, maybe," Pandya said at the post-match presentation. (IANS)



SCOREBOARD

Australia

| | |
|--|------------|
| M Wade lbw b Thakur | 80 |
| A Finch c H Pandya b W Sundar | 0 |
| S Smith b W Sundar | 24 |
| G Maxwell b T Natarajan | 54 |
| M Heniques not out | 5 |
| Short run out ((sub)M Pandey/Rahul) | 7 |
| D Sams not out | 4 |
| Extras: (LB-1, W-10, NB-1) | 12 |
| Total: (5 wkts, 20 Overs) | 186 |
| Fall of Wkts: 14-1, 79-2, 169-3, 175-4, 182-5 | |
| Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-34-0, Washington Sundar 4-0-34-2, T Natarajan 4-0-33-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-41-0, Shardul Thakur 4-0-43-1. | |

| | |
|---|------------|
| India | |
| KL Rahul c S Smith b Maxwell | 0 |
| S Dhawan c D Sams b Swepson | 28 |
| V Kohli c D Sams b Andrew Tye | 85 |
| S Samson c S Smith b Swepson | 10 |
| S Iyer lbw b Swepson | 0 |
| H Pandya c Finch b Zampa | 20 |
| W Sundar c A Tye b Abbott | 7 |
| S Thakur not out | 17 |
| D Chahar not out | 0 |
| Extras: (B-1, W-6) | 7 |
| Total: (7 wkts, 20 Overs) | 174 |
| Fall of Wkts: 0-1, 74-2, 97-3, 100-4, 144-5, 151-6, 164-7 | |
| Bowling: Glenn Maxwell 3-0-20-1, Sean Abbott 4-0-49-1, Daniel Sams 2-0-29-0, Andrew Tye 4-0-31-1, Mitchell Swepson 4-0-23-3, Adam Zampa 3-0-21-1. | |

We had a chance when Hardik and I were batting (the two brought the equation down to 43 off 18 balls). But the middle-over phase, when we were batting, was the phase that cost us the game. If we had one partnership of 25 or 30, it would have meant that Hardik would have arrived when we needed 60 and not 80. His job would have become easier. This game was still competitive

— Virat Kohli

Sudeva Delhi FC, Mohammedan SC to meet in I-League opener

NEW DELHI

I-LEAGUE debutants Sudeva Delhi FC and Mohammedan SC will meet in the opening clash of the 2020/21 I-League season at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Stadium, Kolkata on January 9 next year.

The fixture for the first 10 rounds of the I-League was released on Tuesday, with the schedule for the next stage to be released later.

Due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, the tournament will be played in Kolkata and the neighbouring town of Kalyani.

The tournament will be played at three venues -- the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Stadium, the Kalyani Municipal Stadium, and the Kishore Bharati Krirangan.</