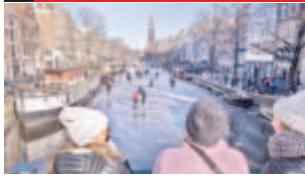




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WINDOWS



Dozens of skaters took to the frozen surface of Amsterdam's historic Prinsengracht canal at Amsterdam in Netherlands as the deep freeze gripping Europe briefly made it possible to skate on a small section of the canal for the first time since 2018. People skated and walked on a small stretch of ice between two bridges close to the landmark Westerkerk before growing cracks in the ice forced all but the most daring off the ice

19 more Covid vaccines in pipeline

NEW DELHI: Nearly 19 coronavirus vaccine candidates are in different clinical trial stages and may be available in the coming months, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday. Addressing the media, Vardhan said that in the next 2-3 weeks, vaccination against Covid-19 will be started for people above 50 years of age. "About 18-19 vaccine candidates against Covid-19 are in the pipeline and are in preclinical, clinical and advanced stages. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer newer vaccines to India in the coming months," Vardhan said.

NTPC to pay ₹20 lakh to kin of Tapovan victims

JOSHIMATH: State-run power giant NTPC on Monday said it would pay a compensation of Rs 20 lakh each to the families of labourers who died in the recent flash flood at its Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project in Uttarakhand. A workforce has been set up at the plant to coordinate with the administration and gather all required information about every missing worker, NTPC's spokesman RP Jayada said. He said rescue work is underway on a war-footing at Tapovan-Vishnugad project site by multiple agencies to reach people believed to be trapped inside the tunnel. Real-time information is being shared with the agencies involved in the exercise to expedite it, Jayada said.

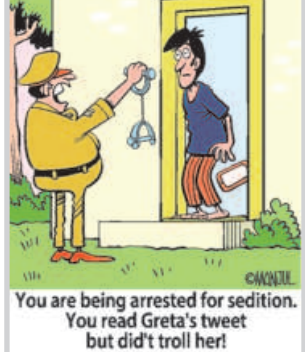
BUSINESS



Centre may put 4 banks on sale

P6

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You are being arrested for sedition. You read Greta's tweet but didn't troll her!

SC slaps notice on WhatsApp, FB

WhatsApp may be worth \$2-3 tn, people value privacy more, says the apex court

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court issued notices to popular social media platforms WhatsApp and Facebook on a plea against its new privacy policy here on Monday. The apex court said people had grave apprehensions on loss of privacy, making it clear that it was the court's duty to protect this right as it heard an application against WhatsApp's new privacy policy.

The observation came as senior advocate Shyam Divan, representing petitioner Karmanya Singh Sareen, sought direction to restrain WhatsApp from implementing its new privacy policy in



India. "They have come up with new differentiating privacy policy for the Europeans and different set of rules applicable to Indians," Divan argued. He added that till the time new data protection law came into force in India, WhatsApp should not bring its new privacy policy.

At this, Chief Justice SA Bobde replied, "We will issue notice in the matter."

A bench, headed by the Chief Justice and comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, told the counsel for WhatsApp, "People have grave apprehensions about loss of privacy."

You may be 2 or 3 trillion-dollar company, but people value their privacy more than your money. We have to protect people's privacy." Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Arvind Datar, appearing for WhatsApp, strongly contested Divan's argument, saying that the Delhi High Court is already seized of the matter. Sibal said that Europe had a different set of data privacy laws, and WhatsApp's new privacy policy for India is similar to policy applicable in the US, Australia and other countries. "The fact is that this policy was applicable to the rest of the world except Europe."

Continued on Page 5

Film showcasing TRS rule to hit screens on KCR's birthday

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE TRS has found a new way to resurrect the entire movement for Telangana State and showcase various schemes and welfare measures it had taken up during its rule since formation of the State in the form of a documentary film.



A file Photo

According to party sources, a 30-minute short film made in 3E technology on the life of TRS president K Chandrasekhara Reddy is ready and would hit the small screen and social media on Wednesday at Jalavihar on the occasion of birthday celebrations of KCR. The party feels that this could help stir the sentiment factor and could help the party in the MLC elections as well as the bye-election to the Nagarjuna Sagar Assembly constituency.

The film is directed by popular director Bandook Lakshman. The first view of this short film will be presented at a public meeting

to be held at Jalavihar on giant LCD screens.

The documentary starts with the birth of KCR and will show in detail the agitation for separate Telangana, the scenes during the passage of Telangana Bill in Rajya Sabha and celebrations in the State. The documentary also showcases various developmental schemes implemented by the TRS government during the last six years.

Apart from the documentary, the party leaders are releasing five songs. The songs are sung by popular folk and playback singers, including Satyavathi Rathod who is popularly known as Mangli, Madhu

Priya and Rahul Sipligunj. The full songs would be released on the same day, said Cinematography Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha will offer a sari of gold weighing 2.5 kg (with some donations by the devotees) to Goddess Balkampet Yellamma. Special prayers and pujas would be organised at Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad and Bangaru Maisamma temple in Parsigutta and saris would be distributed to women. Abhishekam and Ganapati Kalyanam at Ganesh temple in Secunderabad will also be performed.

Continued on Page 5

Centre releases GST payout of ₹1,703.56 for Telangana

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: The Finance Ministry on Monday released 16th weekly instalment of Rs 5,000 crore to the States to meet the GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount released so far to Rs 95,000 crore. Till now, 86 per cent of the total estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to the States and Union Territories (UTs) with legislative assembly. Further, additional borrowing permission of over Rs 1.06 lakh crore was granted to the States. As part of that amount raised through special window passed on to Andhra Pradesh is Rs 2,167.20 crore and Rs 1,703.56 for Telangana. The Centre set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of Rs1.10-lakh crore in revenue due to GST implementation.

MLC candidates hunt for jobless graduates

PATAN AFZAL BABU HYDERABAD

THERE is a sudden demand for unemployed graduate voters in the two poll-bound graduates constituencies Hyderabad - Rangareddy- Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda, Warangal-Khammam graduates' constituencies.

With the stage set for issuing of notification for the two MLC seats undergraduate constituencies, all po-



litical parties are busy identifying the unemployed graduate voters in those constituencies. This is followed by identifying private teachers who lost their jobs in the corona pandemic in villages.

The idea is to lure the voters by offering financial help and other benefits. It is being said that these potential voters are being offered anything up to Rs 10,000. Not just that in some cases the MLAs were

recommending benefits under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the needy.

Meanwhile, the TRS party has asked the respective MLAs from the poll-bound areas to ensure victory of the party candidate. Other parties have also asked their leaders to see that no stone was left unturned.

Of the total number of 5 lakh voters, nearly 30 per cent of them are said to be unemployed youth. It is be-

lieved that local leaders will give half of the amount first and the second half will be given on the day of polling.

According to rough estimates all parties put together are likely to spend nearly Rs 50 crore as part of poll expenses.

The main contests in the field are TRS MLC P Rajeshwar Reddy, Gujjula Premendar Reddy BJP and - Telangana Jana Samithi leader Prof M Kodan-

daram. The prominent candidates for Hyderabad - Rangareddy- Mahbubnagar are BJP MLC N Ramchander Rao, G Chinna Reddy Congress and Prof K Nageshwar. The TRS may not field any candidate, according to sources.

The total number of graduate voters in the constituency were 5,17,888 which has been doubled compared to the last council elections.

PM to address experts for effective implementation of budget

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will address a webinar on Tuesday for consultation on the roadmap for effective implementation of the Union Budget 2021-22 in the infrastructure sector. The

webinar will see the participation of more than 200 panelists, including representatives of major financial institutions and funds, concessionaires and contractors, consultants and subject matter experts, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Govt eases curbs on geospatial data for map-making

NEW DELHI

IN sweeping changes in the country's mapping policy, the government on Monday announced liberalisation of norms governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data, a move that will help in boosting innovation in the sector and create a level-playing field for public and private entities.

Under the new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects such as prior approvals for surveying, mapping and for building applications based on that have been done away with, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said. For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances, licenses, for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including

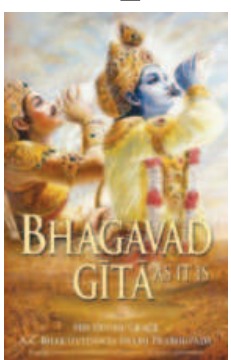
maps, he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a "massive step in government's vision for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'". The reform will benefit the country's farmers, start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions, he said.

Continued on Page 5

Nanosatellite to carry Bhagavad Gita, PM Modi's photograph into space

NEW DELHI

A nanosatellite is all set to take a photograph of PM Narendra Modi and a copy of religious book, the Bhagavad Gita to space. In addition to these, names of 25,000 individuals were also carried by the Satish Dhawan Satellite (SD SAT) that is due of be launched by the end of this month from the space centre at Sriharikota. The nanosatellite has been developed by a private firm



SpaceKidz, reported a national daily. "We have also added the



name and photograph of the prime minister on the top panel with the words

Atmanirbhar mission. This satellite has been completely developed and fabricated in India, including the electronics and circuitry," Dr Srimathy Kesan, founder and CEO of SpaceKidz India revealed to the daily Hindustan Times. The names of Dr K Sivan, Chairperson ISRO and Dr R Umamaheswaran, ISRO's Scientific Secretary have also been etched at the bottom panel of the nanosatellite.

Continued on Page 5



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Grads must reject corrupt regimes of TRS, BJP: Uttam

- Reddy expresses confidence in Congress winning the upcoming MLC elections for two graduate constituencies
- Criticises CM KCR for failing to fulfill his 2014 electoral promise of one lakh jobs till now
- Says TRS government lured jobless youth in 2018 Assembly elections by promising them Rs 3,016 dole per month
- Ridicules the BJP government at the Centre for neglecting Telangana in the Budget
- Questions why BJP leaders not affectionate towards Ram Mandir in Bhadrachalam

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President N Uttam Kumar Reddy has expressed confidence that the Congress party would win the elections for the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda graduates' constituencies of Telangana Legislative Council.

He was addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday after officially handing over B-forms to the Congress can-



TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy along with G Chinna Reddy and Ramulu Naik addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Monday

didates - former minister G Chinna Reddy (Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad) and ex-MLC Ramulu Naik (Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda). He said that the party has picked highly efficient, able and committed leaders as its candidates for MLC polls. "Chinna Reddy holds a PhD degree in Agriculture and is known for his honesty and simplicity. He has been serving the people selflessly without having expectations. Ramulu Naik was born into a poor family and came up in his life after hard struggle. He played a key role during the Telangana movement. Chinna Reddy and Ramulu Naik are highly capable of serving the people, especially in addressing the needs of gradu-

ates, including employees and jobless youth," he added.

The TPCC Chief said that the educated youth must unitedly defeat the corrupt and unethical regimes of TRS and BJP. Criticising Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, he said that the promise, made in 2014 elections, of filling one lakh vacant posts in government department remained unfulfilled. "The Pay Revision Commission, in its recent report, has disclosed that over 1.91 lakh posts were lying vacant in various departments. He said the delay in the recruitment process has deprived thousands of students, who participated in the Telangana movement, from getting a government job. TRS

government lured jobless youth in 2018 Assembly elections by promising them Rs 3,016 dole every month. However, this promise was not fulfilled even now. KCR has been openly cheating the jobless youth ever since he came to power in June 2014. Revision of pay scales was long overdue. Further, the new PRC has disappointed the employees by recommending a fitment of mere 7.3 per cent. Employees be given a fitment of not less than 43 per cent," he added.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the BJP Govt at the Centre has been doing injustice to Telangana since the beginning. He said Telangana remained neglected in the Union Budgets since 2014. Further, he said that the promises which were made under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act were yet to be fulfilled. He ridiculed Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay's attempts to incite communal hatred in the state. "BJP leaders often talk about Ram Mandir. We are also Hindus and we are not against the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. But why BJP leaders are not showing similar affection with Ram Mandir in Bhadrachalam? Why is the BJP government trying to give away temple lands to private parties?" he asked.

Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to the people to elect Congress candidates to restore morality in politics and democracy in Telangana.

FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

Agri Minister buoyed by potato yield in own farm

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

HOW about practising before preaching? Exactly this is what the Agriculture Minister, S Niranjan Reddy, seems to be following. The Minister who was irked with the hike in potato prices in recent times had decided to encourage farmers in State cultivate potatoes. But before approaching the farmers, the Minister first wanted to cultivate potatoes in his own farm in Wanaparthi on experimental basis. Soon, he planted potato crop in one-fourth of an acre and ended up gaining reasonably good harvest.

The jubilant Minister is now planning to approach farmers and share his experience backed with agriculture department's feedback, which had said that the land and climate in Telangana were as good as other States where potatoes are being cultivated.

As the potatoes have consistently demand all-round the year, the fluctuation in prices would be minimal and help farmers gain profits, the Minister said,

- Niranjan Reddy gets satisfying yield from one-fourth of acre
- Wants to encourage Telangana farmers take up cultivation of potatoes which has demand all-round the year



adding that on an average a farmer can get a maximum yield of 100 to 120 quintals per acre. "When it comes to prices, the rate per quintal in the market would be around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200. Sometimes, it might even touch Rs 2,000. The farmers will gain revenues of Rs 1 lakh per acre after deducting the investment," he said.

Niranjan Reddy said that potatoes were one of the vegetables with the highest consumption rate. But, the cultivation of the crop is not preferred in southern States for reasons un-

known. Along with Telangana, all the southern States have to heavily depend on potato supplies from north and this demand can be addressed if farmers here take up potato cultivation, he opined.

Investment to cultivate potatoes in an acre comes to about Rs 45,000 and the crop comes to harvest in 85 to 90 days after the plantation. But, if the time frame goes beyond 90 days, then the yields would be more, the Agriculture Minister said, hoping that farmers in the State take up potato cultivation.

Sharmila to launch party in May or July

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

FORMER AP Chief Minister Y S Rajashekara Reddy's daughter Sharmila is making fast political moves aiming to launch her political party in Telangana. Soon after returning from Bengaluru on Monday, she held a meeting with a select group of leaders and intellectuals here. Sharmila is likely to announce the launch of her political outfit on May 14--the day YSR assumed CM's office in 2004--or on July 8--her father's birthday. She is likely to announce some major decisions on those days.

Earlier, she planned to float the party in April. But the AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's sister deferred the plan as she wanted to hold a series of meetings with YSR supporters to ascertain the political situation in Telangana.

Leaders said that Sharmila will take more time to launch the party. After the by-poll of the Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency and elections to two graduate constituencies and seven municipalities, including Warangal and Khammam corporations, she would plunge into action.

BJP to fly in party bigwigs for Nagarjunasagar bypoll

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

THE Bharatiya Janata Party, which had shocked the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi with its performance in Dubbaka bypoll and in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, has shifted its focus to Nagarjunasagar and planning to hold huge public meeting by February end by inviting its national leaders.

The party, which had gone aggressive after Dubbaka bypoll, is now targeting the Sagar constituency where it has little presence. However, the party leaders are hopeful of repeating Dubbaka and GHMC victory in the forthcoming bypoll to Sagar constituency.

While the party had already initiated the exercise to gain foothold in the district, it had also recently taken up protest on tribal issues, including tribal lands in Gurrampodu, which had led to a tense situation with police even lathi-charging the protestors. The tribals here make up 40 per cent of the electorate and are crucial in deciding the fate of candidates.

According to State BJP president Bandi Sanjay, the party would soon have a huge

- Plans to hold huge public meeting by February end
- Despite dismal presence, party hopeful of winning the seat

public meeting, possibly by February end, in Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency. The party would be bringing in senior leaders, including Union Ministers from New Delhi to campaign, as it did for Dubbaka and GHMC polls.

Sanjay said that the party would win the Sagar bypoll along with two council seats going for polls in March, adding that all key leaders would campaign for the party candidates. Meanwhile, the party has decided to appoint one in-charge for every 50 voters who would be in constant touch with them and ensure they vote for the saffron party.

Arts College hotspot for selfie videos

After ban on TikTok, youth share videos on Indian apps

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN

HYDERABAD

WHEN A City-based freelance photographer spotted some teenagers shooting videos in front of iconic OU Arts College building on Sunday, he was puzzled. Sanjay Borra soon figured out that they were recording themselves on a video-sharing mobile application. The young and restless have a tendency to try out new mobile applications in order to gain quick popularity on the web and social media.

Taking chance on holiday, some youngsters gathered on the OU campus for filming themselves. The group was seen climbing the fountain in front of Arts College and recording videos, which will be set to music or voice-over immediately to be uploaded on video-sharing application from there to other social media platforms.

Several incidents have been reported on death of youngsters while shooting videos and trying out various dangerous challenges,

like Blue Whale and KiKi Car.

A senior police official told The Hans India that patrolling vehicles have observed youngsters recording videos on Tank Bund, Necklace Road and other public places both during day and night. "The police asked them not to do so. To gain popularity they record videos by risking their life," he observed.

There have been several accidents where youth were caught by the police during late nights near Tank Bund, as they recorded videos on speeding bikes or cars on City roads. This trend became popular with the Chinese application 'TikTok'. After India banned the Chinese app in June 2020 a large number of TikTok users felt sad and were looking for other video-sharing apps.

Though TikTok was banned, the craze remains among youth. They are still seen filming and recording videos on Indian mobile applications, like Roposo App, Chingari App, Vigo Video, Dubs-mash, MX TakaTak, Moj Josh and Snack Video

This give parents and teachers

cause for concern after the popularity of dangerous online dares such as the Blue Whale Challenge and KiKi Car.

Apart from recording videos near heritage sites, roads, public parks, nowadays youth are seen at schools, colleges and universities. They are filming themselves on various sites for uploading musically-recorded footage on video-sharing applications developed in the country.

A parent came to know about a child when a teacher caught her recording video in class. "I was not aware of my child, who is still in VIII class, carrying her mobile phone and recording video in school," said Shiva Laxmi, a resident of Malkajgiri.

"Parents were so happy that the government banned TikTok. But, similar apps have been developed in the country and a large number of youngsters are still seen making clips and uploading them on the app hoping they would get popularity by recording videos in different styles and at various locations," said a parent.



Crocodile strays into village

HANS NEWS SERVICE

VIKARABAD

PEOPLE of Balkal village in Vikarabad district on Monday were flabbergasted when a crocodile was found in an open pit that was dug up quite a few days back by the locals. Upon witnessing a crocodile warming in a pit on Monday morning, the locals soon informed the officials of the Forest Department.

Later, the officials along with local police visited the spot and with utter difficulty, caught the crocodile and securely fastened the reptile with the help of rope.

Later, the officials of the Forest Department released the crocodile into Manjira Wildlife Sanctuary in Sangareddy District.

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AUCTION-NOTICE
 That the below mentioned Borrower/s had availed gold loan facility against security of the gold ornaments/ items, as specified below. The Borrower/s defaulted in due repayment of the installments and outstanding dues and as a result of which the Bank was constrained to issue notices calling upon the Borrower/s to repay the outstanding amounts. However, the Borrower/s has failed to repay/clear his outstanding dues thereby compelling the Bank to auction the gold ornaments pledged in favour of the Bank.

The auction of the below mentioned gold ornaments would be held at:
Date: 24-FEB-2021 & 25-FEB-2021 & 26-FEB-2021 Time: 11.00 AM Place: Respective Branch Premises

Appl/Apac	Party Name	State	Sub Location	Branch Name	Gross Wgt	Auction Date
GLN1643981	Anumandla Pallavi Devi	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	154.40	25-Feb-21
GLN1838848	Anumandla Pallavi Devi	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	85.20	25-Feb-21
GLN1860795	Bapurao Shivajirao Bamne	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Himayatnagar	91.00	26-Feb-21
GLN1217265	Bhagyavathi Kashini	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Banjarahal	564.90	26-Feb-21
GLN1409727	Bitla Srividya	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Ramanthapu	145.70	26-Feb-21
GLN1586643	Bitla Srividya	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Ramanthapu	105.20	26-Feb-21
GLN1812475	Dasani Narsimulu	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Somajiguda	23.70	24-Feb-21
GLN1803401	Earsani Balakrishna	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Ramanthapu	40.30	26-Feb-21
GLN1312526	G Sreesailam	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Himayatnagar	445.10	26-Feb-21
GLN1586754	Koluru Raja Annapurna Swapna	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sardarpal	33.70	24-Feb-21
GLN1859859	Malpani Mamatha	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sanathnagar	122.60	26-Feb-21
GLN1860443	Malpani Mamatha	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sanathnagar	137.20	26-Feb-21
GLN1308924	Marella Vijaya Kumar	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	23.90	25-Feb-21
GLN1559054	Marella Vijaya Kumar	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	24.20	25-Feb-21
GLN1627922	Marella Vijaya Kumar	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	33.30	25-Feb-21
GLN1863275	Marella Vijaya Kumar	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	27.50	25-Feb-21
GLN1435939	Md Afroz	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Somajiguda	20.00	24-Feb-21
GLN1658974	Md Abdul Kalam	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sanathnagar	46.20	26-Feb-21
GLN1787773	Muralidhar Reddy Kankara	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Himayatnagar	88.80	26-Feb-21
GLN1873675	Muralidhar Reddy Kankara	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Himayatnagar	87.30	26-Feb-21
GLN1794532	Parasi Karthik	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Himayatnagar	31.20	26-Feb-21
GLN1859825	Prashanth Kumar Chavva	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Bheltowns	55.50	25-Feb-21
GLN1811570	R Jayaprakash	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Bheltowns	113.70	25-Feb-21
GLN1791153	Ravi Varma	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sanathnagar	135.10	26-Feb-21
GLN1534219	Sahaja Pendyala	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Ameerpet	78.00	26-Feb-21
GLN1591810	Sahaja Pendyala	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Ameerpet	108.40	26-Feb-21
GLN1869721	Sri Harsha Manikanta Anj Muniipalle	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sardarpal	24.60	24-Feb-21
GLN1721376	V Venkataramana	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Habsiguda	58.90	25-Feb-21
GLN1706839	Venu Gopal Atluri	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Sanathnagar	14.70	26-Feb-21
GLN1841096	Dwarapureddi Janardhan Naidu	TELANGANA	HYDERABAD	Ameerpet	13.30	26-Feb-21

Bidders are requested to Submit a copy of their Photo - Identity, signature and address proof along with their original for verification together with two recent photographs on the day of auction. The Bank reserves the right to change the venue/date/time of auction or cancel the auction without any notice to bidders.

The cost of the auction process will be debited to the customer account. Bank reserves the right to recover the balance amount from the customer if the bid amount is insufficient to meet the payoff amount of the account.

For any further details regarding the terms and conditions of the auction, you are required to contact the below mentioned person/s.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., Ph - 9700699936

Nine kids from two Telugu States selected for Arithmetic Genius -2020

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

NINE kids from the two Telugu States got qualified for SIP Arithmetic Genius, All India Online Contest 2020 to be held on February 21. These kids between the age groups seven and nine will represent Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

These nine kids competed with as many as 5,000 kids at Regional Level and then got qualified after a rigorous four-month selection process. Out of the 5,000 participants 1,000 students were short-listed. From these 1,000 students, the above nine got selected to represent both the Telugu States at National Level informed Uma Swaminathan, Regional Head of SIP Academy in an official release.

These 9 kids include Karri Kranthi Manaswi of Niraj Public School, Begumpet; T. Aasritha of Dev Public School, Safilguda and Sarayu Erukulla of Phoenix Greens International School, Kokapet, Chirag Mohanty - St Michaels School, Marredpally; Anvitha Chapa - Johnson Grammar School Mallapur; D. Saurav - Johnson Grammar School, LB Nagar; G. Satya Hasini - Bharathi Vidya Bhavan, Tirupati; Mandala Nutan



Karri Kranthi Manaswi, T Ashritha, Sarayu Erukulla, Anvitha, Chirag, Saurav, Akshitha, Bhargav, Satya Hasini

Bhargav - Amrita Vidyalayam, Mahendra Hills, Secunderabad; K. Akshitha - The Secunderabad Public School, Malkajgiri.

Out of these 9 kids, 3 kids - Karri Kranthi Manaswi of Niraj Public

School, Begumpet; T. Aasritha of Dev Public School, Safilguda and Sarayu Erukulla of Phoenix Greens International School had emerged as Telugu States' Champions. SIP Arithmetic Genius, All India



Online Contest 2020 was organised by SIP Academy across the country. A total of 27,000 students competed in this competition from across India. Out of which 9 winners from each State will compete at the Nationals. More than 100 students will vie for the national honours at the 5th Season of SIP Arithmetic Genius, All India Online Contest 2020.

Amid the pandemic, this edition was organised online competition for the first time in the past four years. The objective of this year's online contest is to engage home struck students more meaningfully and help them improve arithmetic skills, Arithmetic skills, Uma Swaminathan, Regional Head of SIP Academy said.

Civic staff demolish steps, sunshade of shopping complex

The shopping complex belongs to BJP leader Orsu Velangi Raju

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KODAD (SURYAPET)

MUNICIPAL officials of Kodad town have demolished parapet wall of sunshade and steps of the shops of a shopping complex, belonging to BJP State leader Orsu Velangi Raju, with JCB on Monday.

Protesting the move of the municipal officials, local BJP leaders and cadre staged a dharna before Kodad police station. They alleged that the demolition done by municipal officials was politically motivated and atrocity against the saffron leaders for expressing support and solidarity to Tribals of Gurrambodu Tanda of Huzurnagar constituency.

Meanwhile, the municipal officials stated that the steps and parapet wall of sunshade of the



Municipal officials demolishing the steps of a shopping complex in Kodad town on Monday

shopping complex were demolished as it was constructed against the municipal norms.

BJP leader Orsu Velangi Raju is in Nalgonda jail on the charges of his involvement in the inci-

dent of stone pelting on police during the recent visit of BJP State president Bandi Sanjay to Gurrambodu Thanda of Huzurnagar constituency in the district.

First event of Lingamanthula Jatara conducted

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SURYAPET

THE first programme - Dishti Puja - of Lingamanthula Swamy Jatara was traditionally conducted by the people of Yadav community on Sunday midnight. Telangana's second biggest fair - Lingamanthula Swamy biannual Jatara will be held for five days from February 28 to March 4 at Durajupelli of Chivvemla mandal in the district. As a part of the fair, Dishti puja was performed 15 days before the fair. Andenapu Savudamma Devarapette from Kesaram village was brought to the temple. Yadava priests along with bikans narrated the stories of Lingamanthula Swamy and Savudamma and performed special pujas after drawing Chandrapatnam before the main sanctum.

Withdraw farm laws, demands Rythu Garjana



Leaders of CPI (ML) and All India Kisan Mazdoor Sangam taking out a rally in Khammam town on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

RYTHU Garjana demanded the Union government to withdraw farm laws, which are against the farmers and to abolish amendment in power bill.

All India Kisan Mazdoor Sangam general secretary Dr Ashish Mittal, Kecchala Ranga Reddy, State Kisan Mazdoor Sangam general secretary V Venkata Ramiah, Prof Kodandaram and CPI (ML) New Democracy State joint secretary Potu Ranga Rao alleged that the

Union government was trying to suppress farmers' struggle in New Delhi. They faulted the Centre's stringent action against farmers, who are fighting for their justified demands at national capital.

The leaders also found fault with Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for not responding to the farmers' struggle and not commenting against the Central government. They called upon intellectuals and people to support farmers' fight against agriculture bills and to become aware that both Central and State gov-

ernments are not supporting farmers. They gave a call to farmers across the country to come forward to fight against illegal laws brought by the Union government.

Coming to local issues, they demanded distribution of pattas to podu cultivators and stop attacking podu cultivators. They also demanded issuance of new ration cards; pension to people, who crossed 57 years; allotment of house sites; and sanctioning of Rs 5 lakh to eligible poor.

Earlier a massive rally was taken out in the town.

46 persons held for drinking alcohol at public places

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

RURAL SI Amireddy Rajasekhara Reddy warned that strict action will be taken against those, who consume alcohol in public places, and cases will be registered against them. They will be produced before the court for necessary action as per law, he added.

The SI informed that regular patrolling is being conducted in all villages under rural police station limits, in order to protect women and other people. Steps were being taken to prevent road accidents by identifying drinkers and imposing fines and imprisonment on them as well as cancellation of driving licenses. He warned that drunk and drive is an offence and punishable including imprisonment, fines and licence cancellation.

Rural police have arrested 46 persons on the charges of drinking alcohol in public places and were taken into custody and produced before the court. Also, 18 persons, who were caught drunk and driving, were produced before the court. Of the 18, one of them was punished with 2-day imprisonment, whereas five others were punished with one-day imprisonment and the remaining 12 were fined and their driving license was cancelled for two months.

SI Rajasekhara Reddy informed that a fine of Rs 31,220 was imposed regarding 67 liquor cases.



Construction site where centring collapsed in Mahabubabad on Monday

6 hurt in centring collapse

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBABAD

WORKERS at a construction site had a narrow escape when the centring for the construction of the building entrance of the new Integrated Collectorate Complex collapsed in Mahabubabad on Monday. However, the mishap left six workers, who were fixing the

centring, with injuries. District Collector VP Gautham inspected the construction site and elicited information about the incident from the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department.

Speaking to reporters, Gautham said that six workers sustained minor injuries and they are being treated at the Government Area Hospital. According to preliminary information,

centring collapsed as iron rods bent. The Collector directed the R&B officials to submit a detailed report on the incident. Municipal Chairman P Rammoan Reddy also visited the construction site. Mahabubabad Town Inspector J Venkataratnam said that they have not received any complaint from the district administration about the mishap.

3 of a family die as their car plunges into SRSP canal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAGTIAL

EVEN before people forgot the incident of car falling in a canal in Warangal district, same kind of mishap took place on Monday morning in Medipally mandal of Jagtial district.

Three members of a family were killed after the car they were travelling plunged into SRSP canal and one escaped narrowly. The deceased were identified as Katkuri Amarendar Rao, his wife Sirisha and daughter Shreya. Rao's son Jayanth managed to escape from



The car that fell into SRSP canal in Medipally mandal on Monday morning

the water. Amarendar Rao, an advocate of Jagtial town, along with

his family was going to his native place Joginipally village to attend

temple festival. When the car reached Medipally, Jayanth, who was driving the car, lost control of the wheel and plunged into the canal. Jayanth escaped from car by opening the door but the remaining three got stuck in the car and died. Police rushed to the spot and removed the car from the canal with the help of crane and sent the bodies to Jagtial Government Hospital for postmortem.

It's learnt that Amarendar was a close relative of MLA Sanjay Kumar. It's also learnt that his daughter Shreya's engagement was conducted recently.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

THE 282nd birth anniversary of Sri Sant Sevalal was observed across the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district on Monday. Marking the birth anniversary of Girjana Tribal Guru, Telana Vidhyarthi Sangam members performed Bhog Bhandar programme and offered prayers to Sevalal at ST Boys Hostel and Ashrama Patashala in Jachcherla mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, Girjana Vidhyarthi Sangam State Chief Secretary Vaditya Ramesh Nayak said that Sant Sevalal is the Messiah of Banjara Girjana Community and he is the one, who transformed the wandering girjan tribes to establish Thandas and nurtured them to live in permanent settle-

ments by making a living through farming instead of wandering from place to place during 17th century.

Sant Sevalal, who is born to Bheema Nayak and Dharmini Bai on February 15, 1732, is said to have brought revolutionary changes in the lives of tribal banjara community across the country. He also prohibited alcohol and non-vegetarianism and advocated and promoted education, brought social and political awareness among Banjara tribes and laid foundation for their civilized living.

Telangana Vidhyarthi Sangam working president Lokesh Nayak, Tirupathi Bavaji, Motiram Nayak, Gopal Nayak, Raju, Ravi, Ramesh, Santhosh, Sandeep, Bhargav, Ranana Prathap and others participated in the programme.



Girjana Vidhyarthi Sangam leaders along with students performing Bhog Bhandar programme at ST Hostel and Ashrama Patashala in Jachcherla on Monday

BJP MLC candidate claims huge public support

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

PEOPLE in the State are unhappy with the TRS government and wants a change, which is evident with Dubbaka and GHMC election results, stated Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda Graduate MLC candidate Gujjula Premender Reddy. Hence, the people in the State are supporting the BJP, he added.

On Monday, he visited Khammam district and participated in election campaigning. He also visited Wyra mandal and met all types of people and appealed them to cast vote to the BJP. Reddy said people are happy under the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and people are getting benefitted with the Central government's schemes.

Reddy criticised the TRS government that it had failed to implement its poll promises. The pink party leaders are mesmerising the people with their speeches, he added.

Later in the evening, Gujjula met the walkers in the park in Khammam town and appealed them to cast their votes in the graduate election. BJP Khammam district president Galla Satyanarayana, parliamentary party in-charge Devaki Vasudeva Rao and other leaders accompanied Gujjula Premender Reddy during his tour.



BJP MLC candidate Gujjula Premender Reddy speaking to the media in Wyra on Monday

THE HANS CLASSIFIEDS

<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, DONPAL RAJU S/o DONPAL SAYANNA, R/o. H.No.4-48, Donkal(V), Morthad(M), Nizamabad(D), have changed my name as DONPAL SAYANNA S/o DONPAL SAYANNA (TH_Khmm)</p> <p>I, *YATAKARLA DEVANNA* at H.No.1-9-87 Age 64 Metpally, Jagtial District. Have changed my name from *DEVANNA KAKER YATAKAL* to *YATAKARLA DEVANNA* vide affidavit dt. 19-01-2021 sworn before notary Vijjela Srinivas. (TH_Khmm)</p> <p>I, APPIDI UDAYKUMAR ASHOK S/o AP PIDI ASHOK REDDY, R/o. H.No.6-68, Gumlapur, Choppadandi, Karimnagar. Have changed my name as APPIDI UDHAY KUMAR S/o APPIDI ASHOK REDDY. (TH_Khmm)</p>	<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, KHAIR MEENAJUDDIN(old name), R/o. H.No.5-11-51/73/7, Priyadarshini Nagar, Nirmal, Dist. Nirmal, T.S.India, have changed my name as MOHAMMED MINHAJUDDIN S/o MOHAMMED SULEMAN (New Name). (TH_Nzm)</p> <p>I, undersigned JATTY SWAMY S/o JATTY MALLAJAH H.No.2-6-1164/B/104, Hanuman Residency, Bhavaninagar, Hanmakonda, Warangal Urban(Dist.) 506001, has been changed my name as JATTY JAI SWAMY S/o JATTY MALLAJAH. (TH_Adb)</p> <p>I, APPIDI ASHOK S/o APPIDI NARAYAN REDDY, R/o. H.No.6-68, Gumlapur, Choppadandi, Karimnagar. Have changed my name as APPIDI ASHOK REDDY S/o APPIDI NARAYAN REDDY. (TH_Khmm)</p>	<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, NIMMA RAJA SREE (old name) W/o NIMMA RAJESHWER, R/o. H.No.1-3-447/2, Indiranagar, Nirmal Town & Dist., hereby declare that my Husband Passport No. U8195417 wrongly entered my name as NIMMA RAJA SREE, I changed my name as ADHOLLA RAJASRI (New Name) W/o NIMMA RAJESHWER. Henceforth for all purpose. (TH_Adb)</p>
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Need to spread equitable distribution of vaccinations

WHO and partners have learnt from the mis-steps in response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic and established the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to promote equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. Most low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) face difficulties in accessing and delivering vaccines and therapeutics for COVID-19 to their populations. Multinational agencies, financial institutions, and wealthier countries should consider measures that could provide relief to indebted LMICs.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and others need to lead an international initiative to mobilise support for LMICs in need. Many LMICs do not have an established platform for vaccinating their adult populations. Although it is feasible to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to health-care and other front-line essential workers, in some LMICs it will be difficult to effectively reach and vaccinate with two doses all elderly populations and individuals with co-morbidities, given insufficient mechanisms to identify such groups.

The ultracold chain requirements of mRNA

COVID-19 vaccines are likely to be an insurmountable hurdle. The infrastructure for vaccination in many LMICs is already inadequate, as shown by the 19-7 million under-vaccinated infants globally. Strengthening the capacity of LMICs to do clinical trials and promoting LMIC participation in research are crucial. Tracking the safety and effectiveness of different COVID-19 vaccines over time in various populations and settings will necessitate improvements in pharmacovigilance.

Regulatory authorities in many LMICs need to be strengthened and could benefit from a programme of national and international support, as well as regional cooperation and reliance mechanisms. As part of internationally coordinated actions, COVID-19 technologies should be transferred to LMIC-based manufacturers, accompanied by regulatory guidance. Efforts to boost local manufacturing capacity in LMICs will contribute to equity, global solidarity and global health security. India and South Africa have called for the suspension of intellectual property rights related to COVID-19 vaccines to improve access for LMICs, a move now supported by many other countries, but

opposed by the pharmaceutical industry, which cites the disincentive to innovation.

There are further challenges. Governments in LMICs with strong private health sectors, as those in high-income countries, will need to manage the inherent potential for inequity, whereby the rich could access COVID-19 vaccines before individuals with less access to private care who may be at increased risk of severe disease and death, such as older people and those with comorbidities. LMICs affected by war, civil conflict, economic crises, or natural disasters, or with large refugee populations or populations with special needs or vulnerabilities need additional support for vaccines and vaccination under extremely difficult operational conditions.

Re-examining global governance structures, including the UN and its Security Council, is much needed so that the voices and interests of billions of people in LMICs are better represented and recognised. Global support to multilateral institutions is essential to sustain their support to LMICs to facilitate vaccinations globally. The COVID-19 pandemic shows that no nation can stand alone. We are all part of a common humanity that requires us to respect our diverse experiences, cultures, and countries and forge partnerships that better serve the interests of all, as the health experts world over aver.

Upholding 'secrecy' in Lok Pal selection



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

THE RTI Act and general ethics of administration demands the transparency about any selection or recruitment for public office. The Department of Personnel and Training rules and Office Memoranda also guide the CPIOs to place entire record of recruitments and promotions and transfers in the public domain on their own.

Lok Pal is an anti-corruption institution which is supposed to decide the legal action on complaints of abuse of authority for gain in a transparent manner. Though law was passed in 2013, the NDA Government could not appoint the Lok Pal and Lok Ayuktas since 2014 till recently. The high-level committee headed by the Prime Minister will appoint Lok Pal and others, which is expected to maintain the minutes of meetings that has to be in public domain as per law and rules.

But, according to CIC order dated January 28, the CPIO of DoPT has denied the minutes of the selection process of Lok Pal. Though CPIO did not invoke any 'exception', but his denial was upheld by CIC as valid. The CIC wrongly quotes the two Supreme Court judgements and gives order exactly opposite to SC orders.

The CIC cited SC order 15th Feb 2019 in Anjali Bharadwaj v Union of India which directed disclosure of all details of appointment of Information Commissioners which was complied with by DoPT. But it denied sharing the minutes of Lok Pal appointment which was made by almost similar Selection Committee.

Another case cited is: Common Cause A Registered Society vs. Ajay Mittal (Contempt PET. (C) No. 714/2018 in W.P. (C) No. 245/2014) relating to the constitution of the Lok pal, wherein the SC said: "...So far as the prayer for putting the names recommended by the Search Committee in the public domain is concerned, we have considered the provisions of Section 4(4) of the Act and it is our considered view that no direction from the Court should be issued in this regard. Rather the matter should be left for a just determination by the Selection Committee as and when the meeting of the Committee is convened."

A simple reading of Section 8(I)(b) would have been sufficient to know that disclosure of minutes was not prohibited by SC. Section 8(I)(b) says: information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court". This decision shows that Selection Committee if believes in

transparency should decide to disclose. There is no prohibition imposed by SC.

Appellant Anjali said the contempt petition was filed when despite the court's 2017 ruling, the Centre failed to appoint a chairperson and members of the Lok Pal. She pointed out that Section 4(4) of the Lok pal Act which states that the Selection Committee shall regulate its own procedure in a transparent manner for selecting the Chairperson and Members of the Lok pal.

The Central Information Commission has affixed its seal to non-disclosure of minutes of the anti-corruption body allowing secrecy in appointment process much against the letter and spirit of Right to Information Act and good governance rules.

Thus, selection process of Lok Pal is the 'secret' according to latest order of the CIC, most unfortunate. Secrecy breeds corruption. There are two tragedies: Lok Pal, which is expected to introduce transparency in all governance wings fights against transparency, the DoPT and CIC Saroj Punhani supports the secrecy.

Nowhere the order of CIC does support its conclusion that information sought 'confidential' 'secret' and 'fiduciary' in nature. One can find collegium conclusions in Supreme Court but not details of appointment of Lok Pal either from Lok Pal or DoPT. The CIC has simply listed the CPIO's illegal and illogical contentions and approved at the end, without giving any justification.

Anjali Bharadwaj has filed RTI application in November 2018 with the Department of Personnel and Training, seeking records related to the process of selection of the chairperson and members of the Lok pal.

Authorship: A new concept

The DoPT refused to provide a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Selection Committee claiming the authorship of such documents which include 3-5 high level dignitaries does not vest in the Department of Personnel and Training and same have been shared as secret document. This raises fundamental question - who is the author of file of selection committee? It is neither poetry nor a story for someone to author it. Posts are advertised, applications are submitted, and selection committee conducts the process. None is author or owner of a file. Any file is built on application and ends with decision. Everyone who adds a comment is a contributor and each owns it. RTI recognizes holding the file not owning. And the DoPT which is nodal agency to implement RTI does not know it. Civil servants feel they are subordinate to DoPT and do not displease the boss.

The CIC has no jurisdiction or legal



When Cabinet decisions are disclosable along with entire material after decision was taken, how can any other body be considered as 'high level authority'? Is that committee higher in level than the Cabinet? How the 'level' of authority prevents the disclosability? The CIC should have answered these questions

provision to examine the authorship of 'file' and deny it without referring to any clause of exception. The CIC's judgment is a shock to RTI activists as it laid down a new precedent of rejecting the appeal though no exception is attracted.

Sealed cover: Sealing transparency

The CPIO thought that confidentiality of the said record can be gauged by the fact that the averted minutes of the Selection Committee were received in a sealed cover by the DoPT and that it had been presented before the Supreme Court too in a sealed cover. The CIC did not explain who and why the minutes was categorised as 'secret' and on what grounds? Is it CIC's new concept that sealing the cover itself is 'secrecy' and every post and courier that goes in sealed cover, should never be opened?

The Commissioner understood that the information belonged to Lok Pal and thus it was 'third' party information with DoPT, which was given in sealed cover. Perhaps CIC assumes that anything given in sealed cover is 'top secret'. It is a clear misuse of third-party provision as 'exception' though there are several judicial pronouncements that information could be denied only under Sections 8 and 9 of RTI Act.

It also exposed the CPIO's knowledge

of RTI, who thinks that consent of third party is needed. If that is so, why did he not consult Lok Pal, who might have consented for disclosure. It is pathetic that CPIO and first appellate authority of DoPT thinks that because third party is 'higher level' committee, the information should be totally 'secret'. The CIC did not bother to ask CPIO why he did not pursue the process of consulting third party. From CPIO of DoPT to CIC, an independent authority, they go by their own sense of transparency ignoring the RTI Act completely.

When cabinet decisions are disclosable along with entire material after decision was taken, how can any other body be considered as 'high level authority'? Is that committee higher in level than the cabinet? How the 'level' of authority prevents the disclosability? The CIC should have answered these questions.

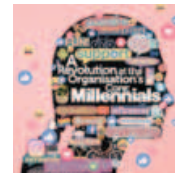
Another wonderful idea of CPIO of DoPT floated was that minutes of a decision-making committee 'is holding it in fiduciary in nature' and hence should be denied. The CIC did not find it unreasonable and did not give any reasons.

The Government was never ready to constitute the Lok pal, though Act was passed in 2013. Even after the SC direction, the process did not begin. Only after contempt petition was pressed, the Selection Committee met. The Committee consists of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), Speaker of the House of the People, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India, or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by CJI and an eminent jurist, as recommended by the Chairperson and other members. As none was recognised as the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha after the 2014 elections, Committee met without the LoP and selected the Chair and other members of Lok Pal in 2019. The CIC, sadly, agreed with DoPT and Lok Pal in denying the information without reasoned application of any exception.

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennett University and former Central Information Commissioner)

Design education for new millennials

PROF A BALASUBRAMANIAM



"DESIGN education is changing," says the Design Guru Don Norman, Professor Emeritus, UC San Diego, and author of the famous book, 'Design of everyday things'. He further calls for a new paradigm in design education: "Design education has to move away from schools of art and architecture and move into the schools of science and engineering. We need new kinds of designers, people who can work across disciplines, who understand human beings, business, and technology and the appropriate means of validating claims."

The reason for this simple. Design itself is changing and evolving: from a predominantly form-giving activity to a strategic problem-solving one. Design thinking is the new mantra for innovation. Technology institutes and Management firms are seen to invest more and more in Design. Millennials are advised to understand the changing scenario of the profession, as they embark on the journey for a career in Design.

Design education is responsible

Students of Design must understand that the profession needs to be responsible. From a merely form giving activity that was creating aesthetically interesting products, the profession of Product Design is now contributing to sustainable living by innovating with materials, technology and processes. Products that end up in landfills are frowned upon. There is also this growing concern for planet-friendly products as opposed to user-friendly products that pollute the earth. Curriculums are therefore being transformed to include sustainable production processes, eco-friendly materials and design projects focus more on helping humankind than create wasteful products.

Design education gets generic

There was a time when specialisations were the norm. Industrial Designers went on to specialise in Product Design, which progressed into Interior Product Design, and further into Bathroom Designers! Such specialisations are not working any more. Customers are happy to deal with Interdisciplinary designers who are generalists who can tackle a plethora of problems straddling different specialisations. Progressive Universities like JKLU have included Interdisciplinary Design programmes to cater to this requirement.

Design education is getting digital

The pen has been sacrificed for the stylus. The paper for screens. Designers have gone completely digital. There is therefore, this need for an urgent revamping of the course contents to make digital learning, online classes and bite-sized inputs. Take for instance, a discipline like Communication Design. All new programmes have extensive emphasis on the digital way of learning.

Design education is about co-creation

Designers used to work in silos, developing new products and patenting their innovations. There is, however, a new breed of designers who are open and develop products that include all the stake holders of the project. Co-creation is gaining ground and copy-left is the new normal. Design schools are now getting the millennials to collaborate on digital platforms, working across time-zones and developing solutions collectively for the problems of the world.

Design education is multi-disciplinary

Designers who learn in special institutes dedicated to design, miss out a multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving. Inputs in sociology, psychology, finance and management make design professionals more ready for solving real-life problems. Critical thinking and systemic thinking processes are taught in new institutes of Design for making them develop into a well-rounded professional.

JKLU for future-ready education

The future of design is all pervading. It has to cater to all sectors of the economy. The divisions and specialisations are blurring. The world is shrinking and one can no more afford to work in silos.

Designers will be expected to take on leadership roles and have to become more disruptive and innovative, responsible and inclusive. They should learn to cultivate empathy to cater to the last individual. Sustainability will become the mantra for the future of design. Imagination will become paramount and creativity will be the key to solving world's problems.

The Institute of Design JKLU is ready for the challenge. New curriculums are embedded with Communication and Critical thinking classes. Interdisciplinary Design is an option for the generalist designer. Communication Design programme is predominantly digital. Co-creation is the norm, as students from Technology, Management and Design get together for classes and projects. We are poised to bring about a new paradigm in design education. One that is contemporary and relevant for the new millennials.

(The author is with JK Lakshmiptat University, Jaipur)

Drains in Indore being turned into playgrounds for residents

SUNDEEP POURANIK



THIS Madhya Pradesh city, which has been awarded the title of the country's cleanest city four times, is now converting open drains filled with garbage into playgrounds where cricket and football matches are being played.

The process from waste collection to its disposal has been given a new dimension in Indore by creating a new drainage model.

The form of the drains flowing in Indore is being transformed through the Sirpur Dhar Road to the Aam wali Pulia and the meeting of drains at Chandan Nagar.

Residents and large outfalls have been identified by the municipal corporation under the river-drain outfall tapping work and after trapping these by laying down a sewerage line, the sewerage falling into the primary sewerage line of the city was stopped, causing the sewage flowing in the drains to now be transferred directly to the Sewage Treatment Plant. The corporation is doing plantation work on a large scale to beautify and protect the environment on both sides of the drain as well as tapping it. Due to these efforts made by the Corporation for the Kanh-Saraswati river and purification of drains, the drain at Chandan Nagar has completely dried up.

A similar process has been followed from Shiv Nagar to Kailash Chaudhary Park Nagar, Virat Nagar, Udyog Nagar, Khatipura and Azad Nagar which meets the drain in the Kanh river. This drain has also dried up and at a particular place a football match was played after which a cricket match was also played there.

Municipal Commissioner Pratibha Pal said Indore is the first city where drain and sewerage water used to flow once, but now the entire drain has dried up as a result of sewer tapping done under the 'River-Drainage Sanitation Campaign'. Where it was not possible to stand near these drains due to the stench and filth, a 'Nullah cricket match' was organized in the past few days.

Superintendent Engineer Mahesh Sharma and Gopal Jagtap of Institution 'Basics' said 'Hamara Nullah, Hamara Abhiyan' was started under which the drains are drying up and the residents are playing football and cricket there. Residents of Chandan Nagar also took an oath of maintaining cleanliness as well as not throwing any garbage and litter into the drains.

LETTERS

Wanted a new law for exports



NEW agricultural-law for exports is required (not for corporates or brokers eating into farmers' profits). Everyone wants raise in salary / income. Why not farmers? Exports will avoid the main problem of accumulation of unsold / stationary stocks. This way it is possible for the government to buy food grains from farmers for maximum support price / reasonable price and export the accumulated stocks. Also with profits from exports at hand, it is easy for government and farmers TEAM (with sharing of investment burden) to set up long-term warehouses / godowns to store the harvest, buy the vehicles to speedily transport the harvest to godowns to save it from sudden rains, possible are: crop rotation, latest technology introduction etc.

Many suggest that private investment arrangement in production of crops will nullify loan taking by small farmers via mortgaging assets. In case of spoilt-crop, loss burden is reduced for farmer (as part of loss is shared by the private investor). Money-Amount burden for agricultural loans write off to farmers too gets reduced to government of India.

Madhav P, Secunderabad

Civilised behaviour missing

YOUR editorial 'Cuss words the new normal' (15th Feb) aptly sums up the decadent state of ever-falling standards of public decorum among large number of our politicians. Not only in politics, even in our ordinary lives, cuss words seem to have become quite common, as frequently evidenced in street brawls, road rage cases, informal meetings and discussions. There is a general tendency to browbeat a person with a differing viewpoint with loud-mouthed rhetoric, provocative gestures and even casting unwarranted aspersions.

Cutting across all sections of society, people generally have no qualms about calling each other names. Unfortunately, this malaise has even afflicted the average household, where arrogant behaviour seems to hold sway. It is high time that due primacy is accorded to polite and courteous behaviour in our day-to-day lives. These values need to be inculcated in children in right earnest in their infancy and both educational institutions and parents can play a highly pro-active role in this regard. In the state legislatures and Parliament, the speakers and leaders of different parties should keep a hawk's eye on the general behaviour of the elected representatives and take appropriate deterrent steps for curbing any deviant mannerism.

Amit Banerjee, New Delhi

India should maintain vigil in Ladakh

THE India-China agreement on disengagement at Pangong Tso in Ladakh is certainly a promising start towards peace. However, stabilising the borders could take a long time. The Indian and Chinese troops are expected

to stop their forward positions on either side of Pangong in a phased manner. The troops will have to return to the pre-April 2020 position.

However, the surprisingly hasty decision of China to withdraw its troops raises doubts about its intentions. What could have prompted China to take such a hasty decision? It is reasonable to assume that Beijing's strategic move is linked to the US factor of interfering in the Ladakh standoff. In spite of the attempts by both countries to end the row peacefully through dialogue, talks between the two sides remained in a state of complete deadlock.

The takeaways are clear here: China has been moving cautiously since the Biden administration took a decision on the China-centric Quad and Indo-Pacific strategy. In the recent telephonic conversation between US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both of them had reiterated their commitment to a strong India-US relationship. China's disengagement could be linked to deterring India from joining the US-led alliance. China wants to lessen the prospect of India partnering with the new administration to form an anti-China coalition.

It is a fact that earning US support is essential for India's standing up to China. China believes that if India-US relationship is further strengthened under Biden administration, it will reinforce the US-led alliance. Notwithstanding the fact that the disengagement is unquestionably positive, India must monitor the progress closely and press for the resolution of all remaining issues including the Depsang plateau.

Venu G S, Kollam

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District Library Development Committee meeting held in Saroornagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RANGAREDDY

DISTRICT Library Development Committee Chairman Kappati Pandu Ranga Reddy held a plenary meeting with the members of district library association in Saroornagar on Monday.

During the meeting the committee suggested for an app regarding the libraries and the books in the libraries for the

people of Rangareddy district.

On this occasion the members have reviewed the works of libraries in various mandals. The construction of new libraries in Nedunur, Emjapur and Ravirala villages were also discussed.

District Library Development committee members Dayanand, Anand Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, District Panchayat Raj Officer Ganesh, District Library organization secretary Manoj Kumar and others were also present.

₹2L CMRF cheque handed over to Kadthal resident

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADTHAL

KALWAKURTHY MLA Jaipal Yadav distributed Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF) cheque worth Rs 2 lakh to Ravi, a resident of Gaddamidhi Thanda in Kadthal on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the government has been providing monetary assistance to the poor and the needy through CMRF. The people should utilise this opportunity, he said, adding that the Telangana government always comes to the rescue of poor who are in serious need. Elaborating various developmental and welfare schemes undertaken in the constituency, he said all schemes implemented by the government were aimed at benefiting all sections of society.

ZPTC Dasharath Nayak, PACS chairman Gampa Venkatesh, Mandal TRS president Srinivas Reddy, sarpanches Harichand Nayak, Tulasiram Nayak, TRS leaders and others were present.



LEOPARD ON PROWL AGAIN, ATTACKS COW

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJENDRANAGAR

PANIC prevailed after a cow was reportedly attacked by a leopard at Jayashankar Agricultural University in Rajendranagar. The incident happened in the wee hours of Monday.

On receiving information from the owner of the cattle the police and forest department officials reached the spot and examined the injured

cows. The locals informed that the leopard has been moving in and around the Shamshabad Airport, Gollapalli, Mamidipalli and Rajendranagar increasing distress among the people.

Earlier, a leopard was seen sleeping on Old Kurnool Road in Rajendranagar Circle, Gagan Pahad. However, it later got trapped in the cage.

The scared locals have urged the officials to take necessary actions to the earliest.

SC slaps notice on WhatsApp, Facebook

Continued from P1

In Europe, it is different because they have a special law," he argued.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said the right to privacy was a fundamental right and they cannot compromise with the privacy of people.

Divan cited that WhatsApp had already delayed the implementation of its new privacy policy till May 15 this year and sought a notice which is returnable before this date. The bench said it is impressed with Divan's submission that while the Data Protection Bill is about to be brought into force, WhatsApp is framing a policy to share data. Datar also said that the messages were encrypted end to end.

The top court directed WhatsApp and Facebook to file their statement contesting the contentions in the present application. The Chief Justice told the WhatsApp counsel that people thought if a message was sent from a person to another and then to a third person, the whole thing was disclosed to Facebook.

As counsel contended that this is not happening, Chief Justice Bobde disagreed, saying that they are telling information heard and read through news reports, and if WhatsApp disagrees, it should clarify this on oath.

As officials busy converting old vehicles into scrap, smart owners repair, resell

- Air pollution escalates due to obsolete vehicles
- As many as 6.81 lakh vehicles are aged above 15 years

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RANGA REDDY

THE district is in the process of converting obsolete vehicles into scraps, especially in case of autos. As people are wittily converting old vehicles being repaired and then resold.

Lime lighting the demand for autos, people are converting the old autos into new ones and are reselling them. As peer the transport and pollution check department 15-20 years old vehicles should converted to scrap.

Moreover, only if older ones are scraped will make people



buy a new one followed by license and that chassis number. This is where some wit is on display by few people.

In one such Centre in Nagole which converts old vehicles into

scraps, do not convert a few of them but repairs and sells them. The old ones are still roaming on the roads again as usual.

Air pollution has been increasing with obsolete vehicles. In the Hyderabad transport department alone, there are a total of 6.81 lakh vehicles that have crossed 15-20 years. If Rangareddy and Medchal districts are combined the count of 15-20 years old vehicles will cross 15 lakhs. According to the rules and regulations, such vehicles should pay green tax to get on the roads, which is not being followed by anyone. According to the new budget, if such vehicles are not made into scrap, they are likely to face heavy fines if they get on roads.

It is hoped that with the new legislation in the latest budget, such matters will be fully checked. The government has banned permits for the purchase of new autos in Greater in view of pollution and traffic congestion. No permits have been issued for five years.

Film showcasing TRS rule to hit screens on KCR's birthday

Continued from P1

The party leaders would be offering shawl at Gurudwara and Chadar at Yousufain Dargah and special prayers in churches. The party leaders would be planting about one crore saplings in the State.

Various sports events, including cricket, volleyball and others are under way in the name of KCR Cup and the prizes would be distributed on Wednesday. Sports Authority of Telangana State (SATS) Chairman A Venkateshwar Reddy is taking up yagam.

Govt eases curbs on geospatial data for map-making

Continued from P1

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in several sectors that were suffering because of non-availability of high-quality maps. "Availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of geospatial data will significantly benefit diverse sectors of the economy, significantly boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance its preparedness for emergency response," Vardhan said. He said earlier even the Survey of India, the organisation entrusted with making maps, had to seek permission for mapping from different agencies, thus delaying its work by at least three-to-six months. In a series of tweets, Modi said, "Our government has taken a decision that

will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said. The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and

accelerate economic growth, he stressed. India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geospatial and remote sensing data. Democratizing data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors. "These reforms demonstrate our commitment to improving ease of doing business in India by deregulation," he said.

INCREASING ST QUOTA Ball lies in Centre's court, says Talasani

HYDERABAD

ANIMAL Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the Central government has to decide on increasing reservations for scheduled tribes in the country.

He took part in Santh Sevalal Maharaj Jayanthi held on a grand note at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Telangana government has passed a resolution in the Assembly to increase ST reservations and urged the Centre to take necessary steps. "However, the Centre is yet to take action in this regard. It is supposed to give suitable reservations to the ST community to develop in all segments," he added.

The minister lauded the State government and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar

The government has upgraded Lambada thandas to village panchayats. We are giving funds for these tribal villages to have all facilities. KCR offered minister post to Satyavathi Rathod who is a tribal leader, he said



Rao for implementing several schemes for the welfare of SCs and STs. "The government has upgraded Lambada thandas to village panchayats. We are giving funds for these tribal villages to have all facilities. KCR

offered minister post to Satyavathi Rathod who is a tribal leader he said," he added.

Besides Srinivas Yadav, Ministers Malla Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod and other leaders attended the event.

Sabitha, Sathyavathi take part in TRS membership drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHEVELLA

EDUCATION minister Sabitha Indrareddy and Women and Children welfare minister Sathyavathi Rathod participated in the membership of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) drive held in Chevella on Monday.

On this occasion Education minister Sabitha Indrareddy called upon the party leaders and cadre to put up a collective effort to see that greater numbers of enrolments are from Chevella.

Sabitha said that the Telangana government is striving for the betterment of the people and the State.

Speaking about the Palamuru

project she said that the government is striving to complete the works of the Palamuru project to the earliest. She further added that after the TRS government has come in governance, investors have invested Rs. 2 lakh crores and established 14,000 companies.

She also said that the Telangana government has been providing drinking water to the public through Mission Bhagiratha.

This membership drive has been conducted under the auspices of Chevella MLA Kale Yadiah. Nagarkurnool MP Ramulu, MLC Mahendar Reddy, Rangareddy ZP Chairperson Anitha Reddy, Incharge Gattu Ramachander and others were also present.



5.6 lakh to cast votes in MLC constituencies

169 polling centres set up in Hyderabad district

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THERE are 5.6 lakh voters in the two MLC graduates constituencies for which elections would be held on March 14. In Hyderabad district 169 polling centres have been set up.

This was stated by GHMC Commissioner D S Lokesh Kumar here on Monday at a review meeting with the nodal officers on holding of elections.

Lokesh Kumar stated that the L B Indoor stadium has been temporarily selected as the distribution, reception and counting centre. He directed the officials concerned to arrange web-casting in every polling booth, besides providing basic facilities.

The GHMC commissioner said as the model code of conduct has already come into force, special teams are being constituted to enforce it. Additional GHMC Commissioner Priyanka Ala has been appointed as the returning officer (RO) for the elections.

According to Lokesh Kumar, the nominations would be received in her office located on the third floor of the main GHMC building. The election staff would

themselves go to identified senior citizens aged over 80 years and Covid positive persons to help them cast votes, a press release issued by GHMC.

ELECTION TIMETABLE

Date of election notification:	February 16
Filing of nominations:	February 23
Scrutiny of nominations:	February 24
Date of withdrawal:	February 26
Date of polling:	March 14 8 am to 4 pm.
Counting of votes:	March 17
Date of closure of poll process:	March 22
Nodal officers & duties	
G Venkateshwarlu	---SDC LA (Printing of ballot papers, arranging ballot boxes)
P Saroja	---AC-admin (Election material, stationery)
B Santosh, IAS	---AC-health & sanitation (Micro observer & health care)
Jairaj Kennedy	---AC-finance, IT (IT, webcasting)
J Shankarayya	---AC-UCD-electrical (Training)
Vishwajit Kampati	---Director, EV & DM (Law & order, transport)
Mohd Ziauddin	---CA-maintenance (DRC, provision of basic facilities)
Venkataramana	---CPRO (media cell, paid news, voter awareness)
Anuradha	---OSD OGD Estate Officer (24x7 call centre)
Mahesh Kulkarni	---Chief Valuation Officer (Report, return)
G Balanarsimha Swamy	---Personnel Officer LWS (Postal ballots)

Lions Club organises health camp



HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

MLA Anjaiah Yadav inaugurated the mega health camp at Buggareddy gardens in Shadnagar on Monday.

Lions Club of Shadnagar and Vijaya hospital jointly organised the mega health camp for people suffering from cardiac problems to mark Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's birthday, which is on February 17.

Shadnagar Municipal chairman Narender, Farooqnagar ZPTC Venkatraman Reddy, Lions Club region chairman G Narayana, zonal chairman A Srinivas Reddy, secretary Murali, doctors Chandhulal Rathod, Sudheer Reddy, Prem Saikumar and others were present.

Ambulance flips over near Shadnagar toll plaza

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RANGA REDDY

AN ambulance of a private hospital flipped over near Shadnagar toll plaza on Monday.

This accident took place when the ambulance was taking a dead body from Hyderabad to Mahabubnagar. Moreover, the people travelling in the ambulance were severely injured.



Nanosatellite to carry Bhagavad Gita, PM Modi's photograph into space

Continued from P1

SpaceKidz reportedly asked the individuals who are interested to send their names to the space and received 25,000 entries, from which 1,000 names are of people from outside India. "We decided to do this because it will spark interest of the people in the mission and space science," Dr Kesan said. The people who have send in their names will be given boarding passes, she added.

Satish Dhawan Satellite, that is scheduled to be launched on February 28 by the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV-C51), will also carry three scientific payloads, including one to study space radiation, another for studying the magnetosphere, and one that will demonstrate a low-power wide-area communication network. A Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1, 20 co-passenger satellite and a demonstration satellite by Pixxel will also be carried in the same mission.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Will send Covishield to Canada soon

Dear honourable PM Justin Trudeau, I thank you for your warm words towards India and its vaccine industry. As we await regulatory approvals from Canada, I assure you, Serum Institute of India will fly out Covishield to Canada in less than a month; I'm on it!

— Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India



PROFIT

Sidbi Q3 profit rises by 9%

Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) on Monday reported 9 per cent growth in net profit at Rs 630 crore for December quarter 2020-21. In the year-ago period, its profit stood at Rs 578 crore. During the first nine months of 2020-21, Sidbi's net profit rose 38.4 per cent to Rs 2,165 crore.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.05	South	
Euro	92.61	African Rand	5.79
UAE Dirham	21.77	Hong Kong Dollar	10.78
Thai Baht	2.8	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	105.12	New Zealand Dollar	55.24
Australian Dollar	59.36	Saudi Riyal	21.3
Canadian Dollar	60.27	Swedish Krona	10.1
Swiss Franc	84.87	Singapore Dollar	57.69

KHAMMAM TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Navi General's health plan

NAVI General Insurance has launched a two-minute online retail health insurance product. Customers can buy health insurance via the Navi health insurance app through a quick and completely paperless process and the policy issued to them instantly on the app. The product offers customizable health insurance cover ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 1 cr for individuals and families. The policy offers comprehensive health insurance that covers more than 20 health benefits including in-patient hospitalisation, pre and post hospitalisation expenses, Covid-19 hospitalisation, domiciliary hospitalization etc. Ramchandra Pandit, MD & CEO, Navi General Insurance, said: "With our health insurance offering, our objective is to radically simplify health insurance for individuals and families."

Udaan expands supply chain

UDAAN announced that its supply chain and logistics capability to serve small businesses across the country, through UdaanExpress, has been strengthened to over 10 mn sq. ft. of warehousing space. This warehousing capacity is 230 acres. The achievement of this milestone has been made possible through capacity expansion and addition of new warehouses, taking the total number of warehouses to 200, spread across the country. Sujeet Kumar, co-founder, Udaan said: "We are committed to offering world class, tech-enabled and cost-effective supply chain & logistics solutions, in addition to the benefits of eCommerce scale, to small businesses of Bharat. The latest capacity expansion to 10 million sq. ft. allows our customers a better and hassle-free inventory management."

Bada Business hires more

WITH a post Covid surge in digital learning, EdTech startup Bada Business expanded its workforce by almost 300 per cent this financial year, adding over 300 employees to its workforce across the country. The platform offers a series of online business training and skilling programmes for small entrepreneurs and wantrepreneurs. Founded by business trainer Dr Vivek Bindra in 2019, Bada Business is a rare case of a bootstrapped startup crossing Rs 100 crore in revenue within two years of starting up. "In a post Covid environment, not only has digital learning witnessed a boost, there has also been a surge in requirement for up-skilling and business training for entrepreneurs looking to adapt their businesses to the new normal. We have witnessed a soaring demand," said Dr Bindra, CEO, Bada Business.

Eupheus raises \$4.1mn

Eupheus Learning a Delhi-based leading B2B EdTech company has raised \$4.1 million in series B funding round. The round is led by United Education Company, Kuwait's leading company in the education sector and Al Rayan Holding Company in which UEC holds a majority stake, offering different curriculum to cater to the Kuwaiti markets diverse demographic composition. The company is the largest outreach platform for schools with an ecosystem of 13,000 schools, driving partnerships with 5,000 schools covering 4 million students. Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah, chairperson, UEC, said: "We are excited to partner with Eupheus Team as they continue their journey in fast-growing EdTech market with their innovative and differentiated offerings".

Centre may put 4 banks on sale

NEW DELHI

THE central government has short-listed four mid-sized state-run banks for privatisation, under a new push to sell state assets and shore up government revenues. Reuters news agency reported quoting three government sources.

Privatisation of the banking sector, which is dominated by public sector banks (PSBs) with hundreds of thousands of employees, is politically risky because it could put jobs at risk, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration aims to make a start with second-tier banks, the report said. The four banks on the shortlist are Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and the Central Bank of India, two officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity as the matter is not yet public. Two of those banks will be selected for sale in the next financial year which begins in April, the officials said. The shortlist has not previously been reported.

The government is considering mid-sized to small banks for its first round of privatisation to test the waters. In the coming years it could also look at some of the country's bigger banks, the officials said.

The government, however, will continue to hold a majority stake in

India's largest lender State Bank of India, which is seen as a 'strategic bank' for implementing initiatives such as expanding rural credit. A finance ministry spokesman declined to comment on the matter.

India's deepest economic contraction on record caused by the pandemic is driving the push for bolder reforms, economists say. Government also wants to over-

haul a banking sector reeling under a heavy load of non-performing assets, which are likely to rise further once banks are allowed to categorise loans that soured during the pandemic as bad. PM Modi's office initially wanted four banks to be put up for sale in the coming fiscal year, but officials have advised caution fearing resistance from unions representing the employees, the report added.

Demand for completed flats rise in 2020: Survey

NEW DELHI

DEMAND for completed residential properties is rising compared to that for under-construction flats, as the share of ready-to-move-in homes in the total housing sales in 2020 rose to 21 per cent from 18 per cent in the previous year, according to News Corp-backed realty brokerage firm PropTiger.

A total of 1,82,640 units were sold in the 2020 calendar year, of which 21 per cent were in the RTMI (ready-to-move-in) category and 79 per cent were under-construction, PropTiger said quoting its Real Insight report for 2020. In 2019, a total of 3,47,590 units were sold of which 18 per cent were RTMI, it said in a statement. PropTiger research found that the share of RTMI in the total sales has been on the rise since 2016.

The share of RTMI in total sales during 2015 was 7 per cent, which increased to 10 per cent in 2016, 12 per cent in 2017, 15 per cent in 2018 and 18 per cent in 2019, the statement said. "Risk-averse home buyers are increasingly opting for ready-to-move-in flats. Even in under-construction properties, the preference is towards branded developers or those with an impeccable track record of execution," said Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.com, Makaan.com and PropTiger.com.

Sensex hits 52,000 mark on global cues

Rallies 610 points as investors pile into banking, finance stocks

MUMBAI

THE Sensex rallied 610 points to finish above the 52,000-mark for the first time while the Nifty soared past 15,300 on Monday as investors piled into banking and finance stocks amid a bullish trend overseas.

Supportive macroeconomic data and unabated foreign fund inflows added to the momentum, traders said. After touching a record high of 52,235.97 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 609.83 points or 1.18 per cent up at its new closing peak of 52,154.13. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty soared 151.40 points or 1 per cent to finish at a record 15,314.70. It touched an intra-day peak of 15,340.15. Axis Bank led the Sensex gainers' chart, climbing 5.88 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, TCS, Tech Mahindra, HUL, Asian Paints and Titan were among the laggards, sliding up to 1.77 per cent.

"Indian market opened on a positive following upbeat peers in Asia as Nikkei 225 crossed

30,000 for first time in more than three decades with Japan's economy growing 12.7 per cent on an annualised basis in October to December last year," said Narendra Solanki, Head - Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi. Meanwhile, the wholesale price-based inflation rose sharply to 2.03 per cent in January on costlier non-food manufactured items. Indicating some signs of recovery, industrial production recorded a positive growth of 1 per cent in December while retail inflation cooled to a 16-month low of 4.06 per cent in January, as per data released post market hours on Friday. Sector-wise, BSE bankex, finance, realty, industrials, telecom and healthcare indices rallied up to 3.31 per cent, while IT, consumer durables, metal and tech ended in the red.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices surged up to 1.40 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in China and Hong Kong were closed for the Lunar New Year holidays, while Tokyo and Seoul ended with strong gains.



OpenTeQ rolls out new integrated tech solutions

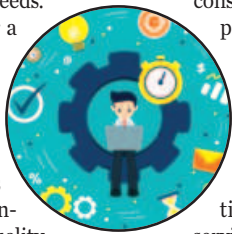
HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

OPENTEQ, a global digital solutions and IT services company, has announced its new integrated technology solutions for customers. The IT solutions will help businesses modernise their operations by integrating software and systems to meet their technological needs. OpenTeQ, with over a decade of experience, offers a wide spectrum of services and solutions like development and integration, business processes services, engineering services, quality assurance and testing, digital engagement, data and analytics and Cloud-enabled IT operations. With these services, all enterprises can streamline their business processes and create business models to meet changing market needs, the company said in a statement.

"As businesses today continue to migrate critical workloads, enter-

prises need to focus on digital transformation and smart use of IT services. With our new integrated solutions, we can confidently help enterprises modernise workloads and enable digital acceleration, thereby increasing productivity and reducing IT costs. We want to be the trusted technology partner, delivering the best-suited technology consulting and services to empower our clients," said Narendra Anumolu, Director, OpenTeQ Technologies.

OpenTeQ's services include application, development and integration, business processes services, engineering services, quality assurance and testing, digital engagement, data and analytics, and Cloud-enabled IT operations. The objective is to also enable clients to draw deep insights and predictive analysis in real-time to uncover new business opportunities, increase operational efficiencies, empower employees, and offer a better experience to their customers.



NCDEX set to launch Hi-pro soybean meal futures tomorrow

NEW DELHI

LEADING agri-commodity bourse NCDEX on Monday said it will launch futures trading in animal feed 'Hi-pro soybean meal' on February 17. The futures contracts in Hi-pro soybean meal, expiring in the months of March to September will be available for trading at the time of the launch. The contract will have a trading and delivery unit of 10 tonne. The basis centre and additional delivery centre for the contract would be Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Latur in Maharashtra, respectively, the exchange said in a statement. Hi-pro soybean meal is an animal feed with the high protein content of 50 per cent or more as compared with around 46 per cent in normal soy meal.

With the launch of Hi-Pro soybean meal contract, NCDEX Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Vijay Kumar said the exchange has achieved a key milestone of having all the major tradable products in soybean complex on the derivatives platform.

Sreemukhi promotes Luvih cosmetic retailer

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

NEW retailing brand Luvih has on Sunday forayed into beauty products retailing business. Luvih means beauty in Sanskrit. Promoted by noted anchor and actress Sreemukhi, Rasgau International, which owns Luvih brand, will initially sell perfumes in the outlets. Soon the company will introduce beauty, grooming, haircare products. Sreemukhi is also the brand ambassador for the product.

Perfumes from 80 brands including 40 international brands will be available. They are priced from Rs 299 to Rs 7,500. During the first year of its operations, Luvih will introduce 10 global perfume brands for the first time in India. A total of 300 products will be on sale. Products of 110 brands will be available online as well.

"I have been thinking of setting up a business for quite some time. I have now got partners who understand my thoughts. The experience they have in retail business will help Luvih brand. Demand for perfumes



(From left) Rasgau International Directors Tirupati Rao Vojja, Srikanth Avirneni, Sreemukhi and Vijay Adusumilli, launching the brand

and other cosmetics is on the rise in villages too. My objective is to provide self-employment opportunities for the youth through franchise, with small investment," said Sreemukhi, Director, Rasgau International. V Tirupati Rao, Srikanth Avirneni and Vijay Adusumilli are the other company directors.

Luvih has signed an agreement with Linen House, which sells linen garments, for setting up shop-in-shop outlets. These outlets will be opened in 23 outlets of Linen House located in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The brand is also talking to other retail chains for shop-in-shop outlets.

Israeli firm signs deal to transfer crop breeding programme

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

NRGENE, an Israeli genomics artificial intelligence (AI) company, on Monday signed an agreement with Indian seed genetics startup Foragen Seeds to transfer its India-based, eight-year-old crop breeding programme of maize, rice and chilli-pepper to the latter.

This agreement is to advance the field breeding programme of elite seed development and product commercialisation in India. NRGENE has carried out broad molecular breeding projects for the Indian market. The germplasm and breeding materials will significantly help in developing a robust commercial product pipeline suited to the various climate zones in India and other tropical and sub-tropical countries. "We look forward to see our elite germplasm cultivated across India, providing Indian farmers with extra yield and quality," said Dr Gil Ronen, NR-GenE CEO.

Palamuru fast picking up industrially

District offers upmpteen opportunities for investors

MORE than 180 acres in the Kottur Mandal of erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. Apart from Kottur IDA, there are 5 other important industrial zones that came up subsequently which include one Industrial Estate in the district located at Mahabubnagar and 4 Industrial Development Areas at Kottur, Jachcherla, Palem, and Gadwal. Almost all plots, sheds and shops that have been developed are allotted to the entrepreneurs except in Gadwal.

All these industrial areas have brought in a sea change in the overall outlook of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, where in, lakhs of people who used to migrate for livelihood could now earn their living due to the employment opportunities available for the local people in these industries.

As per the latest statistics available from the district industries department there are at present 60 Large and Medium Industries in the sectors of basic metals, fibre glass, pharmaceutical formulations, particle board manufacturing, poultry, and textiles. In addition to this, there are over 3,308 registered small scale / tiny industries with an overall in-



vestment of Rs 154.10 crore. It is estimated that all these industries provide employment to more than 50,000 people in the district.

The main reason for the fast pickup of industrial sector in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar is its proximity to Hyderabad city and the international airport located at Shamshabad in Ranga Reddy district, adjoin erstwhile the district.

With the establishment of the airport, it has enhanced the establishment of export oriented units in the district. "Erstwhile Mahabubnagar had attracted a large scale, national and international companies to its industrial areas. Particularly, the Pharma SEZ at Jachcherla and up-

coming small and medium scale industries elsewhere in the district has really changed the face of the Palamuru region. From being negatively labeled as a labor migration district, today we are witnessing reverse migration to the district, where in hundreds and thousands of people from other states are coming to Mahabubnagar in search of livelihood.

However, apart from the existing industries, the district has ample opportunities to attract investors in various sectors like agro based industries, food processing industries, fiber and cement manufacturing industries, steel manufacturing industries and others," said Sdistrict collector S Venkat Rao.

Mega projects

ITC Limited had proposed to established a 2 lakh ton ECF Pulp Mill and 92 lakh ton coated wood free paper machine in area of about of 1,000

On various investment opportunities in districts TELANGANA

hectares. The proposed cost of entire project is Rs 2500 crore. The Plant requires 21 cusecs of water for day throughout the year. Land has been identified in Gadwal, Pebbair, Maktal and Maganoor mandals of Mahabubnagar district. The suitability of the land for the project has to be finalized by M/s ITC Limited.

Grasim Industries Limited, an Aditya Birla Group company, which is a leader in the field of textiles, having a turnover of Rs.25000 crore per annum has proposed to establish a polyfibre unit in Mahabubnagar district. The project is proposed to be implemented in three phases with a total outlay of Rs 2100 crore. The project requires an area of around 1,000 acres. The land identification for the project is under process.

The following are the large and medium scale industries that are coming up newly in Mahabubnagar and they have already filed for single window clearances system for obtaining various clearances/approvals from different department. These industries are under active implementation and are likely to go into operation shortly. Some of these industries include, Promuk Hoffmann International Limited located at IDA, Kottur, high security vehicle registration plates making, Abhedya Industries Ltd located at Kottur, makers of all types of BOPP filters, Dayakar Sugar (P) Ltd., at Balakistapur village, Binjursaria Sponge and Power (P) Ltd at Shadnagar, Sponge Iron, pig iron makers, Bilasraika Sponge Iron India Pvt. Ltd., at Gundla Potkapally in Balanagar mandal, Indo American Paper Products Limited, at Nandigaon in Kothur mandal, Surya Jyothi Spinning Mills Ltd., at Maktal, M.S.Ingots, Steel Toling Sponge Iron, Kedia Alloys Ltd, at Thimmapur, GVK Novopon Inds. (P) Ltd and various other industries have established bases in Mahabubnagar district.

Apart from the above industries, one more mega industry is coming up in State - Jai Raj Ispat Limited. Announcing its decision to set up a steel plant in Dharur mandal of Gadwal in the district. The proposed steel plant will come up in 250 acre land in the southern region of the district.

BJP to expand base in Nepal, Lanka: Oppn slams Tripura CM's statement

'When Home Minister was the BJP's national president, he during a meeting with us in Agartala had said that we have extended our base across India. Party's philosophy enlarged to many Asian and African countries'

AGARTALA

OPPOSITION Left parties and Congress on Monday criticised the BJP leadership after Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb's reported comments to extend the base of the saffron party in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The opposition parties said that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's plan and target to expand its base in Nepal and Sri Lanka are against India's foreign policies and these cannot be done as the two countries are sovereign nations.

Deb while addressing a party meeting here on Saturday reportedly quoted Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and said: "When Home Minister was the BJP's National President he during a meeting with us in Agartala had said that we have extended our base

across India. Now we have to go to Sri Lanka and Nepal." The Chief Minister said that the BJP would form government in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the party would remain in power in Tripura for 30 years as the CPI-M would be finished in the next assembly elections in 2023. "The BJP is the largest party in India now. It has maximum numbers of MPs, MLAs and other elected members," Deb said. The BJP, however, also supported the Chief Minister's views. Party spokesman Nabendu Bhattacharjee said that not only Sri Lanka and Nepal, the BJP's philosophy is being extended in many Asian and African countries. "Our targets and plans are not to form governments in those states. Our "Pracharaks" (functionaries)



Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb with Home Minister Amit Shah

are broadening BJP's philosophy and belief in those states. If the people of those countries accept our principles and viewpoints then the future course of action would be shaped," Bhattacharjee told the media on Monday.

Sharply criticising the Chief Minister's announcement, Communist Party of India-Marxist central committee member Jitendra Chowdhury said that Deb's speech is a combination of arrogance and ignorance.

Chowdhury, a former Tripura Minister, said that Deb's speech in a public forum portrayed the approach and method of governance that was prevailing in Tripura after the BJP-IPFT (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura) alliance came to power three years ago. "The BJP-led

governments both at the Center and the states have forcefully muted all kinds of civil liberties, freedom of speech and all pillars of democracy while a total lawlessness has been prevailing in Tripura.

"It has been revealed further from Deb's speech that the top brass in BJP is engaged in the internal affairs of our neighbouring countries, which is contrary to our long cherished foreign policy since independence," the veteran tribal leader and former Lok Sabha member said. He alleged that it is extremely unfortunate that this same BJP and their governments have brought sedition charges against the innocent citizens to silence the dissent voices, and octogenarian Varavara Rao, Gautam Navlakha and teen ager Disha Ravi like people are not spared.

96% Covid warriors skip 2nd dose

'7,668 beneficiaries received the second jab, which is just 4 per cent of the over 1,91,000 healthcare workers who received their first dose on Jan 16'

NEW DELHI

IN what could eventually become worrisome, 96 per cent of Covid Warriors have not been turning up for the second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

On Saturday, 7,668 beneficiaries received the second jab, according to the provisional data released by the Union Health Ministry, which is just 4 per cent of the over 1,91,000 healthcare workers who received their first dose on January 16, according to News18 report.

The two vaccines that have been cleared for use in India - Covishield and Covaxin - require that two doses be given 28 days apart. However, as per the recommendation of the apex drug regulator, the doses can be taken within a window of four to six weeks.

The government has set a deadline of March 1 to complete the vaccination of the frontline workers across the country, with a five-day period for "mop up" activity to vaccinate those who might have been missed out, said joint secretary of the Union health ministry, Mandep Bhandari. For healthcare workers, the deadline is February 20.

India has been recording a steady decline in the number of daily new deaths since October 1, 2020, while the national recovery rates amongst the highest in the



'Vaccination for above 50 in 3 weeks'

NEW DELHI The Union government will begin vaccination drive for around 27 crore Indians above the age of 50 three weeks from now, Union Health Minister Harsh vardhan said on Monday.

"Three weeks from now, the government will start giving doses of coronavirus vaccines to 27 crore persons above the age of 50," he said at a press briefing here. An expert group on vaccination will discuss how to pay for the doses for those above 50, he added.

Maha Minister bats for 3T formula

Aurangabad: The "3T formula" of tracing, testing and treatment will have to be implemented strictly to tackle a rise in COVID-19 cases in some parts of Maharashtra, state health minister Rajesh Tope said. Talking to reporters, Tope said the state government had managed to flatten the curve in the last one month as far as daily addition of cases was concerned, but a recent rise in numbers in Mumbai, Wardha and some other pockets was "alarming".

world, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday. "Since 1st October 2020, the nation has seen an unabated decline in Case Fatality Rate. The Case Fatality Rate today stands below 1.5 (1.43 percent). India's Case Fatality Rate is one of the lowest in the world," it said. The recoveries have surged to 1,06,11,731 with 11,016 patients getting discharged in a span of 24 hours. "India's Covid-19 recovery rate of 97.31 per cent is amongst the highest in the world. The difference between the recovered and active cases has grown to 1,04,74,164 as on date," the ministry highlighted.

Meanwhile, the night curfew, currently in force in four major Gujarat cities, including Ahmedabad, to stem the COVID-19 spread, was on Monday extended till February 28, officials said. However, in a concession to people, the curfew from now on in Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot will be in force between midnight and 6 am instead of the earlier 11pm to 6am, they added.

The Centre on Monday approved the proposal of the Press Information Bureau's journalist welfare committee to provide a financial relief Rs 5 lakh each to families of 39 journalists who died due to the coronavirus, a panel member said. The government has earmarked an additional fund for this purpose for the Journalist Welfare Committee (JWC), and journalists from across India will be covered under the scheme.



Rupani collapses, tests Covid +ive

AHMEDABAD

GUJARAT Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has tested positive for coronavirus, said a hospital where the CM is admitted after he fainted at a rally. He has mild symptoms and his condition is stable, the Ahmedabad-based medical facility said on Monday. On Sunday, Rupani, 64, fainted on stage while addressing a rally in Vadodara for the upcoming civic polls in the state, following which he was flown to Ahmedabad and admitted to the U N Mehta Heart Hospital here. Rupani's sample was collected on Sunday night and sent for RT-PCR test which has come out positive for coronavirus, said a health bulletin issued by the hospital on Monday. "His symptoms are mild and his condition is stable," it said. The hospital also said the chief minister fainted on Sunday due to "tiredness and physical weakness". His ECG, blood test and other examinations were conducted and their results are normal, it said. State Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel told reporters that on Sunday night it was decided to keep Rupani under observation for 24 hours. "After his test report came out positive for coronavirus, he is being treated for the infection as per the course and protocol," said Patel.

15 killed after truck overturns in Jalgaon

JALGAON

Fifteen people were killed and five others injured after a truck carrying labourers overturned and fell into a roadside pit in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district in the wee hours of Monday, police said.

The accident took place near a temple in Kingaon village around 1 am when the papaya-laden truck was on its way to Yawal tehsil in Jalgaon from Dhule, an official from Yawal police station said.

The deceased included two children, aged 3 and 5 years, and a 15-year-old girl. A 14-year-old boy, who was sleeping on top of the truck, escaped unhurt, the official said. The labourers belonged to Abhoda, Vivra, Kerhala villages and Raver tehsil in the district, he said.

PM Narendra Modi expressed grief at the loss of lives. The Maharashtra government announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased. After the accident, police and some locals rushed to the spot and the truck was brought out of the pit with the help of a JCB machine, the police official said.

Two more activists on police radar Toolkit makers on the run

NEW DELHI

NON-BAILABLE warrants have been issued against a Mumbai lawyer and a Pune engineer for allegedly creating a protest toolkit backing the farmers' agitation along with arrested climate activist Disha Ravi and collaborating with pro-Khalistani elements, Delhi Police officials said on Monday.

Lawyer Nikita Jacob and engineer Shantanu, who are absconding, also attended a Zoom meeting organised by "pro-Khalistani" group Poetic Justice Foundation, Joint Commissioner of Police (Cyber) Prem Nath said.

The three had created the toolkit and sent it to others, officials said as a fierce political debate broke out between the opposition and the ruling BJP over the action against 21-year-old Ravi in the case related to the "toolkit Google doc" that came to light when it was shared by global climate campaigner Greta Thunberg. "Disha, Shantanu and Nikita created and edited the toolkit. Disha sent the toolkit to Greta Thunberg through Telegram. Disha deleted a Whatsapp group which she created to spread the toolkit. Due procedure was followed when Disha was arrested," Nath said.

Ravi was arrested from Bengaluru on Saturday and sent to police ream for five days by a Delhi court on Sunday with officials claiming she was an editor of the "toolkit Google doc" and "key conspirator" in its formulation and dissemination.



Historian Ramchandra Guha (right) along with other activists holds placards during a protest against the arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi, in Bengaluru on Monday

Nikita moves HC for bail

Mumbai Mumbai-based lawyer-activist Nikita Jacob moved the Bombay High Court for anticipatory bail after a Delhi court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against her.

Jacob's plea for an urgent hearing was mentioned by her lawyer Abhishek Yende before Justice P.D. Naik on Monday who has posted the matter for Tuesday.

A practicing lawyer since the past six years, Jacob is a resident of Goregaon and has been active in public causes.

Terming the Delhi Police FIR as "false and baseless", she sought transit anticipatory bail for a period of four weeks to enable approach the court in Delhi concerned and apply for a pre-arrest bail.

Is State so weak? Sibal

New Delhi: The Congress termed the arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi as 'shocking' and 'unfortunate' and asked if the 'state was so weak that a tweet threatened its security'.

"Is the State so weak that a tweet threatens its security? Is the state so paranoid that a 22 year is a national security threat? Is the state so intolerant that it cannot tolerate youth standing with farmers? Is this the "badlav" Modiji wanted?": Congress leader Kapil Sibal tweeted. The party's Deputy leader in Rajya Sabha, Anand Sharma tweeted: "Police should recognise her right to liberty and courts must respect the Supreme Court Judgement which says bail is the rule and Jail an exception."

What is a toolkit?

A toolkit, simply put, is a document created to explain any issue. It also provides information on what one needs to do to address the issue. This might include information about petitions, details about protests and mass movements and so on. The toolkit that Thunberg shared, tries to "explain the farmers' protests" in the national capital.

"This is a document meant to enable anyone unfamiliar with the ongoing farmers protests in India to better understand the situation and make decisions on how to support the farmers based on their own analysis," the toolkit states.

The toolkit then goes on to apparently summarise the situation of farmers in India and talks about the Centre's recent agriculture legislations.

"Instead of being supported to become self-reliant and prosperous, a majority of farmers are increasingly being subjected to the control of large corporations and international institutions whose sole focus is profits, and necessarily involves increased exploitation of nature," the toolkit states.

It further lists out what actions one can take to support the farmers' protests and the Delhi Police is currently trying to ascertain who created it.

War of words between BJP, Oppn

NEW DELHI

Accusing the government of "murdering democracy" by using force against a 21-year-old, the Opposition said the voice of India cannot be silenced even as the BJP defended the action, saying a crime is a crime no matter at what age. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi led the opposition offensive following the arrest of 21-year-old Disha Ravi in the case and said the country will not be silenced.

"Your lips are free to speak. Say that the truth is still alive. They are scared, not the country," he said in a tweet in Hindi. "India will not be silenced," he added. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "Arrest of 21 year old Disha Ravi is an unprecedented attack on Democracy. Supporting our farmers is not a crime."

RJD leader Manoj Jha said democracy is under threat. "I am worried about democracy, as it is passing through the most difficult times," he said. Union Minister and BJP leader Gajendra Singh Shekhawat tweeted: "If age is the criteria then Param Veer Chakra Second Lt Arun Khetarpal, martyred at 21 is who I am proud of. Not some toolkit propagandists." BJP general secretary B L Santosh tweeted: "21 year old...environment activist...student...Are these credentials for becoming a part of breaking India forces? How does she get the access for editing tool kit...? Why she is part of anti-national WhatsApp groups...? Many questions...But only one answer...21 year old." Bengaluru, Greta Thun-

Disha argued her own case

Disha Ravi did not have her own lawyer when she was produced in court with charges of sedition and conspiracy. According to Disha Ravi's legal team, she argued her own case before the magistrate.

In a post, lawyer Rebecca John has alleged "shocking abdication of judicial duties". According to her, the magistrate failed to ensure that Disha had legal representation in court. "Deeply disappointed by the conduct of the duty magistrate... who remanded a young woman to five days in police custody, without first ensuring that she was being represented by counsel," Ms John wrote.

berg, Vegan, sole bread winner, student, 21 year old, passionate activist...so many attempts to white wash a sin...!! Not one anarchist ready to answer the question...How 21 year old student got access to edit Toolkit," he asked. Former Union ministers P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh have also come out strongly against the police action in the case, accusing the government of running an authoritarian regime as it was threatened by a student. "I strongly condemn the arrest of Disha Ravi and urge all students and youth to raise their voices to protest against the authoritarian regime," Chidambaram said.

Forging and fabricating medical prescription of Sushant Singh Rajput

Mumbai HC refuses to quash FIR against sister Priyanka Singh

MUMBAI

THE Bombay High Court on Monday refused to quash an FIR lodged against late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's sister Priyanka Singh for allegedly forging and fabricating a medical prescription for her brother. A division bench of Justices S S Shinde and M S Karnik, however, quashed the FIR against Meetu Singh, another sister of Rajput.

The court said while there was prima facie evidence against Priyanka Singh, the case against Meetu Singh does not stand. "We are of the considered opinion that the FIR against petitioner Meetu Singh does not survive,"

the bench said. "However, the FIR against petitioner Priyanka Singh is not quashed as we prima facie find that a case is made out," the court said.

The bench said its judgment shall not cause an impediment for the investigating agency to probe the FIR and submit whatever report it deems fit. The sisters had approached the HC seeking to quash the First Information Report (FIR) lodged for alleged forgery and fabrication of a medical prescription for their brother for anxiety issues. The FIR was lodged against Priyanka Singh, Meetu Singh and doctor Tarun Kumar of Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital by the Bandra police in Mumbai on September 7 last year, based on a complaint filed by Rajput's



girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty. As per the complaint, Rajput's sisters and the doctor prepared a forged and fabricated prescription for anti-depressants for the actor a

few days before his death.

Rajput, 34, was found dead at his home in suburban Bandra on June 14 last year. His father K K Singh later lodged a case of abetment of suicide and cheating against Chakraborty and her family members. The CBI is conducting a probe into the case.

After registration of the FIR against Rajput's sisters, the Bandra police forwarded the case papers to the Central Bureau of Investigation, as per directions of the Supreme Court which had said all cases pertaining to the death of Rajput shall be probed by the CBI. Senior counsel Vikas Singh, appearing for Rajput's sisters, had argued that telemedicine practice guidelines permitted a

doctor to prescribe medicines after online consultation. He had claimed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rajput could not go for physical consultation.

Even assuming that such a prescription was procured, there was no evidence to show Rajput consumed any medicines, Singh told the court. Senior counsel Devdutt Kamat, appearing for the Mumbai police, had opposed the plea and said there was no online consultation done. Rhea Chakraborty's advocate Satish Maneshinde had also opposed the plea of Rajput's sisters, and said one of the circumstances that may have led to the actor's death was the "dangerous cocktail of drugs, narcotic substances and medicines"

INDIA ON CUSP OF BIG WIN

CHENNAI

RAVICHANDRAN Ashwin on Monday scored his fifth Test century as India tightened the noose around England in the second Test as they set England a target of 482 runs and then reduced them to 52 for three at stumps on the third day.

Ashwin scored 106 runs off 148 balls with the help of 14 fours and a six as India's second innings came to an end at 286 in the post-tea session. Mohammad Siraj remained unbeaten on 16, and added 49 runs for the final wicket with Ashwin who was the last wicket to fall.

India then knocked out openers Dom Sibley (3) and Rory Burns (25) as well as night-watchman Jack Leach (0) to set England back in chase of 482. England are still 430 runs adrift.

Ashwin's century followed a five-wicket haul in England's first innings, making him only the second cricketer to achieve the feat of a century and a fiver in the same game on three different occasions. Ian Botham of England had done it five times.

Earlier, resuming at 54/1 on the third day, India lost five wickets but added 102 runs to get their lead past 350 in the morning session. The hosts lost the wickets of Cheteshwar Pujara (7), Rohit Sharma (26), Rishabh Pant (8), Ajinkya Rahane (10) and debutant Axar Patel (7) in quick succession to give a glimmer of

hope to England.

However, skipper Virat Kohli and Ashwin then shared a 96-run stand for the seventh wicket to put India in a commanding position.

Kohli, who showed his class on a Chepauk wicket that aided turn, was the first wicket to fall in the post-lunch session as he was dismissed by Moeen Ali at his individual score of 62. This was the fifth time that Ali had dismissed the India skipper in Test cricket.

Kuldeep Yadav (3) and Ishant Sharma (7) also shared eight and 27-run partnerships respectively with Ashwin to frustrate the England bowlers.

India had posted 329 runs in their first innings. The hosts then bowled out England for 134, securing a 195-run lead in first innings.

England wicket-keeper Ben Foakes, who turned 28 on Monday, drew all-round praise from renowned former players from around the world for his brilliant work against India, with Kiran More calling him one of the best overseas players to have

Vinoo Mankad (vs England at Lord's, London, in 1952) and Polly Umrigar (vs West Indies in Port of Spain in 1961-62) are the other Indians to score a century and take five wickets in an innings

India's Ravichandran Ashwin plays a shot during the 3rd day of second Test match against England at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Monday



LEFT-HANDERS' BOGEYMAN

OFF-SPINNER RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN HAS BECOME THE FIRST PLAYER IN THE 143-YEAR HISTORY OF TEST CRICKET TO TAKE 200 WICKETS AGAINST LEFT-HANDED BATSMEN. IN 76 TESTS, HE HAS PICKED 391 WICKETS AND 51.27 PER CENT OF HIS VICTIMS ARE LEFT-HANDERS.

201 of 392 wickets (51.27 per cent)	191 of 800 (23.9 per cent)	190 of 611 (31.1 per cent)	172 of 563 (30.6 per cent)	172 of 708 (24.3 per cent)

SCOREBOARD DAY 3

India 1st Innings: 329	England 1st Innings: 134
India 2nd Innings: (Overnight 54/1)	
Rohit Sharma st Foakes b Leach	26
Shubman Gill lbw b Leach	14
C Pujara run out (Ollie Pope/Foakes)	7
Virat Kohli lbw b Moeen	62
Rishabh Pant st Foakes b Leach	8
Ajinkya Rahane c Ollie Pope b Moeen	10
Axar Patel lbw b Moeen	7
Ravichandran Ashwin b Ollie Stone	106
Kuldeep Yadav lbw b Moeen	3
Ishant Sharma c Ollie Stone b Jack Leach	7
Mohammed Siraj not out	16
Extras: (8-5, LB-15)	20
Total: (All out in 85.5 overs)	286
Fall of Wickets: 1-42, 2-55, 3-55, 4-65, 5-86, 6-106, 7-202, 8-210, 9-237, 10-286	
Bowling: Ollie Stone 65-1-21-1, Jack Leach 33-6-100-4, Moeen Ali 32-7-90-4, Joe Root 4-0-15-0, Stuart Broad 9-3-25-0, Daniel Lawrence 1-0-7-0.	
England 2nd Innings:	
Rory Burns c Kohli b Ashwin	25
Dom Sibley lbw b Pate	3
Dan Lawrence not out	19
Jack Leach c Rohit Sharma b Patel Joe	0
Root not out	2
Extras: (8-4)	4
Total: (For 3 wickets in 19 overs)	53
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-49, 3-50	
Bowling: Ishant Sharma 2-1-6-0, Axar Patel 9-3-15-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 8-1-28-	

Brought out the sweep shot after 13-14 years: Ashwin

CHENNAI

INDIA off-spinner R Ashwin, who scored his fifth Test century after a five-wicket haul to help India take the stranglehold of the second Test, said he brought out his sweep shot for the first time after well over a decade.

"After the last Test, we were thinking on how to counter [Jack] Leach and start bringing sweep to the game. The last time I was sweeping was probably when I was 19 years old; hit a couple of sweep shots, got dropped from the side, and maybe never played a sweep for the last 11, maybe 13-14 years. I've been practicing that shot for the last week to 10 days. Very, very thankful that the plan has really paid off," Ashwin, who scored 106 to help India make 286 in the second innings and set a target of 482 runs for England, said after the third day's play.

Ashwin credited India's batting coach Vikram Rathour, a former India opener, for improvement in his batting.

"We have been practicing along with Vikram Rathour. Rathour has been very, very helpful trying to explore new options. He is someone who is facilitating me to go out there and be able to express myself, explore various options. I would love to credit him for how my batting has gone through the last four-five Test matches. He has kept me in the loop, said I have been batting very well. He asked me not to overthink but just look at the gameplan," he disclosed.

Ashwin added that the big target has helped them be able to attack the batsmen with fielders around the bat. "The wicket is such that you have to get runs square of the wicket. Sort of had a very, very good day. We posted a very good score. Now we can really attack with men around the bat," said Ashwin.

"I think in the past when I have made my hundreds in India, Ishi [Ishant Sharma] has been a sort of cog in the wheel. He has been with me twice when I made my hundred. He sort of understands how I go about it. Ishi was defending well. So, I thought I need to take calculated risks as long as he was there. But once Siraj came, I knew I had to get it done in a few overs. But I was super thrilled how he batted and hit the ball out of the ground," he said smilingly.

On Siraj's celebration after his hundred, Ashwin said: "Quite a funny thing [to see him] excited when I got to my hundred. That says a thing or two how the dressing room has been. Lived a dream over the past three-four months."

Earlier, on Sunday, Ashwin became the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen. Fast bowler Stuart Broad was the 200th left-hander he dismissed. (HANS)

ALL-ROUND SHOW

		Century & five wickets in a Test match
5	3	Gary Sobers (West Indies), Mushtaq Muhammad (Pakistan), Jacques Kallis (South Africa), Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh) 2 each
5	3	
5	3	

Play-off spot in sight, Hyderabad FC hope to return to winning ways

VASCO

A play-off spot in sight, Hyderabad FC can ill-afford any slip-up when they take on a struggling Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League match at the Tilak Maidan Stadium here on Tuesday.

For most part of the ISL season, Hyderabad had maintained their place in the top four. But now, with three games to go, they find themselves at fifth, level on points with fourth-placed FC Goa and two points below NorthEast United.

From here on, Hyderabad can't afford more slip-ups. They have played out six draws in their last seven matches. And when t h e

Nizams face Kerala Blasters on Tuesday, they will know that any more dropped points will hugely dent their play-off ambitions.

On paper, Hyderabad face one of the most vulnerable sides in the league, who are playing for pride. Kerala Blasters have conceded 29 goals, which is the second-worst tally. Their defence has been so fragile that Kibu Vicuna's side has now dropped 18 points after scoring the first goal. But for Hyderabad coach Manuel Marquez, that doesn't mean Kerala are to be taken lightly.

"All the other teams, from Kerala who are second from the bottom, till the top positions, can climb positions in the table," he said.

"We will play with Kerala with our style. We are nine games unbeaten but six of them are draws. We have to continue in the same vein and try to win the game because our season has been fantastic. We want to be in the top four."

Aridane Santana looks to add on to his goal tally against KBFC



TODAY'S MATCH	RESULTS
Hyderabad FC vs Kerala Blasters FC Tilak Maidan Stadium 7.30pm	Mumbai City FC lose to Bengaluru FC 2-4

ISL STANDINGS

CLUB	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
ATK Mohun Bagan	17	11	3	3	23	10	13	36
Mumbai City FC	17	10	4	3	27	15	12	34
NorthEast United FC	17	6	8	3	24	21	3	26
FC Goa	17	5	9	3	26	21	5	24
Hyderabad FC	17	5	9	3	21	17	4	24
Bengaluru FC	18	5	7	6	23	23	0	22
Jamshedpur FC	18	5	6	7	16	20	-4	21
Chennaiyin FC	18	3	9	6	13	19	-6	18
SC East Bengal	17	3	8	6	15	22	-7	17
Kerala Blasters FC	17	3	7	7	22	29	-7	16
Odisha FC	17	1	6	10	17	30	-13	9

Racing Team India makes ALMS debut

DUBAI: Racing Team India won its bid to become the first all-Indian squad to compete at the 24 Hours of Le Mans with a solid debut over the opening two rounds of the Asian Le Mans Series in Dubai this weekend. The JK Tyres-backed team's ORECA 07 LMP2 car, driven by Narain Karthikeyan, Arjun Maini and Naveen Rao, with technical support from reigning ALMS champions Algarve Pro Racing, finished fifth and fourth in the two four-hour races held at the Dubai Autodrome on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The team's car showed promising pace throughout the weekend. But its challenge was hampered by racing incidents and a penalty. The team had to make an extra precautionary pit-stop in Saturday's opening race which dropped the car down the order.

Ojha retires from all forms of cricket, says keen to play in global T20 leagues

BHOPAL

AN emotional Naman Ojha struggled to hold back tears on Monday as he bade adieu to all forms of cricket, bringing down curtains on a two-decade long illustrious domestic career.

The 37-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the Ranji Trophy, featured in one Test, one ODI and two T20 Internationals. "I would like to announce my retirement from international and BCCI/MPCA domestic first-class cricket," a teary-eyed Ojha said in a virtual press conference.

"After 20 years in first-class cricket and many more during the junior competitions, I feel it's time for me to move on. It was a long journey and wonderful phase of my life.

"I am grateful to all who supported me in achieving dream of playing for my country and state - my coaches, trainers, physios and selectors, my captains and teammates, my family and well



wishers, and MPCA & BCCI," he added.

Ojha said he is eager to ply his trade in global T20 leagues. As per the BCCI rules, he is now eligible for such leagues, having announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

"While I leave the competitive format of game for my state and country with best of memories, I shall be keen to wear the gloves and face the ball in global competitions," he said.

Ojha made his international debut in 2010 in his only ODI against Sri Lanka, followed by his first T20I match in Zimbabwe a week later. His lone Test came in 2015 against Sri Lanka in Colombo and the top-order batsman rued not being able to play for his country more. (HANS)

Rahul at 2, Kohli at 7 in ICC T20I rankings

DUBAI: Indian batsmen KL Rahul and Virat Kohli have maintained their respective second and seventh spots in the ICC T20I rankings for batsmen which got updated on Monday.

India are slated to take on England in five T20Is, following the culmination of the ongoing four-Test series, part of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) and the duo will get a chance to gain some points.

The rankings got updated following the culmination of the three-match series between Pakistan and South Africa which the Babar Azam led-side won 2-1.

South Africa spinner Tabraiz Shamsi has grabbed a career-best second position among bowlers while Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan has raced to 42nd place in the rankings. Shamsi's series-topping six wickets, which included a haul of four for 25 in the final match, helped the left-arm wrist-spinner overtake Australia's Adam Zampa, England's Adil Rashid and Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman to within three points of top-ranked Rashid Khan of Afghanistan. Rizwan too benefited from heading the run-aggregate in the series with 197 runs, which comprised knocks of 104 not out, 51 and 42. The string of impressive scores won him the player of the series award and lifted him a whopping 116 slots to a career-best 42nd position.

Haider Ali is another Pakistan batsman to advance, moving up 13 places to 137th position while fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi (up five places to 11th) and Hasan Ali (up 14 places to 82nd), and spinners Mohammad Nawaz (re-entered at 64th) and Usman Qadir (up 129 places to 92nd) are the bowlers to progress.

For South Africa, Reeza Hendricks' 98 runs in the series have lifted him seven places to 17th and David Miller's 116 runs, which included a 45-ball 85 not out in the second match, sees him gain seven places to 22nd position in the list led by Dawid Malan of England. There is no change of positions in the ICC team rankings after the series.

Nadal beats Fognini to enter Aus Open quarters

MELBOURNE

WORLD number two Rafael Nadal on Monday entered the Australian Open quarter-finals for the 13th time after getting past Fabio Fognini in their fourth round contest.

Nadal, the 2009 champion, registered a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over the Italian No. 16 seed in two hours and 16 minutes at the Rod Laver Arena.

"When you go on court

against Fabio, you worry," said Nadal after the match as per the ATP Tour website.

"There can always be problems. I was just lucky that when he broke me (in the second set) I responded immediately and held the score. Today was very humid and quicker during the day, which I like, but I have to adapt to every condition," he added.

The 34-year-old is looking to

or more occasions.

He will next face fifth-seeded Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas, who received a walkover after No. 9 seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy withdrew due to an ab-

dominal strain. Earlier in the day, fourth seed Daniil Medvedev also booked his place in the quarter-finals after a commanding straight-sets win over Mackenzie McDonald.

Medvedev beat the 25-year-old American 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 in his fourth-round match that lasted an hour and 29 minutes at the Margaret Court Arena.

"It's an exciting moment (to

Spain's Rafael Nadal hits a forehand return during his fourth round match against Italy's Fabio Fognini at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia on Monday

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