

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PVSINDHU@PVSINDHU1

Congratulations #TeamIndia for a historic series win at the Gabba! you have shown the world what you are capable of and what New India is all about. So proud of you!! @BCCI AUSvIND



Styling your shirt dress

The shirt dress is a casual shirt that's extended to create a dress. This versatile trend gives you a choice of lengths, sleeve lengths, and hemlines, so you can create a multitude of outfits from one straightforward dress.

Wearing a shirt dress on its own

Of course, the shirt dress looks just perfect on its own. A mini denim version with scooped hemline accents tanned legs, whilst a looser design cinched at the waist with a thin belt is great for a fuller figure. A plaid knee-length dress is delightfully feminine, looking lovely with converse sneakers. Pretty pinstripes teamed with a floral print jacket and nude sandals captures the spirit of summer, whilst a rainbow-shaded cummerbund makes a colourful splash on a pure white model with tiny pin-tucks.

Wearing a shirt dress with leggings

Black leggings are a firm favourite here, such as full length leggings with a white shirt dress, worn with heeled lace-ups. Long black leggings also look good with a shaped shirt dress together with little black ankle boots. Three-quarter black leggings make the perfect pair with a loose pink shirt dress with waist tie and ballet pumps, or teamed with a scooped hem version in nautical stripes with converse sneakers. Try a bold red shirt dress with black leggings, patent waist-belt and long black boots for real impact, or wear a denim dress over polka-dot leggings with ankle boots.



Wearing a shirt dress with jeans

Jeans work equally as well with the shirt dress, especially if they're skin-tight. A looser style of dress looks better here, such as a denim dress over ripped skinny denims with pointed sandals or sleeveless striped dress with narrow belt over skinny jeans and stilettos. A shirt dress with frilled hem in pale pink looks superb over jeans or match a colourful patterned dress with black stretch jeans and heeled lace-ups. An oversized white dress works beautifully with faded skinny denims and heels, or choose a monochrome print dress to wear with faded denims and mules.

QUICK TIP

Add colour to your lips



Nude matte lipstick is preferably the best option for corporate makeup. Matte lipsticks last longer than glossy ones and give a professional touch to the makeup. Choose a matte lipstick shade suitable for office and let your lips do the talking. Try to avoid bright lip colours. Carry a lip stain to work. Choose the right colours, opt for waterproof makeup, do not look cakey, go for a proper hairdo, and purchase beauty products from the best brands to avoid allergy or reactions. Keep yourself hydrated throughout the day to maintain skin health and look fresh. Wear a smart and simple dress and pair it with minimum accessories.

Everything you need to know about diabetes and women

Compliment your food choices with regular exercise, reduced stress and beat diabetes the Indian way!

By virtue of my profession, I am constantly in touch with women of all ages, professions and locations. I can't be happier to notice that women are taking charge and striving for their share in every aspect of life. While women are striving for equality, here is one sector we are at par with our male counterparts – The incidence of Diabetes. Sorry to be the bearer of sad news but even though we are affected equally, the consequences are far worse for us. Diabetes is on the rise in India and it is best to prevent, than to cure. Our Indian local foods are the magic to bringing sugar levels down.

Carbohydrate care – Hold on, I'm not going to ask you to cut them out. In fact, they are very essential to maintain energy and prevent binging later in the day. The key is to choose the right carbohydrates that provide plenty of fibre and are easily digested. Whole grains like wheat, barley, nachni, jowar, bajra are lower on the glycaemic scale.

Protein power – Having a balanced Indian meal is the trick to bringing down sugar levels. Our dals, sambhars and whole pulses like moong, chickpea and black-beans should accompany every



Naini Setalvad

meal. Protein is required to build muscles and carry out all the metabolic processes smoothly.

Fat is where it is at – Fats are an integral part of our meals. Add healthy fats like desi cow's ghee, coconut oil and other cold pressed oils when preparing poriyals, dosas and Idlis or any of your food. Wondered why we always need ghee to mix in our podis? It's because fats absorb phytochemicals from spices, many of which help lower sugar levels. Healthy fats are also present in nuts and seeds like almonds, cashews, walnuts, sesame seeds, pumpkin seeds etc snack on them.

Seasonal pick – I can't stress enough on the importance of including seasonal local vegetables. It is the season for the fibre rich



leafy greens like spinach, cabbage, and Fenugreek. Don't skip out on the anti-oxidant providing aubergine, carrot and radish that this season brings along. Protein rich vegetables like flat beans french beans and peas are also a great pick.

Fruit factor – Fruits have always gained a bad rep when it comes to diabetes. But this seasons fruits like strawberries, oranges and papaya are low on sugar, high on fibre and anti-oxidant rich. In fact,

Guavas help reduce sugar levels. The phyto chemicals that local, seasonal produce provide, help flush out toxins, which help control blood sugar.

Spice, nice – Cinnamon, cloves, fenugreek seeds, kokum and curry leaves are known to lower sugar levels. Herbs like fresh turmeric, ginger, garlic, also aid in lowering blood sugar. Add these to your vegetables and dal and temper the your rasam will keep away the sugar.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Endometriosis can hamper quality of your life

Period pain is the nightmare for most women. The extreme pain, stomach cramps, fatigue, nausea during this time make most of them anxious about their periods. Many keep popping pain killer pills just to cope up with their day to day work during this time.

Endometriosis happens when the endometrium, the tissue that usually lines the inside of a woman's uterus, grows outward from the uterus. Endometriosis most commonly involves ovaries, fallopian tubes and the tissue lining of the pelvis. Endometrial tissue may spread beyond pelvic organs as well in some conditions. These tissues thicken, break down and bleed during every menstrual cycle but as they have grown outside the uterus, they don't have any way to exit your body.

Menstrual pain is usually experienced on day one or day two of the period cycle. In endometriosis, the pain persists up to three to four days and worsens by the day.

Dr Mukta Nadig, OBG Consultant, Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal said, "The Endometriosis Society of India estimates that 25 million Indian women suffer from this condition but it is hardly discussed in the open. The lack of awareness, apprehensive nature, taboo associated with periods and the ignorance is making many women to bear the pain silently without proper treatment. It can occur as early as in pubertal age groups but because of the taboo of gynaecologist consultation for young girls, there is delay in proper diagnosis and treatment."

How to identify endometriosis?

The symptoms of endometriosis may vary from person to person. The severity of the pain does not indicate the stage of endometriosis. Pelvic pain is most common during this condition. Many patients diagnosed with endometriosis may finally need IVF as the method of fertility.

Other symptoms include Pain in the lower abdomen before and during menstruation, Cramps around menstruation time, Heavy menstrual bleeding or bleeding apart from menstrual cycle, Lower back pain during menstrual cycle, Discomfort during bowel movements and urination, Pain during or after sex and Infertility.

If the symptoms are ignored, endometriosis can be sometimes mistaken for other illnesses such as irritable bowel syndrome or pelvic inflammatory disease. Therefore, it is important to visit the gynaecologists when you develop any signs of pain or heavy bleeding during periods. Self-medication or delaying the treatment can be more harmful.



Though there is no particular reason for endometriosis, hormonal changes, surgical scar, immune system disorder, hereditary can be pointed out as the major causes.

Complications

Infertility

One of the major complications of endometriosis is infertility. It is observed that approximately 1/3 to 1/2 percentage of women with endometriosis have difficulty getting pregnant.

Cancer

Ovarian cancer is another condition due to endometriosis. Ovarian cancer can develop only in the later stage and if endometriosis is not treated properly.

Get rid of dry hair with proper oiling

Nourishing your hair with oil is like keeping your body healthy and nourished with food. You should feed your hair with oil every now and then to make sure it stays healthy, thick and lustrous.

Choose the right carrier oil according to your hair type and scalp

Carrier oils can be used alone or in combination with essential oils. Coconut oil, jojoba oil and avocado oil are some popularly used carrier oils. First off, you must make sure you're using the right oil for your hair and scalp. If you have a greasy scalp, using a light oil is recommended. Heavy oils can be used if your scalp is too dry and needs more moisture.

Choose your essential oil

This is not a mandatory step. However, essential oils can be effective in targeting specific scalp concerns like dry scalp or dandruff. These oils are extracted from plants. You can choose an essential oil based on its properties, what it targets and if it suits your skin. Essential oils must be diluted in carrier oils since they can be too strong and cause allergic reactions.



Heat the oil

Heat your oils for a few seconds till they are warm. Using warm oil will allow for deeper penetration through your hair cuticles and scalp. It is also more soothing and effective.

Massage your scalp

Gently massage the oil into your scalp for a few minutes. If you have curly hair, you can segregate your hair into small parts

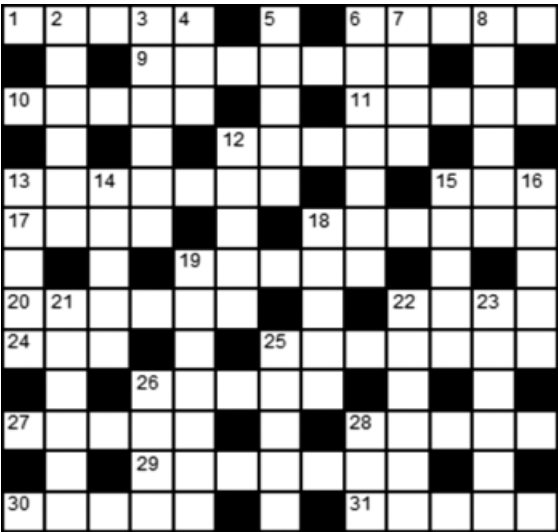
to avoid missing out on any areas. Use circular motions to gently rub the oil into your scalp. Work your way across the entire scalp for 10-15 minutes. After you are done with the scalp, gently work your way till the ends of your hair.

Wrap a warm cloth around your hair

Tie your hair into a bun and wrap a warm cloth around your forehead. This causes your pores and cuticles to open up, allowing for deeper penetration of the oils into your scalp and hair follicles.

Rinse it off well

After applying your oil, you can leave it on overnight and wash it off with shampoo the next day. Try using normal or cold water to rinse your hair and make sure that you clean it thoroughly.



SOLUTION TO JANUARY 20

CROSSWORD

Across

- City in Gujarat famous for its Patola silk saris (5)
- A British doctorate (5)
- Glossy resin coat (7)
- Memento (5)
- The direction to a person's left while facing east (5)
- Two-legged support (5)
- Cause anxiety to (7)
- Educ. group (3)
- Singer Redding (4)
- Official examiner (6)
- Bladed weapon (5)
- Of practical use (6)
- River of Germany (4)
- For each (3)
- Sent unwanted email (7)
- Expel (5)
- Part of a ream (5)
- Moses' brother (5)
- Lemon juice property (7)
- Admirer of Beauty (5)
- German steel city (5)

Down

- Long-legged shorebird (6)
- Puts on guard (6)
- Grandmother informally (3)
- Small firework (5)
- Indicated or meant (7)
- Goad (4)
- Wholly (2,4)
- Noisy quarrel (5)
- Appear suddenly (3,2)
- Large stream (5)
- Hymn; sacred song (5)
- Equipped with weapons (5)
- Crawled (5)
- Branch of knowledge (7)
- Make safe (6)
- Land-locks (6)
- Develop into (6)
- Runs or flies straight and fast ? (5)
- Epochs (4)
- Broke bread (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JANUARY 20

Names of 20 ‘Galwan heroes’ inscribed on National War Memorial

NEW DELHI

THE names of 20 Indian Army personnel, who were killed while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June last year, were inscribed on the National War Memorial ahead of the Republic Day, official sources said.

Col B Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among the Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the fierce hand-to-hand combat on June 15, an incident that marked one of the most serious military conflicts between the

two sides in decades. China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to having suffered casualties. According to an American intelligence report, the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35. The Galwan Valley clash had escalated the border row in eastern Ladakh and resulted in a large deployment of troops and heavy weaponry by both the armies at the friction points. “The names of the Galwan heroes have been inscribed at the National War Memorial,” said a source. Some of these soldiers are also



likely to be honoured with gallantry awards on the Republic Day. The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron

rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China

around patrolling point 14 in Galwan Valley. The Indian Army has already built a memorial for the ‘Gallants of Galwan’ at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh.

The memorial mentioned their heroics under operation ‘Snow Leopard’ and the way they evicted the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) troops from the area while inflicting “heavy casualties” on them. During a visit to Lukung forward post in eastern Ladakh on July 17 last year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had personally conveyed his appreciation and compliments to the troops from the Bi-

har regiment for displaying exemplary grit and courage in fighting the Chinese troops. India and China are locked in a bitter military standoff in eastern Ladakh for over eight months.

Nearly 50,000 troops of the Indian Army are currently deployed in a high state of combat readiness in the mountainous region in sub-zero temperatures as multiple rounds of talks between the two sides have not yielded concrete outcome to resolve the standoff. China has also deployed an equal number of troops, according to officials. Last month, India and China had held an-

other round of diplomatic talks under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs.

The eighth and last round of military talks between the two sides had taken place on November 6 last year during which both sides broadly discussed disengagement of troops from specific friction points. India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the mountainous region.

CIVIC BODIES IN ‘FINANCIAL MESS’

BJP says AAP owes ₹13,000 cr in dues

NEW DELHI

IN a protest across the city on Wednesday, Delhi BJP leaders and functionaries demanded that the Kejriwal government pay Rs 13,000 crore for the party-ruled municipal corporations.

Delhi BJP vice president Virender Sachdeva claimed that the AAP government is “depriving” the BJP-ruled MCD of their rightful “dues”. The protesters displayed banners and posters at flyovers and foot overbridges in a protest across the city on Wednesday.

Delhi BJP media cell head Navin Kumar said they were displaying large banners and posters demanding that the city government pay the “dues”.

The AAP leadership has been attacking the BJP alleging “corruption and mismanagement” in the three municipal corporations ruled by the party.

Recently, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced that Delhi the government will provide Rs 938 crore to the municipal corporations to pay salaries to its employees.

“Doctors, nurses, sanitation workers and other employees of municipal corporations have not been paid salaries due to the funds held back by the Kejriwal government. No money has been released so far despite Sisodia’s announcement,” said party spokesperson Virender Babbar.

No reaction was immediately avail-



HC: Right to salary a fundamental right

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has pulled up the municipal corporations for the non-payment of salaries and pensions to their employees, noting that paucity of funds cannot be an excuse and that right to receive pay is a fundamental right enshrined under the Constitution of India.

A division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli was hearing a batch of petitions in relation to the non-payment of

salaries and pensions to the employees of Delhi municipal corporations, particularly North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NrDMC) and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC).

“Reason assigned for non-payment of timely salaries is stated to be paucity of funds which, as is well settled, cannot be an excuse for non-payment, keeping in view the fact that the right to receive salary and pension is a fundamental right enshrined under Article 21 of Constitution and non-payment would have direct bearing on quality of life,” the court stated.

able from the AAP.

The BJP which has ruled the municipal corporations for nearly 15 years

and the AAP have been indulging in a blame game with the civic body polls approaching in early 2022.

3 held in liquor contractor’s murder case in Gurugram

GURUGRAM

THE Gurugram Police have arrested three prime accused in connection with the murder of a liquor contractor on September 2, 2020.



The accused have been identified as Abhishek, Satender alias Lala and Harish, all of whom are residents of Jatauli village in Pataudi. The accused trio had allegedly gunned down Indrajeet over an old rivalry at Jatauli Mandi village in Pataudi, said the police on Wednesday.

A country-made pistol and four cartridges were recovered from their possession. The police have arrested 13 people till now in connection with the contractor’s murder. The Haryana police had announced a reward of Rs 50,000 on Abhishek and Rs 5,000 each on Satender and Harish for their arrest. A team of Farrukhnagar Crime Branch led by Inspector Indravir nabbed the trio from Pataudi after a tip-off.

During the interrogation, the accused revealed that Abhishek along with his fellow gang members had planned Indrajeet’s murder on August 30.

Gurugram man booked for raping woman for 7-yr

GURUGRAM

IN a shocking incident, a man allegedly raped a 22-year-old woman for over seven years in Gurugram and blackmailed her using obscene visuals.

The woman has also alleged in her complaint that the man had forcefully married her in September 2020 at a temple in Delhi.

The Sector-14 police have booked the man and have started a probe. The woman, a resident of Prem Nagar, Sector-12 in Gurugram, was allegedly raped for seven years by the accused identified as Sunil, who also resided in the same locality.

According to the victim, she knew the accused for seven years. One day the accused called her to his house on the pretext of some work and allegedly raped her after giving her a cold drink laced with alcoholic substance. He also filmed the incident. Later, he started blackmailing her using those videos and raped her several times.

The woman stated in her complaint that the accused had forcefully married her in a temple in Delhi and also took her signature on blank papers on September 30, 2020, in front of two of his friends. However, this didn’t end here, the woman’s parents were also threatened by the accused and family members.

“A case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC at Sector-14 police station and the matter is under investigation,” said Subhash Boken, spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

Over 1,200 bird deaths reported in Delhi since January 6

NEW DELHI

OVER 1,200 bird deaths have been reported in Delhi in the last 15 days amid the avian influenza situation here, officials said on Wednesday.

Of the 201 samples collected from various places in the national capital, 24 have tested positive for bird flu so far, the director of the animal husbandry unit of the Delhi government’s Development Department, Dr Rakesh Singh, told PTI.

“A total of 1,216 bird deaths have been reported in Delhi since January 6. However, all the deaths cannot be attributed to bird flu. Cold stress is another major reason,” he said. On Tuesday, authorities restricted the entry of public into the Red Fort till Friday after a sample of a dead crow tested positive for bird flu. Around 15



crows were found dead in the premises of the Red Fort on January 10.

“Four cranes were found dead in the Delhi zoo a few days ago. Twelve samples were collected on Monday and sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for testing,” Singh said. Authorities have not received the test results yet from the Bhopal-based lab.

On Saturday, samples from a dead owl in the Delhi zoo had tested positive for avian influenza. Last week, municipal corporations in the city had imposed a temporary ban on sale and storage of poultry or processed chicken meat after samples taken from crows and ducks at parks and lakes in the national capital tested positive for bird flu. Around 400 ducks were culled at Sanjay Lake on January 11.

The Delhi government had also banned the sale of processed and packaged chicken brought from outside the city and ordered the closure of the Ghazipur poultry market in east Delhi for 10 days. However, the ban was lifted on Thursday after all the 100 samples taken from Ghazipur, Asia’s largest poultry market, tested negative.

Thousands throng gurdwaras on Guru Gobind’s ‘Prakash Purb’

CHANDIGARH

THOUSANDS of devotees paid obeisance at gurdwaras across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Chandigarh on Wednesday to commemorate the 354th birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh master, Guru Gobind Singh. Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708) founded the ‘Khalsa Panth’ or the community of the pure at Anandpur Sahib in 1699.

Religious fervour was quite evident at ‘Harmandir Sahib’, the holiest of Sikh shrines also known as Golden Temple, in Amritsar in Punjab and other historic gurdwaras across the region as devotees began to assemble since early morning hours to offer prayers and



Priests stand behind the Sikh Holy Book - Guru Granth Sahib - as a ‘Jalau’, a show of Sikhism’s symbolic items is displayed inside the Golden Temple on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the tenth Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, in Amritsar on Wednesday

listen to the ‘kirtan’ or hymns set to music.

The Golden Temple complex was adorned with lights to mark the occasion. A heavy rush of devotees

was also seen at Takht Kesgarh Sahib gurdwara in Anandpur Sahib town, around 85 km from here, since early morning. It was at this place that Guru Gob-

ind Singh founded the ‘Khalsa Panth’.

Hundreds of people also offered prayers at Gurdwara Nada Sahib in Panchkula, adjoining Chandigarh, which is associated with the visit of the 10th Sikh Guru.

Religious processions were taken out at various places in the region on the eve of the Guru’s birth anniversary. ‘Langars’ or community kitchens have been set up at gurdwaras to feed the devotees.

Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh greeted people on the occasion and urged them to follow the Guru’s teachings and to maintain peace and harmony.

Strong winds improve Delhi’s air quality

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI’S air quality recorded a marginal improvement on Wednesday, moving to the ‘poor’ category from ‘severe’ the day before, due to a favourable wind speed, India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said here.

The city’s 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 283 on Wednesday. It was 404 on Tuesday, 372 on Monday and 347 on Sunday. Before that, Delhi’s

air quality remained in the ‘severe’ zone for three consecutive days.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered ‘good’, 51 and 100 ‘satisfactory’, 101 and 200 ‘moderate’, 201 and 300 ‘poor’, 301 and 400 ‘very poor’, and between 401 and 500 ‘severe’.

The maximum wind speed was 15 kmph on Wednesday. The central government’s Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the city’s ventilation index -- a product of mixing depth and average wind speed -- was 9,000

square metres/sec on Wednesday. It is likely to be 11,000 square metres/sec on Thursday. Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed. A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/sec, with an average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants. Delhi has recorded six ‘severe’ air quality days this month so far, while four ‘severe’ air days were registered in December.





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New US premier rekindles India’s American dreams

JOE Biden has not only a huge team of Indian Americans but his swearing in also had an element of Indian politics. Just as in India, no outgoing Chief Minister or Prime Minister likes to participate in the swearing in ceremony of his successor, Donald Trump who continues to stew about his loss stayed away from the swearing in ceremony of his successor. Traditionally, for over a century the outgoing President in the US makes himself present at the inauguration ceremony of the incoming President and hands over charge. The first lady would escort her successor and introduce her to the White House. However, Trump has decided to break this tradition. Just before boarding the chopper for Florida, Trump of course did wish the new administration good luck and said he had laid strong founda-

tion and now it was for them to take it forward. He also assured his supporters that he would be back in some form. Maybe he was hinting at floating some political party. Who knows? Biden will perhaps go down in the history as the only American President so far who had to deal with a more challenging environment. His decisions and actions will have to be measured ones as the US is still the most influential country and the acts of Biden and his team will have an impact on the rest of the world. From the way he constituted his team, it appears that there would be no let-up in Washington’s stand on China and its trade policies. His predecessor had adopted an aggressive trade war against China. While Biden signed executive orders on a broad range of issues, from climate change to coronavirus, India is

ready with a long wish list. India wants that the curbs that were imposed during the Trump era be withdrawn and the trade benefits worth six billion dollars be restored. As Biden’s pick of his team indicated towards a favourable economic and foreign policy towards India, the Indian government hopes that the US would adopt a tough stance against Pakistan backed terrorism. Interestingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only congratulated Biden but also sent a photograph which was clicked seven years ago when Biden attended a lunch hosted in honour of the Indian Prime Minister in Washington DC. Biden then had talked about the promise of a strong India-US relationship. Since he is now in the driver’s seat, India hopes that he will accomplish his vision. During his election campaign, Biden

had raised the issue of visas and promised to lift all Trump era restrictions. There are about eight lakh Indians waiting for green card. If Biden makes changes to the visa rules, it would help the US in expanding the number of high skilled visas and eliminate country specific visas. But when it comes to the issue of trade benefits, the US may not act as expected by India at least in the immediate future. Biden has not yet made his stand clear on this issue and apparently has a reason for it. The US is facing serious economic challenges. The corona pandemic has left over 25 million unemployed. Many had to face cut in salaries. Any trade related relations with India would naturally be hardnosed one. However, Biden’s entry into the White House should be welcomed since he had sent positive signals towards India right from his campaign days to the time he was sworn in as the 46th US President.



What happens at the US Presidential inauguration?

JAVVADI LAKSHMANA RAO

US presidential inaugurations have been very similar affairs since 1789 when George Washington was sworn in. There have been peaceful transitions of power between politicians and between political parties: Barack Obama attended Donald Trump’s inauguration, George W Bush attended Obama’s, Bill Clinton attended George W Bush’s and his father George Bush attended Clinton’s. There have been a couple of legal battles along the way, notably after the 2000 election between Al Gore and George W Bush.

Once resolved, however, the transition was civil, barring a few pranks played by Clinton’s staffers on the incoming Bush team. But this year, departing President Trump said he will refuse to attend the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris.

The last living President not to attend his successor’s inauguration was Richard Nixon, who resigned and vacated the White House prior to Gerald Ford’s low-key swearing-in ceremony in the East Room of the White House in 1974. Before that, Woodrow Wilson remained inside the Capital building because of poor health, rather than appearing alongside Warren G Harding on the inauguration platform, as is customary in 1921.

In normal times, boycotting an inauguration is extremely rare. Only three presidents have done so, and all in the 1800s. So, what usually happens on the day?

The departing President wakes up in the White House on January 20, where the chefs cook a family breakfast and the first family says their goodbyes to staff before the President-elect arrives. The two families leave the White House together around 10:30 am to head to the Capitol building for the inauguration. The presidency expires at noon, at which time the new administration is sworn in. Shortly afterward, the old president bids farewell and leaves the capital.

During this time, the world of transforming the 136-room mansion into a home for a new family begins. A team of almost 100 staff, tradesmen, and movers around the furniture and décor, supervised by the White House’s Chief Usher. The format for the residential quarters will have been decided with the new first lady. Ahead of the move, while kitchen staff will stock their cupboards with the incoming family’s preferences and last-minute details will be catered for, such as their choice of soap in the bathrooms.

Even the Oval office undergoes some changes, such as seating and layout, although almost every President chooses to sit at the Resolute Desk, which has sat in the White House almost every day since 1880. The team has just five hours from the departing President leaving and the new President arriving at the residence from the inaugural parade to prepare all of this. By 3.30 pm, the White House needs to be a comfortable home to a new family.

Under the shadow of violence at the US Capitol, Trump’s refusal to attend the ceremony and the Covid-19 pandemic forcing usual festivities like the inaugural parade and ball to be scaled back. Inauguration Day 2021 is unlikely to pan out in the usual way. Trump could leave Washington before Inauguration Day to avoid the event, though it appears Vice President Mike Pence will be in attendance.

There were reports Trump wanted to spend the day playing golf on one of his courses in Scotland, leading the country’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to announce he was not welcome under Covid-19 restrictions. It now looks likely he will go to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, which he and First Lady Melania Trump declared as their primary residence in 2019. Whatever happens, it seems sure that Biden’s inauguration will write an unconventional footnote to Trump’s unconventional presidency.

Biden has set sky-high expectations

WILL WEISSEET

BACK when the election was tightening and just a week away, Joe Biden went big. He flew to Warm Springs, the Georgia town whose thermal waters once brought Franklin Delano Roosevelt comfort from polio and pledged a restitching of America’s economic and policy fabric unseen since FDR’s New Deal.

Evoking some of the nation’s loftiest reforms helped Biden unseat President Donald Trump but left him with towering promises to keep. And he’ll be trying to deliver against the backdrop of searing national division and a pandemic that has killed nearly 400,000 Americans and upended the economy. Such change would be hard to imagine under any circumstances, much less now.

He’s setting out with Democrats clinging to razor-thin House and Senate control and after having won an election in which 74 million people voted for his opponent. And even if his administration accomplishes most of its top goals in legislation or executive action, those actions are subject to being struck down by a Supreme Court now controlled by a 6-3 conservative majority. Even so, the effort is soon underway.

Washington is bracing for dozens of consequential executive actions starting Wednesday and stretched over the first 10 days of Biden’s administration, as well as legislation that will begin working its way through Congress on pandemic relief, immigration and much more. Has Biden promised more than he can deliver? Not in his estimation. He suggests he can accomplish even more than he promised.

He says he and his team will “do our best to beat all the expectations you have for the country and expectations we have for it.” Some Democrats say Biden is right to set great expectations while realising he’ll have to compromise, rather than starting with smaller goals and having to scale them back further. “You can’t say to a nation that is hungry, uncertain, in some places afraid, whose economy has stalled out... that you had to slum down the request of their government because you have a narrow governing margin,” said former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Biden’s onetime Democratic presidential primary rival.

New presidents generally enjoy a honeymoon period that helps them in Congress, and Biden’s prospects for getting one were improved by Democratic victories this month in two Georgia special Senate elections. He may have been helped, too, by a public backlash against the deadly, armed insurrection at the US Capitol by Trump supporters.

A close look at money matters

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

IN the earlier piece we looked at the character of money as a commodity. Now let us see what happens when it starts moving around. “Action and reaction,” goes the third law of Newton, “are equal and opposite”. Such has, broadly speaking, been the case of the relationship between crime and punishment in the history of mankind.

Borrowing and repayment of money are an integral part of day to day life, whether in the shape of money or the things money can be used to buy – barter or exchange, in other words. Even in the celebrated set of moral principles enshrined in “Sumathi Sathakam”, in Telugu, one is advised to live in a place where a moneylender, a doctor, a flowing perennial river and a learned person are available!

The very definition of the word ‘lend’ conveys the meaning that the act is temporary nature and conveys the assurance that whatever has been taken will be returned. Sometimes, of course, the lender may levy a charge, as a result of which what is returned maybe slightly more in value than what was originally taken.

Clearly, such transactions are informed by the cardinal principle that something that is owed needs to be paid back at every cost. And, while the “cost of money”, is a reasonable levy on the borrower, the attitude of the lender should stop short of being vengeful or bloodthirsty, as was the case of the demand made by Shylock upon Antonio in Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice.

Usurious interest rates are not uncommon in real life. Freeing the common man, especially the rural agricultural commu-

nity, from the clutches of money lenders charging exorbitant interest rates, has for long been a policy objective of governments. Among the measures adopted have been encouraging, promoting and supporting formation of credit cooperatives, encouraging and granting credit his to self-help groups bringing in legislation to neutralise indebtedness etc.

From transactions of a day-to-day nature between individuals, the phenomenon of borrowing, lending and repaying extends to individuals and institutions, institutions and institutions and at the international level, between countries and countries as well as international institutions and individual countries.

We know that Vedic prescriptions created ‘Varnas’, or castes essentially to ensure the orderly performance of functions required by society for its smooth running. There were those who acquired knowledge and performed religious rituals, the warrior clan, meant for defence against enemies, the businessmen community, which bought and sold commodities and supplied daily requirements, apart from lending money in times of need and those who performed tasks needed to facilitate the other classes attending to their own tasks. Elsewhere in the world, races or communities specialised in commerce, trading and money lending as, for instance, the Jews in many parts of the world.

Needless to say the whole business of lending and borrowing is rooted in the qualities of trust and faith. In a famous saying, the character Polonius in William Shakespeare’s ‘Hamlet’, counsels his son Laertes before embarking on a visit to Paris, saying “neither a borrower nor a lender be’ for loan oft loses both itself and friend.” We find the use of this phrase in everyday life, as it has a didactic tone with universal application. For instance, parents use this to warn their children against lending and borrowing money, because bringing debts into their personal relationships can cause resentment. Financial advisors in governmental or non-governmental sectors use it as a piece of advice to their authorities, to save the organisations



from incurring excessive debt.

As far as the habit of repayment is concerned tribals have the culture of queueing up on weekly shandy days, voluntarily repaying the instalment of the loan they have taken, especially from institutions. They need little persuasion, much less pressure. And, at the other extreme, one sees the behaviour of some of the captains of industries. At the international level, one saw how the atrociously irresponsible, almost criminal, attitude of financial institutions led to the financial meltdown which nearly crippled the world economy irremediably.

In our own country, we have seen the manner in which high-flying and influential businessmen callously defaulted, taking entire banking system for a ride, and exacerbating the situation created by non-performing assets (NPAs) (which are loans or advances for which the principal or interest payment has remained overdue for a period of 90 days and more). At least on two occasions this led to recapitalisation of the unfortunate victimised banks. Needless to say, the cycle only repeated itself.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) assesses compliance by banks with extant prudential norms on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning (RACP) as part of its supervisory processes.

The issue of NPAs in the Indian banking sector has become the subject of much discussion and scrutiny. The Standing Committee on Finance recently released a report on the banking sector in India, where it observed that banks’ capacity to lend has been severely eroded because of mounting NPAs. The

Estimates Committee of Lok Sabha also examined the performance of public sector banks with respect to their burgeoning problem.

Then there is the pernicious habit of waiving loans on the part of commercial banks. Waivers have many undesirable consequences, including vitiation of the repayment climate, encouraging the habit of default, and leading to depletion of the total kitty available for lending. Not only is this dangerous practice being repeatedly resorted to but, most unfortunately, at the instance of the political masters presiding over the destinies of the governments of the day, mostly for dubious political benefit.

In any case, most of the small and marginal farmers, who constitute more than three fourths of the country’s farming community, have little use for the waiver because they don’t borrow at all. Studies have shown that it is the large borrowers, who have been heavily damaging the banking industry in India, by loading on them the enormous amount of NPAs, and not the small borrowers responsible for the present state of affairs.

There are many opinions on the real causes of swelling NPAs in the banking sector. The assumption in some quarters, which is currently gaining currency, is that the NPAs are bred mainly on account of sweet deals between the bankers and the large borrowers. This view has gained currency because of hot revelations of possible corruption in banks at the highest level.

The pressing need for restoring public confidence in the banking sector was noted in

earlier times and resulted in the constitution of the Narasimham Committee on the Financial Sector. That Committee stressed the need for the banking sector to undertake asset classification, capital adequacy and income recognition. Concrete action on the recommendations, however, largely remaining on paper and often expressed in the form of lip service.

It was during the time that the world’s economy faced an unprecedented international financial meltdown that India was able to hold its head high in the comity of nations, thanks to the manner in which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ran a tight ship through its mature and wise policies. In fact Dr Y V Reddy, the then Governor of the RBI was showered with encomiums by the Chairman of the Federal Bank of the United States who went to the extent of saying that, if America had had the good fortune of having a Chairman like him, the meltdown would never have taken place!

Earlier in 1991, India had come close to total financial collapse and was on the brink of defaulting in repayment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The situation was so bad that the country’s gold reserves had to be pledged and IMF persuaded to come to India’s rescue and bail it out of the crisis with a timely loan. Thereafter, thanks largely to the astute leadership of P V Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister of India, and the skilful and firm management of the economy by Dr Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister, the country was able to wriggle out of a nasty and dangerous crisis. The time has now come for taking quick and urgent action in the interest of saving the economy especially in the context of the current crisis through which the country is passing through.

Even in the celebrated set of moral principles enshrined in “Sumathi Sathakam”, in Telugu, one is advised to live in a place where a moneylender, a doctor, a flowing perennial river and a learned person are available!

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

LETTERS

Stop this religious hypocrisy

THERE have been any number of movies in Telugu and other languages as well depicting Hindu Gods in poor light- mocking them and making fun of them. Come Vinayaka Chaviti festival, there are truckloads of cartoons poking fun at Lord Ganesha. NTR’s Yamagola was a blockbuster where in Gods were continuously rebuked and mocked. Our sentiments were not hurt. On the contrary we thoroughly enjoyed such movies. It was alright if Gods were treated lightly and were made subjects of entertainment.

Of late, many, particularly the BJP cadre had become hyper-sensitive and active on anything related to God as seen in the current Tandav controversy. Police cases are filed, lot of vitriol had flowed and the producers were made to tender an apology. All hell broke loose because the actor concerned is not a Hindu, though his mother and wife are of Hindu origin. Reference is to Saif Ali Khan, Sharmila and Kareena Kapoor respec-

tively. First of all, let us stop making fun of our Gods even for fun’s sake. Other religions don’t do it.

When we don’t follow ourselves, why make fuss when others do. Either we stop taking these things seriously or take them up with all seriousness. In that case, all earlier movies that made fun of Gods should be banned. All said and done, the commoner remains unaffected by all the drama. It is only political devotees who are agog.

Vinay Bhushan Bhagwat, Hyderabad

Talasani is being immature

WITH reference to Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav’s comment praising a particular community and ignoring Gangaputra community appears as a conspiracy to isolate Gangaputra community. The comments are surprising, immature, and unexpected, an apology has no value as the damage is done. Such remarks are dangerous and leads to conflict between the communities. What is the intention is not clear of minister. There may be political milage or some type of conspiracy to remove Gangaputra community from BC-A reservation quota or alterations to it.

Gangaputra community do not have any relationship with other occupations,

no lands and no relation even agriculture or Husbandry. The financial condition of the community is very poor. Many community members lost lives while catching fish and no compensation or support from successive governments. TRS government should take action on Talasani not to repeat the same, and protect the suffering community.

Deshavena Kishan Prasad Rao, Thimmapur

Dispel vaccine-related doubts

ALMOST all the media outlets have been carrying many stories of the worldwide vaccine rollout. Countries from the West and the East have been into the rollout process and have been dealing with all the concerns and complexities possibly involved in the vaccine procedures.

Having been coping with the COVID guidelines like wearing masks, the people are now having certain vaccine-related doubts. Who are going to benefit from the jabs? Who should get vaccinated in the first place then? Is it mandatory to do so? Simultaneously, it would be better to come up with pamphlets and pocket-sized books on the vaccines against the coronavirus covering answers to those questions mentioned - such books must be made accessible to the people in all

ways possible whereas the books have that enduring attraction to get the attention of all out there.

Even then wisely speaking, the actual corona patients can better get vaccinated at first even as there should be continuation of the mask mandate for quite sometime now- as ways forward in the corona fight so to speak. Above all, the world media houses should take positive steps to dispel all the rumours and apprehensions on the corona vaccine shots. Yet again, the international community and the WHO should come forward with much more confident measures like accurate bulletins and quick references to the COVID-19 fight to name a few to say the least.

P Senthil Saravana Durai, Mumbai

Well done, LS Speaker!

OM Birla deserves the gratitude and congratulations of the people of India for doing away with the subsidies on refreshments and meals to the MPs. This has always been vulgar because while the ordinary citizens of India are paying full prices for what they eat and drink, the MPs had been getting them at a fraction of what people outside the Parliament pay. Precaution may be taken so that this good deed is not undone by the introduction of sumptuary allowance for the MPs.

Dr T Hanuman Chowdary, Secunderabad

26 child labourers freed from bondage

HYDERABAD

IN a breakthrough, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Rachakonda police on Wednesday rescued 26 children aged between 15-17 from different workshops in Bhongir and arrested four persons who were involved in employing the children and forcing them to work in harsh conditions. Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said that the AHTU got credible information about the children employed to work in inhumane conditions, and rescued them.

CS assures support to Information Commission

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Secretary Aditya Nath Das assured necessary cooperation to AP Information Commission. Chief Commissioner of AP Information Commission P Ramesh Kumar, Information Commissioners M Ravikumar, B V Ramanakumar, K Janardhana Rao, Ilapuram Raja and R Srinivasa Rao met the Chief Secretary at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary assured the officials to fill the vacant posts in AP Information Commission. He said necessary technical support would be provided to the Commission's office.

JNUT-H prepares action plan to hold online and offline classes on shift basis

VRC PHANIHARAN
HYDERABAD

CONFUSION prevails over the guidelines to be followed in several colleges under the Osmania University in the wake of the State government deciding to physically reopen the schools and colleges.

Speaking to The Hans India, a senior official from the Koti Women's College said that they have been following the Covid guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in conducting the examinations. So far examinations for the final year students have been completed last year following the same guidelines. Also, semester examinations for the third year are scheduled to be held from the first week of February. But, as of now, there are no specific guidelines received either from the government or from the Osmania University, he added.

Similarly, St Pious Degree, PG and MBA College For Women, Aurora College and a few others have been holding the examinations for the students following the schedule issued by the Osmania University. Officials from several of these colleges affiliated to the OU said they were following the Covid-19 guide-



lines issued by the UGC and also the steps specified during the conduct of the examinations. However, when it comes to the physical reopening of the colleges, they have not received any guidelines, such as the steps needed to be taken, the timing of the college if any etc.

However, currently, the OU examinations are going on. "We have decided to run the classes in shift system for some students in the morning and for others in the afternoon. This was to ensure that the students

are gathered in good numbers on the college campus," said a faculty member from St Pious X Degree, PG and MBA College For Women.

Meanwhile, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H) officials held a virtual meeting with the directors, principals of the constituent colleges, and the principals of 170 engineering and 60 pharmacy colleges to prepare an action plan for the physical reopening of the colleges.

JNTU-H Registrar Prof M

Manzoor Hussain said the plan of action is being prepared to ensure that only 50 per cent of students are present at any given point of time on the college campus. Accordingly, students of 3 and 4 years would be attending the first 15 days in a month in face to face classes. The other 50 per cent would attend online classes. Then, the process would be reversed among students. A similar plan of action would be prepared for the first and second-year students and examinations

Officials from several of these colleges affiliated to the OU said they were following the Covid-19 guidelines issued by the UGC and also the steps specified during the conduct of the examinations. However, when it comes to the physical reopening of the colleges, they have not received any guidelines, such as the steps needed to be taken, the timing of the college if any etc

Auto unions protest over rising fuel prices

Union leaders warn of protests on a larger scale if prices not reduced

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE auto unions of the city on Wednesday protested at Narayanaguda junction against the rising prices of fuel and burnt the effigy of the Central government.

Though the police were deployed at the protest site and they tried to nullify the protest by talking to the auto union leaders, the leaders didn't budge and continued their programme.

The union leaders demanded that the petrol and diesel prices should be reduced immediately as the prices are rising drastically and the Central government is not paying attention to it. They further alleged that the amount of taxes being collected by the Centre is too heavy and if the prices are not reduced, they will carry out the protest on a larger scale, they warned.

However, while the protest was going on two men who were carrying the effigy got burned and were shifted to Gandhi Hospital for further treatment and the protestors were taken away by police to Narayanaguda PS where they were held for a few hours and released by evening.

High Court quashes SC, ST case against Dalits

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELAPADU (AMARAVATI)

JUSTICE M Satyanarayana Murthy of Andhra Pradesh High Court has quashed the criminal case filed against the Dalits of Amaravati under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

However, the Single Judge Bench delivering the judgment on Wednesday partly allowed the petition directing the police that they could investigate the allegation against the accused under Section-503 of the IPC for threatening the victim with injury.

It may be recalled that the police filed a criminal case against a group of 11 Dalits on the charges of indulging in abuses against another Dalit person, Eepuri Ravi Babu, under the

provisions of SC, ST Atrocities Act.

Appearing for the petitioners, Karumanchi Indranil stated that the provisions of the SC, ST Act are applicable if a person who does not belong to either SC or ST indulges in abuses against the persons belonging to those communities. Likewise, he also established that the other sections of the Indian Penal Code are also not applicable and the criminal case is liable to be quashed.

Concurring with the arguments, Justice Satyanarayana Murthy quashed the criminal proceedings under the provisions of the SC, ST (PoA) Act and the IPC sections except Section 503. Partly allowing the petition, the Judge directed the police that they may conduct the investigation into that allegation.

Time ripe for KTR to don CM mantle

MINISTERS, MLAS, LEADERS IN UNISON SAY HE MAY BE ELEVATED TO THE TOP POST ANY TIME

HYDERABAD

LENDING credence to speculations that there might be a change of guard in Telangana, senior ministers and key TRS leaders are vouching for it. It appears the stage is being set for heir apparent and TRS working president and IT Minister KT Rama Rao to be anointed as chief Minister replacing his father and incumbent K Chandrashekar Rao.

TRS leaders are not losing any opportunity to sustain the growing demand for change of guard. Ministers and MLAs are joining their bandwagon too. For some time, there has been a demand in the party to elevate KTR as the CM. Several leaders of the party including ministers say in unison that the young leader has all the capabilities to become the Chief Minister.

Health Minister Eatala Rajender on Wednesday said that KTR may be taking over the mantle very soon. Rajender asked what was wrong if KTR got elevated to the CM. "KCR may take a call any time in this regard," he said giving rise to speculations that something big

It appears the stage is being set for heir apparent and TRS working president and IT Minister KT Rama Rao to be anointed as Chief Minister replacing his father and incumbent K Chandrashekar Rao



was going to happen. Similar views were expressed by another key minister in KCR cabinet, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, on Wednesday. Replying to a media query, he too saw much merit in Eatala's contention that KTR would become the CM. He too said that KCR may take a call any time in this regard.

Yadav repeatedly said that KTR was very much efficient and capable to hold the top post to head the state. He asked the media to tell him whether KTR who was taking care of all development programmes was not fit for

the top post in the State.

Bodhan MLA Md Shakeel went a step further and said that he wanted KTR to lead the party in the next Assembly elections. Nizamabad Rural MLA Bajireddy Goverdhan said that if KTR was made the chief minister there would be more development in the state.

Earlier, expressing his opinion, Council Chairman G Sukhender Reddy said that KTR had all the abilities to become the CM. Speaker P Srinivas Reddy too supported KTR as the next CM.

'Operate more buses to meet passenger requirements'

RTC MD R P Thakur lauds services rendered by the staff during the Covid lockdown

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

R P Thakur, Managing Director and the Vice-chairman of APSRTC, has appealed to the RTC officials and staff to operate more buses to meet the requirements of the bus passengers.

Thakur assumed charge as Vice-Chairman and MD of the RTC on Monday. The MD on Wednesday said normalcy was restored after the post Covid lockdown in the State and there is need to increase the bus operations as per the guidelines of the State and Central governments.

He praised the services rendered by the RTC staff during the corona lockdown time when train services were cancelled and transport was badly affected.

He announced incentives to the depot managers and traffic supervisors to improve the services to the passengers. Thakur has appealed to the staff to increase the occupancy ratio in the next three months.

- Asks officials to conduct tests to them periodically to improve their knowledge and efficiency levels
- This will ensure that better services are rendered to people
- Jagan says registration services should start at village secretariats once comprehensive land survey is completed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to create awareness, give training and conduct tests to improve the efficiency of village/ ward secretariat staff on comprehensive land survey.

During a review meeting on YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana scheme here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said tests should be conducted at regular intervals to improve knowledge and efficiency among staff on issues related to comprehensive survey so that their work will be efficient and they can serve people better.

He said the new colonies to be built for the poor should be in-



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review meeting on YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana scheme at his camp office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

cluded in the survey and should be taken into account in the preparation of maps and added that every house in the colonies should be given a unique ID. He said employees of village secretariats who are participating in land survey should allot two hours daily for receiving grievances and solving them.

The officials explained to the Chief Minister about the workflow of registration process of land in Village Secretariats. The Chief Minister said registration services should start in a village secretariat once comprehensive land survey is completed. He directed the officials to prepare an action plan for village secretariat staff to learn about registration process directly from registration offices.

He said a call centre should be set up with experts and senior officials to clear the doubts of employees of village secretariats. This

would ensure that there would be no interruptions once the registration process begins at village/ ward secretariats. He said the facility to register from anywhere is already available and directed the officials to ensure it is continued.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that the staff participating in comprehensive land survey is being given training in phases. Tests were conducted at two levels till now and 92 per cent of them passed in second level. The remaining employees are being given training to promote awareness among them. The third level tests will be conducted in February, the officials said.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to prepare SOPs for the survey process from Surveyor to Joint Collector and said they should be responsible for the work. The Chief Minister pointed out that the distribution of house site

pattas programme has been extended till January 30 and directed the officials to pattas are allotted to all the eligible within 90 days.

The officials said distribution of house site pattas is being delayed as they are showing the house site to the beneficiary besides giving the patta. Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) Dharmanna Krishna Das, Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das, Principal Advisor to Chief Minister, Nilam Sawhney, Chief Commissioner of Land Administration Neerab Kumar Prasad, Special Chief Secretary (Revenue) Rajat Bhargava, Panchayat Raj Principal Secretary Gopalakrishna Dwivedi, Principal Secretary (Revenue) V Usharani, Panchayat Raj Commissioner M Girija Shankar, Survey, Settlements and Land Records Commissioner Siddharth Jain and other senior officials were present.

Four new IPS officers allotted to Telangana

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Union government has given orders to allocate State cadres to candidates who have joined the Indian Police Service (IPS). According to these orders, four new IPS officers were allotted to Telangana, while three officers were given to Andhra Pradesh.

Paritosh Pankaj (hailing from Bihar, rank 142); Suriseti Sankeerth (Telangana, 330), Patil Kantilal Subash (Maharashtra, 418) and Ankith Kumar Sankhwarth (Telangana, 418) are the officers who are assigned to the Telangana cadre (Uttar Pradesh, 563).

Other State cadres were granted to three others hailing from Telangana who got into IPS. MV Sathya Sai Karthik (rank 103) was allotted to Maharashtra,

while Assam, Meghalaya was allotted to R Sheetal Kumar (417) and Chhattisgarh to Rajanala Smruthik (466).

Three IPS officers assigned to two men who were carrying the effigy got burned and were shifted to Gandhi Hospital for further treatment and the protestors were taken away by police to Narayanaguda PS where they were held for a few hours and released by evening.

Similarly, other states were given five IPS officers from Andhra Pradesh that include Y Megha Swaroop (rank 98) allocated to Maharashtra, Tirumalaraju SD Varma (478) to Himachal Pradesh, Neethipudi Rashmitha Rao (534) to Maharashtra, Gujarat to Korukonda Siddharth (566) and Kerala to Juvvanapudi Mahesh (612).

The Ministry of Home Affairs gave framework allotments across the country to 150 IPS officers.

Minister alleges TDP hand in idol desecration at Santhabommali

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE desecration of Nandeeshwar idol at Santhabommali temple is a conspiracy hatched by the TDP, alleged Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Seediri Appalaraju on Wednesday.

He alleged that the TDP leaders intentionally demolished the idols to create communal disputes in society. Addressing a press conference here, the Minister said that the conspiracy of Chandrababu Naidu in vandalising idols was exposed with the Santhabommali incident, which took place under his direction.

He said Naidu has been spreading lies and a case should be filed against him under Section-153 (A) for exaggerating religious matters, and Sections 499 and 500 for defaming a political party or person, just like during Gujarat riots.

The Minister questioned why the TDP leaders remained silent on the Santhabommali incident, while they made a huge ruckus on the Ramatheertham issue. Desecrating Nandeeshwar idol was clearly recorded in

Says Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu is hatching plots to divert people's attention from various welfare schemes being introduced by Y S Jagan's govt

CCTV cameras and was found that TDP State president Atchannaidu's followers, TDP activists as well as a journalist from their favored media house were involved, Appalaraju alleged.

He said that the police had filed cases against 22 people in the Santhabommali incident including the followers of Atchannaidu and other TDP activists. The TDP is totally responsible for the incident, he added.

The Minister alleged that Naidu has been hatching plots to divert the people's attention every time the government is doing some good activity for the public. As Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is launching door delivery of ration supplies on Thursday, the TDP leaders are planning such conspiracies to divert people from the government's welfare schemes, he added.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	77.4	South	
Euro	92.95	African Rand	5.64
UAE Dirham	21.87	Hong Kong Dollar	10.83
Thai Baht	2.8	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	104.07	New Zealand Dollar	54.72
Australian Dollar	59.29	Saudi Riyal	21.4
Canadian Dollar	60.39	Swedish Krona	10.04
Swiss Franc	85.41	Singapore Dollar	57.83

DELHI THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Piaggio rolls out new scooter

PIAGGIO India launched Aprilia SXR 160 in Hyderabad. The much-awaited premium scooter is available at an ex showroom for price Rs 1,26,372 in the state of Telangana and can be booked for an initial amount of Rs 5000 across all dealerships and through e-commerce website. Aprilia SXR 160 comes with latest global design language and is equipped with a single-cylinder, 4-stroke, air-cooled, 3 valve fuel injection clean emission engine technology. Diego Graffi, Chairman and Managing Director, Piaggio India said: "With the launch of Aprilia SXR 160 in Hyderabad, we have again served our mission of offering premium differentiated products for our discerning customers. To ensure that we bring this experience much closer to everyone, we are expanding our footprint of dealer network in India."

Nuvoco goes international

NUVOCO Vistas Corp limited forayed into the international market by launching InstaMix Xpress, a pre-mixed, ready-to-use, bagged, dry concrete supply in Bhutan. The product is easy to use and can be supplied anytime anywhere regardless of the desired quantity thus making it the perfect solution for remote areas and treacherous terrains. Prashant Jha, Chief Ready-Mix, Nuvoco Vistas Corp, said: "Nuvoco's reputation as top manufacturers and suppliers of concrete products is due to our commitment to upholding the quality standards. The client was looking for M35 grade concrete which is a structural grade concrete and can't be produced at the site level. Instamix Xpress fits the requirement perfectly as it needs only water to be added at the site."

YFLO organises virtual event

YFLO chairperson Apurva Jain and committee members organized virtual event at FLO Eminent Women Series. The chairperson introduced social activist Amla Ruia, renowned for her remarkable work in rural areas and water harvesting. Amla established the Aakar Charitable Trust, to create water sources for drought-stricken villages of India. The 350 check dams that are benefiting 400 villages and people living there are now debt free and above poverty line. Amla Ruia said: "The construction of these dams provide an income of Rs 1,300 crore yearly and are also made on a promise of no dowry, child marriage, better education and life for all villagers." YFLO's chairpersons from Hyderabad, Kolkata, Uttarakhand, Chennai, past chairpersons and members asked important queries on issues like saving water on a larger scale.

UPL bags award

UPL Limited has won sixth CII Industrial Intellectual Property Awards aimed at recognizing and celebrating enterprises that have embraced IP generation and protection to fuel their business. The company has always put the farmers' needs first and created products and services around fulfilling their requirements and won the award in the category of Best Patent Portfolio, Large (Lifesciences/Pharma) for its pioneering Intellectual property (IP) research and innovation. Vishal Sodha, who accepted the award at a virtual 'CII International Conference on IPR & CII Industrial IP Awards', said: "Our focus is completely on sustainable development including efficient utilization of the natural resources and adapting and building resilience to climate change."

Weak reforms bane for India's growth

Financial sector woes could also lower country's growth potential: Fitch

NEW DELHI

FITCH Ratings on Wednesday said India's medium-term growth potential is at around 6.5 per cent but weak implementation of reforms, combined with continued financial sector problems, could lower its potential.

It said the revival of the reform agenda is among the Indian government's policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic shock. "If implemented effectively, we believe these reforms may help to support India's medium-term growth and partially offset downside pressures to investment from renewed asset-quality challenges in the financial sector and damaged corporate balance sheets," Fitch said. It said the planned farm sector reforms aim to enhance efficiency, by giving farmers more flexibility over where to sell their produce by stripping out middle men and has the potential to improve farmers' income and reduce consumer prices.

"But, implementation risks are significant and the Supreme Court in mid-January second Innovation Index released on Wednesday. The index, released by Aayog's vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant, has been developed in the lines of Global Innovation Index. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar were ranked at the bottom of the Index.

Karnataka topped the Index for the second year in a row. Among Union Territories Delhi topped the chart, while in the North-Eastern and Hill States category Himachal Pradesh occupied the top spot. "Amongst major states, the average innovation score is 25.35. Karnataka tops at 42.5, which is attributable to its strong number of venture capital deals, registered GIS



- Medium-term growth potential at 6.5%
- Effective implementation of reforms key
- Labour market reforms need of the hour

“We expect India's central government to remain generally reform-minded over the next few years, further reform seem plentiful. However, the process of reform in India remains complex, and implementation has proven difficult

— Fitch Ratings

though the government has said this will not happen. Further, the labour market reforms aim at improving worker access to social security (in the large unorganised sector), strengthen occupational safety requirements, speed up the resolution of labour disputes and ease migrant workers' ability to move between states.

The steps could support formalisation of India's labour market and improve its flexibility and

efficiency. "We expect India's central government to remain generally reform-minded over the next few years, and potential areas for further reform seem plentiful, in our view. However, the process of reform in India remains complex, and implementation at times has proven difficult," Fitch said. It added that weak implementation of the reforms, combined with continued financial sector problems, could lower growth potential below our current estimates. "Our projected annual medium-term GDP growth is relatively high, nevertheless, at around 6.5 per cent reflecting above-trend growth rates needed to close the output gap." Fitch estimates medium-term growth potential to be some 1.7 percentage point lower than otherwise as a result of the scarring effects of the health crisis and financial sector weaknesses. (PTI)

TS among top 5 States in Niti Innovation Index

Karnataka tops list for 2nd time in a row

NEW DELHI

KARNATAKA, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala have been ranked as top five states in innovation in Niti Aayog's second Innovation Index released on Wednesday. The index, released by Aayog's vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant, has been developed in the lines of Global Innovation Index. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar were ranked at the bottom of the Index.

Karnataka topped the Index for the second year in a row. Among Union Territories Delhi topped the chart, while in the North-Eastern and Hill States category Himachal Pradesh occupied the top spot. "Amongst major states, the average innovation score is 25.35. Karnataka tops at 42.5, which is attributable to its strong number of venture capital deals, registered GIS



(Geographical Indications) and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) exports.

Karnataka's high FDI inflow has also enhanced the innovation capabilities of the state," the India Innovation Index 2020 said. Maharashtra was ranked second with an innovation score of 38, while Bihar finished last at 14.5. "The case for the southern states as the top performers has also become stronger as four of them occupy the top-five spots within the major states," it added. According to the index, the North-Eastern and Hill states achieved an average innovation score of 17.89.

Ethanol push turns sweet for sugar mills

ARCHANA RAO
NEW DELHI

THE The Indian sugar industry is gearing up to enter a new chapter for mass production, as the sector welcomes the latest announcement by central government on the modified scheme for extending interest subvention for those setting up grain-based along with molasses-based ethanol distilleries.

Abinash Verma, Director-General, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), told Bizz Buzz that the sugar industry is preparing to make a significant reduction on its sugar surplus.

"The central government incentivised 6 million tonnes (or 60 lakh tonnes) of exports in both 2020 and in 2021. That is one strategy on surplus sugar. The second strategy is to divert the surplus sugarcane itself towards production of ethanol and reduce the sugar production. The last season the quantum of molasses and (sugarcane) juice that we diverted to ethanol, allowed us to re-



Industry welcomes govt's modified scheme for extending interest subvention for setting up molasses and grain-based ethanol distilleries

duce our sugar production by 8 lakh tonnes. This year (2021), the offer that we have given to the oil marketing companies (OMCs) and the contract that we have signed, we are expecting that we will reduce sugar production to about 20 lakh tonnes by diverting the surplus into ethanol production," Verma said.

"As we move forward into the next year, and the year thereafter, we will be looking at increasing the number

from 20 lakh tonnes to up to 30 to 40 lakh steadily, and for this we are trying to develop required capacities. We are short of capacity. This programme was started in 2009, and in 2015 it was further pushed by the Prime Minister by incentivising ethanol pricing and production," he added.

On Monday, ISMA had announced that the country's sugar output rose by 31 per cent to 142.70

lakh tonnes in the first three-and-a-half months of the 2020-21 marketing year that started in October 2020.

Speaking on the notification on modified scheme to enhance ethanol distillation capacity in the country, released by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, dated January 14, 2021, Verma said that the sugar industry will be able to produce significant amount of ethanol as against the target of 1,100 crore litres set by the government.

"We are regularly in touch, and in consultation, with the government. The government is looking at targeting 20 per cent blending (ethanol in petrol), for which they have estimated that OMCs would require about 1,100 crore litres (ethanol) in the next 7-8 years. So, if there is a requirement of 1,100 crore litres, and from the back calculations we looked at, there would be enough ethanol produced by the sugar sector, from sugarcane juice or molasses (by product of sugarcane)," the ISMA Director General said.

High GST crippling IT sector: RITPA

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

RUSHIKONDA IT Park Association (RITPA) sought cut in goods & services tax (GST) on IT sector from 18 per cent to 12 per cent as the high incidence of taxation was taking a heavy toll on the key industry.

"This is a crippling factor for us to scale up and we hope the Centre will reduce GST as requested by the IT sector across the country," O Naresh Kumar, the association's vice president, told Bizz Buzz. He further said that GST should be made payable on receipt of payment of invoice and not on raising the invoice.

"TDS on IT services is currently fixed at 10 per cent. This should be reduced to 2 per cent like in contracts. GST on software products also must be reduced from 18 per cent to the lowest slab to encourage more purchases as part of attempts to revive the economy after the pandemic hit everyone," he explained.

Work from home or remote working has become the norm of the day for most organisations due to the pandemic. With the government relaxing rules for IT/ITe industry and increasing number of employers extending work from home for the long run, there is a sizable population of employees working remotely in India. Employers have extended remote working even after the lockdown was lifted considering employee health and safety and to some extent the associated costs.

He said: "The convenience of working from home has also brought along additional expenses for employees, such as investment in high-speed internet, power backup, setting up a home-office requiring work chairs and desks, electronic accessories and air conditioning to maintain efficiency. Some employers have granted allowances, reimbursements and even assets to employees to meet these requirements."



O Naresh Kumar



facturing Cluster (EMC) in Kopparthi in Kadapa city with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore, aiming at creating employment to 100,000 youth.

The Chief Minister had laid the foundation stone for the establishment of Apache Intelligent SEZ in Pulivendula on December 24, 2020. He also inaugurated a popular footwear manufacturing unit with an investment of Rs 70 crore. The unit would provide employment to 2,000 locals. On the other hand, works related to Annum Kadapa Steel Plant at Sunnapurallapalle village of Jammalamadugu mandal aims to provide direct employment to 25,000. The foundation stone was laid by the Chief Minister on Decem-

ber 23, 2019. Work on the project is in various stages of completion.

The district administration has acquired more than 10,000 acre at several places for encouraging industrialists. DIC General Manager Chand Basha told Bizz Buzz that as per the industrial policy of the government, the district administration is providing all necessary infrastructure facilities such as land and water, besides recommending allotment of scarce raw materials like coal and rectified/ denatured spirits for the proposed industries in the district. He said that administration is recommending the entrepreneurs based on technically and economically feasible projects through a single-desk policy.

No threat to Kohli's captaincy

Will be among 'equals' in the dressing room

KUSHAN SARKAR

FIRST things first. There is no imminent threat to Virat Kohli's captaincy in any format and neither is BCCI even remotely thinking on those lines. But that's the news part of the story. When it comes to views, there are many -- some are quite open about the theory of split captaincy and some are speaking about it in hushed tones.

Ajinkya Rahane's calm demeanour in India's biggest overseas series win has opened up a debate but to disappoint the fans of the Test vice-captain, there is little chance of a permanent anointment for him in the immediate future. However, there could be a paradigm shift in how the leadership group in the Indian cricket team works when Kohli re-enters that dressing room after a month-long paternity break.

When Kohli left, it was a team that was down in the dumps -- dismissed for its lowest Test score of 36. But a lot has changed since that fateful afternoon in Adelaide. While head coach Ravi Shastri is absolutely right in saying that this team bears Kohli's "stamp and character" but from December 19 in Adelaide to January 19 in Brisbane, a few senior cricketers will be perceived a bit differently.

Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara and certainly Rahane, in their own little way, have created a legacy but post Brisbane, that legacy will need proper acknowledgement. These four will not ask for it as they have now earned it after quite literally putting their bodies on line. So when Kohli enters that Indian dressing room, he will remain the "first" but "among equals" in a leadership group that possibly will be more inclusive.

On Friday, when PTI had put forth a question on this to stand-in skipper Rahane after the match got over but expectedly, his tight defence couldn't be breached. The question was how would he feel when he again takes a back-seat with Kohli returning to the steering wheel in his hands. "I don't want to think about all these

things. This is a victory that we all need to enjoy and I will think about England series once I am back in India," Rahane dodged the question.

But in his heart, the Mumbaier couldn't have possibly forgotten that he, as a sitting vice-captain, was dropped from the Indian playing XI during the 2018 South Africa se-

Cheteshwar Pujara (271) -- has cemented his own place in the annals of Indian cricket history. And however reticent or unexpressive he might be, his voice will now be heard if he wants it to be heard. That has changed

ample. Even he would agree that this series is his best overseas performance and the way he made Steve Smith his bunny would be remembered for a long time. But has Ashwin, who will probably be the fourth Indian to reach 400-wicket club

in some time, been fêted as Nathan Lyon has been in his own country? Lyon's



BCCI likely to allow 50% attendance for England Tests

NEW DELHI

THE BCCI brass is seriously contemplating allowing 50 percent crowd attendance at both Chepauk and the newly constructed Motera Stadium during India's upcoming four Test matches against England. The first two Tests will be held in Chennai, beginning on February 5, while the next two will be played at the renovated stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad. The BCCI is believed to be taking a cue from Cricket Australia which had allowed entry of spectators during the India series that concluded on Tuesday.

"As of now, we are likely to allow 50 percent spectators for

the four Test matches. The BCCI is in talks with both state cricket associations (TNCA and GCA) and also state health authorities," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. However, the BCCI is also factoring the fluid public health situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and if case load in either Chennai or Ahmedabad increases, then the decision will change accordingly. "If you allow 50 percent crowd with all necessary precautions, then it will be an indicator if we can also allow spectators during IPL in India," the source said.

In Ahmedabad, which can

hold over one lakh spectators, spacing of seats to maintain social distancing will not be an issue. Meanwhile, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will name the squad for first two Test matches against India on Thursday. This is the first time that a touring team is not naming a squad for full away series keeping the workload management of its players in mind. The fact that Chennai and Ahmedabad will have two separate bio-bubbles and the teams will travel by chartered flight within the country may also be the reason that England, like the Indian team, decided to name its squad for two Tests. (PTI)

wickets at MCG, SCG and Adelaide are spoken in glowing terms but has the extremely cerebral cricketer got his due for all the wickets that he has taken at Chennai, Nagpur, Pune and Hyderabad? When find of the series Siraj (13 wickets) was

certainly.

"His hundred put us back on track," Shastri was the first to acknowledge his impact. Take Ravichandran Ashwin (12 wickets in 3 games which was just one behind the team's debutant star Mohammed Siraj) for ex-

amples. While one can give a sound explanation for that decision but the fact that a vice-captain was dropped cannot be seen in isolation. Now, Rahane -- India's third highest run-scorer in the series with 268 runs after Rishabh Pant (274) and

Warne predicts 'huge fallout'

BRISBANE

THE legendary Shane Warne believes the embarrassing Test series loss to an under-strength India will result in a "huge fallout" in the Australian team and said a few heads could roll in the coming days. India recorded one of their most memorable wins on Tuesday when they defeated a full-strength Australia by three wickets in the fourth Test here to pocket the four-match series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"I think there'll be a huge fallout from this (defeat). There's not too many times that you lose to the second or third (choice) side," Warne was quoted as saying by Fox Cricket. "Their (Australia) tactics will come into question, and they have to. Bowlers will come into question, people's spot in the team will come into question. It has to. You can't just deflect it and flick it off and say India were too good for us," he added.

Warne was, however, effusive in his praise for the Indian team which braved injuries to its key

players and absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli after the first Test on paternity leave to emerge triumphant. "That's not taking anything away from those Indian guys that played but their first selection side, there's probably only two or three players in that side who would play." The spin legend said Australia didn't grab their chances in the series. "Yes they



were, but Australia had so many chances in this series to bury it and crush India, but they couldn't do it. They just couldn't do it," he said.

Warne was also critical of Tim Paine's captaincy and said the wicketkeeper didn't own up responsibility for his failed tactics. "I think at times their tactics haven't been good enough, and I suppose that's got to come down to Tim Paine as captain," he said. "It's not just Tim Paine's fault, the bowlers are allowed to say 'Tim I want to do this', so it's a combination between the bowlers and the captain. But at the end of the day, you are captain, you have to take responsibility. He'll be disappointed." (PTI)

We needed a bit more attitude: Clarke

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA definitely needed more "attitude" from the first to last ball while tackling a gritty India in the fourth and final Test in Brisbane, opined former captain Michael Clarke. Clarke, however, would not blame team leader Tim Paine for the unthinkable Test series defeat at home. Under Paine, Australia have competed in 23 Tests and have managed to win only 11 of them. Two Test series defeats at home against India make his

record look worse. Paine, who took over from Steve Smith in 2018 after the ball tampering scandal in South Africa, is coping criticism for not only the 1-2 defeat but also for his sloppy work behind the stumps. However, Clarke said it was the negative mindset that pegged Australia back. "I thought we might have been a tad negative at certain stages throughout because we were scared to lose versus attack hard and look to win the game," Clarke said on Big Sports Breakfast. (PTI)

'Can't comprehend how India's 'A team' won'

BRISBANE

A "shocked" Ricky Ponting is struggling to comprehend how India's "A team" overwhelmed Australia in the Test series in their own backyard. Hit by a spate of injuries, India competed without many key players, yet downed Australia by three wickets in the series-deciding fourth Test at the Gabba, a month after the Adelaide debacle where they scored their lowest Test score of 36. "I'm quite shocked that Australia weren't quite good enough to win this series. The cold hard facts of it are pretty much that was the

India A team that played this Test match and still won," Ponting told cricket.com.au. Ponting said India won all the key moments throughout the series and that was the difference between the two sides. "They've played really good, tough, hard Test match cricket day-in and day-out. India have won all the big moments in every Test match and Australia have fallen short. That's been the difference between the two teams." "They (India) have done it really well and they thoroughly deserve to win the series ... because (of) how resilient they've been." (PTI)

Smith released as Sanju Samson named RR captain

NEW DELHI

SANJU Samson replaced Steve Smith as Rajasthan Royals captain after the Australian batsman and some other under-performing stars were released by their respective IPL franchises even as Chennai Super Kings retained veteran Suresh Raina for the upcoming IPL-14. The deadline for the eight franchises to submit the lists of retained and released players for the next edition of the lucrative league ended on Wednesday.

Samson was appointed to the top job after RR decided against renewing former skipper Steve Smith's contract. "As the IPL has grown, the captaincy has become a year-round task, and as such strong local Indian leadership has become increasingly important," said RR owner Manoj Badale in a



statement. "Sanju made his debut as a Royal, and it has been a joy to watch his development over the last 8 years. He is the ideal person to lead the Royals into the 2021 season," he added. Smith's contract ended in October 2020. The Australians, smarting from a Test series loss to an injury-plagued India, took a hit as the likes of the explosive Glenn Maxwell and opener Aaron Finch too were released by Kings XI Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore respectively.

Manu Bhaker's proposal for sports psychologist approved

NEW DELHI

THE Sports Ministry has approved shooters Manu Bhaker and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa's proposal to hire the services of Singapore-based sports psychologist Sanjana Kiran for better preparation ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. The Tokyo Games are scheduled to be held in July-August this year and the proposal was sanctioned last week at the Mission Olympic Cell meeting as part of the government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Sanjana Kiran is a high performance expert in the field of sport psychology and performance

psychology and has provided support to elite athletes and elite coaches in preparation for major events and international competitions. Manu, who is eligible to participate in both the women's 10m air pistol and women's 25m pistol at the Olympics, said, "Being in a sport that requires vigorous mental strength and stability to be able to perform flawlessly, getting Sanjana Kiran's guidance will help me to prepare better for the Olympics."

Olympian and medalist at the Asian and Commonwealth Games Suma Shirur, who is currently the High Performance Specialist coach of the Indian junior rifle shooting team, welcomed the decision to have a psychologist working with shooters. "Sport is getting more professional. If we have to put our best foot forward, why not engage experts. In our time, we learnt through experience but nowadays shooters begin early so experts will expedite their learning curve," she said.



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FLYING Monkey Cricket League is a vertical of Flying Monkey Foundation, focusing on facilitating cricket tournaments for non-professional cricketers, cricket clubs, colleges and schools. It's coming soon with 'Flying Monkey Zonals', and it is for the first time that a zonal level tournament is being conducted in Hyderabad corporate



cricket. Teams play against each other in their respective zones (North, East, West and South), and each zone will have a zonal winner.

Rani's goal help women's hockey team draw 1-1 with junior Argentina side

BUENOS AIRES

THE Indian women's hockey team wasted a number of penalty corner chances before skipper Rani Rampal's fourth-quarter strike helped the visitors salvage a 1-1 draw against Argentina's junior side, here.

It was a second straight draw for the Indian team following a 2-2 result in the tour-opener. India began on an attacking note, earning a penalty corner in the very first minute of the match but Gurjit Kaur's powerful drag was saved by the Argentine goalkeeper. India won another penalty corner in the fifth minute, but Deep Grace Ekka's shot went wide. In the following minutes, the home side won three penalty corners and succeeded in converting the last one

for a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute.

While India created plenty of opportunities to score in the second and third quarters by making a number of circle penetrations, they were unable to beat the Argentine defence. India earned four more penalty corners (37th, 43rd, 48th and 58th minutes) in the course of the game and eventually succeeded in drawing level in the 58th minute when a powerful injection by Navneet Kaur was well received and powerfully struck by Rani.

"Today the quality of play was better and that's why we are here - to improve in every match. Today players got the chance to show their best and these are players who normally don't get a chance to make the 18-member squad so it's good they are able

to get international exposure," said chief coach Sjoerd Marijne in a Hockey India release.

"It is also good for the core group that we are getting to try more players and see how different combinations work." "We created enough opportunities to score more and this is an area we need to keep working on. We have a break of two days before our next game against the Argentina B team and we look forward to the challenge," added Marijne. India will take on Argentina B team on January 23.