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Campaign ends, TRS eyes higher voter turnout

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

As the campaign for the Legislative Council elections for graduate seats ended on Friday, the TRS leadership has shifted its focus to micro-level booth management and is working hard to ensure a high voter turnout in its favour.

The ruling party has chalked out a strategy to reach every voter by convening of booth-level party committees in the crucial hours before the March 14 polling. The party has formed a 30-member team per booth, and these entities are being monitored by in-charge ministers, party MPs, MLCs and legislators.

The booth teams were asked to personally reach out to every voter, track the voter slips distribution, help voters in identifying polling booths and ensure they reach the booths and exercised their franchise. Each team will have at least three women besides students and employees from government and private sectors.

The 2015 graduate MLC polls had witnessed poor voter turnout — around 35 per cent — and the party leadership believes that this was a prime reason why TRS lost the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar seat. To avoid this, the party leadership has taken several steps.

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and working

GRADUATE MLC POLLS



president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday held a tele-conference with all in-charge ministers and other leaders overseeing the elections and guided them on the strategy to be adopted in the final hours before the polling to boost the party's winning chances.

The data of each and every graduate voter, comprising their address and phone number was provided to all party election in-charges. They were asked to share the data with booth-level party committees. Instructions were given to booth committees to track each and every voter, reach out to them and ensure they cast their vote. Micro-level booth management became all the more important in the wake of fears about a poor voter turnout due to the long weekend.

All parties fear that the four-day holiday — Maha Shivaratri on March 11, Shab-e-Meraj on March 12, Second Saturday on March 13 and Sunday on March 14 — would adversely impact the voting.

Grouping vows to keep Indo-Pacific region open

New Delhi, March 12: In their first ever summit, leaders of the Quad countries on Friday finalised a landmark initiative under which huge investments will be made in India to create additional production capacities for the export of doses of Covid-19 vaccines to the Indo-Pacific region, seen as an effort to counter China's expanding vaccine diplomacy.

The Quad leaders — Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japan PM Yoshihide Suga — vowed to strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion, in an apparent message to China.

Modi said India's formidable vaccine production capacity will be expanded with support from Japan, US and Australia to assist countries in the Indo-Pacific region

by the end of 2022. He said the financing for creation of additional production capacities in India will come from the US and Japan, while Australia will contribute to the logistics and delivery issues.

They also decided to launch a critical-and-emerging-technology working group to facilitate cooperation on international standards and innovative technologies of the future.

Asked whether the situation in eastern Ladakh figured in the talks, the foreign secretary said there was a discussion on regional issues important to the Quad member nations but declined to give the details saying the nature of the discussions were confidential.

"There was a commonality of views on these issues. Constructive discussions will continue," he said.

It is learnt that the situation in eastern Ladakh figured in the summit and Quad leaders appeared supportive of India on it.

In a joint statement titled 'The Spirit of the Quad', the leaders said they pledged to strengthen cooperation on the "defining challenges of our time" and said they will continue to prioritise the role of international law in the maritime domain and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.

Our agenda today — covering areas like vaccines, climate change and emerging technologies — makes the Quad a force for global good," he said.

In his comments, Biden said the Quad is going to be a vital arena for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. "A free and open Indo-Pacific is essential to each of our futures," Biden told the meeting from the White House.

In a media briefing, foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said, referring to the vaccine initiative and making India a major production hub, the aim is to produce a billion doses of vaccines

by the end of 2022.

In his opening remarks at the virtual summit, Modi said Quad has come of age and its agenda covering areas like vaccines, climate change and emerging technologies makes it a force for global good.

Modi said India's formidable vaccine production capacity will be expanded with support from Japan, US and Australia to assist countries in the Indo-Pacific region and that Quad would now remain an important pillar of stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

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Computer knowledge required.
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carpet, furniture, glass partitions, in good
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Requires Call Center Executives No-20,
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Age upto 35yrs. Walk-in Interviews Daily
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Timings: 10am-4pm. Call:
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Company. Near IDA UPPAL
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Salary+ Incentive, Two Wheeler Must,
Experienced Office Assistant Female with
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Walk-in Interviews. Corporate
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**WANTED CIVIL/MEP & landscape
Engineering Diploma or B.E with 2 to
5 yrs. experience in Construction's.
Highrise apartment to work in
Constr:7799774959. 7799774969
(HYMM/2021/C08042)**

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Engineering Diploma or B.E with 2 to
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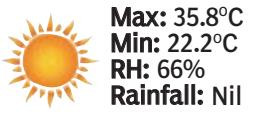
**WANTED ACCOUNTANT. Stores
Manager For Fan Manufacturing
Company At Kucharam & Jeedimella
9700292975 (HYMM/2021/C07953)**

**WANTED LADY Office Assistant cum
Computer Operator with Account and
Tally knowledge for reputed shop in
Abids. Contact: 9391036471.
(HYMM/2021/C08077)**

**WANTED CAR Polish, Wax,
Ceramic Coating Application
Specialist with minimum 3 to 5 years
experience and a good looking
receptionist Age below 30 yrs in and
around Secunderabad area for a Car
Detailing Center. Please Call -
7893125760 (W/2021/AT001262)**

**REQUIRED COLLECTION & Recovery
Executives Old City, Mahipalpeta,
Baridhara, Ramnagar, Nizam Nagar,
Dilsukhnagar. Required MIS Executive
with good knowledge for reputed Banks
& NBFC. Good salary/ commission
basis. Ph:76602**

WEATHER



Max: 35.8°C
Min: 22.2°C
RH: 66%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy skies towards afternoon.

Maximum/ Minimum temp. 36/22°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana

Tithi: Magha Mahula Amavasya till 3.53 pm

Star: Purvabhadra till 12.23 am
Varjyam: Sesha Varjyam up to 7.22 am

Durmuhurtam: 6.29 am to 8.04 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 28,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.26 am

Zohar: 12.36 pm

Asar: 4.45 pm

Maghrib: 6.31 pm

Isha: 7.39 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.25 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.50 AM

MOONSET TODAY 5.38 PM

COUNTER POINT



We should not have taken leaders of different factions of the same party!

SHORT TAKES

HIGH COURT ISSUES WARRANT AGAINST TAHSILDAR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

The Telangana High Court on Friday issued a bailable warrant against Hayathnagar mandal tahsildar Prameela Rani for ignoring its orders to appear before the court.

Taking a serious view of the "obstinate attitude" of the tahsildar for not appearing in court despite twice being ordered to do so, Justice M. S. Ramachandra Rao issued a bailable warrant. He directed district authorities to produce the tahsildar before the court on March 19.

The High Court was dealing with a contempt case challenging inaction of the tahsildar in inspecting and marking boundaries of a plot at Sahebnagar village of Hayathnagar mandal in Ranga Reddy district.

The plot owner had approached High Court stating that revenue authorities had been stopping construction on his Plot No. 53 in Survey No. 7. However, authorities submitted that the petitioner's plot was on land belonging to the government, which is adjacent to Survey No. 7.

Following that, the court directed the tahsildar in 2019 to conduct a survey and demarcate the petitioner's plot. Even after lapse of two years, the orders had not been implemented. Hence, the petitioner filed a contempt of court case, leading to issue of the bailable warrant.

TEMPLE | RENOVATION

Cops raid rave party, arrest organisers

Party organised under guise of Maha Shivaratri

DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Police urge parents to keep a watch on children

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Rachakonda police busted a late night rave party near Rachakonda hills on the outskirts of the city on Thursday. The party was arranged during the Maha Shivaratri celebration in order to avoid being caught.

Working on a tip-off, the Special operation team (SOT) raided the farmhouse near Gandhinagar hamlet under the limits of Narayanpur police station where they party was being held.

After a thorough search, they seized narcotic drugs, 400 grams of ganja, three blots of LSD, and two grams of an unidentified drug.

Preliminary investigation revealed that nearly 100 people from the city and its surrounding places had participated. All of them were taken into custody.

The police identified six organisers, Girish Dhaduvi, Jakkidi Srikan Reddy, Cholleti Sharath Chandra, Shaik Umar Farooq, Jakkidi

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION revealed that nearly 100 people from the city and its surrounding places had participated. All of them were taken into custody.

Dhanwanth Reddy, Balemula Prem and the DJ Syed Arman Ali Reza. "Dhaduvi from Antharathma Production advertised about the rave party extensively on social media. We identi-

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat urged parents to keep an eye on their children's activities. He added that if they are booked under the Indian Penal Code, it will be difficult for them to get government jobs and

fied that the land belongs to Dhanwanth Reddy and his son Srikan Reddy," said Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat. He said that in order to divert the attention of police, organisers conduct such illegal activities on festival days like Maha Shivaratri, Durga puja and Urs as police personnel will be on duty.

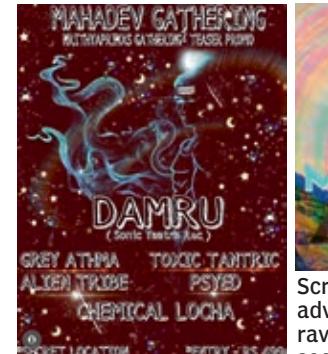
The organisers were booked under Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act, 1985 and Excise Act and

under Section 188 IPC (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servants) and 294 IPC (punishment for obscene acts or words in public). All of them will be sent to court after counter-suing, he added.

He instructed Narayanpur police to send proposals to the mandal revenue officer and the revenue divisional officer of Chouttuppal for closure of the place.

Social media used to woo youth

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12



Screenshots of the advertisement for the rave party shared on the social media.

organisers hired the DJ from Delhi for ₹25,000.

The first poster was released two days prior to the event with a contact number and the location described as Rachakonda hills. In the second poster it was mentioned that the entry fee for the event that would also have music, was ₹499 and that it was being organised at a 'secret location'.

Further probe revealed that the organisers had arranged a similar party at Laknavaram in Warangal district a few months back.

Rise in fuel prices creates trouble for essential service providers

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

THE LIST of grievances is long. Most of the cabs are financed by banks. At the start of each month, they have to pay the EMIs.

reduction of fuel prices is not possible.

Thirty-eight-year-old Laxmi, a resident of Kushaiguda, drives a SUV for an app-based company. Two years back, Laxmi lost her husband due to chronic lung infection. From then on, she's the sole bread earner for the family and will have to raise her daughter and son.

The list of grievances is long. Most of the cabs are financed by banks. At the start of each month, they have to pay the EMIs. Food delivery boys make ₹650 through 20 trips in 13 hours. Of this, they shell out around ₹300 on fuel. Auto driver unions ask for the fare hike if a

price is going up and up. I make a trip of 20 km on average a day. After the commission taken by the app operator, I get ₹350. From this, close to ₹200 is going for fuel."

Laxmi asks: "How can I pay the EMI of ₹22,000? I

will also have to pay my house rent and fees for children's education."

"The lockdown has made our lives tough. The corporate companies' shuttle service arrangements for their staff have been cancelled. Now, the prices of fuel are making our lives tougher."

Sathi Reddy, member of the autorickshaw drivers joint action committee, said, "The fuel prices are rising day by day. But the fares remain the same.

The minimum fare is ₹20 and for each subsequent kilometre, it is ₹15. There are more than one lakh autos in the city. Our appeal to the government is either decrease the fuel prices or increase the fares."

Santosh Naik, a food delivery boy, said, "For the past three years, I have been working as a food delivery boy for an app-based company. The companies are paying us ₹15 per order for a distance of 2.5 km. I spend 13 hours a day to have 20 orders delivered. Out of this deal, I make around ₹650. But, from this, the spend for fuel is about ₹300. The situation is the same with all the food delivery boys."

CM suggests decorations with brass fittings at queue complex

CM: Yadadri queue complex by April 15

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has instructed officials to complete giving final touches to renovation works at Sri Yadadri Laxmi Narasimha temple complex for quicker reopening of the temple.

Reviewing ongoing works at the temple premises in Pragathi Bhavan here on Friday, he suggested decorations at the queue complex. He wanted brass fittings along the 350-feet queue line. Officials showed the CM four designs of Kalash (metal pots) to be placed along queue lines. He then zeroed in on one. He wanted the compound wall on the northern side demolished for the queue complex, which he wants to be completed by April 15.

The Chief Minister desired that there be a brass Deepa Stamba (light pole) and pedestal. Inquiring



(Left) Ongoing work at the queue complex of Yadadri Laxmi Narasimha temple.
(Top) Light fittings done along the compound wall of the temple.

the Shiva temple and Radhasala. He suggested that a compound wall be constructed around the Vishnu Pushkarini Hills, which should be illuminated from both sides. He said an 80-feet lampost must be erected at the center of the lawn.

The CM appreciated construction of Addala Mandapam (mirror hall) and said it is turning out to be very beautiful. He witnessed a demo of lighting around the

temple complex during nights.

Speaking at the meeting, Chandrashekhar Rao said, "After renovation, Yadadri should have an exclusive look compared to temples all over the world. The entire Yadadri temple, renovated with Krishna Sila (black stone), will become known for its uniqueness. After the reopening, devotees will visit the temple in lakhs. Measures should be

taken to ensure that devotees do not face any difficulties during their holy visit."

Government's chief advisor Rajiv Sharma, adviser Anurag Sharma, chief secretary Somesh Kumar, CMO secretary Smita Sabharwal, CM's special secretary Bhoopal Reddy, YTDA special officer G. Kishan Rao, temple architect Ananda Sai, architect Madhusudhan and other officials were present at the meeting.

ED tightens noose around city-based NRI in Saudi

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

BAGHDADI HIMSELF admitted in one of the documents that there was abnormal delay in honouring cheques resulting in a dispute. Under the guise of selling land to third parties to make payments to Greenscape, he executed sale deeds in favour of his children.

The probe agency is said to have chanced upon property registration documents of Baghdadi in which both the quantum of sale consideration and the payment methods were questionable. In some documents it was merely mentioned that the sale consideration was received by him while the crucial data on mode of payment was missing from the records.

Sources said that in one instance, Baghdadi, representing his company Hira Multi Construction Ventures Pvt Ltd, executed two sale deeds in favour of Mohd Hadi Ali and Huda Hadi Ali in January 2018. The sale consideration in both documents put together was shown as about ₹60 lakh but the documents just

contained a single line that the seller confirms the receipt of sale consideration.

"The property belonged to a private limited company and sale consideration must be reflected in the records," sources said, adding that Baghdadi and his son, who were summoned by the ED, had to explain these transactions.

The Interpol had earlier

issued red corner notice on the two, based on a chargesheet filed by the Telangana Criminal Investigation Department.

They got a further probe into the case stayed by the High Court and pressed for withdrawal of the red corner notice.

Meanwhile, one of the

directors of Greenscape Mega Resorts Limited, which sold 118 acres to Baghdadi's HMCL, approached the National Company Law Tribunal complaining against the corporate fraud played by Baghdadi. The complainant alleged that Baghdadi issued cheques but did not honour them after the registration of the property was over.

Baghdadi himself admitted in one of the documents that there was abnormal delay in honouring cheques resulting in a dispute. Under the guise of selling land to third parties to make payments to Greenscape, he executed sale deeds in favour of his son and daughter.

"We were never paid the amount," alleged the complainant.

The NCLT has issued an interim order directing Baghdadi and his son not to alienate their share of 47 per cent in the Vooty Golf Resorts project, being developed on the city outskirts, to others till the case filed by Greenscape directors was resolved.

SHAHNAWAZ QASIM GETS PROMOTED TO SUPER TIME SCALE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

unconscious and asked her to rush to the place," police said.

She reached the hospital about 30 minutes and found her father was unconscious and her mother lying on the bed with a white bandage around her neck. Doctors told her that she was dead, police said. Subbarao was shifted to Gandhi Hospital for further treatment.

In her complaint to the police, the daughter said: "We found a suicide note with my father in his own writing that no one is responsible for their death and they had committed such a thing due to financial and mental problems."

Police booked cases of suspicious death and attempt to suicide and started a probe.

B.Ed & M.Ed SPOT ADMISSIONS
with or without Entrance
Last Date: 19th March 2021
7337396293, 9849984806

FDDI FOOTWEAR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
An Institution of National Importance as per FDDI Act 2017
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FDDI/HO/48(3)/HR/NOTIF/2021/02&03 Date: 13.03.2021

CURRENT OPENINGS
Engagement of Qualified Professionals
(Academic & Non Academic Staff)

Footwear Design & Development Institute, an INI under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI, invites applications from the qualified candidates for various posts in academic and non-academic areas at its HQ & various campuses.

TEACHING CADRE	Total
1. School of Fashion Design	23 Vacancies
2. School of Footwear Design & Production	26 Vacancies
3. School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design	06 Vacancies
4. School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise	05 Vacancies
Total	60 Vacancies

MANAGERIAL CADRE/OTHER
1. Sr. Manager 01 (Placement:01)
2. Manager 02 (TSC:01, HR-Legal:01)
3. Dy. Manager 01(HR:01)
4. Assistant Manager 10 (HR:01, Admin:02, IT:01, A&F:04, Placement:02)
5. Creative Designer 01
Total 15 Vacancies

Last date for submission of application: 10.04.2021
For more details visit official website: <https://fddiindia.com/career.php>

Interested candidates may send their applications along with self certified photocopies of qualification documents, experience certificates & others, indicating the post applied for at the top of the envelop through speed-post in the prescribed format available at the institute's website to:
Faculty(HQ-HR)
Human Resource Department
Footwear Design & Development Institute
(An Institution of National Importance)
A-10/A, Sector-24, NOIDA-201301, Distt.Gautam Budh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh)

BEST DEALS OF HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL BRANDED GARMENTS

SANNU STOCK CLEARANCE SALE
After 2 Years, in Hyderabad
2 Days Exclusive Sale (13th &

IN BRIEF

Spa staff held for violating rules

Hyderabad: The management of a beauty spa at Panjagutta was booked and arrested on Friday for functioning without permission and flouting rules by performing cross-gender massage, among other violations. On receiving a tip-off, a Panjagutta police team including a woman constable visited 'S Beauty Spa and Saloon' which is managed by the owner Guduru Saritha, 33, with the help of Kotari Pramod, 26, and three staff. Police said they were illegally employing female workers to provide massage "in an immoral and indecent manner".

TERMINAL FOR SEC'BAD TRAINS NOW AT KACHEGUDA

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

South Central Railway on Friday announced temporary shifting of terminal station from Secunderabad to Kacheguda for a few trains from March 15 to March 24, in order to facilitate construction and commissioning of the automatic coach wash plant at the Secunderabad railway station. Train 02704 Falaknuma Express, Train 0287 Secunderabad-Dinapur special, and Train 07063 Ajanta Express (Secunderabad-Manmad special) will depart from the Kacheguda station instead of Secunderabad from March 17 to 24. Similarly, Train 02703 Falaknuma Express and Train 07063 Ajanta Express from Manmad to Secunderabad will arrive at Kacheguda from March 16 to 23. Train 02783 Dinapur Secunderabad special will arrive at Kacheguda from March 15 to 23, SCR.

120 POST OFFICE AADHAAR CENTRES TO OFFER SERVICES

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

As many as 120 post office Aadhaar centres have been made operational in 28 districts of the state post the lockdown, in order to facilitate the public to enrol for Aadhaar cards and update data on the existing cards, the Postmaster General, Hyderabad region, has stated.

Apart from enrolling new members, the Aadhaar centres at post offices can update data on the existing data like e-mail ID, mobile number, address, date of birth, change of surname, photograph and updation of biometrics like finger impressions or IRIS, updating mandatory biometrics for children on attaining age of 5 or 15 years. The demographic updates cost can be done by submitting the required documents at ₹50 per update. Biometric updates of IRIS or fingerprint impressions and photos will be done on payment of ₹100. Aadhaar card holders can get a colour print of their card on A4 paper by providing their biometrics and Aadhaar number, at ₹30 per print.

These centres will undertake fresh enrolments based on submission of proof of identity and address, free of cost.

Resident welfare associations are being informed and camps will be conducted at their premises, the Postmaster General said. He requested the public to make use of these centres.

The districts covered are Adilabad, Bhadravathi-Kothagudem, Jagtial, Jangaon, Jogulambada, Gadwal, Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kommaranahalli, Mahabubnagar, Mancherla, Mulugu, Nagarkurnool, Nalgonda, Narayanpet, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Peddapalli, Rajanna Sircilla, Rangareddy, Siddipet, Suryapet, Vikarabad, Wanaparthy, Warangal Rural, Warangal Urban and Yadadri Bhongir.

TS Vikasa Samiti



Minister K.T. Rama Rao interacts with participants of Telangana Vikasa Samiti during a campaign meeting for Legislative Council elections, at Haritha Plaza, in Hyderabad on Friday.

OWAISI: WE WILL CREATE A NEW HISTORY IN TAMIL NADU'S POLITICS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi claimed that a new alliance led by T.T.V. Dhinakaran's Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) will emerge as a political alternative in Tamil Nadu.

Addressing a public meeting in Chennai on Friday, Owaisi said Dalits and Backward Classes feel that there is no viable political alternative in Tamil Nadu while Muslims were looking for a credible political voice. "We will create a new history in Tamil Nadu's politics," he said.

Owaisi alleged that the AIADMK has become "the slave of the BJP and Narendra Modi." The party is not that of late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa. "It joined hands with the BJP while the DMK has an alliance with the Congress which is in alliance with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and supported Amit Shah's bill on amendments in Unlawful Activities Prevention Act," Owaisi said.

He said people were vexed with the DMK and AIADMK alliances and were waiting for an alternative. He alleged that DMK leadership was arrogant; it is now in the Opposition but it will show its colours when it comes to power.

He promised that the MIM will fulfil the remaining dreams of Quid-e-Millat Mohammed Ismayeed and develop an independent political force in Tamil Nadu. He said under the leadership of Dinakaran, the alliance will become the voice of Dalits, Backward Classes and minorities.

Owaisi said youths have lost their jobs, petrol costs close to ₹100 per litre. "The BJP has passed a bill on CAA based on its brute majority and I was the one who tore the Bill following the footstep of Gandhiji," Owaisi added.

TS faces trouble with Vijaya Dairy verdict

Ruling strikes at heart of state's claim on dividing assets

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY IDC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

The Telangana High Court judgment on the bifurcation of Vijaya Dairy on Thursday has alerted the Telangana state government to decide its future course of action on sharing of assets and liabilities of the common institutions listed under Schedule IX and X of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. Vijaya Dairy is listed under Schedule IX.

The High Court issued orders for sharing the assets and liabilities besides bank deposits of Vijaya Dairy, located in Hyderabad, between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the ratio of 58:42 proportionate to the population of the two states.

Senior officials of the TS government on Friday briefed Chief

HIGH VALUE ASSETS
A rough estimate of the assets owned by common institutions:

Schedule IX	Schedule X
Total Institutions: 91	Total Institutions: 142
Land: ₹19,569 cr	Land: ₹16,800 cr
Buildings: ₹68,173 cr	Buildings: ₹17,387 cr
Movable assets: ₹9,561 cr	Movable assets: ₹222 cr
Machinery: ₹34,135 cr	Machinery: ₹37.3 cr
Bank deposits: ₹9,460 cr	Bank deposits: ₹3,928 cr
Total: ₹1,40,898 cr	Total: ₹38,710 cr

Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on the implications of the verdict on the bifurcation of common institutions, mostly located in Hyderabad, which have huge assets and bank deposits, according to CMO sources.

The TS government wants to file a review petition in the High Court or approach the Supreme Court against the HC orders on sharing of assets and liabilities with Andhra

Pradesh, sources added. It is worried that AP government might claim a share in all Schedule IX and X institutions based on the Vijaya Dairy verdict for which it has to shell out over ₹70,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh.

The bifurcation of common institutions could not be completed although the division of the state will complete seven years in June. The court issued order-

rs to seek the help of CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) to assess the market value of Vijaya Dairy assets to enable TS government to pay the AP government. There are 91 institutions listed under Schedule IX and 142 institutions under Schedule X, which have huge assets and bank deposits in Hyderabad.

The previous TDP government in AP and the TRS government here were in a bitter fight to gain control over these institutions.

This led to legal tangles in High Court and Supreme Court and the cases are still pending. Andhra Pradesh had demanded division of assets of common institutions on the basis of population (58:42) but Telangana demanded that allocation should be on 'as is where is' (territorial) basis.

Owaisi said youths have lost their jobs, petrol costs close to ₹100 per litre. "The BJP has passed a bill on CAA based on its brute majority and I was the one who tore the Bill following the footstep of Gandhiji," Owaisi added.

Bandi attacks KCR, denies owning land worth ₹600cr

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

TS BJP president Sanjay Kumar along with party leaders at Khairatabad, in Hyderabad on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

BJP state president and MP Sanjay Kumar feels Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is unwilling to seek votes of graduates as the latter knows that TRS will lose these MLC elections.

Addressing a press conference at the party office here on Friday, he asked why graduates would vote for TRS when the party chief is not interested in requesting for votes.

He maintained that Chandrashekhar Rao was planning to "cheat" government employees over wage fitment. He requested them not fall for the ruse. He wondered how the government will implement Pay Revision Commission recommendations when it has not yet paid this month's salaries to its staff.

The MP protested against IT minister K.T. Rama Rao's remarks against Centre with regard to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He asked why

TRS has not yet opened Nizam Sugar Factory when it promised to do in the 2014 elections.

Sanjay Kumar accused the state government of destroying Kakatiya and Osmania universities while favouring corporate colleges.

The state government was reported to have ₹600 crore worth lands in Hyderabad and its sur-

roundings. He asserted that if TRS proves this allegation, he would donate those ₹600 crore towards the allowance for the unemployed. Lack of allowance is making unemployed face serious problems.

He expressed confidence that BJP will win both the graduate MLC seats going to the polls on March 14.

He alleged that the state government was responsible for the attacks against one community. He pointed

Kishan: KCR must open NSF

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Friday slammed IT minister K.T. Rama Rao for extending support to the agitation against the privatisation of Visazh Steel Plant (VSP) in Andhra Pradesh.

He said that if Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao wanted to make a comment about VSP, he should first reopen Nizam Sugar Factory (NSF) as per his promise during the 2014 election campaign.

He was speaking after visiting a hospital where those injured in the violence at Bhainsa in Nirmal district are undergoing treatment.

He alleged that the state government was responsible for the attacks against one community. He pointed

out that there was a peaceful environment in all places where MIM presence is nil and there are frequent disturbances and communal violence where the party has sizeable presence like at Bhainsa.

Kishan Reddy said that offenders from Maharashtra and the state were taking shelter in Bhainsa, which has become a 'mafia den'. He slammed the state government as no FIR has been filed against the culprits with regard to the rape of a minor girl.

Reminding Rao of his 2014 assurance to open NSF, Reddy wanted to know why the sugar factory has remained shut for seven years.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

The Congress on Friday claimed that the Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's assurance of giving 29 per cent fitment to employees was bogus.

TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy cautioned employees against "falling into yet another trap" of the CM. Reddy said that interim relief had not been given even three years after the formation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) no action had been taken a month after the submission of the report.

Uttam Kumar Reddy

demanded that government employees should get a minimum fitment of 43 per cent. "If they trust KCR and vote for the TRS in the MLC elections, they would not get even 29% once the elections are over," he said.

The TPCC chief expressed confidence that party candidates Sabavath Ramulu Naik and G. Chenna Reddy would be elected as MLCs from the constituencies of Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda and Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy. Mahabubnagar respectively with a comfortable majority.

He said the Congress had aggressively campaigned

for the MLC elections and exposed the failures of the TRS and the BJP. Both parties sensed defeat and their leaders have started exposing each other's failures despite being secret allies since 2014, he said.

The BJP could not face voters due to its "guilt" for neglecting Telangana state. The BJP government and the Centre had not honoured any of the promises made in the AP Reorganisation Act including Railway Coach Factory at Kazipet, Bayaram Steel Plant, AIIMS at Bibinagar and a Tribal University.

The BJP government had

also shelved the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR), sanctioned by previous Congress-led UPA Govt to create more than 50 lakh jobs in Hyderabad and neighbouring districts. The Modi government did not grant any funds to Telangana state.

Uttam Kumar Reddy questioned the 'Ram bhakti' of BJP leaders who spoke only about the Ram temple in Ayodhya but were silent over thousands of acres of land belonging to the Ram temple in Bhadrachalam being encroached. He said that BJP's Hindutva card would not work in Telangana.

that he has lost his face and people will not trust him again. Therefore, he used the picture of former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, a leader who lived and died as a Congressman, to beg for votes. This is a victory of the Congress," he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy questioned the 'Ram bhakti' of BJP leaders who spoke only about the Ram temple in Ayodhya but were silent over thousands of acres of land belonging to the Ram temple in Bhadrachalam being encroached. He said that BJP's Hindutva card would not work in Telangana.



Modi pays no heed to rural folk: Mallu

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, MARCH 12

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said people of rural areas are feeling the pain of repeated hikes in prices of petrol, diesel and essential commodities.

So much so, farmers with tractors are afraid of going to petrol stations, he stated. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of caring only about industrialists like Ambani and Adani, without bothering about the poor in rural India. Crores of rupees are being given in loans to the corporate sector while denying the same to rural India. He said people of the countryside have come to the conclusion that the

NDA government is in favour of only corporate companies.

The CLP leader pointed out that during his "cycle yatra", people are largely complaining about increasing fuel prices and the three farm acts. He said people have decided to teach a lesson to NDA government whenever the occasion comes.

On TRS government's rule, Bhatti Vikramarka said CM has designed irrigation projects not to give water but make money through the backdoor. He addressed a meeting of Congress leaders and activists at DCC office after completion of his cycle yatra on Friday. He had cycled to the DCC office through Manukonda, Budampadu and Panditapuram.

11TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"Believe on the lord Jesus Christ, thou shalt be saved and thy family." Acts 16:31



OF LATE MRS. G. VIVEKAVATHY BHASKER

Wife of late Mr. G. Bhasker Joseph Slept in the Lord on March 13, 2010

Amma, as you taught us; we are following the commandments to live a life to witness our Lord Jesus Christ.

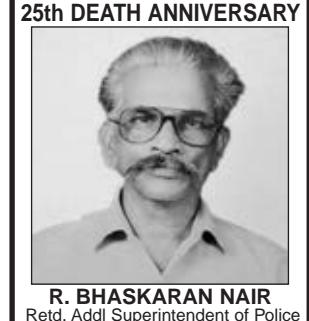
Amma, we love you and miss you a lot.

Fondly remembered by Evelyn, Manoj, Chris, Clini, Hemant Kumar, Sheba Gandhi, Krupa, Sharon, Mrs. Ranjitha Christopher & Family (USA)

Retd. Addl. Superintendent of Police DOB: 13.03.1996

Inserted by: Children, Son's-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law, Grand Children and Great Grand Child.

FOND REMEMBRANCE ON 25TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



R. BHASKAR NAIR

Retd. Addl. Superintendent of Police DOB: 13.03.1996

Inserted by: Children, Son's-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law, Grand Children and Great Grand Child.

(B/2021/D00138)

OBITUARY



IN BRIEF
Man booked in land dispute case

Nirmal: A person of Hyderabad, Abdul Rasheed of Malakpet of Hyderabad, allegedly threatened the members of family with a pistol during arguments over a land dispute in Sofinagar in Nirmal town on Friday evening. Nirmal Two Town police started an inquiry into the incident following a complaint lodged by one Bishal Pasha Khadri. The police are searching for Rasheed. Police said there was a dispute on the ownership of a parcel of land belonging to the Sufi dargah in Sofinagar Colony in Nirmal town. The case is in court and a complaint was lodged with the local Nirmal municipality.

**Respect women:
Manuu V-C**

Hyderabad: Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), said all religions teach respect for women. However, it needs to be practiced. He was addressing an online extension lecture on 'Status and Rights of Women' organised by the Internal Complaints Committee of the university.

Prof. Rahmatullah said women's rights needed to be recognised and provided to them. Only then will broad-mindedness and enlightenment come to society.

MANUU has taken up the task of empowering women through education, he added. Dr Ismat Mehdhi of English and Foreign Language University (Eflu), traced the history of services rendered by women in India and the Deccan. Prof.

Siddiqui Mohd. Mahmood, Registrar, said that balance is essential in life and there is no need to compare men and women. Prof. Shugufa Shaheen, Chairperson, ICC, presented a brief report on the committee.

1 more held for killing lawyers

Hyderabad: Ramagundam police commissionerate personnel arrested one more person Kapu Anil (33), who allegedly helped Bittu Srinu in the murder of the advocate-couple, Gattu Vaman Rao and P.V. Nagamani at Kalvacherla village of Ramagiri mandal in Peddapalli district on February 17. Anil, the sixth accused to be arrested, is a native of Arukalagudem of Manthani and a cousin of Bittu Srinu. He reportedly accompanied Srinu and helped him in the execution of the murder plot.

Those arrested earlier include Srinu, Shivandula Chiranjeevi, Akkappaku Kumar, Udar Lachaiyah and Kunta Srinu. Nine persons were produced before the Manthani magistrate as eyewitnesses, including a driver and conductor, and Gattu Kishan Rao, father of Vaman Rao.

ONLINE START-UP PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

The Entrepreneur Zone (TEZ) start-up accelerator has in association with ASPIRE, which houses the incubators in University of Hyderabad (UoH), opened applications for its three-month-long Online Start-up Launcher Programme (SLP).

The programme offers start-up incubation and support services to help the aspiring entrepreneurs.

Well-established entrepreneurs, start-up consultants and investors will mentor the aspirants through a structured programme, to help start or scale up a business. The programme will cover areas like idea assessment and market validation, customer discovery, business modeling, developing MVP, regulatory compliances, go-to-market strategy, finance and funding, business plan & Pitch Deck, communication and networking.

Students, researchers, innovators, SMEs, professionals, techies, family businesses, consultants can apply for the programme in which selection will be done on the basis of the business idea presented. The last date for applying is March 25 and the programme will be conducted from April 17 to July 3. Interested candidates can apply online on www.tez.co.in by clicking on the Startup Launcher program or contact on tez.co.in@gmail.com or 7660857600.

Man booked in land dispute case

It's time to welcome New India: Tamilisai

TS Governor inaugurates 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, MARCH 12

Heralding the celebrations leading up to the 75th year of India's Independence, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan inaugurated 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' at the police parade ground in Hanamkonda where she hoisted the National Flag. Beginning her speech in Telugu, Dr Tamilisai wished the people of Warangal and said: "As the entire nation celebrates this momentous occasion, I take pride in eulogising the glorious era of Independent India from the soil of Telangana, which has a major partnership now in the country's progress."

She noted that when several countries across the world, including the most developed, are still struggling to overcome the worst-ever crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic in the last one year, India has not only endured its wrath but also showed a new direction to the world by developing, producing, and supplying indigenous vaccines to combat the virus.

"We must all be proud that our country is supplying our indigenous



Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan releases the Tricolour balloons to mark the inaugural of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' at the police parade ground in Hanamkonda on Friday.

Covid vaccines to more than 50 countries including many developed nations across the globe. This truly signifies the new and Atmanirbhar Bharat," she stressed.

The Independent India has made tremendous progress on all fronts during the last 75 years. "In my opinion, the biggest success achieved by India in these 75 years is sus-

taining the parliamentary form of democracy braving all odds and it gave the country stability for so many years," the Governor said.

Dr Tamilisai said the second biggest success story of Independent India is preserving unity and integrity despite diverse cultures, religions, languages, lifestyles and ethos.

"Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is not only an occasion to remember the freedom fighters and cherish our achievements, but also gives us an opportunity to vision and plan for India at 100 years of independence," Dr Soundararajan observed. Later, she released Tricolour balloons into the air to mark the occasion.



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy interacts with Seetha Mahalakshmi, daughter of Pingali Venkaya, at her house at Macherla in Guntur district on Friday.

'CONTAMINATED' DRINKING WATER IRKS COLONY RESIDENTS

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Residents of Gulshan Iqbal Colony, Chandrayangutta, have complained of water supply being contaminated with sewage and alleged that the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) is not acting on their complaints.

For the past seven days contaminated water is being supplied and locals say they are receiving sewerage through the drinking water pipeline. They pointed out that the water was neither potable nor could it be used for domestic purposes. There are around 75 houses and each of them is compelled to purchase water, the residents added.

Local resident Nusrat Jahan said that they were getting black and sewerage soiled water the smell of which was nauseating. "Our health is at risk. We think that a water pipeline in the area is leaking and drainage water getting mixed with tap water. The Board is showing no interest to address the problem," Nusrat Jahan said.

The CM said it was a matter of great pride to the state that the National Flag was designed by Venkaya. The family members expressed immense happiness and gratitude towards the CM for taking time out to hail the patriotic works of Venkaya.

The financial aid that Jagan Mohan Reddy extended to Seetha has been sanctioned via a youth advance, tourism and culture (YATC)

with the family members.

He garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and paid floral tributes to a portrait of Venkaya. The CM also felicitated Seetha with a shawl and a bouquet.

The CM said it was a matter of great pride to the state that the National Flag was designed by Venkaya.

The family members expressed immense happiness and gratitude towards the CM for taking time out to hail the patriotic works of Venkaya. The financial aid that Jagan Mohan Reddy extended to Seetha has been sanctioned via a youth advance, tourism and culture (YATC)

department order on March 11. The money has been credited to her account on March 12.

The event was conceptualised and coordinated by special chief secretary Dr Rajat Bhargava, in which state ministers Muttamsetti Srinivas Rao, Mekathoti Sucharita, Ch. Ranganatha Raju, MLAs Kasu Mahesh Reddy, Bolla Brahma Naidu, Vidyalada Rajani, Dr. G Srinivas Reddy and Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, MLCS Dokka Manikyavaraprasada Rao, Janga Krishnamurthy and Ummareddy Venkateswari, Collector Vivek Yadav and other officials participated.

The CM flew down to the remote town of Macherla in Guntur district in a helicopter, went to the house of Seetha Mahalakshmi at PWD Colony and offered cash aid of ₹75 lakh from the state government and interacted

with the family members.

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DECCAN Chronicle

13 MARCH 2021

Polls a serious business, spare us all the theatrics

Spectacles and theatrics are essential ingredients of Indian elections and our leaders never fail to deliver them. Most leaders, however, also see to it that such elements only add to the colour of the electioneering process and do not impact the democratic process adversely.

But the reports emanating from West Bengal of late have not been confidence-inspiring ones. Instead, they do the opposite. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday alleged that four to five men attacked her in Nandigram where she is contesting the Assembly election. She suffered injuries to her leg and neck. The picture of the woman Chief Minister with bandage and visuals of her describing the body pain went viral instantly, igniting passions all over the state. Her allegation that there was no security detail to protect her accentuated the situation.

That version, however, underwent a substantial change the following day when she explained what happened the previous day. There was no mention of an attack nor a conspiracy. But, by then, the state had witnessed a series of clashes between her followers and those of the BJP which has emerged as the principal opposition to her party, the Trinamul Congress, this time around. There was also an attempt to blame the Election Commission of India that has virtually taken over the state's administration and shifted the state police chief and his deputy recently.

Fair and free elections where citizens vote peacefully and elect their representatives and rulers are one of the seminal pillars of a functioning democracy. Every institution of the state has a responsibility towards ensuring it; more so for politicians in power. Every election is fought in a highly charged atmosphere and party cadres would miss no chance to pounce on their opponents. It is for level-headed leaders to ensure that the ultimate goal is to create an atmosphere where every voter and her choice are respected. It is unfortunate that the West Bengal chief minister did not think through it before going public with a conspiracy theory.

In a democracy, people make their choices after processing information they receive. It is imperative that all those who are duty-bound to protect democracy and its institutions also ensure that the right information reaches the people and the wrong and fake do not. It is only in such a background that their decision would further the cause of democracy. Igniting passion based on religion or ideology or people's love for their leaders is easy but swaying people's opinion by good governance is not.

Politicians of all hues must be willing to place themselves for public scrutiny of what they have done or not done in the past while going to people seeking votes. Nothing should allow this process to be bypassed, for it will colour the very exercise and drain it of meaning. There must be no shortcuts to power.

The latest events send a reminder to the Election Commission, too: it is entering a minefield in the following days and no amount of caution and preparedness would be excessive in the conduct of the elections.

Biden shows the way

US President Joe Biden signed a historic US \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief package heralding a path breaking measure that sets very high standards for the world while showing it the way out of the pain of the pandemic as well as the economic recession that came in its wake. There is something for everyone in the plan, from vaccination eligibility for every American by May and the promise of normal family gatherings by July 4 and the reopening of schools. Considering how his predecessor Donald Trump had mishandled the Covid-19 crisis into making America the worst sufferer, Mr Biden has not just tread a truly effective path; he has chosen the best possible response to a global crisis.

The American Rescue Plan, passed despite partisan resistance from Republican legislators, would take total Covid-related expenditure on public health and the economy from December 2020 to nearly \$3 trillion or 14 per cent of pre-pandemic GDP. This puts in the shade what Barack Obama's administration did after the economic crisis of 2008. At a time when the Democrats were in a majority in the House as well as the senate, the US had come up with a less than US \$1 trillion response to the sub-prime induced economic crisis. This massive fiscal stimulus plan emphasises that the only way to get our life back and get the economy back on track is to beat the virus even if only time can tell whether the inflation risk is worth the gamble.

What Mr Biden left unsaid in his optimistic speech on the anniversary of the day Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic was what the US is going to do about the millions of doses of AstraZeneca vaccine sitting idle in its manufacturing facilities because it is yet to get FDA clearance whereas 70 countries have authorised its use already and many, including EU countries, desperately need vaccine doses. Also, the prioritising of the Pfizer vaccine has meant the US has clamped down on export of certain inputs that are inhibiting its manufacture in India, the world's largest vaccine "fill-finish" manufacturer. Mr Biden can do even more to help the world rid itself of the pandemic.

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Farrukh Dhondy

**Cabbages & Kings**

"Did the Lord God give us noses
For people to rub in our mistakes?
And did he grant us toeses
So we could stub them, for goodness' sake!"

And yes, he gave us mouths
To eat, drink and not be 'Loud'
And concealed bits and bobs —
Of which we are rightly proud."

— From Kabhi Kabhi Merey Ghar Mey Polees Aajaatha Hein
by Bachchoo

My adventures with Oprah, the real queen of Yankeeland

Interviews with royals are like a virus plague, you don't want to catch them, but you can't avoid hearing all about them. The Queen of America, Oprah Winfrey, interviews Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex, the American actress Meghan Markle. I didn't watch the interview, but bits of it were forced on me wherever I looked — even intercut with news of the atrocities in Myanmar.

The most prominent pronouncement that this interview seemed to have yielded was Meghan's claim that before her son Archie was born, some unnamed Brit royal wondered

aloud, perhaps with some alarm or derision, how dark the baby's skin would be. The remark, if Meghan reported it accurately and without malice towards the royals with whom she has fallen out, was prompted by the fact that Meghan's mother is a "woman of colour" — if that's an accepted term. This was interpreted by Oprah and very many other people, including some panjandrums of the Commonwealth and several black US commentators, as a deeply racist concern. It can certainly be interpreted as such.

As Indians, gentle reader, we know that every grandmother and mother-in-law — and yes, very many fathers-in-law — have expressed the same anxiety. Their remarks haven't resulted in flurries in the newspapers or flutters and ruptures in the constitution of the Commonwealth. We take skin colourism as a nasty ingredient of our prejudices — which we shouldn't.

Years ago when Princess Diana died with Dodi al-Fayed in a car accident in Paris, his father claimed that they had been murdered because Diana was pregnant with Dodi's child and the Duke of Edinburgh did

n't want the future King William to have a Muslim stepbrother or sister.

It's highly probable that this Mohammed al Fayed was unaware that in the fourteenth century Isabelle of Castile, a direct descendant of Princess Zaida of Seville, a woman of colour, who in turn was a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad himself, had married the Duke of York. From that Yorkist line, the present monarchy descends. So, Islam and Moorish skin colour are already somewhere in Archie's DNA.

The only royal interview I confess to watching was Prince Andrew being quizzed by the relentless Emily Maitlis about his paedophilia and association with the frolics and crimes of Jeffrey Epstein. My mild curiosity wasn't to do with royalty or how it would impact on the House of Windsor. I wondered if a British prince would face prosecution and jail and it was mildly amusing watching this idle icon of British tribalism sweat and squirm.

And now that poor Meghan, perhaps as a result of her "disclosures" in the Oprah interview, the victim in her own "confessions", has signed a \$100 million contract with Netflix, we

can all cry in chorus for her as she painfully stumbles and staggers all the way to the bank.

But enough of her — let's talk about me. I met Oprah or she met me when she was invited to a Channel 4 dinner and I worked there. It was a very select dinner and, I suppose, as the only editor of colour in the channel at the time, I was invited by our boss Michael Grade. We were served cocktails by uniformed barmaids and then dinner in the boardroom by liveried waiters. No expense spared.

Oprah was seated at the head of the table with Michael and our beloved director of programmes, Liz Forgan. I was at the other end of the table and found myself sitting next to Oprah's press secretary lady. We chatted through the first course and she said they had watched a riveting programme the previous evening in which a white South African eleven-year-old had exchanged places and families with a black South African lad of the same age. I had to say it was my idea and my programme. She was fascinated and asked what else I planned.

I said one of the areas I wanted to venture into was to examine Jazz and

Soul as the classical music of America.

She was curious, if not hooked.

"Which Soul and Jazz artists will you feature?"

"Depends on the thesis of the programme," I said. "We are working on it."

"Who are your favourites?"

"Today? I suppose Stevie Wonder and, by far the best for voice and technique belong, of course, to Aretha Franklin. Shame about her dress sense."

The lady laughed and put her hand on her mouth as she did. Was this sacrilege?

Then she shouted across the room to Oprah and walked over to her at the other end of the table and the two of them came rushing over to me.

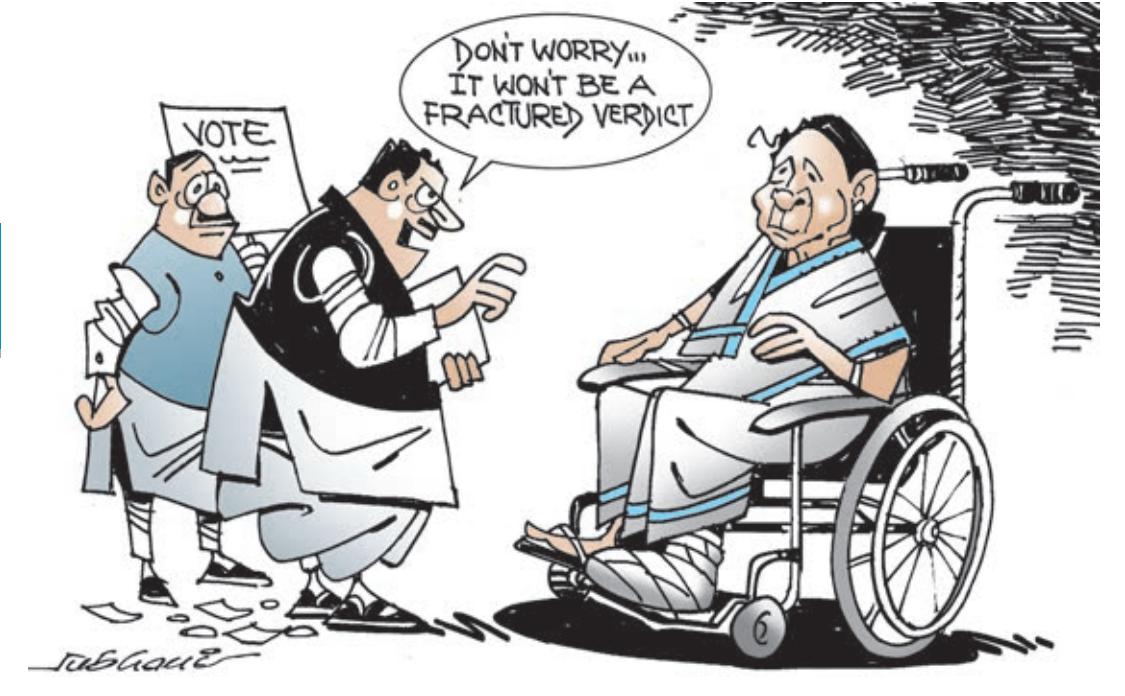
"You must tell her what you just said," the press lady insisted, the amused shock still on her features.

Oprah pulled up a chair. I repeated my, perhaps injudicious, remark.

Oprah laughed. "I won't say that's so cheeky, but right on the ball," she said — or words to that effect.

Our brief encounter didn't hit the headlines. Netflix hasn't offered me a cent.

Subhani



Gandhis have had it if Congress flops in May

Saeed Naqvi

Wide Angle

Mullah Nasrullah spread out his ornate carpet on the front lawn of his house. He did push-ups on the carpet to become strong enough to protect his house... Meanwhile, thieves from two separate gates behind him tiptoed into his house. Friendly neighbours at the front gate alerted Mullah that his house was about to be burgled by two gangs.

Mullah laughed at them with supreme nonchalance. "You are wrong that they are two gangs", he said. "They are together in this scheme and I know what they are up to."

"What are they up to?" asked the neighbours.

"If I run to chase out one group, the other will steal my carpet", said Mullah, rolling his eyes cunningly, and did another push-up.

The neighbours beat their breasts, even as they saw the burglars cart away every item in Mullah's house.

The Mullah story possibly has universal application, but caution may be in order before transposing it on Rahul Gandhi's athletic performance at the St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School in Mulgumoodubin, Tamil Nadu. He left a Class 10 student, Meroli Shenigha, panting for breath in a competition. Rahul, 50, did 14 push-ups in 10 seconds, something of a record.

A yen for physical fitness is in his DNA. For

his great-grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, yoga was incomplete without an extended shishasana, or headstand. But while Nehru was private about his exercises, the great-grandson is demonstrative. Nehru may also have been proud of his Kashmiri Pandit heritage, but never of ritual religiosity. In his will, he wrote that he didn't want any rituals for his cremation.

The Gandhis' state of funk may have been enhanced last week by Congress president, Priyanka Gandhi, who in Gujarat where, contrary to the promise of 2017, the

results of the elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are out.

The G-23 are at the moment afraid to strike. These hesitations may well give way to a day of the long knives in May after the results of the elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are out.

Congress has been beaten to a pulp by the BJP in the local body elections. Indeed, new entrants like the AAP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, have impressively opened their accounts.

The "G-23" Congress letter-writers are what rural folk in North India call "Shiyyi Ki Baaraai", representing all manner of fauna. Ghulam Nabi Azad has been grieving since at least the 2019 elections: "They are not asking me to campaign". Those were days when Rahul, as Congress president, had resorted to practical politics — he would not be seen with Muslims during elections because that would enable the BJP to polarise the vote. What Rahul appears not to have learnt since then is that policies and strategy, not tricks, build a party's elan.

When in the 2019 general election, the BJP won 303 seats as opposed to the Congress' 52, Rahul owned up to his responsibility and resigned as party president.

A chapter in the Congress and the nation's political history was over. Or so one had thought. But no, his cohorts like Mr Surjewala would dance around him with deafening chants of a "Congress revival".

Kuchch to hotey hain
Mohabbat mein junoon ke
bhii deewana bana detey
hain (As it is, there are signs of monomania in obsessive love. Self-serving busybodies further enhance this streak).

Slowly, one saw him trek back from the political wilderness, to attempt, like Sisyphus, the climb again without ever bothering to ask — why is there so much focus on a leader with 52

members in a House of 545? Why does the media, which is owned by industrialists and controlled by the ruling party, heap such generous attention on the Gandhis?

Because they are no threat. Anything of a leftist hue, with the capacity to mobilise the people on a platform of roti, kapda, makaan... healthcare, universal free education, etc must be thwarted. Going by this criteria, the Congress is no threat.

Congress has been beaten to a pulp by the BJP in the local body elections. Indeed, new entrants like the AAP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, have impressively opened their accounts.

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LETTERS

BUILDING WOES

I am the grand-daughter of an ex-serviceman. I have complained several times regarding an unauthorised construction at King Koti (Illegal structures thrive despite HC directives, March 11). I have approached senior GHMC officials but no action has been taken. Officials are providing wrong information to the chief city planner.

Asifa Sultana
Hyderabad

MAMATA'S PLIGHT

The contradictory claims of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reflects her fear of losing power to the BJP. Her charisma is on the wane, the criticism of opponents is no more effective. She is losing confidence as leaders of her own party are jumping to the BJP. The time has come for regional parties to think. Challenging a national party has become an uphill task.

D. Kishan Prasad
Thirumapur

CHACKO'S EXIT

The exit of senior Congress stalwart P.C. Chacko is a great loss to the party. At a time when BJP is moving fast to capture state after state, by any means, the Congress has become non-reactive and stagnant. (Chacko exit: Too late for Cong. to stop Kerala loss?, March 12) The Congress should be proactive, review its strategies, act fast for its survival and growth.

G.V.N. Murthy
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Mujib's rule in E. Pak may be legalised

SHORT TAKES

SHIVRAJ LIKELY TO GO FOR CABINET EXPANSION

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MARCH 12

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan may go for expansion of his cabinet after ongoing budget session of Assembly.

Chouhan held discussions with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leaders here in this regard a couple of days ago, a senior BJP leader in know of the development told this newspaper on Friday.

"The Chief Minister awaits nod from the Central leadership to go ahead with his plan to expand his ministry", the BJP leader said unwilling to be quoted.

Sources said the Chief Minister has been lobbying hard with the Central party leadership and RSS to induct his loyalist and former minister Rajendra Shukla, an influential leader from the Rewa region, considered a strong hold of BJP.

VHP RAISES ₹2,500 CR FOR RAM TEMPLE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MARCH 12

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has so far raised ₹2,500 crore through contributions from devotees across the country for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

This was revealed by VHP national general secretary Milind Parande here.

Talking to reporters here late on Thursday, Parande said mobilisation of funds for construction of Ram temple have been carried out in different parts of the country and in some other countries.

However, details on funds mobilised in other countries were yet to be compiled, he added. VHP has mobilised ₹200 crore in Madhya Pradesh for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

He said around 5.50 crore people belonging to 1.10 crore families in MP have made their contributions for the purpose.

The VHP volunteers have spread in around 45,000 villages in MP to seek contributions from people for construction of Ayodhya Ram temple.

NOTICE TO CENTRE ON PLACES OF WORSHIP PLEA

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre on a plea challenging the Places of Worship Act that mandates maintaining status quo on religious structures as it existed on August 15, 1947.

The law that was brought at the peak of the Ayodhya agitation led by octogenarian leader Lal Kishan Advani protected the status of all the religious structures as it existed on August 15, 1947, except then disputed Ram Janmabhoomi three-domed structure that was brought down on December 6, 1992.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde and Justice A.S. Bopanna issued notice on a plea by a lawyer and BJP's Delhi unit leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The law under challenge had barred the courts from entertaining pleas questioning the character of the religious places.

PANDEMIC | BLUES

New date for state public service exam announced under political pressure

Lockdown back in several parts of Maha

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 12

Mumbai city reported 1,646 new Covid infections registered in the last 24 hours, recording the highest single-day spike in months. Maharashtra too sustained its surge with 15,817 fresh Covid infections, which was the highest single-day spike ever since pandemic was declared.

However, even as the state is experiencing the second wave of Covid, the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) on Friday announced a new date for its preliminary examination under immense political

pressure. The exam will be held on March 21. The announcement came a day after the BJP and Congress had expressed its opposition for postponing the exam. Earlier, the exam was scheduled on March 14.

The government sources said that the exams were postponed as lockdown has been imposed in several parts of the state in order to contain the spread of the virus. Since the outbreak of the Covid, the MPSC exam has been postponed five times affecting the lives of students. The new date was announced after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's intervention.

Meanwhile, chief secretary of Maharashtra Sitaram Kunte held a review meeting of the districts via video conferencing. Kunte directed the district administrations to impose preventive measures to contain the spread of the infection.

Mumbai city has reported 1,500 plus new Covid cases for the third day in a row and more than 1,000 cases for the 10th straight day. Not only Mumbai, Pune and Thane, but several cities and towns in Maharashtra, including Vidarbha and Marathwada regions, have been witnessing spike in cases. Lockdown or restrictions have been imposed in

several cities or districts in the state in a bid to prevent the spread of the virus.

A week-long lockdown has also been imposed in Nagpur. Due to the increase in cases in Parbhani district, lockdown will be imposed from tonight 12 am till 6 am on Monday morning. "We appeal to the people of Parbhani and other neighbouring districts, to cooperate," said Nawab Malik, Maharashtra cabinet minister.

As many as 79 persons

including students, teachers and staff of three residential schools in Maharashtra's Palghar district have tested positive for Covid in the last week.

surge in the daily cases and all these five states cumulatively account for 85.6 per cent of the new cases reported in the past 24 hours.

India's total active case-load reached 1,97,237 on Friday and is 1.74 per cent of the country's total positive cases.

Union health ministry said the Centre is actively engaging with all states and UTs, especially those showing an upsurge in daily new cases and with a high case-load of active cases.

"We bring diverse perspectives and are united in a shared vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific. We strive for a region that is free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion," the joint statement said.

It said the Quad leaders will continue to prioritise the role of international law in the maritime domain, particularly as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.

"Together, we commit to promoting a free, open rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter challenges of our time."

"We support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity," the joint statement said.

The virtual Quad summit took place as China and India are involved in a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May last year. After lengthy rounds of talks, the two sides simultaneously

Stalin's son to contest from Karuna's seat

DMK chief to contest again from Kolathur in Chennai, while son tries luck for first-time in polls

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, MARCH 12



Udhayanidhi Stalin (L) DMK president M.K. Stalin's son and party's Youth Wing Secretary being greeted by senior leader A. Raja in Chennai on Friday. — PTI

KAMAL HAASAN TO CONTEST FROM COIMBATORE SOUTH

Chennai, March 12: Actor-turned politician Kamal Haasan would make his electoral debut, contesting from Coimbatore South constituency in the April 6 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

The Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) president made the announcement here on Friday, releasing the second list of 43 party candidates which included veteran politician Pazha Karuppiah and yesteryear actor Sri Priya who had paired with Haasan in many films in the 70s and 80s.

The party also named candidates for 18 constituencies in neighbouring Puducherry which also goes to polls on April 6 for its 30-member assembly.

Haasan, whose party is heading a three-party coalition in Tamil Nadu, will be up against the nominees of BJP and Congress, partners in the AIADMK and DMK led alliances respectively, in Coimbatore South.

Three years after floating the MNM, the 66-year old Haasan is taking the electoral plunge.

He chose not to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections while his party polled 3.7 per cent votes, entering the fray in 37 constituencies. — PTI

TMC delegation meets EC, demands high-level probe



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee greets party activists as she leaves SSKM Hospital in a wheelchair after being discharged in Kolkata on Friday. — PTI

ED, CBI summon 2 TMC candidates

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, MARCH 12

Chatterjee is the state education as well as parliamentary affairs minister. He is also the TMC secretary general.

This is the first time Dr Chatterjee with a clean image came under the scanner of the CBI following a central vigilance commission's report over his suspected link with the collapsed ponzi scheme company.

Another is the Saradha chit fund scam accused former transport minister Madan Mitra who is again contesting from Kamartati where he lost in 2016.

He has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in the same case to appear on March 18 at its office in Salt Lake next week. Dr

Quad leaders to strive for 'free, inclusive' region

Washington, March 12: The Quad leaders, including US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday vowed to strive for a "free, open and inclusive" region unconstrained by "coercion, in an apparent reference to China which is flexing its military muscles in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond."

In a joint statement issued after the first Leaders' Summit of Quadrilateral alliance attended by President Biden, Prime Minister Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, the leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation on the "defining challenges of our time."

"We bring diverse perspectives and are united in a shared vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific. We strive for a region that is free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion," the joint statement said.

It said the Quad leaders will continue to prioritise the role of international law in the maritime domain, particularly as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.

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Amrit mahotsav



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on Friday. Modi flagged off a 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from the Sabarmati Ashram on the occasion of the launch of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' India@75. — PTI

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quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	50,792.08	-0.95
Nifty 50	15,031.00	-0.95
S&P 500*	3,917.60	-0.55
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 T-bill yield*	6.232	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.605	0.078

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Anti-dumping duty on Chinese ciprofloxacin Hcl

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on the Chinese antibacterial drug ciprofloxacin hydrochloride to guard the domestic industry against cheap imports following a recommendation by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies. The DGTR had concluded the product has been exported to India from China below its normal value. The duty imposed is in the range of \$0.91 per kg to \$3.27 per kg and will be levied for five years.

Ministry working on bringing jet fuel under GST



The civil aviation ministry is working on the airline industry's demand to bring aviation turbine fuel (ATF) under the ambit of GST and has taken up the matter with the finance ministry, civil aviation secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola said at a virtual event. ATF, which account for 45-55 per cent of an airline's operating expenses, in India is among the world's highest and the industry has long been asking for its inclusion under GST.

PFRDA looking to sell assured return product

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority is working on plans to introduce innovative retirement benefit products, such as one providing minimum assured return, to attract more subscribers, its chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay said. "Apart from NPS and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), we propose to have some innovative products to attract more and more customers," he said.

Survey for Mumbai-Nagpur bullet train starts

The Light Detection and Ranging(LiDAR) survey for the preparation of detailed project report for the proposed Mumbai-Nagpur High Speed Rail Corridor started from Friday. The 736-km bullet train project is likely to link Shapur, Igatpuri, Nashik, Mehkar, Malegaon, Pulaona, Wardha and Khapri, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd said. It said the Li-DAR tech will provide data within four months.

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■ Cites lack of benchmarks and losses to MFs, banks FinMin asks Sebi to pull back AT1 bond circular

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, MARCH 12

The finance ministry has asked Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi to withdraw the proposed valuation norms for debt funds that would treat all perpetual bonds/ additional tier-I (AT1) bonds issued by banks as having 100 year maturity, according to several reports on Friday. Perpetual bonds have no maturity date and, therefore, payments theoretically continue forever.

Experts say given the uncertainty around the issue there could be a rise in yields on AT1 bonds in the near-term and the appetite of the investors such as mutual funds could also get constrained thereby impacting issuance volumes.

AT1 bonds have in the past been fraught with troubles as seen in the Yes Bank AT1 bonds debacle, in which investors lost their entire investment.

Under the new guidelines issued by the Securities Exchange Board of India this week, mutual funds cannot invest more than 10 per cent of scheme corpus in debt instruments with special features such as perpetual bonds, and the exposure cannot be more than 5 per cent to such debt instruments of the same company.

In addition, the maturity of all perpetual bonds needs to be treated as 100 years from the date of issuance of the bond for the 'purpose of valuation'.

The Department of Financial Services, in its

FINMIN TO INFUSE ₹14,500 CRORE IN BANKS UNDER PCA SOON

New Delhi, March 12:

The finance ministry is likely to infuse Rs 14,500 crore in the banks that are under the RBI's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework in the next few days to improve their financial health.

Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India and Uco Bank are currently under this framework that puts several

restrictions on them, including on lending.

The ministry has almost finalized the names of probable candidates for capital infusion, sources said. The infusion will be made in the next few days, the sources said, adding the biggest beneficiary of this round of capital infusion would be the banks that are under the PCA.

—PTI

letter to the Sebi chief has argued that the guidelines could lead to large mark-to-market losses for mutual funds. No benchmark exists for 100-year bonds.

"Considering the capital needs of banks going forward and the need to source the same from the capital markets, it is requested that the revised capital norms to treat all perpetual bonds as 100-year tenor be withdrawn.

The clause on valuation is disruptive in nature. Instructions that reduce concentration risks on such instruments in MF portfolio can be retailed, as MF have adequate headroom even with 10 per cent ceiling," the finance ministry said.

The government argued that the Sebi norms could also affect capital raising by state-owned banks, forcing them to rely more on the government for capital.

"Over the long run, for all banks, not just PSUs, more equity dilution will take place (due to Sebi circular). This will lead to further depressed valuations," the letter said. It said panic redemption by mutual funds would impact the overall corporate bond market as mutual funds would resort to raise liquidity in debt schemes which could lead to higher borrowing cost for corporates at a time when the economic recovery is still nascent.

Anil Gupta, vice president & sector head- financial sector ratings at Icra Ltd said, "Given the uncertainty around the issue there could be a rise in yields on these instruments in the near-term and the appetite of the investors such as mutual funds could also get constrained, thereby impacting issuance volumes."

"Amfi fully supports the need and spirit of the circular in capping exposure to perpetual bonds. Most of the MF schemes are well below the cap specified in the circular. In few of the schemes, where perpetual bond exposure is higher than the Sebi prescribed cap, grandfathering is kindly permitted by Sebi to ensure that there is no unnecessary market disruption," the Amfi said.

Meanwhile, mutual fund industry body Amfi has come out in support of the Sebi circular.

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Tesla Inc is exploring an arrangement with Tata Power to set up charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in the country, a television report said on Friday, citing sources.

AT1 bonds were valued hitherto on the basis of a short-term instrument of similar G Sec. They will now be valued as 100-year bonds for which no benchmark exists, said the ministry.

"Banks issue perpetual bonds to meet their capital adequacy requirements. If the circular is implemented, the ability of banks to raise further capital by issuing perpetual bonds will be limited. Secondly, since Sebi has capped the limit to invest in these bonds, the headroom available to mutual funds to further invest in perpetual bonds will be impacted.

Thirdly, there will be a spike in the yields of perpetual bonds if the proposed valuation methodology comes into effect," said S.P. Prabhu, chief investment officer at Ageas Federal Life insurance.

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Tesla will set up an electric-car manufacturing unit in Karnataka, according to a government document seen by Reuters.

The talks between Tata Power and Tesla are in the initial stages and no arrangements have been finalised yet, the report said.

Tata Power's electric vehicle charging business constantly explores growth opportunities but has not finalised any new agreements, the company said in a statement to stock exchanges. It also said the CNBC-TV 18 report was "factually incorrect", but did not elaborate.

Tesla was not immediately available for comment.

In January, the US electric-car maker incorporated Tesla Motors India and Energy Private Ltd with its registered office in Bengaluru.

—Reuters

TESLA IN TALKS WITH TATA POWER FOR EV CHARGING INFRA

Bengaluru, March 12: Tesla Inc is exploring an arrangement with Tata Power to set up charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in the country, a television report said on Friday, citing sources.

Shares of Tata Power rose 5.5 per cent to their best closing level since June 2014 after the report, which comes as the Palo Alto-based electric-car maker gears up for an India launch later this year with plans to import and sell its Model 3 electric sedan.

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—Reuters

TS firm aims to create 20K farm entrepreneurs

FC BUREAU
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Hyderabad-based farm tech major Our Food on Friday tied up with the Telangana government to set up village-level micro food processing units in partnership with rural entrepreneurs in the state.

"Post-harvest losses in India are as high as 30 per cent. Value addition at the farm level would cut down post-harvest losses and help farmers get better pricing. After the Covid pandemic, a lot of people have lost their jobs and have returned to their villages. They are looking to take up farming as a profession. Our initiative will also help such people by creating rural jobs in addition to helping farmers to earn more," Baledreddy, the CEO of Our Food, told this newspaper.

The company, which entered into an MoU with the Telangana government on Friday, plans to set up 20,000 micro food processing units in the state. The company manufactures food processing units at its facility in Zaheerabad in Sangareddy district.

Under this initiative, the company would offer its franchise to rural entrepreneurs. The franchise holder needs to invest around 40 per cent of the sum that is

required to set up a micro food processing unit, while the company would help him or her to get a loan from the bank for the rest of the money. The company would train the entrepreneur and undertake to procure the entire processed food, which reduces the risk factor for the investors.

The total investment required for setting up 20,000 units is Rs 1,535 crore. Apart from this, the company needs to invest exclusively in the expansion of its manufacturing lines and marketing network.

The Telangana government, meanwhile, would identify people who could be considered for awarding franchises by the company and help the village-level entrepreneur and the company to get hassle-free permissions for setting up of the micro food processing units.

According to an estimate, Bala Reddy said this initiative would create direct employment for at least 40,000 rural youth and indirect employment for at least 60,000 people in the state.

"An investment of Rs 1,535 crore will generate a revenue of Rs 24,409 crore, a net profit of Rs 2,440 crore and a gross profit of Rs 4,881 crore to farmers over a period of five years," he said.

Gaming firm Nazara Tech's IPO priced at ₹1,100-₹1,101

DOMINIQUE VIDALON

PARIS, MARCH 12

French retailer Carrefour has been fined 1.75 million euros (\$2.1 million) for unfairly pressuring suppliers for discounts during annual contract negotiations, the finance ministry said in Friday.

The ruling by the Paris Commerce Court follows a probe by anti-trust authorities into Carrefour's practices during its 2016 negotiations with suppliers, the statement said.

The investigation found that Carrefour had forced suppliers to give discounts as a pre-condition to entering annual price negotiations. The court ordered Carrefour to stop what it called "practices that restrict competition" and requested the provisional execution of the fine.

Carrefour said it had put an end to the incriminated practices since February 2016 and would not appeal.

The court did not reject the principle of seeking a discount but considered the discount was not sufficiently justified in its application," Carrefour said.

The public offer of 52.94 lakh shares is an offer for sale by promoter selling shareholder Mitter Infotech LLP and a bunch of investors selling shareholders, includ-

ing IIFL Special Opportunities Fund. The shares will be listed on BSE and NSE.

Some of Adani Group companies have rallied more than 90% this year.

Indian tycoon Gautam Adani has added more billions to his wealth than any one else in the world this year on the back of investor excitement around his ports-to-power plants conglomerate.

The net worth of Adani, a first-generation entrepreneur who rarely speaks publicly, has jumped \$16.2 billion in 2021 to \$50 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. This has made him the year's biggest wealth gainer, beating even Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, who have tussled in 2021 for the title

of world's richest. Shares of all Adani Group stocks, except one, have rallied at least 50 per cent this year.

The surge in wealth dwarfs the \$8.1 billion added by Adani's compatriot Mukesh Ambani. It also underscores the ris-

ing heft of the self-made billionaire, who has lured investment from Total SA to Warburg Pincus. Adani has been rapidly expanding his conglomerate, adding ports, airports, data centres and coal mines in India, while doggedly proceeding with his controversial Carmichael coal project in Australia.

"Adani has been consistently expanding its business in areas that are resilient to market cycles," said Sunil Chandramani, founder and chief executive officer at Nyka Advisory Services. "Now with the entry in data centres business, the group has also

indicated its appetite for venturing into technology."

Adani Enterprises Ltd signed a pact last month to develop 1 gigawatt of data centre capacity in India.

Adani Total Gas Ltd has jumped 96 per cent this year while the flagship Adani Power Ltd and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Ltd have gained more than 52 per cent this year. Adani Green Energy Ltd, after rising over 500 per cent last year, is up 12 per cent so far.

—Bloomberg

Survey for Mumbai-Nagpur bullet train starts

The Light Detection and Ranging(LiDAR) survey for the preparation of detailed project report for the proposed Mumbai-Nagpur High Speed Rail Corridor started from Friday. The 736-km bullet train project is likely to link Shapur, Igatpuri, Nashik, Mehkar, Malegaon, Pulaona, Wardha and Khapri, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd said. It said the Li-DAR tech will provide data within four months.

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LIVE RICH

FINANCIAL Chronicle

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 13 MARCH 2021

1

★★★ For those who loved Stree Roohi is a hard-hitting entertainment mix of shivers and giggles with three live-wire performances by Janhvi, Rajkummar, and Varun. See it in a theatre near you. - Subhash K Jha

★★★ A must-watch film for theaters. Super Entertaining - Navodaya Times

★★★ Roohi Uniquely delightful & funny horror pop corn - Glamsham

★★★ An Entertaining blend of laughs and thrills - Times of India



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
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 - MADHUPUR 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY | 10:15, 11:00, 1:05, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 | PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI - 1:25, 7:50, 10:50 | IRRUML MANZIL - KHAIRATABAD | 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40 | HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA - MOOSARUMBAGH - 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40 | HYD - BAD NEXT GALLERIA - PUNJAGUTTA - 10:40, 1:10, 1:40, 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

ASIAN CINEMAS - RADHIKA - KAPRA - 4:00PM

MUKTHA A2 INJR 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

SRI SAIRAJA - MUSHEERABAD 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:15

METRO - BAHADURPURA 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00

YAKUT MAHAL - YAKUTPURA - 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30

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SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

JATHI RATHNALU
TELUGU 2D (U)
10:20 AM, 10:45 AM, 10:55 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:50 PM, 4:25 PM, 4:35 PM, 4:50 PM, 7:00 PM, 7:35 PM, 7:50 PM, 10:00 PM, 10:25 PM

SRIKAARAM TELUGU 2D (U)
11:00 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:55 PM, 7:00 PM, 10:25 PM, 10:35 PM

GAALI SAMPATH
TELUGU 2D (U/A)
1:45 PM, 4:10 PM, 7:30 PM, 10:35 PM

ROOH HINDI 2D (U/A)
10:20 AM, 1:10 PM, 4:45 PM, 7:50 PM, 10:45 PM

ROBERT TELUGU 2D (U/A)
10:05 PM

A1 EXPRESS
TELUGU 2D (U)
1:45 PM, 6:50 PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON
ENGLISH 3D (U)
4:30 PM

UPPENA
TELUGU 2D (U/A)
1:55 PM

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WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 13 MARCH 2021

pg 9

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini dies at 72

Johannesburg: King Goodwill Zwelithini, the traditional leader of South Africa's Zulu nation, has died aged 72 after being hospitalised for more than a month, his family announced on Friday.

Zwelithini had health problems related to diabetes, according to local news reports. Zwelithini, the eighth Zulu king, reigned for more than 50 years, making him the longest-serving Zulu

monarch. As the traditional leader of the Zulu nation, Zwelithini did not hold political office but had considerable influence over the country's estimated 12 million Zulus, the largest ethnic group of South Africa's 60 million people.

Zwelithini was an outspoken critic of the government's planned land redistribution policy, which could affect large tracts of land belonging to the Zulu nation. — AP



AstraZeneca is safe, says WHO

Severe allergy added to AstraZeneca vaccine side-effects, says EU regulator

"Yes, we should continue using the AstraZeneca vaccine," she added, stressing though that any concerns over safety must be investigated.

"We must always ensure that we look for any safety signals when we roll out vaccines, and we must review them," she said.

"But there is no indication to not use it."

The WHO, which said its vaccines advisory committee was examining the safety data coming in, stressed that no causal link had been established between the vaccine and clotting.

The UN health agency also said that after the injection of more than 260 million Coronavirus vaccine doses so far around the world, no deaths had yet been attributed to a Covid-19 jab.

Denmark, Norway and Iceland paused the use of the AstraZeneca jab as a precaution after isolated reports of recipients developing blood clots.

Italy and Austria have banned the use of shots from separate batches of AstraZeneca, and Thailand and Bulgaria said they would delay the rollout of the shot. A range of health authorities around the world have insisted the jab is safe, including the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the WHO.

"AstraZeneca is an excellent vaccine, as are the other vaccines that are being used," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters at a briefing in Geneva.

— AFP

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TIVOLI
catch the stars

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

SHANTI 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR 11:15AM

ANJALI 70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

LAXMIKALA - 11.30, 6.30PM

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI 11.45 & 6.15PM(2 SHOWS)

AMB 10.45, 4.15, 7.30PM

GPR-4.30PM Komppally-4.40PM

Radhika-4.30PM|Mcube-4.20PM|Cinesquare-10.45, 7.45PM

Forum-1.20, 7.35, 11.00pm

Irrummanil-6.35, 10.00pm

Inorbit-1.00, 7.15pm

RK-4.45PM|Central-4.50, 10.50pm

Priston-7.25pm|L&T-6.50, 10.15pm

Moosarambagh-6.35, 10.00pm

Galleria-12.50, 4.00, 7.25pm

INOX GVK-10.30, 7.15PM PLATINUM 10.20, 6.35, 10.20PM 5.10PM

GSM-11.20, 6.35, 10.20PM

4.10, 10.00 4.15 PM 4.40 PM

CCPL-3.30, 10.15PM

SUDHA-3.55, 10.20PM

MANTRA-3.30, 9.45|DSL-2.30, 9.25PM

IDPL-11.00, 7.30PM

GEETH-6.15PM

SHALINI-11.00, 7.00PM 7.25, 10.05

1.40, 10.30 11.00, 7.24PM

MALLAPUR

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ASIAN CINEMAS

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SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

MAHA SHIVARATRI WISHES TO ALL

ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 10:30, 1:30, 7:00, 9:50PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.40, 4.20, 7.20, 10.10PM
GAALI SAMPATH(U)(TEL) 10.50, 7.40, 10.20PM
A1 EXPRESS(U)(TEL) 4.40PM
ROOH(U)(HINDI) 4.00PM

ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 10.40, 1.25, 7.30, 10.20PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 10.30, 10.50, 1.15, 1.35, 4.20, 4.40, 7.20, 10.10PM
GAALI SAMPATH(U)(TEL) 10.50, 1.35, 4.40, 7.40PM
A1 EXPRESS(U)(TEL) 10.30PM

ASIAN MCUBE -ATTAPUR (FULLY RENOVATED)

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 10.40, 1.30, 4.30, 7.00, 10.10PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 10.30, 10.50, 1.40, 1.50, 4.10, 4.20, 7.20, 7.40, 10.00PM
GAALI SAMPATH(U)(TEL) 7.30, 10.20PM
ROOH(U)(HINDI) 10.55, 1.50, 4.40, 10.30PM

ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 11.00, 2.00, 6.30PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 11.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
GALI SAMPATH(U)(TEL) 2.30, 9.45PM

ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 11.00, 2.00PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 11.00, 2.15, 9.15PM
GALI SAMPATH(U)(TEL) 6.00, 9.00PM

ASIAN CINESQUARE(FULLY RENOVATED)

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 10.50, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.20PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 10.30, 10.40, 10.55, 1.30, 4.40, 4.10, 7.20, 9.50PM
GAALI SAMPATH(U)(TEL) 4.40, 7.00, 10.10PM
ROBERT(U)(A)(TEL) 10.45, 7.45PM
A1 EXPRESS(U)(TEL) 1.50, 7.35PM
UPPENA(U)(TEL) 10.30PM | LOVE LIFE PAKODI(U)(A) 4.45PM
ROOH(U)(HINDI) 1.45, 4.35, 10.40PM

ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET

SRIKARAM(U)(TEL) 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
JATHI RANTALU(U)(TEL) 11.00, 11.30, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
ROBERT(U)(A)(TEL) 6.30PM
A1 EXPRESS(U)(TEL) 9.45PM
UPPENA(U)(A)(TEL) 2.45PM

ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY

SRIKARAM(U) 10.40, 1.30, 4.10, 7.20, 10.00PM
JATHI RANTALU(U) 10.30, 10.50, 1.20, 1.45, 4.25, 7.00, 10.20PM
GAALI SAMPATH(U) 1.50, 7.50, 10.40PM
ROBERT(U)(A)(TEL) 4.40PM
A1 EXPRESS(U) 7.40PM
ROOH(U)(HINDI) 11.00, 4.50, 10.30PM

ASIAN MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY

SRIKARAM(U) 10.50, 1.40, 4.40, 7.00, 9.50PM
JATHI RANTALU(U) 10.30, 10.50, 1.20, 1.30, 4.10, 4.20, 7.20, 10.30PM
GAALI SAMPATH(U) 10.40, 1.50, 7.50, 10.30PM
A1 EXPRESS(U) 7.40PM
ROOH(U)(HINDI) 11.00, 10.00, 10.20PM

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AMB CINEMAS-6.50PM

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

CINEPLANET 7.40PM PVR FORUM MALL 1.40PM

PLATINUM GACHIBOWLI 11.00PM NARAPALLY 7.40PM GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS 9.45PM

ASIAN MALLAPUR 1.10PM

NEXT GALLERIA-4.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-3.25PM

ICON-3.40PM | CENTRAL-7.40PM

INORBIT-1.15PM | IRRUMLANZIL-3.25PM

FORUM-4.05PM

AMB CINEMAS 1.45PM LAXMIKALA 2.30PM

INOX GSM-3.25PM | MP-3.55PM GVK-4.00PM

PLATINUM 2.10 PM Cinépolis DSL-UPPAL 6.00PM

Enjoy Coffee Break EVERYDAY IN hyderabad CHRONICLE

Turkey plans to host Afghan peace talks

Ankara, March 12: Turkey plans to host an Afghan peace conference in Istanbul in April, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Friday, ahead of a deadline for a US troop withdrawal.

In a letter leaked to Afghan media, Secretary of State Antony Blinken encouraged Afghan leaders to consider a "new, inclusive government" and proposed that talks take place within weeks in Turkey to seal a peace deal with the Taliban.

Cavusoglu said Turkey considers itself "one of the most important actors in Afghanistan." "We will do this (meeting) in coordination with brotherly Qatar," the Anadolu state news agency quoted Cavusoglu as saying in reference to a separate round of talks staged in

— AFP

UK urges citizens to leave Myanmar

Yangon, March 12: Britain on Friday advised its citizens to flee Myanmar, as ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyer rejected junta corruption claims against her as "groundless".

The military authorities are cracking down with increasing severity on daily protests against their February 1 coup, with at least 70 people killed according to the UN's top rights expert on the country.

The turmoil prompted Britain, the former colonial ruler, to urge its citizens to get out if they could, warning that "political tension and unrest are widespread since the military takeover and levels of violence are rising". "The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advises British nationals to leave the country by commercial means, unless there is an urgent need to stay," the British foreign ministry said.

"I've never seen such an illegal mud-slinging," Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi faces other criminal charges including owning unlicensed walkie-talkies and violating Coronavirus restrictions by staging a campaign event in 2020. Suu Kyi, the state counselor, is groundless, especially regarding the dollars and gold bars — it is the most hilarious joke of all," he said.

The military — which has defended its takeover by citing alleged voting irregularities in November elections won by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party — held a rare news conference on Monday.

— AFP

SHORT TAKES



Sanjana Sirimalla

Sanjana sails into ITF final

Hyderabad: Hyderabad tennis player Sanjana Sirimalla made it to the final of the ITF Grade 5 international tournament being held at Dehradun.

In the semifinals played on Friday, Sanjana beat Tejasvi Dabas in straight sets 6-4, 6-3. Earlier in the quarters, she had beaten Anjali Rathi 6-0(0), 6-2 courtesy her attacking game.

In the pre-quarters, Sanjana crushed Kotisha Modak 6-4, 6-2. She was stretched to three sets before prevailing over Pari Singh 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-4 in the first round though.

TS rapid chess on Sunday

Hyderabad: The Ekalavya Education Foundation is conducting the Telangana State Rapid Chess Championship at YWCA, Secunderabad, besides Ganesh Temple, on Sunday. The tournament, being held under the aegis of Telangana State Chess Association, will be played over five rounds in the Swiss format. Cash prizes will be awarded to top 15 players. Top three finishers among boys and girls of Under 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 age groups will be given trophies.

Action begins at 10 am. There is no age limit for participants but Covid precautions will be in force. Players should register through website www.chess-telangana.com or phones 9381643755 or 8919524550.

Sunil appointed Electoral Officer

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Cricket Association has appointed K. Sunil Goud, practicing advocate at The Judicature of High Court for the State of Telangana and vice-chairman of the Telangana State Bar Council as the 'Electoral Officer' for the Hyderabad Cricket Players Association (HCPA) in line with the approval of decision of the Special Apex Council Meeting held on March 3 and also in compliance with the BCCI guidelines in this regard. Players concerned should approach K. Sunil Goud over phone number 9848933581 or via email mailsunilgoud2001@yahoo.com, the HCA said in a press release.

Hyd women beat Gujarat easily

Hyderabad: Hyderabad got the better of Gujarat by 85 runs in the BCCI Senior women's one-day tournament which was played at Surat in Gujarat on Friday.

Sent in to bat, Hyderabad posted 229 on the board in their stipulated 50 overs thanks to Mamatha Kanojia's brilliant knock of 92 and Anuradha Nayak's fine innings of 70. Later, Bhogi Sravani's 4 for 21 and Yashasri's 3/42 was too much for Gujarat, who folded for a lowly 144.

BRIEF SCORES
Hyderabad 229/6 in 50 overs (G. Trish 25, Mamatha Kanojia 92, Anuradha Nayak 70) bt Gujarat 144/9 in 50 overs (Yashasri 3/42, Bhogi Sravani 4/21). **Points:** Hyderabad 4, Gujarat 0.

Handball trials for RR teams

Hyderabad: The Ranga Reddy District Handball Association is conducting selection trials for Senior Men & Junior Girls at Sanathnagar mini Stadium on Sunday evening at 4 pm.

Selected players will participate in 49th Senior State level Handball Championship to be held at Maddur Siddipet from March 20 to 22.

Girls who are selected will participate in Junior Telangana State Handball Championship being organised at Sanathnagar from March 23 to 25. For further details, contact RRDHA secretary Jagannath (8333988835) or organising secretary Shafi Ahmed (881689362).

MANCHESTER SLIP

United let in late goal to throw away advantage

Paris, March 12: Simon Kjaer's last-gasp equaliser gave AC Milan a dramatic 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Thursday, handing the Italian giants a great chance of reaching the Europa League quarterfinals.

Kjaer netted with a bullet header in the final seconds of stoppage time of the Last 16, first leg encounter at Old Trafford, levelling the scores after Amad Diallo had opened in the 50th minute with his first United goal.

In a sign of the drop in standards at Old Trafford and the San Siro, the first meeting between two of the world's most historic teams since 2010 was their first outside the Champions League knockout stages.

Milan called the shots early on and had two goals disallowed. Rafael Leao's effort ruled offside and Franck Kessie's powerful 11th-minute finish chalked off after a VAR review showed the ball had glanced off the midfielders' arm before his shot.

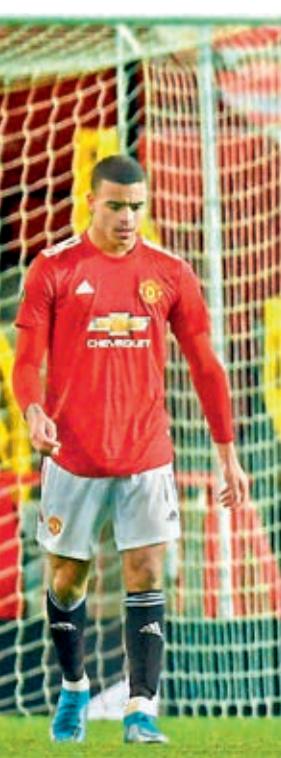
Diallo's introduction at half-time proved an inspired move from United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjær as the 18-year-old Ivorian, recently bought by United from Milans Serie A rivals Atalanta, soon broke the deadlock.

Bruno Fernandes unfurled a delightful long pass towards Diallo, who made an incisive run behind the Milan defence and looped a clever backwards header over Gianluigi Donnarumma.

But United failed to build on that lead and Milans intelligent play was rewarded with just seconds remaining when Kjaer powered his header past Dean Henderson from a corner.

Meanwhile, Rangers are well placed to make the quarterfinals after a 1-1 draw away to Slavia Prague.

Filip Helander's close-range finish in the first half left Steve Gerrard's Rangers still in the hunt for a European trophy with the draw in Prague, days after winning their first Scottish League title in 10 years.



Manchester United's English striker Mason Greenwood (from left), Serbian midfielder Nemanja Matic, Brazilian midfielder Fred, English defenders Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw react after AC Milan scored a late equaliser during their Europa League Round of 16 first leg match at Old Trafford in Manchester on Thursday. — AFP

THE RESULTS

	Manchester United (Diallo 50)	1	Tottenham Hotspur (Kane 25, 70)	2	Dinamo Zagreb	0
	AC Milan (Kjaer 90+2)	1	Olympiakos (El-Arabi 58)	1	Arsenal	3
	Slavia Prague (Stanciu 7)	1	(Odegaard 34, Gabriel 80, Elneny 85)	1	Rangers (Helander 36)	3
	Rangers (Helander 36)	1	Roma (Pellegrini 23, El Shaarawy 73, Mancini 77)	3	Ajax (Klaassen 62, Tadic 82, Brobby 90+2)	3
	Young Boys	0	Shakhtar Donetsk	0	Young Boys	0

The Swedes strike came after Nicolae Stanciu had given the hosts the stronger start with the opening strike in the seventh minute that fizzed past Rangers' goalkeeper Allan McGregor before the Scotsman even knew it had been hit.

The highlight of the match however was Allan McGregor's stunning save near the end, the Scot somehow stopping and holding on to Lukas Masopust's thumping header, which looked destined for the bottom corner.

Meanwhile, Rangers are well placed to make the quarterfinals after a 1-1 draw away to Slavia Prague.

Filip Helander's close-range finish in the first half left Steve Gerrard's Rangers still in the hunt for a European trophy with the draw in Prague, days after winning their first Scottish League title in 10 years.

Haaland on high, most sought after

Dortmund, March 12: By sending Borussia Dortmund into the Champions League quarterfinals, Erling Haaland offered another reminder this week of why he is one of European football's most sought-after transfer targets.

Where he'll be playing next season is anyone's guess. In any normal season, Haaland would have his pick of transfer offers from Europe's big clubs, especially when Dortmund is in danger of missing out on Champions League qualification next season.

Haaland is still only 20 but has shown he can score goals against almost any opposition. His two strikes against Sevilla on Tuesday made him the youngest player ever to reach 20 goals in the Champions League.

He also needed no time to adapt to his new surroundings after his last transfer from Salzburg in January 2020.

Haaland and his advisers will be aware of what happened the last time Madrid signed an up-and-coming striker from the Bundesliga. Less than two years after his move to Spain for 60 million euros (\$72 million), Luka Jovic is back on loan at his old club Eintracht Frankfurt.

Bayern Munich and PSG have the money but couldn't promise Haaland he'd be first choice. Keeping Neymar, Mbappé and Mauro Icardi happy is tough enough already for PSG, unless one or more of them departs, and Bayerns' Robert Lewandowski is 32 but in the form of his life, with 31 goals in 23 league games this season. — AP

Alexander stars in Thunder win

Oklahoma City, March 12: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 32 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder held on for a 116-108 victory Thursday night against a Dallas Mavericks team that rested Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis.

The Thunder made five of their first six 3-point attempts and built a 35-19 advantage after one quarter, then held off a late Dallas rally.

Dallas cut the deficit to 103-101 with just under 2 minutes remaining but Gilgeous-Alexander scored on back-to-back possessions and made six consecutive free throws in the closing minutes.

He made it look so easy, veteran Al Horford said. His shot-making ability and poise continue to impress me. We needed those buckets, and he took us home.

Oklahoma City outrebounded Dallas 21-5 in the first period and finished the half making 10 of its 14 3-point attempts. The Thunder cooled off from there but still finished 16 of 32 behind the arc.

We were sharp early and I give our guys credit with how they handled themselves during the break, Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. They were ready to play from the jump.

Josh Richardson scored 27 points for the Mavericks. He scored to cut the deficit to 67-59 early in the third, but Al Horford responded with a three

from the top of the key and a traditional three-point play on consecutive possessions.

BUCKS RIP KNICKS

Giannis Antetokounmpo followed up his MVP performance in the All-Star Game with his fifth triple-double of the season to help the Milwaukee Bucks trounce the New York Knicks 134-101 on Thursday night.

Antetokounmpo had 24 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in 29 minutes, and the Bucks handed the Knicks their most one-sided loss of the season.

Bryn Forbes added 21 points and made all seven of his 3-point attempts as the Bucks shot 57.5 percent from the floor.

CLIPPERS ROUT WARRIORS

Kawhi Leonard scored 28 points in three quarters and the Los Angeles Clippers routed Golden State 130-104 on Thursday night, sending the Warriors to their season-worst fourth consecutive loss.

Paul George added 17 points and Serge Ibaka had 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Clippers, who ended their own three-game skid to begin the second half of the season.

LEBRON, DURANT AMONG NBA PLAYERS IN US OLYMPIC SIDE

New York, March 12: Two-time Olympic champions LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Chris Paul were among 57 NBA players named on Thursday by USA Basketball as finalists for the Tokyo Olympic mens basketball squad.

The list added 15 players to a group of 42 finalists named in February 2020 who have confirmed interest in trying to bring the Americans a fourth consecutive gold medal and 16th overall next August in Japan.

A final 12-man Olympic roster will be announced later this year.

James, who helped the Los Angeles Lakers win last year's NBA crown, and Paul, with the Phoenix Suns, helped spark the USA to Olympic gold in 2008 at Beijing and 2012 in London.

James, who was also on the US 2004 bronze medal squad, could match Carmelo Anthony as the only four-time US mens basketball Olympians.

Durant was joined by three-time NBA scoring champion James Harden, playmaking guard Kyrie Irving, Blake Griffin, Joe Harris and DeAndre Jordan. — AFP

Pranitha, Krithika, Pavan & Nihal are chess champions

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

Pavan Karthikeya, P. Nihal of Marvel Chess Academy were victorious in U-15 and U-13 boys categories while Pranitha Priya (Marvel Chess Academy) topped in the girls U-15 category. B. Krithika was the winner in the U-13 age group.

FINAL PLACINGS

U-15 Boys: 1. Pavan Karthikeya (Marvel Chess

Academy), 2. C. Mokshagna, 3. T. Dhruva.

U-15 Girls: 1. Pranitha Priya (Marvel Chess Academy), 2. S. R. Ruchitha, 3. Amrutha B.

U-13 Boys: 1. P. Nihal (Marvel Chess Academy), 2. Surya Saahas Reddy (Unique Chess Champs Foundation), 3. C. Dheman.

U-13 Girls: 1. B. Krithika (Sri Sai Surya High School), 2. B. Amulya, 3. SPS Sai Vaishnavi.



Winners and runners-up at the Medchal District Chess Ranking Tournament pose with their trophies.

Tilak thumps yet another ton, takes Gemini to final

Adil, Mohit, Rohit, Mourya, Prajwal, Vigna, Kamal, Vishal, Sandeep, Ashish, Varun, Ganesh, Bachu, Pradeep, Hussain, Aditya do well in league

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

ball to leave rival batsmen in all sorts of trouble.

In other matches, Mourya (117) of Cheerful Chums, S. Prajwal Rao (109) of Eleven Masters and Adilabad's K. Vigna (5/13) stood tall with their exceptional performances.

Meanwhile, one-day league also threw up some good shows — Kamal (6/14) of Deccan Colts, Chums' Vishal (5/15), Sandeep (5/21) of CK Blues and Lucky XI's Ashish Vardhan (5/25) & Varun Mishra (103); Mahaveer CC's Ganesh (5/31), Ranga Reddy's Bachu (5/50) & Prajwal Avanesh (100) and Syed Mohammed Hussain (101) of St Andrews did well.

Aditya Singh of PKMCC was unfortunate to be stranded at 99 not out as he ran out of partners as his side lost to WMCC.

The next best on the show were Cheerful Chums' TNR Mohit (6/33) and Nizamabad's J. Rohit Kumar (6/35), who wreaked havoc with the

Friends 201/8 in 43 overs (M. Abhirath Reddy 42, N. Thakur Tilak Varma 110 — 125b, 5x4, 7x6, Md Siraj 3/30).

■ Evergreen CC 320 in 50 overs (Chandan Sahani 80, Mayank Gupta 65 n.o., G. Vigna Naik 40, Ishaa Sharma 39, Rahul Buddhi 37, B. Punnaiah 4/68) bt MP Colts 82 in 25 overs (G. Aniketh Reddy 4/15, Saketh Dhatkar 4/30).

■ Friends 201/8 in 43 overs (M. Abhirath Reddy 42, N. Thakur Tilak Varma 110 — 125b, 5x4, 7x6, Md Siraj 3/30). Points: Adilabad 5, National 0.

■ Nizamabad 213 in 61.5 overs vs Venus Cybertech 90 in 35.2 overs (J. Rohit Kumar 6/35 — 9.2-2-35-6).

Points: Nizamabad 5, Venus Cybertech 0. ■ Bharat CC 324 in 81.3 overs lost to Eleven Masters 330/6 (Sourish Yadav 43, Eshwar 33, S. Prajwal Rao 109 n.o. — 107b, 12x4, 5x6, Goutham 39). Points: XI Master 5, Abhinav Colts 0.

■ Nizamabad 213 in 61.5 overs vs Venus Cybertech 90 in 35.2 overs (J. Rohit Kumar 6/35 — 9.2-2-35-6).

Points: Nizamabad 5, Venus Cybertech 0. ■ Bhar

SHORT TAKES

No Canada, US Opens this year

New Delhi: The Badminton World Federation on Friday announced that this year's US Open and Canada Open will not take place due to the Covid-19 "restrictions and complications" across the globe.

The US Open, a Super 300 tournament on the HSBC BWF World Tour, was slated to be played from July 6 to 11, while the Super 100 tournament in Canada Open was scheduled for June 29 to July 4. "The ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and complications left local organisers no choice but to cancel the tournaments," BWF said in a statement.

"The respective decisions of USA Badminton and Badminton Canada were made in consultation and agreement with the BWF," it added.

The cancellations follow the news that Badminton Asia has postponed its flagship event the Asia Championships. — PTI

Federer hopes for Wimbledon high

Doha: Roger Federer admitted his goal was to be "100 percent" back in business by the time Wimbledon rolls around after the 20-time Grand Slam title winner saw his comeback from 13 months out with injury end in Doha on Thursday.

The 39-year-old squandered a match point and was knocked out of the Qatar Open by Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili in his first tournament since losing to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open semi-finals in January 2020.

Federer, who underwent two knee surgeries last season, secured the first set against world number 42 Basilashvili but eventually wilted and lost the quarter-final tie, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5. It was just his second match of his return having also needed three sets to see off Britain's Dan Evans on Wednesday. — AFP

Muguruza enters Dubai last four

Dubai: Garbine Muguruza overcame Aryna Sabalenka in a tight three-setter for a second consecutive week to storm into the Dubai semi-finals for a third time in seven appearances.

The Spaniard, a runner-up in Doha last week, bounced back from a set down to eliminate the third-seeded Sabalenka 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 and set up a showdown with Belgium's Elise Mertens. Earlier on centre court, Mertens, the No.10 seed, pulled off a miraculous comeback, saving three match points en route to a 5-7, 7-5, 6-0 success over Jessica Pegula. The world No.18, who was down 5-7, 2-5 before she turned things around, is into the 15th tour-level semi-final of her career. "It's unbelievable to come back like this. I just didn't want to let go, I just kept on fighting, and I think that was the spirit today," said Mertens. — AFP

India to play WC qualifiers in Qatar

New Delhi: India will play their remaining three FIFA World Cup qualifiers in Qatar as the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) decided to host the matches in centralised venues owing to the coronavirus-related travel and quarantine restrictions.

As per the original schedule, the Indian team would have played against Qatar at home, Bangladesh away and Afghanistan at home, but the global pandemic has forced radical changes in the fixtures.

"FIFA World Cup 2022 host Qatar, will welcome Group E opponents Oman, Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh with Japan set to provide the stage for the matches in Group F comprising Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Myanmar and Mongolia," the AFC said. — PTI

Live on TV

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Final – Mumbai City vs Mohun Bagan from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

UFC

Fight Night: Leon Edwards vs Belal Muhammad and other bouts from 6.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

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LIONS ROAR

Jason smashes 49 as England rout India in first T20

Ahmedabad, March 12: Indian batsmen had little to offer in the face of a regimented English bowling effort on a two-paced track as the hosts received an eight-wicket hammering in the opening Twenty20 International here on Friday.

Indian batsmen struggled to score freely before Shreyas Iyer showed the way with a dogged 67-run knock that took Virat Kohli's men to 124 for seven at the Narendra Modi stadium.

The home team could only manage 124 and in the absence of scoreboard pressure, England overhauled the target with ease in 15.3 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The Indian batsmen never got the momentum going as England's pace-heavy attack, led by Mark Wood, used the extra bounce effectively to trouble them.

Most of the Indian batsmen went for flashy shots when placement would have served them well, as Iyer did later in the innings.

The world's biggest stadium played host to 67,000 fans, according to Cricinfo, way more than the 50 per cent capacity that was to be filled for the game in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jason Roy scored a well-calculated 49-run knock while Jonny Bairstow's big hits showed there were no demons in the pitch as the Indians made it seem after being invited to bat by England skipper Eoin Morgan.

Roy struck the ball clean and hard to form a 72-run opening wicket stand with Jos Buttler (28), ending any hopes that the Indians harboured of getting back in the game.

The luxury of time allowed the England batsmen to play freely.

None of the Indian bowlers looked like asking



England's Jason Roy in action against India in their first Twenty20 match in Ahmedabad on Friday. — AP

NUMBERS GAME

A TRIPLE CENTURY OF T-20 GAMES FOR KOHLI:

- Virat Kohli became fifth Indian and 31st player overall to complete a triple century of Twenty20 matches. The first match of the five-Twenty20 match series was 300th match in this form of cricket for Indian skipper.
- Kohli made his T-20 debut for Delhi against Himachal Pradesh at Delhi on April 3, 2007 and took 13 years and 344 days to reach this landmark.
- Rohit Sharma (340 matches), M.S. Dhoni (331 matches), Suresh Raina (324 matches) and Dinesh Karthik (310 matches) are the other Indian to play 300 T-20 matches before Kohli.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER

ing tough questions to the visitors.

Roy was trapped by Washington Sundar but by that time England had

put 89 runs on the board. Bairstow (26) and Dawid Malan (24) took the side past the finish line. — PTI

GCA GIVES NOD TO 50% CROWD FOR T20 SERIES

Ahmedabad, March 12: The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) has decided to allow 50 per cent spectators during the India-England T20 International series at the Narendra Modi Stadium here owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. The series, comprising five matches, is starting on Friday with the final fixture slated to be played on March 20.

"We are going to use only 50% seating capacity at the Narendra Modi Stadium for all the T20 matches to be played here due to Covid-19 pandemic," Gujarat Cricket Association vice-president Dhanraj Nathwani said in a media release.

Nathwani said that all Covid-19 guidelines are being followed, adding that special task force committees have been formed to ensure the safety of the fans.

"The entire stadium has been sanitised considering safety of the spectators. All Covid-19 guidelines are being strictly adhered to and special task force committees have been set up to ensure that all required safety measures are implemented and followed," he added. — PTI

SCORECARD

India: Shikhar Dhawan b Mark Wood 4, K. L. Rahul b Jofra Archer 1, Virat Kohli c Chris Jordan b Adil Rashid 0, Rishabh Pant c Bairstow b Stokes 21, Shreyas Iyer c Malan b Chris Jordan 67, Hardik Pandya c Chris Jordan b Jofra Archer 19, Shardul Thakur c Malan b Jofra Archer 0, Washington Sundar (not out) 3, Axar Patel (not out) 7, Extras (w-2) 2. Total (for 7 wkts, in 20 overs) 124.
Wood: 4-0-20-1, Chris Jordan 4-0-27-1, Ben Stokes 3-0-25-1, Sam Curran 2-0-15-0.
England: Jason Roy lbw b Washington Sundar 49, Jos Buttler lbw b Chahal 28, Dawid Malan (not out) 24, Jonny Bairstow (not out) 26, Extras (w-3) 3. Total (for 2 wkts, in 15.3 over) 130.
FOW: 1-72, 2-89.
Bowling: Axar Patel 3-0-24-0, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2-0-15-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-44-1, Shardul Thakur 2-0-16-0, Hardik Pandya 2-0-13-0, Washington Sundar 2.3-0-18-1.

— PTI

Giles feels IPL is very beneficial for England

Karachi, March 12: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani has conveyed to the PSL franchise owners that the games governing body in the country is not in favour of having the Asia Cup T20 event this year.

A PCB source said this was conveyed by Mani to the Pakistan Super League franchise owners on Thursday, after it was announced that the remaining matches of PSL 6 would be completed in June. Mani spoke about the Asia Cup after the franchise owners sought to know if the dates of PSL were clashing with the continental tournament.

"Mani made it clear that their was little possibility of the tournament being held this year and it would be moved to 2023 due to the commitments of the participating teams," the source said.

Mani told the new dates for the Asia Cup would be decided at the next meeting of the Asian Cricket Council. — PTI



Ashley Giles

"We aren't forcing either way. The IPL isn't going anywhere. It has extreme benefits to us. From this group here, I think, we have 12 of the 16 players going to the IPL."

"Years ago we found it very difficult for players to get into the IPL to experience that tournament. Now all of our players are in high demand and it probably the big reason why we are number one in world in both white-ball for-

mats," Giles said.

There are 12 England cricketers, some with million dollar contracts, playing in the IPL. The players include Buttler, Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer for Rajasthan Royals, Moeen Ali and Sam Curran for Chennai Super Kings and Dawid Malan for Punjab Kings.

The IPL is slated to begin from April 9 with the final scheduled to be played on May 30, while England's opening Test against New Zealand begins on June 2.

"We have agreed for players to go to the IPL. Those two Test matches were arranged late, they didn't form part of the original schedule. We had agreed with the players and with the IPL that the players would be available right through the tournament and if they got to the later stages, they would be able to participate." — PTI

BEDI DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL AFTER 24 DAYS

New Delhi, March 12: Legendary former India spinner Bishan Singh Bedi has been discharged after spending more than three weeks at a city hospital here following a bypass surgery.

The 74-year-old former India captain had undergone a bypass surgery at the capitals Sir Ganga Ram Hospital last month after he suffered a heart attack.

He subsequently also underwent an operation to remove blood clotting in his brain.

"He was evaluated and was found to be having all three vessels of heart critically blocked," the statement from the hospital read.

"He was stabilised and underwent Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery, which was performed by Dr Ganesh Shivnani and his team on 18 February 2021. He has been discharged successfully in a stable condition on 11 March 2021," it added. — PTI

Work, stay relevant is Mithali's mantra

Lucknow, March 12: Indian captain Mithali Raj on Friday said she has always looked to evolve and stay relevant in a changing women's game, an approach that has brought her 10,000 runs across formats in international cricket.

"As long as I get an opportunity to bat, it has to be counted and that has given me a lot of experience and exposure to work on my game over the years with the changing standards in women's game and trying to be relevant in the international circuit," she said.

About the performance of the spinners, she said there was a need to work on consistency, adding it was not worrisome. "Well, see what we need to work on is consistency, and it is not worrisome. They will get back to the sort of rhythm they had before the pandemic. But yes, clearly when you have tracks which are not assisting the spinners, so they have very little (scope), you know trying variations. I guess it is important for them to work on these things, have a lot of plans, our spin attack is experienced, so clearly I am sure they will work on these things in the coming games," she said. — PTI

WOMEN'S CRICKET

Mithali bats into the 10k run club



Mithali Raj

Lucknow, March 12: Veteran batter Mithali Raj on Friday became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats, drawing praise from some iconic names of the game and the BCCI.

The 38-year-old Mithali, who leads the Indian ODI team, joined England's Charlotte Edwards in the elite club.

Mithali achieved the feat with a boundary off Anne Bosch in the 28th over during her 36-run knock in India's total of 248 for 5 in the third ODI which South Africa won via Duckworth-Lewis method by scoring 233 for 4 in 46.3 overs.

After reaching the milestone of Friday, Mithali departed in the next ball, flicking a Bosch delivery straight to Mignon du Preez at midwicket.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah called the India captain an "absolute legend".

"Take a bow, @M_Raj03!

What an achievement to be the first Indian woman cricketer to surpass the international 10,000-run mark. Absolute legend," Shah wrote on his Twitter handle.

— PTI



Mithali Raj shares a light moment with her coach RSR Murthy of Hyderabad in this file photo.

● I am so proud and happy for Mithali on her great achievement of reaching 10,000 runs milestone. She is into her 22nd year of international cricket, but the hunger for runs and to improve upon her game remains the same. Disciplined and dedicated, she always gives utmost importance to fitness and has never compromised on her preparation.

● In her long career she played five ODI World Cups and four T20 World Cups, which speaks of her consistency. She has been able to reach all these milestones just because of her hardwork.

— RSR MURTHY,

Mithali's coach

Battle of equals as Mumbai face Bagan

Margao, March 12: As many as 114 games, 295 goals, 87,811 passes and 7307 tackles later, the Indian Super League 7 will culminate with a heavyweight summit showdown between Mumbai City FC and ATK Mohun Bagan here on Saturday.

The match that lends meaning to every single touch taken so far, in what has been an exciting Hero ISL season, will be played at the Fatorda Stadium.

When Mumbai City FC take on ATK Mohun Bagan in the summit clash, there will be no more complex equations in play. The winner takes

home the trophy. Its as simple as that.

Few would argue that there is a better candidate for the final than these two - both Bagan and Mumbai have been head and shoulders above the rest throughout the season.

Both the teams come into the final with identical records, 12 wins and just 4 defeats in the league stage.

the latter of those victories handing them the League Winners Shield.

For Mumbai, this will be a first-ever final, but coach Sergio Lobera, and a handful of his players have been here before when FC Goa lost to Bengaluru FC in 2018-19. The team though has

looked confident under Lobera.

"They (ATK Mohun Bagan) are a very good team with good players and have the momentum. But the most important thing now is to put the focus on ourselves and try to do our best.

"We have no specific plan, only small details about the opponent. We need to work 100 per cent on our style of play," said Lobera.

There will be few selection dilemmas for Lobera, with the exception of figuring out Mandar Rao Dessais replacement. The Goan will miss the final due to suspension. — PTI

On the eve of the final, the Spaniard sounded as focused as ever.

"We have to compete and our idea is to win against our opponents. My team is prepared for winning," he said.

DC ESTATE

Pg II | > Ensure your home is not 'cut to size'

Pg III | >> Leave no scope for dangerous fires

At Vishal, the dream is bigger

The philosophy behind Vishal Projects Pvt. Ltd is to make a difference and to spread happiness through its work, says company founder G. Sridhar Rao. The company is now on its 14th project in 26 years, Vishal Sanjivini, at Tukkuguda, near FAB City

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

Vishal Projects Pvt. Ltd is making its mark by creating living spaces for all sections of people in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas. Company founder G. Sridhar Rao, a civil engineer himself, believes in the philosophy of giving back to society as well to mother nature.

The company has completed 26 years in the field and is on the verge of completing its 14th project: Vishal Sanjivini, a gated community with 338 luxury villas, spread out on 34 acres.

Right from the day of its inception, Vishal Projects has focused on quality, be it the inputs that go into its projects or the final ready-to-move-in properties that are delivered to customers. Some of the projects considered as landmarks for this company are Mount Meru Apartments in Banjara Hills, Srinivas Krupa luxury apartments and Neela-Vishal duplex villas at Trimulgherry and Vishal Prakruthi Nivas duplex villas at Dundigal.

G. Sridhar Rao, who completed his BE from Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal, says he wanted to create landmarks in Hyderabad. In the 26 years of his company, he has succeeded in making his dreams come true. "My belief is that what man dreams passionately, before he attains the age of 14, is something that drives him in his future. Dreams involve intellect, and emotions. I decided that I have to do something to make my desire to make a difference. I always wanted to make a difference and even today I move with the same passion with which I started on this path," Sridhar Rao says.

"Life," he says, "should be peace-



An artist's impression of 'Vishal Sanjivini' at Tukkuguda, near FAB City in Hyderabad, with 338 luxury villas and a 39,000-sq. ft clubhouse.

ful, both on the professional and personal fronts. I derive both from spreading peace and happiness through my projects to the people around me." While serving customers is a priority, Sridhar Rao says taking care of all the employees is equally important. "We make it our priority to ensure safety, security and well-being of every member in our organisation."

The company's project briskly taking shape is 'Vishal Sanjivini', a gated community with all luxuries at Tukkuguda. With 338 luxury villas fitted with the best of acces-

sories, the homes are designed to provide comfort, luxury and durability. Located at the entrance of FAB City, the gated community's each owner can look forward to three acres plus garden, tennis and basketball courts, and a club house that is a whopping 39,000 sq. ft.

Chaitanya Uppala, general manager of the company, said, "Vishal Sanjivini, is just two minutes' drive from the Outer Ring Road. The villas in this gated community are the best in design, this is one of the best investments one can make."

My belief is that what man dreams passionately, before he attains the age of 14, is something that drives him in his future. Dreams involve intellect, and emotions."

— G. Sridhar Rao
Founder, Vishal Projects Pvt. Ltd



INTERVIEW | Harin Kasam



Kitchens turn more royal

Harin Kasam of Bajaj Electronics says that after the lockdown, people are looking to ramp up the house with newer, bigger and better additions

HARLEEN MINOCHA

The year-long lockdown, thanks to the pandemic, has forced people to look inwards in every way possible, especially when it comes to houses and specifically the kitchen where we all have invested the most time during all these months while trying new recipes.

Now, as the country is opening up, the trend is very reflective in the kind of renovations and instalments consumers are looking for these days, with open spacious kitchens in a classic ethnic aesthetic, or a more contemporary hassle-free look.

Says Harin Kasam, category head for built-in and home appliances, Bajaj Electronics, "People are looking for a more royal feel with those ancient looking knobs and glass in their kitchen, whereas some others want more modern fittings without handles for the kitchen."

Turn to page 2



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Leave no scope for dangerous fires

Ensure that buildings meet fire-safety norms and have the requisite clearances, obtain the relevant certificates and check the internal wiring in the house to ensure that there is minimal chance of a fire occurring. If an accident does happen, make sure that measures to extinguish the fire or to escape exist

NAVEEN KUMAR

One of the important issues that a prospective home owner, or buyer needs to pay attention is to fire safety, according to safety experts. Though hazardous fires are typically few and far between, it is best to be aware and prepared just in the case of such a rare accident actually needing to be dealt with. Whether in independent homes in close proximity to each other in residential colonies or in apartment complexes, proper fire safety mechanisms and equipment are extremely important to prevent injuries, loss of life, and damage to property, according to fire safety experts. In an apartment complex, as residential units are built very close to each other, the risk associated with fire is high. The same is the case with commercial establishments where the movement of people is more, thus increasing the risk of injuries to people in case of a blaze, said fire officers of the city.

As per the fire safety measures, buildings below 15 metres require simpler fire safety measures compared to buildings that stand over 15 metres, according to Srinivas Reddy, district fire officer (DFO), Hyderabad.

"Residential buildings above 18 metres require a fire NOC (no objection certificate), wherein the builder must mandatorily approach the fire department and initially get a provisional NOC and obtain an occupancy NOC after the construction is completed. In commercial buildings, structures above 15 metres require a fire NOC, as per the



National Building Code (NBC)," said Srinivas Reddy. Explaining fire prevention and control methods, safety experts from the city said that broadly there are two methods adopted in the industry, namely active systems and passive systems.

"In active systems, engineered systems are used by various mediums for detecting and extinguishing fires manually or automatically. Whereas in passive systems, they built into the structure of a building to contain and limit the spread of fire. These

help in compartmentalisation of a building through the use of fire-resistance rated walls and floors, keeping the fire from spreading quickly and providing time to escape for people in the building. These aspects are taken care of in the design of the apartment

buildings," said Prabhakar Rao, fire safety expert.

DFO Srinivas Reddy added that they suggest safety measures to building owners. If it is known that they are not following the rules, notices get served and then the matter is taken to court.



Let in more light — it brings in cheer, is healthy ...and it's free

Vaastu also specifies that houses should have lots of natural light. There are many ways you can make this happen, with a little bit of help from the architect and the interior designer.

DC CORRESPONDENT

For most part, when we talk of the Sun, we think of the summer season. A period of heat of three months or so, with a few days in between that really sizzles that can even send a thermometer into a heat-induced stupor. Well, while that might be an overstatement, the fact is when it comes to summers, the general association lies with the heat the season brings.

In the past, summers were also dreaded for another reason, cuts in power supply. Thankfully, that is now a thing of the past in Hyderabad and rest of Telangana state, save for the odd few hours some time because of routine and seasonal maintenance works taken up by the power supply utilities.

However, there is another side to the Sun, the star that pro-

vides us with natural light, and because of the way we evolved, helps us in staying in generally good health. There is a reason why many people believe in Vaastu, the ancient system of building homes — a building code built on how natural elements interact and influence our well-being, that has been handed down from one generation to another in this country.

Living in a naturally well-lit home can result in increased production of Serotonin which helps in preventing Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Why is sunlight important in a home? The moment one steps into a house that is well lit — with natural light — the common reaction is one of a feeling of being welcomed. Well-lit homes, with natural light, can be the centres of 'sunny dis-

position', natural light in homes has been associated with better mental health. How often has one not felt a little out of sorts when stuck in a living space bereft of natural light? It is a well established fact that living in a naturally well-lit home can result in increased production of Serotonin which helps in preventing Seasonal Affective Disorder, appropriately acronymed SAD, a condition far more common among people living in cold countries where winters typically see the sun disappear sometimes for days and weeks on end.

When buying a house, it is a good idea to figure out the cardinal directions, see how the sunlight falls in through the windows. Even if the duration for which sunlight falls in may be restricted, because of other buildings blocking the sun and the like, a careful selection of a flooring material that reflects light, as well as walls painted in light colours or even white, can help overcome the absence of adequate duration of natural light inside a house, or an apartment.

Of course, then there are the direct health benefits of sunlight — production of much-needed Vitamin D by our bodies (this vitamin's level in the body has become a key indicator how Covid-19 can progress through its victims) - with this vitamin also contributing to stronger bones. A little known fact about sunlight is that exposure of skin to it can help in release of nitric oxide by the body into the blood. Nitric oxide is a known contributor in blood pressure regulation which in turn helps in better heart health.



FIRE SAFETY WHAT THE RULES SAY

For buildings

- Buildings 15 metres tall and above require emergency fire safety exits.
- Install sprinkler system, headlights, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers on each floor.
- Keep building plans handy to help the fire brigade in the event of a fire accident.
- Conduct fire mock drills.
- Apartments above 30 feet in height require a mandatory sprinkler system.

For the house

- In the kitchen, make sure you turn off the gas cylinder when it is not in use.
- Check the condition of the regulator regularly
- Do not store combustible materials, kerosene, petrol, diesel etc., in the house.
- If residing in an old house, check the wiring systems with an electrician.
- Check the condition of wiring and voltage usage as new appliances require more power.
- Check the condition of old appliances and see if they need any upgrade or stabilisers.

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