

# DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 15 MARCH 2021

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Vol. 84 No. 73 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

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Max: 35.6°C  
Min: 18.6°C  
RH: 27%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Maximum/Minimum temp. 37/19°C

**ASTROGUIDE**

Saturn: Uttarayana

Tithi: Magha Bahula Ekadasi till 3.04 pm

Star: Uttarashada till 8.43 pm

Varjyam: 12.46 pm to 2.24 pm

Durmuhurta: 8.54 am to 9.41 am; 11.13 pm to 12.02 am

RahuKalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Hijri CALENDAR

Sha'ban 1,144 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.24 am

Zohar: 12.35 pm

Asar: 4.45 pm

Maghrab: 6.31 pm

Isha: 7.39 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.24 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 7.05 AM

MOONSET TODAY 7.18 PM

**COUNTER POINT**

Don't worry! I have allocated them more seats where they won't be able to save their deposits!

**Shab-e-Baraat on March 28**

**Hyderabad:** The crescent of Sha'ban, the eighth month of the Islamic calendar, has been sighted and Shab-e-Baraat, the second holy night for Muslims, will be celebrated on March 28. The Central Ruiyat-e-Hilal Committee, which met here at the Hussaini Building at Moazzam Jahi Market, announced that the month of Sha'ban had commenced as the crescent was sighted on Sunday evening. — INN

**Banks on strike today, tomorrow**

**New Delhi:** Banking operations across the country could be impacted on Monday and Tuesday as United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) has given a call for a nationwide strike to protest against the proposed privatisation of two state-owned lenders. Services such as deposits and withdrawal at branches, cheque clearance and loan approvals would be affected due to the strike.

**YSRC scripts history with clean sweep in civic polls**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 14

Women followers of the YSRC participate in a rally to celebrate the party's victory in the urban local body elections in Guntur on Sunday. — DC

The YSRC grabbed the crucial Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Kurnool municipal corporations and was poised for a similar showing in Vijayawada. Results of Eluru Municipal Corporation have been withheld by the court. Elections were held for 71 municipalities as the verdict was unanimous in Piduguralla and Macherla in Guntur district, Pulive-ndula in Kadapa and Pung-anur in Chittoor district.

Though the pro-YSRC mood of the people became evident in the recently-held gram panchayat polls, which were not held on party basis, the civic polls, held on a party basis provided an authentic view of the people's choice.

YSRC and independents took the remaining two. In Mydukuru, the TD won 12 wards, the YSRC 11 and an independent won one. By taking the chairman post in these two municipalities, the YSRC can complete an unprecedented sweep of urban local bodies.

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— DC

**Shah hits out at Cong. over allies**MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, MARCH 14**KHUSHBOO TO CONTEST FROM 1,000 LIGHTS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, MARCH 14

Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched a frontal attack on former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, accusing his party of entering into alliances with political parties who are "out to divide the country".

Addressing a rally in poll-bound Assam's Margherita, Mr Shah said: "In Kerala, the Congress has aligned with the (Indian Union) Muslim League that worked to divide the country. In Assam, it has aligned with the AIUDF (All India United Democratic Front). Similarly, in West Bengal, it has forged an alliance with a party floated recently by a cleric of Furfura Sharif Dargah. The Congress can go to any length to win elections."

The AIUDF, headed by Lok Sabha member Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, is accused of being the "protector of illegal immigrants".

Asserting that the saffron party does not practise votebank politics, the former BJP president alleged that the Congress did nothing to solve the issue of illegal immigration despite ruling the state for 15 years.

■ Report on Page 7

**BJP FIELDS MPS, UNION MINISTER IN BENGAL POLLS**

**New Delhi:** The BJP announced the names of 63 candidates for the West Bengal polls, including that of Union minister Babul Supriyo from Tollygunge, nominated Rajya Sabha MP Swapnil Dasgupta from Tarakeswar, as well as sitting MPs Locket Chatterjee and Nishit Parmanik.

■ Report on Page 7

**SESSION BEGINS TODAY, BUDGET ON THURSDAY**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

The state Budget session will commence on Monday with Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan addressing the joint sitting of the Assembly and the Legislative Council. Finance minister T. Harish Rao will present the Budget 2021-22 on March 18.

The graduate MLC poll results are likely to generate political heat in the Assembly as the results will be out in the midst of the session. The counting begins on March 17 and the results are expected the next day.

Besides, the BJP will have a second member in the Assembly, M. Raghuandan Rao who won from Dubbala in December 2020. The BJP previously had one legislator, Raja Singh.

After the Governor's address, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) will meet to decide on the duration of the session. Sources said the government wants to hold the session until March 27. However, there is a possibility of the session being curtailed again in view of the increasing Corona-virus cases. On March 16, the House will take up condolence motions for deceased sitting and former members.

— DC

gate his role in the plantation of explosives laden car at Carmichael Road near Ambani's residence Antilia on February 25.

The prosecution stated that Vaze's custodial interrogation was required because before transfer of the case to them it was with two other probe agencies; hence they need to interrogate him thoroughly.

The case was handed over to the NIA after the mysterious death of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran, owner of the car in which the explosives were found. Hiran claimed that the vehicle had been stolen a week earlier. His body was found in a creek at Thane on March 5.

matter. When arguments for Vaze's remand was going on, his lawyer demanded the copy of the remand application. The prosecution refused stating it was confidential.

It may be recalled that before NIA, the Mumbai Crime Branch and the Anti Terrorism Squad had conducted a probe into this

**TRS bullish over higher polling in grad MLC poll**

Warangal seat sees 64% turnout; Hyderabad witnesses 59%

L. VENKAT  
RAM REDDY I DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

A massive turnout of voters was witnessed for the Legislative Council elections to two graduate constituencies of Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda on Sunday. Counting of votes will take place on March 17.

The Election Commission has put the tentative polling percentage for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda seat at 64 per cent and for Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar seat at 59 per cent till 4 pm. The final figures will be released on Monday. Polling was less than 40 per cent in 2015.

The TRS is upbeat over the higher polling percentage, saying that its micro-level booth management to ensure more people turn up vote proved a success and worked in its favour.

Contrary to fears that the



Minister K.T. Rama Rao gets his finger marked with indelible ink before casting his vote in the MLC polls under the graduate constituency at Banjara Hills on Sunday. — DC

polling percentage would be hit due to the long weekend (holidays from Maha Shivaratri on March 11 to Sunday on March 14), all the booths witnessed ser-

pentine queues of voters even after the polling deadline of 4 pm.

Officials allowed all the voters who were in queues before 4 pm to cast their votes till 7 pm.

The MLC polls covered 21 districts out of the 33 districts in Telangana state. The Hyderabad-RR-Mahbubnagar constituency covered nine districts with 5,31,268 registered voters and the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency covered 12 districts with 5,05,565 registered voters.

Soon after the polling concluded, TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and party's working president K.T. Rama Rao held a teleconference with incharge ministers, party MPs, MLAs and obtained reports on polling trends in their respective districts.

■ Page 2: TRS enrolment drive boosted MLC voting

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SHAHAB ANSARI and SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, MARCH 14

A special court in Mumbai on Sunday remanded API Sachin Vaze to the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) till March 25, in connection to the explosives found in a car outside Mukesh Ambani's house.

The NIA arrested him at 11.50 pm after 12 hours of questioning. Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said the arrest of Vaze

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## FOR SALE PROPERTY

## COMMERCIAL

**3025SQ.YDS. WEST** Facing Commercial land, Facing 100 ft Road, next to proposed Regional Ring Road at Shankarpally for Sale, Ph:900044633 (S/2021/C02629)

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**CHILKUR PRAGATI** Road, Farmhouse, in gated community for sale, 1100 yards, 1.5BHK, Lawn, BarBQ, badminton, Swimming Pool. No Brokers Strictly. 80 lacs plus what's app only 89771 72473 (W/2021/AT001278)

## FLATS

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## FLAT FOR SALE

Spacious 2450 sq ft Flat for Sale\* Centrally located at Kondapur (Sterling Whitefield). • BRS approved / sanctioned • Top floor • 4 bedrooms • 2 covered car parks • Private terrace, internally connected with spiral staircase • Puja & Store room • Additional service/servant room • Well maintained 15 yr old Bldg Price expected : ₹1.5 crores Contact Owner: 9618777945

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**PREMIUM VILLAS** in Gated community for Sale at Mokala @ 1.80 crs (Special Offer available). For further details, Contact 733585358 (HYMM/2021/C08180)

**INDEPENDENT 3** bedroom house, two halls, kitchen, dining, servant room, 234 sq.yds, 4800 sq.ft, super builtup area, semi furnished with A.Cs, false ceiling, lighting, wardrobes. Ready to occupy for sale. Located on main road of Old Bowenpally, Mallikarjuna Colony, Road No.1. Expected price 2.5 Cr. Interested may contact 9849004060. (S/2021/C02635)

**HMDA APPROVED** east facing duplex independent villa at Shadnagar 267 sq.yards land 1550 sft construction is for sale, immediate registration. Ph:9666173447 (W/2021/AT001260)

## LAND

1 GUNTA land for 2.50 L Near Jachherla with Plantation and 12 Years Maintenance. Call@ 7337040444 (HYMM/2021/C08176)

**MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT,** Krishna Mandal, Developed Agriculture Land 56Acres, That Produces Rice Farm Two Crops A Year, With Water Available Sale, Beside Road, Near Bhima River. Ph:9573798968 (HYMM/2021/C08052)

**HOT PROPERTY,** Golden opportunity for investors, 42acres Red soil land, BT Road facing land at Sadashivapet, useful for industries, Resorts and ventures, 40lakhs per acre Fixed Rate. Contact: 9581175175/7032223228 (HYMM/2021/C07962)

## PLOTS

**BHUVANAGIRI (YADADRI)** Bypass road Pranava Nottinghills 167yards E/F HMDA layout before 1km To new vivarohotel per yard 17000 only contact:9441270687 (HYMM/2021/C08038)

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**FMCG EXPERIENCED** F/M Sales & Marketing Team 15 Nos ASM-TSM - Executives. Send Resume tofograa@hotmail.com / 040 2311154, 9248079756. (W/2021/AT001254)

**MARKETING EXECUTIVE** for air conditioner, two wheeler Must, Fresher or 1 - 2 yrs experience. Comfort cool care services. Flat No:103, Veena Apartment, Dharamkaram, Road, Ameerpet, Ph:924632899, 040-23734386. (HYCL/2021/C03279)

**WANTED FULL Time Sales & Marketing Staff (M/F) to promote HMDA Approved Layouts. Qualification: Any Graduation, Call: 8154858585 (W/2021/AT001269)**

**SALESMAN SALES** girls helper for readymade garments shop. Sona ladies and children wear Abids. 9889491586 (HYMM/2021/C08192)

**URGENTLY REQUIRES** Counter Sales Executives (Male) for their Stores at Star Hotel, Malls & High Streets Stores with 2 - 3 yrs experience in Jewellery/ Retail Hospitality Industry (Freshers) Young, Presentable Fluency in English, Walk-in with CV on 15th- 17th Mar. Krishna Pearls & Jewellers near Topaz Building, Punjagutta, Hyderabad. Between 11:00pm. Ph:9246396192. (B/2021/C01180)

**A REPUTED** car dealer requires urgently Sales Executives M/ F at New Outlet. Fresher/ experience. Walk-in: Pavan Motors, Serilingampally. Ph:8790902132. (S/2021/C02671)

## CALL CENTRE

**URGENT REQUIREMENT** for Female telecallers (languages known: Telugu and english) at Upnal (near masterchef). Min 1yr exp. Easy hiring company: SNR Associates contact: 8374458511. (HYMM/2021/C08034)

**DRIVERS** WANTED DRIVERS with 10-15 years experience of driving Automatic Cars and duty in Begumpet. Walkin Contact: 9912234560. (S/2021/C02664)

## ENGINEERS

**WANTED CIVIL** Engineer B.Tech/ Diploma Freshers for Civil Works in Villa & Apartment Projects at Hyderabad. (Sal: 10k-15k), 9949836096, 8309475836 Send CV to: rcprecruiting@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C08208)

## GENERAL

**WANTED A** Male or Female Nurse or Day and or Night Attendant Good in English. Apply with your Passport Size Photograph and Biodata to Sree Rama Rao B-9, Vikrampu Near KFC, Gate No.4, Road No.4, Near Karkhana, Secunderabad. Ph:9849899000. (S/2021/C00205)

## HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE

**WANTED YOUNG MALE OFFICE ADMIN** for paper work documentation at Sanjana's Courtyard, a construction company at Kandiakoya. Require good command over English with proficiency in MS Word and MS Excel. Contact: Raja 7093940339. (HYMM/2021/C06175)

## LAW OFFICERS

**A PRIVATE** Limited Company is looking for Senior Legal Manager/ Advocate with 10-15 years experience. Should be able to coordinate with Advocates in Civil, Criminal and High Court cases. Should have ability to file complaints in the Police station and do follow up. Walkin/Send resume with expected salary:

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## MEDICAL

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**SOUTHERN PLANTAIDS** Pvt. Ltd. (required at "Balanagar", Hyderabad) staying near to Balanagar area only. 1) Service Coordinator- 2/3 year experience. 2) Telecaller- 2/3 year experience. Accommodation provided for Male candidates. Email id: info@southernplantaids.com (S/2021/C02679)

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## SHORT TAKES

## 14 EFLU STUDENTS ON STRIKE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Fourteen students of English Foreign Language University (EFLU) were briefly taken into preventive custody by the Osmania University police Sunday evening when they were on a hunger strike near the campus entrance seeking its reopening.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, a student said that they were on a 24-hour hunger strike with a demand to open the campus and the library. The demand was based on a survey conducted by EFLU students with a total of 845 respondents, in which 522 had said they were in urgent need of hostel accommodation.

"As per the administration's request, the students had submitted a detailed proposal seeking that students should be allowed to return to the campus considering that only 50 per cent of the students can be called back as per the UGC guidelines. Even after we submitted our proposal on February 18, the administration did not want to meet us and gave no follow-ups on the proposal," said a representative of the EFLU students' action committee.

"Moreover, they released a circular about 'in-person classes' on February 18. We never demanded the resumption of in-person classes in the first place. We are only seeking hostel and other facilities which students need," the representative said. On Sunday, around 5:30 pm, a team from Osmania University police, including women constables, arrived at the university gates and picked up the students for detention.

"They were blocking the road with their dharna and we had to detain them as their protest was affecting the election bandobast. We detained 14 students under preventive custody," said OU police inspector L. Ramesh Naik. They were all released after some time.

## Awareness drive



Participants participate in the AINU 5K Kidney Run organised at Necklace road on Sunday to bring about awareness in society about the importance of taking preventive measures to fight kidney diseases. The event was flagged off by DGP M. Mahendar Reddy and Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## President calls to take up yoga for well-being

Kovind unveils yoga centre at Shri Ram Chandra Mission

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD MARCH 14

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday called on people to take up yoga, calling it an approach to holistic well-being that includes physical and mental fitness.

Kovind, said yoga is not associated with any religion, region, or people but belongs to the entire world and all of humanity. "As the world moves to attain progress through science and technology, there is a need to restore the balance between human beings and nature through sustainable methods. The concept of health accord-

## THE PROGRAMME

aims to unite people across the world by practising yoga and meditation for 100 days for a healthier and happier life.

the Shri Ram Chandra Mission. The programme aims to unite people across the world by practising yoga and meditation for 100 days for a healthier and happier life.

Kamlesh Patel, guide of the Heartfulness movement that the mission runs, along with Baba Ramdev of Patanjali Yogeeth, Rajesh Kotekar, secretary, ministry of Ayush, Dr H.R. Nagendra, founder Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, were present to show their support for the initiative.

People from around the world can tune in every morning into a virtual ses-

sion to learn asanas by instructors of leading yoga institutes possessing a combined legacy of hundreds of years, all under the banner of the 'Yoga for Unity and Well-being'.

Additionally, attendees can listen in to the lecture series on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Kamlesh Patel, who heads the Shri Ram Chandra Mission, and popular as Daaji, will conduct special meditation sessions for seekers to experience 'Transformation through Transmission (life energy)'. The series will come to an end on the much-celebrated International Yoga Day on June 21.

## Activists brief politicos in Delhi on Gulf workers

DURGA PRASAD  
SUNKU I DC  
HYDERABAD MARCH 14

Activists claiming to uphold the cause of Gulf migrant workers returned to city on Sunday after a week-long trip to New Delhi to meet various public representatives and highlight the workers' problems. A second set of representatives under the same banner — Telangana Gulf Workers Joint Action Committee — is planning a 'Chalo Delhi' Yatra today.

One of their main demands is the withdrawal of a circular reducing minimum referral wages (MRW) for Indian workers recruited for employment in the Gulf countries.

They say the circular would adversely affect 88 lakh Gulf migrants and their families.

According to the ministry of external affairs, by the circulars issued on September 8 and 21, 2020, the MRW of Indians who work in Qatar, Bahrain,

Joint Action Committee is planning a 'Chalo Delhi' Yatra today.

Oman and the UAE have been reduced to \$200 (approximately ₹15,000) and in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to \$245 and \$324 respectively.

These activists felt the government's decision to reduce minimum referral wages by 30 to 50 per cent risks the livelihood of many and destroys the dreams of current and prospective migrants.

The public representatives they met during their trip included TD Rajya Sabha member K. Ravindra Kumar, YSRC Chittoor MP Nallakonda Gari Reddeppa, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, Union minister of state for external affairs V. Muralidharan, Congress Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu, Congress Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Ajlukha, BJP MP T.G. Venkatesh from AP, and CPI(M) MP Soma Prasad.

## Four including two children killed as lorry rams into auto

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Osmania General Hospital (OGH).

The accident took place when eight members of a family were on their way to Medak from Sangareddy to attend a cradle ceremony. When their auto reached Almaipet culvert around 12:30 p.m. it got involved in a head-on collision with a container lorry travelling from Medak towards Sangareddy.

Identified as Chenna Sravan (40) and his two children Chenna Sai Vignesh (13) and Chenna Sai Charan (7), who died on the spot. Patnam Venkatesham (39) died while being shifted to

very narrow, the container driver ended up ramming the auto carrying the passengers."

The four injured have been identified as Kota Ramesh (25), Patnam Padma (38) wife of deceased Venkatesham, Chinna Swapna (32) wife of deceased Sravan, and Chennai Bhavani Yelladas (35). All of them have been shifted to Osmania General Hospital for better treatment.

Jogipet police have booked a case and took the container driver into custody. Further investigation is underway.

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## SHORT TAKES

## MORE VOTERS TURN OUT IN RURAL KHAMMAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, MARCH 14

Rural graduate voters gave a surprise to poll experts by turning out in more numbers than their urban counterparts in Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency. About 30 mandals in Khammam and Bhadravati districts registered a voting of above 75 per cent.

In Chintakani mandal, 83.79 percent graduate voters participated in polling, with 1,510 of total 1,802 exercising their franchise. Poll percentage was 75.99 in Vemboor mandal and 77 in Mudigonda mandal.

Kallur mandal witnessed 2,406 voters against total 3,163, accounting for 76.06 percent. In Nelakondapalli, the poll percentage registered was 79.06 percent, while in Kamepalli, it was 79.47 percent. 81.11 percent votes were polled in Dummugudem mandal and 77.35 percent in Garla mandal. 889 of 1,090 graduate voters cast their votes in Aswaram mandal. These numbers were 1,833 and 2,232 in Apenuballi mandal. In Kusumanchi mandal, 1,416 voters from among total 2,710 voters turned up.

A case of impersonation was recorded at Kusumanchi. A person had cast another person's vote and left the polling booth. The issue came to light after the actual voter turned up. Following this, he lodged a complaint with the polling officer circle inspector concerned.

Transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar said graduate voters showed more awareness in Khammam and Bhadravati districts. He expressed confidence that TRS candidate Palla Rajeswar Reddy will win the election.

## HUGE TURNOUT OF VOTERS IN WARANGAL

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, MARCH 14

Voters turned out in large numbers to exercise their franchise in the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduates' MLC constituency on Sunday.

The poll percentage was 83.37 in Jangaon, 65 in Warangal Urban, 77.78 in Warangal Rural, 78 in Mahbubabad, 79.38 in Mulugu and 69 in Jayashankar Bhupalpally. Long queues were witnessed outside the polling centres even though the sun was searing hot.

Speculations about a poor voter turnout were thus put to rest. Voting though started at a slow rate during early hours. But it picked up in the afternoon. Voters complained of poor facilities as they stood in scorching heat. They complained that administration could have made provision for water and shade for voters.

With the ballot paper being too big with 71 candidates, voting process took a long time. Expressing their impatience, voters protested that more polling booths should have been arranged to avoid such inconvenience.

Chief electoral officer Shashank Goel inspected the voting process in Warangal. He said cases will be booked against those who have been spreading fake news regarding various candidates on social media. "We will investigate through SPs and collectors from where the news is emerging and take action," he stated.

**WITH THE** ballot paper being too big with 71 candidates, voting process took a long time. Expressing their impatience, voters protested that more polling booths should have been arranged to avoid such inconvenience.



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi casts her vote on Sunday.



Voters wait in a long queue to cast their votes at Bowenpally polling booth on Sunday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE



BJP candidate Ramchander Rao casts his vote at Tarnaka polling booth.



Vani Devi in Mahbubnagar.



P. Rajeshwar Reddy casts his vote.

# BJP is confident party will win both the MLC seats

**BJP only credible alternative to the ruling TRS in state, say leaders**

IREDDY SRINIVAS  
REDDY I DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

BJP leaders are confident of pocketing both MLC Graduate constituency seats. It was a three-cornered fight in the Hyderabadi-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar segment. Party sources said that it will be one up over last election's second finish in Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay is hopeful of clinching both seats despite the crores allegedly distributed by the ruling party. Its prospects have been dent in the Warangal segment where several independents and separate statehood crusaders are also in the fray. They can split votes to substantial levels, sources said.

In Hyderabad, it will be a close fight with the TRS. Candidates from both parties belong to the same community and

there is every possibility of the votes being split. Party sources pointed out that in spite of a TRS wave in the previous election, BJP topped in first preference votes but this time there is an anti-incumbency factor working against sitting MLC N. Ramchander Rao of the BJP.

The impressive showing in Dubbik and GHMC elections has boosted the cadre's morale and a perception among the people is that BJP is the only credible alternative to the ruling party in the state.

A fear that haunts BJP is with regard to the candidature of Telugu Desam's L. Ramaiah, who can split votes considerably. It may be noted that in the previous elections, the TD and the BJP were alliance partners.

Two-time MLC Prof K. Nageshwar, who is contesting as an independent candidate, will certainly split votes in Hyderabad.

"The TRS has learned

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said he was confident of the party's victory in the elections to the two Legislative Council seats from the graduates quota on Sunday. Voters in both constituencies rejected the ruling party, he claimed while speaking to the media after the conclusion of voting.

Sanjay said all the opinion polls were in favour of the BJP and alleged that the TRS had distributed crores while the police merely watched.

He condemned the alleged attacks on BJP candidate G. Premender Reddy and ST Cell president Hussain Nayak at

that the intellectuals are not submissive despite distributing money all night. Even today, BJP leaders were trying to prevent the distribution of ₹10,000 per vote, he claimed.

Sanjay alleged that fearing a loss, TRS activists had attacked BJP leaders. Their cadre did not launch a counter-attack due to their respect for the Constitution.

Sanjay demanded that the Election Commission take action immediately against ruling party leaders who attacked the BJP leaders.

He condemned the alleged attacks on BJP candidate G. Premender Reddy and ST Cell president Hussain Nayak at

Nellikuduru in Mahbubnagar district. He alleged that police are watching the attack and not taken any action against culprits.

Sanjay Karimnagar MP, also demanded that the police release the Vishwa Hindu Vahini Bains leaders Santosh and Lingoji by 8 am Monday. If not, the BJP would "show its strength".

He alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and his government had failed to protect a minor girl who was raped in Bainsa.

The senior party leader accused that the government and police of not even given medical treatment to the victim.

# TRS, BJP men come to blows in Mahbubnagar

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, MARCH 14

While voting for the graduate MLC council seat has been peaceful in most of the erstwhile Warangal district, there have been reports of clashes between TRS and BJP leaders in Bhupalpally and Mahbubnagar districts.

TRS leaders allegedly attacked BJP MLC candidate G. Premender Reddy and Girijana Morth leader Hussain Naik in Nellikuduru of Mahbubnagar district. TRS and BJP groups clashed near a polling booth. Police managed to disperse them.

BJP leaders later sat on dharna demanding action against TRS leaders Premender Reddy said he and some party workers went to a function hall in Nellikuduru following information that ruling party leaders were distributing money to influence voters.

"We red-handedly caught them distributing money. But they attacked us and destroyed our cameras

and phones with which we filmed them. These attacks have the backing of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, who is desperate to win this election," Premender Reddy

replied.

However, panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao maintained that it was the BJP leaders who started the fight. "The BJP leaders were actually going inside a polling booth with party scarves. Our party workers told them that it is against the election code, which led to a scuffle. Police must investigate and take unbiased action against those responsible for the unrest," the minister maintained.

In another incident, CPI and TRS activists clashed in Mahbubnagar over leaders of ruling party allegedly distributing money to win voters. Telangana Jana Samithi candidate Prof. M. Kodandaram said the practice of influencing voters with money to influence voters.

"We red-handedly caught them distributing money. But they attacked us and destroyed our cameras

# MLC elections for two seats pass off peacefully

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Graduate MLC polling in the Cyberabad and Rachakonda police commissioners completed peacefully without incident on Sunday. Both the police commissioners visited several polling locations to take stock of the situation.

The Cyberabad police commissioner covering the Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts and parts of Hyderabad district had 180 polling stations in 66 locations. The Rachakonda police commission covered parts of both the Warangal-Nalgonda-Khammam and

and polling arrangements. Sajjanar said, "There was no untoward incident reported in the commissionership. We have ensured that basic amenities are provided for the elderly at the polling stations."

He and his family members cast their vote at the Red Hills earlier in the day. Bhagwat said, "A good number of voters came forward to vote. Tight security was in place at the polling stations to prevent any incidents."

Both the police chiefs urged the graduates to come out and to exercise their democratic right by voting and increase the voting percentage.

# Six booked in murder case

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

The Falaknuma police of Hyderabad took six persons into custody on Sunday for their alleged involvement in the murder of one Mohd Jaber reported three days ago at Ansari Road in the Old City.

As per sources, Saif Ali

Khan, Ismail, Abrar, Hasham, Ishaq and Sameer were picked up from different places on Sunday and taken for questioning. Police said Jaber along with his associates had allegedly murdered one Shahnoor Ghazi, at Kalapather eight months ago and Saif Ali Khan happens to be a relative of Ghazi.

"Following Ghazi's murder, police arrested his assailants including Jaber and sent them to jail.

Saif was also in jail at that time on murder charges.

Saif suspected that Jaber played a key role in the murder of Ghazi and vowed revenge," police sources said.

## SAVE | LIFE

# Tiger reserve forest areas report continuing human-animal conflicts

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

The Kawal tiger reserve spread over Adilabad, Nirmal, Komaram Bheem-Apisabadd and Mancherial districts along with reserve forest areas in Apisabadd and Mancherial districts, has seen the highest number of wildlife offences during 2020-21.

Notably, the reserve forest areas in Apisabadd and Mancherial districts are also scenes of continuing human-animal conflicts, particularly

tigers moving into Telangana from Maharashtra.

According to the yearly progress report on offence cases involving wildlife for 2020-21, as on March 11 this year, the Kawal tiger Reserve has reported 21 such cases. This was followed closely by 15 offences from the forests outside of the tiger reserve in Adilabad, Echoda, Kagaznagar, Apisabadd and Uttoor forest divisions.

The killing of two people, a young man and a girl

in Asifabad district, by a tiger identified as A2 that moved between Maharashtra and these two districts, has led to an uproar among villagers demanding that the tiger be caught.

The tens of thousands of cattle driven into the forests for grazing and farming in encroached forest areas, as well as poaching of wildlife, particularly prey species such as deer on which big cats, the tiger and leopard usually depend on, has meant that these big cats increasingly

relied on cattle kills for their meals.

A2, the tiger, has already made its presence felt on this front, killing cattle often — and sometimes more than one within days — and not feeding on its kills. Typically, when in undisturbed forest areas, tigers make approximately one kill a week and feed on the carcass over that period before making their next kill.

As per the forest department's data, of the 21 wildlife offences in Kawal tiger reserve this year, five

were within the protected area, while the rest were in the abutting reserve forest areas. At the end of the last fiscal year, meaning March 2020, as many as 180 wildlife offences were pending in the reserve area. With none of them having been disposed of, the total pending cases as on March 11 have risen to 201. In the Kagaznagar and Asifabad forest divisions, along with the non-tiger reserve forest areas of the former united Adilabad district, there were 15 cases this year.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die". — Jn 11:25

ANTHONY DAMIAN

Husband of Elizabeth Damian  
Retired AE from TS Genco  
Date of birth - 03/12/1941  
Date of death - 14/03/2021  
For funeral details contact:  
Edwin - 9110706874  
Melwin - 9703041684  
Morwin - 5866528107  
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

# 33rd Birthday Remembrance

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" II Thim 4:7

Late C. A. Chandra Seker

Retd. Joint Director of Intermediate Education, A.P.  
D.O.B: 15-3-1938 D.O.B 05-10-2010  
Those who Love their family, is loved and missed every day. We Love you forever.  
Inserted by: Wife, Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law and Beloved Grand children.

# 7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:15

Late Mrs. BLANDINA GNANAPRAKASHAM  
(Retd. Principal Wesley Girls High School, Secunderabad)  
DOB: 20-09-1933 DOD: 15-03-2014  
The fragrance of your selfless unconditional love still whisks around us.  
We Miss You Mom  
Inserted by:-  
Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

## SHORT TAKES

**4 DROWN IN WATER TANK AT PENUGONDA**DC CORRESPONDENT  
ANANTAPUR, MARCH 14

In a tragic incident, four persons drowned in the Bhogasamudram tank in Penukonda mandal in the district on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Taslima, 14, Sadiq, 40, Alla Baksh, 45, and Pasha, 17 of Suryanagar in Anantapur.

Police said a group went to the Penukonda dargah to offer prayers. After the visit, they went the tank at Bhogasamudram where at least six persons entered the waters.

They slipped in and began drowning. Locals rushed to help and also called the fire personnel. Two persons were rescued while four others drowned, police said. The Penugonda police has registered a case.

**6 KILLED AS LORRY RAMS INTO AUTORICKSHAW**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 14

In a ghastly road accident, six agriculture labourers belonging to Lion Tanda in Nuzvid mandal of Krishna district were killed and seven others injured when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a speeding vehicle at Gollapalli village in the early hours of Sunday.

Immediately after they were informed by locals, police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital.

The Nuzvid police said that the agriculture workers were proceeding to Bapulapadu mandal.

The deceased were identified as Bhukya Nagaraju (22), Vaditiya Ramesh (28), Dharmavati Bedi (30), Banavatu Sonia (55), Bhukya Somai (45) and Balavatu Nagu (40).

The seven injured persons were shifted to area government hospital in Nuzvid and GGH, Vijayawada and are undergoing treatment.

Krishna district collector A Md Imtiaz called on the injured persons at GGH in Vijayawada and consoled the family. Nuzvid MLA Meka Pratap Apparao and other officials also visited the hospital and interacted with families of the injured.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressing profound shock, announced ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to family members of the deceased.

Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan and Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

**TIRUPATI RAIL STATION YARD REFURBISHED**DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUPATI, MARCH 14

The yard at the Tirupati railway station, which is one of the busiest, and serves the world-famous Tirumala, has been remodelled and commissioned for train operations.

Considering the importance of the station, South Central Railway has remodelled the yard, which has been sanctioned as part of the development of south side entry of the Tirupati station in 2013-14 with the cost of ₹77.29 crore.

Works have been taken up to decongest the train movements at the Tirupati station and to enhance safety in train operations.

The infrastructure works upgraded at Tirupati include two stabling lines and an engine escape line towards the Renigunta end, besides an additional running line added in the yard with a length of 640 metres to facilitate management of trains within the station.

Hand operated motor points have been replaced and all movements within the yard will be interlocked to enhance safety in train operations. The electronic interlocking is commissioned with Central Route Relay Interlocking (RRJ), consisting of 213 routes which will reduce the manual intervention in the train handling to bare minimum.

Officials said the augmentation of these facilities enables handling of more number of trains at any given point of time besides reducing the train detention and it will also help in improving operational efficiency in train operations in the yard as well as safety. The development of the yard is expected to boost the handling of train operations.

**Checks ahead of Budget session**

Ahead of the Budget session of the State Legislature that is to start on Monday, a police dog squad conducts security checks inside the Assembly premises, in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— P. SURENDRA

**Kishan slams TRS, MIM for violence at Bhainsa****He questions state for not granting compensation to victims**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy slammed the TRS government and the MIM for the violence at Bhainsa last week, and alleged that both the parties were involved in the incidents. He alleged that Hindus' properties had been damaged in the violence.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in Delhi, Kishan Reddy alleged that TRS government had neglected a series of similar incidents in Bhainsa and ignored the MIM's role in attacking Hindus in the town.

Kishan Reddy alleged that the police were acting as if they were handcuffed

without taking any action against the culprits. The police did not care about the videos of sectarian strife and did not file cases against the MIM in the issue of the rape of a minor girl.

He asked why the TRS leaders and ministers were supporting the MIM and blocking the police, and why the attacks were taking place in areas where the MIM was strong.

Kishan Reddy stated that the Union home secretary had asked the state government to submit a full report on the Bhainsa incidents.

The minister accused Chandrashekhar Rao of governing the state on the ideals of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He alleged that the Trinamool Congress was favouring Bangladeshis in West Bengal and the TRS was acting in the same manner due to its alliance with the MIM in Telangana state.

He appealed to the intellects to understand the "unfair politics" of Chandrashekhar Rao and MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi. Kishan Reddy accused Rama Rao of behaving like a de facto Chief Minister. He asked why Rama Rao had not spoken on the Bhainsa incidents.

Kishan Reddy stated that the BJP had not yet started its game in the state. "If we start the game, the TRS can't expect the same result," he warned.

He said that the Centre has directed the state government to start work on the regional ring road and plan for land acquisition.

If land acquisition is done, the tender process will be completed soon

and work on the road can begin.

**MS PATIENTS SHUDDER AS HEAT RISES**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Fears are rife among those afflicted with multiple sclerosis (MS) that summer will once again magnify the effects of the disease. High temperatures typically cause weakness and dizziness among MS patients, resulting in severe discomfort to those afflicted with this autoimmune disease.

"I try to avoid the sun and the heat as far as possible. If I have to go out, I carry an ice-pack to keep cool. Sometimes the heat affects your vision by making it blurry or seeing double. If the temperature climbs higher, the fear of having an attack or relapsing would be higher," an MS patient, requesting anonymity, said.

Heat intolerance is an issue that has long been known to be a significant issue for people with MS, where an increase in core body temperature is associated with increased neurological symptoms.

"This is called Uhthoff's phenomenon, when a MS patient faces an exacerbation of the symptoms. Relapses or attacks in patients are very common during the summer months. We advise patients not to venture out in the sun or, if they do step out, to avoid direct exposure to sunlight and heat," Dr Sudhir Kumar, a neurologist with Apollo Hospitals, told Deccan Chronicle.

A research paper on the same said that people with MS rate high temperatures as one of the top three factors adversely affecting their symptoms, with stress and insufficient sleep being the other two.

**Officers pay tribute to 1971 martyrs at EME memorial**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Officers of the Tenacious Tanners held a wreath-laying ceremony at the 1 EME Centre war memorial to pay homage to the officers killed in action and to pay respects to another 67 officers who died since 1972. The day also marks the golden jubilee of their commissioning.

On March 14, 1971, 338 officers of the Short Service Commission Courses NT10 and Tech 2 passed out from the Officers Training School, now called the Officers Training Academy, in Chennai.

All these officers had a unique opportunity of taking part in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, through which a new nation, Bangladesh, was created, and 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war were taken.

Seven officers of the batch lost their life during the war on the western and eastern fronts. The

historic military victory is being celebrated with much fanfare across the country as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.

To pay homage to the officers killed in action and the 67 officers who died since 1972, the officers of the Tenacious Tanners held a wreath-laying ceremony at 1 EME Centre War Memorial in Secunderabad. Similar functions have been held at the National War

Memorial, New Delhi and war memorials at Pune, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Aizawl, Jaipur and at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai.

Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier S. Sreeramulu (retd) recalled the valour displayed by the officers killed in action, as also the significant contribution made by officers during service to the nation and even after retirement.

Veterans pay tribute to brave hearts at the EME War Memorial, at Cavalry Barracks Defence Officer's Colony, in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— DC

Veterans pay tribute to brave hearts at the EME War Memorial, at Cavalry Barracks Defence Officer's Colony, in Hyderabad on Sunday.

It combines exercise, music and promotes fitness and relaxation

**Tatvaa for music with morning walk**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Tatvaa Arts, an organisation founded by two art lovers, Akhilesh Washikar and Gajender Shewalker, introduced a new concept — Morning Live music concerts in public parks. It combines exercise and music and promotes fitness and relaxation, said Washikar. The third concert was held on Sunday. "One year into lock-

down, unlock phase, and its sufferings. What people want now is to feel good, and lead a carefree life," said Shewalker.

Tatvaa Arts in association with Dr G.S. Melkote Park Walkers Welfare Association have been organising morning music concerts at the park at Vittalwadi, Narayanguda, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

— DC

**YSRC's triumph is a vote of confidence in Jagan**N. VAMSIS SRINIVAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 14

The ruling YSR Congress' remarkable performance in the civic polls on Sunday is more significant than the party sweeping the 2019 Assembly elections with 151 seats.

If the 2019 victory was a mandate born out of expectations and an experiment by the electorate, Sunday's vote is a loud and clear endorsement of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership and the major decisions he took in the last year-and-a-half including the decentralisation of governance by setting up three capitals.

The ruling party won the Vijayawada and Guntur corporations from where the CM wanted to shift the illusory Amaravati capital of then Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to Visakhapatnam where, too, the YSRC invaded the otherwise strong fortress of the TD.

The outcome punctured Opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu's challenge to the Chief Minister to dissolve the Assembly and seek a fresh mandate from the people before implementing the

three-capital formula. There were no takers too for Naidu's re-winded effort to demonise the CM with serious accusations of politics of vengeance, corruption and bloodshed.

Failing to learn lessons, the principal Opposition quickly attributed Jagan Mohan Reddy's success to the use of force by his party and its leaders' threat to stop freebies in the event of the party's loss. Ironically, the beneficiaries of the freebies are comparatively fewer in the urban areas that embraced the ruling party on Sunday.

The ground reality which the Opposition does not want to acknowledge is the pivotal role played by the volunteer system, the brainchild of the Chief Minister. The delivery mechanism of citizen services has become effective, unbiased and hassle-free. The volunteers along with health workers did a commendable job of Covid-19 relief operations and the revival of the Aarogyasri scheme.

The outcome punctured Opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu's challenge to the Chief Minister to dissolve the Assembly and seek a fresh mandate from the people before implementing the

Enrolment in government schools increased this year, indicating parents' confidence in the CM's dream of providing better and competitive education by making English medium compulsory and improving basic infrastructure through the Naadu-Nedu scheme. This, along with women-centric approach in designing and delivering schemes, helped the party.

People seem to have noticed and rewarded the YSRC supremo's top priority to deliver what he promised in the 2019 manifesto, despite financial constraints and absence of tokenism in his words or deeds.

No doubt, the party has been cherishing the victory against several odds — severe financial constraints, Covid, a hostile judiciary and State Election Commission. But, it should not be taken for granted that people are happy despite the scarcity of sand, lopsided liquor policy of high prices for low quality and lesser-known products, worst condition of roads across the state, nil capital expenditure and stunted employment growth. As of now, they have just overlooked these problems.

**Cong. points to 6 city murders**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

Hyderabad Congress Committee (HCC) minorities department chairman Sameer Walilullah expressed deep concern over the rising crime rate. "The counselling of rowdy sheeters seems a futile exercise as the mafia is gaining strength every day. What is the use of 3 lakh CCTV

cameras, if they are not helping in saving lives," he asked.

The Congress leader said that the series of murders have sent shockwaves among citizens and demanded that the police take immediate measures to stop the crime incidents so as to restore a sense of security among the people.

**Migratory birds which stayed at zoo return home**T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

As the migratory season comes to an end, many birds that had made the Nehru Zoological Park their holiday home are beginning to make their way back.

This bird-watchers say is an annual affair as the zoo is the middle ground for birds to call their home. Since the zoo already has greenery coupled with the presence of a large water body, it becomes a viable nesting place.

The Deccan Birders group, on Sunday, had a bird-watching trip.

"In the midst of buildings, the only green space that migratory birds or domestic birds find is in the zoo. Also, the different kinds of trees and the close proximity to Mir Alam Tank draws the birds towards the zoo. The presence of the two make the birds think of the zoo as a viable nesting place," said Shafath Ulla, a former secretary of the Deccan Birders Group.

These birds actively avoid the city and prefer the guarded and protected environs of the Nehru zoo, he said. On their excursion on Sunday, the group saw some rare birds like the

crowbilled drongo, forest wagtail, bee-eater and paradise flycatcher to name a few.

J.V.D. Moorthy, president of Deccan Birders, told Deccan Chronicle, "These birds are drawn to the zoo and they have made it a part of their flyway. The zoo plays a home away from home for them, as there is no disturbance to the ecology over there. Also, since it is the end of the migration season, many birds are flying back.

They go to places like China, Tibet, Europe, Mongolia, and more."

However, this is not just a time to see the migratory birds. Courtesy of the instinct, carnivorous birds like hawks and eagles, remain close to the flyway as their prey is flying along the same path.

"The larger carnivorous birds, keep the flyway in close proximity and wait along the route for the prey to come their way," he said.

"The larger carnivorous birds, keep the flyway in close proximity and wait along the route for the prey to come their way," he said.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice  
No. 74 of 2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU  
On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.  
Tender No.61-DDU-SRDEN-II-2021  
1. Name of work with its location: TSR(P) 67.5 TKM-by TRT/Manually and other associated work under Sr. Den-II DDU. 2. Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 7242212.49. 3. Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender: 05.04.2021, till 12:00 hrs. 4. Website particulars of e-tendering: www.iireps.gov.in  
Divisional Railway Manager  
E.C.Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division  
PR/1594/DDU/ENGG/T/20-21/21

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad.  
Sl. No. 1, E-Tender No. : 148-DHN-2020-21, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Dhanbad : Construction of C&W Office at DHN station. 12 (Twelve) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.) : 64,77,834.89. Sl. No. 2, E-Tender No. : 149-DHN-2020-21, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Shortcrete and jacketing works of bridges in the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (E), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad. 15 (Fifteen) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.) : 141,73,834.89. Sl. No. 3, E-Tender No. : 149-DHN-2020-21, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Rebuilding of Bridge No. 234 at Km. 392/26-28, 237 at Km. 395/8-10, 244 at Km. 396/26-26, 264 at Km. 404/4-16, 268 at Km.

# DECCAN Chronicle

15 MARCH 2021

## Quad still regional body, but headed towards 'near-Nato'

**I**t is a testimony of sorts to the probable durability of the Quad — the loose, informal association of the US, Japan, India and Australia which began life in 2007 with political criticism in India for New Delhi entering into an “alliance” with the US and its Cold War allies — that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australia’s PM Scott Morrison, and the Japan PM Yoshihide Suga should pen a joint article in the *Washington Post* on Sunday — just days after their virtual summit last Friday — in which they played the Quad as a conglomerate of democracies to ensure “freedom of coercion” in the Indo-Pacific, the stretch from the Indian Ocean region to Japan.

This area has borne the brunt of the all-too-visible rise of China as an economic and military power that aims to challenge the supremacy of the US on the world stage, much like the former Soviet Union had done for four decades after the Second World War.

If that was a fight against Communism and encompassed the world, with the Nato — a military alliance of the US and its West European allies — in the lead role, the Quad is projected as a “regional” institution which purports to oppose “autocracy” from the standpoint of “democracy”.

The **China focus is hard to miss as none of the summiteers had ‘any illusion about China’**. If it weren’t for this, Mr Sullivan is unlikely to have presented the Quad summit as ‘a great day for American diplomacy’.

Come to think of it, such a remit does not differ so greatly from the avatar into which Nato has evolved in the post-Cold War era, except that the Quad is poised for the present as a regional entity.

If North Korea and the military takeover in Burma are autocracy-democracy contestations in the American readout of the Sullivan press conference, there can be little question that Hong Kong, Taiwan, Xinjiang, the Senkaku Islands where China militarily rubs up against Japan, and the Chinese military intrusion into eastern Ladakh, relate squarely to China.

The China focus is hard to miss as none of the summiteers had “any illusion about China”, Mr Sullivan reported. If it weren’t for this, Mr Sullivan is unlikely to have presented the Quad summit as “a great day for American diplomacy”. The US sees itself pitted against China in competition in which it intends “to prevail”. The US NSA noted that the highest-level meet of the Quad was President Biden’s first summit since he was elected fifty days ago, underlining the unusual significance of the meet. The Quad was also extolled as an “emergent institution” that was a “critical” part of the “architecture” of the Indo-Pacific region, and the leaders agreed to adopt coordinated positions on China.

The focus of the summit was not China, however. That may have made the summit uni-dimensionally adversarial. It was the common fight against Covid-19 in which American technology, Indian manufacturing, Japanese and American finance, and Australia’s “logistics” support are to contribute one billion doses of vaccines by 2022 for the Indo-Pacific area and beyond.

After the near “coup” in America this January, and the derisive calling of India an “elected autocracy” by a Swedish institution, the autocracy-democracy trope could well be under debate.

## Enforcing mask rules is vital

**W**ith the fears of a second wave of the pandemic lurking around, the government seems to have decided to crack down on violators of Covid-appropriate behaviour. While the director-general of civil aviation has directed airline companies to deplane passengers who refuse to wear masks properly and even put them on a no-fly list for a certain period of time, the Maharashtra government has hired Covid marshals to impose the practice on public places, including public transport.

The sudden spurt in the number of cases being reported every day has made India once again the country with the second largest number of people infected by coronavirus, surpassing Brazil. Experts have not singled out a reason for the potential second wave but one reason can arguably be the lackadaisical approach people have towards the pandemic. People in most states have long stopped wearing masks while social gatherings go on uninterrupted as if there was no pandemic around. The opening of educational institutions and recreation avenues would have only accentuated the scene. Elections in five states scheduled for March and April are unlikely to help the situation either.

At present, six states together contribute more than four-fifth of the total number of active cases but there is no guarantee that it will not spread further. The government will have to revisit the restrictions it had imposed last year when the pandemic began spreading if it were to avoid a total national lockdown. True, there is Covid fatigue among the people but we are left with few options.

The government must re-energise the vaccination programme in the meanwhile. Reports suggest that it could take years to vaccinate at least 70 per cent of the population and attain herd immunity. This is unacceptable. India has exported more vaccines than it has used to inoculate its people. It must work with the vaccine manufacturers and the private sector in healthcare to speed up the process. A comprehensive multi-pronged approach is needed to stop a second wave, if it is in the offing.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

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Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/S/348/2006-08

Kishwar Desai  
London Diary

## Women's Week: Meghan vs Kate, let-down nurses & Sarah Everard

**H**ell hath no fury than a woman scorned? Right or wrong? Those of us who had seen Meghan Markle blow into the UK, play the princess and then storm out may find it a little difficult to take everything on Oprah’s show at face value. Luckily I can’t be called a racist as I am probably as brown as her. My background in television also ensures that I automatically discount some of all “reality TV” especially if there is big money at stake. The reality is that the moment the camera is switched on, everyone acts just a little bit — because no one wants to come out looking like the bad guy or gal. I have seen it far too often — there are no re-takes in life, but plenty in television. No one “lies” but everyone has a version of what happened. And if you have an axe to grind — do the hatchet job before the opponent can step in.

**I**t was the apparent mention about the possible colour of the baby Meghan was carrying — which seemed to have shocked the TV audience; they should know that in India most people — without even knowing the meaning of racism — prays for a ‘gora’ child! But this one will run and run. When the wedding took place, everyone was impressed by the choir with Black British singers, the dignified presence of Meghan’s mother and the Bishop from Chicago giving his

Monday, it was all over the newspapers and TV and has not gone off the air all week. That is real global TV clout. Eleven million people watched it in UK and apparently 70 million (roughly as many as UK population) worldwide.

Harry has not featured very much in the subsequent discussions. It is all about Meghan and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge with the Queen in the background. It would be an ideal Ekta Kapoor serial — multi-generation, multi-racial family with dogs and horses and palaces and international locations. May be Netflix will come back with Crown: the American sequel.

**I**t was the apparent mention about the possible colour of the baby Meghan was carrying — which seemed to have shocked the TV audience; they should know that in India most people — without even knowing the meaning of racism — prays for a ‘gora’ child! But this one will run and run. When the wedding took place, everyone was impressed by the choir with Black British singers, the dignified presence of Meghan’s mother and the Bishop from Chicago giving his

radical sermon. At the time the Palace bathed in praise about its modern attitude. But then as we know in Indian movies, it is after interval that the tragedy sets in.

**T**he tabloids are having a great time with the *Daily Mail* doing scores (literally) of items on Meghan every day. Piers Morgan ex Tabloid editor and TV pundit stalked off his “Good Morning Britain” show when his fellow presenters upbraided him for badmouthing Meghan. But then Meghan officially complained he had called her a liar. ITV shares fell that afternoon and Morgan went permanently next day. The Royal Family has launched a retaliatory barrage of talking up the Queen, their best weapon. There are reminiscences from round the Commonwealth as to how non-racist she is and what a sense of humour she has. All in a week’s work.

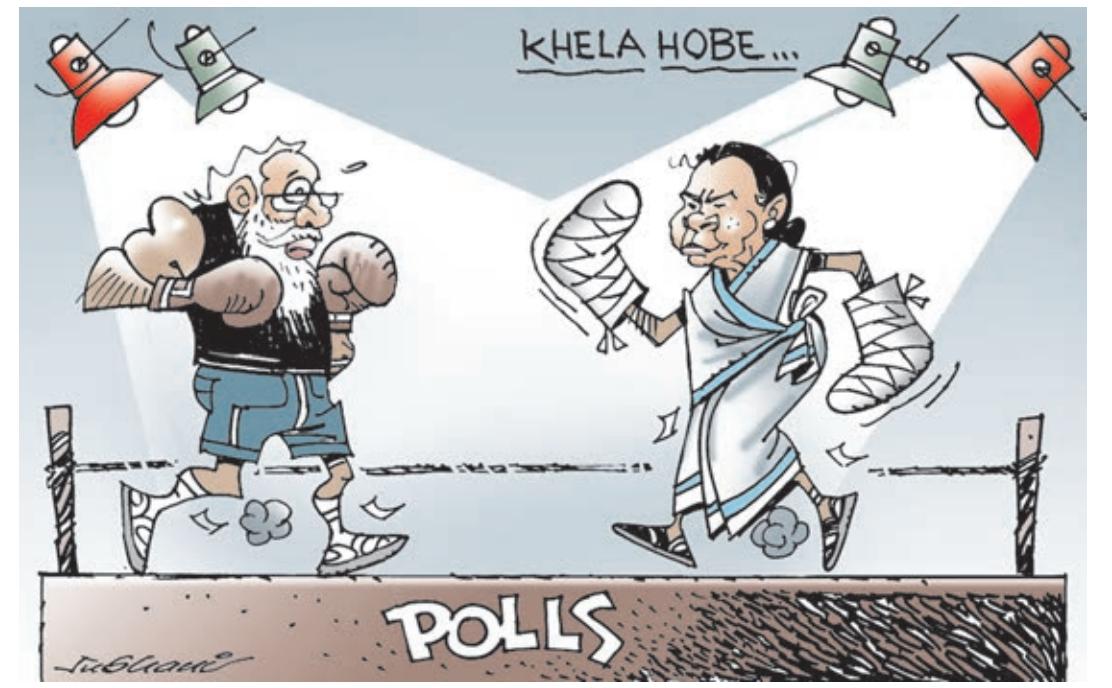
**D**espite the success of reaching 24 million vaccinations, Boris Johnson seemed to lose the plot, again. The week after the Budget saw millions of pounds being given away to all and sundry, he announced unapolo-

getically that nurses on the NHS will only get one per cent increase in their pay. There was widespread consternation. These are the Carona warriors — who had been applauded every Thursday evening during the first lockdown by everyone including Boris and his fiancée Carrie Symonds and their dog. And now this.

In the meantime, there is news that Carrie has refurbished the living rooms in 10 Downing Street lavishly. But the British government is so mean that there is no budget for spending any money on interior decoration of the official residence; neither at Downing Street nor Chequers the weekend home of Prime Minister which is a private donation run on private charity money. Carrie seems to have raised the money from Conservative Party donors which has caused even more mockery than if she had won it in a lottery. The moral of the story is there are those who know how to get the money — and the others can wait.

**W**omen remained in the news, in tragic circumstances. Sarah Everard, a young woman grad-

Subhani



## To fulfil Quad promise, will India ‘self-correct’?

K.C. Singh

**P**resident Joe Biden’s decision to hold the first-ever “leaders’ summit” of the Quadrilateral, or “Quad”, hosted “virtually” with the Prime Ministers of India, Japan and Australia early in his tenure on March 12, days before his secretary of state Antony Blinken visits Japan, South Korea and China, sent a clear and unmistakable message to Beijing. Mr Biden wanted the group, with a nebulous agenda so far, to get more focused on meeting a number of contemporary challenges, many emanating from China.

The Quad has a chequered history, shaped by political developments in each country, amid unsettled debate in each nation on whether China was best managed through engagement or containment or a subtle mix of the two. The group was born in May 2007, on the sidelines of a ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in the Philippines. The then leaders of the four nations favoured closer engagement between the major democracies of the Indo-Pacific. Japan’s PM Shinzo Abe was a strong proponent; Australia had a right-wing Liberal Party government and US President George W. Bush was in the penultimate year of his second term. It was only in India that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh faced resistance from the Communists, who were giving “outside support” to the ruling UPA.

Thus, the preponderance of opinion favoured a low-profile meeting at the additional or assistant secretary level. I had the privilege to represent India at that historic meeting, which built on a rudimentary engagement between the four nations for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief during the deadly 2004 tsunami. China immediately understood that, the criteria for

membership being a democracy, it stood excluded, if not targeted. It made strong demarcations in all the capitals opposing it.

But the favourable domestic factors altered when Prime Minister Abe lost power in September 2007 and the Labour Party won in Australia in the following December. New Australian PM Kevin Rudd, former diplomat and Sinologist, chose engagement with China over light containment or regional balancing. Chinese assertiveness is generally traced to the 2008 financial crisis which rattled the Western financial markets. China saw itself as the bulwark that stabilised the global economy. The Chinese leadership began its power grab in a world in which the United States seemed weakened and distracted by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, it took another decade before the four nations again had their domestic politics align in the hands of right-wing parties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi won power in May 2014, President Donald Trump took charge in January 2017, Liberals trounced the Labour Party in Australia in 2013 and Mr Abe was back in office in Tokyo in 2012, to rule till 2020. The scenario was thus ripe and the Quad reincarnated in 2017. It matured gradually with meetings elevated to the ministerial level, including one hosted by Japan in person in 2020 despite the pandemic. Moreover, the China problem became clear after four years of Trumpian trade sanctions and fist-waving. Despite Chinese responsibility in letting the Covid-19 virus spread abroad, it was silent in the crucial initial phase, and after its quick economic rebound turned more aggressively to gain strategic advantage. Both its maritime ambitions and its continental territorial claims, such as the Ladakh intrusions into

The Quad leaders delivered their statements and then interacted. The joint statement, poetically titled “The Spirit of Quad”, spells out the immediate agenda in five paras. It opens by stating two nostrums: desirability of “free and open Indo-Pacific”; and the region “anchored by democratic values”. The first addresses the core anxiety of most Asean nations on whose maritime space China has unilaterally encroached. The second was always the *raison d'être* for the Quad, including at its birth in 2007. Both send a powerful signal to the region as indeed China is that, unlike President Trump who used rough instruments like trade sanctions, Mr Biden will use an eclectic mix of moves to corral and undercut China.

Three working groups are to cover vaccinations, which posits the Quad as the saviour of the region from what Mr Trump

called “China flu”, climate change and critical technologies. It is realised that developed nations can’t or will not decouple from China by cutting off all trade. The strategy now is to undermine what Chinese President Xi Jinping calls “dual circulation”, a version of self-dependence on itself for markets and critical technologies. China controls over 58 per cent of the global supply of rare earths like neodymium and lithium, needed for batteries of electric vehicles or wind turbines for clean power generation. Four years ago, China controlled 90 per cent of that supply. On February 24, Mr Biden issued an executive order for a 100-day review of critical product supply chains. China continues to be critically dependent on imported advanced chips.

Therefore, in para 3 of the joint statement, the common goals and global challenges adumbrated are: economic and health impacts of Covid-19, climate change, cyber space, critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure development and disaster relief. The need for a Quad plan for infrastructure development is a recognition that China has managed to embed its influence all across Eurasia by its Belt and Road Initiative, which need to be countered. India’s prowess in vaccine manufacturing has been recognised and knowhow promised to multiply India’s vaccine exports.

But as soft power is at the root of the Quad, even Mr Modi conceded that the Quad members were “united by democratic values”. President Biden echoed that strongly. Will the BJP government finally realise, as foreign parliaments debate whether democracy is degrading in India, that denial and anger is not the answer? Nor is an agitated media counterattack or new laws to control independent news platforms. Self-correction is the answer. Otherwise, the Quad will merely be a limp Triad-plus.

*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.*

## LETTERS

### MASKS MUST

The DGCA needs a round of applause for the new mask rules (*No Mask: Flyers to be put on ‘no-fly’ list for 3 months, DC, March 14*). Action must be taken against people in other public places such as malls, restaurants and cinema halls where people spend some time. People are simply ignoring the mask rules.

**Dr Syed Ataullah Hussaini**  
Secunderabad

### PRIVATISATION

The government often officially declares that banks and PSUs will be privatised/disinvested. This is a matter of serious concern and causes panic among the employees and customers. The government must clarify and make it transparent the provisions and security provided for staff and customers.

**G. Murali Mohan Rao**  
Secunderabad

### JAB FOR SENIORS

I am an 81-year-old senior citizen with comorbidities and have undergone bypass surgery four months back. I had my Covid jab on March 3 and doing absolutely fine (*Rumours worry elders about taking Covid jab, DC, March 14*). There are no side-effects whatsoever. So, let not people get scared about getting vaccinated.

**K.S.M. Sarma**  
Hyderabad

**50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle**

**People against separation, says C.M.**

**HYDERABAD, MARCH 14**  
The Chief Minister, Mr. K. Brahmamanda Reddi, here today said that the Telangana issue should not be viewed in isolation of other national issues.

Addressing the general body of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee in Gandhi Bhavan he said that only 25 per cent of the total electorate had voted in favour of separation.

The meeting was called to thank the people for their massive support to the party in the recent mid-term election to the Lok Sabha.

The Chief Minister and the APCC President, Mr. P. Narasa Reddi, had expressed their satisfaction on the performance of the party in the Telangana region, the General Secretary of the party, Mr. S. Jayapal Reddi, who briefed the press.

uated from Durham University and working in a middle managerial position in London was walking across Clapham Common in South East London, not far from where we live, around 9 pm. She was returning to her home in Brixton on the other side of the Common. She never reached home and her mobile phone went silent. This was around ten days ago. On Friday the police confirmed abduction. Even worse news followed. Her body was found in the rural areas of Kent. Shockingly, the man responsible was a police officer in a senior responsible position.

On Thursday both Houses of Parliament had set aside all other business to celebrate International Women’s Day. The murder dominated the discussion, including the radical suggestion that men should be banned from stepping out after 6 pm.

What do you think?  
**Kishwar Desai** is an award winning author and playwright. Her latest book *The Longest Kiss: The Life And Times of Devika Rani* has just been published.

## SHORT TAKES

**KERALA MAHILA CONGRESS CHIEF RESIGNS**

**Thiruvananthapuram, March 14:** In an embarrassment to the Congress in Kerala, party's women's wing president Lathika Subhash on Sunday resigned from the post hurt over the denial of Ettumanoor seat to her, shortly after the candidates list for the April 6 Assembly polls was released in New Delhi.

The 56-year-old senior leader also shaved her head sitting in front of the Congress office here as a mark of protest.

Subhash, who met reporters at the party headquarters Indira Bhavan here, soon after the KPCC chief Mullappally Ramachandran announced the party list at New Delhi, said it was short of women candidates.

Of the list of 86 candidates released today by the Congress, only nine are women. It may be for the first time that any leader in any political party in Kerala has taken such a drastic step in protest against the party leadership for denial of poll ticket.

A known woman face among party leaders and activists, Lathika Subhash had taken over as the head of Mahila Congress in 2018 from Bindhu Krishna, now a party candidate in Kollam.

A weeping Subhash said she tonsured her head as a symbol of protest for all the women in the party, who have been toiling hard for the success of other candidates, but have been sidelined and ignored by the leadership for years.

She also said she does not want to continue in a position which could not earn her even a deserved election ticket.

**YOGENDRA YADAV SAYS GOAL IS TO DEFEAT BJP**

**Guwahati, March 14:** Activist Yogendra Yadav met jailed Rajojar Dal president Akhil Gogoi on Sunday and appealed to the people to defeat the ruling BJP in Assam.

Yadav and Kisan Sangharsh Samiti leader Sunilam met Gogoi at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital. "Gogoi has put up 19 candidates in the 86 seats in the first two phases. His goal is to ensure that the BJP is defeated," Yadav said.

"We have come with one message that the BJP should be ousted for the way it has treated farmers and taken decisions against their interests and welfare," the Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader said.

Yadav said that he had met Gogoi in jail in February last year and his health condition has deteriorated considerably since then.

"He has been subjected to considerable mental torture and his medical condition has deteriorated but still the ideological clarity, mental resolve and the courage shown by him is a model," he said.

Yadav alleged that Gogoi has been put in jail to ensure that he cannot interact with the people during the elections.

"This is not a criminal trial but a political trial," he alleged. Yadav said that he had not gone to discuss politics but Gogoi was very interested to know how the farmers' agitation was progressing.

**BJP POLARISING HINDUS, SAYS AIUDF CHIEF**

**New Delhi, March 14:** Asserting that unlike in 2016 there is "no Modi wave" in the Assam Assembly polls this time, AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal on Sunday alleged that the BJP was attempting to polarise the Hindus by pointing at him, invoking the "Mughals" and portraying the Muslims as enemies, but said the ruling party will not succeed.

Dismissing as "baseless" the BJP's charge of communalism against his All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), Ajmal claimed "no outfit was more secular" than his party in Assam, and cited the AIUDF giving substantial representation to non-Muslims in elections in the past.

Ajmal said the Assam election would be a "turning point" for the country as the BJP's defeat will begin from the state. The grand alliance, of which it is a part of along with the Congress, is fighting hard for it, he said.

The BJP will be defeated in the polls in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, and this will send a message to the entire country, he said, exuding confidence that "secular forces" will win.



West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally while sitting on a wheelchair to observe Nandigram Diwas at Hazra Crossing in Kolkata on Sunday. — PTI

## Didi shuns bedrest, renews campaign in 'wheelchair'

**Warns the saffron party of prowess of a "wounded tiger" than a dead one**

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, MARCH 14**

Within two days of returning home from hospital against doctors' advice, and ignoring their prescription of a two weeks of bed rest, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, sitting on a wheelchair with a plaster on her left ankle, resumed her campaign for the Assembly elections on Sunday, warning the BJP of the prowess of a "wounded tiger" than a dead one.

The Trinamul Congress supremo was speaking after she led a party rally from Gandhi statue on Mayo Road to Hazra in South Kolkata. The rally took place hours before Union home minister Amit Shah's arrival on a two-day state tour and his roadshow for actor-turned-BJP candidate Hiran Chatterjee in Kharagpur of West Midnapore in the evening.

The BJP, however, suffered a massive jolt when Behala East MLA and TMC defector Sovan Chatterjee, alongwith his close friend Baishakhi Banerjee, decided to quit the BJP soon after it announced Tollywood actor Payel Sarkar's name as its candidate against his estranged wife Ratna Chatterjee of the TMC in his Assembly constituency. Chatterjee, who was the BJP (Kolkata Zone) observer, wanted a ticket either for himself or Baishakhi, a co-convenor in his wing, at the seat.

Mamata Banerjee told the crowd, "We have a big responsibility to protest democracy from the autocrats and bring it back to the common people. Evil power should be defeated and destroyed. Good power must arise. The conspiracy and ploy encircling Bengal shall cease to exist. May people of Bengal conquer all. Live peacefully and take care. Have restraint. Have faith in me. I will tour Bengal in

a wheelchair with broken leg. *Khaba Hobo (Game On!)* Remember a wounded tiger is more dangerous than a dead one."

She elaborated, "I have overcome many attacks, retaliation and battles in my life. But I never have I bowed my head. Already five-six days got wasted. You know how valuable every minute, hour and day is during the polls! Now, when someone asks me about my pain, I say my pain would continue for some time. Doctors prescribed me bed rest of 15 days. But, if I take bed rest, who will reach out to the people of Bengal? In that case those who hatch a conspiracy will be successful. I have to go out. I have got that mental strength from you. I express my gratitude personally, socially and politically to each of Mamata Manush the way they felt worried and inquired about me."

The Trinamul chief observed, "It is true I have pain. But pain in the heart, you know, is much

Bandopadhyay's report and a joint report by special general observer Ajay Nayak and special police observer Vivek Dube. While Sahay, an additional director general, was the director (security) and incharge of the CM's security, Prakash was the district's superintendent of police.

On Sahay, the ECI stated,

"The charges must be framed against him with-

in a week for grossly failing in discharge of his primary duty as director (security) to protect the Z+ protegee while directing Bandopadhyay, in con-

sultation with DGP Nirajnayan Pandey, to appoint Sahay's successor and

inform the central poll panel by 1 pm on Monday.

It also instructed the state government to "identify within next three days the other proximate security personnel below director (security), who failed in their duties to prevent the incident and protect the Z+ protegee and take suitable action for their failure."

Appointing Sunil Yadav as SP (East Midnapore) the ECI added on Prakash: "...charges shall be framed against him for major failure of bandobast."

It made Smita Pandey DM (East Midnapore), shunting Goyel to a non-election post.

### SHAH: BJP WILL BRING BACK 'SONAR BANGLA'

**Kharagpur (WB), March 14:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday promised that after coming to power, the BJP will be successful in ushering in "true change in West Bengal and turn the state into 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) again."

The senior BJP leader held a colourful roadshow at Kharagpur town in Paschim Medinipur district in support of BJP candidates contesting the West Bengal Assembly election.

Shah claimed that the huge turnout in the roadshow underscored that people want change in the state under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I promise that the BJP government will be successful in bringing 'asli parivartan' (true change) and 'Sonar Bangla' will be created again," Shah said in a brief speech at the end of the roadshow.

The roadshow, held between the local BJP office 'Premhari Bhawan' and Malancha petrol pump, took over an hour to cover the less than one kilometre stretch, as the huge gathering made it almost impossible for the motorcade to move ahead.

Shah was accompanied by BJP national general secretary in-charge of 115 seats 'Metro Man' E. Sreedharan will contest from Palakkad, former Mizoram governor Kummanam Rajashekharan will fight from Nemon, the only seat held by BJP in 140 member Kerala Assembly.

In a surprise move BJP state president K. Surendran has been fielded from two seats; Manjeshwaram in Kasargod district and Konni in Pathanamthitta district.

## BJP women's cell chief to face Haasan in polls

**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, MARCH 14**

The BJP announced a list of 17 candidates for the Tamil Nadu Assembly poll out of the 20 seats allocated to it in the AIADMK-BJP alliance.

Candidates for three seats — Thali, Udhagamandalam and Vilangvando — are expected to be announced soon.

The BJP has already named former union minister Pon Radhakrishnan as the candidate for the Lok Sabha byelection in the southern Kanyakumari constituency.

BJP state president L. Murugan will be contesting from the Dharmapuram (reserved) constituency where he will be facing the DMK's Kayalvizhi Selvaraj.

The 'ghar wapsi' Saravanan, who returns to the BJP as the sitting DMK MLA from Thirupparankundram, has been rewarded with a ticket to contest the Assembly poll from the Madurai North constituency. He had been denied a ticket by DMK which led to his defection.

Actor-politician Khushboo has been given the ticket to contest for the Thousand Lights seat where she will be taking on DMK's N. Ezhilan. The much anticipated fight for the Chepauk constituency where DMK chief M.K. Stalin's son Udhayanidhi is standing as a debutant with Khushboo, which had been speculated upon, becomes a non-starter.

BJP women's cell chief Vanathi Srinivasan is the candidate for Coimbatore South, where she will be facing actor-politician Kamal Haasan and Congress' Mayura Jayakumar. She is prominent in face in the Tamil Nadu BJP. Nainar Nagendran, who had surprised everyone by filing his nomination two days ago for the Tirunelveli seat, has been given the constituency. He will be facing DMK's Lakshmanan. Former IPS

### 'AMMA WASHING MACHINES' IN AIADMK'S POLL MANIFESTO

**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, MARCH 14**

Among the many promises that the AIADMK has made in its poll manifesto is not only a scheme of affordable housing for all poor people but also a washing machine. This addition to the "Amma Housing Scheme" would have pleased the late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa no end as she believed that the way to a woman's heart lay in reducing her household work.

Travel concessions to women, doorstep delivery of all ration items besides six free gas cylinders in a year already announced during chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami's poll campaign and a solar-powered kitchen and free Arasu cable for television connections too would be very much to the liking of women voters.

On the political front, there is also a promise to release all seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case besides pushing for dual citizenship of Sri Lankan refugees.

officer K. Annamalai is being fielded at Aravakurichi against DMK's R. Elango.

Vinoj P. Selvam will contest from Harbour. Thangavelu at Tiruvannamalai, ex-MLA Kalivarthan at Thirukovilur, C.K. Saraswathi at Modakurichi, D. Periyasamy at Thittakudi (Reserved), Poondi S. Venkatesan at Thiruvayaru, H. Raja at Karaikudi, G. Pandurangan at Virudhunagar, D. Kuppuram at Ramana- thapuram, M.R. Gandhi at Nagercoil and P. Ramesh at Colachel.

**'Metro Man' in fray from Palakkad**

**DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 14**

Meanwhile, KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran announced the list of candidates at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram.

Former chief minister Oommen Chandy will contest from his traditional seat Puthupally in Kottayam district.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala will seek re-election from Haripad constituency.

In a significant move the Congress decided to field sitting MP and former chief minister late K. Karunakaran's son K. Muraleedharan from Nemon, the only constituency represented by BJP in the state. The Congress decided to field Muraleedharan from Nemon to send out a message to the electorate that it is serious about fighting the BJP.

## BJP fields Supriyo, Locket Chatterjee

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 14**

The BJP on Sunday released a star-studded list of its candidates for the West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala Assembly polls, including Union minister Babul Supriyo from Tollygunge, nominated Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta from Tarakeswar, former chief economic adviser to the government Ashok Lahiri from Alipurduar and sitting MP Nishit Parmanik from Dinhata.

Malayalam actor Suresh Gopi, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP, has been fielded from Kerala's Thrissur.

The BJP announced the names of 63 candidates for the West Bengal polls, including that of Union minister Babul Supriyo from Tollygunge, nominated Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta from Tarakeswar, former chief economic adviser to the government Ashok Lahiri from Alipurduar and sitting MP Nishit Parmanik from Dinhata.

bigger than physical pain. So is the pain of democracy if it is trampled. I am someone who can walk 20-25 kms regularly. When my legs walk, my heart and brain also walk. It is not only my legs which are injured. My body was hurt with black marks all over. I did not care about

these. I thank the doctors for treating me and doing the plaster. They will check my condition after seven days. I also took their permission. Besides, a team will accompany me." The CM later flew in a helicopter to Durgapur for her poll campaign in Purulia on Monday.

Political analysts are of the view that after JD(U)'s tally dropped to the third position in the 2020 Assembly elections, Nitish Kumar started working on a strategy to strengthen the party's organisational structure by trying to consolidate the OBC voter base especially among Kurmi - Koeri popularly termed as 'Luv-Kush' in Bihar politics.

Upendra Kushwaha is considered a powerful Koeri leader in Bihar. The community forms about 10 per cent of voters in the state and is the largest OBC caste group after the Yadavs in Bihar.

While making an announcement he said, "I firmly believe that all like-minded forces should come on one platform in the interest of the nation. So we have decided to merge RLSP with JD(U) and will work under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. It is also the demand of the current political situation".

Replies to a query

about his role after the merger he said that he has left it on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to take a

decision but hinted that he would continue to work for the improvement of education in the state.

**BACK | HOME The ex-union minister had quit JD(U) in 2013 and formed RLSP**

## Kushwaha merges RLSP with JD(U)

**NAYAR AZAD | DC PATNA, MARCH 14**



Putting an end to speculations, former union minister and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) chief Upendra Kushwaha on Sunday announced his party's merger with JD(U).

While making an announcement he said, "I firmly believe that all like-minded forces should come on one platform in the interest of the nation. So we have decided to merge RLSP with JD(U) and will work under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. It is also the demand of the current political situation".

Replies to a query

about his role after the merger he said that he has left it on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to take a

decision but hinted that he would continue to work for the improvement of education in the state.

"After the Assembly elections, it was felt that there was a need for both RLSP

and JD(U) to come together. We feel that after the Assembly elections the mandate was for the merger of both the parties", Upendra Kushwaha said.

The merger announcement comes barely two days after RLSP suffered a jolt as more than two dozen office bearers of the party including the state president joined RJD.

Upendra Kushwaha had quit the JD(U) in 2013 and formed his political party RLSP.

The party won all three Lok Sabha seats it contested as an NDA ally in the 2014 general elections.

He was made union minister of state for the human resource department.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**INDIAN ENVOY  
MEET TOP TAMIL  
LEADERS IN LANKA**

Colombo, March 14: India's top diplomat in Colombo held talks with senior Tamil leaders during his visit to the Northern and Eastern Provinces and emphasised that achieving the legitimate aspirations of the minority Tamil community through meaningful devolution within a united Sri Lanka will contribute to peace, inclusive progress and strength of the island nation.

During his three-day visit to the two provinces from March 11 to 13, High Commissioner Gopal Baglay also highlighted India's long-standing cooperation and commitment to the development of the Northern and Eastern Provinces in accordance with the requirements of the people and priorities set by their elected representatives, the Indian High Commission here said in a statement on Sunday.

Baglay, who held a series of meetings with Tamil party leaders during his visit, recalled commitments of the Sri Lankan government on the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community for equality, justice, peace and dignity, it said. He maintained that achieving them through meaningful devolution within a united Sri Lanka will also contribute to peace, reconciliation, inclusive progress and strength of the country, it added.

During his meetings, the Tamil leaders sought further assistance for infrastructural development, more economic investment and additional projects under grant assistance for development cooperation from India in the Province.

**PAKISTAN DRONE SPOTTED IN PUNJAB'S BAMIAL**

Chandigarh, March 14: A Pakistani drone entered the Indian territory on Sunday but was forced to return as BSF jawans spotted it and opened fire in its direction in Punjab's Pathankot district, a police official said.

"The drone which came from the Pakistani side was sighted at Dinda post close to Bamial along the Indo-Pak international border," Pathankot senior superintendent of police Gulneet Singh Khurana said.

He said the BSF opened fire in its direction after which it returned to the neighbouring country. Asked if the drone dropped anything inside the Indian territory before flying back, Khurana said, "A thorough search operation was carried out at the site, but nothing was found."

In December 2020, 11 hand grenades dropped by a drone flying in from Pakistan were recovered from a field near the International Border in Punjab's Gurdaspur district. The consignment was found in Salach village, located about one km from the border.

The box of hand grenades had been attached to a wooden frame which was lowered from the drone onto the ground with a nylon rope, police had then said.

**TWO COPS HELD FOR SMUGGLING HEROIN IN BENGAL**

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, MARCH 14

The Kolkata Police early on Sunday arrested its two cops among three persons for their alleged role in the smuggling of around 1.13 kg of heroin worth ₹5.65 crore in the city recently.

The two cops are constables of the city armed police, Palash Biswas and Subrata Biswas of Gaighata in North 24 Parganas while the third accused is Prashanta Sikdar alias Pocha, a heroin dealer, said deputy commissioner of police (special task force) Aparajita Rai.

She added that the trio, hailing from Bongaon in North 24 Parganas, were caught from their hideout: a small house at a poultry farm in Gaighata of the district at around 4.20 am during an STF raid which began on Saturday evening.

The STF stumbled upon their names during the interrogation of three other accused: Fani Biswas and Raju Biswas from Bongaon and Samit Ray from Odisha, who were earlier arrested with the drug consignment in small packets on March 12 on Strand Road in South Port area and are in two days' police remand granted by the chief metropolitan magistrate.

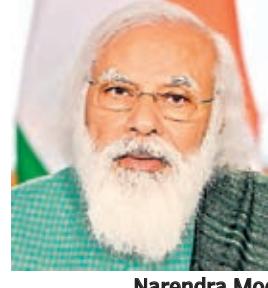
# Quad leaders firm on 'shared vision'

Declare that they want 'free, secure, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region'

**SRIDHAR  
KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14**

In their second strong veiled public message to China within two days of their historic virtual summit hosted by Biden on Friday, the four leaders — US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga and Australian PM Scott Morrison — once again mentioned their momentous Covid-19 vaccine initiative and vowed to "partner at each stage to ensure that vaccines are administered throughout the Indo-Pacific region into 2022", adding that they would "combine our scientific ingenuity, financing, formidable productive capacity and long history of global-health partnership to surge the supply of life-saving vaccines".

The four leaders said: "Our vaccine initiative



Narendra Modi

will be guided by a Quad Vaccine Experts Working Group that brings together the sharpest scientific leaders from Australia, India, Japan and the United States to meet the region's pressing needs." As per this initiative the "vaccines will be developed in the US, manufactured in India, financed by Japan and the US, and supported by Australia" that

will amount to "at least one billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines by the end of 2022".

Tweeting about the opinion piece, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday morning that the four leaders had written about the 'shared vision' of their countries "as the Quad works towards a free, open, secure, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific".

The four leaders also wrote they would meet in

person by the end of this year.

The four leaders said: "We will renew and strengthen our partnerships in Southeast Asia, starting with the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), work with the Pacific Islands, and engage the Indian Ocean region to meet this moment. The Quad is a flexible group of like-minded partners dedicated to advancing a common vision and to ensuring peace and prosperity. We welcome and will seek opportunities to work with all of those who share in those goals."

Talking about the situation way back in December 2004, when the Indo-Pacific region was hit by the tsunami, the four leaders pointed out that their four countries had

then "answered the clarion call for help" and that their "cooperation, known as the 'Quad' was born in crisis, became a diplomatic dialogue in 2007 and was reborn in 2017", adding that "we are again summoned to act together in support of a region in need".

With reference to the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges, the four leaders said: "In this dark hour, our partnership offers a spark of hope to light the path ahead. Our foundations of democracy and a commitment to engagement unite us. ... We summon from tragedy the strength and resilience to unify and overcome. And we recommend ourselves, once again, to an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, secure and prosperous."

## PREZ: TRIBAL COMMUNITY'S GROWTH MUST

**Sonbhadrā/Mirzapur (UP), March 14:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday said without the development of the tribal community and forest dwellers, growth of society and the country cannot take place.

He said this while addressing a gathering in Sonbhadrā's Chapki after the inauguration of a newly constructed building of a school and hostel of Seva Kunj Ashram run by the Seva Samarpan Sansthan. Later in the day, the President offered paryārs at the Vindhayavasini temple in Mirzapur. He is on a three-day tour of the state.

Addressing the gathering in Sonbhadrā, Kovind said, "When Lord Ram emerged victorious in the war against Ravan, the 'vanavaasi' (forest dwellers) extended great assistance." "In the same way, if society and the country have to move ahead, then the forest dwellers' community has to be first taken ahead," he added.

Kovind said Sonbhadrā shares border with four states and the schools and hostels operating at such a place will benefit students belonging to the community in Uttar Pradesh and areas of the adjoining states. "The soul of India resides in areas of the tribal community and forest dwellers. If anyone wants to get introduced to this culture, then he/she should spend time in districts like Sonbhadrā," he said. — PTI

## RSS' MAIN BODY TO MEET ON MARCH 19-20

**Bengaluru, March 14:** Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the highest decision-making body of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), will meet here on March 19 and 20.

The proceedings of the ABPS would begin on March 19 and conclude on March 20 at Janaseva Vidya Kendra, the RSS said in a press release.

The ABPS meets once a year in different cities of the country, and this is the 8th such meet happening in Karnataka.

The meet would discuss ways to take RSS work to the unreach and undertake planning for expansion and consolidation of organisational work, the release said.

The organisational work includes improving Shakhas, increasing training camps, sharing of innovative practices and experiences by representatives of various states and other activities for the coming year, it said.

During the meeting of elected representatives of RSS, several delegates are expected to attend it and resolutions on important issues are passed which have a direct connection with the ongoing in society and the people. Swayamsevaks working in different areas and sections of society through different organisations are also invited. — PTI



People not adhering to social distancing norms throng a market, amid the Coronavirus pandemic, at Sarojini Nagar Market in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

## Maha, Kerala, Punjab account for 76.93% of fresh Coronavirus cases

**SANJAY KAW | DC  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14**

As many as 25,320 more people tested positive for Covid-19 across the country in the past 24 hours. This is the highest one-day jump in new infections so far this year. After seeing a downward trend for over a month, the country is now bracing itself against a possible second wave.

Currently, there are 21,054 active cases in India.

In addition, 161 people also lost their lives due to the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,58,607. This is the highest number of Covid-19 deaths in over two weeks.

Globally, the number of Coronavirus infections has already crossed the 12-crore mark. The Worldometer data showed over 26 lakh people have succumbed to Covid-19 so far. The United States, India and Brazil hold the first, second and third positions respectively in terms of the Covid-19

cases at 15,602, followed by Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh — have shown a steep rise in the daily new Covid-19 cases and account for 87.73 per cent of new instances of the disease reported in a day.

caseload. Brazil took over the second position only Saturday, outpacing India after more than 30,000 cases were reported in the country.

In India, the Covid-19 active caseload reached 2.10 lakhs: Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab accounting for 76.93 per cent of the cases. Seven states — Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh — have shown a steep rise in the daily new Covid-19 cases and account for 87.73 per cent of new instances of the disease reported in a day.

Even Delhi's daily Covid-19 cases remained over 400 for the fourth day. With 40 fresh cases, the

Coronavirus cases tally in the national capital reached over 6,43 lakhs.

Two new fatalities have mounted the death toll in the city to 10,941.

India last saw a single-day surge of 26,624 infections on December 20 last year.

The count of daily fresh cases has been on a steady rise since the last week of February and has been touching record highs for the last three days. With the addition of the new cases, the cumulative caseload in India has

reached 1,13,59,048. The Covid-19 tally crossed the 2-lakh mark on Saturday after 53 days. The number was 2,02,022 on Saturday, 1,97,237 on Friday and 1,89,226 on Thursday.

India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7 last year, 30 lakhs on August 23, 40 lakhs on September 5 and 50 lakhs on September 16. It went past 60 lakhs on September 28, 70 lakhs on October 11, and crossed 80 lakhs on October 29, 90 lakhs on November 20 and crossed the one-crore mark on December 19.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) data shows a total of 22,67,03,641 samples were tested across the country. Of these, 8,64,363 samples were tested on Saturday.

India has so far vaccinated 2,97,38,409 people. The country on Saturday — the 56th day of the vaccination drive — recorded the highest number of vaccinations administered in a single day.

## NIA RECOVERS 2ND CAR INVOLVED IN AMBANI SECURITY SCARE CASE

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, MARCH 14**

The unidentified accused had used the Innova car to flee from the spot after abandoning the explosive-laden Scorpio near Mukesh Ambani's residence, Antilia, on February 25. The Innova was seen tailing the explosive-laden Scorpio which was found parked near Antilia on the day of the incident. The white Innova was seen at 1.20am at Mulund toll naka; reached Carmichael road at 2.18am. Around 3.05am, it was seen going back from Mulund toll towards Thane.

On Saturday night, NIA arrested assistant police inspector Sachin Vaze after questioning him for 12 hours about his alleged connection with the Scorpio. The NIA suspects that

**COP PROFILE** **Sachin Vaze started his career in the year 1990 as sub-inspector**

## Vaze's encounters with criminals, rows

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, MARCH 14**

Post this, he began carrying out encounters in the Thane area.

Vaze reportedly admired Pradeep Sharma, who was also an encounter specialist and later joined Shiv Sena. Later, Vaze was posted in Andheri Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) led by Sharma, with whom he participated in more than 60 encounter killings.

However, by 2002, Sharma's entire squad was decimated due to several controversial killings and Vaze was not an exception. That year, an alleged terrorist Khwaja Yunus managed to escape from the police custody while he was being taken

to Aurangabad from Mumbai. According to initial police version, Khwaja Yunus was being escorted in a police jeep by Vaze and a couple of constables on January 6, 2003 when the jeep met with an accident and while all cops were seriously injured, the handcuffed accused fled from the spot.

However, Khwaja Yunus's old parents challenged the police version in the court and after investigation, the state CID arrested Vaze charging him for murder.

After remaining suspended from the service for years, Vaze was reinstated in the service along with several other suspended cops in June last year as the police department was facing problems because of "the large scale infection of Covid among policemen".

In the year 2007, Vaze submitted his resignation and he joined Shiv Sena in 2008. However, his resignation had not been accepted and thus he was eligible for reinstatement, police officials claimed.

After his reinstatement, Vaze was posted in the Crime Intelligence Unit, a sensitive and important arm of the Mumbai Crime Branch. Since resuming to Mumbai police, he has been tasked with impon-

tant and high-profile cases, particularly the ones in which Shiv Sena had special interest. These included 2017 Anvay Naik suicide case and the TRP rigging scam.

He was also a part of Mumbai Police team, which helped Alibag Police to arrest Republic TV editor-in-chief and owner Arnab Goswami in connection with Anvay Naik suicide in October 2020.

Recently, he took over

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan's case against Kangana Ranaut filed in 2016. He also called Hrithik Roshan to record his fresh statement last month.

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# WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 15 MARCH 2021

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## SNOWSTORM: 2000 FLIGHTS OFF

Denver, March 14: More than 2,000 flights have been cancelled over the weekend at Denver International Airport as a major snowstorm strikes the region.

— AP



VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATHI - KACHIGUDA - 11:45AM, 9:30PM
SAPNA 35MM - ABIDS 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:15
PRASADS LARGE SCREEN 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
DSL - UPPAL - 12:30, 3:30, 6:55, 10:20
SUDHA - SHALIBANDA - 10:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
MANTRA - ATTAPUR - 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
CCPL - MALKAJGIRI - 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA - 10:50, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
RK COMPLEX - BANJARAHILLS - 1:45, 10:55PM
ICON - HITECH - 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00   INORBIT MALL - MADHAPUR 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY   10:15, 11:00   PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI - 1:25, 7:50, 10:50   IRRUM MANZIL - KHARTABAD   1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40   HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA - PUNJAGUTTA - 10:40, 1:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
INOX GSM MALL - MADEENAGUDA - 1:30, 4:35, 7:40, 10:45   GVK MALL - BANJARAHILLS - 10:10, 1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:35   MP MALL - KACHIGUDA - 10:00, 1:05, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
MIRAJ - BALANAGAR - 2:00, 4:50, 10:50
GEETHA - CHANDANAGAR - 3:00, 9:30
SHALINI SHIVANI - DILSUKHNAGAR - 1:15, 4:00, 10:15
RADHIKA - KAPRA - 4:00PM
CINESQUARE - UPPAL - 1:45, 4:35, 10:40
MUKTHA AZ MIR SQUARE - NARAPALLY - 11:00, 1:40, 10:25
M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR - 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 10:35
TIVOLI 11:30, 7:40, 10:15
MOVIE TIME - GACHIBOWLI - 10:30
11:50, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50, 11:10
S2 NOMA - MALLAPUR 1:25, 4:25, 10:50PM
SRI SAIRAJA - MUSHEERABAD 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00
YAKUT MAHAL - YAKUTPURA - 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30



KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

## Cop tactics at vigil for slain woman criticised

Dick to resign, having "lost the confidence of millions of women in London". The murder of Everard, who vanished after setting out to walk home from a friend's flat, has shocked the country and brought discussion around women's safety to the fore once again.

Organisers had cancelled the vigil after police outlawed it because of Covid-19 restrictions, but hundreds still turned out, with tensions overspilling as Saturday night fell.

Mourners shouted "shame on you" at police, with tensions running high as a man arrested in connection with Everard's murder is an officer.

In the hours following the vigil, rage mounted with pressure groups and politicians condemning police actions. Opposition Labour MP Harriet Harman condemned the "terrible" scenes at Clapham in a tweet, adding: "Met mishandled vigil plan from the outset. They should have reached agreement." Labour leader Keir Starmer called the scenes "deeply disturbing" and also criticised the way the vigil was handled.

And Liberal Democrats leader Ed Davey called for Metropolitan police chief Cressida

was "truly shocked at the scenes from Clapham Common — in this country we police by consent, not by trampling the tributes and dragging women to the ground".

And feminist direct action group Sister's Uncut tweeted late Saturday that "Metropolitan police officers waited for the sun to set before they started grabbing and manhandling women in the crowd."

Wayne Couzens, 48, appeared in court earlier on Saturday charged with kidnap and murder following his arrest at his home in Kent, southeast England. The victim's body was discovered in a nearby wood. Many more joined in a virtual tribute, including prime minister Boris Johnson and his partner, who lit a candle for Everard.

"I cannot imagine how unbearable their pain and grief is. We must work fast to find all the answers to this horrifying crime," he tweeted.

"I will do everything I can to make sure the streets are safe and ensure women and girls do not face harassment or abuse." Organisers of the vigil said they hoped to raise \$320,000 (\$445,000) for women's causes.

— AFP

## COVID CURBS: 2 ARRESTED AT DENMARK STIR

Copenhagen, March 14: Two people were arrested on the sidelines of a weekend protest against anti-Coronavirus restrictions in Denmark's capital Copenhagen, the police said Sunday.

One person was arrested for throwing fireworks at police during the Saturday march, while another was detained over violent behaviour, the police said.

The rally was organised by a group calling itself "Men in Black Denmark" which has called regular demonstrations since the end of last year against what it calls the "dictatorship" of the country's Covid-19 restrictions. Walking through firework smoke, the protesters held torches as they moved through the city centre chanting "Freedom for Denmark" and "Mette Ciao," a reference to Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.

— AFP



## MOB SORRY FOR VANDALISING TEMPLE IN PAK

Peshawar, March 14: The Hindu community in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to pardon the mob that vandalised and burned down a century-old temple in the province.

The local clerics and members of the Hindu community held a meeting on Saturday to resolve the dispute.

As per the dialogue, informally called 'jirga', the accused have tendered an apology over the attack and a similar incident in 1997.

The Muslim clerics have assured full protection to the Hindus and their rights as per the country's Constitution.

A reconciliation statement from the meeting would be presented to the Supreme Court, in a bid to secure the release of the accused from detention. On December 30 last year, a mob led by some local clerics and members of radical Islamist party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam vandalised the temple and an adjoining 'samadhi' and set it on fire in Terri village of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district.

— PTI

**PAKKA FAMILY ENTERTAINER**

**SANDHYA 35MM**  
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**BRAMARAMBA 70MM**  
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

**SHIVAPARVATHI 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**MEGHA 70MM-DSNR**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**MANJU 70MM-SEC'BAD**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**TARAKARAMA 70-KACHIGUDA**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

**INJARA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHICOMPLEX-2.45,9.30**

**PRASAD-8.45,11.00,1.30,3.45,6.15,8.30,11.00PM**

**OAMB 10.30,1.45,4.55,7.00,10.25**

**MULTIFLIX 11.00,1.55,4.50,7.50,10.50**

**ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-11.15,2.00,6.15PM GPR-10.40,1.25,7.30,10.20PM RADHIKA-10.30,1.30,7.00,9.50PM MCUBE-10.40,1.30,4.30,7.00,10.10PM UPPAL-10.50,1.30,4.30,7.30,10.20PM CHINTHAL-11.00,2.00,6.30PM**

**10.40,1.30,4.10,7.20,10.00PM MJR-10.50,1.40,4.40,7.00,9.50PM**

**LAXMIKALA-1.15,2.15,6.15,9.15**

**INOX GSM-11.45,12.45,3.00,4.00,6.15,7.15,9.30,10.30PM GVK-10.00,1.05,4.15,7.20,10.30,10.50 MP-9.50,12.50,4.00,7.15,10.30PM**

**Cinepolis MANTRA-10.00,11.00,1.55,4.50,7.45,10.30PM DSL-1.00,4.10,6.15,7.20,10.30PM CCPL-10.00,11.15,1.45,4.30,7.55,10.40 SUDHA-10.30,1.25,4.20,7.10,10.05PM**

**PVR RK-11.20,1.10,7.45,10.25PM ICON-1.15,3.10,7.20,9.15PM PRESTONE-1.45,4.40,7.35,10.30PM FORUM-10.10,11.10,2.05,5.00,7.15,7.55 10.10,10.50PM INORBIT-10.20,2.05,5.00,7.35,7.55,10.50 CENTRAL-10.05,1.25,4.10,7.05,10.30PM GALLERIA-10.05,11.10,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.00PM IRRUMMANZIL-12.40,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.50 MOOSARAMBAGH-12.40,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.50**

**MIRAJ CINEMAS CHANDANAGAR-12.00,4.00,9.45PM SHALINI-10.15,2.00,4.45,7.30,10.45PM BALANAGAR-10.15,1.15,4.15,7.15,10.15**

**2 11.00,5.05,8.00,10.55 TIVOLI 11.15,2.10,4.45,10.00PM**

**PLATINUM 10.05,12.15,3.15,8.30,11.20 10.35 Cinemas**

**SANTOSHABIDS SUPER 70MM 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SENSATION SWAPNA COMX 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.15PM**

**VIJETHA 70MM VIMAL 70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15**

**AMBA 70MM SREERAMANA 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SRLATHA 70 SAMPOORNA 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15**

**RAMAKRISHNA SIVASAKTHI 2.30,6.00PM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SRINIVASATO TALLURI COMPLEX 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15**

**MUKUND 70MM NARTHAKI 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30**

**ULS SRIDEVITO BHUJANGA 70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**KRISHNA NAGARAM JYOTHI IDABL RM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**LAXMI SHAMSHABAD VENKATASAI 11.30,2.30,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SANTOSH 70MM SREEPREMA 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SV CINESQUARE MAHESWARI 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**VENKATESWARA 70-GUMMADIDHALA 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM**

**KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE**

**THIS YEAR'S FUNNIEST FILM BOX OFFICE BLOCKBUSTER**

**IMDb ★ 9.1/10 bookitnow 95%**

**DEVI 70MM**  
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)  
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

**ARJUN 70MM**  
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

**MALLIKARJUNA 70**  
11.15am, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30pm

**RAJADHANI COMPLEX**  
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00pm

**KONARK 70MM**  
11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

**SANGEETHA 70**  
11.00am,2.30,6.00,9.00pm

**MAHALAXMI 70**  
11.00am,2.00,6.00,9.00pm

**PRASADS - 9.00am,11.00,11.45,2.30 5.15,8.00,10.45pm LARGE : 10.00,12.45 AMB - 10.20am,10.40,10.55,1.20,1.50 4.30,4.50,7.00,7.35,10.00,10.25pm PVR CINEMAS**

**RK - 10.00,1.50,4.05,7.15,10.25 I CENTRAL 10.15,10.55,1.00,4.20,7.30,10.40 I FORUM 10.00,10.50,1.10,4.20,7.30,7.50,10.40,11.00 I ICON - 12.45,1.50,3.55,7.05,10.15 MOOSARAMBAGH - 1.00,4.10,6.20,7.20,10.30 I IRRUM MANZIL - 1.00,4.10,7.00,7.20,10.30 I GALLERIA - 10.00,10.20,1.30,4.40,7.20,7.50110 I PRESTON - 12.30,3.40,6.50,10.00 I INORBIT - 10.20,10.55,1.30,4.40,7.50,11.00 I**

**INOX 10.30,1.45,4.25,7.30,10.10 I M CUBE - 10.30,1.30,1.40,4.10,4.40,7.20,7.40,10.00 CINEPLANET - 10.30,1.20,1.45,4.25,7.00,10.20 I RADHIKA - 10.40,4.20,7.20,10.10 I CINESQUARE - 10.30,10.50,1.40,4.10,4.40,7.20,10.05 I MJR - 10.30,1.30,4.25,7.20,10.30,1.30,4.40,7.50,11.00 I**

**DSL - 11.20,11.50,2.50,6.20,9.45,10.15,10.40 MANTRA MALL - 10.30,1.05,4.30,7.05,10.40 CCPL - 10.40,1.10,1.45,4.20,5.00,7.40,10.40 SUDHA - 12.15,1.20,4.30,7.05,10.00,10.50 I**

**PLATINUM - 11.45,2.30,5.15,8.00,10.45 S2 - 10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40,11.00**

**Cinepolis SHALINI - 10.00,1.15,4.30,7.45,11.00 BALANAGAR - 10.00,1.15,4.30,7.45,11.00 CHANDANAGAR - 1.00,3.00,7.00,10.00 TIVOLI - 11.00,1.50,4.40,7.30,10.20 BVK - 10.45am,1.45,4.45,7.45,10.45pm PLATINUM - 11.45,2.30,5.15,8.00,10.45 S2 - 10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40,11.00**

**LAXMIKALA ASIAN SHA 11.10,2.40,6.10,9.40 11.15,6.15,9.30**

**SHIVAGANGA TALLURI 11.00,2.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**AARADHANA 70 SHARADA 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SUSHMA 70 RANGA 70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**GOKUL 70MM SREERAMANA 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SAI RANGA 70 ALANKAR 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**JYOTHI 70MM SAI POOJA 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SRI KRISHNA 70 LAXMIKALA MANDIR 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30**

**VYJAYANTHI GANESH 70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.15,2.15,6.00,9.00**

**SRI SAI RAM 70 ASIAN SWAPNA 11.15,2.30,6.15,9.30 11.00,6.15,9.15**

**SENSATION SUNSHINE BR HITECH 70 11.30,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

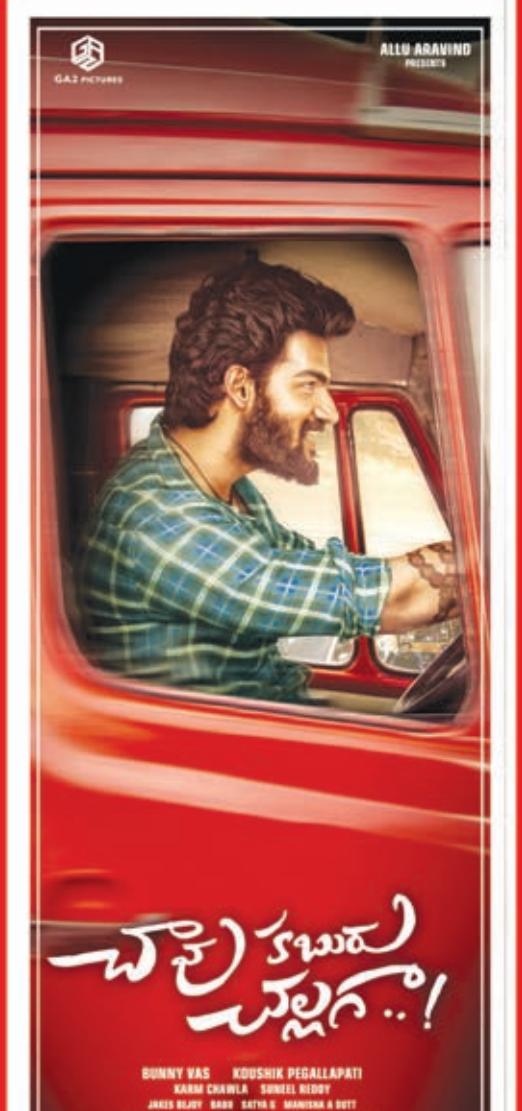
**SRI LAXMI 70 RAMAKRISHNA 35 12.00,3.00,7.00,10.00 2.30pm & 6.00pm**

**RAJYALAXMI 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**SRIDEVI R.C Puram 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**BRIDGE FILMS**

## BASTHI BALARAJU COMING THIS 19TH



# WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 15 MARCH 2021

pg 10

## Myanmar: Four people shot dead

Will oust junta: Leader of govt in hiding

Yangon, March 14: At least four people were shot dead during protests in Myanmar on Sunday, as security forces continued their violent crackdown against dissent following last month's military coup. Two of the victims were killed in Yangon, the country's largest city. One of them was shot in the head and another was shot in the abdomen in Hlaing Thar Yar Township.

A third person died in the northern city of Hpakan when police fired into a crowd of demonstrators, local media reported. A fourth victim, a woman, died after being shot in the head in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, as security forces were conducting clearance operations.

In Yangon, video posted on social media showed crowds of people, some wearing hard hats and gas masks, running down a street amid sounds of gunfire. The demonstrators quickly sprayed vapour from fire extinguishers as they retreated.

The use of fire extinguishers common now in protests across Myanmar is intended to smother tear gas and also create a vapour screen that makes it harder for police to pursue or shoot demonstra-

ts. There were also reports of injuries from live rounds and rubber bullets in other parts of Yangon, including Insein district, where billows of black smoke could be seen after security forces reportedly set roadblocks on fire.

On Saturday, the civilian leader of Myanmar's government in hiding vowed to continue supporting a revolution to oust the military leaders who seized power in the February 1 coup. Aung San Suu Kyi, who was named the acting vice president by Myanmar's ousted lawmakers and is a member of deposed leader Aung

Suu Kyi's political party, addressed the public for the first time since the coup. This is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close, he said in a video posted on the shadow government's website.

The actual death toll

is likely to be higher, as police apparently seized some bodies, and some of the victims suffered serious gunshot wounds that doctors and nurses working at makeshift clinics would be hard-pressed to treat. — AP

## COVID CURBS: 2 ARRESTED AT DENMARK STIR

Copenhagen, March 14: Two people were arrested on the sidelines of a weekend protest against anti-Coronavirus restrictions in Denmark's capital Copenhagen, the police said Sunday.

One person was arrested for throwing fireworks at police during the Saturday march, while another was detained over violent behaviour, the police said.

Moscow police said in a statement that around 200 people had been detained. Many of the conference participants did not wear masks, while some were members of an organisation whose work had been declared "undesirable," police said.

Police said in a statement that the march took place in a "sometimes intense" atmosphere, but without major incident.

The protest came a day after a 30-year-old woman was sentenced to two years in jail for calling for violence during a previous "Men in Black Denmark" rally against Covid-19 restrictions in January. The case provoked a debate about the sentence which commentators deemed unusually harsh for her at times ambiguous comments.

— AFP

## Palace to hire law firm to probe Meghan bullying

London, March 14: Buckingham Palace plans to hand over an investigation into allegations that Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, may have bullied staff during her time as a frontline royal with Prince Harry in Britain to external investigators, a UK media report said on Sunday.

Earlier this month, the palace had confirmed that a probe would be conducted after The Times published a leaked email from a staff member alleging that the former

American actress drove two personal assistants out of the royal household and undermined the confidence of a third member of staff.

Now, The Sunday Times reports that it has been decided that the inquiry would be handed to third-party law firm to conduct an independent investigation, rather than an inhouse inquiry.

The actual worst incidents haven't come out. There are some harrowing stories to tell, the newspaper quoted a royal source as saying. — PTI

**GRAND 2nd WEEK**

**ALL BLOCKBUSTER**

**INOX OAMB AMB CINEMAS-6.50PM**

**CINESQAURE-1.50,7.35PM GPR-10.30PM RADHIKA-4.40PM**

**CINEPLANET 7.40PM PLATINUM GACHIBOWLI 11.00PM**

**FORUM MALL 1.40PM PLATINUM NARAPALLY 7.40PM GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS LAXMIKALA 9.45PM**

**ASIAN CINEMAS- 11.00PM RAJYALAXMI 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

**BRIDGE FILMS R.C Puram 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00**

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	50,792.08 -0.95
Nifty 50	15,031.00 -0.95
S&P 500*	3,943.34 0.10
Dollar (₹)	72.79 0.17
Pound Sterling (₹)	101.26 0.44
Euro (₹)	86.74 0.02
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,059 ▼291 0.66
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	1,625 0.098
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.232 0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.605 0.078

\* As of Friday/Saturday

### All-India tourist permits to be given in 30 days

In a bid to promote tourism, all-India tourist permits will be provided to operators within 30 days of online application submission, the government said. The new rules will be applicable from April 1. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new scheme, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an "All India Tourist Authorisation/Permit" through online mode.

### Restoration of MSME status for traders sought



The Confederation of All India Traders (Cait) has demanded restoration of the MSME status taken away in 2017 from 8 crore retail and wholesale traders who are part of the service industry. The government in June 2017 removed retail and wholesale traders from the MSME category forcing the players either borrow at a higher rate or from informal financial sources, Cait secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said.

### Limit independent directors liability, CII tells Govt

Industry body CII has suggested putting in place safe harbours for independent directors, calling for proceedings against them to be initiated only when there is prima facie evidence of their involvement in a matter. The government recently concluded the exercise of decriminalising the Companies Act, 2013. The chamber said it is necessary to expressly exempt independent directors from vicarious criminal liability.

### Applications invited for electronics PLI

The government has started inviting applications for the second round of large-scale electronics manufacturing under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme with a focus on electronic components like motherboards, semiconductor devices, among others. The application window for the scheme has been opened till March 31, which may be further extended, as per guidelines issued by the MeitY.

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D89/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Komappally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No APENG/2008/24282, © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

## ■ MPC may opt for status quo in April meeting Rising inflation unlikely to trigger rate tightening

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, MARCH 14

Excess liquidity in the banking system combined with volatility in fuel prices could pose an upward risk to inflation. This has led to speculation in some quarters that the Reserve Bank of India could soon be shifting into a tightening mode in tune with its global peers.

But experts feel that even with upward risks to inflation, the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the RBI may continue with the rate pause in April policy as well, given that the economic growth is faltering and Covid-19 cases are rising again. However, they expect the RBI to take some measures to drain excess liquidity in the system which has been above Rs 4-lakh crore throughout the pandemic.

Retail inflation (CPI) inched up from 4.1 per cent in January 2021 to 5.03 per cent in February. Separately, the Index of Industrial Production declined unexpectedly by 1.6 per cent in January 2021, after turning positive in December in stark contrast to market expectations.

The entire decline was led by the manufacturing sector, which saw broad-based worsening—more than two-thirds components declined. The continued contraction in manufacturing showed that there is still some distance to cover before the economy recovers.

The rate setting panel/



### RAJAN CAUTIONS AGAINST DRASTIC CHANGES IN MONETARY POLICY

BIJAY KUMAR SINGH

NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

As the economy slowly comes out of the pandemic blues, former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan on Sunday cautioned that "drastic changes" in India's monetary policy framework can upset the bond market as the current system has helped in containing inflation and promoting growth.

"I believe the (monetary policy) framework has helped bring inflation down, while giving the RBI some flexibility to support the economy. It is hard to think of what would have happened if we had to run such large fiscal deficits without such a framework in place," Rajan said in an

interview. His remarks were in response to a query on whether he was in favour of reviewing the 2.6 per cent target band for inflation under the monetary policy framework.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has the mandate to maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The current medium-term inflation target, which was notified in August 2016, ends on March 31. The inflation target for the next five years starting April 1 is likely to be notified this month.

Against this backdrop, Rajan said, "We risk upsetting bond markets if we make drastic changes in the framework". — PTI

MPC mainly factors in the retail inflation while

arriving at its monetary policy. The MPC is sched-

uled to meet during April 5-7 to decide on rates.

The RBI has been mandated by the government to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side. To arrest the slide in growth, the central bank has used several conventional and unconventional tools such as cutting the policy repo rate by 115 basis points, keeping its policy stance accommodative, ample liquidity support via open market operations, special OMOs, management of the yield curve to keep cost of borrowings for the government under check, regulatory forbearance and the like.

"Going forward, the excess liquidity in the system combined with volatility in fuel prices can pose upward risk to inflation. In this situation, the MPC is expected to continue the pause though the RBI might take some measures to drain excess liquidity," said Mr. Govinda Rao, chief economic adviser at Brickwork Ratings.

Nikhil Gupta, chief economist at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said, "Overall, the pick-up in inflation and fall in IIP is the worst possible combination. We hope IIP would come back into growth territory from February 2021, though CPI may pick up further to around 5.4 per cent in March 2021. Accordingly, we expect MPC to maintain status quo in April's policy."

"The committee feels that if this trend continues, it would not be possible for the Ministry to meet the targeted timeline for completion of Bharatmala Pariyojna Phase-1 by 2025-26, which is already lagging four years behind." — PTI

## 888 HIGHWAY PROJECTS HANGING

New Delhi, March 14: Unhappy over delayed highway projects which amount to Rs 3.15 lakh crore, a parliamentary panel has asked Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to prioritise their completion instead of announcing new projects.

The delayed 888 projects pertain to construction of 27,665 km of national highways.

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, in its latest report tabled in Parliament also asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to prioritise its delayed road projects.

"The committee is anguished to note that 888 road projects under the Ministry are delayed at present, which amount to Rs 3,15,373.3 crore involving a length of 27,665.3 km," the 31-member panel chaired by T.G. Venkatesh said.

It also expressed concern that against a target of 6,469 km during the current fiscal, the ministry has been able to award only 2,517 km till January 2021.

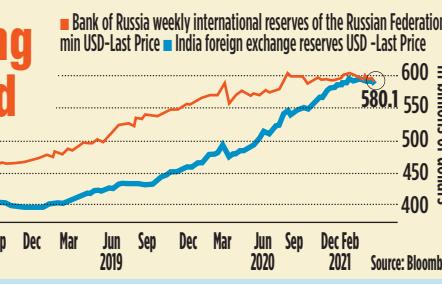
Similarly, the ministry could complete construction of only 2,273 km as against the target of 4,571 km under the scheme, it said.

"The committee feels that if this trend continues, it would not be possible for the Ministry to meet the targeted timeline for completion of Bharatmala Pariyojna Phase-1 by 2025-26, which is already lagging four years behind."

— PTI

## India FX reserves surpass Russia's, now 4th biggest

### Racing ahead



ANIRBAN NAG &amp; SUBHADIP SIRCAR

MARCH 14

India's foreign exchange reserves surpassed Russia's to become the world's fourth largest, as the nation's central bank continues to hoard dollars to cushion the economy against any sudden outflows.

"India's various reserves adequacy metrics have improved significantly, particularly in the last few years," Kaushik Das, chief India economist at Deutsche Bank, said before the latest data were released. "The healthy FX reserves position should give enough comfort to RBI for dealing with any potential external shock-driven capital stop or outflows in the period ahead."

The RBI bought a net \$88 billion in the spot forex market last year, central bank data show. That helped make the rupee the worst performer among Asia's major currencies last year and earned India a place on a US Treasury watchlist for currency manipulation.

— Bloomberg

## Govt to offload remaining stake in privatised airports

JOYEETA DEY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

The government plans to sell its residual stake in already privatised Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports as part of the ambitious Rs 2.5 lakh crore asset monetisation pipeline identified to raise additional resources, sources said.

Sale of Airport Authority of India's (AAI) remaining stake in the four airports as also 13 more airports have been identified for privatisation in 2021-22 fiscal, two people aware of deliberations at empowered committee of secretaries last month said.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation will obtain requisite approvals for divestment of equity stake of the AAI in the respective joint ventures running Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports, they said adding the issue is likely to go to the Cabinet for approval in the next few days.

Under the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (Udan), which will complete four years this year, as many as 325 routes and 56 airports have been operationalised till now.

On the commencement of the Union government's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75), around 392 routes have been proposed under Udan 4.1 bidding process, the ministry said in a release on Sunday.

### BIDS INVITED FOR 392 ROUTES UNDER NEW UDAN

New Delhi, March 14: The civil aviation ministry has invited bids for 392 routes under the regional air connectivity scheme to improve domestic connectivity and make flying more affordable.

The AAI, which works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, owns and manages more than 100 airports across the country.

While in Mumbai International Airport, Adani Group holds 74 per cent stake, the remaining 26 per cent stake is with the AAI.

In the Delhi International Airport, GMR Group holds 54 per cent and the AAI holds 26 per cent while Fraport AG and Eraman Malaysia hold 10 per cent stake each.

The AAI along with the Government of Andhra Pradesh holds 26 per cent in Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. It holds a similar stake in Bangalore International Airport along with the Karnataka Government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had last month said the government is targeting monetising 100 assets.

For the 13 AAI airports identified for privatisation, the possibility of clubbing of profitable and non-profitable airports will be

explored to make more attractive packages, sources said.

The draft rules seek to prescribe a code of conduct

## Insurers to migrate to IFRS 17 by 2023

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO

NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

Insurers are gearing up for implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standard 17, or IFRS 17, and risk-based capital (RBC). Standardising the insurance accounting IFRS 17 will improve the global comparability of insurers' books and increase transparency while the RBC will ensure better solvency capital for the insurers.

Iridai chairman Subhash Chandra Khuntia said in a virtual event said the regulator is working on the implementation of the IFRS 17 and the RBC

regime, urging actuaries to drive this plan.

A senior Iridai official told Financial Chronicle that an exposure draft in this regard has been shared by the regulator among the insurers, and is still in the discussion stage. Besides, the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) has also set up an advisory group on IFRS 17 (Ind AS 117). "It will provide users of accounts with the information they need to meaningfully understand the insurer's financial position, performance, risk exposure etc," the official said.

The chief of the Insurance Regulatory and

Development Authority of India further asked the insurers to develop products that provide cover after superannuation, saying, we find that people live longer and they need financial protection for their longer age. How to develop some interesting products in this area should also be the focus of insurers. Some of you can develop such standard products," he said.

Subhendu Kumar Bal, IAI president and chief actuary & chief risk officer, SBI Life Insurance, said actuaries are committed to play pivotal role in driving implementation of IFRS 17.

"The effective date of IFRS 17 implementation is January 1, 2023, internationally. However, neighbouring countries like Indonesia and the Philippines would transition to new norm in 2025 and unlisted insurers in China will transition in 2026. The IAI has requested Accounting Standards Board (ASB) for deferring the implementation at least by a year," Bal said.

The IFRS 17, issued by the International Accounting Standards Board in May 2017, is supposed to replace IFRS 4 on accounting for insurance contracts on the effective date of January 1, 2023.

## Anti-digital monopolies rules may hit e-com biggies

SARITHA RAI

MARCH 14

India's draft e-commerce rules to prevent creation of "digital monopolies" and aid local startups may raise costs and stymie expansion plans at companies such as Amazon.com Inc and Walmart Inc.

The draft rules seek to

for online retailers and define cross-border flow of user data, according to a note titled Draft E-commerce Policy.

The Narendra Modi government—beset by complaints from its vote base of small retailers—has been framing rules to reduce the dominance of Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart in estimat-

ed \$1 trillion overall retail market. The latest proposals build on laws that curb the two US companies from offering deep discounts, deter exclusive arrangements with preferred sellers and investing in merchants offering products on their websites.

The new e-commerce policy will address growth

and aim to "reduce prevalent market distortions," the note said. The nine-page document formed the basis of a discussion by officials of various ministries at a DPIIT meeting on Saturday.

The draft proposals seek to ensure algorithms created by e-retailers do not discriminate against sellers.

—Bloomberg

## 36 MF schemes have over 10% exposure in AT1, AT2 bonds

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Proteas blitz India women away**

**Lucknow:** The South African women's team's top-order batters fired in unison and helped their team clinch the five-match series against India with a seven-wicket victory in the fourth ODI here on Sunday. Chasing 267, Lizelle Lee (69), Laura Wolvaardt (53), Mignon du Preez (61) and Lara Goodall (59 not out) shone as the visitors completed the task in 48.4 overs for an unassailable 3-1 lead in the rubber. The hosts paid the price for ignoring Shafali Verma's flair in batting and Shikha Pandey's experience in bowling. The win meant seasoned Punam Raut's third ODI hundred and veteran Harmanpreet's scintillating 35-ball 54 went in vain. — PTI  
**Brief scores:** India 266/4 in 50 overs (Punam Raut 104, H. Kaur 54; T. Sekhukhune 2/63) lost to South Africa 269/3 in 48.4 overs (L. Lee 69, M. du Preez 61, L. Goodall 59).

**Mithali 1st woman in 7k ODI runs list**

**Lucknow:** Veteran batter Mithali Raj on Sunday added another feather to her cap by becoming the first player to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket. The Indian skipper reached the 7,000-run milestone in her 213th match, which was the fourth ODI of the ongoing five-match series against South Africa here. "Magnificent Mithali!" #TeamIndia ODI skipper becomes the first woman cricketer to score 7000 ODI runs.

What a performer she has been!" the BCCI tweeted. The 38-year-old, who made her international debut in 1999, was also the first player to score 6,000 runs in women's ODIs. England's Charlotte Edwards, who retired from international cricket in 2016, is second the list of leading run scorers with 5,992. Mithali scored a 71-ball 45 before being dismissed by medium pacer Tumi Sekhukhune in the 38th over of the fourth ODI. She hit four boundaries during her stay in the middle. — PTI

# JAI KISHAN

Ishan hits half-century on debut, powers India to series-leveelling win

**Ahmedabad, March 14:** Ishan Kishan's fearless half-century on debut and skipper Virat Kohli's perfectly paced knock set up a series-leveelling seven wicket win for India in the second T20 International against England here on Sunday.

Kishan smashed 56 off 32 balls at the top of the order and felt completely at home on the big stage, having played enough IPL cricket in a similar environment. Chase master Kohli (73 not out off 49 balls) took charge after Kishan's dismissal to power India to victory with 13 balls to spare.

The Indian bowlers put up a disciplined effort to restrict England to 164 for six in 20 overs after Kohli opted to bowl.

India did not have the best of starts in the chase as they lost K.L. Rahul in the opening over for naught, caught by Jos Buttler behind the stumps off left-arm pacer Sam Curran.

Kishan, known for his attacking batting, made a formidable England attack look ordinary with his disdainful hitting. His sensational knock comprised five fours and four sixes.

Kishan and Kohli took the attack to the opposition to stitch a quickfire 95-run stand for the second wicket. Kishan was caught plumb in front of the wicket by Adil Rashid in the 10th over but he had done his job by then.

Kohli and Rishabh Pant (26 off 13) then shared 36 runs for the third wicket before the latter gave a simple catch to Jonny Bairstow off Chris Jordan in the 14th over to raise England's hopes. But it was not to be as Kohli



India's Ishan Kishan en route to his 56 off 32 balls against England in their second Twenty20 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. — AFP

anchored the chase perfectly. The skipper ended the game with a six off Jordan.

Earlier, Indian bowlers pulled things back brilliantly in the last five overs to concede 34 runs in the last five overs.

Sent into bat, England suffered an early jolt in the form of Jos Buttler (0), who was adjudged off Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the third ball of the innings.

— PTI  
**England:** Jason Roy c Kumar b Washington Sundar 46, Jos Buttler lbw b Kumar 0, Dawid Malan lbw b Chahal 24, Jonny Bairstow c Yadav b Washington Sundar 20, Eoin Morgan c Pant b Thakur 28, Ben Stokes c Pandya b Thakur 24, Sam Curran not out 6, Chris Jordan not out 0. Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-1) 3. **Total (for 3 wkts in 17.5 overs)** 166.  
**FoW:** 1-0, 2-64, 3-91, 4-119, 5-142, 6-160.  
**Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-28-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-29-2, Shardul Thakur 4-0-29-2, Hardik Pandya 4-0-33-0,

Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-34-1.

**India:** K.L. Rahul c Buttler b S. Curran 0, Ishan Kishan lbw b Rashid 56, Virat Kohli (c) not out 73, Rishabh Pant c Bairstow b Jordan 26, Shreyas Iyer not out 8. Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-1) 3. **Total (for 3 wkts in 17.5 overs)** 166.  
**FoW:** 1-0, 2-94, 3-130.  
**Bowling:** Sam Curran 4-1-22-1, Jofra Archer 4-0-24-0, Chris Jordan 2.5-0-38-1, Tom Curran 2-0-26-0, Ben Stokes 1-0-17-0, Adil Rashid 4-0-38-1.

## SCORECARD



Members of the Evergreen cricket team pose with the trophy and Hyderabad Cricket Association officials after winning the A-1 Division One-Day Knockout Tournament at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad.

## Evergreen live up to their name

**Overcome Tilak Varma's century and Gemini Friends to win One-Day title**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 14

N. Thakur Tilak Varma and Vamshi Krishna hogged Sunday's limelight as Evergreen emerged champions in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-1 Division one-day tournament.

In the summit clash, Gemini Friends' Tilak whacked yet another century (132 off 116 balls that included seven fours and four sixes) but ended up on the losing side as Evergreen rode on Vamshi's magnificent spell of 5 for 60 to clinch the title by 14 runs.

Batting first, Evergreen

posted a competitive 301 for 8, which was fuelled by Mayank Gupta's superb 93. In reply, Gemini Friends fought hard via Tilak before managing 287 for 9 in the stipulated 50 overs.

Meanwhile in a two-day league match, one more century went in vain. Aggarwal Senior's Navaneeth Rao smashed a run-a-ball 124 which included 22 boundaries but could only see his side going down to Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, by 87 runs.

### HYDERABAD WOMEN THUMPED BY ODISHA

Hyderabad came a cropper against Odisha, going down

### ARYAN BREAKS INTO SENIOR SIDE

**Hyderabad, March 14:** Aryan Karra has climbed up the junior ranks and made it to the Telangana State senior men's inline hockey team that will take part in the 58th National Roller Skating Championship to be held in Chandigarh, Punjab, from March 31 to April 11.

The Roller Skating Association of Telangana, after conducting selection trials at SATS Cylcing Velodrome from March 11 to 14, announced the following inline hockey senior men's team: Rallapalli Venkata Rohith Kumar, Shiva Subramanian, Kyama Karthik Kumar, Seeman Gonela, Chirag Palepati, Thammisetty Tharun Teja, Aryan Karra, Pemula Yashwanth Kumar, Kuchavaram Nikhil, Srikanth Mudige, Bharath Gummadi, Janakiram Eladandi, Sankeerth Sappa, Thota Bhargava Rakesh, Dinesh Kanuboni.

by nine wickets in their BCCI Senior women's one-day tournament match played at Surat in Gujarat on Sunday.

Batting first, Hyderabad were all out for a lowly 159 in 46.5 overs as Sushree D Navaneeth Rao 124 — 124b, 22x4, Rajeev 3/37, Ramana Chandrasekhar 3/16). Points: HPS B 5, Aggarwal Sr 0.

### TWO-DAY LEAGUE

#### A-1 DIVISION ONE-DAY KNOCKOUT FINAL

■ Evergreen 301/8 in 50 overs (Vignesh Agarwal 50, Mayank Gupta 93, Chandan Sahani 53, Rahul Buddhi 30, Mohd Taha Sheik 4/44) bt Gemini Friends 287/9 in 50 overs (N. Thakur Tilak Varma 0).

#### WOMEN'S ONE-DAY

■ Hyderabad 159 in 46.5 overs (G. Trisha 32, Mamtha Kanodia 34, Anuradha Nayak 31, Sushree D 4/34, Priyanka P 2/21, Madhusmita B 3/37) lost to Odisha 160/1 in 42.3 overs (Madhuri M 60 n.o., Kajal Jena 32, Sarita M 61). Points: Odisha 4, Hyderabad 0.

### THE RESULTS

■ Second round: Varun V (2 points) bt Jeev Sphoorthi G (1 point); Viswajith B (1) lost to J Rama Krishna (2); Amitpal Singh (2) bt Amrutha Bhagavatula (1); Srinivas P (1) lost to Satyanarayana P (2); G. V. Srinivasa Rao (2) bt Kithika B (1).

**FIVE SHARE LEAD AT RAPID CHESS**

**Hyderabad, March 14:** Five players are in lead with two points each after second round of the Telangana Open Rapid Chess Tournament being organised by Ekalavya Chess Academy at YWCA in Secunderabad here on Sunday.

Varun V. packed off Jeev Sphoorthi, J. Rama Krishna won over Viswajith, Amitpal Singh saw off Amrutha Bhagavatula, Satyanarayana P. shocked Srinivas and G. V. Srinivasa Rao down Kithika to keep their slates clean and be on top with two points.

**THE RESULTS**

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## Shaw, Tare guide Mumbai to title

**New Delhi, March 14:**

Skipper Prithvi Shaw's marauding 73 off 39 balls followed by former skipper Aditya Tare's unbeaten hundred guided Mumbai to their most deserving Vijay Hazare title triumph with a crushing six-wicket victory over Uttar Pradesh in one of most lopsided final on Sunday.

Jaiswal and Tare added 38-run stand but the left handed opener gave Shivam Sharma his first wicket, after being caught by Mavi but Mumbai were already on course with a run-rate of 8.5 runs per over.

Veteran Tare anchored the innings and found an able ally in Shams Mulani (36), as the duo took the game deep, as Mumbai cruised to the target, with 174/2 after 25 overs. — PTI

**Brief Scores:** **Uttar Pradesh 312/4** (Madhav Kaushik 158 n.o., Akshdeep Nath 55; Tanush Kotian 2/54) lost to **Mumbai 315/4** (Aditya Tare 18 n.o., Prithvi Shaw 73).



Members of the Mumbai team pose with the Vijay Hazare Trophy in New Delhi on Sunday. — BCCI

Regd. No. HQ/SD/509/2021-23

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallab Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

