



died in clashes

# **Chaos in Delhi as farmers' tractor parade** turns violent, protesters storm Red Fort 83 Delhi police injured, farmer

#### PNS NEW DELHI

PNS NEW DELHI

More than 83 Delhi Police personnel were injured many seriously so - on Tuesday after violent clashes with groups of farmers who broke police barricades and stormed into the city on Republic Day to hold a tractor rally in protest of the centre's agriculture laws.

The injured police personnel have been admitted to several hospitals, including the trauma centre of the Civil Line Hospital in Delhi's North District and the Lok Nayak Hospital in central Delhi.

The LNJP Hospital admit-ted 38 police personnel, the Civil Line Hospital 11, the Aruna Asif Ali Hospital eight, and the Lady Hardinge and Tirath Ram Shah Hospital four each Other hospitals to four each. Other hospitals to receive injured cops include Maharaja Aggarsen, Tarak, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Balaji Action. In total, 83 Delhi Police

personnel were injured in the violence. At least two farmers were also hurt - after the tractor they were in overturned at Chilla on the Delhi-Noida border.

streets of the national capital on Tuesday, as hordes of rampaging protesters broke through barriers, fought with police, overturned vehicles and delivered a national insult -- hoisting a religious flag from the rampart of Red Fort, a privilege

reserved for India's tricolour. Tens of thousands of protesters clashed with police in multiple places, leading to chaos in well known landmarks of Delhi and suburbs, amid waves of violence that ebbed and flowed through the day, leaving the farmers' two-month peaceful movement in tatters.

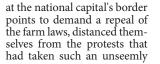
A tractor march meant to high-

light farmers' demands dis-

solved into anarchy on the

In a Republic Day like no other, farmers atop tractors, on motorcycles and some on horses, broke barricades to enter the city at least two hours before they were supposed to start the tractor march at noon sanctioned by authorities. Steel and concrete barriers were broken and trailer trucks overturned as pitched battles broke out in sev-

eral parts of the city. Eclipsing the traditional show of military might at Rajpath, the farmers' tractor parade that was supposed to be peaceful led to virtual anarchy on the streets and unprecedent-



The union also condemned and regretted the "undesirable" and "unacceptable" events as the parade turned violent after several groups of farmers



Farmers storm the Red Fort and raise sologans against the government demanding repeal of the contentious farm laws, above, while some manage to climb one of the domes, inset, of the historic ramparts to fly a religious flag. Farmers break down the police barriers with tractors, right.

turn and threatened to shift ed scenes the most perhaps being the sight of protesters public sympathy from their clambering up the flagpole at movement.

the Red Fort, the centrepiece of The Samyukta Kisan India's Independence Day cel-Morcha, an umbrella body of ebrations, to hoist the Nishaan 41 farmer unions, alleged that Sahib', the Sikh religious flag. some "antisocial elements" Farmer leaders, who have infiltrated their otherwise been spearheading the protest peaceful movement.

deviated from the pre-decided route for the march.

"We have always held that peace is our biggest strength, and that any violation would hurt the movement.



#### **Additional forces in Delhi** after Amit Shah's meeting leading to chaos in well known

Atractor march meant to Ahighlight farmers' demands landmarks of Delhi and suburbs, dissolved into anarchy on the amid waves of violence that streets of the national capital on ebbed and flowed through the Tuesday, as hordes of rampaging day, leaving the farmers' twoprotesters broke through month peaceful movement in barriers, fought with police, tatters. In a Republic Day like no overturned vehicles and delivered other, farmers atop tractors, on a national insult -- hoisting a motorcycles and some on religious flag from the rampart of horses, broke barricades to enter Red Fort, a privilege reserved for the city at least two hours before India's tricolour. Tens of they were supposed to start the thousands of protesters clashed tractor march at noon sanctioned with police in multiple places, by authorities

#### Anti-social elements infiltrated: Farmers

Farmers' tractor rally against the contentious agricultural laws on Republic Day was "infiltrated by anti-social elements", the protesters' body Samyukt Kisan Morcha said in a statement this evening, hours after thousands of demonstrators clashed with policemen in different parts of Delhi



# Serial killer arrested

'Eliminated 16 women as his wife eloped after marriage'

#### PNS HYDERABAD

TODAY

Panchangam

Nakshatram:

Time to Avoid:

**Rahukalam:** 

Variyam

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Abhiiit Muhurtha

HYDERABAL

WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny

Temp: 30/18

Humidity: 50%

Sunrise: 06:49 am

Sunset: 06:08 pm

Month & Paksham:

Paush & Shukla Paksha

A man accused of multiple murders since 2003 in a fit of pique over his newly married wife's elopement went on to erial killer' taking the lives of 16 women in all after being released by court in 2018, mainly because the police delayed filing a counter to his appeal for release from custody. The alleged serial killer, Maina Ramulu, got married at the age of 21. However, it did not last long. After a few

The police claimed that he was involved in 16 killings, going by analysis of footage from 500 CCTV cameras

Although he was arrested and jailed, after being convicted of these and other crimes, subsequently he was released by the court. After his release, he continued his killings, the





Telangana poised for dynastic rule, democratically Sri Rama Navami is on April 21

Full report on page 2

#### FAILURE TO REPAIR DITCHES ON ROADS

GHMC chief threatens to cut

days, she eloped with another person. This incident allegedly turned him into a misogynist.

According to the police, he

On Tuesday, he was arrested in connection with the killings of two women by the

started killing women to vent out his anger since 2003.

North Zone task force team. The police claimed that he was involved in 16 killings,

from 500 CCTV cameras.



# Love dating apps? Be careful of honey traps!

Tithi: Chaturdashi: 01:16 am (Next Day) PNS HYDERABAD

Punarvasu: 03:49 am (Next Day) Next time when somebody (Bad time to start feels like registering on dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, OkCupid, Match.com, Grindr, any important work) 12:28 pm – 01:53 pm eharmony, Coffee Meets Bage 08:16 am - 09:40 am or whatever to have fun; they 03:30 pm - 05:09 pm must think twice and take 11:04 am - 12:28 pm ample precautions; for crooks Good Time: (to start any important work) 01:21 am – 03:00 am

> The Cyberabad Police have using dating apps.

Current Weather Conditions Updated January 26, 2021 5:00 PM

from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are on the prowl to spoil everything by honey-trapping them.

issued an advisory regarding honey traps and frauds by such crooks and requested the public to be cautious while Fraudsters from Haryana,

Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan are collecting the contact details from various dating applications and selecting their

targets. The crooks lure their targets by video-calling them on social media platforms. They then entice their targets

to undress. If the victims fall for the bait, they record the nude video and later threaten and extort money from the victims by threatening that the nude clip would be posted in social media accounts.

Cyberabad Cyber Crime analyses of the honey trap cases revealed that the accused plan meticulously before zeroing on their victim. They identify their social media accounts, their friends and family members' details. In most of the cases, they target reputed and financially sound people who can afford to pay the ransom, revealed police analysis.

#### NAGARJUNASAGAR BYPOLL Farmers threaten

## en masse nominations

PNS TIRUMALAGIRI

Several farmers on Monday threatened to file nominations en masse against the ruling party's candidate in the upcoming by-polls to the Nagarjunasagar Assembly seat, if pattadar passbooks are not given to eligible farmers in 10 tribal hamlets of the con-

stituency. They also threatened to boycott the elections, if necessary. The farmers on Monday staged a sit-in on

roads leading to their hamlets as a mark of protest against official negligence in issuing passbooks.

### wages of negligent officials PNS HYDERABAD Cracking the whip on lax engi-

neering officials, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar has threatened to cut their wages if the ditches on roads are not repaired within three days of information about it.

Similarly, he threatened to impose penalties on executive engineers, superintending engineers, and zonal commisentrusting road maintenance sioners in a circular issued by works to private parties. There

The GHMC has decided to initiate disciplinary action to ensure proper implementation of the Comprehensive Road Maintenance Programme in the city. According to GHMC authorities, there is no use

# KCR's sudden visit to new Secretariat site

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's unannounced visit to the site of the upcoming new Secretariat on Tuesday, despite it being the solemn Republic Day, ostensibly to inspect the construction works, has sent out differing signals in TRS circles over when KCR would hand over the reins of chief ministership to his son K T Rama Rao. The muchtalked-about subject of 'KCR as CM' gained traction again on Tuesday, though in an entirely different context.



CM K Chandrashekhar Rao inspecting the progress of ongoing construction works of the new Secretariat building complex at the site on Tuesday.

A section of the party circles he will not quit from CM post now believes that KCR's visit to till his 'dream project' (new the new Secretariat is a hint that Secretariat) is completed, giving

#### him leeway to function from the new Secretariat at least for a few months. As per the original plan, the new Secretariat complex should be completed by Dasara this year in October. So, this section of the party leaders and workers believe that KCR would continue as CM at least until New Year 2022.

Another section in the party circles is of the view that KCR visited new Secretariat site only to ensure that the new building complex complies with all vastu norms to enable smooth functioning of his son KTR as CM.

M Girija Shankar.

#### **INDIA'S FIRST WOMAN FIGHTER PILOT** PARTICIPATES IN REPUBLIC DAY FLY-PAST

light Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, the first woman in India to qualify for combat mission in a fighter jet, today became the first woman fighter pilot to participate in the Republic Day fly-past. Bhawana Kanth ioined the Indian Air Force fighter squadron in 2017 and flew her first solo flight on an MiG-21 Bison in March 2018. She is currently posted at a fighter base in the western sector. Along with Mohana Singh and Avani Chaturvedi, Flight Lt Kanth was the first woman selected for the IAF fighter

stream in 2016. Flight Lieutenant Tanik Sharma led the contingent of the Indian Air Force, which featured 96 airmen and four officers.

#### AYODHYA MOSQUE WORK STARTS ON **REPUBLIC DAY WITH TRICOLOUR HOISTING**

aising of the national flag on India's **Q** 72nd Republic Day and a tree **N**plantation drive marked the formal beginning of the project to construct a mosque at Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya. It is set to be built following the landmark 2019 Supreme Court verdict that facilitated the construction of a temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya and a mosque in the same district. Members of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) trust, which will build

the mosque in Ayodhya's Dhannipur village on a five-acre plot assembled at the site at 8.15 am on Tuesday morning.

#### TIKTOK INDIA BAN NOW PERMANENT. ALONG WITH 58 OTHER APPS: REPORTS

ikTok, WeChat, and a total of 59 apps from Chinese companies have been permanently banned in India by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) according to reports. These apps were banned by the government in June 2020, and now reports quoting sources say that the ban for these apps is permanent now. In an earlier conversation, sources had told Gadgets 360 that following the ban, the government had asked for responses from all the companies that were banned about the data being collected, and how it was used.



# COVID PANDEMIC COULD LAST 4 TO 5

t may take four to five years for the COVID-19 pandemic to end and the world to look to a post-Covid normal, a senior Singaporean minister has warned. Speaking at the Singapore Perspectives 2021 conference hosted by Singapore's Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on Monday, Singapore's Education Minister Lawrence Wong, who co-chairs the COVID-19 multi-ministry task force, said there are still many uncertainties to contend with in the next few years, while



sharing his hopes about how the future can be "reset" once the pandemic is over, the Channel News Asia reported



are ditches along several roads in the city and, at some places, metal and stones are protruding from the surface due to the damaged caused to the top surface. In this backdrop, the GHMC Commissioner has taken a serious view of the bad roads in the city.



APSEC censures. transfers top panchayat raj officials

Armed with the Supreme Court verdict, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday ordered the transfer of panchayat raj department Principal Secretary Gopala Krishna Dwivedi and Commissioner

PNS VIJAYAWADA

# hyderabad 02



# What happened to KCR's promise to make Dalit CM? everybody along, especially his rivals like T Harish Rao,

t's definitely not easy for a layman to gain prominence in politics, unless he or she has a political background.

While a majority of fail to reach great heights, success is far easier for a person that comes from a political family.

In Telangana, the situation appears to be conducive for Minister Κ. Chief Chandrasekhar Rao to anoint his son KT Rama Rao as his successor.

While the father-son duo haven't come forward to clear the air on talk of KTR's possible coronation, there have been no voices so far critical of the 'succession'. In fact, some of KTR's Cabinet colleagues have been going overboard to show their loyalty and saying what a competent Chief

Minister he would prove to be.

Whenever KTR does 6 take charge, Telangana vill have its second PIN Chief Minister, but those who enter politics fail to reach great heights,

separate Statehood movement. KCR made that promise at a time he needed the support of all sections of society for his Statehood movement. Dalits wholeheartedly backed him and gradually, the TRS consolidated politically, and emerged as a viable force in undivided

Once the Statehood objective was achieved, KCR back-tracked on his 'Dalit CM' promise, justifying his U-turn by saying that Telangana was underdeveloped and if a Dalit was given the opportunity to rule, he or she was bound to get the tag of failure. He said

Whenever KTR does take charge, Telangana will have its second Chief Minister, but not a Dalit as promised by KCR at the height of the movement. KCR made that promise at a time he needed the support of all sections of society for his Statehood movement.

that he never would like the word 'failure' to be associated with Dalits, hence he would first develop the state and hand it over to a Dalit. Dalit leaders and legislators in the TRS accepted KCR's jus-

tification without murmur, probably since they lacked the guts to say so publicly, and backed him to the hilt. The Congress, which had

done everything possible to fulfil the dream of Telangana

people — including ignoring the interests of a majority of the people — was given a death blow by KCR who opened the doors wide for leaders of the grand old party. The entire episode however led to many wondering whether the TRS chief thought that Dalits lacked the capacity and talent to rule the state. Firmly in the saddle for six

years, KCR is now eyeing a stint on the national stage,



leaving the State for his son. Once KTR takes over, Telangana would have slipped back into dynastic rule, of course democratically.

the cards since the time KCR



KTR's succession is expected to be a smooth affair within the party and has been on

was voted back to power in 2018. After returning to power, KCR made sure that there was no question in the minds of both the TRS cadres and administrative circles that they would have to work with him (KTR) in the days to come.

To further drive home the message, KTR was given key portfolios. Now, both the administrative circles and TRS cadres are habituated to working with KTR and there will be not much resistance to accepting him as their boss.

However, the same cannot be said of the people of Telangana, who have been known for their history of point of time, KTR was work-ing in the USA and he finally struggles, right from the days after its inception. It's also unfortunate that he used filthy of the Nizams, a dynasty that ruled for over two centuries. and unprintable language The spirit of agitation may against the people of Andhra region.

be subdued at present, but no one knows when it might surface among the people.

Acquiring power is not that difficult, especially if one happens to be the son of the ruler, but only time, and the people, can decide whether he does justice to the responsibility.

KCR may not see Harish Rao as a hurdle to his son's anointment at present, but People remember the orione can't say how long this sitgins of the TRS on April 27, uation would continue. 2001, and how different the

Comparisons are invariably party is, after a two-decade drawn between Harish Rao ong journey. KTR was not beside his and Raj Thackeray of Shiv Sena. Despite his strong influ-ence on cadres, Raj had to leave his parent party. father at the party's formation at 'Jaladrusyam' on the banks

who had been a key figure in

the party since its formation.

After his anointment, KTR of Hussainsagar two decades will have to get the acceptance of the people in 2023 and only then would his leadership ago; yours truly was. At that joined the party a few years remain unquestioned.

For this, he would have to outwit and defeat the BJP, which is gathering strength in the State. Till such time, he would be known as his father's successor and not a politician in his own right.

#### Once he becomes the Chief Minister, KTR will have to take

Chaos in Delhi as farmers'...

## Sri Rama Navami is on April 21 PNS BHADRACHALAM

Sri Sitarama Tiru Kalyana Mahotsavam, the annual mega religious fete, celebrations will be conducted in a simple and customary manner by the temple priests in adherence to the temple traditions from April 13 to 27.

The annual celestial wedding of Lord Sri Rama with his Consort Sita would be performed here on April 21. The Brahmotsavam will begin on April 17. The Sri Rama Navami will be celebrated on April 21, the coronation of Lord Rama would take place on April 22, Chakrathirtham festival is scheduled for April 27. Subsequently, Pushpa Yagam and the concluding ceremony of Brahmotsavams would be held. The Arjita Sevas at the temple would remain suspended from April 13 to 27.

# Now, sarpanches in state can gun down wild boars

#### **DURGA PRASAD SUNKU** HYDERABAD

Now, village sarpanches can shoot down or accord permission to hunt wild pigs destroy-ing agriculture and horticultur-al crops outside the Protected Areas and Reserved Forests, the Telangana government

issued an order on the same. In a move to reduce the destruction of agriculture crops by wild boars, the state government appointed sarpanches as the honorary wildlife warden for the purpose of issuing permission for culling of wild boars damaging agriculture and Horticultural crops. In other words Telangana state government empowered Panchayat Raj Institutions to permit culling. The move was based on the



recommendation by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana State. A standard operating proce-

dure has been laid to issue permission for culling. It is mandatory to have a written

complaint of the farmers, visit

the location for investigation, assess the situation before issuing permission to hunt wild boars. "The sarpanch will then, as

per the powers vested in him by the Chief Wildlife Warden

wild boars. For the purpose of hunting, the sarpanch shall take the services of the hunters who are in the panel of shootwho are in the panel of shoot-ers prepared by the Telangana Forest Department," said the government order. Further the government order stated, "The responsibil-ity for casualties and loss, human or property caused

human or property caused knowingly or unknowingly in connection with the shooting of wild boars shall only be on the person / persons who is / are shooting the wild boars. The Forest Department shall

not be responsible for the same. The powers delegated by the Chief Wildlife Warden to the sarpanches to permit hunting of wild boars shall be valid

for a period of one year from the date of issue of the order.

#### **Continued from Page 1 Additional** "We dissociate ourselves from all such elements that have vioforces in... lated our discipline. We appeal strongly to everyone to stick to

the route and norms of the parade, and not indulge in any violent action or anything that taints national symbols and dignity. We appeal to everyone to desist from any such acts, it added.

"We are trying to get a full picture of all the events with regard to the several parades that were planned today and will share a full statement soon. Our information is that apart from some regrettable violations, the parades are underway peacefully as per plan," it said in a statement.

As the sun set, sporadic incidents of violence continued and restless crowds roamed the streets in many places. Some groups of farmers began the journey to their respective sitin sites at Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur, but thousands stayed on.

Át the Red Fort, the Mughal era monument from the ramparts of which the prime minister addresses the nation on Independence Day, thousands of farmer stormed the ramparts and returned towards the evening, according to some reports. The protesters, many of them young, vocal and aggressive, were removed from

the premises. police use

#### Anti-social elements infiltrated: Farmers **Continued from Page 1**

**Continued from Page 1** 

Protesters were tear-gassed Steel and concrete barriers were and baton-charged shortly after they pushed down broken and trailer trucks overturbarricades at the borders ned as pitched battles broke out this morning and stormed in several parts of the city. Eclipsinto the heart of the city ing the traditional show of militamid celebrations for 72nd ary might at Rajpath, the farm-Republic Day. One farmer ers' tractor parade that was supposed to be peaceful led to died after a speeding tractor overturned in central Delhi's virtual anarchy on the streets and ITO, the police said. A large unprecedented scenes the most number of protesters perhaps being the sight of stormed into the iconic Red protesters clambering up the flagpole, the centrepiece of Fort by afternoon. They were seen within the ramparts of India's Independ-ence Day the iconic Mughal-built celebrations, to hoist the Nishaan monument, trying to put up Sahib', the Sikh religious flag. their yellow flags at the spot Farmer leaders, who have been spearheading the protest at the where Prime Ministers hoist the national flag. "We thank national capital's border points to farmers for the unpreceddemand a repeal of the farm ented participation in today's laws, distanc-ed themselves Farmers Republic Day from the protests that had taken such an unseemly turn and Parade. We also condemn and regret the undesirable threatened to shift sympathy. and unacceptable events The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, that have taken place today an umbrella body of 41 farmer unions, alleged that some and dissociate ourselves "antisocial elements" infiltrated from those indulging in such acts," the farmers' their otherwise peaceful body said. movement.

fact that the farmer movement that had been peaceful for two months was no longer so.

entering the Red Fort com-As the day progressed and plex. There was a mild lathithousands of farmers roamed charge with police removing rectlessly thousands more protesting f

In the city, maintenance of have remained unrepaired for over 709 KM of roads has been several weeks altogether at entrusted to private parties. It many places in the city. Meanwhile, members of has been estimated that it ublic have been lodging com

ous view of undertaking repairs to roads. The ditches

India reported 9,102 fresh

Tuesday.

lowest in around eight months,

as the infection tally reached

1,06,76,838, according to

Union Health Ministry data on



# order, issue permission to hunt

ire at least Rs 1 837 crore to maintain roads for five

**Continued from Page 1** 

If the ditches on roads are not repaired within three days, notices would be served on the private agencies concerned. If the agency does not mend its ways, it would be fined. Under all the zones of the GHMC, notices have been issued to private agencies. Levying of fines was noticed to be at its minimum. Private agencies are not taking a seri-

# Love dating apps?...

nance

blackmail them.

GHMC chief threatens...

#### **Continued from Page 1**

Gangs, especially those from Harvana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan are using this modus operandi and have



| CHICKEN<br>RATES ₹/KG | Y        |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Dressed/With Skin     | ₹123     |
| Without Skin          | ₹140     |
| Broiler at Farm       | ₹85      |
| EGG<br>RATES ₹/100    | <u>.</u> |

| HYDERABAD     | 365   |
|---------------|-------|
| VIJAYAWADA    | 516   |
| VISAKHAPATNAM | 505   |
| RETAIL PRICE  | 3. 65 |

plaints with the civic body. At the recent coordination committee meeting held on the issue, the GHMC Commissioner responded immediately and issued the circular to penalise the officials and pri-

vate agencies concerned. It may be recalled that out of the 9,103 km length of roads in the city, 709 km length of roads have been entrusted to private agencies for mainte-

During the same period, 117 fatalities were recorded, also the lowest in over eight months, taking the death toll to 1,53,587.

India had reported a singleday rise of 8,909 cases on June 3 and 103 deaths on May 16. According to the health

ministry, 1,03,45,985 people have recuperated from the disease so far pushing the national Covid recovery rate to 96.90 per cent. The case fatality rate stood at 1.44 per cent.

There are 1,77,266 active come up with a new ways to cheat innocent people and cases of coronavirus infections in the country which

In this regard, the Cyberabad Police appealed to netizens not to use any dating application and avoid attending video calls from unknown numbers. Further, the police appealed public to avoid posting personal details in online dating applications.

**Continued from Page 1** though they had been cultivating the lands for sever-

They alleged that passbooks al years, since the authorihad been denied to them, ties want to deprive them of schemes.

benefits under Rytu Bandhu, Rytu Bima, farm loans and other welfare

Council of Medical Research

(ICMR), 19,30,62,694 samples

Chhattisgarh, seven each from

West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh

and five each from Delhi and

## KCR's sudden visit to new Secretariat site

**Continued from Page 1** 

Construction of the new palatial CM camp office-cum-Secretariat for Telangana State office residence. has close to KCR's heart right After he entered Pragathi from Day-1 of his becoming Bhavan, KCR completely avoid-CM in June 2014. In fact, in his ed the old Secretariat and startvery first press conference as ed working from Pragathi Bhavan. However, KCR did not Chief Minister in July 2014, KCR said that the existing demolish the old Secretariat till Secretariat had 'terrible vastu July 7, 2020 due to cases in High defects' and that he wanted to Court against its demolition. KCR could demolish the construct a new vastu-compliant Secretariat in its place, after Secretariat only after the High Court gave its nod -- on June 29, demolishing the existing Secretariat complex. In line with 2020. The construction of the its belief, call it superstitious of new Secretariat commenced on whatever, he rarely worked from the occasion of Dasara in the old Secretariat between June October 2020 with a deadline to 2014 and November 2016, after complete it by next Dasara in

October 2021. In this backdrop, a section of TRS leaders and cadre argue

that there is no reason why would KCR quit from his post CM post without functioning as Chief Minister from his new "dream Secretariat" at least for few months.

In contrast, the other section in the party argues that the new Secretariat was conceived by KCR to facilitate the smooth functioning as CM, not only for himself but also for his heir apparent KTR.

There is a general feeling that none of the sons of previous CMs in undivided AP could become Chief Minister due to

'bad vastu' in the old Secretariat' Hence, they believe, KCR demolished the old one to construct a new Secretariat, which would be not only vastu-compliant, but also in line with the succession plan.

These section argues that KCR visited the new Secretariat construction site only to inspect vastu-related issues to ensure smooth functioning for his son KTR, "who will be elevated as CM anytime soon". On Tuesday, KCR went

around and visited every nook and corner and interacted with the engineers as well as representatives of working agency on the site.

to disperse the restive crowds in some places, hundreds of farmers in ITO were seen chasing them with sticks and ramming their tractors into parked buses. A protester died after his tractor overturned.

ITO resembled a war zone with a car being vandalised by angry protesters and shells, bricks and stones littering the wide streets, testimony to the

congregated at the Red Fort on

foot, tractor and some even on horses -- about four kilometres from ITO. Pushed back by the police from ITO, some protesting farmers drove their tractors to Red Fort complex. Uniformed

security personnel could be seen looking on as people gathered in larger numbers. Though there were no

Police baton charged farmers at Chintamani Chowk in Shahdara when they broke barricades and smashed window panes of cars. A group of 'Nihangs' (traditional Sikh warriors) clashed with securi-

elsewhere in the city too.

immediate reports of injuries,

ambulances could be seen

The tension was mirrored

mers from

personnel near Akshardham Temple.

#### APSEC censures. transfers top...

Continued from Page 1

Not stopping with the transfers,

**Continued from Page 1** 

According to sources, at least four murders could have been prevented had the Hyderabad police not delayed in filing a counter to the appeal petition filed by the accused in the High Court in 2018 for his release. Upon release, the accused went on a killing spree, killing four women under Jubilee Hills Police Station limits and Balanagar, Shamirpet, Patancheru Police Station limits of the Cvberabad Police Commissionerate as per his confession. No wonder, the Hyderabad police chief dodged questions by media persons regarding the lapses on the part of the police in filing a counter in

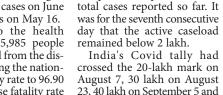
Zone task force team cracked the cases after analysing footage from around 500 CCTV cameras at all possible places from Yousufguda toddy compound to Ankushapur Railway Track, Ghatkesar.'

"Despite being well versed with elections ethos by virtue of a responsible office he headed as Chief Electoral Officer, Andhra Pradesh in the past, he displayed a lack of wisdom as

well as maturity in his conduct and utterances, in his present assignment," Ramesh Kumar said about GK Dwivedi.

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August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19 last year. According to the Indian

comprises 1.66 per cent of the

## Farmers threaten en masse nominations

which he moved to the newly-

constructed 'Pragathi Bhavan',

on Monday.

Punjab.

#### have been tested for Covid detection up to January 25 with 7,25,577 of them being tested Serial killer... Among the fresh fatalities, 30 were from Maharashtra, 17 Continued from Page 1 from Kerala, 13 from

According to the police, over the last 17 years he was involved in around 21 cases, including 16 murder cases and four property offences.

The police suspect that the accused used to sexually assault his victims. However, they could not lay hands on strong evidence, as in most of the cases, the police could only recover only decomposed bodies of his victims and they are waiting forensic reports.

His involvement in 16 murders was established based on findings and confessions during the investigation of a 'missing person' case in Jubilee Hills Police Station. On January 1st this year, the Jubilee Hills Police received a missing complaint relating to a 50-year-old Kavala

Four days after the incident, the police found her dead body near the railway track of Ankushapur village in the limits of Ghatkesar Police station.

At a press conference, Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said, "In a joint operation with the Ghatkesar Police, North

Venkatamma.

the High Court.

Red Fort.

Costly delay...

Ramesh Kumar also administered censure orders on them, which will now be part of their service record. Earlier, the SEC had already

surrendered the secretary at his office G Vani Mohan, discharged a joint secretary GV Sai Prasad, transferred collectors of Guntur and Chittoor districts, and the Tirupati Urban SP. The senior officials of the panchayat raj department were transferred on charges of "deliberate failure" to update the electoral rolls, a precursor to gram panchayat elections that are underway.

Further in the transfer and censure proceedings, the SEC said both the officials have been hostile and vindictive during their interaction with the Election Commission and tried to scuttle the independence of the poll panel.



# hyderabad 03







# **Subdued R Day celebrations in TS**

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The celebrations for this year's Republic Day on Tuesday, January 26 — the day the Constitution of India came into force in 1950 were toned down due to the Covid pandemic.

For a second consecutive year, the main official celebration was not held at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad, which has been the venue for decades. It's not just the venue but also format of the main ceremony which was changed.

Like last year, there was no march past, no parade review by the chief guest, no tableaux or cultural programmes by school children. This year, the event was held with Covid protocol.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan led the state in the celebrations held in the shadow of Covid pandemic. She unfurled the national flag at the main official celebration held in the historic Public Gardens, adjacent to State Assembly in the heart of the city.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, his cabinet colleagues, senior defense, police and civil officials attended the main event. The parade, comprising couple of contingents from Indian Air Force and police, presented salute to the governor on her arrival, followed by flag hoisting and contingents marching off.

The ceremony was held in the oldest park built in 1846 by Sixth Nizam Mir Mahboob Ali Khan, the ruler of then Hyderabad State.

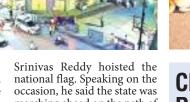


It was organised in the backdrop of Jubliee Hall, considered an architectural masterpiece and built in 1913 during the reign of Seventh Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan.

The venue was shifted following the decision of the chief minister that the Independence Day, Republic Day and State Formation Day celebrations be held in a place that would not cause any inconvenience to the people.

After formation of Telangana in 2014, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had shifted the venue of Independence Day parade from Parade Grounds to historic Golconda Fort to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Telangana.

The Chief Minister paid tributes to martyrs' at Martyrs' Memorial at Parade Grouds, Secunderabad and also hoisted the national tricolour at his official residence Pragati Bhavan. Republic Day celebrations were also held at State Assembly where Speaker P



marching ahead on the path of progress. Legislative Council Chairm-

an Sukhender Reddy unfurled the tricolour at Council premises. High Court Chief Justice Hima Kohli led the celebration at the High Court.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar unfurled the national flag held atop BRK Bhavan, the temporary state secretariat near Hussain Sagar. Senior officials attended the programme.

Additional Director General of Police B Bala Naga Devi hoisted the national flag at DGP office. Republic Day celebrations were also held at the offices of political parties.

At Telangana Bhavan, the headquarters of ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) party general secretary K. Keshav Rao hoisted the tricolour. Home Minister Mohammed Mehmood Ali and other TRS leaders were present.



#### CM VISITS SAINIKA SMARAK, PAYS HOMAGE TO MARTYRS

s part of the nationwide celebrations on the occasion of Republic ADay, a Wreath Laying Ceremony was organised at Veerula Sainik Smarak, Army Parade Ground at Secunderabad as a mark of respect and to pay homage to the valiant soldiers who laid their lives to uphold the honour and pride of our country. It is rightly said "They sacrificed their today for a safer tomorrow for us". Everyone rededicated to uphold the constitution and fulfill the unrealised dreams of vibrant India. The occasion was graced by Chief Minister of Telangana State K Chandrasekhar Rao who laid the wreath at Veerula Sainika Smarak and paid homage to the martyrs on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day. The senior officers of the three services and station commander. Secunderabad also laid wreath

#### Governor felicitates awardees at Raj Bhavan

overnor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan has Gelicitated martyr Col Santosni David States, Santoshi, and other awardees from the State on the occasion of Republic Day. In view of the announcement of Mahavir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award, posthumously to Col Santosh Babu who laid down his life fighting against the Chinese incursions last year at Galwan valley the Governor felicitated Santoshi and her children at Rai Bhavan on Tuesday.

The Governor also felicitated the Shikha Goel, IPS, Addl Commissioner of Police and N Shiva Shankar Reddy, IPS, IGP Nizamabad Range on being selected for the prestig-ious President's Police Medals. Master Chadalavada Hemesh was also felicitated by Dr Tamilisai Soundararaian on the occasion in recognition of getting awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriva Bal Puraskar for his innovation in developing a wearable device that helps those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease

#### No colourful celebrations in schools

epublic Day celebrations at school often mean a Deautifully decorated campus in ribbons and balloons of the national flag's colours, stude-nts proudly singing the anthem and looking forward to present some amazing dance and song performances. But this year, Covid has shut schools indefinitely and added a twist to the 72nd Republic Day celebrations. The colourful celebrations in schools were missing, as the institutions remained close as a precautionary measure to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. The fervour remains, but most educational institutions are opting for a virtual route. While, a few educational institutions celebrated the Republic Dav under strict Covid precautions Prof Appa Rao Podile, Vice-Chancellor of the UoH, unfurled the National Flag and paid tributes to the freedom fighters

## BANK DAMAGES PLEDGED GOLD Man sues Andhra Bank, gets Rs 1 L

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU HYDERABAD

The Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Hyderabad slapped a fine of Rs 1 lakh against Andhra Bank, Sainikpuri branch for returning a damaged gold ornaments to a customer, who pledged them

in the bank for availing loan. The 57-year-old M Sreeramulu has availed a gold loan in 2013 for Rs 4.5 from Andhra Bank, Sainikpuri branch by pledging gold orna-ments including bangles, sachets, rings, bracelet, chains and repaid the loan in 2016.

While taking back the gold ornaments, the petitioner noticed that the ornaments were broken and some studs were missing, as such he refused to take back the gold ornaments in that condition and requested the bank

authorities to repair them. The officials of Andhra Bank contended that they have taken utmost care in safeguarding/ preserving the pledged ornaments by keeping them in separate sealed cloth bags. They further contended that at the time of taking the loan, the complainant declared

that he would not make any claim for the reimbursement of loss of any stones studded to the ornaments and that the bank shall be liable only for the appraised value of the ornaments and never liable for replacement of any ornaments.

After a request from the complainant, the redressal commission, Hyderabad appointed a commissioner to ascertain the damage. Further, the commissioner filed a detailed report stating the damage caused to each ornament, forum took it as conclusive proof of the damage caused to the ornaments.

After referring the report, the redressal commission opined that the bank is negligent in preserving the pledged ornaments and stated that it is liable to compensate.

The redressal commission directed the Andhra Bank officials to return the gold pledged with them in as is wear condition, an additional money of Rs 1 lakh towards hardship, inconvenience, sufferings and mental agony and Rs 20,000 for the repair of the gold ornaments and another Rs 20,000 to pay the legal costs.



#### SBI, Koti felicitates Covid warriors on Republic Day

P Mishra, , Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle unfurled the tricolor flag at SBI Local Head Office, Koti, Hyderabad to mark the celebrations of the 72nd Republic Day. All staff and their family members participated in the event. The event was celebrated with rendering of patriotic songs by the staff. Mishra said that we all cherish this memorable day, as India became a free Nation on August 15, 1947, it declared itself a Sovereign,



Democratic and Republic state with the adoption of Constitution on January 26, 1950. Mishra informed that we all went through a tough phase due to the challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Our country has played an exemplary role in the global fight against covid-19 which has been recognized and appreciated widely throughout the world. In this connection, Mishra felicitated all the Covid warriors of the Bank who had given their best during these difficult times. Mishra recalled the efforts put in by bank staff in extending Covid by partaking in Covid relief measures such as distribution of ration and food to the needy, providing medical equipments, ventilators and PPE kits to government hospitals.

Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for Lt General TSA Naravanan

# Chakra to Santosh, says his father

Not '100% satisfied' with Mahavir

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The father of late Colonel Santosh Babu on Monday said he was 'not 100 per cent satisfied' with the Mahavir Chakra posthumously awarded to him for his acts of gallantry against the Chinese attack in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June 2020, and that he should have been honoured with the Param Vir Chakra.

"It is not that I am unhappy But I am not 100 per cent satisfied. There is scope for honouring him in a better way. But my opinion is that Santosh Babu should have been named for the highest military award Param Vir Chakra for the gallantry he displayed while discharging his duties," Babu's father B Upendra said.

He said the valor shown by

PNS HYDERABAD

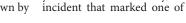


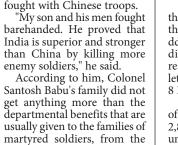
the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

Upendra said his son, overcoming the challenges posed by the climatic conditions of the area where he was posted, fought with Chinese troops.

his son had inspired many people, including those working in the defence forces.

Colonel Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among 20 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the fierce handto-hand combat on June 15 last vear in the Galwan Valley, an





Centre. The Telangana government gave Rs 5 crore ex-gratia to Santosh Babu's family, besides Group-I post to his wife and a residential plot.

#### cases, 2 deaths PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana logs

189 fresh Covid

Telangana recorded 189 new Covid cases, pushing the tally to 2,93,590, while the death toll rose to 1,592 with two more fatalities, the state government said on Tuesday.

The GHMC accounted for the most number of cases with 38, followed by Rangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri districts with 12 and 11 respectively, it said in a bulletin, providing details as of 8 PM on January 25.

The cumulative number of recovered cases stood at 2,88,926, while 3,072 were under treatment. As many as 29,449 samples were tested on January 25. Cumulatively, the number of samples tested was 77,11,810. The samples tested per million population was 2,07,195.

#### Better lighting, more interchanges on ORR PNS HYDERABAD

In addition to the existing 19 interchanges on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited (HGCL) is working on constructing two more interchanges by this year-end besides taking up lighting project on the expressway with a cost of Rs.100 crore.

As per the instructions of Minister KT Rama Rao, the HGCL is taking up the lighting project on the expressway to esnure better illumination and for the convenience of

motorists, said HGCL MD BM Santosh Kumar after hoisting the national flag at

HMDA office at Ameerpet here on Tuesday. Santosh Kumar said HGCL

was making all efforts to construct two more interchanges on the 158 kms ORR by this year end. At present, beautification works were under progress at the existing 19

interchanges, he said adding that despite Covid-19 pandemic and it's adverse impact on the works, HMDA has achieved significant development last year.

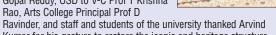
n the occasion of 72nd Republic day, OLieutenant General TSA Narayanan, Commandant Military College of EME and Colonel Commandant of Corps of Electronic and Mechanical Engineers (EME) has been awarded with Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) for distinguished service of an exceptional order, displayed towards execution in his duties for the Indian Army and especially the Corps of FMF This year has been a landmark one



for MCEME under his stewardship, having achieved national accolades and fame, notably of which are winning the prestigious Golden Peacock National Training Award, AICTE Uttkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award as well as the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) Army Training Command (ARTRAC) Unit Citation.

#### OU to get Rs 3 cr from HMDA towards Arts College repairs

Incipal Administration and Urban Development Principal Control of the second Vice-Chancellor Arvind Kumar has announced the sanction of Rs 3 crore from HMDA towards repairs of the iconic Arts College building on the OU Campus here. Arvind Kumar along with university officials on Tuesday hoisted the National Flag on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day celebrations at the historic OU Arts College building. OU Registrar Prof Ch Gopal Reddy, OSD to V-C Prof T Krishna



#### Ravinder, and staff and students of the university thanked Arvind Kumar for his gesture to restore the iconic and heritage structure.

#### T-Hub's 'T-Tribe' nurtures 800 student entrepreneurs

nnovation enabler T-Hub announced that its academic membership programme 'T-Tribe' has enabled 800-plus student entrepreneurs in association with 18 leading institutions from across India. T-Tribe hosted an event to mark the success of the programme with more than 80-plus participants, including academicians, student entrepreneurs, corporates, industrialists and startups. T-Tribe will provide the partner colleges with access to structured entrepreneur curricula, mentorship, founder sessions, training, workshops, and events that will be organised at regular intervals. T-Tribe also announced incubating eight idea-stage startups founded by students and first-time entrepreneurs. The startups will receive guidance and mentor support apart from infrastructure facilities. The selected startups include Happay, Carbon Hubsa, Aadha Trip, Bliss, PROXO, InfinitIQ, 1-2 All and Juvva Ind. Ravi Narayan, CEO, T-Hub, said, "With the T-Tribe initiative, T-Hub has impacted more than 1,000 students who are now considering entrepreneurship as a viable career option." T-Hub's partnership with the institutions enabled them to assist the budding entrepreneurs in building prototypes, provided mentoring and guidance from subject matter experts, and offered collaboration opportunities within the startup ecosystem.

## Rowdy-sheeter stabbed to death He was immediately shifted

Unidentified persons stabbed to death Kala Feroz, a rowdy sheeter at RK Society in Sanath Nagar on Tuesday. Previous enmity is suspected to have led to the killing.

The assailants attacked him with knives resulting in grievous bleeding injuries.

to the nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The police reached the spot and have taken up investigation. The footage from sur-

veillance cameras is being verified to identify the killers. rowdy sheeter.

Feroz was earlier involved in the murder case of Wahed, a A major portion of an air-cooler manufacturing unit was gutted in an early morning fire at the industrial area in MM Pahadi in Rajendranagar here

PNS HYDERABAD

on Tuesday. No casualties were reported as the unit was closed, police

in residential areas circuit led to the fire. The unit

said. Officials suspect a short was closed after work on

Locals alleged that the unit was running without any required permissions that too

Fire breaks out at cooler manufacturing unit

police and fire department.

reached the spot immediately

Monday night and the workers had left. and four fire engines were rushed to the spot and the fire

According to the police, the plastic unit is located near a residential area and locals noticed fire and thick smoke emanating from the unit early in the morning and alerted the

The Rajendranagar police

was doused in an operation which lasted for about four hours. The property loss was estimated to be of around Rs 15 lakh. Panicked locals alleged that the plastic unit was run-

ning without any required permissions that too in the vicinity of residential areas.

Degree colleges compelling students to pay entire fees

#### **ANUSHA PUPPALA** HYDERABAD

Students and activists alleged that some Degree colleges in the city are asking them to pay entire fee for the year, while no action against the colleges by the concerned authorities.

Activists question why should the students pay for computer classes, PT fees when college was are still closed.

Universities in general prescribes a special fee in addition

to the tuition fee mentioned at QI like Rs 100 for college func-

tions, Rs 50 for reading room, Rs 75 for college magazine, Rs 50 for hobby centre, Rs 50 for student hand book, Rs 200 for lab fees, Rs 150 for library fees, Rs 250 for computer and internet fees, Rs 75 for sports and games. However, the activists say that why should students and parents pay the special fees as colleges are still conducting

online classes. Vijay Gopal, a Hyderabad-



based activist, who received collection of fees said, complaints from students over "Surprised to see that the colleges are asking students to pay entire fee for the entire year, while concerned authorities has been unresponsive about the issue and has never taken a stand. Why should students pay for PT, computer classes

ETC when college was closed?" He further added, "The degree colleges in Hyderabad are collecting anywhere between Rs 45,000 and 75,000, while between Rs 14,000 and 21,000 is the maximum they should collect as prescribed by law. Osmania University and DOST convenors have been sleeping over the problems of the students and parents."

Professor R Limbadari, Convenor- DOST said, "So far we have not received any such complaints regarding this from any students as far as the degree colleges as concerned. If we receive any such complaints we will definitely send notices to such colleges. Fees structures are usually displayed by the concerned University?



# hyderabad 04

BJP, TRS pose a threat to

democracy, alleges Uttam

was trying to assassinate the

democracy. He said both the

parties were not showing any

respect for BR Ambedkar,

who drafted the Constitution.

He said it was unfortunate that

efforts were being made by

some elements to divide the

country on the religious lines.

demned the adamant attitude

of the BJP government in not

repealing the controversial

farm laws although the farm-

ers have been protesting against them for the past 62

He said Prime Minister

Narendra Modi was not con-

sidering the demands of thou-

sands of farmers, who are agi-

tating on the borders of the

national capital in adverse

and extreme weather condi-tions. He alleged that the

Modi government has mort-

gaged the interests of farmers

days.

The TPCC chief con-

#### CAPSULE

#### Municipal Commissioner placed under suspension

KAMAREDDY: District Collector Sharat on Tuesday placed Yellareddy Municipal Commissioner Kammar Haimad under suspension holding him responsible for denying pension to 39 persons at the behest of the eighth ward councillor's husband. Haimad is the second to be suspended in the case. Earlier, a department inquiry placed the data entry operator under suspension in the sensational case. Eighth ward councillor's husband earlier complained to the Municipal Commissioner that some persons in the ward did not vote for the party represented by the councillor and advised the Commissioner to delete their names from the list of pension beneficiaries. Accordingly, Haimad denied pension to the 39 persons.

#### **Technical snag** halts Metro again

HYDERABAD: Metro trains were stranded on all routes on Tuesday on account of a technical snag detected in the Data Control System at Nagole station. As a result, commuters suffered severe inconvenience. The Metro train heading for LB Nagar from Miyapur was stranded at Gandhi Bhavan station due to a technical snag. Similarly, the Metro train has come to a grinding halt at Musarambagh station. As the last reports came in, Metro Rail authorities have been making efforts to restore the train services. Earlier on January 21, the Metro Rail got stranded for about 15 minutes at the Jubilee Hills station due to technical problems. The defects in signalling and other technical problems have been putting brakes on the Metro services. On January 5, too, the Metro services have been affected

# Shortage of milk before onset of summer in TS

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Vijaya Dairy has been procuring 50,000 litres of buffalo milk per day from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to meet its sales demand of 3.50 lakh litres as indigenous procure-ment of the dairy is less than three lakh litres per day.

The milk procurement has come down even before the onset of summer. Besides procuring milk from other States, the dairy has been purchasing milk powder, pushing up prices of the milk powder in the open market.

In spite of the dairy has been paying Rs 4 per litre more than the procurement price, ade-quate milk is not available in villages, the dairy officials said The dairies generally convert milk procured in winter over and above their target into milk powder. When encountered a milk shortage in summer, the dairies would convert the milk powder into milk and sell the same to consumers. The dairy has been procuring milk from other States as it was unable to produce milk powder due to a

lack of surplus milk. The Vijaya Dairy procured 20 tonnes of milk powder at the rate of Rs 230 per kg. Other dairies, too, started procuring milk powder and hoarding it anticipating a severe shortage of milk during the next three to four months.

The milk with various dairies remained unsold for want of commercial sales in April last due to pandemic. Therefore, the manufacturing of milk powder was done till July 2020. Till three months ago, a kg of milk pow-



According to a dairy farmer Bal Reddy of Yeddulagudem of Yadadri district, the maintenance costs of dairies have been increased. A cow that gives 10 litres a day would cost Rs 1 lakh in the open market

der was sold between Rs 150 and Rs 200 a kg. Now the milk owder is being sold online at Rs 380 to Rs 440 per kg.

Vijaya Dairy managing director C Srinivasa Rao said that the dairy has been procuring buffalo milk from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and said that Rs 25 crore has been paid towards incentives to the dairy farmers. Another Rs 18 crore would be credited into the bank accounts

Yadadri district, the mainte-

of the farmers soon.

The cattle feed and wages for workers have been increased. There is a shortage of dairy workers. Workers from Bihar are being employed by paying them Rs 15,000 a month and providing

nance costs of dairies have been increased. A cow that gives 10 litres a day would cost Rs 1 lakh in the open market. The cattle feed and wages for workers have been increased. There is a shortage of dairy workers. Workers from Bihar are being employed by paying them Rs 15,000 a month and providing them accommoda-tion. The farmers, finding dairy farming not remunerative, have been disposing of their cattle and purchasing According to a dairy farmer Bal Reddy of Yeddulagudem of milk even in villages. The farmers should be encouraged to produce milk.

them accommodation

Judiciary will keep working with dedication, says HC CJ PNS HYDERABAD

> Chief Justice Hima Kohli assured all stakeholders that the judiciary

tion and sincerity by interpreting and implementing the mandate of the Constitution in the best interest and highest good of the public.

Addressing the gathering after hoisting the national flag to mark the Republic Day celebrations on the High Court premises here on Tuesday, Chief Justice Hima Kohli said the role of the court officers and staff, who have toiled unendingly through this adverse period (Covid) and worked shoulder to shoulder with the judges to ensure that justice could be delivered to the last person waiting in the queue needs to be acknowledged with pride and gratitude.

Fortunately, things are looking up now. The infec-tion is abating and the natiomw1de inoculation drive will help contain the infection soon, but it will take some time for us to limp back to normalcy, the Chief Justice said.

This collaborative effort of the Bar and Bench would have to continue for effective dispensation of justice till status quo ante is restored, the Justice said.



will keep working with dedica

Kumar Reddy.

national flag at the party headquarters in Gandhi Bhavan on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar martyrs, who laid down their lives to protect the integrity of the country. He welcomed the awarding of Mahaveer Chakra to Col Santosh Babu, who was martyred in a clash with the Chinese Army in 2020 on the India-China border. Uttam recalled that Col Santosh Babu and he were both alumni of

He said that while the BJP government was hurting the spirit of the Constitution, the TRS government in Telangana

Cong demands CBI probe into misdeeds of TRS govt

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress demanded a CBI probe into the charges of financial irregularities against Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and Nalgonda MP Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with MPs Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and A Revanth Reddy, interacted with senior Congress leaders, including CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on the issues to be raised in the ensuing Parliament session beginning from January 29. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here on Tuesday, Uttam said that the Congress MPs would raise the issue of corruption by KCR in the name of various projects in Telangana. He said that the TRS regime has indulged in corruption, which was never witnessed anywhere in the past in the country. He demanded a CBI inquiry into the Mission Bhagiratha, Kaleshwaram and Sitarama projects. He said that Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay accused KCR of indulaina in corruption, but no BJP leader has lodged a complaint with the BJP government at the Centre seeking a probe. He asked the BJP leaders to specify as to when they lodged a complaint against KCR's corruption

## 'Provide better services to people' Sangareddy district Collector takes part in the Republic Day fete

#### PNS SANGAREDDY

Republic Day celebrations were held across the erstwhile Medak district with patriotic fervour. Sangareddy District Collector Hanumantha Rao urged the authorities to take the lead in providing better services to the

people. The Collector hoisted the national flag at the Police Parade Ground on Tuesday and received the salute. Speaking on the occasion, he said that despite aused by the for the past 10 months, services of officials of the departments of medical health, police, sanitation workers, panchayat raj, and revenue in fighting against the Corona are laudable. He thanked those who served as front-line warriors in the fight against the Covid on behalf of the district administration. He said the Corona vaccine would be made available to everyone



tles. Covid vaccination was started in the district on January 16. Similarly, the vaccine will be distributed to every citizen in the district soon as per the directive of the government. The Collector said that all public and private schools have been fully sanitised because of Covid-19 and are all set to start from February 1.

He explained that an urban residential school would be set up in the district for street children. He said that the district was roud of the four students w

# Shabbir Ali lays foundation for Quran **Research Centre in Medak district**

PNS HYDERABAD

Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, along with eminent Islamic scholar Moulana Shah Mohammed Jamal-ur-Rahman and other religious leaders, laid the foundation stone for Holy Quran Research Centre and inaugurated Masjid-e-Bi Jaan Bi at Shivanur village in Narsingi mandal of Medak district on Tuesday.

Speaking to media persons after the inauguration of the Sha that ane the mosque is located on National Highway 44. He informed that the entire complex is spread over four acres. It houses a beautiful mosque, which has been constructed with Mughal and Turkish architecture, resembling some of the beautiful mosques of Afghanistan. Besides a mosque, the complex will have a Holy Ouran Research Centre, a resi



Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir speaking at the gathering at Shivanur

The Holy Quran Research Foundation would promote modern education and research by providing facilities to the scholars

active role in the construction. Addressing the gathering, tance of modern education and research in Madrasas and other religious institutions. He recalled that as the then Cabinet minister, he took several initiatives for modernisation of Madrasas. He also narrated the background of construction and renovation of Masjid-e-Hashmi and Masjid-e-Mohammadi at the Secretariat, which was demolished by the TRS government.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and Nalgonda MP Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy addressing the gathering at the Republic Day celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP and TRS governments were posing a threat to the very survival of democracy in the country, especially Telangana, alleged Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and Nalgonda MP Capt N Uttam

Speaking after hoisting the Reddy paid rich tributes to the the National Academy (NDA). Defence

to benefit a few corporates like the Ambanis and Adanis. He also condemned Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for taking a U-turn on the farm laws

District Collector Hanumantha Rao salutes after hoisting the national flag at Republic Day celebrations in Sangareddy on Tuesday

soon as per government directive. Similarly, the Collector said that steps will be taken to solve the problems of the people by then launched the Mission launching a publicity campaign Bhagiratha drinking water bot-

soon following the Corona rules. He urged the officers and staff to act responsibly. The Collector

stood as winners in the State level art festival competitions and participated in the national level art festival contest. On the occasion, he thanked officials and people of the district. Additional collectors Rajarshi Shah, Vira Reddy, DRO Radhika Ramani, district officers, RDO, tahsildar and staff of the respective departments were present on the occasion.

dential hostel and other facilities. halt at the Masjid Complex to Shabbir Ali said that several fresh up and offer prayers. He facilities like washrooms and said that the Holy Quran dining area have been con-Research Foundation would structed for the passengers travpromote modern education and elling on the NH 44. He said sepresearch by providing facilities to arate facilities have been develthe scholars. oped for women. He said pas-The land for the mosque has

sengers especially those travelbeen donated by Gowri family, while its members Shahid Gowri ling to Bodhan, Nirmal, Nizamabad and Adilabad could and Manzoor Gowri played an

# SCCL CMD asks staff to work with dedication

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is planning to establish 300 MW floating solar plant on the waters of Manair Dam (Karimnagar), said SCCL Chairman and Managing Director N Sridhar.

After hoisting the national flag on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day celebrations held at Singareni Bhavan here on Tuesday, Sridhar said the floating solar plant will be established

after getting permission from the government, which is in addition

to the ongoing plants of 300 MW solar power in company areas. He asked employees to work with dedication to achieve this year's targets with desired productivity, quality and safety. Thanking the Odisha government and people for their support in environmental public hearings conducted on Nainee coal block there recently, he

coal mining this year only. He assured employees that he would request the government for conducting the Covid vaccination drive for all the employees in Singareni soon.

On the occasion, he felicitated K Ravi Shankai-(General Manager Marketing and Coordination), who has been selected as the Best Singarenian for his excellent services to the company. He also felicitated best said the SCCL would plan to officers and employees selected start coal production at Nainee from the Hyderabad office.

# Inter Board not to conduct exams for 2 papers

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Board of Intermediate Education has decided not to hold examinations for Environmental Sciences and Human Values and Ethics subjects this year. The Board has made arrangements for awarding assignments to students for these papers, according to the academic calendar prepared by the Board. In rest of the subjects, 70 per

cent of the subjects would be covered in the public examinations. Each paper carries the maximum marks of 100. In the subjects of botany, zoology,

physics, chemistry, the theory papers carry maximum marks of 70, while the practicals carry 30 marks. The Board has taken steps to increase the practical examination centres. The question papers for the practical exams would be set by the col-lege principals, who would evaluate the students' perfor-mance in the exam and forward the marks to the Board. A final decision would be taken on the academic calendar at a review meeting sched-

Sabita Indra Reddy.

Meanwhile, the Board has

The Intermediate Board has been making arrangements for reopening of the junior colleges from February 1

been making arrangements for the reopening of the junior colleges from February 1. There are over 404 government junior uled for Wednesday and to be colleges. There are 12 colleges chaired by Education Minister whose student strength is up to 2,000. There are over 1,600 private junior colleges. In most of

these colleges, the student strength exceeded 500. Therefore, the Board is going

to run classes in colleges whose

strength exceeded in two shifts.

Board secretary Umar Zaleel has directed college principals to prepare a plan to run class-es as per their student strength.

ommended to the government to conduct the public exams for Inter students from May 3 to complete them by May 19. The Board proposed to the government to complete all examinations, including those for the first-year students, by May 24.

This time, the Board has rec-

In colleges where the student strength is less, the first and But the SSC Board has prepared an academic calendar to conduct the SSC public examsecond-year classes would be held as usual. In colleges where the student strength crosses inations from May 17 to 26. In 1,000, one-day classes would be this backdrop, the Intermediate held for the first-year students examinations are likely to be while the classes are going to be advanced by two or three days. held for the second year stu-Otherwise, the SSC exam schedule has to be revised.

# India's youngest State becoming strongest: Governor

#### PNS HYDERABAD

India's youngest state Telangana, with new schemes, new initiatives, innovations and a successful record is emerging as the country's strongest state, said Tamilisai Governor Soundararajan.

Addressing the 72nd Republic Day parade on Tuesday, she said by implementing a plethora of innovative, unique and peopleoriented schemes and programs within a short span of time has carved a niche for itself in the history of the country.

The Governor noted that since the responsibility of governing the state was entrusted to Chief Minister Κ Chandrasekhar Rao, who happened to lead the movement for

separate statehood for Telangana, it stood first and unique in the country in several sectors due to the planned and systematic efforts, during the past six-and-a-half years and has been providing inspiration to other states to emulate

Telangana. The Governor claimed that the state government with full dedication, determination and commitment has successfully been able to reconstruct and rebuild the state. Telangana has achieved great success in several sectors and has been attract-

ing the attention of the entire country and became a role model. "Strong foundations are being cides, and where there is boun-



Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan addressing the 72nd Republic Day parade in Hyderadad on Tuesday

laid for a Bangaru Telangana, tiful peace and happiness, wealth where there is no hunger, no sui-

and prosperity." The Governor said while the state went through difficulties during 2020, due to the Covid pandemic, 2021 began with lot of optimism as the vaccination for Covid has started and is being administered on priority

basis. She claimed that with the combined and well-coordinated efforts of the central and state governments, the spread of the virus was effectively contained. 'By strict implementation of the lockdown, and by offering

the best medical treatment to the affected, the mortality rate in the state has been brought down to the lowest possible.

A record number of above 76 lakh Covid tests were conducted across the state by setting up the centres even at the mandal

level. In the state 2 lakh tests were conducted for every 10 lakh people, as against national

The Governor said though state government continued all schemes for the benefit of the poor

The Governor stated that the state government is taking planbased measures to bailout agriculture sector from the crisis faced before formation of the state. The agriculture policies and programs launched by the state government have earned international acclaim.

#### Vijayawada DRM distributes prizes to Corona warriors

#### PNS VIJAYAWADA

dents on the next day.

Vijayawada Divisional Railway Manager P Srinivas hoisted the National Flag at Rail Mini Stadium in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

He, along with Sr. DSC Sachin Bhalode received the guard of honour from RPF Contingents. He addressed the gathering by reading out South Central Railway -General Manager's message. Later, P Srinivas distrib-

uted prizes to the corona warriors from nedical, RPF and commercial and other departments of Vijayawada Division for rendering exceptional services braving the pandemic.

The DRM felicitated G. Karthika, senior clerk of commercial department, for her achievements in the field of athletics and representing Indian Railways at National level. He distributed trophies to

the winners of DRM Cup-Inter Departmental Doubles Tennis tournament held to mark Republic Day celebrations. SCRWWO Vijayawada supplied fruits to the patients

of Railway Hospital. D Srinivasa Rao, ADRM (Infrastructure), M Srikanth, ADRM (Operations), Dr Md Naseer, CMS, P Bhaskar Reddy, Sr. DCM, PRO and other branch officers were present.

average of 1.39 lakh tests. the state incurred a huge revenue loss of Rs 52,000 crore due to the disruption of activities caused by the pandemic, the

its welfare and social security



# nation 05

# **Protesters removed from Red Fort premises**

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Police removed protesting farmers from Red Fort premises on Tuesday where they had barged in after deviating from their planned route for the tractor parade and hoisted flags at the iconic monument in the national capital.

Chaos reigned for nearly 90 minutes as some protesters, including 'Nihangs' (traditional Sikh warriors), forced their way into the Red Fort and hoisted a flag from the staff from which the prime minister unfurls the tricolour on Independence Day.

The police later resorted to lathi-charge to vacate the Red Fort premises. Continuous announcements were being made asking the protesters to eave the complex peacefully. Earlier, the farmers had deviated from the designated route for the proposed tractor parade against the new farm laws and moved toward ITO in central Delhi.

Clashes broke out between police and protesting farmers after the latter reached ITO and tried to push towards Lutyen's Delhi, prompting the force to use lathicharge and tear gas shells against them.

PNS NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday

ordered shut down of internet

order sent to telecom service

providers directed temporary



### Vintage tractors at farmer parade from Singhu border

**PNS/NEW DELHI** 

Bhavjit Singh's 53-year-old Soviet-era tractor swaggered along the parade route on Tuesday, matching the pace of others that just rolled out of the showroom. Singh, taking a break from his job in the IT sector in Sydney, Australia, has been running a Twitter campaign promoting the struggles of farmers in India. His family-owned 1968 model DT-14 tractor, manufactured in Russia, was one of the oldest tractors that strode up the

roads elegantly during the farmers' parade against the farm laws. "My family has been using it for the last 25 years. All its parts are original, barring the steering wheel," Singh said. Amarinder Singh's Mahindra B-275 tractor was first rolled out in 1970. "My father purchased it in 1978 when I was born. Almost everyone in my village has used it at least once," the man from Punjab's Tarn Taran district said. The paint had faded, but all its parts are in an excellent condition, he said

## Farmers caned

**PNS/NEW DELHI** 

The Delhi Police resorted to baton charge and firing of tear gas shells on farmers at Nangloi Chowk in West Delhi as they tried to deviate from the pre-agreed route to enter the national capital during their protest

The agitating farmers broke cement barricades at Nangloi Chowk and Mukarba Chowk following which the police used heavy tear gas shells to disperse the unruly crowd, an official said. He said police personnel used tear gas to disperse groups of farmers coming from the Singhu border point as they tried to take out a march on the Outer Ring Road much ahead of the allotted time.

CPM hits out at Centre for lathicharging farmers

PNS/NEW DELHI The CPI(M) on Tuesday lashed out at the Centre over the treatment meted out to protesting farmers during their tractor rally, and said tear gassing and lathicharging

them is "unacceptable". The protesting farmers clashed with police at several places in the national capital. They entered the iconic Red Fort and ITO in the heart of Delhi with hundreds of them deviating from pre-decided routes. prompting security personnel to resort to lathicharge and tear gas. "Tear gassing & lath-

## Protesting farmer dies as 'tractor overturns'

#### PNS/NEW DELHI

A protesting farmer died after his tractor overturned at Central Delhi's ITO during the farmers' tractor parade on Tuesday, police said. They said the details about the deceased are yet to be gath-

ered. The man died as his tractor overturned at ITO where many farmers participating in the parade had reached from the Ghazipur border after taking a detour of the pre-agreed route for the march, a senior police officer said. Police said the man was driving the trac-

tor and he came under the vehicle as it overturned. The farmers draped the body in the tricolour and kept it at the ITO crossing, not allowing the police to send it for post-mortem. The farmers also lashed out at the mediapersons covering the incident.

icharging Kisans is unaccept-

Morcha agreement? Why is the

frontation. They must allow the

peaceful, agreed tractor parade

secretary Sitaram Yechury said

to continue," CPI(M) general

in a tweet.

government provoking a con-

able. Why, after the Delhi Police & Samyukt Kisan

# India showcases military might at R-Day parade



#### PNS NEW DELHI

In a display of India's military might, Rafale fighter jets took part in the Republic Day flypast for the first time as the armed forces showcased its T-90 tanks, the Samvijay electronic warfare system and Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets on the Rajpath on Tuesday.

Depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage and economic progress, 17 tableaux from states and union territories and nine from different Union ministries and paramilitary forces took part in the 72nd Republic day parade.

#### Six tableaux of the defence ministry also attended the event

School children performed folk arts and crafts displaying skills and dexterity handed

down from generations. Bajasal, a folk dance from Kalahandi in Odisha, the Fit India Movement and Aatmanirbhar Bharat were also displayed on the Rajpath.

This year, the attendance to the Republic Day parade was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those below 15 years of age and above 65 were not allowed among the visitors at the venue.

## Rafale aircraft makes debut

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The newly inducted Rafale fighter aircraft featured for the first time in Republic Day flypast as it carried out the 'Brahmastra' formation alone and was part of the 'Eklavya' formation with four other fighter iets. The fighter iet conducted Eklavya formation by

flying at a height of around 300 meter along with two Jagaur and two MIG-29 aircraft. The five iets resembled a V shape with Rafale leading the pack. The 25.000 strong audience was able to see Rafale fighter jet again when it culminated the flypast by conducting the Brahmastra formation wherein it traversed at a low altitude for some distance

#### Akhilesh flays Adityanath PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath was not a real yogi who "understands others' pain".

'When we see actions of the CM, we don't feel that he is a real yogi. If you read teachings if Lord Krisha, Guru Nanak ji and others you understand the real definition of a yogi. The real yogi is one who understands others' pain as his own ('Jo dusron ke dukh ko apna Does he unde the pain of youths, farmers and others. He is not a yogi..' Yadav said. He was addressing a programme at his home town Šaifai in Etawah district on Republic Day, where party workers gathered at the venue on tractors to show their support to farmers agitating against the Centre's new agri

#### of Delhi from 12.00 hours to 23.59 hours on the Republic Day, according to the Department of Telecom. "Government has services in parts of Delhi NCR invoked Temporary Suspension amid protests by farmers in the national capital. A government of Telecom Sevices (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 in the interest of maintaining public safety and suspension of internet services in averting public emergency to areas of Singhu, Ghazipur, Tikri, suspend internet services in Mukarba Chowk and Nangloi and

Internet shutdown in parts of Delhi their adjoining areas in the NCT areas closer to farmers protest sites," a source told PTI. According to a Department of Telecom spokesperson, internet shutdown order has been invoked by the local law and order administration and not by the department. People residing close to farmers protest sites said that they are getting SMSes for suspension of internet service in their area

NEW DELHI : Union Minister of Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Patel on Tuesday condemned the actions of a section of farmers who entered the Red Fort as part of their tractor rally and said it violated the symbol of dignity of India's democracy. Deviating from the designated route for the proposed tractor parade, a section of protesting farmers who were pushed back by the

police form the ITO in Central Delhi drove their tractors to Red Fort complex. The crowd swelled at the monument as some protesting farmers and 'Nihangs' (traditional Sikh warriors) were seen entering the Red Fort and hoisting a flag from the staff from which prime minister unfurls the tricolour on Independence Day. "The Red Fort is a symbol of the dignity of

our democracy. The farmers should have stayed away from it. I condemn the violation of this dignity. It is sad and unfortunate," Patel said in a tweet. Earlier, a clash broke out between police and protesting farmers after the latter reached ITO and tried to push towards Lutyen's Delhi, prompting the force to resort to lathicharge and use tear gas shells against them.

# No salary cut for govt staff: MP CM

#### PNS BHOPA

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said despite the state's economy being hit by the COVID-19 crisis, he had refused a proposal to cut salaries of government employees amid the pandemic. Addressing a Republic Day function in Rewa after hoisting the national flag, Chouhan said the state's economy had



that salaries



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh appealed to but for their children and the



The farm laws are complete-



India for sending PNS PATIALA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday to accept the farmers' demands, saying the new farm laws were "completely wrong". Singh said the elderly farmers were sitting at the bor-ders of Delhi not for themselves, future generations.



nformed that India would be sending 500,000 vaccines to Sri Lanka and they will arrive here on January 28

vax doses

Sri Lanka on Tuesday expressed appreciation and gratitude to

India for sending 500,000 doses

of coronavirus vaccine to the

island country. Prime Minister

Mahinda Rajapaksa told the

Cabinet that the Indian High

Commissioner in Colombo

PNS COLOMBO

'The Cabinet of Ministers decided to express the appreci-ation and gratitude of the Sri Lankan government in this regard," a Cabinet note said. Sri Lanka will become the eighth country to which India is gifting COVID-19 vaccines since it began its country-wide mega

immunisation programme on January 16. India has gifted vaccines to seven countries in the region under grant assistance in sync with its "Neighbourhood First" policy -- Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles, Afghanistan and Mauritius. India was so far waiting for regulatory approval from Sri

eralism since agriculture is a state subject under Schedule 7 of the Constitution," said Singh, who unfurled the national flag in Patiala at Raja Bhalindra Singh Sports Complex. He appealed to Modi to fulfil the demands of the agitating farmers, who are sitting at Delhi's borders for the past two months. He hoped that the tractor parade of the farmers passes Lankan and Afghan authorities. off as peacefully like their agita-

Punjab Chief Minister said the elderly farmers were sitting at the borders of Delhi not for themselves, but for their children and the future generations

tion has been so far "Be peaceful and the country is with you," Singh said, declaring that his heart was with the farmers amid the Republic Day celebrations. He

said that 122 MPs in UK had spoken in favour of the farmers and other countries had also supported the protests as the farmers had been peaceful all along.

Question on Padma award for Paswan leaves the JD(U) squirming

#### PNS PATNA

The JD(U) on Tuesday squirmed at suggestions that posthumous Padma Bhushan award for former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan indicated the BJPs fondness for the LJP, founded by the late leader and headed by his son Chirag who has turned renegade.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, de facto leader of the JD(U) who has known Paswan senior for many decades, had on Monday night come out with a statement expressing



delight over a number of people from Bihar, including the late leader, receiving the Padma awards. At a function organised at the JD(U) headquarters here on the occasion

of Republic Day, journalists sought reaction on Padma Bhushan for Paswan from RCP Singh, a key aide of Kumar who replaced his mentor as the partys national president last month. A former career bureaucrat, Singh sought to wriggle

out with a generic reply. "We extend our congratula-

tions to all distinguished persons who have received the civilian honours. We extend the same to family members of those on whom these have been conferred posthumously", he said.

## Indians abroad celebrate R-Day amidst COVID-19 pandemic

#### **PNS** BEIJING/SINGAPORE

The Indian diaspora in China, Singapore, Australia and several other countries on Tuesday celebrated the 72nd Republic Day in a restricted manner and watched the cultural events virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Beijing, Ambassador Vikram Misri unfurled the national flag at the Indian embassy where the celebrations were restricted to officials of the mission and their families in view of the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the Chinese capital and surrounding areas. Misri read out President Ram

Nath Kovind's address to the nation. He also released a special instrumental rendition of 'Vande Mataram' produced by Chaiti Arts Foundation.

Beijing and several cities are currently experiencing a relapse of coronavirus cases as result local governments have imposed measures to restrict public gatherings. The Indian High Commission in Islamabad in a tweet said it celebrated the Republic Day with great enthusiasm.

Charge d'Affaires Suresh Kumar unfurled the tricolour and read excerpts from the president's message. A cultural programme of patriotic songs and poems was organised.

#### **Teenager shot** dead by neighbour

#### PNS BHARATPUR

A 19-year-old woman was shot dead on Tuesday allegedly by her neighbour who was in one-sided love with her in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, polic said.

The incident occurred in Mukherjee Nagar where the victim Ánkita was watering plants on the terrace of her house. The accused Sunil, whose house is in the backside of the victim's house, jumped onto the roof of her house and shot her dead, SHO of Kotwali police station Ramkishan Yadav said.

Ankita was present in the house along with her sister while her parents, who are teachers, had gone to their respective schools when the incident took place.

'The accused is absconding and a search is on," he said, adding that the body has been handed over to family members after a postmortem.



lansed during the avirus-induced lockdown and reduced due to the financial no money was deposited in the treasury for three months.

crunch, but I refused," he said. Some arrears were stopped "In such a situation, I which will be paid as the econreceived a proposal (from offi- omy stablises, he said.

#### **INDIA CORNER**

#### Maharashtra should have got more Padma awards: Sanjay Raut

aharashtra makes a big Contribution towards the country and the world in different sectors, but the state has received "only six" Padma awards this year, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said on Tuesday. Talking to reporters here, Raut said "at least 10 to 12 persons from Maharashtra" should have



been honoured with the awards this year. The awards are given in three categories -- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. They are given for distinguished and exceptional achievements and service in different fields and disciplines such as art, literature and education, sports, medicine, social work, science and engineering, public affairs, civil service, trade and industry. The Union Home Ministry on Monday said President Ram Nath Kovind has approved conferment of 119 Padma awards -- seven Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri. Rajnikant Shroff, Sindhutai Sapkal, Girish Prabhune, Namdeo Kamble, Parshuram Gangawane and Jaswantiben Popat are the award winners from Maharashtra this year.

#### Tribal leaders object to renaming of zoo after Bal Thackeray

arious tribal organisations along with some BJP leaders staged a protest in V Nagpur on Tuesday, demanding a change in the name of an international zoological park here, which has been renamed after Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray. The Maharas htra government recently renamed the Gorewada International Zoo here as 'Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park'. Nagpur's former nayor and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes'



member Maya Iwnate, Gadchiroli BJP MLA Deorao Holi, former state tribal development minister Ashok Uike and other tribal leadersstaged a dharna at the statue of Gond (a tribal community) king Bakht Buland Shah in Civil Lines are here. They demanded that the zoological park be named as 'GondwanaGorewada International Zoological Park'. Iwnate claimed that former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had earlier assured that the zoological park, after its completion, would be named as the 'Gondwana Gorewada International Zoological Park'.

# VID-19 variant brings new dimension

#### PNS LISBON

In the first week of December, Portugal's Prime Minister gave his pandemic-weary people an early Christmas gift: restrictions on gatherings and travel due to COVID-19 would be lifted from December 23-26 so they could spend the holiday season with family and friends.

Soon after those visits, the pandemic quickly got out of hand.

By January 6, Portugal's number of new daily COVID-19 cases surged past 10,000 for the first time. In mid-January,



with alarm bells ringing as each later shut the country's schools. But it was too little, too late. day brought new records of Portugal has for almost a week infections and deaths, the government ordered a lockdown had the most daily cases and for at least a month and a week deaths per 100,000 people in

the world, according to statistics compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Outside the country's overloaded hospitals now, long lines of ambulances wait for hours to deliver their COVID-19 patients.

Portugal's problems illus-trate the risk of letting down pandemic guards when a new, fast-spreading variant is lurking unseen.

The pandemic's spread across Europe is increasingly being powered by an especially contagious virus mutation first detected last year in southeast England, health experts say. The threat is prompting governments to introduce harsh new lockdowns and curfews Viggo Andreasen, an assis-

tant professor in mathematical epidemiology at Roskilde University, west of Copenhagen, said the new variant is a game-changer. "On the surface, things may

look good but underneath, the (new) variant is looming," he told The Associated Press. 'Everyone in the business knows that there is a new game on its way.

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# **R-Day SHAME**

Are we a peace-loving country, the world's largest democracy, or are we Taliban-type warlords?

he morning of the 72nd Republic Day, which saw the sun finally peep through with some glow and warmth after dark and ominous clouds had prevented the sunshine from reaching us for days, was soon plunged into darkness of a different kind. Scenes of chaos and mayhem unfolded on the Capital's border when, marring the spirit of the august day, the protesting farmers' tractor rally turned violent as the participants broke barricades, clashed with the Delhi Police, held the streets to ransom and, the shame of it all, hoisted their flag atop the Red Fort after veering off the promised, designated route. The police later used batons to remove them from inside the fort. Outside, an army of tractors took over the Ramlila Maidan, the site where the



farmers had originally planned their protest. "We came here to deliver a message to the Modi Government; our job is done. We will go back now," a farmer said at the Red Fort, adding: "We managed to reach the Red Fort even though they tried to stop us. We will not stop until we reach our goal — the repeal of the three farm laws." A farmer from Uttarakhand died in an "accident" during the protest at ITO and the Union Home Ministry ordered internet services shut in several areas of Delhi to prevent the spread of rumours, hearsay and misleading news, with Amit Shah taking stock of the situation after the tractor parade violence. But why did the farmers' protest, which had

largely been peaceful during the past two months while tens of thousands of them camped on Delhi's borders, suddenly shatter peace and the people's trust at large? If videos from the shameful incident at the Red Fort are to be believed, a "farmer" who had slithered up a pole to hoist the flag of his union, threw down the Tricolour and reached out instead for the banner of his outfit. Now if this was not an act of hatred and malice, and that too on Republic Day, what is? If anything, these acts of wanton destruction and running amok by the growers would only alienate them and shrink the number of their sympathisers. The farmers forced their way into the Capital much ahead of the promised hour, they deviated from the routes agreed upon, they went back on their word given to the police that they would remain disciplined and peaceful and to the Government to "celebrate" the day and its spirit; now who would dare to defend these "annadatas"? The sad and shameful memories of January 26, which was roughly a repeat version of the Capitol Hill incident of January 6, will continue to haunt Indian democracy for decades to come. It would only be apt for the police, other authorities and the Government to hunt down the last of the goons masquerading as farmers and bring them to book. Hopefully, it will also wash off some of the taint the "real farmers" have been dabbed with in the unfortunate incidents, though they still remain guilty of allowing the hoodlums to infiltrate their ranks and being taken for a ride.



# Arunachal intrusions a big cause for worry



pinion 06

The Chinese troops have been intruding with impunity into India's territory across the undefined LAC and unrecognised McMahon Line

he ninth round of mil-itary commanders' dialogue last week after an unusually long gap of nearly three months - confirmed the stalemate in east Ladakh, though a new commander who has never served on the India front, Gen Zhang Xudong, was appointed last month replacing the hawkish Gen Zhao Zongqi. That tensions remain high was apparent from the wounding brawl last week between the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Indian Army in Sikkim. The latest intrusion in Arunachal Pradesh's Subansiri district was exposed last week by TV channels, not revealed by the Government, causing a flutter in the Opposition's ranks but for the Narendra Modi Government it was water off the duck's back. China is salami slicing territory along the borders in Bhutan, Nepal and India with impunity. Its most brazen successes in land grab are in east Ladakh where the nine-month-long standoff has entered the winter freeze.

Chushul councillor Kinchon Stanzin told a newspaper on January 11 that China holds military positions on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), their tents and bunkers have crept closer to Chushul village and the Chinese have been nibbling territory since 2018. This is not the first Ladakhi complaint about China's creep tactics. The same paper reported on January 25 that the Chinese are using Indian roads for trespass into Ladakh. Last November, China established Pangda village two km inside Bhutan's border close to Doklam in Chumbi valley, breaching its sovereignty, but India, though bound by a treaty with Bhutan, chose to ignore it unlike confronting the PLA at Doklam in 2017.

The latest five-km-deep infringement in Arunachal Pradesh — a full blown cluster of 120 houses with 2,000 people went unchallenged for nearly a year. Even if in disputed territory, it is flagrant violation of the existing protocols and should have been resisted by the Kolkatabased Eastern Command. But not a word was uttered until it was



detected by the US-based Planet Lab satellite imagery.

Former ally Shiv Sena has questioned the Centre on the latest intrusions in Arunachal and elsewhere, especially the land lost to China since the BJP Government came to power, and the plans to recover it. The Congress said it hopes the Government will not again give a clean chit to China. Surprisingly, the Government merely "took note of the construction along the border" and ramped up its infrastructure development projects, adding that "the area is disputed and under Chinese possession since 1959". But it does not entitle China to alter the status quo, converting a disputed area into permanent settlement in violation of border protocols. It was vital and necessary for the Government to resist the yearlong construction activity and take up the case with Beijing instead of its leaders stating uncharitably that the areas were gifted to China by Nehru. Why then has Home Minister Amit Shah pledged to retake Aksai Chin, which is under Chinese

China has issued a strong rebuttal saying the construction of a village across the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh is beyond reproach because it had never recognised Arunachal, adding: "China's position on Zangnan (south Tibet) is clear. Our development and construction activities within our own territory are normal." Global Times has said the border has not yet been demarcated. The Indian THERE ARE AROUND 24 Military Operations Directorate records show that China had attacked an Assam Rifles post **DISPUTED AREAS** in 1959 (LongJu incident) at the intrusion site. Developing the ALONG THE border areas is part of Xi Jinping's plan to populate the disputed borders to legitimise LAC/McMAHON LINE OVER WHICH claims to additional territory. SURVEILLANCE AND MILITARY

Vast stretches of the LAC in Arunachal are inaccessible while they are within easy reach of China. Chief Minister Pema Khandu has been pushing for an 1100-km highway along INTRUSIONS TOOK the LAC with what he says is the India-Tibet border. This road, when built, will allow troops to switch quickly astride the LAC but it will be a geological challenge for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

around 24 contested/disputed areas along the McMahon Line/LAC over which surveillance and military vigil has to be tightened. Intrusions took place in Kargil when patrolling and aerial surveillance over the unheld areas ceased. The Chinese have been intruding across the undefined LAC and unrecognised McMahon Line. This coercion has to be countered effectively.

Xi's aggressive land grab in disputed territory has become political football in India instead of it being addressed in strategic unison. The Government has to stop blaming Nehru and the Congress for their myopic China policy: Instead, take the blame for creating more rhetoric than usable defence capacity to deter Xi's aggression. Let there be in the Budget Session what was disallowed in the Monsoon Session — an honest debate on Chinese perfidy instead of Rajnath Singh's strategic soliloquy, "will not compromise territorial integrity" and "a befitting reply", without naming

China after losing territory. (The writer, a retired aior General was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

Residents wearing masks queue up at a popular food stall in Wuhan, China, on Tuesday

# **Dangerous order**

The Bombay HC's verdict may be against harsh punitive action but it's likely to embolden sexual predators

n a shocking verdict that will have far-reaching implications for women/child safety, their emotional well-being and the way sexual predators perceive and twist the I aw to their advantage, the Bombay High Court has ruled that there must be "skinto-skin contact with sexual intent" for an act to be considered sexual assault. So, according to the verdict that was unbelievably delivered by a woman judge, "mere groping will not fall under the definition of sexual assault". This judgment will set a dangerous precedent for defining sexual assault in the courts, and most offenders will be safe in the knowledge that as there was no "skin-to-skin contact with sexu-



al intent", they can get away with lighter punishment as it will not be deemed sexual assault. Instead, it will constitute the offence of outraging a woman's modesty under the IPC's Section 354, which carries a lighter punishment. This will be particularly detrimental in POCSO cases because minors will then be subjected to questions on whether the touch was over the clothes or under which, at the best of times, can be a traumatising question for a child who has already been subjected to sexual abuse. And the person being let off with light punishment just because it was not skin to skin, will leave the child feeling outraged and helpless. It is irrational to say that sexual assault does not take place with clothes on. Ask all the

women/girls who get groped and molested at public places.

In terms of its offensive nature, absurdity and ability to infuriate, this observation falls in the same category as victim-shaming and is downright sad as it comes from the gender which is the most common victim of such heinous assaults that have the capacity to leave the victim bruised, afraid and under-confident with major trust issues with the opposite gender. As it is, crimes against women saw a rise of 7.3 per cent in 2019 as compared to 2018. Even though experts feel that the order is an attempt to highlight the need for a second look at the way the law punishes sexual abusers, and is a verdict against harsh punitive action for sexual crimes, the fact remains that reforms cannot come at the cost of safety of the victims. Particularly for crimes that leave them scarred for life.

Nehru's time? A parliamentary resolution requiring the Government to retake all land lost to China was displayed in Udhampur's Northern Command till the mid-eighties!

possession and was lost during

AREAS CEASED Besides the multiple intrusions in east Ladakh under the Northern Command's watch, two intrusions in Eastern Command over the same period are worrying. There are

LETTERS TO T EDITOR 

#### **FARMERS OR GOONS?**

Sir — It is shameful that the tractor rally by the farmers turned violent and police had to resort to lathicharge and the use of tear gas to control the unruly farmers. The incident has spoiled India's global image and is a blot on our democracy. The farmers who were largely peaceful during the last two months should have exercised some restraint.

Not to mention that this all happened when we were celebrating our 72nd Republic Day. Chaotic scenes were witnessed at ITO, where hundreds of protesters could be seen chasing police personnel with sticks and ramming their tractors into the buses parked by the police. Farmers damaged public property. At the ITO, a bus was vandalised by the angry farmers. The farmers should have followed the Delhi Police's advice which had given permission to them to hold their tractor parade on select routes only after the official Republic Day parade on the Rajpath concluded. However, chaos ensued as the farmers were adamant on heading towards central Delhi. Such a situation was never witnessed since Independence. It is high time the Government and the farmers think in national interest rather than making this issue a war of prestige. The world is laughing at us.

Bhagwan Thadani Mumbai

#### HAIL THE SUPREME COURT

Sir — The Supreme Court's ruling that it will not interfere in the decision of the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission (APSEC) to conduct gram panchayat polls in February, came as a setback to the Andhra Pradesh Government. Andhra Pradesh had sought the halting of polls due to the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Reluctance on the part of the State Government to conduct the panchayat polls shows that all is not well under its rule. The Ministers and MLAs associated with the ruling party even resorted to using abusive words for the Election Commission officials. It all happened after

## **Gimmicks will not do**

VIGIL HAS TO BE

PLACE IN KARGIL

WHEN PATROLLING

OVER THE UNHELD

TIGHTENED.

in the boundaries of Arunachal Pradesh. The Government has recently banned 59

Chinese apps in a sweeping move that may lead to further acrimony between both the nations. It is good to ban Chinese apps but we must also be ready to deal with any possible misadventure by its troops. Indian should devise a comprehensive strategy to take on China which must include giving a body blow to the market of Chinese products in India and playing offensive rather than being defensive on the frontiers. India's territorial integrity cannot be compromised. The question remains if such stunts like renaming fruits are the answer, then we could merely give the Chinese village in Arunachal Pradesh an Indian name and solve the problem! The Government should take firm decisions rather than resorting to gimmicks like renam-

Shovanlal Chakraborty | Kolkata

the poll schedule was released by the for long been at the receiving end of its APSEC on January 11, a single-judge internecine bickering. That led to a Bench of the High Court ruled in favour gradual loss of faith and the party sufof the State Government, halting the elecfered in terms of losing one State after tion process. However, on January 21, the another in the elections held not-in-thetoo-distant past. To rub it in, several Congress stalwarts, including both the disgruntled ones and those seeking greener pastures, also defected to the ruling regime. It is time that the affairs of the grand old party are overseen by an elected and full-time president at the helm so as to put at bay further fragmentation of the Congress party. The sword of Damocles is hanging over the heads of its leaders, cadres, workers and officebearers alike. In order to survive, the Congress needs to fall back on its grassroots policy with a view to reconnecting with common men and making them aware of the party's ideology.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The Centre's several political initiatives to resolve the Naga issue could not be fructified in



due to the unrealistic intransigence of some people

> **Nagaland Governor** —RN Ravi



relations will be at the level of Government-to-Government.

#### **Afghan President** -Ashraf Ghan



fascinating and so insightful to understand the importance of women in leadership

Bollywood actor —Priyanka Chopra

The entertainment level in T10 is even higher than T20 and it's a more

compact game than T20, very short; the margin of error is a lot thinner

> West Indies' cricketer — Johnson Charles



ing to mislead the youth and the farmers.

> **Goa Chief Minister** –Pramod Sawant

High Court set aside the stay order. After that, the bewildered Andhra Pradesh Government approached the Supreme Court. The Election Commission is a constitutional body and an insult of its offi-

cials amounts to insulting the Constitution. The Supreme Court has taken the right decision and such decisions will be eye-openers for those who undermine the power and authority of constitutional bodies.

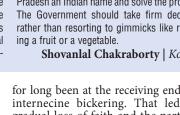
Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

**CONGRESS MUST WAKE UP** 

Sir — This refers to the article 'Wake up and smell the coffee' (January 26) by Kalvani Shankar. Frankly speaking, the grand old party having to its credit the lion's share in post-Independence governance of the country notwithstanding, has

recent move by the Gujarat Government to rename the dragon fruit as 'Kamalam' is nothing more than a gimmick and will serve no real purpose. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay

Rupani has announced that the name dragon fruit is associated with China which necessitated the change of name after our national flower, the lotus. It is high time that India decisively acts against China for transgressing the International Border and developing a full-fledged village with-







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# **FIRSTCOLUMN BIG HOPES OF SMALL INVESTORS**

The pandemic has left people in a state of uncertainty. Hopes are now glued to the forthcoming Union Budget



HIMA BINDU KOTA

he COVID-19 pandemic left small investors in a state of uncertainty as there were major job and business losses, salary cuts and, above all, loss of lives and health. Although the steady rise of the stock markets this month gave some respite and hope to people, 2020 was mostly a tough year and hopes are now pinned on the forthcoming Union Budget on February 1. After an insipid annual financial statement last year, the nation is now looking to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to spread some cheer.

For common people, Income-Tax (I-T) relief is an important aspect. Although relief in I-T slabs would be a welcome move, it is highly unlikely this time as the Government is stretched to the limit due to the expenses it has incurred in fighting the virus and also due to the vaccination drive. It would be a great respite for small investors if the overall deductions under Section 80C could be increased from the current levels of ₹1.5 lakh to somewhere between ₹2.5-₹3 lakh. Senior citizens have been the worst affected by the contagion and to give some respite to senior citizens, tax relief could be increased from the current ₹3-₹5 lakh to merge with the I-T exemption limit of super senior citizens.

Further, the interest accrued on the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS) is taxable. A full rebate on this interest could turn out to be a boon for the elderly. The possibility of increasing the exemption limit under Section 80TTB, that is, the interest on income from various deposits of senior citizens like savings bank accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposit accounts, should be addressed, with limits increasing from the current levels of ₹50,000 to at least ₹1,00,000.



A lot of people, who lost their jobs during the last year, were from the lower income category, particularly women. The Government had extended the moratorium period for companies for filing Goods and Services Tax (GST) returns. If this facility could be extended to non-living entities like companies, similar measures should be extended to people, particularly women in the low income category. The I-T exemption limit can be increased marginally for women from ₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh. Also, for women who fall in the income category of ₹3-₹10 lakh, a moratorium period can be extended till they find stability in their jobs, to pay taxes. Newer saving schemes and bonds with unique features are also the need of the hour. Although the stock markets gave strong returns last year, not all micro investors can understand equity markets. Therefore, there is a need to deepen the debt markets in India to channelise long-term savings of micro investors in the bond market. There is a need to develop the Debt-Linked Savings Scheme (DLSS) similar to the Equity-Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS). DLSS can in turn invest in debt instruments permissible under SEBI regulations. This Budget should also provide I-T deductions for investments in DLSS up to a limit of ₹1.5 lakh. This would encourage small investors, who are wary of equity markets, to participate in debt markets and take advantage of tax exemptions. The ELSS was introduced in 1992 to encourage equity investments in India. Similar efforts to boost debt markets will go a long way in deepening the bond markets in India. Infrastructure bonds should also be the flavour of this Budget to provide additional tax breaks to small investors. The introduction of newer saving schemes and bonds will have the twin advantages of providing small investors an avenue for saving while mobilising funds for the Government to direct into several development projects.

# Democracy prevails but it can rot fast



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

Thanks to technologies of the 21st century, the mind of a voter is hackable. And that has led to demagogy entering the system through the back door, unnoticed

The shining city on the hill, Capitol Hill to be exact, fell on January 6. It was a sad day not only for America but also for many countries that borrowed the concept of democracy from it. A peaceful transfer of power is at the root of democ-racy and if an outgoing leader does not respect conventions, then it is time to ponder, is democracy at stake or was former US President Donald Trump's behaviour an aberration?

Aristotle thought of aristocracy, monarchy, and oligarchy as better forms of Government. They, over a period of time degenerate and democracy results. Political cycles come and go; it is your luck which one you witness. The moot question then, is the decay inevitable or avoidable? If yes, who checks this decay and how? What needs to be done so that people choose the right person and base their decision on merit and not on falsehood?

Across the world, on the Capitol Hill, in the Himalayan foothills of Nepal and the Raisina Hill, democracy is under attack like never before.

Modern democracy became the flavour of the day in the 20th century. Many nations that had noth-ing to do with it, prefixed or suffixed "republic" or "democratic" to join the club. So you have the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for instance. Many countries gave democracy a chance, batting on the collective wisdom of the people. But come the 21st century and that notion lies flat on its face. The collective wisdom got Vladimir Putin for Russia and Trump for America, with the danger of his return looming large in 2024. Democracy is finding the going tough even in small countries like Nepal, where the Prime Minister dissolved Parliament to save his chair. So, is democracy finding it hard to cope with the changing realities of the 21st century? And are we confusing demagogy with democracy?

A Pew Research Centre survey for democracies around the world shows people's disenchantment with their democratic system. People across 27 nations surveyed by Pew in 2018 were more dissatisfied than satisfied with the way democracy was working in their country. This included the US, the UK and Japan.

It doesn't stop there, the dissatisfaction is increasing with each passing year. As per the Pew survey, between 2017 and 2018, dissatisfaction with democracy grew in 14 of the 27 countries surveyed, 10 showed no change whereas only three countries' satisfaction with democracy increased. India topped the chart where dissatisfaction increased by 22 per cent.

The reason for this disenchantment is that democracies are not delivering what they ought to. Development is not on the menu, slogans are. Insensitivity to people's woes, corruption and a blurry vision is leading to sloppy performance by the so-called democratic governments. The paradox is that these leaders have a mass base and a committed cadre to fall back upon. A true "Cult Demagogue", if you want to call it that! So, why are people around the world favouring undemocratic leaders? What leads to anti-poor, pro-capitalists leaders gaining ground? How come Trump made it to the White House in 2016 while well-meaning Hillary was dumped by the people? And Putin is so popular in Russia that people sing the song "A man like Putin" in his praise. The loopholes in a democratic system have always been there. Now it is even easier, faster, effective and cheaper to exploit them. Thanks to technologies of the 21st century, the mind of a voter is hackable. And that has led to demagogy entering the system through the back door, unnoticed. Modern technology has made it easier to sway opinions. It is not by chance that political parties spend a huge amount of money on taming social media



and on its analytics.

At the moment it is the (mis)use of social media that is being used to manipulate the masses. Earlier a leader had to say something to be heard. Today he just has to drop a hint on Twitter and the Twitter warriors do the rest for him. The message is loud and clear, and in the language the people understand best. It is garnished with fake references and laced with eloquence. A hackathon is taking place right there.

Before the canards and lies on social media are detected they have already reached their target audience and have been read by millions. The Washington Post kept track of the lies Trump spoke while in office. It clocked 20,000+ lies that Trump spoke in his four-year tenure. That is more than 12 lies a day!

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may not be so ubiquitous today but soon it will be. And that will only make matters worse. Campaigns are being designed to target the gullible and political novices. The mass media, the fourth pillar that could impart the right information, has already broken into two parts By and

faster than complex issues. To "build a wall" or "make America great again" resonates with Americans rather than the intellect of Hillary Clinton. As does the "back to glorious old days of Russia" or the "back to Hindutva" rant back home. Modern societies have grown so complex that they are beyond the comprehension of a common educated man, let alone a semi-literate per-son. So Putin's "Strong President -Strong Russia" slogan works with an average Russian. With his limited political acumen he thinks a strong leader would deal with the wrongdoers. But at the end of the day he has bolstered a wrongdoer and weakened his own position. "Building a wall" as a simple solution to the American problem of unemployment and crime sells. Catchy phrases seldom bring tangible results and that is why people's lives become more and

more miserable. So what are the lessons for the world's biggest democracy from the world's oldest democracy? There

can be many takeaways from the time

Trump campaigned for the presiden-cy to the time when he said goodbye

at the Andrews Airport. Democracies

are fragile and sensitive ecosystems

that can be easily tampered with and

manipulated. Democracy can easily

degenerate into demagogy and no

one would even notice. The abnor-

mal quickly becomes the new nor-

mal. People, like a frog, would boil

to death before realising that the tem-

their institutions are strong, ours are

not. Even the Trump-appointed

judges did not back him, not to men-

tion the ultimate betrayal by Mike

Pence. If that had not happened, the

story would have been different. That

said, Trump's supporters who fed on

his 20,000-odd lies remain and

The US democracy prevails as

perature has risen.

would not mind fomenting trouble again. That is the biggest danger. Demagogy. It is back with a bang in our times wearing a shining armour of technology that can dazzle and

demean at the same time. President Trump was playing golf and games when Joe Biden was declared the winner. Giving conventions and courtesy a miss, Trump did not congratulate his opponent or give a concession speech. It takes time to build institutions, democratic institutions

India's tryst with democracy is yet to celebrate its diamond jubilee. Democracy, like cricket, is a game of glorious uncertainty. A wrong move here can ruin your chances of survival. Let's hope that doesn't happen in this country which is going to have a new Parliament soon. We certainly need new framework for a functioning democratic set-up built in infallible stones.

Today democracy is not what it used to be: Pluralism not majoritarianism defined it, inclusive not exclusive, and certainly not insensible. There is a stark departure from the good old days that needs to be restored. It needs rebooting. This needs to be done wholesale. It needs to be done by the people themselves through the technology that is hacking their mind, a kind of reverse engineering. Ultimately it is going to be human intelligence vs AI. Let's bet on human intelligence. Check the background of the people who win the mandate and examine their criminal records. See their balance sheets, read their statements and hear their lies and ability, and marvel at their talent to spread lies. Democracy is undergoing a metamorphosis for sure. Hold it right there. Democracy is far from over. It prevails. Damn demagogy!

ULTIMATELY IT IS GOING TO BE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE VS AI. LET'S BET ON HUMAN INTELLIGENCE. CHECK THE BACKGROUND OF THE PEOPLE WHO WIN THE

MANDATE AND **EXAMINE THEIR** CRIMINAL RECORDS. SEE THEIR BALANCE SHEETS, READ THEIR STATEMENTS AND HEAR THEIR LIES AND ABILITY, AND

DEMOCRACY IS FAR FROM OVER. IT PREVAILS. DAMN DEMAGOGY

The writer is a columnist

and documentary

film-maker. The views

expressed are personal.

FAMILY IN POLITICS.

**ABHISHEK BANERJEE** 

—TMC MP

MARVEL AT THEIR

TALENT TO

SPREAD LIES.

DEMOCRACY IS UNDERGOING A

METAMORPHOSIS

FOR SURE. HOLD

IT RIGHT THERE.

large, it doesn't support the people, it supports the powers that be. In the US and in India it is divided and in Russia it doesn't exist. The media is doing everything, hunting ghosts in

> telling the truth. When the voter thinks he is going to exercise his will, he is sadly mistaken. It is the propaganda at the back of his mind which is making a choice for him. No wonder the Right-wing ideologies across the world are so in. You like it or not they are catchy, appeal to the simple mind, and give your ego a boost, an identity to live and die for. The reason is that the simple masses understand and respond to simpler ideas,

> old forts, tracking Baghdadi but

### COUNTERPOINT



THE CORRUPT NEPHEW HAS INDULGED IN COAL AND SAND SCAM AND SMUGGLING OF COWS, ₹36 LAKH IS DEPOSITED IN A BANK IN THAILAND PER MONTH. **—BJP LEADER SUVENDU ADHIKARI** 

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

# Implementation of new CSR rules is key

The Govt should go beyond making amendments and verify that schemes are yielding results in line with the legislative intent

THOSE WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FAMILY

SYSTEM HAVE FIVE MEMBERS EACH OF THEIR

→ he concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was first inserted in the statute books by the Companies Act, 2013, in which Section 135 mandated a certain class of companies to spend two per cent of their average net profit on social causes. In 2014, India became the first country to legally mandate CSR and this issue was highly debated. There were arguments that a firm already pays taxes on its taxable income, therefore, these provisions were in the nature of additional levy. It was also argued that corporates are already engaged in social activity by way of creating jobs and assisting in economic progress, there-



SHSHANK SAURAV

The writer is a Chartered

Accountant and public

policy analyst. The views

expressed are personal.

The Government notified the new CSR rules on January 22 and these are going to have major implications. Earlier, if a company failed to spend money on CSR activities, then it was only required to disclose this in its annual report. Now, corporates will be required to deposit the unspent amount in the fund specified by the Government. Apart from this,

participate in social uplift.

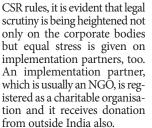
fore, social welfare being the Government's job should not be Undertaken only through entishouldered by them. However, ties which are registered under the Income Tax Act and with there is another view that since the Ministry of Corporate businesses take resources from society and they have to deal Affairs. This change will bring with society for exchanging programme implementing their goods/services, they must agencies under scrutiny also.

Also, as per Rule 8(3), certain companies will have to submit impact assessment reports of their CSR projects. This is expected to bring transparency into the process because several instances have been reported in the past where executing agencies were used to either channelise funds for illegal activities or money was routed through the banking channel only to meet the regulatory



requirements on paper. Even though there is no hard law in the West which enforces mandatory CSR spend but firms are already invested big in this area because society there is more mature and their customers are conscious about the public image of the entity.

If a closer look is taken at the recent changes in Indian



The Government started tightening the noose on NGOs from 2010 when the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), repealed the erstwhile Contribution Foreign Regulation Act, 1976, and subsequent amendments to it were made by the Modi Government.

In the last few years, the Home Ministry cancelled the

FCRA licences of various NGOs which were non-compliant with the laws related to foreign donation and in some cases, though the licences were not cancelled outright but their ability to receive funds was curbed severely as the CSR route was allegedly used by various NGOs to carry out their operations which were allegedly not in compliance with the law.

NGOs must adhere to the laws of the land and the changes made in CSR rules are a welcome step. The Government officials should go beyond merely making amendments and verify that CSR schemes are yielding results in line with the legislative intent.

FORTA

#### RUSSIANS PROTEST AGAINST PUTINISM

Alexei Navalny has again exposed the squalid truth about President Putin's faltering regime. Putin, as is his wont in moments of crisis, was nowhere to be seen. Perhaps he was hiding in his COVID bunker or in his secret Black Sea palace. But he could not avoid hearing the people's message: Free Navalny, free Russia, end Putinism. (*The Observer* editorial)



# Money 08

# 'India's GDP to contract 8% in FY21'

#### PNS NEW DELHI

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by 8 per cent in 2020-21, according to the latest round of FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey.

The annual median growth forecast by the industry body is based on responses from leading economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector. The survey was conducted in January.

The median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activ-ities has been pegged at 3.5 per cent for 2020-21. "Agriculture sector has

exhibited significant resilience in the face of the pandemic. Higher rabi acreage, good monsoons, higher reservoir levels and strong growth in tractor sales indicate continued buoyancy in the sector," Ficci stated on the survey findings.

However, industry and sersome of the contact intensive vices sector, which were most service sectors like tourism,



hospitality, entertainment, eduseverely hit due to the pandemic induced economic fallout, cation, and health sector are yet are expected to contract by 10 to see normalcy. per cent and 9.2 per cent

"The quarterly median forecasts indicate GDP growth to contract by 1.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2020-21. The growth is expected to be in the positive terrain by the fourth quarter with a projection of 0.5 per cent growth," estimates the survey. Further, on the estimates of

other macro parameters, the survey participants put the median growth forecast for IIP at (-) 10.7 per cent for the

year 2020-21, with a minimum and maximum range of (-) 12.5 per cent and (-) 9.5 per cent respectively.

WPI-based inflation rate is projected to be flat in 2020-21. On the other hand, CPI-based inflation has a median forecast of 6.5 per cent for 2020-21, with a minimum and maximum range of 5.8 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively, the survey revealed.

On the fiscal front, a slippage is imminent this year and the median estimate for fiscal deficit to GDP ratio was put at 7.4 per cent for 2020-21 by the participants with a minimum and maximum range of 7 per cent and 8.5 per cent respec-tively. Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 was budgeted at 3.5 per cent. However, participants of the survey expect the economy to

perform much better and have projected a median GDP growth rate of 9.6 per cent for the financial year 2021-22. The strong rebound in

growth will be supported by a

favourable base as economic activity normalizes post the sharp pandemic led contraction. The minimum and maximum growth was forecast at 7.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent

respectively. "However, a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases and the appearance of new strains can be a deterrent to the improving growth conditions. It is therefore important that preventive measures continue

to be in place," Ficci said. A good vaccine coverage without many cases of adverse reporting will be a pre-requisite for the normalization process, it added. However, economists participating in the survey were deeply con-cerned about the global liquidity situation which, at present, is significantly in surplus and is finding ways to enter asset markets. The participants called upon global central banks to remain watchful of the situation and not allow overheating of markets.

# Govt may hike agri credit target to about Rs 19 lakh cr in Budget

#### PNS NEW DELHI

With the aim of doubling farmers' income by 2022, the government is likely to raise farm credit target to about Rs 19 lakh crore in Budget 2021-22 to be presented on February 1, according to sources. For the current fiscal, the

government has set a farm credit target of Rs 15 lakh crore.

The government has been increasing the credit target for the farm sector every year and this time too, the target is likely to be increased to around Rs 19 lakh crore for the 2021-22, sources said.

"Non-banking finance com-panies (NBFCs) and co-operatives are active in the agriculcrore target set for that year, they added. Similarly, crop ture credit space. The Nabard refinance scheme will be further expanded. Agriculture credit target for the year 2020-21 has been set up at Rs 15 lakh crore," Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman had said crore. Credit is a critical input while announcing the Budget in achieving higher farm out-2020-21. The agricultural credput. Institutional credit will it flow has increased consisalso help delink farmers from non-institutional sources tently over the years, exceedwhere they are compelled to borrow at usurious rates of ing the target set for each fiscal. For instance, credit worth Rs 11.68 lakh crore was given interest, the sources said. to farmers in 2017-18, much

Normally, farm loans attract an interest rate of 9 per cent. However, the government has been providing interest subvention to make available short-term farm credit at an affordable rate and help boost farm output.

### Enhanced trade partnership first step towards UK-India FTA

respectively during 2020-21.

The industrial recovery is gaining traction, but the

growth is still not broad based.

The consumption activity did

spur during the festive season

as a result of pent-up demand

built during the lockdown but

sustaining it is important going

Besides, it observed that

ahead, the survey said.

Britain and India are committed to an enhanced trade partnership as the first step towards a positive free trade agreement in future and plans are expected to be further formalised during the visit of Prime Minister Boris Johnson to India in the coming months, the UK's Minister for South

Asia has said. Lord Tariq Ahmad, who is also Minister for the Commonwealth in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), said the strong relationship between the two countries has been further intensified with the vaccine collaboration to help fight the common enemy in the form of COVID-19.

"We have been undertaking steps to remove barriers to trade and the hope is that an Enhanced Trade Partnership will lead to a positive free trade agreement (FTA) with India in future," said Ahmad, in an



interaction to mark India's 72nd Republic Day celebrations on Tuesday.

'The ultimate goal is an FTA and the first steps in that direction are expected to form part of the initiatives that will be unveiled when the Prime Minister (Boris Johnson) visits India later this year," he said.

The minister indicated that many practical steps in the shape of business-to-business relations, which fully utilise the "under-leveraged" Indian diaspora in the UK, are also in the

'Environmental, social

metrics shouldn't be

box-ticking exercise'

works. Alongside, a "real professional partnership" that takes on board the mobility of skilled professionals and stu-

dents between the two countries will be at the heart of a further strengthened bilateral relationship for a post-Brexit Global Britain.

"India, as the pharmacy of the world, is a key composite to both our countries' commitment to the equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines around the world, through the COVAX facility?

GMV by March

Softbank backed Grofers

expects to achieve Rs 10,000

crore in gross merchandise

value (GMV) by March

supported by a traction of

around 50 lakh customers

during its ongoing sale, a

top company official said.

PNS NEW DELHI

# Janet becomes US' first woman treasury secy

#### **PNS** WASHINGTON

Eminent economist Janet Yellen has been confirmed by the US Senate as the first-ever woman treasury secretary of the country, to spearhead the new Biden administration's response to revive the econo-my battered by the coron-avirus pandemic.

Yellen, a former chair of the Federal Reserve, was over-whelmingly backed by the Senate on a 84-15 bipartisan vote on Monday, becoming the third member of Joe Biden's Cabinet to win confirmation since he was sworn in as the 46th US President on January 20.

Yellen, 74, who headed the US central bank from 2014 to 2018, earlier won bipartisan support from members of the Senate Finance Committee. Her confirmation comes

232 years after Alexander Hamilton took office as the



nation's first Treasury secre-

guiding the Biden administration's economic response to the raging pandemic. The US, the world's largest economy, is struggling to rebound economically from the hit caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

ed country from the virus. It has killed more than 420,000 people in the last one year. The country also has over 25,293,000 confirmed cases.

styled Indian overseas assets seizure to collect Cairn award PNS NEW DELHI Just like US oil firm ConocoPhillips grabbed

'ConocoPhillips-

Venezuelan assets overseas to enforce an arbitration award, Indian bank accounts, airplanes and other foreign properties can be seized to collect USD 1.4 billion awarded to UK's Cairn Energy against Indian retro

tax, according to a letter. Cairn CEO Simon Thomson in the January 22 letter to Indian High Commissioner in London, with copies marked to Prime Minister's Office, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the arbitration award is "final and binding" and "the Government of India has an obligation to comply with its terms.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

higher than the Rs 10 lakh

loans worth Rs 10.66 lakh

crore were disbursed in the

2016-17 fiscal, higher than

the credit target of Rs 9 lakh

**Overseas investment by Indian** cos dips 42 pc to \$1.45 billion

verseas investment by domestic firms fell by over 42 per cent to USD 1.45 billion in December 2020, according to Reserve Bank data In the year-ago period, companies in India had invested USD 2.51 billion in their foreign firms (joint ventures / whollyowned units). In November



2020, the total outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) was of USD 1.06 billion, down by 27 per cent from a month ago period. Of the total FDI investment by the Indian companies during the month under review, USD 775.41 million was in the form of equity infusion and USD 382.91 million was in the form of loan. Investment of USD 287.63 million was in the form of issuance of guarantee, as per the data. Among major investors, ONGC Videsh Ltd invested a total of USD 131.85 million in joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries in Myanmar, Russia, Vietnam, Colombia, British Virgin Islands among others.

#### **Inox Leisure commences ops at** new multiplex in Maharashtra

ultiplex operator Inox Leisure on Tuesua has commenced Leisure on Tuesday said it commercial operations at a multiplex at Thane, in Maharashtra, taking its total cour to 151. The company has commenced commercial operations of cinema... in Thane



(West) with effect from January 26, 2021, Inox Leisure Ltd said in a regulatory filing. The said cinema has 4 screens and 240 seats. Inox is now present in 69 cities with 151 multiplexes, 641 screens and a

Grofers expects GAIL plans to launch pipeline to achieve Rs InvIT before Co split 10,000 cr in

tary. She will be responsible for

# The US is the worst-affect-

#### PNS NEW DELHI/DAVOS

Industry leader Anand Mahindra on Tuesday said the biggest growth opportunities for businesses come from serving the bottom of the pyramid and following ESG (Environmental, social and governance) metrics should not be merely a box-ticking exercise

Speaking at a panel discus-sion on 'Implementing Stakeholder Capitalism' at the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda Summit, he said it is in the interest of everyone to grow businesses sustainably.

"As a businessman, it benefits to create a business that promotes the economic prospects of as many people as possible. Businesses need to find a purpose that is tran-scending," the Mahindra Group chairman said.

"The biggest growth opportunity for companies comes from serving the bottom of the



seeing ESG as a trade-off -- it's not a box-ticking exercise. It is how we serve the needs of a rising population," Mahindra added.

The WEF's International Business Council has proposed a set of universal ESG metrics to allow companies in all industries and geographies to measure and report performance.

In the same panel discus-sion, WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab said he believes that

2021 will be a historical year in changing the philosophy of business.



The company claims to have witnessed around 3 to pyramid. We need to stop 4 times increase in sales during its ongoing Grand Orange Bag Days (GOBD)

sale. "We are on road to double our GMV every year and are aiming to hit Rs 10,000 crore in GMV by financial year 2021, Grofers founder Saurabh Kumar told PTI. GMV is the total value of

merchandise sold over a period. Grofers is expecting its GMV to touch around Rs 30,000 crore by 2022.

The company is focussing on private label products to drive overall sales growth.

State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd plans to launch an InvIT of its two gas pipelines between Dahej and Bengaluru ahead of a proposed splitting of the pipeline business from the gas marketing function, sources said.

The nation's top gas marketing and transportation firm plans to monetise Dahej-Uran-Panvel-Dabhol pipeline and Dabhol-Bengaluru pipeline by setting up an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. InvITs are like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual / institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return. GAIL will retain majority stake in the pipelines that run from Dahej in Gujarat to Dabhol in Maharashtra and from there to Bengaluru in Karnataka. The InvIT may involve selling 10-



20 per cent stake initially, the sources said.

GAIL owns and operates a natural gas pipeline network that spans 12,502 kilometers, mostly in the western, southern and northern part of the country. It is building more pipelines in eastern part of the country. The sources said InvITs are new infrastructure financing model and GAIL is keen to use them.

The two pipelines proposed for InvIT had incurred over Rs 3,000 crore spending.

The move comes ahead of a planned spin-off of GAIL's pipeline business into a 100 per cent subsidiary.

GAIL is India's biggest natural gas marketing and trading firm and owns more than 70 per cent of the country's 16,981-km pipeline network, giving it a stranglehold on the market.

Users of natural gas have often complained about not "fairly" getting access to GAIL's 12,160-km pipeline network to transport their fuel.

total seating capacity of 1,46,320 seats across India, the company added. Earlier this month, Inox Leisure opened two new multiplexes in Gurugram with four screens each, and one at Salem (Tamil Nadu) with 3 screens. Currently, multiplexes and cinema halls are operating under half of their sitting capacity in accordance with the Unlock 5 guidelines issued by the government following COVID-19. Multiplexes and cinema halls were closed for almost seven months and opened in October last year.

#### Vaccine nationalism dangerous for world: Ramaphosa

arning against dangers of 'vaccine W nationalism, South Antonio President Cyril Ramaphosa on nationalism', South African Tuesday said everyone cannot be safe if some countries vaccinate their people and others are not able to do so. Speaking at the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda Summit, he said, "The challenges we face were not created by the virus, they were created by us." The South African President said poverty, destruction of environment and conflict are "all the results



of our own action, and -- too often -- our inaction." Extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in decades and the world is at a crossroads, he added. He called for forging a new path, saying the task is not to return the world to where it was when the pandemic struck. Climate solutions and climate adaptation are a key focus for Africa, a continent that is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing less to the problem than countries in the developed world.

#### **BookBaggage launches** app-based delivery service

uggage delivery service provider BookBaggage on Tuesday announced the laun of its app-based service in collaboration with the Indian Railways, that aims to offer safe transit of luggage and parcel. BookBaggage already offers baggage delivery services for



airline passengers and has now extended it to Railways passengers, the company said in a statement. The company has simultaneously launched app-based end-to-end parcel services for customers wanting to send parcels by train, it added. "We are thrilled to introduce our new app for Railway passengers. We as a brand are dedicated towards providing the best services to our customers and making their travel hassle-free. "With tracking of the luggage available at your fingertips throughout, all you have to do is remove all your worries regarding the safe transit of your luggage or parcel. We are excited to work with Indian Railways to bring these hi-tech luggage delivery services to their customers," BookBaggage.com Co-Founder and CEO Chanchal Ghosh said.

# JSIBC wants Biden Admin to boost Indo-US ties

#### PNS WASHINGTON

The US-India Business Council on Tuesday recommended a slew of big ideas to the new Biden Administration to strengthen the India-US partnership, including reconstituting the existing US-India Trade and Commercial dialogue and creating a new digital partnership under the headship of Vice President Kamala Harris.

US India Business Council (USIBC), on the occasion of India's 72nd Republic Day, also recommended to the Biden Administration to restructure the US-India Strategic Energy Dialogue to include Climate and Sustainable Growth and create US-India Scholars Endowment to support higher education exchanges.

The ideas also include



existing US-India Trade and view that the natural partner-Commercial Dialogues into a ship between the two nations single US-India Strategic Trade can be leveraged to strengthen Dialogue, creating a new US-India Global Digital Partnership to be headed by both countries' economic recoveries and create a foundation for economic growth and Vice President Harris and restructuring the US-India job creation in the years ahead, it said. USIBC president Nisha Health Dialogue to expand Desai Biswal said: "As leaders around the globe reconsider the mandate and include private sector participation, their approach to global trade according to the USIBC. and investment, both the US and India can and should do

The recommendations reimagining and reconstitute reflect USIBC's long standing more to achieve the shared goal

of USD 500 billion in two-way trade".

USIBC said it stands ready to support the Biden administration on work to develop the economic policies that will transform the two economies and create millions of highquality jobs at home and abroad

The US and India share a common set of values, robust democratic systems, and cultures of entrepreneurship, as well as long standing peopleto-people ties that make the two countries natural partners, it said.

India-US commercial relationship has seen fast-paced growth over the past decade, with bilateral goods and services trade growing 12.6 per cent in 2019 to reach USD 146.1 billion. Still, the relationship holds significant untapped potential

can unlock upwards of USD 150 billion in new trade over the next four years, as resolution of regulatory issues for both US and Indian companies opens the door for more

Business-friendly policies

said. In its submission, the USIBC recommended that the new USISTD be co-chaired by the US Secretary of Commerce, the US Secretary of State, and the US Trade Representative, who

would invite the Government of India to name similar counterparts. The USISTD should focus

on reducing trade impediments to strengthen the strategic relationship and support a goal of USD 500 billion in twoway trade by 2024.

For the USISTD to succeed, both governments must build a comprehensive "wish list" of

industry, it said. The USIBC has also recommended the two sides set up an expert group consisting of

senior officials, industry representatives and academic thought leaders to build a document for discussion under the

core issues of importance to

The USIBC, in collaboration with an India-based counterpart, can partner with the US and Indian governments to launch this expert group, it said. Proposing the creation of a USIGDP to facilitate discussions between critical stakeholders across government and industry, USIBC said that following the model of the National Space Council, the USIGDP should be headed by Vice President Harris, who would delegate critical elements of the discussion to rel-

evant departments or agencies.

expansive growth, the USIBC USISTD.

# Hyderabad **'Ditch crash diets**, stick to a routine'

Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

> Wednesday January 27, 2021



# Say no to flaky skin

ith a rise in the humidity and tempera-ture, our skin tends to get oily or dry,

and if it is not moisturised or taken care of, it can lead to flaky skin or breakouts. Following a good skin care routine, especially a nightlong moisturisation routine and using products infused with natural ingredients like Cocoa Butter and Wheat Germ Oil, can be beneficial in achieving nourished and hydrated skin. Additionally, for cracked lips, one can look for a lip

balm with the goodness of herbs like Sweet Indrajao, and Carrot Seed Oil, as these ingredients help protect and nourish your lips.

Below are a few tips for good skin care by Dr Sushrutha CK Ayurveda Expert, Research & Development, The Himalaya Drug Company

#### Moisturise at night

As much as moisturising skin right after a shower is necessary, moisturising before going to bed can help in waking up to healthy and rejuvenated skin. When looking for a moisturiser, opt for one with ingredients such as Cocoa Butter and Wheat

Following a good skin care routine, especially a nightlong moisturisation one is a must, says Dr Sushrutha CK

hiding them under our masks can do more harm than we know. For smooth and supple lips, it is essential to use a good lip balm. The best way to choose the right lip balm is to look for one infused with goodness of herbs and oils like Sweet Indrajao, Carrot Seed Oil, or Cocoa Butter, and Sal Butter. These ingredients are known to intensely moisturise lips to keep them soft and supple.

#### **Remember to stay** hydrated

Keeping yourself hydrated is extremely important. Drinking 8-2 glasses of water every day can help nourish and hydrate your skin as well.

Seasonal fruits

Born in Chandigarh and having travelled the world with his father, Raaj Singh Arora has dabbled in television, films and OTT. Best known for playing the love interest of Sakshi Tanwar in the web series Karrle Tu Bhi *Mohabbat*, Raaj made a mark with films like *W*, *The Great* Indian Escape, and the Telugu hit-maker Sahasam. The actor, who was recently seen in the Sanjay Dutt-starrer Torbaaz, speaks to K RAMYA SREE about the film, his fitness routine, and



Netflix. The film, which is set in war-torn Afghanistan revolves around what happens when an Army doctor tries to transform the lives of children through cricket.

The actor essays the character of a cricket coach in the Sanjay Dutt-starrer. The actor has also worked on a couple of films in Tollywood. Speaking about what he likes here, he says, "One thing I love about the south industry is, they are very organised. They know exactly what they are shooting. People here have things planned well in advance. All the people I worked with here are most worked with here are most passionate about art, unlike Bollywood, which is all about glamour. If Tollywood makers like the story, they will leave no stone unturned in making a particular scene realistic. They work better

more... than Bollywood. Every char-

acter has got its own impor-tance and it's done with due intelligence." Raaj has done films where he played an out and out grey shade, at the same time, donned the role of an Army personnel, and many more. "So far, performance-wise, my most favourite role I essayed was in W. I had worked a lot on myself. I felt

elated and satisfied after playing a living legend in *The Great Indian Escape*." With releases lined up in

theatres and on OTT platforms, what difference does he find between the both?



Raaj tells us, "OTT is the comfort zone of the audience. People make an effort to go to the cinema, but OTT is readily available to people just by a click. OTT might engulf television, but it can never engulf cinema, it is no competition to cinema."

meat and I'm a Punjabi, so I drink as well. All I do is con-Raaj is known not just for his acting skills, but for the trol my portions. I never over-indulge. I'm not a chiseled physique he main-tains. That could probably be chocolate or a continental

kind of a guy. I'm a 'desi' guy. I have all the rich food the run.

He says he likes to keep everything simple. He is Indian culture boasts of, but in the right portions." Raaj is somebody who claims he can also not a gym freak. He is finish his work on just one more into running and floor mat. Extending tips to people who want to begin their fitexercises. When he feels low, ness journey, he says, "We Indians already have a balall that he does is wear his running shoes, and go for a

anced diet on our platter. It's just that we have to stop over eating. We all have different body types, you need to figure out what suits you the best. Don't go for crash diets. If you want to have a long, healthy life, make a routine and stick to it."

Germ Oil. Cocoa Butter is known to retain skin's moisture and nourish it as well as making it supple, while Wheat Germ Oil, a rich source of Vitamin E, helps protect skin from drying. **Protect your lips** 

Pollution can leave our lips dry and chapped and

made more than 20,000

handloom products available to millions of customers. "We have been engaging with cooperatives (like

Khadi Nation). Consumers

from cities as far as Port

Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Kullu

(Himachal Pradesh),

Chhatarpur (Madhya

Guwahati (Assam) and

Pradesh) are shopping for products such as Ilkal saris.

There is still plenty of poten-tials that can be unlocked

from artisans and craftsmen across the country," said an

Amazon spokesperson. Flipkart's art house or social

Online selling platforms

proved to be a lifeboat for

traditional artisans during

weavers with a platform to showcase their handiwork,

these platforms have extend-ed their support to those suffering from lack of resources. They are collabo-

rating with artisans, promot-ing their products and help-

ing them improve their

made their way in every

nook and corner of the

brand visibility and reach.

With e-commerce, they have

country, meeting buyers who

appreciate and value their

the lockdown months.

Besides providing local

marketplace GoCoop has

been beneficial for local

craftsmen and weavers.

Veggies and fruit found during the season not only taste good but also contain ingredients that suit the body's need during that time of the year. Additionally, consuming food rich in Omega 3, Vitamin A, C, and E can be useful in having moisturised and healthy skin.

# Regain the lost glory



try, represent its rich cultural heritage. Handloom products, from Pashmina Shawls of Jammu and Kashmir, Ikat of Odisha, Kanchipuram Saris of Tamil Nadu, Lucknow's Chikan and Zardozi to Assam's Eri and golden Muga Silks, have been preserving the colour-ful and vibrant culture for over 2000 years.

M N Upadhyay in his book *Handicrafts of India* wrote the most fitting description of Indian handmade craft and textile: "To write about Indian handicrafts is almost like writing about the country itself. So vast, complex, colourful yet simple and charm, difficult to attain under comparable conditions."

The social and economic importance Indian hand-

loom industry is enormous as well. It creates 95 per cent of the world's handmade textiles, making a hefty contribution to the economy. It also remains the second-

largest employment provider for the rural population after agriculture. According to the

Handloom Export Promotion Council, a statutory body constituted under the Ministry of Textiles. about 4.3 million people directly derive their livelihood from the handloom industry.

Despite its cultural, social, and economic significance, handlooms have been on a decline. In the last few decades, economic liberalisation, globalisation, rapidly increasing industrialisation have affected the handloom and handicrafts industry. There's is a substantial difference between the time consumed in the production of cloth by the handloom industry and the powerloom

industry. It takes months to design and weave a beautiful Chanderi silk sari while machine-made saris are weaved within days. Thus, cheaper powerloom prod-ucts dominate the market. The traditional industry

why he's offered roles of a

villain. He says he is very old

school when it comes to his

diet. "I have my paranthas,

also suffers due to supply chain inefficiencies, lack of branding and marketing. The middlemen and retailer of handloom products receive three to 10 times the price paid to weavers and artisans. The craftsmen. renowned for their handspinning, weaving and print-

ing elegance, struggle to make ends meet.

#### The pandemic effect

During the COVID-19 pandemic, people, wary of contracting the virus, rarely stepped out of their homes and started shopping online. This dealt a heavy blow to local weavers, who earn their living by selling to tourists in fairs and exhibitions. Export

earnings also fell drastically during the prolonged lock-down. India has been the second-largest exporter of handloom products in the world. It exported US\$ 353.9 million worth of handloom products, but between April to August 2020 slid to US\$ 66.26 million.

#### **Online platforms to the** rescue

Today, building an online presence is essential for both traditional and modern players. E-commerce has been helping artisans regain their footing for the past few

years. The Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of India, engaged nine e-commerce players and 70 retailers to increase the reach of handlooms products. These online platforms together generated handloom sales of Rs 1.06 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 7.07 crore in 2016-17, increasing to Rs 9.54 crore in 2017-18.

E-commerce giant Amazon expanded its footprint in India's handloom industry, adding pure handloom and handicraft items of Weavesmart, an online

Traditional handloom makers tapped into modern e-commerce sites during the pandemic for realising their marketing potential.

The road ahead

artwork.

handloom store supported by the Government of India on its app and website. It The future of the Indian handloom and handicrafts

industry looks promising. The global demand for handmade products is grow-ing rapidly, owing to an increase in tourism and the propensity of gifting unique products and interest in using eco-friendly, sustainable clothing and accessories.

The current generation of artisans has grasped this opportunity to gain more traction in both domestic and international markets. Their focus is on curation and product development, meeting quality standards, branding and marketing to grow through online channels.

With e-commerce uniting the fragmented population of artisans and weavers, eliminating middlemen and making a wide variety of well-made handloom products at fair prices directly from weavers, the Indian handloom and handicrafts industry is expected to see an upward growth trajectory. It's expected to reach USD 60 billion by 2024. The pandemic brought the signifi-cance of e-commerce in India, shifting consumer taste and preferences. Online shopping platforms continue to see a growing number of shoppers every day. With e-commerce boosting sales in the forthcoming years, the craft-heritage is set to regain its former glory.

(The writer, Sanjay Desai, is the director of an e-com*merce site.*)



# what's brewing?



**FUN** 

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#### CALVIN AND HOBBES







#### GARFIELD

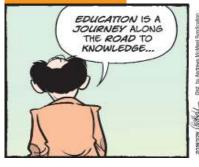


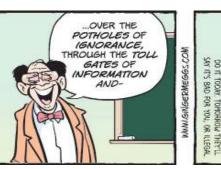






#### GINGER MEGGS









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#### ACROSS 4 This covers an eye 5 A large bird of prey 1 Got better after illness 6 A money-holder 6 Clothes worn in bed 7 The parts along the end 8 A bright red colour or sides of something 11 Reply 9 A group of people in a 13 Part of a song or poem court who decide if 15 By yourself someone is guilty or not 16 Fifty percent 10 Film theatre 12 Going to live elsewhere SOLUTION 14 Trip over RIANG 17 A tube used for drinking 18 Approximately

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DOES ANYONE WANT TO TRADE

PARTNERS?

1-24 **(ATES)** 



# Tuck Jagadish v/s Love Story

khai Kammula's next, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, will have a theatrical bow on April 16 this year. One of the many films which were affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the film is running high on expectations as it is the revered director's next after the blockbuster Fidaa. It also marks him reteaming up with Sai Pallavi, who became a household name in Telangana, courtesy her act in *Fidaa*. The music released so far has only enhanced the anticipation around it.

The release date, however, is mired in a controversy as Nani-starrer Tuck Jagadish booked the same slot sometime back. According to a source, Love Story producer Narayandas Narang, who runs Asian Group of cinemas and owns a majority of theatres in Nizam, believes April 16 is the best date for his film as he can't postpone it further because Acharya, starring megastar



Chiranjeevi, is lined up for early May, while Prabhas-starrer Radhe Shyam, might come during the end of the May. Neither can he advance it because Dil Raju is lining up Pawan Kalyan-starrer Vakeel Saab on April 7 and before that Rang De, which Raju is distributing in Nizam, releases on March 26. Raju would ideally want a twoweek period for Rang De to get his money back

Industry whispers hint that *Love Story*'s release date has something to do with Raju keeping his erst-while partner Laxman in check. The latter, after parting way with the former, has acquired the two Telugu states theatrical rights of *Tuck Jagadish* for a fancy sum and is planning to give the film a wide release

While the latest buzz states that there are chances for Tuck Jagadish

to be postponed by a week the source adds that Nani is not in favour of it. He once obliged to defer the release date of *Gang Leader* to facilitate the mammoth release of *Saaho* and it had a telling effect on *Gang Leader*, which despite opening to good reviews, failed to light-up the boxoffice.

We contacted one of the producers of *Tuck Jagadish*, Harish Peddi, but he didn't respond till press time.

makers of Tuck Jagadish. starring Nani, by surprise as they've announced the April 16 date sometime back. With Narayandas enjoying great clout in Nizam, it remains to be seen whether the Nanistarrer will stick to the same date

Narayandas Narang, one of the producers of Love Story, on Monday evening announced that the film

will grace the cinema halls on April 16. It took the



# Naveen to play a cop

aveen Chandra, who is in the best phase of his career, has green-lit another solo project. To mark the directorial debut of Tamil filmmaker Aravindh, the project is being made in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada with three different leading actors simultaneously, a source tells us. While Naveen headlines the Telugu version, Arulnithi Tamilarasu, grandson of former chief minister of Tamil

Nadu M Karunanidhi, is fronting the Tamil version. Talks are on with a prominent actor for the Kannada version.

The still-untitled film will be a racy, edge of the seat crime thriller. "Naveen will be seen as a cop who is assigned to solve a mysterious case. It will be predominantly shot in Chennai. He will complete the film in three weeks starting from February 1. The first schedule involving him will roles.

go on for 10 days, while the second schedule is planned sometime toward the end of next month," the source adds. Javvaji Ramanjaneyulu is producing the film, a Ghibran musical, under Sarvanth Ram Creations. It also co-stars Smruthi Venkat, Achvuth Kumar, Raghu Babu, Pooja Ramachandran, Satvam Rajesh, Naveena Reddy and Sudarshan in supporting

– NG

source adds.

# tollywood



he filming of Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa* is progressing at Maredumilli forest, Andhra Pradesh sometime late last month after some members of the unit tested positive for Covid-19 in December first week, the shoot has picked up significant momen-tum in the last 15 days, with the director planning to wrap up this schedule by February 5. "While the makers had their concerns the makers had their concerns about shooting in Maredumilli to begin with, they are happy with the way filming has progressed so far. The only minor blip was some members testing positive; other-wise it has been a smooth sched-ule. The next schedule of 10 days will start in specially eracted sets will start in specially erected sets in Hyderabad," says a source close to the unit.

The source adds that the mak-The source adds that the mak-ers are considering Kerala too for a major schedule. Sukumar ini-tially planned to take the project off the ground with a massive schedule in Kerala, where he held a test shoot in 2019, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, he had to drop the plan last year." However, with Weich the first half of the film will be wrapped up," the Set in the backdrop of

Seshachalam forests, Pushpa, an action-drama, deals with the illegal trade of red sanders and will

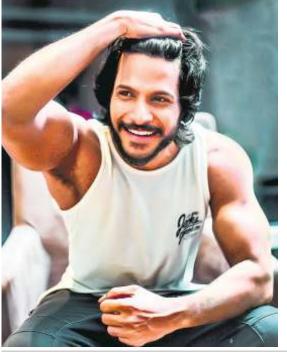
The present outing in Maredumilli. which ends on February 5, will be followed with a brief schedule in Hyderabad. Kerala schedule will follow soon NAGARAJ GOUD

see Bunny as a coolie-turnedsmuggler, who converses in typical Chittoor accent. It's a first-ofa-kind role for the actor. Being filmed in Telugu and later dubbed into Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, the Mythri Movie Makers production sees Jagapathi Babu, Brahmaji, Raj Deepak Shetty, Dhananjay and Kannada Kishore in supporting roles, while Rashmika Mandanna is the leading lady. Sukumar's frequent collaborator Devi Sri Prasad wil compose music for the film.

after, finds



# Sundeep signs an action-thriller with Koneru



undeep Kishan, who is shooting for G Nageswara Reddy's Rowdy Baby present-ly in Visakhapatnam, is collaborating with producer Mahesh Koneru for a new venture. Debutant Veda Vyas is directing it from his vyas is directing it from his own script. The *muhurat* was held at Vizag on Tuesday, with writer-producer Kona Venkat sounding the clapper-board for the first shot, while Mallik of Kankatala Silks switched on the

camera.

The untitled project is an action-thriller and will roll from next month - immediately after Sundeep wraps up Rowdy Fellow. Mahesh, who is starrer *Master*, which he dubbed into Telugu, said that Sundeep will be seen in a complete new role in the film. Vizag lad Sricharan Pakala is on-board to compose music.

# T'wood celebrates Republic Day

ctors Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna, Pawan Kalyan and Adivi Sesh among other tinsel town celebrities on Tuesday celebrated 72nd Republic Day with fervour, pride and enthusi-asm. Participating in a blood donation drive at Chiranjeevi Eye and Blood Bank, the megastar, Ram Charan, brother Naga Babu and brother-in-law Allu Aravind, paid floral tributes to the architect of the constitution BR Ambedkar before hoisting

the tricolour flag. Balakrishna hoisted the flag at Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital of which he is the chairman,

while Pawan Kalyan did the honours at Jana Śena office. Adivi Sesh, who is bringing to life the story of Sandeep Unnikrishnan, a National Security Guard commando who had led the Black Tornado operation to save hostages in the 26/11 Taj Hotel attack in Mumbai, celebrated the day with CRPF jawans in Hyderabad. (Sic)

Taking to twitter, he said it was amazing to hear the real stories of Gallantry Medal winners. "We got to laugh, feel, think and even dance! I was even presented with a CRPF uniform" Sesh said. Lakshmi Manchu struck a pose with the Indian flag and wrote on Twitter, "A grand salute to our great nation. Let us together celebrate our golden legacy while heralding the future. May India become even more prosperous and great. Happy Republic Day!









# VIRAT IS MY CAPTAIN & I'M HIS DEPUTY: RAHANE

PTI NEW DELHI

jinkya Rahane has won many a fans with his astute captaincy during the Indian team's epic triumph in Australia but he would like to make it very clear that the undisputed leader of this side is Virat Kohli and he

is happy filling in when required. Come February 5, Rahane will again be the vice-captain of the Test team against England with Kohli back in the saddle. So will things be different now when he once again dons the vice cap-tain's bat? tain's hat?

"Nothing changes. Virat was and will always be the captain of the Test team and I am his deputy. When he was absent it was my duty to lead the side and my responsibility to give my best for Team India's success," Rahane, who was on his way to Chennai, told PTI in an exclusive interview.

For the vice-captain, it was not about being on the hot seat but having the ability to perform the role to perfection that mattered the most.

"Its not the matter of merely being a captain. How you perform the captain's role is what's more important. So far I have been successful. Hopefully, in future also, I will try to give these kind of results for my team," said the man, who has led his country to four wins in five Tests.

Reflecting on his relationship with Kohli, Rahane said it has always been smooth.

"Me and Virat have always shared a good bonding with each other. He has time and again praised my batting. Both of us played memorable knocks for our team in India and overseas conditions. It only helped that Virat comes at No.4 and myself at No.5. We have had a lot of partnerships," the 32-year-old said.

Theirs is a relationship that has been based on transparency and mutu-

al respect. "We have always backed each other's game. When we are at the crease, we dis-



cuss threadbare about opposition's bowling. We caution each other whenever one of us plays a rash shot."

And how does he find Kohli as a captain?

"Virat is a sharp captain. He takes good on-field decisions. Whenever the spinners are in operation, he is banking on me and he believes that taking those catches at slips off (Ravichandran) Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja is one of

my core competence areas.

"Virat expects a lot from me and I try and ensure not to let him down," said Rahane, who is 13 short of a milestone of 100 catches in Test matches as an outfielder.

Rahane's classy hundred in the Melbourne Test, according to head coach Ravi Shastri, was a catalyst for change.

Having gone through rough patches in the past few years, does he feel more

now? "Honestly speaking, I never ever felt that my place in the side was ever in danger. The captain and team management always had faith in me," said the Mumbaikar, who has 4472 runs in 69 Tests with 12 hundreds at an average of

42.58. Rahane believes in the old adage that form is temporary but class is permanent.

# Kohli has made India tough side: Hussain

#### PTI LONDON

 $F^{
m ormer}_{
m Hussain}$  feels Virat Kohli has I fussant feels what Konn has instilled a fighting attitude in the cur-rent Indian team, which does not get bullied by adversities, whether on or off the field

Despite missing some key players to injuries and skipper Kohli, who was on paternity leave, an inexperienced Indian team, led by Ajinkya Rahane, displayed grit and determination to register a historic come-from-behind 2-1 series win over Australia.

Hussain warned England to be ready for a tough one in the four-Test series against India, starting February 5 in Chennai.

"Any side that can go to Australia, go 1-0 down after being bowled out for 36, lose Kohli because he's going home on paternity leave, lose your bowling attack and still come back and win after some of the stuff that went on off the field in Australia, they won't be bullied," he told Sky Sports.

"They (India) are a tough side. I think Kohli has instilled that. Make no

"Yes, sometimes in few series, a player is off-colour but that doesn't mean that his class is gone. A player needs only one knock to get back to his

form. "When I was going through a bad patch, my captain boosted my morale. It's always comforting to know that you have his backing and you are then focussed on

giving your best without any worries." People have seen more of a "leader"

mistake, at home, they are a formidable outfit."

Insisting that England will head into the India assignment with plenty of confidence after the 2-0 series sweep of Sri Lanka, Hussain urged the visitors to field their best eleven in the first Test. Hussain had earlier taken strong

objection to England's decision to rest Jonny Bairstow for the first two India

Tests. "That's a really good sign that they're doing that, with harder tasks ahead. The Ashes, India home and away, New Zealand confirmed, but that is great momentum and confidence going into an iconic series which is India away," he said.

"...I was brought up in India and I've always seen India vs England as one of the great series - all I would have asked is turn up to Chennai with your best 13 to 15 players.

"I think England fans have earned the right for their best team to be there that first day. If it means (Stuart) Broad and (James) Anderson playing together because it's a bit green, worry about the Ashes down the line."

in Rahane but he downplayed his role. "With regards to leadership, I can

only say that it varies from person to per-son. A captain is as good as his team. When you win a match or a series, it's always a collective effort and not because of singular man's contribution.

"It's your teammates only, who make you a good leader. The complete credit of this series win belongs to my team," concluded the reticent cricketer.

# 'After a rest, I'll be raring go to India'

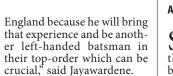


# **Countering India will be big challenge** for Eng spinners: Jayawardene

#### PTI 📕 LONDON

England spinners Dom Bess and Jack Leach must have gained a lot by bowling in Sri Lanka in a just-concluded series but a bigger challenge awaits them against India in the four-Test rubber starting February 5, feels former Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene. Left-arm spinner Leach

claimed 10 wickets in the twomatch series while off-spinner Bess took 12 in England victory "I think that's going to be a very exciting series and a very good challenge for this group of players. That's what cricket is all about. You need to go away and win the Test series," Jayawardene told 'Sky Sports' "The two spinners (Bess and Leach) will have learned a lot here but it will be a bigger challenge in India.'



"Jofra Archer will bring something to the table with his pace, especially on slower wickets. So I think overall

they are very well prepared." Opener Rory Burns has also been called for the India assignment but it won't be easy for him to be battle-ready for international cricket, according to the Sri Lankar

## Honours even on Day 1 Pak lose 4 in 1st innings after restricting SA for 220

AP KARACHI

**C**outh Africa came back **O**roaring after being skittled out for 220 on a bowler-dominated first day Tuesday of its first test in Pakistan in more than 13 years.

Pakistan was reduced to 33-4 at stumps on a pitch devoid of grass as 14 wickets fell on an eventful opening day of the two-test series.

South Africa fast Afridi for a duck. wler Kagiso Rabada



diminutive Bavuma could-94-2 at lunch, lost its last n't beat a strong throw from Hasan Ali while eigh

Nauman got into the

secure about his place in the Test side

#### PTI LONDON

 $E_{it\,is\,\ensuremath{\text{``tricky"}}}$  to miss the first two Tests against India next month but says there is no other slot to take a break and he will be "raring to go" when he comes back to the side later in the tour.

Bairstow, Sam Curran and Mark Wood were rested by the national selectors for the first two Tests beginning in Chennai on February 5, a decision which was criticised by former England skippers Michael Vaughan and Kevin Pietersen.

The England tour of India comprises four Tests, five T20Is and three ODIs.

"If they hadn't given me the break now, then when? It's the way of the world at the moment. There's no one who plays all three formats who is doing the whole tour," Bairstow was quoted as saying by 'Evening Standard'.

"It's tricky. It's a huge summer and winter and sadly you can't do everything. You do need to get out of the bubble and see your loved ones," he said.

"After a rest, I'll be raring to go in India." Coming back to England Test set-up, Bairstow scored 139 runs at an average of 46 in the two Tests in Sri Lanka and was involved in two of England's three stands of more than 100.

"I've absolutely loved being back. I was a bit emotional yesterday being back in the dressing room when you've won a series reaffirms why you keep doing it and never give up. It's special," said the 31-year-old wicketkeeper batsman.

"I'd have liked to get a big score but I'm really happy with how I've played having not played a huge amount of red ball cricket for a little while, to come back in and spend the amount of time at the crease and contribute the way I have is really pleasing."

Bairstow had earned a Test recall for the Sri Lanka series, having last played for England in the Boxing Day match against South Africa in Cape Town in 2019.

"It was frustrating because I wanted to prove that I could play red-ball cricket, which I hold so dearly. My aspirations are to play Test cricket for as long as possible," said Bairstow, who has scored 4169 runs in 72 Tests at 35.03.

"I tried to play in between bubbles but it's hard to properly get your teeth stuck into it, because going and playing a game for Yorkshire is not the same as a Test series, with a lead-in to get your game and

Jayawardene though believes that England are "well

paceman Jofra Archer.

series.

will be a massive advantage for

prepared" for the India series, especially when they will have services of star all-rounder Ben Stokes and impressive

Both Stokes and Archer were rested for the Sri Lanka

"Getting Ben Stokes back

back

lately.

Burns, who has an experience of 21 Tests under his belt, last played in domestic matches at home, about four months

"It will be a challenge for Rory Burns if he opens. He hasn't played much cricket

Jayawardene was also "disappointed" that wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow is not in the squad "given his experience and the way he batted in this (Sri Lanka) series".

playing his first test in a year, removed openers Abid Ali (4) and debutant Imran Butt (9) off deliveries with uneven bounce. Rabada had impressive figures of 6-3-8-2.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj also had captain Babar Azam trapped leg before wicket for 7 off his third delivery, and Andrich Nortje knocked back the stumps of nightwatchman Shaheen and Fawad Alam were both unbeaten on 5.

Earlier, legspinner well against the spinners by Yasir Shah grabbed 3-54 lunch but Shah brought and left-arm spinner Pakistan back when he Nauman Ali 2-38 on debut had du Plessis caught to peg back South Africa behind on 23 in his second after it won the toss and over after the break. Du started confidently. Plessis should have been

Opening batsman out on 14 immediately Dean Elgar top-scored with after lunch but Abid could-58 off 106 balls with nine n't hold on to a sharp fours, and No. 9 batsman catch at forward short leg. Rabada remained unbeatact in his seventh and en on 21 as South Africa,

areth Bale scored only his fourth

Playing his first full match of the sea-

With extra time looming, Harry

Jose Mourinho's side plays Everton

Mourinho named a strong team and

He wasted a chance after five min-

time to cancel out Fred Onyedinma's

shock opener for the second-tier side.

Winks put Tottenham in front with a

curling strike in the 86th minute then

in the fifth round to maintain its chal-

this was a chance for Bale to show why

he should be in the team more often

while back on loan from Real Madrid.

utes by heading wide and dragged an

effort wide from another good position

Those misses proved costly as Wycombe took the lead in the 25th

minute. Uche Ikpeazu got the better of

Tottenham defender Toby Alderweireld

down the right and his cross was not

cleared by Davinson Sanchez, who could only divert it into the path of

the chances continued to rack up.

Japhet Tanganga headed over from a

corner immediately after, Bale hit the

side-netting with another good chance,

and Moussa Sissoko's deflected effort

from the edge of the area cannoned into

the crossbar. Mourinho may have been

fearing the worst when he saw Tanganga

head another golden chance against the

crossbar, but his side finally levelled in

Spurs went for a quick response and

Tanguy Ndombele netted twice.

lenge in four competitions.

on the edge of the area.

Onyedinma to fire home.

Faf du Plessis and going for a second run. Elgar were using their feet Bavuma was out for 17.

136-5.

Linde successfully overturned a lbw decision against him off Shah on 14 before holing out in the deep, which gave Hasan Ali his first wicket in his return to test cricket after two years

eighth overs, mainly

because of the Proteas'

wrong shot selection.

Captain Quinton de Kock,

in his 50th test, tried a

reckless pull on 15 and was

caught at midwicket, then

Elgar tried a loose drive

and edged into the slips

after nearly three hours at

but just before tea the

Temba Bavuma added 43 runs with George Linde,

In the last session, Shah picked up two quick wickets but Rabada was missed twice, one of them a drop.

#### Ndombele's double inspires Spurs TN, Punjab in Mushtag Ali semis AP WYCOMBE (ENGLAND)

#### PTI AHMEDABAD

Punjab knocked defending champions Karnataka out from the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with their bowlers setting up a comfortable ninewicket win in the first quarterfinal, here on Tuesday. In the second quarter-final,

Tamil Nadu defeated Himachal Pradesh by five wickets to seal their semi-final spot.

Punjab first dismissed Karnataka for meagre 87 and then overhauled the target in 12.4 overs in what turned out to be a lopsided contest at the Sardar Patel stadium.

Pacers Siddharth Kaul (3/15) and Sandeep Sharma for three, after openers Karun Nair (12) and Devdutt Padikkal (2/17) ran through the Karnataka top-order after they (11) fell cheaply. Pavan Deshpande (0) was were sent in to bat.

dismissed off his second ball, as Mayank Markande took a diving catch.

Kaul dismissed both Padikkal and Deshpande in the fourth over.

It soon became 26 for four, as young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (2/16) dismissed B R Sharath (2), who was caught in the slip cordon.

All-rounder Shreyas Gopal (13), who has often come to Karnataka's rescue too could not convert his start as he edged to wicket-keeper Prabhsimran Singh off pacer Ramandeep Singh (2/22) as Karnataka lost its half side for

Ramandeep got his second wicket when he sent back J Suchith (8) to leave Karnataka at 72 for six.

Leggie Mayank Markande (1/12) then got into the act as he cleaned up a well-set Anirudh Joshi (27). Punjab continued their dominance over their opposition and ran through their lower order.

In reply, Punjab lost opener Abhishek Sharma (4) early but Prabhsimran Singh (49 not out off 37 balls) and Mandeep Singh (35 not out) ensured that the chase was walk in the park with their 85-run unbeaten stand for the second wicket. Prabhsimran, who took on the listless Karnataka attack, fittingly finished the game with a six.

into bat, TN first restricted HP to 135/9 and then rode on Baba haul the target in 17.5 overs.

Sindhu, Srikanth look to turn tide

#### PTI BANGKOK

Premier Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth need to shrug off the disappointments of the last two weeks as they gear up for the highly-competitive HSBC BWF World Tour Finals, beginning here on Wednesday

World champion and Olympic silver medallist Sindhu, who had won the prestigious title in 2018, has been clubbed in Group 'B' alongside top-ranked Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei and home favourites Ratchanok Intanon and Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Sindhu's comeback to international badminton after the coronavirus-induced break was not as good as she would have expected.

The Indian, who has been training in London for the last few months, couldn't go the distance after losing a close opening match in Thailand Open, the first of the Asia leg. In the second event last week, Sindhu suffered a demoralising straight game defeat against former world champion Ratchanok in the quarterfinals and she will have to gather herself as she opens her campaign against magician Tzu Ying, who reached the finals in both the Thailand Opens. Former world number one Srikanth, on the other hand, has been clubbed in Group 'B' with Denmark's Anders Antonsen, Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei and Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus.

Srikanth, who had reached the semifinals of BWF Super Series Masters Finals in 2014, couldn't spend enough time on the court. He had pulled out of the first Thailand Open ahead of the second round due to a calf muscle pull, while he was forced to withdraw after the opening round last week.

Ggoal since returning to Tottenham in leading a comeback to beat Wycombe 4-1 in the FA Cup. son on Monday, Bale netted before half-

In the evening game, put Aparajith's unbeaten 52 to over-



first-half stoppage time.

Lucas Moura found space on the left and Bale broke the offside trap to hook home from close range.

That ought to have been the platform for Spurs to go on and win the game comfortably in the second half but a raft of missed chances caused unnecessary stress.

Bale was again wasteful after surging into the area, Erik Lamela could not get a proper connection on his shot from a good position and fired straight at Ryan Alsopp, and then Moura poked wide after finding space on the edge of the area. Mourinho was not prepared to risk anything so he sent on Kane and Son Heung-min, but they too were equally wasteful.

Kane saw his shot blocked by Alsopp after miscontrolling, and Son flashed an effort wide after a trademark dart into the area. But Spurs won it with a two-goal salvo in the space of 72 seconds.

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