

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | 17 MARCH 2021



**NATION | 5**

**P.C. Chacko  
to join NCP**



**WORLD | 7**

**Haaland, 1st Native,  
OKayed as Interior secy**

**SPORTS | 8**

**Sindhu eyes title at  
All England Open**



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## WEATHER



Max: 36.0°C  
Min: 22.0°C  
RH: 81%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Clear.  
Max/Min temp.  
36/22 °C

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Phalguna Shuddha  
Chaviti till 11.29 pm  
Star: Ashwini till 7.30 am  
Varjyam: 6.20 pm to 8.08 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 12 noon to  
12.48 pm  
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
HIJRI CALENDAR  
Sha'ban 3,1442 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.50 am  
Zohar: 1.30 pm  
Asar: 5.00 pm  
Maghrib: 6.25 pm  
Isha: 8.15 pm  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.13 AM  
SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM  
MOONRISE TODAY 8.40 AM  
MOONSET TOMORROW 10.21 PM

## Don't displace without rehab: HC

**PIL claims nearly one lakh Polavaram-hit will go homeless**

**SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16**

Nearly one lakh families living in 371 habitations in the East and West Godavari districts will be displaced by the Polavaram project. Problem is also that some of the rehabilitation and resettlement centres being readied for them do not have proper amenities, the AP High Court has been told.

A PIL said some 55 per cent of the total 1,88,012 project-affected people belong to scheduled tribes, 15 per cent scheduled

castes, 17.5 per cent backward classes and the rest are from the other categories. While they are forced to abandon their homes and hearths, there is no guarantee yet they will get due entitlements or even part payments. "This is causing them serious agony and trauma."

Nearly 112 habitations would be displaced in the first phase covering a 41.15 meters plus contour while the remaining 259 habitations identified as submerging habitations over a 45.72 plus meters contour would be moved out in a

phased manner.

Taking note, the high court principal bench headed by Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami has directed the state government not to go ahead with the displacement of these people unless proper amenities as per law were provided at the rehab colonies. When government pleader C. Sumon tried to convince the court about this with an oral submission, the court asked him to submit it in writing.

The tribals, through the PIL, alleged that they were being forced to move to the

rehabilitation colonies even as these do not have bare minimum facilities. They said that at Devipatanam mandal, there was no grave yard attached to the rehabilitation colony. The tribals had to beg the local tehsildar to provide them a place to bury the dead, the PIL said.

The tribals also alleged that the authorities were demolishing their houses in several villages and were even warned against taking up any cultivation.

■ **Page 2: Rehab colonies have no toilets or water: PIL**

## CID's notice to TD chief in land case

**Naidu was asked to attend CID inquiry in Amaravati lands scam case on March 23**

**MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16**

The AP Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday issued notice to Telugu Desam president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to attend an inquiry into the Amaravati lands scam case.

A team of the investigation agency reached Naidu's Hyderabad residence on Tuesday morning and served him a notice to join the probe.

Naidu, after receiving the notice, is consulting legal experts about his future course of action. Since the CID has asked him to appear in person for inquiry, he is reportedly discussing consequences of attending the inquiry and also considering challenging the notice in a court.

The TD turned up in arms and all leaders, including TD AP president K. Atchannaidu, condemned the issuing of notice by the CID.

An FIR was registered by the CID, under Sections 120b, 166, 167, and 217 of the

IPC into the Amaravati land scam case over alleged irregularities in acquisition of lands in Amaravati and their illegal transfer. The CID asked Naidu to attend the investigation on March 23.

The CID registered a case against Ponguru. Narayana, former TD minister for municipal administration and ex vice-chairman of the AP Capital Region Development Authority, who was also named in the FIR.

According to the FIR, YSRC Mangalagiri MLA A. Ramakrishna Reddy submitted a complaint to additional director general of police of the CID, P.V. Sunil Kumar, on February 24.

The complaint claimed that some farmers from the Mangalagiri constituency had approached him with complaints that "influential persons" from the previous TD government had "cheated them by taking their lands illegally", fraudulently, by keeping them "under confusion and fear" of insecurity about their lands.

The complaint alleged

that a set of middlemen, who were also part of the conspiracy, falsely led the farmers to believe that they were at risk of losing their assigned lands to the government without any compensation.

Ramakrishna Reddy alleged that irregularities committed by Naidu and Narayana "caused irreparable loss" to people belonging to the SC and ST communities and other weaker sections in the assigned lands issue.

Based on a preliminary inquiry into the complaint, a report was submitted by CID DSP S. Surya Bhaskar Rao on March 12, which revealed that cognisance of the offence was made out.

Based on the inquiry report, an FIR was registered against Naidu and Narayana on March 12, under Sections 166, 167, 217 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code (Indian Penal Code), read with Sections 34, 35, 36 and 37 of the IPC, as well as relevant sections of the SC/ST Act and Section 7 of the AP Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfers) Act, 1977.

## Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll on April 17

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday announced the schedule for conduct of by-election to Tirupati (SC) Lok Sabha constituency.

As per a press release issued by ECI on Tuesday, the by-poll will be on April 17. Gazette notification for the by-election will be issued on March 23. The last date for filing nominations by contestants is

March 30. Scrutiny of nominations will be on March 31 and April 3 the last date for withdrawal of nominations. Polling will be on April 17 and counting of votes on May 2.

ECI said electoral rolls prepared and published on January 1, 2021, will be used for conduct of the by-election. EVMs with VVPATs will be used at all polling stations for smooth conduct of polls.

■ **Full report on Page 2**

## HC REJECTS SEC ORDER TO PROBE NO-VOTE POLLS

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16**

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has set aside State Election Commission's order to review unanimous elections to MPTCs and ZPTCs and directed the SEC to declare their results immediately.

A single judge bench headed by Justice D. V. S. S. Somayajulu heard a batch of petitions on Tuesday filed against the commission's order directing district collectors to inquire into cases of forced withdrawal of nominations by MPTC, ZPTC contestants through coercion and threats.

The HC directed that the election of such candidates, whose announcement has been held back, shall be immediately declared / certified as per the Conduct of Election Rules.

■ **Page 2: HC commends SEC's role in elections**

## MLC TEACHERS POLL RESULT TO BE OUT TODAY

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA/KAKINADA, MARCH 16**

All is set for counting of votes polled for electing two MLC to AP Legislative Council from teachers' constituencies of Krishna-Guntur and East-West Godavari districts. Counting will commence from 8 am on Wednesday. Authorities of Krishna-Guntur districts have made elaborate arrangements for counting of votes at the Andhra Christian College in Guntur. Fourteen counting tables have been set up. A tahsildar rank official will be counting supervisor for each table. A deputy tahsildar and two village revenue officers will function as counting assistants. Counting staff will work in three shifts, each shift lasting for eight hours.

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## OTHER STORIES

HC COMMENTS  
SEC'S ROLE IN  
ELECTIONS

From Page 1

The court observed that it would be open for opponents of these candidates to file appropriate proceedings in the court / tribunal constituted under law.

Though the court appreciated the endeavour of SEC for its efforts to curb intimidation, it observed that the commission does not have the power to interfere and set aside the election. The court further said such power is given to the election tribunal constituted under the law. The court observed that Rule 66 proviso prohibits SEC from entertaining any complaint till the declaration of results. It said neither the commission nor the district collectors can decide on such controversial issues once the election process is over.

Earlier, SEC's counsel N. Ashwani Kumar maintained that the commission could not be a mute spectator when allegations of fraud and coercion are made. The counsel said being a constitutional authority, SEC is bound to act.

Senior counsel C.V. Mohan Reddy pointed out that the role of SEC would become functus officio after formal declaration of results is made and it would then have no power to take any action.



Botsa Satyanarayana

GOVT COMMITTED  
TO DEVELOP THREE  
CAPITALS: BOTSADC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, MARCH 16

Municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanarayana reiterated that YSRC government is committed to develop three capitals as announced by Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, including Amaravati as the legislative capital, Visakhapatnam as administrative capital and Kurnool as judicial capital.

He underlined that the previous TD government had resorted to insider trading in developing Amaravati as the capital. He ruled out that booking of the case against Chandrababu Naidu was an act of vengeance against the previous TD regime.

BY-ELECTION TO  
TIRUPATI LS  
SEAT ON APRIL 17DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the schedule for conduct of by-election to Tirupati (SC) Lok Sabha constituency.

As per a press release issued by ECI on Tuesday, the by-poll will be on April 17. Gazette notification for the by-election will be issued on March 23. The last date for filing nominations by contestants is March 30. Scrutiny of nominations will be on March 31 and April 3 the last date for withdrawal of nominations. Polling will be on April 17 and counting of votes on May 2.

ECI said electoral rolls prepared and published on January 1, 2021, will be used for conduct of the by-election. EVMs with VVPATs will be used at all polling stations for smooth conduct of polls.

Electoral Photo Identity card will be the main document for identification of a voter. Alternate documents will be Aadhaar card, MNREGA job card, bank / post office pass-books with a photograph, health insurance smart card issued by union ministry of labour, driving licence, PAN card, Indian passport, pension document with a photograph, service identity cards with photographs issued to employees by central or state governments and PSUs, apart from official identity cards issued to MPs, MLAs and MLCs.

Consequent on announcement of Tirupati by-poll, Model Code of Conduct has into force with immediate effect in the district over which the parliamentary constituency is spread.



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy pays tributes to the portrait of Potti Sriramulu to mark the latter's birth anniversary at his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday. Ministers Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy (right), Velampalli Srinivas (second from left), MLAs Malladi Vishnu (left) and Jogi Ramesh (centre) are also seen.

— DC

State creates record in  
MGNREGS workdays

Construction of 15.60 lakh houses to start on April 15

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Reddy said on Tuesday that Andhra Pradesh has created a record in the national employment guarantee scheme by providing 2,427 lakh workdays by March 15 and paying nearly ₹6,000 crore to the workforce under the scheme.

The Chief Minister announced that construction of houses under the mega housing scheme Pedalanderiki Illu would start on April 15. As many as 15.60 lakh houses would be constructed in the first phase of the housing scheme for the poor. The CM was holding a Spandana review meeting with district collectors and SPs.

During the meeting held on video conference mode, Jagan discussed with officials several matters and gave them the welfare calendar for April. MGNREGS works, house site patta distribution, Nadu Nedu in schools and anganwadi centres, creation of multi-purpose facility centers, construction of medical colleges, roads and buildings, the YSR Cheyutha, the Jagananna Thodu, the YSR Bhima, the YSR Asara Pragathi, the crop procurement scheme, and the schedules of the programmes for April were the major issues that came up at the meet.

The CM said he couldn't connect with district collectors over the past few weeks because of the civic elections. Once the remaining six days' process of MPPTC&ZPTC elections is completed, focus could be laid on vaccination, administration and developmental activities, he said.

The CM congratulated district collectors for achieving a record in MGNREGS works by logging 2,427 lakh working days by March 15 and it would total 2,525 lakh working days by end of the financial year. Around ₹6,000 crore has been paid to labourers through this scheme.

The CM said the government would construct 15.60 lakh houses in the first phase and directed the officials to complete the required process. He asked them to expedite the

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

Chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the officials to ensure that the works on the first phase of the Nadu Nedu in schools are completed by March 31.

During a review with the district collectors, SPs and officials in the Spandana programme on Tuesday, the CM said 10 types of facilities are being provided in schools through Nadu Nedu and added that the paint works in the schools must be taken care of. He said Anganwadi centres are being revamped as YSR Pre Primary Schools under Nadu Nedu.

The CM gave a list of the welfare activities to be implemented in April. The Jagananna Vidyakanuka scheme will be implemented on April 9 and the volunteers across the state would be felicitated on April 13. The ministers, MLAs, collectors and SPs should visit one constituency every day and felicitate the volunteers with awards of Seva Mitra, Seva Ratna and Seva Vajra.

He said the YSR Zero Interest scheme for farmers would be implemented on April 16 and the same scheme for DWCRA women would commence on April 20. He said the Jagananna Vasati Devana would be implemented on April 27.

The CM said the state government has laid spe-

preparatory works for construction of the houses and added that water and electricity facilities should be arranged in the layouts by April 15. The construction of houses will start on April 15, he stressed.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said a model house should be constructed in every layout and building materials should be provided to those who want to build the houses on their own. The beneficiaries will get construction materials

and municipalities across the state. Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, the minister said that an Ordinance will be sent to the Governor in this regard of appointing two deputies instead of one, as it would be easier to pro-

vide better governance for the people. He said that as per the SEC schedule, Vice-Chairpersons and Deputy-Mayors will be elected on March 18 and after getting Governor's approval, another Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairperson will

be provided at village level for ensuring better price to farmers. Officials must identify 10-15 acres of land in each constituency and the land would be used for food processing. Officials must create a special cell for the acquisition of the required land for National Highways projects.

He said insurance will be paid on April 6 to nominees of 12,039 people who have died naturally or in accidents, whose families are not enrolled in banks. He asked officials to arrange special DCC meetings to ensure every eligible person is benefitted through the Jagananna Thodu scheme.

The CM asked the district collectors of East Godavari and West Godavari to be well-prepared to ensure supply of irrigation water to every acre and they must co-ordinate these matters with water resources officials.

He said procurement of Rabi crop has been started and officials must ensure efficient use of the CM APP in crop procurement.

He said that the 1907 call center should work efficiently. The registration process for procurement of paddy should be completed and the list of farmers who have completed cropping should be displayed for social audit under each RBK. MSP should be displayed in RBKs and officials must ensure the crops are procured at farm gates.

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Notice to Naidu political  
conspiracy, says TDDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

The Telugu Desam party on Tuesday objected to issuance of notice to party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu by the AP CID in the Amaravati assigned lands case, terming the action "politically motivated".

Party AP state president K. Atchannaidu said that assigned lands were taken with approval of farmers for the capital, according to norms and rules. He questioned whether YSRC MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy belongs to the SC or ST to file a case under the prevention of atrocities against SC and ST.

Responding to the news of notices being issued by CID to the former chief minister, Atchannaidu called the move an "act of vengeance" by the ruling YSRC.

Questioning if any former CM has been booked under the SC, ST PoA Act in the history of the country, he questioned if such

● Party AP state president K. Atchannaidu said that assigned lands were taken with approval of farmers for the capital, according to norms and rules.

a case could be registered based on a complaint from Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, who himself does not belong to the SC or ST community.

He said that the YSRC government was occupying lands assigned to poor farmers for cultivation to use them for the government's housing scheme for the poor.

Atchannaidu said that the then TD government had offered the same package to assigned land farmers in the capital, which was offered to general patta lands. He said that land pooling took place in 2015.

"It is vengeance to file a case against it now, and issue CID notices," he said.

He alleged that Chief

Minister Y.S. Jagan Reddy has a history of building houses on assigned lands, under which hundreds of assigned lands were confiscated in the name of housing. He further alleged that Mr Reddy has a history of using assigned lands in Idupulapaya for decades and has provided no compensation to the Vadarevu and Nizampatnam Industrial Corridor (VAN-PIC) land victim farmers till date.

Mr Atchannaidu claimed that Jagan's father Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy amended the Assigned Land Transfer Prohibition Act in 2007 to grab lands from poor and allowed them to be occupied by his henchmen. He recalled that Rajasekhara Reddy told the AP state Assembly as Chief Minister that 610 acres were being returned to the government after the matter came to light and then broke his promise by saying he will return only 300 acres.

NAIDU TURNED A-1 FIRST TIME IN  
40 YEARS OF POLITICAL HISTORYDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

Signifying a change of season, Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu has been named as first accused in a case - this, for the first time in his 40-year-long political innings. The case relates to the Amaravati assigned land scam.

Curiously, TD leaders used to call Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy as "A-1" (first accused) and YSRC Rajya Saba member V. Vijayasai Reddy as "A-2" vis-a-vis the quid pro quo case probed by the CBI in the past. TD leaders including Chandrababu Naidu

and party general secretary Nara Lokesh often used the term "A-1" when they referred to Jagan and A-2 to Vijayasai. Tables have now turned on the father-son duo.

The case against the former CM was filed by the state CID, which also made former TD minister Ponguru Narayana as A-2, the second accused.

Curiously, the CID did not refer to Chandrababu Naidu as Leader of Opposition or TD national president, in the notice it served on him on Tuesday. It lightly referred to Naidu as the "Kuppam MLA residing at Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad."

Lokesh: Jagan in sheer frustration  
stooping to the lowest levelsDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

Telugu Desam national general secretary Nara Lokesh was provoked enough to accuse the Jagan Mohan Reddy government of "stooping to the lowest level" of filing an SC-ST Atrocity case against Chandrababu Naidu, and said this was done "out of sheer frustration over the deadlock in the capital shifting".

Lokesh said in a statement that Jagan Reddy's "silly cases" were "laughable" and would not cause any damage to the TD chief. "The CM might come out with any number of devious plans to kill Amaravati. However, the pious capital would save and preserve itself on the strength of justice and ethical values."

Lokesh noted that the courts had stated many times that there was no 'insider trading' in the Amaravati lands issue. "The YSRC tried very hard for over 21 months and finally failed to find evidence to book the TD chief in the capital lands cases. Now, they lowered

TD OBJECTS TO CID  
NOTICES TO NAIDUDC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, MARCH 16

TD senior leader and party politburo member Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy took strong objection to the notices served by the CID to the TD chief. He lambasted the government for booking cases under 10 sections, including under SC, ST Act, while stressing that it is a heinous act of the government.

He observed that the YSRC was attempting to hound Naidu by booking cases as they did in the case of TD state president K. Atchannaidu a few months back.

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## YSRC DEFENDS CID SENDING NOTICE TO NAIDU IN LAND SCAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

The YSRC has defended issuing of notice to N. Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati assigned lands case.

Speaking to media here, civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao alias Nani said the state government will

firmly deal with corruption. It will do justice to Dalits, whose lands had been deceptively taken over by Chandrababu Naidu. Nani asserted that the goal of YSRC government is to do justice to all sections of people.

Ruling party legislator from Mangalagiri Alla Ramakrishna Reddy

pointed out that the TD leaders had acquired lands assigned to Dalits in Amaravati at throwaway prices.

Then Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also played a role by issuing a government order allowing assigned lands to come under the Land Pooling Scheme.

## Suspense continues over BJP candidate even after Jana Sena sacrifices seat; Cong yet to take decision

## YSRC fields Dr Gurumurthy as candidate for Tirupati bypoll

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUPATI, MARCH 16

Soon after the Election Commission released the notification for the by-election to the Tirupati (SC) Lok Sabha constituency, the ruling YSRC announced Dr M. Gurumurthy as the party candidate.

The byelection was necessitated after the death of YSRC MP Balli Durga Prasad in September last year. The Opposition

Telugu Desam was the first to announce its candidate — Panabaka Lakshmi. The BJP has not yet named its candidate.

Dr Gurumurthy is a physiotherapist by profession and associated closely with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his Praja Sankalpa Yatra. Even before the ruling party had officially announced his name, Dr Gurumurthy had opened his office in the city and was



Dr Gurumurthy Panabaka Lakshmi

actively meeting party leaders and different groups in the seven Assembly segments which constitute the Tirupati constituency, seeking their support.

● He opened his office in the city and was actively meeting party leaders

● She has inaugurated the party's parliamentary office in Tirupati

Panabaka Lakshmi is a four-time MP and former Union minister, lost the 2019 Lok Sabha election on a TD ticket. She has inaugurated the party's parlia-

mentary office in Tirupati and completed a round of 'Dharma Parirakshana Yatra', mullied by the TD to protest against the spate of attacks on temples, She has toured all Assembly segments.

On the other hand, the BJP could only convince its alliance Jana Sena after a long time to field its own candidate. There is confusion over who the BJP candidate could be. BJP supporters expect th-

at Dasari Srinivasulu, a retired IAS officer, would be fielded in view of the state leaders forwarding his name to the central leadership. However, inquiries revealed the names of a few more persons who are in race for the BJP ticket: Karnataka former chief secretary Ratna Prabha, former central services officer Krishna Prasad and local leaders Munikrishnaiah, Dr D. Sree Hari Rao.

The Congress has also not yet made any announcement on its candidate, but the six-time MP and CWC special invitee Dr Chinta Mohan started campaigning a couple of days ago. Meanwhile, Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan said the party had sacrificed the seat for BJP. This has apparently dampened the spirits of his party workers, who are openly venting their anger over social media.







# DECCAN Chronicle

17 MARCH 2021

## Competitive, compulsive: TN's 'poll freebie' culture

In Tamil Nadu the promise of freebies mark poll time and much of governance seems to revolve around delivering on populist measures that sustain vote banks favouring either of the Dravidian majors. The 2021 polls, slated for April 6, have triggered an even more frenetic push to promise freebies by the ruling AIADMK and the Opposition DMK, parties that have established a virtual duopoly in the 234-seat Assembly. The freebie culture has been ingrained in the psyche of the people of Tamil Nadu since the mid-1960s when the DMK came to power on top of a promise of three *padis* (measuring roughly 4.5 kg) of rice for a rupee, later watered down to one kg for a rupee due to financial constraints.

The 2021 freebie promise has been the most extensive on record with AIADMK offering a washing machine for each of about two crore families, besides a solar stove to go with the mixer grinder, fans and other household goods that went towards fulfilling Jayalalithaa's concept of easing the burden of housewives and working women of chores at home and winning them over. Besides white goods, laptops for students are free as well as data. Consider the promise of ₹1,500 a month for women, free TV cable service and affordable housing for the needy and it completes a comprehensive household package including free rations, condiments, spices and festival hampers that should ease lives. And for livelihoods there is an offer of one government job for each household, never mind if the government wage bill runs upwards of one lakh crore rupees.

**There is even a promise of monetising housewives' work in the manifesto of fringe political player Kamal Haasan's party, which is to show how the aim for votes also somehow serves the purpose of creating a social net buttressed by health insurance and an almost free lunch that is nearly unique**

The DMK's competitive offerings include ₹1,000 for women, 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs for locals, a year's maternity leave and food, fuel and milk subsidies. How all the freebies add up is anyone's guess as the state is already burdened with public debt of ₹4.87 lakh crore as of March 31, 2020, on top of revenues earned from a highly industrialised state. There is even a promise of monetising housewives' work in the manifesto of fringe political player Kamal Haasan's party, which is to show how the aim for votes also somehow serves the purpose of creating a social net buttressed by health insurance and an almost free lunch that is nearly unique. There is no denying the state has been a forerunner in keeping students interested in learning in class through free education and midday meals.

The financial profligacy may create a burden that may never go away for seven crore people of the state. The concern for women, who constitute nearly 50 per cent of voters, does not, however, extend to political representation as the low number of seats, less than 10 per cent, allocated to them by major parties indicates. The outlier status of Tamil Nadu is further stressed as DMK and Congress promise to take state students out of the central medical entrance test NEET and emphasise their opposition to CAA as AIADMK, despite being in the NDA, has done too. Competitive freebie offers are a bizarre feature but that takes away only a little from the model welfare state Tamil Nadu has aspired to be and is in many ways a model for India.

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## Soul-search for Sarah

So dramatic — and disturbing — have recent events been in London in an overtly police versus citizen polarity that there is a risk that the demonstrations of women, and social media interventions by thousands of them following the kidnap and murder of a 31-year old woman, Sarah Everard, may end up being narrowly compartmentalised.

The London Metropolitan Police have arrested a policeman in the kidnap-murder case. Ms Everard was walking home from a friend's house to her own address on March 3 evening and apparently vanished. The remains of her body were found afterward. A large number of women gathered to lay flowers in her memory. The police, gathered in strength, manhandled the women, dragging some on the floor, tackling them violently, pinning some down. The video of this is distressing. The police trotted out banality: unlawful gathering, Covid-19 restrictions. Not a word about men police attacking a peaceful assembly of condoling women.

In India, or in countries outside Western Europe and North America, such happenings will be criticised but will not be unusual. But in Britain? The whole catechism of an advanced capitalist, liberal democratic, order-free speech, free assembly, gender parity, right to protest- went out of the window. In citizen versus state, the state was seen to be grotesque. The Everard story is well beyond being a common crime. It underscores violence against women in public places. According to a UN report, 70 per cent of British women complain of sexual harassment in public. The outpourings of anger, grief, even helplessness, of thousands of British women on social media in which they detail the lengths to which they go to keep themselves safe (taking longer but better-lit routes, wearing bright clothes for visibility), are compelling.

In this grim background is also discernible the spirit to challenge and change. As a movement, "Reclaim Our Streets" is catching on in Britain. There have been protest marches, one in Parliament Square. We need this in India too. Ask any girl or woman. Of course, London Police must be held to account as the police in urban India, both infamous for "institutionalised violence".

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

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Subhani



# India needs hate crimes law on lines of Scotland



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

India, with its increasingly assertive majoritarian culture, would benefit from an equivalent of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill that the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh's Holyrood House passed last week by 82 votes to 32, following the previous day's five-hour debate when legislators considered a raft of amendments. In a nutshell, the controversial new measure will extend protection to vulnerable groups and take a far stricter view of the offence of "stirring up hatred".

As Victoria Atkins, a junior minister in the British government, said in another context recently, the minorities and marginalised communities need such protection. Such Indian groups need it far more than quotas and reservations which, as wise observers have pointed out repeatedly, create a vested interest in backwardness. Indians who would qualify under Ms Atkins's definition are Muslims, the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Sikhs and people from the Northeast who do not fit into the common man's notion of the national stereotype. Myanmar's Rohingyas are a tragic illustration of the outsider in this sense, as were Jews and the gypsies in pre-World War II Europe.

"Through the passing of this landmark bill, Scotland's Parliament has sent a strong and clear message to victims, perpetrators, communities and to the wider society that offences motivated by prejudice will be treated seriously and will not be tolerated", declared Scotland's justice minister Humza Yousaf. Around 18 hate crimes are committed every day in the kingdom; 6,448 were recorded in 2019-20. "I am delighted Holyrood has backed this powerful legislation that is fitting for the Scotland we live in" Mr Yousaf added.

Although born in

Glasgow, Mr Yousaf is of Pakistani origin and can be expected to bring a measure of personal commitment to the cause of equal treatment for people of all creeds and colours. "The bill's passage has shown Holyrood at its very best — a collaborative, diverse and determined Parliament which we should all be proud of", he says. "Robust scrutiny has ensured we have met the right balance between protecting groups targeted by hate crime and respecting people's rights to free speech."

He has been at pains to reassure everyone that the new law will not try to instigate any kind of witch hunt. Nor will it curb free speech. Asked about racist jokes and drunken anecdotes, he was quick to stress that the "behaviour has to be threatening or abusive and intended to stir up trouble, so a racist joke is clearly not going to reach that threshold. There will be no prosecutions under the new law.

"If your unreconstructed uncle comes in, has too many sherries at Christmas dinner and says something they shouldn't do, which creates great offence to his bisexual niece, for example, that is not going to be prosecuted." He fleshed out the point by recounting an abusive tweet he had received but would ignore. "The beauty of the Hate Crime Bill is that you can say that all day long (not that I'd encourage it) and it would not be a criminal offence."

That may seem like a

**The bill anticipates religious bigotry and defangs bigots in advance by abolishing the offence of blasphemy. Actually, modern Scotland is a liberal and civilised nation which has not known any blasphemy prosecution for over 175 years.**

**The 1968 Race Relations Act made it illegal to refuse housing, jobs or services to anyone on the grounds of race or national origins. The expectation was that the law would change people's outlook, and indeed, it has been transformed.**

tolerant and sensibly lenient attitude to take. Yet, leniency can be mistaken for tacit official sanction or condonation. Nazi anti-Semitism did not spring up overnight. German and Austrian culture had a long history of anti-Semitic vituperations which may have concealed a real societal bias. Nirad C. Chaudhuri recalls a Bengali rhyme in which the people of Odisha and Bihar are presented in negative terms to illustrate insularity. Similarly, the English have "jokes" at the expense of the Scots and the Welsh.

Believing laughter to be the best antidote to hatred, the British once offered prizes to comedians who could tell jokes about their own communities. The 1968 Race Relations Act made it illegal to refuse housing, employment, or public services to anyone on the grounds of colour, race, ethnic or national origins. The deeper expectation was that the law would change people's outlook because the law-abiding British would avoid anything illegal. And, indeed, race relations and social attitudes have been completely transformed. The three Race Relations Acts (two others followed in 1976 and 2000) accomplished what the old laws could not.

Stirring up racial hatred has been an offence in Scottish — and British — law for decades. But the old laws were not regarded as providing adequate protection to minority groups. Hence Scotland's Hate Crime Bill was introduced in April 2020 following an independent review by Lord Bracadale, a distinguished Scottish judge, who recommended that all the old laws on the subject be consolidated into one new bill. The mea-

sure updates the list of entities protected by the law while also expanding the list. It also identifies new "stirring up of hatred" offences that apply to all the categories — age, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity and variations in sex characteristics — that the bill mentions.

It is also noteworthy that the bill anticipates religious bigotry and defangs bigots in advance by abolishing the offence of blasphemy. Actually, modern Scotland is a liberal, secular and civilised nation which has not known any blasphemy prosecution for more than 175 years. But the authorities are taking no chances.

"I look forward to overseeing the implementation of this legislation which will ensure Scotland's justice system can bring perpetrators to account and provide sufficient protection for individuals and communities harmed by hate crimes," Mr Yousaf promises.

There is no reason why he should be disappointed provided freedom of speech is not curbed and justice is speedy and effective. India has not forgotten the 1968 Kilvenmani massacre when 44 Dalit men, women and children were burned alive, and an appeal court acquitted the convicted murderers on the ground that landlords of their status did not commit such crimes. A new law must also punish rumour mongering about beef, killing cattle and romance across religious borders.

India demonstrates that the law by itself is simply not enough. It must also be administered by politicians of goodwill and integrity.

*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*

**India has not forgotten the 1968 Kilvenmani massacre when 44 Dalit men, women and children were burned alive, and a court acquitted the convicted murderers on the ground that landlords of their status did not commit such crimes**

### LETTERS

#### YSRC'S CLEAN SWEEP

The clean sweep by the ruling YSR Congress and its large margin of vote share in the recently-held Urban Local Bodies polls is due to the speedy implementation of several welfare schemes and developmental works in record time by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy (*YSRC gets 53% vote, BJP, Jana Sena gain at TD cost, DC, March 16*). At the same time, the verdict shows that now expectations of the people are running high and the ruling party in AP needs to resolve vigorously the issues of 'Three Capitals of AP' and 'Visakhapatnam Steel Plant's privatisation by the Centre'. In these elections, the Jana Sena is just taking its first baby steps towards its future.

**Dr C. Ghanshyam**  
*Visakhapatnam*

#### MEAN OF AMIT SHAH

It's quite mean and unbecoming on the part of home minister Amit Shah for mocking West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee (*Shah mocks Didi campaign in wheelchair, DC, March 16*). After the immediate acrimonious outburst on conspiracy theory for her injury, Mamata retracted her allegations to a mere accident caused inadvertently due to the surging crowds around her. The issue should have rest there instead of raising all sorts of sarcasm by almost all BJP stalwarts as if to push her into Abhimanyu's *chakravyuh*.

**K. Nehru Patnaik**  
*Visakhapatnam*

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

### Hymns from Gita over Dacca Radio

CALCUTTA, March. 16 The "Dacca Betar Kendra" for the first time in its history broadcast hymns from the Gita this morning amply substantiating Awami Leader Sheikh Mujibar Rehman's declared policy of secularism.

Another was special classes for patriotic songs. One of the songs begins thus: "its your land and my land — our soil. On it together — we are to it." Another songs runs: "crossing the days of darkness, we have reached the dawn of a new day. Unity is dignity, unity is strength. Fear of the journey has ended. We now move fearlessly, defiantly... we are the torch bearers of a new path, we want to embrace the new day."

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



## Fresh push for lateral entry of babus likely

Last year, Arvind Panagariya, former vice-chief of the government Niti Aayog, wrote in his book, *India Unlimited — Reclaiming the Lost Glory*, that Indian babus suffered from the socialist hangover, which has slowed down the pace of reforms the Modi sarkar wishes to introduce. To support his view, he cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative for lateral entry at the top levels of the bureaucracy. According to Mr Panagariya, babus slowed down the process to the extent that at the very end of his term only nine officers could be inducted from outside.

But the government has not given up, yet. It is making another push to induct 30 more private sector specialists into different government departments at the crucial decision-making level of joint sec-

retaries and directors on a contract basis. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will shortlist the candidates for interviews.

Prime Minister Modi has introduced the mechanism of recruiting fresh talent in the bureaucracy from the private sector during his first tenure. But the first round hasn't been the success that the government was expecting. It could recruit only nine of the 10 domain experts it had selected, and one of them, Arun Goyal, who had joined the commerce ministry as joint secretary, put in his papers barely a year later. It appears that far from changing the system, the lateral entrants are more likely to be subsumed by it. Further, a year after their appointment, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) had issued a notice to the UPSC after a petition from whistleblower

Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi alleged irregularities in the recruitment of three of the nine lateral entrants by the government.

The government is catching flak already. Some Opposition leaders are calling for the policy to be withdrawn. Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhara Azad has threatened to "gherao" Parliament, calling the government's move a violation of constitutional rights. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejaswi Yadav has said that UPSC's lateral recruitment an injustice to the youth.

Will the Modi sarkar overcome the political resistance from outside and from the babus within who may try to defend their turf?

**ED AND KERALA POLLS**  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED)

has reportedly registered a case against senior officials of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for alleged FERA violations. But things get blurred around election time when the stakes are high. Questions are being raised about the timing of the probe, with the ruling LDF claiming the ED action as a "political conspiracy" by the BJP, which is trying hard to make a dent in the state.

Sources say that ED has served notices to KIIFB CEO Dr K.M. Abraham, former chief secretary of Kerala, and deputy managing director Vikramjit Singh, a serving IPS officer of the Kerala cadre. As it so happens, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan is chairman of the board. Not surprisingly, therefore, the ruling party has linked the ED action to the forthcoming elec-

tions. The LDF leaders have said that the ED moved only after Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's statements against the Board.

The Centre has denied the allegations. It is being said that ED's investigations discovered that the board earned ₹2,100 crores by issuing bonds for infra projects, but the money was used by cultural, fisheries and tourism departments. Besides, the state government issued the bonds without the Centre's permission, which violated rules.

Politics, or not, the dust will only settle once the state elections are done with.

*Share a babu experience!  
Follow dilipthecherian@  
Twitter.com. Let's  
multiply the effect.*



## NIGHT CURFEW RETURNS IN BHOPAL, INDORE AS CORONA CASES INCREASE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BHOPAL, MARCH 16

Madhya Pradesh government announced to impose night curfew in Bhopal and Indore from Wednesday in the wake of sudden spurt in Coronavirus cases in the state. The state government has also ordered closure of shops after 10 pm in 8 other cities in the state.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan ordered the measures after reviewing the pandemic situation in the state at a high level official meeting here on Tuesday. However, the duration of night curfew was yet to be decided.

The state government ordered closure of shops after 10 pm in the cities of Jabalpur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Ratlam, Chhindwara, Burhanpur, Betul and Khargone. The government has also barred celebration of Holi in public, but allowed the revelers to observe the festival individually.

Madhya Pradesh has reported 797 fresh positive cases in the last 24 hours taking the tally of cases to 2,69,391. The death toll has reached 3,890 in the state.

Similarly, to contain surge in cases, the Gujarat government decided to increase the night curfew timings in four major cities by two hours.

## SC TO HEAR PLEA BY ZAKIA EHSAN JAFRI ON APRIL 13

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed April 13 to hear a plea by Zakia Ehsan Jafri challenging the clean chit to the then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and others by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for their alleged inaction in 2002 post-Godhra riots including attack on Gulberg society.

Zakia Ehsan Jafri — widow of Congress leader and former member of parliament Ehsan Jafri — has challenged October 5, 2017 order of Gujarat High Court upholding the magistrate court order rejecting Jafri's protest petition challenging the SIT report giving clean chit to top political leaders and state functionaries for the alleged larger conspiracy.

Ehsan Jafri was among the 68 people killed at Gulberg Society in Ahmedabad on February 28, 2002. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar heading a bench also comprising Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and Justice Krishna Murari, in the order passed on Tuesday said, "Put this case for hearing on April 13. No request for adjournment will be entertained".

The hearing on Zakia Jafri's petition that is pending before the top court since 2018.



West Bengal CM and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, sitting in a wheelchair, addresses an election campaign rally ahead of state Assembly polls in Bankura on Tuesday.

— PTI

# Dissent over tickets in West Bengal has Shah worried

Takes party leaders to task over low turnout in party election rallies

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, MARCH 16

A growing and fierce revolt within the BJP over the distribution of tickets to most of the Trinamul Congress turncoats for the Assembly election in West Bengal and low turnouts in the party's poll campaign rallies forced Union home minister Amit Shah to return to the state instead of New Delhi from neighbouring Assam quietly on Monday night and pull up the party leaders for their role during a "marathon class".

Finishing his two-state visit on Monday afternoon, Shah went to attend a programme in the evening in Assam from where he was supposed to return to the capital later. However, he flew from Guwahati to Kolkata, checked into one of the two hotels, which have become favourite destinations for the party leaders for poll preparations in the city, at Rajarhat and chaired a night-long meeting.

There, according to sources, he came down heavily on the party functionaries, who painted a rosy picture of poll prepa-

## P.C. Chacko to join NCP

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 16

Veteran leader P.C. Chacko who quit Congress last week is all set to join NCP. Chacko, who arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday, called on NCP supremo Sharad Pawar to discuss his entry into the party. Pawar's party is a constituent of LDF in Kerala.

Before meeting Pawar he told mediapersons, "I can't think of becoming a mem-

ber of the CPM or the BJP. I wish to be with a party which has Congress culture. And while being in that party I would like to extend support to the Left Front," he said.

Chacko, 74, quit the party on Wednesday in protest against the intense groupism in the organisation. Chacko who has held various crucial positions in the party, alleged that there was no internal democracy in the Congress.

He alleged seats had been divided between the "A"

and "I" groups led by former chief minister Oommen Chandy and opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala respectively. The two factions had complete control over ticket allotment for each constituency. Under these circumstances there was no point in continuing in the Congress, he had stated after resigning from the party.

His resignation came as a setback for the Congress ahead of the crucial Assembly polls.

Amit Shah is frustrated as his rallies have registered poor turnout. Instead of running the country, he is sitting in Kolkata and hatching conspiracies to harass TMC leaders. What do they want? Do they want to kill me? Do they think they can win elections by killing me? If they think so, they are wrong,"

— MAMATA BANERJEE, West Bengal CM

BJP chief. On Tuesday morning when BJP president J.P. Nadda landed in the city on a campaign tour, he also attended the second round of meeting by Shah.

While leaving the city later, the Union home minister summoned Ghosh, Roy and others to Delhi at night for picking up suitable candidates for the remaining phases of the polls.

rations to the top leadership, and sought their explanation over massive protests by the rank and file against distribution of tickets to the former TMC leaders throughout the day in the city including the party's election office at Hastings, which saw demonstration on Tuesday also, and the districts.

Mr Shah, sources added, also expressed displeasure over thin crowd at Circus Ground in Jhargram

which he had to address virtually from Kharagpur. He wanted to know the reason behind the flop show, sources said.

The prominent TMC turncoats, who are in the eye of storm in the BJP for getting tickets, include Rajib Banerjee at Domjur and his aide Mohit Ghanti at Panchla in Howrah, Rabindranath Bhattacharya at Singur and Prabir Ghoshal in Uttarpara. Besides

demands of changing candidates at three more constituencies in South 24 Parganas and some other districts have been raised.

The sources pointed out that the number of ticket aspirants in BJP has gotten bigger than the required number of candidates while people in rural areas remain busy in farming, instead of political rallies, this time of the year.

But their arguments only fell flat before the former

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For complete details please refer [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

**Dy. Chief Engineer/TM/HQ/Secunderabad**

**Open e-Tender Notice No. C/E 221/ELS/KZJ/2020-21/177 Dt. 12.3.2021**

e-Tender from the experienced Contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

**Sl. No.:- 1 Tender No. & date:- C/E 221/ELS/KZJ/2020-21/177 dt.12.03.2021 (e tender no. ELS-KZJ-177-12.03.21). Description of work :- Wet leasing of Welding/ Gas cutting activity of ELS/KZJ for a period of 2 years., Completion period:- Two years (AI ELS/KZJ), Validity of offer:- 45 days. Tender Value(Rs):- 52,16,008-75 (Including GST@ 7.95,862.35 @ 18% on 44,20,346-60). EMD (Rs):- Nil. Cost of Tender form (Rs):- Nil. Date & time of closing & Opening:- 15.04.2021 15:00 hrs & 15.04.2021 15:30 hrs.**

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tender only and no manual offers may be considered. 2. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit cost of tender form & EMD through online payment only. 3. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offers. 4. \*GST mentioned in the price schedule-item-III is only provisional @18% on schedule items value. However GST payment is on the basis of production of documentary evidence to the extent of GST paid. Tenderers are supposed to quote AT PAR only on GST item cost.

**Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Kazipet**

**e-TENDER NOTICE No. 06 to 07**

e-Tenders from the Contractors who are having experience in similar nature of works and having valid 'B' grade electrical contractor's license for the following work are invited by the undersigned up to 15.30 hrs on 12-04-2021.

**Sl.No.:- 01, Tender Title :- Guntur Division: Improvement of lighting of loading/unloading areas at REP goods shed-Electrical arrangements, Tender Ref No:- GNT/E.06/2020-21 Dt:12.03.2021, Approx. value in Rs. :- 22,70,737.45, Earnest money deposit in Rs.:- 0, Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs. :- 0**

**Sl.No.:- 02, Tender Title :- Guntur Division: Construction of new OHE & PSI depot and Tower car shed at Guntur-Electrical arrangements, Tender Ref No:- GNT/E.07/2020-21 Dt:12.03.2021, Approx. value in Rs. :- 19,32,090.05, Earnest money deposit in Rs.:- 0, Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs. :- 0**

Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids 12-04-2021 up to 15.30 hours.

For further similar nature of works and for any detailed information login to website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) on or after 19-03-2021. Any further Communication / Corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/M, Guntur**

**E-Tender Notice No: S&T/02/2021 Dated 16.03.2021**

For and on behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Maintenance) South Central Railway Guntakal invites e-tenders (Open) for the following work up to 12.00 hrs of 19.04.2021.

**Tender No.:- 01-SNT-02-2021, Description of the work (Signal and Telecom work) :- Guntakal Division: Telecom works in connection with Up gradation of Firewall and Rail net facilities at Guntakal., Estimated Cost of the Work (₹) :- 42,31,035.00, Completion Period:- 06 Months, Cost of tender form (₹):- 3000.00**

**Tender No.:- 02-SNT-02-2021, Description of the work (Signal and Telecom work) :- Guntakal Division: Alteration to Electronic Interlocking of Make Hitachi at 04 stations (RJR, MUM, MOO & VRN stations) in connection with the construction of RUB in lieu of manned & Interlocked L.C. Gate (6 Nos) in GTL division. (L.C. Gate Nos. 102, 149, 157, 162, 163 & 165)., Estimated Cost of the Work (₹) :- 98,46,354.00, Completion Period:- 18 Months, Cost of tender form (₹):- 5000.00**

**Tender No.:- 03-SNT-02-2021, Description of the work (Signal and Telecom work) :- Annual Maintenance Contract of M/s Coral make EPABX systems installed at CRS-TPTY, GTL-RH & GTL-DSL Shed of GTL Division for the period of two years in Guntakal division of**

**South Central Railway., Estimated Cost of the Work (₹) :- 2,44,708.00, Completion Period:- 24 Months, Cost of tender form (₹):- 1000.00**

**Tender No.:- 04-SNT-02-2021, Description of the work (Signal and Telecom work) :- Annual Repair Contract of HYT make VHF sets (5/25 Watts) over Guntakal Division for the period of two years, Estimated Cost of the Work (₹) :- 6,36,900.00, Completion Period:- 24 Months, Cost of tender form (₹):- 2000.00**

**Tender No.:- 05-SNT-02-2021, Description of the work (Signal and Telecom work) :- Repair Contract of KENWOOD make Model TK 2207 5 watts VHF wireless Walkie Talkie sets over Guntakal Division for a period of 2 years., Estimated Cost of the Work (₹) :- 7,50,000.00, Completion Period:- 24 Months, Cost of tender form (₹):- 2000.00**

**Tender No.:- 06-SNT-02-2021, Description of the work (Signal and Telecom work) :- Annual Repair Contract of MOTOROLA make VHF sets (5/25 Watt) over Guntakal Division for a period of 2 years., Estimated Cost of the Work (₹) :- 8,05,000.00, Completion Period:- 24 Months, Cost of tender form (₹):- 2000.00**

Validity of the offer should be 45 days from the date of opening. Corrigendum will be issued for the above tender notice if necessary through online only.

**Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (M), Guntakal**

**e-TENDER NOTICE No. 09/Dy. CST/E/CISC/2020-21 Dated 16.03.2021**

For and on behalf of the President of India, Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction-II), South Central Railway, Secunderabad, with the approval of the competent authority invites e-Tender (open) for the following work up to 15.00 hours on 09.04.2021.

**Sl. No.:- 1, Tender No.:- No.C-SG-C-36-5-156A-2020 Name of the work:- Signalling works in connection with Provision of Hot standby Electronic Interlocking System of Distributed Architecture & associated works at Warangal, Chintalapalli, Yelgur and Nekonda stations in connection with third line between WL-NKD section of Secunderabad Division in South Central Railway., Approx., value in Rs:- Rs. 14,85,38,094.52ps, Completion period:- 12 Months**

1) For bid document and other details, please login to Website <https://ireps.gov.in>. 2) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is fifteen days period prior to closing of Tender. 3) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to date of commencement of the Tender submission period.

**Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, (Construction-II), Secunderabad**

**A0268**

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)**

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TRUE STORY OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST I.T. SCAM

WORLD WIDE  
**MARCH**  
**19<sup>th</sup>**  
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## SHORT TAKES

## PHILIP LEAVES HOSPITAL AFTER TREATMENT

London, March 16: Britain Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, on Tuesday left King Edward VII's Hospital in central London after a month since he had been admitted there and went on to have a "successful heart procedure".

The 99-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth II was pictured being driven out in a black BMW after a 28-night stay, his longest spell in hospital. He was first admitted to the King Edward VII Hospital on Feb. 16 before moving to a National Health Service (NHS) specialist St Bartholomew's Hospital two weeks later, where he underwent a procedure for a pre-existing heart condition.

## 3 DIE WHEN CAR HITS 9 PEOPLE IN SAN DIEGO

San Diego, March 16: A driver plowed through a crowd on a sidewalk in downtown San Diego on Monday morning, killing three people and injuring six others, including two who are hospitalised in critical condition, police said.

The driver — whom authorities identified only as a 71-year-old man — appeared to be driving while impaired when his car suddenly veered off the street shortly after 9 a.m. near a community college and went up onto the sidewalk briefly before returning to the road, said San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit.

Nisleit said the driver identified himself to police and he was arrested. Earlier police had stated that he had tried to flee. Multiple ambulances responded to the scene near City College.

## UGANDA OPPN LEADER ARRESTED

Kampala, March 16: Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine was arrested on Monday as he took part in a protest in the capital, according to a post on his Twitter page. The 39-year-old popstar-turned-presidential contender last week had called on Ugandans to "rise up peacefully and unarmed" against President Yoweri Museveni who won a sixth term in office following disputed elections in January.

"Bobi Wine arrested as he led MPs and other leaders in a peaceful protest against the abduction, torture and murder of his supporters," said the post. Around 15 MPs and activists from Wine's National Unity Platform political party took part in the protest which was quickly halted by police officers and soldiers.

## DUTCH PM'S ELECTION LEAD SHRINKS

Amsterdam, March 16: The lead of Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's conservative party in polls continued to shrink Tuesday, according to a new survey published ahead of the second day of voting in coronavirus-affected national elections.

Rutte's People's Party for Freedom and Democracy still retains a lead of some 10 percentage points over its nearest rival, the anti-immigration Party for Freedom led by anti-Islam firebrand Geert Wilders. According to the respected Peilingwijzer survey, Rutte's party is in line to win between 34 and 38 seats in the 150-seat lower house of parliament.

On the other hand, Wilders' party is forecast to win about 17-21 seats.

## INDIA GIVES TRAINING AIDS TO LANKAN NAVY

Colombo, March 16: India's envoy in Sri Lanka has underlined the importance of close cooperation between the navies of the two countries as an essential part of the overall bilateral engagement, as he handed over training aids worth 22 million LKR (about ₹81,00,000) to the island nation's Navy for capacity building.

High Commissioner Gopal Baglay, during a visit to the Northern and Eastern Provinces, formally handed over the training aids to the Commander Eastern Naval Area of the Sri Lanka Navy at a ceremony held on Sunday at the prestigious Naval and Maritime Academy (NMA) Trincomalee. Baglay reiterated the importance of close cooperation between the two navies.

## Tokyo talks: US, Japan to share China worry

Tokyo, March 16: Japan and the United States joined forces Tuesday to criticise China's "coercion and aggression" in Asia as senior ministers from both countries held their first in-person talks since President Joe Biden took office in January.

Aside from the sharp rhetoric aimed at Beijing, the meeting in Tokyo and a planned stop next in Seoul are as much an effort by the Biden administration to reassure worried allies in Asia after four years of occasionally confrontational dealings with the Trump administration. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, after holding the so-called "two plus two" security talks with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and their Japanese counterparts — Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi — said democracy and human rights in the region are being challenged and the United States will push with its partners for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Blinken said the Biden administration is committed to work with US allies and those in the region as they face challenges from China and its ally North Korea, which is pursuing an illicit nuclear weapons programme. "We will push back if necessary, when China uses

## N. KOREAN LEADER'S SISTER WARNS U.S.

Seoul, March 16: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's influential sister warned the United States against actions that could make it "lose sleep", state media reported Tuesday, as top Biden administration officials began a visit to key allies Tokyo and Seoul. Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Japan on Monday on their first overseas trip, aimed at rallying military alliances as a bulwark against China and cementing a united front against the nuclear-armed North.

— AFP

coercion or aggression to get its way," he said. In a joint statement released after the talks, the ministers shared strong worry over Beijing's human rights violations in Xinjiang, "unlawful maritime claims and activities in the South China Sea" and "unilateral action that seeks to change the status quo" over the Japan-controlled East China Sea islands that China also claims.

— AP

## Myanmarese flee martial law area

Yangon, March 16: Residents of a protest flash-point district in Myanmar's biggest city fled on flatbed trucks and tuk-tuks Tuesday after security forces escalated the use of lethal force against anti-coup protesters, despite international appeals for restraint.

Much of the country has been in uproar since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi last month, with hundreds of thousands taking to the streets to demand a return to democracy. Police and soldiers have used tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to subdue crowds in near-daily crackdowns, along with blanket nightly internet shutdowns to stop protesters from mobilising. Monday saw fresh violence by security forces in several cities, leaving at least 20 dead, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), a local monitoring group that has been tracking arrests and fatalities.

It followed the deadliest day so far in the six weeks since the army deposed Suu Kyi's government, with the AAPP reporting 74 killed on Sunday after the violent suppression of anti-coup unrest across Myanmar. Many of those deaths came from the impoverished Hlaing Tharyar township in Yangon, a garment-producing area in the commercial hub with mostly Chinese-owned factories — several of which were razed on Sunday. The junta reacted by imposing martial law over the area and five

other townships that are home to around two million people — more than a quarter of the sprawling city's population. Anyone arrested there faces trial by military tribunal, with sentences ranging from three years' hard labour to execution.

Myanmar law expert Melissa Crouch said the martial law declaration effectively gave complete control to military commanders and sidelined civilian administrators and judges.

"The use of martial law is extremely troubling and... represents a significant decline in the situation in Myanmar," the University of New South Wales academic said. The AAPP said in a statement that even civilians who were not participating in anti-coup protests had died in cross-fire on Monday.

By Tuesday morning, local media outlet *The Irrawaddy* published photos of residents fleeing the township, crowding onto flatbed trucks stuck in columns of snaking traffic.

Some carried their pets on the back of motorbikes, while others crammed their belongings in vinyl bags on tuk-tuks.

"We can see the people on the roads for as far as one's eye can see," reported local outlet *Democratic Voice of Burma*. A resident confirmed the mass exodus to AFP, saying that people wanted to leave at dawn and protesters removed makeshift barricades — erected to slow security forces down — to let them out.

— AFP

## Sweden is latest country to stop using AstraZeneca vax

Country takes step amid reports of dangerous blood clots in some recipients

Berlin, March 16: Sweden on Tuesday became the latest European country to pause use of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine amid reports of dangerous blood clots in some recipients. The company and international regulators continue to say the vaccine is safe, however, and many countries elsewhere in the world are forging ahead with their vaccination campaigns.

The move by the Swedish Public Health Agency is pending an investigation by the European Medicines Agency. "The decision is a precautionary measure," Swedish chief epidemiologist Anders Tegnell said in a statement.

Germany, France, Italy and Spain were among countries that suspended use of the vaccine on Monday. AstraZeneca's formula is one of three vaccines in use on the European continent. But the escalating concern is another setback for the European Union's vaccination drive, which has been plagued by shortages and other hurdles and is lagging well behind the campaigns in Britain and the US.

The EU's drug regulatory agency will review experts' findings on the AstraZeneca shot and decide whether action needs to be taken. Much of Asia has shrugged off concerns about the AstraZeneca jab, with Thailand's prime minister receiving a shot at the start of the country's use of the vaccine on Tuesday. "There are people who have concerns," Prayuth Chan-ocha said after his vaccination. "But we must believe doctors, believe in our medical professionals."

Thailand initially was the first country outside Europe to temporarily suspend using the AstraZeneca vaccine. But Thailand's health authorities later decided to go ahead with it, with Prayuth and members of his Cabinet receiving the first shots. Indonesia suspended use of the vaccine



Workers clean the exterior of Bang Khae Market, after more than a hundred residents in the district tested positive for the Covid-19, in Bangkok on Tuesday.

— AFP

on Monday, saying it was waiting for a full report from the World Health Organisation regarding possible side effects.

AstraZeneca has developed a manufacturing base in Asia, and the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine maker, has been contracted by the company to produce a billion doses of the vaccine for developing nations.

Hundreds of millions more are to be manufactured this year in Australia, Japan, Thailand and South Korea. AstraZeneca has said there have been 37 reports of blood clots out of more than 17 million people vaccinated in the 27-country EU and Britain. The drugmaker said there is no evidence the vaccine carries an increased risk of clots. In fact, it said the incidence of clots is much lower than would be expected to occur naturally in a general population of this size.

— AP

## WHO: Vaccine rollout unaffected by concerns

Geneva, March 16: The UN health agency said its global rollout of Coronavirus vaccines remains unaffected even as a growing number of countries, especially in Europe, suspended use of AstraZeneca's vaccine on Monday amid concerns about blood clots in some people who received it.

The World Health Organisation says the AstraZeneca vaccines for its COVAX programme, which is shipping vaccines mostly to low- and middle-income countries, are being produced in India and South Korea — and the suspensions have been ordered over batches made in Europe. "We understand these are precautionary measures," WHO assistant director-general Mariangela Simao said.

— AP

## GERMANY TO POSTPONE VAX VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Berlin, March 16: The German government said Tuesday it will postpone a virtual summit on the country's vaccination efforts until after the European Medicines Agency has met over reports of dangerous blood clots in some recipients of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine.

A growing number of European countries — including Germany, France, Italy and Spain — suspended use of the AstraZeneca vaccine on Monday, though the company and international regulators say there is no evidence the shot is to blame. The German government and the country's 16 state governors had planned to meet Wednesday for a virtual summit.

— AP

## Will block Twitter in a month, threatens Russia

Moscow, March 16: Russian authorities said Tuesday they would block Twitter in a month if it doesn't take steps to remove banned content, a move that escalates the Russian government's drawn-out standoff with social media platforms that have played a major role in amplifying dissent in Russia.

Russia's state communications watchdog, Roskomnadzor, last week announced it was slowing down the speed of uploading photos and videos to Twitter over its alleged failure to remove content encouraging suicide among children and information about drugs and child pornography. The agency said Twitter has failed to remove more than 3,000 posts with banned content, including more than 2,500 posts encouraging suicide among minors.

The platform responded by emphasizing its policy of zero tolerance for child sexual exploitation, promotion of suicide and

drug sales.

On Tuesday, deputy chief of Roskomnadzor Vadim Subbotin argued that Twitter still wasn't complying with the demands of the Russian authorities. "Twitter doesn't react to our requests appropriately and if things go on like this, then in a month it will be blocked, on an out-of-court basis," Subbotin told the Interfax news agency, adding that Roskomnadzor at this point "is not registering specific steps by Twitter to remove prohibited content."

Twitter did not respond immediately to an email request for comment. Authorities have criticized social media platforms that have been used to bring tens of thousands of people into the streets across Russia this year to demand the release of opposition leader Alexei Navalny. The wave of demonstrations was the largest in years and posed a major challenge to the Kremlin. The authorities alleged social media platforms fa-

iled to remove calls for children to join the protests.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has urged police to act more to monitor social platforms and to track down those who "draw the children into illegal and unsanctioned street actions." The government's efforts to tighten control of the internet and social media date back to 2012, when a law allowing authorities to blacklist and block certain online content was adopted. Since then, a growing number of restrictions targeting messaging apps, websites and social media platforms have been introduced.

In 2014, authorities adopted a law requiring online services to store the personal data of Russian users on servers in Russia and have since tried to make Facebook and Twitter comply with it. Both companies have been fined, first small amounts of around \$50 and last year the equivalent of \$63,000 each.

— AP



Bidya Devi Bhandari

## 3 NEPAL EX-PMs DON'T ATTEND ALL-PARTY MEET

Kathmandu, March 16: Nepal's three former prime ministers on Tuesday boycotted an all-party meeting called by President Bidya Devi Bhandari to discuss contemporary issues amid the political crisis that has gripped the country.

Former premiers Baburam Bhattarai, Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhala Nath Khanal skipped the meeting called by President Bhandari at Shital Niwas, questioning her role in the row of the erstwhile Nepal Communist Party (NCP). *My Republica* newspaper reported. While both Khanal and Nepal belong to the rival faction of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Bhattarai heads the federal council of the Janata Samajbadi Party.

They have publicly alleged that President Bhandari had failed to act as a custodian of the Constitution, supporting even unconstitutional moves taken by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli who had dissolved the House of Representatives in December.

PM Oli, CPN (Maoist Centre) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba, Chairman of Janata Samajbadi Party Mahanta Thakur, and former Chairman of Council of Minister Khil Raj Regmi attended.

— PTI

## SIGNIFICANT FIND

Most of the text is in ancient Greek, a widely used language at the time

## Israel unearths 2K-yr-old biblical scroll fragments

Jerusalem, March 16: Israel on Tuesday unveiled fragments of a biblical scroll dating back some 2,000 years, in what experts described as the most significant such find since the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The artifacts were unearthed during excavations by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) in the Judean desert, which spans parts of southern Israel and the occupied West Bank. In a site known as the "Cave of Horrors," archaeologists found fragments of a scroll with a Greek translation of the Hebrew bible, the first such find since the early

1960s. "For the first time in approximately 60 years, archaeological excavations have uncovered fragments of a biblical scroll," the IAA said.

Oren Ableman, an IAA curator, said parts of the same scroll from the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets were first discovered in the Cave of Horrors by Bedouins in the 1950s.

The Cave of Horrors took its name from the numerous skeletons found inside it and the treacherous terrain nearby.

Most of the text is in ancient Greek, a widely used language at the time, but the word Lord appears

● **OREN ABLEMAN**, an IAA curator, said parts of the same scroll from the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets were first discovered in the Cave of Horrors by Bedouins in the 1950s.

in ancient Hebrew script. Oren said that among the most striking features of the new fragments is a deviation with all other known versions of the Old Testament: in one passage, the word "gates" is replaced by the word "streets." The significance of that deviation is "what we are

trying to discover now," he said. Yosef Garfinkel, head of the Institute of Archaeology at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, described the find as "exciting," telling it could enrich the "study of the history of the Greek translation of the bible."

The items were discovered in a cave believed to have been used by Jews rebelling against the Romans during the failed second-century Bar Kochba revolt.

The IAA compared the find to the extraordinary discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, some 900 manuscripts found between 1947

and 1956 in the Qumran caves about the Dead Sea in the West Bank.

They are some of the earliest biblical texts ever found. The Judea desert excavation also unearthed a cache of rare coins, a six-millennia-old skeleton of a child and a basket described by the IAA as "likely the oldest in the world", which been carbon-dated to 10,500 years old. "I shook for days," after the basket was found, IAA archaeologist Chaim Cohen said.

The woven basket was found remarkably intact, with a rock resting on its top — an indication that

its users wanted to keep the contents safe and intended to come back for them, Cohen said.

Organic material like the wood used for the basket typically decays, but this unprecedented discovery was preserved by the Judean's desert's dry climate and protective conditions in the cave, he said.

Cohen added that very little is known about the society that lived in the area at the time.

"From this ancient period, we have nothing. We can tell, and I want to be very cautious, that they are likely nomads or half-nomads," he said.

— AP



## SHORT TAKES

## Messi levels Xavi record for Barca

**Madrid:** Lionel Messi scored a spectacular double the same night he equalled Xavi Hernandez's appearance record for Barcelona, the Argentinian inspiring his team to a 4-1 win over Huesca on Monday. Messi tied Xavi's 767 games in all competitions for Barca and marked yet another milestone with a brilliant brace, a curling effort in the first half flying in off the crossbar before a late shot nestled in the corner. Antoine Griezmann had earlier followed suit with another impressive shot into the top corner before Huesca pulled one back, Rafa Mir converting a doubtful penalty on the stroke of half-time.

But Messi helped Barca pull away, sending in a cross for Oscar Mingueza to head in and then scoring his second as the Catalans moved to within four points of league leaders Atletico Madrid. — *AFP*

## Dhanalakshmi defeats Dutee

**Patiala:** National record holder Dutee Chand was beaten to second place by S. Dhanalakshmi while Hima Das was disqualified after a false start in a much-anticipated women's 100m sprint final in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships on Tuesday. The 22-year-old Dhanalakshmi, of Tamil Nadu, took the gold by clocking 11.39 seconds ahead of Dutee (11.58) of Odisha to become the fastest woman of the championships. Another Tamil Nadu runner Archana Suseendran was third in 11.76. This was after Hima, who was running in the shorter sprint races of 100m and 200m instead of her per event 400m, was disqualified after a false start. The much-anticipated final did not live up to the expectations as Hima was shown the red card, while Dutee and Dhanalakshmi did not come anywhere near the Olympic qualification mark of 11.15 seconds. — *PTI*



Sports Authority of Telangana State chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy (left) greets Finance Minister Harish Rao at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Tuesday, ahead of the State Budget. Mr Reddy petitioned the FM and the Chief Minister for enhanced allocation of funds for the sports department in this year's budget which would boost Telangana in sporting circles across the world.

## Hockey trials for Medchal district

**Hyderabad:** Medchal Hockey is conducting selection trails at 4 pm on Wednesday at the Gymkhana Hockey Ground to pick the district side for the upcoming 5th Senior Women's Inter-District Tournament to be held in Hyderabad from March 26 to 28. Further details contact G. Yashwanth on phone number 9866711724.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**India vs South Africa women:** Fifth ODI from 9 am on Star Sports 2

## BADMINTON

**All England Open:** Round of 32 matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

## FOOTBALL

**Italian League:** Torino vs Sassuolo from 7.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Juventus vs Napoli from 11.15 pm on Sony Six, HD

**Champions League:** Chelsea vs Atletico Madrid from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; Bayern Munich vs Lazio from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

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## BUTTLER HOUSE

India fall to Jos fire in third encounter, England take lead

**Ahmedabad, March 16:** Virat Kohli's brilliance wasn't good enough to paper over an otherwise inept Indian batting performance as England humbled the hosts by eight wickets in the third T20 International to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series, here on Tuesday. Eoin Morgan unleashed his fast bowlers Mark Wood (3/31) and Chris Jordan (2/35) to restrict the hosts for 156 for 6, which the visitors surpassed easily in 18.2 overs, riding on Jos Buttler's unbeaten 83 off 52 balls. Skipper Kohli had mistakenly said at the toss that his team led 2-1 but Morgan, in his 100th T20 International appearance, made sure that opposite happened.

Buttler showed his mastery in white ball format after Kohli single-handedly carried the team to a reasonable score with an unbeaten 77 off 46 balls.

Buttler in the Powerplay pounced on Shardul Thakur and Yuzvendra Chahal in successive overs and England were never in danger of falling behind the run-rate after that.

He played the pacers and spinners with comforting ease, playing reverse slog sweeps interspersed between the lofted straight hits into the empty stands. In all, Buttler hit five fours and four sixes.

More than the Buttler's blade, the difference between two sides was the sheer pace generated by England pacers after Morgan won another good toss.

Mark Wood rocked the Indian top order during the Powerplay overs and even Kohli's magnificence wasn't good enough to save the night for the 'Men In Blue'.

Wood's thunderbolts at 90 plus miles per hour found the younger Indian batsmen in considerable discomfort.

He didn't do anything extra but bowled fast and straight, mixing the well disguised short pitched stuff to get them into a tangle.

Save Kohli, other Indian youngsters found



England batsman Jos Buttler (right) is greeted by teammate Dawid Malan on scoring a half-century during the third T20 against India at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. — *PTI*

## SCORECARD

**India:** Rohit Sharma c Jofra Archer b Mark Wood 15, K.L. Rahul b Mark Wood 0, Ishan Kishan c Jos Buttler b Chris Jordan 4, Virat Kohli (not out) 77, Rishabh Pant run out (Jos Buttler/Sam Curran) 25, Shreyas Iyer c Malan b Mark Wood 9, Hardik Pandya c Jofra Archer b Chris Jordan 17. Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-3) 9. **Total (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 156.** **FoW:** 7-1, 20-2, 24-3, 64-4, 86-5, 156-6. **Bowler:** Adil Rashid 4-0-26-0, Jofra Archer 4-0-32-0, Mark Wood 4-0-31-3, Chris

Jordan 4-0-35-2, Ben Stokes 2-0-12-0, Sam Curran 2-0-14-0.

**England:** Jason Roy c Sharma b Chahal 9, Jos Buttler (not out) 83, Dawid Malan st Pant b Washington Sundar 18, Jonny Bairstow (not out) 40. Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-2) 8. **Total (for 2 wks, in 18.2 over) 158.** **FoW:** 1-23, 2-81.

**Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-27-0, Shardul Thakur 3-2-0-36-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-41-1, Hardik Pandya 3-0-22-0, Washington Sundar 4-0-26-1.

## UAE players banned for bid to fix

**Dubai, March 16:** The ICC on Tuesday slapped eight-year bans on United Arab Emirates (UAE) cricketers Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt for their attempted role in trying to fix matches in the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019.

The bans are backdated to October 16, 2019, when they were provisionally suspended for attempting to corrupt matches and found guilty of breaching global body's Anti-Corruption Code.

The 33-year-old former captain and right arm pacer Naveed has played 39 ODIs and 31 T20 Internationals for his country, while 42-year-old middle-order batsman Butt has played 40 ODIs and 32 T20s.

"Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman

Anwar represented their adopted country, the UAE at the highest level in cricket. Naveed was the captain and leading wicket taker. Anwar was the opening bat. Both had long international careers and were well versed in the threat from match fixers. That they both chose to engage with this corrupt activity was a cynical betrayal of their positions, their teammates, and all supporters of UAE cricket," Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager — Integrity Unit, said in an ICC release.

Naveed was also found guilty of breaching two counts of the Emirates Cricket Board Anti-Corruption Code for Participants of the T10 League 2019. — *PTI*

## ALL ENGLAND | BADMINTON

## Best chance for Sindhu to excel

**Birmingham, March 16:** World champion P.V. Sindhu will look to shrug off her demoralising Swiss Open final defeat and take advantage of a depleted field when she spearheads India's challenge at the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships, beginning here on Wednesday.

Sindhu looked a pale shadow of herself in her defeat against Carolina Marin, going down without much fight as she struggled to contain errors.

Carolina, the three-time world champion from Spain, though has pulled out of the prestigious tournament due to an injury, taking some shine off of the event.

Also missing in action will be the Chinese, Koreans and Chinese Taipei shuttlers, who decided not to compete in the Super 1000 event as it is not part of the Tokyo Olympic qualification period. It affects the quality of the competition but also provides the 19-member Indian contingent an opportunity to go deep in the draw and recapture the trophy which has been won by just two Indians so far — the legendary Prakash

● **Carolina Marin, the three-time world champion from Spain, though has pulled out of the prestigious tournament due to an injury, taking some shine off of the event. Also missing in action will be the Chinese, Koreans and Chinese Taipei shuttlers.**

Padukone (1980) and P. Gopichand (2001).

While former world number one Saina Nehwal had a runner-up finish in 2015, Sindhu's best finish was a semifinal in 2018.

Sindhu will again be one of the top contenders but Saina is nowhere near her best with just two quarter-final finishes to show in the last two years.

Among other Indians, former No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth and young men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, currently ranked 10 in the world, had a good run in Swiss Open and will look to put their best foot forward.

Fifth seed Sindhu will kick off her campaign with a clash against Malaysia's Soniia Cheah. — *PTI*



Players of the Bhadradi team are jubilant after winning the TCA U-16 Inter-District Championship on Tuesday.

## BHADRADI ARE CHAMPIONS

**Hyderabad:** Bhadradi emerged winner of the TCA U-16 Inter-District Championship at the Bhadradi Stadium in Manuguru. In the finals played on Tuesday, they chased down Warangal Urban's modest 138 with five wickets in hand.

Batting first, Warangal Urban rode on useful knocks by Pardipan (40) and Hardik (35). In reply, Ranadheer steadied Bhadradi and saw them safely home.

## BRIEF SCORES

■ Warangal Urban 138/8 in 25 overs (Pardhipan 40, Hardik 35, Jashwanth 3/23) lost to Bhadradi 139/5 in 22.2 overs (Ranadheer 37, Ratna Arya 32).

■ **Man of the Match:** Jaswanth (Bhadradi).

■ **Man of the Tournament:** J. Pardipan (Warangal Urban).

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