

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 28 MARCH 2021



WEATHER

Max: 39°C
Min: 22.6°C
RH: 18%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temp: 39/23°C

WORLD | 11

Myanmar junta kills over 90 protesters



SPORTS | 13

India-England ODI series decider today

TABLOID

Persistence needed to survive: Elnaaz Norouzi



ASTROGUIDE
Sarvari: Uttarakaya
Tithi: Phalguna Shuddha Pournami till 12.15 am (Monday)
Star: Uttara till 5.32 pm
Varjyam: 1.03 am to 2.29 am (Monday)
Durmuhurtam: 4.48 pm to 5.36 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Sha'ban 14,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.13 am
Zohar: 12.31 pm
Asar: 4.43 pm
Maghrrib: 6.34 pm
Isha: 7.42 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.28 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.13 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 6.28 PM
MOONSET TODAY 5.56 AM



Not Holi colours! That is the result of mudslapping by the voters!

SHORT TAKES
PREZ STABLE, IN AIIMS FOR HEART SURGERY

New Delhi, March 27: President Ram Nath Kovind was on Saturday shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here for a planned bypass procedure which is expected to be performed on Tuesday, a statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan said. The President's health condition is stable and he is under the care of experts, it said.

Mr Kovind, 75, had undergone a health check-up at the Army Hospital (R&R) here following chest discomfort on Friday morning. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has been shifted to the AIIMS, Delhi, in the afternoon today (March 27, 2021). Post investigations, doctors have advised him to undergo a planned bypass procedure which is expected to be performed on the morning of March 30, Tuesday.

"The President's health is stable and he is under the care of the experts at the AIIMS, the statement said. Earlier on Saturday, the Army hospital said in a medical bulletin that the president is being referred to AIIMS, Delhi for further investigation.

— PTI

COVID | RISING

Restrictions imposed on religious events in state

TS makes masks compulsory

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

The state government on Saturday issued orders making the wearing of a mask mandatory in public places and imposing restrictions on public gatherings, congregations, rallies and processions during the upcoming religious events to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. These orders were issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar following the increase in the number of positive Covid-19 cases across the state for the past few days.

The government also issued orders on Saturday imposing restrictions on public gatherings till April 30.

"Congregations pose a considerable threat of rapid

Tendulkar, Pathan test Covid positive

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and former India all-rounder Yusuf Pathan tested positive for Covid-19 and have gone into home isolation as

India recorded over 62,258 cases and 291 deaths in one day.

The latest figures are again the highest single-day spike in the last five months.

■ More on Page 7 and 13

transmission of Covid-19. Therefore, it is decided that public celebrations/observances should not be allowed in the state during upcoming religious events such as Shab-e-Barat, Holi, Ugadi, Rama Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Good Friday, Ramzan etc till April 30," the orders stated. Any deviation in this regard shall attract prosecution under Section 51 to 60 of Disaster Management Act 2005 and Section 188 IPC as well as other applicable laws, the GO said.

The order on masks stated: "It is hereby reiterated

that wearing masks in all public places, workspaces and public means of transport shall be mandatory across the state. Any deviation in this regard shall attract prosecution under Section 51 to 60 of Disaster Management Act 2005 and Section 188 IPC as well as other applicable laws."

The CS issued directions to collectors, district magistrates, commissioners and superintendents of police urging them to ensure strict implementation of the rule. However, the orders do not mention imposing penalty on violators of the mask rule.

Last year, on May 8, the state government had issued orders imposing ₹1,000 as penalty for those not complying with the mandatory masks direc-

tive. "It is hereby reiterated

Modi, Hasina agree to unite to fight terrorism

PM terms meeting 'productive', to conclude Teesta accord



Prime Minister Narendra Modi presents 109 ambulances to Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka.

INDIA, BANGLA WANT PEACE, STABILITY: MODI

Dhaka, Mar 27: India and Bangladesh want stability, love and peace instead of instability, terror and unrest in the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Modi was speaking to the Matua community members after offering prayers at a temple in Gopalganj's Orakandi — the birthplace of Hindu mystic figure and community's spiritual guru Harichand Thakur.

Analysts said Modi's planned temple visits carry a political significance at the time of the ongoing assembly elections in West Bengal.

■ Report on Page 7

of our nations, especially the youth," Modi said. Ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that the two leaders discussed their strong commitment to eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," said a joint statement issued after their talks. Modi expressed

India's appreciation for the cooperation extended by Bangladesh in security related matters. He also reiterated India's "sincere and continued efforts" to conclude the Teesta water-sharing agreement in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

+



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R K SWAMY BBDO 21/01/15



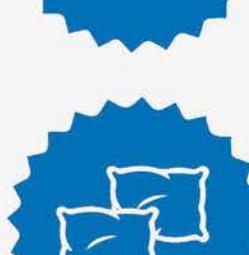
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SHORT TAKES
URDU ACADEMY HOLDS PANEL DEBATE ON APRIL 3

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

The Urdu Academy is holding a panel debate on Deccanit ka Mutalia (Deccan Studies) on April 3 at Urdu Maskan, Khilwat. Prof. Majeed Bedar, Prof. Naseemuddin Farees, Prof. Habeeb Nisar, Dr Zareena Parveen and Dr Mohammed Saifiullah Dy. CEO Wakf Board, will participate in the debate.

SAFIULLAH INSPECTS DARGAH YOUSUFAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

Dr Mohammed Saifiullah, after assuming the charge of Deputy CEO of Wakf Board, on Saturday inspected the Dargah Yousufain, Nampally and Idgah Guttala Begumpet.

He interacted with the staff members of the Board, took stock of the functioning of the various sections and assured the employees that he would streamline their work.

At Dargah Yousufain, he interacted with the staff and shopkeepers. Idgah Guttala Begumpet has 90 acres of land in the HiTec City area.

Danger zone



A road dug-up to lay sewage pipelines remains uncovered. A new road have not been laid since two months, posing trouble to people and danger to children due to open manholes.

—S. SURENDER REDDY

Cleaning of graveyards not yet completed for Shab-e-Barat

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

Muslim community members and public representatives complained that the cleaning of graveyards in the Old City had not been completed in time for the Shab-e-Barat, which falls on Sunday night this year. Many Muslims pay a visit to the graveyard on Shab-e-Barat.

The GHMC had approved works for almost every major Muslim graveyard in the Old City, but contractors have not completed the job. Corporators complained that a few contractors had succeeded in getting the contracts by bidding a small amount against the estimates and carrying out sub-standard works. Locals said that when they visited one of the biggest graveyards of the city, Daira Mir Momin at Sultan Shahi, they found debris and garbage spread around the graves. Mohammed Abul Samad, a local, said, "We are forced to



A lamb standing in the midst of garbage and debris at Daira Mir Momin graveyard, Sultan Shahi. —DC

clean the area around the graves of our family members as debris and garbage had not been removed."

Moghalpura corporator Nasreen Sultan said the GHMC has approved works worth ₹6.7 lakh to remove weeds and whitewashing in the Daira Mir Momin. On the complaints of residents she inspected the graveyards in her division and found that the contractors would not be able to complete the works in time.

She claimed that when she

alerted the officials about the slow pace of work, contractors swung into action on Saturday but she was not satisfied with the quality. She requested the GHMC commissioner not to clear the bills unless the works are evaluated by a team of experts. Shalibanda corporator Mustafa Ali Muzafer said his division had 25 graveyards and the GHMC had delayed approving the works. This correspondent tried to contact the officials but they didn't respond.

GHMC ready to inaugurate Hitec City RuB on April 8

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

The GHMC is ready to inaugurate the eagerly-awaited road underbridge (RuB) at Hitec City MMTS station on April 8. Once inaugurated, the RuB will provide a much-needed relief to commuters travelling from Kukatpally to Madhapur and Hitec City, who presently have to overcome traffic blues during peak hours.

With the existing bridge being too narrow, scores of motorists, who move towards Hitec City from Kukatpally end, are forced to travel at a snail's pace and get stuck in traffic jams

near the structure. For the last several years, motorists, especially employees working in IT companies in Madhapur and Gachibowli, have been demanding the civic body to construct a project to ease traffic congestion in the area.

The civic body executed the road underbridge as part of the Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP) at a cost of ₹59.09 crore. Primarily, the structure is being constructed to reduce the heavy load on the flyover between Hitec City and Kukatpally. In addition to the RuB, a box drain is also being constructed to avoid inundation

"While the railways has executed the RuB portion works, the municipal corporation has taken up the balance works, including approach road earthworks, retaining wall and RCC box drain works," the official said.

Nala widening a big challenge

GHMC managed to complete 37 works

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

Private agencies have been shying away from the nala widening project despite the GHMC floating tenders time and again. Officials said that the contractors had made it clear that they would not take up the project until the corporation acquires the land needed for it. Because of this reluctance of contractors, the GHMC has only managed to complete 37 works at an estimated cost of ₹127 crore as part of the Comprehensive Nala Development Plan (CNDP).

According to GHMC officials, the nala widening project has become a new challenge due to the town planning wing's delay in land acquisition.

Officials have been inviting tenders but due to land acquisition issues very few agencies have turned up and that too in areas where no land or minimal acquisition was required.

Citing the lukewarm response from private

agencies, 126 works to the tune of ₹697.36 crore have been transferred to CNDP wing of the GHMC, which has now decided to improve efficiency.

A senior GHMC official told *Deccan Chronicle* that the nala widening works have been going on at a snail's pace. Very few contractors have turned up for projects citing not only land acquisition issues but also lack of budgetary allocations by the government and the civic body. The official said despite land acquisition the civic body's finance wing was yet to release pending bills worth ₹100 crore for works that have been executed or are ongoing.

"The corporation has only managed to provide minor solutions to major inundation points that are prone to flash floods. However, official sources in the corporation said that the ongoing survey and its implementation were being gone about in an unrealistic way. Even the redesign of the existing nala has pitfalls, they said.

POLICE SHUTS FLYOVERS FOR SHAB-E-BARAT

Hyderabad: In view of Shab-e-Barat, the Hyderabad city police has imposed traffic diversions on Sunday. All flyovers in Hyderabad and Necklace Road will be closed after 10 pm, except the Greenlands flyover, PVNR Expressway and the Langer Houz flyover, to avoid any untoward incidents, road accidents and for the safety of commuters.

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SHORT TAKES**HEAT FORCES
TIGERS TO MOVE
TOWARDS RIVER**

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOMARAM BHEEM
ASIFABAD, MARCH 27

Tigers that have migrated into Kagganagar division from the Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve in Maharashtra are moving along the river Pranahita for drinking water and frequently entering the river following soaring temperatures. Old Adilabad district has been recording high temperatures for the last 15 days.

Forest officials say that they were tracking the movement of tigers on the state borders. Of late, the tigers are also returning to the Tadoba reserve by crossing the river.

Forest officials of Penchikalpet and Bejur mandal say that most of the time the big cats are moving along river Pranahita since plenty of drinking water is available and where the animals can cool their body.

Forest officials said that they did not find much tiger movement around villages located on the fringes of forest areas.

Meanwhile, there is a possibility of poachers' targeting the big cat during summer when they come to the water bodies to quench their thirst.

The safety and security of the tigers has become a cause of concern following a series of deaths of tigers and leopards in recent months in the Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve.

● **FOREST OFFICIALS** of Penchikalpet and Bejur mandal say that most of the time the big cats are moving along river Pranahita since plenty of drinking water is available and where the animals can cool their body.

● Forest officials said that they did not find much tiger movement around villages located on the fringes of forest areas.

Fish market on wheels

Ministers T. Harish Rao and Talasani Srinivas Yadav at the launch of mobile fish retail outlets, at HMDA Ground near Necklace Road in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— S.SURENDER REDDY

Dharani portal filled with owners' plaints

Portal gets 500 applications per day in past 20 days

**L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY I DC**
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

The Dharani portal for agricultural land transactions is being flooded with grievances of landowners. The revenue department on March 6 launched a nine-option grievance module, 'Apply for specific land matters', on the portal to enable landowners to file grievances on

● **WITH THE** addition of new features on Dharani since its launch on October 29, the portal has become user-friendly.

20 days. These grievances are directly reaching respective collectors. With the addition of new features on Dharani since its launch on October 29, the portal has become user-friendly. The features that have been

added recently include 'cancellation of registration', 'application for pending non-agricultural land assessment (NALA)', and 'apply for pattadar passbook (PPB) semi-urban land'. In all, over 30 main features exist in the portal right from slot booking and registration of agricultural lands, slot reschedule to market value of lands for stamp duty and registered document details.

Jana Reddy dares KCR over N'Sagar bypoll

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

Senior Congress leader Kunduru Jana Reddy challenged Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to sit at Pragathi Bhavan and he would stay in Gandhi Bhavan and let people decide their fate in the upcoming Nagarjunasagar bypoll. He made this challenge while addressing a public meet in Halia in Nalgonda district.

Jana Reddy stated that the Congress not only fought for Indian independence but also helped realised the dream of Telangana being a separate statehood. "I'm a political warrior and pioneer of the mandal system. K. Chandrashekhar Rao is aware of the fact but he will not disclose it," Jana Reddy said.

The senior leader said that it was the Congress

which had brought development to the constituency be it on the irrigation front or the implementation of welfare schemes.

He said as far as infrastructure was concerned, roads in the constituency were much better than those in Gajwel and Siddipet Assembly constituencies, represented by the Chief Minister and minister Harish Rao respectively.

AP to shut educational institutes in Covid zones

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 27

CASES RISE TO 69 IN TECH COLLEGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 27

Minister for education Adimulapu Suresh on Saturday ordered closure of educational institutions where Covid cases have been increasing abnormally. He cautioned about a possible second wave and instructed authorities to take all precautionary measures to ensure safety of students.

However, he stated that written and practical exams would be held as per schedule. The minister conducted a review meeting on Covid-19 through a video conference with collectors, vice-chancellors, district education officials, RJDs and other officials.

He called for forming special monitoring cells in all mandals and districts to monitor the situation in all educational institutions.

Suresh explained about how 168 students were infected in an educational institution in Rajahmundry.

He announced that

ing at the engineering college and staying in hostels on the university campus.

Of them, 58 tested positive on Friday and by Saturday reports of 11 more students came positive, taking the total to 69. With this, test results of all 880 students are out. Except for 69 students, others were negative.

WATER OFFICIALS HIT IN KADAPA

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, MARCH 27

had tested positive for Coronavirus.

Fear broke out at Kadapa collector's office here on Saturday after news spread that 23 staff of District Water Management Authority (DWMA) office in D Block of the collectorate

Covid tests for students would be increased and stern action would be initiated against educational institutions which neglect conduct of the test.

The minister said education was badly disturbed last year but now the government has initiated measures like online, offline and live streaming sessions.

MIM to fight Assembly polls in Bengal alone, says Owaisi

**PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI
AND RAJIB CHOWDHURI I
DC**
BERHAMPUR/KOLKATA, MARCH 27

Backtracking from his pledge to support Peerzada Abbas Siddiqui, the influential cleric of Furfura Sharif, after his outfit Indian Secular Front (ISF) allied with the Congress and the Left Front, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday declared that his party would fight the Assembly elections in West Bengal alone.

Kickstarting his campaign at Sagardighi in Murshidabad, Owaisi announced the names of two candidates: Noore Mehbho Alam from Sagardighi and Asadul Sheikh from the Jagipur Assembly constituency in the district,

with a promise to field more candidates in the next few days.

Asked about his previous pledge to support Siddiqui, the AIMIM chief later said, "No one is needed. We will fight the polls on our own strength." According to him, the 'Sangjukta Morcha', the alliance of the Congress-Left-ISF, would fail as the Muslims were upset because of the Left. AIMIM sources indicated that Owaisi has plans to field candidates at 13 seats in Murshidabad and four in Malda district.

Lashing out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Owaisi earlier told a rally, "The Prime Minister claimed in Bangladesh on Friday that he followed satyagraha for the independence of that country. If you did that, then why are the people

of Murshidabad called Bangladesh?"

He tore into Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, alleging, "She claims she worked for the Muslims but she has done nothing for them. The Muslims of Bengal are still lagging far behind in education, employment and health sectors. I found the people of Sagardighi facing scarcity of pure drinking water despite having a TMC MLA twice. Besides most bidi workers are not getting proper wages in Jagipur."

Calling Mamata Banerjee's opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act an "eyewash", Owaisi slammed her for using the Muslims for her votebank politics and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to divide the state between the Hindus and Muslims.

Frequent disruption of Parliament irks Venkaiah

Hyderabad, March 27: Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday expressed concern over the frequent disruption in Legislatures and Parliament as well as the decline in the standard of debates.

Observing that "disruption means derailing debate and derailing democracy and the nation," he cautioned that people will get disillusioned if the trend continues.

Naidu, who was speaking at the centenary celebrations of former parliamentarian and educationist Nookala Narotham Reddy here, said recent incidents in certain state legislatures were disheartening.

He stressed that conduct in parliament and legislatures should pursue the 3Ds — discuss, debate and decide.

The House should, at no

point, become a platform for disruption. Obstructing the House only hurts the cause of public interest, he said.

Reflecting on the exemplary quality of debates in Parliament during Narotham Reddy's time, Naidu suggested that representatives' actions in the legislatures should reflect people's aspirations and sought a more constructive and meaningful use of time in legislatures.

The Vice-President also expressed concern over the declining attendance of parliamentarians and legislators in respective Houses. He stressed the need for them to be regular and contribute meaningfully in the discussion.

He appealed to the people to elect representatives who possess the 4Cs — Calibre,

Conduct, Capacity and Character.

Emphasising the role of education in inculcating moral values, patriotism and probity in public life, Naidu said education should produce "well-rounded holistic individuals."

Pointing to India's demographic dividend, he said no other country has this kind of advantage and stressed the need to fully leverage it for the nation's progress.

In this context, he called for upskilling the younger generation in tune with the 21st century needs.

The Vice-President also suggested that in the spirit of New Education Policy, institutes should restructure themselves and bring in a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to education.

— PTI

FOREST FIRES HIT SESHACHALAM BIOSPHERE

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, MARCH 27

The scorching summer heat has yet again brought to the fore the forest fire menace in Seshachalam Biosphere. This disturbs the entire region's biodiversity, ecology and environment. Nearly half a dozen incidents of forest fires were reported in the last two weeks in Seshachalam forests that spread across Chittoor, Kadapa and Nellore districts.

However, timely intervention by forest and fire services personnel are bringing down the flames regularly and protecting the forest belt from wildfires. Forest fires are a regular phenomenon in these forests and pose a great threat to forest wealth, flora and fauna. According to Forest Survey of India (FSI), based on the forest inventory records, 54.40 per cent of forests in the country are exposed to occasional fires, 7.49 per cent to moderately frequent fires and 2.405 per cent to high incidence levels, while 35.71 per cent have not yet been exposed to fires of any real significance.

Among the top five states with the highest number of FFP/alerts between November 1 of last year and this Friday, Andhra Pradesh occupied the fifth position.

During this period, forests in Anantapur circle, Tirupati wildlife circle, FDPT Srisailam circle, Rajahmundry circle, Kurnool circle, Visakhapatnam circle and Guntur circle, received 13,673 FFP/alerts (SNPP-11,651 and MODIS-2,022), as per FSI data. Experts say the prolonged dry spell has led to drying up of vast tracts of Seshachalam forest cover, which in turn caused fire.

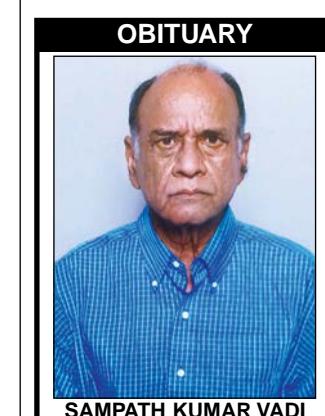
In life, we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one else will ever fill....

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ARVIND THALLA

In Grief:

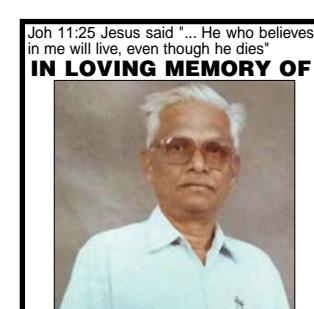
Arvind forever by Vasant Tembourni, Arunyjithi Tembourni, Ambika, Deepika & Amarjeet



SAMPATH KUMAR VADI
Passed away peacefully on March 26th. Final rites will be performed on March 27th Morning at 11:00 AM at Trimugherry.

Inserted by:

Sarla Sampath Vadi - Wife
Sandhya Vadi - Daughter
Vidhya Vadi - Daughter
Srinath Vadi - Son
Phone: 9030268579 & 888644463



G. DEVASAHAYAM
DOB: 06.02.1942 DOD: 28.03.2016
"Miss You till we meet in heaven"

Inserted by:
Smt. B. AGNESAMMA (Wife)
and Daughters



SRI VISHNU AGARWAL
S/o Late Sri Kishan Agarwal
D.O.B:23-03-2021
Our sincere condolences to the bereaved family

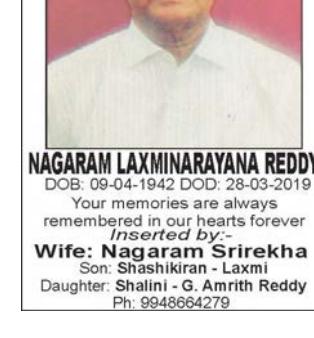
RAM MANDIR

The Jawaharnagar Temple Committee, Prender ghast Road, Secunderabad.

Expired On : 24-03-2021
BHOG Ceremony will be held TODAY 28-3-2021 at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Afzalgunj, Hyderabad.

KIRTAN will be held from 9am to 10:30am followed by ANTIM ARDAS and Guru Ka Langar.

Inserted By SALUJA Family



NAGARAM LAXMINARAYANA REDDY
DOB: 09-04-1942 DOD: 28-03-2019
Your memories are always remembered in our hearts forever

Inserted by:-
Wife: Nagaram Srirekha
Son: Shashikiran - Laxmi
Daughter: Shalini - G. Amirthi Reddy
Ph: 9948664279

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Corrigendum no.1

e-tender no. ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-43-20-

-21 in two Packet System.

Due to Administrative reason date and time for closing of tender has been modified as 26.04.21 at 15.30 hrs in lieu of 06.04.2021.

All others terms and condition will remain same. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.reps.gov.in>.

Chief Administrative Officer/C/S/ ECR/Mahendrughat, Pathna PR/01722/CON/Engg/C/20-21/16

Dated:25-03-2021

DHANAJAY SANCHERI, T. NARENDER

Advocates.

Flat No: 401 A Block Divya Teja Apartments

Raghavendra Nagar Colony

Osp: Ammuguda Railway Stn. P.O: Sanikupur,

Secunderabad-500084 (T)

Mobile No:9346531747

E-mail: sancheri22@yahoo.com

</

IN BRIEF
SCR commissions double line

Hyderabad: South Central Railway has completed and commissioned the double line with electrification between Falaknuma and Umdanagar, a distance of 13.98 km. In addition, The four stations falling in the Falaknuma - Umdanagar section viz., The four stations on the route — Falaknuma, NPA Shivarampally, Budvel and Umdanagar — have been provided with all passenger amenities.

2 held in ₹41 lakh cheating case

Hyderabad: Two persons for Noida, Uttar Pradesh — Kaushal Chaudhary, 30, and Umesh Yadav, 21, — who cheated a city resident of ₹41 lakh after offering dating services were nabbed by Hyderabad cybercrime police on Saturday. K.V.M. Prasad, assistant commissioner of police, Hyderabad cybercrime said the duo posted advertisements on websites and social media sites about dating services. Those approaching them were asked to deposit huge sums of money into the scammers' bank accounts.

MEET ON MASJID CONSTRUCTION IN SECTT. HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

A delegation of the Joint Action Committee and Tahreek Muslim Shabban called on welfare minister Koppula Eshwar on Saturday and discussed the matter of construction of the masjid in the Secretariat complex.

Shabban president Mushtaq Malik said, "We suggested to the minister to avoid further delay and lay the foundation stone for the masjid before the beginning of Ramzan and April 5 is the appropriated day." The minister told the delegation that the date would be finalised after an interaction with roads and buildings minister Prashant Reddy. "We also discussed with him various issues affecting the minorities' welfare," Malik said.

Nisar Ahmed, advocates Masood Ahmed and Shakeel Ahmed, apart from M.A. Gaffar, Sikandarulah, Mustafa Mahmood, Mirza Mazher Baig, Faisal Ahmed and Mahboob Ali were present.

OFFLINE OPTION IF APP IS INACCESSIBLE

From Page 1

The minister stated that the offline facility was launched for those who are unable to use the mobile app.

Devotees can avail these services at the Yadadri Laxminarasimha Swamy temple, Bhadrachalam Sri Rama temple, Basar Saraswati temple, Vemulawada Rajarajeshwari temple, Kondagattu Anjaneya temple, Komuraveli Mallikarjunaswamy temple, Ujjaini Mahankali temple, Secunderabad Ganesh temple, Balkampet Yellamma Pooham temple and the Karmanghat Hanuman temple. On April 7, 2020, the endowments department had launched the online puja facility in 12 temples for devotees who were not able to physically attend and offer puja as entry into temples was restricted due to the Coronavirus lockdown then in vogue since mid-March.

Wear mask, dry Holi advised to stop Covid

Festival may spread pandemic if people flout safety protocols

NAVEEN KUMAR I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

As people gear up to celebrate Holi on March 28 amid the renewed Covid-19 surge, health experts and doctors have recommended that the festivities be muted. They warn that the festival could become a super-spreader event if people flout rules and go wild with celebrations.

Dr Nitika Keshri, a city doctor, said people should opt for a dry Holi, that too with a small number of people.

"You can play Holi in smaller groups by following safety guidelines. Dry Holi is better, as with use of water one might fall sick and confuse common cold symptoms with Covid. The vaccinated lot should be particularly careful as their immunity is yet to get a boost with the dose." She recommended that masks are a must even while playing Holi.

A medical expert from Gandhi Hospital said: "We should avoid all sorts of social gatherings, especially around Holi, as social distancing norms are usually not followed during it. Let us not forget, that Coronavirus is not over yet."

● **A MEDICAL** expert from Gandhi Hospital said: "We should avoid all sorts of social gatherings, especially around Holi, as social distancing norms are usually not followed during it."



Children purchase colour-guns and colours at a shop ahead of Holi celebrations on Saturday.

— P. SURENDRA

Doctors advise caution on Holi due to Covid-19

KANIZA GARARI I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

The festival of colours can be played safely by ensuring that skin, eyes and hair are safe from the synthetic chemical colours that are used by certain people.

A good moisturiser or cold cream must be applied to the skin before playing with Holi colours as it helps in protecting the skin.

Coconut oil must be used for the hair. Those who wear contact lenses must

avoid using the lenses while playing Holi as it is found that the colours can get trapped between the eye and the lens. Use sunglasses if possible as that will protect eye from colours and also from the heat.

Dr Seshachalam Nitin, cataract and lasik surgeon, said, "If colour gets in your eyes, rinse them well with clear running water, preferably cold, two or three times. If there is irritation avoid rubbing the eye. If uneasiness continues, approach an eye

doctor immediately." It is has been noted in the last few years that injury and irritation of eyes are the most common complaints post Holi. It is advised to play with natural colours and avoid water balloons.

Dr Atul Gupta, professor and eye doctor with the government, said, "In the last few years people have been taking precautions but we still find that children are the most vulnerable. It is important for parents to counsel them about protection."

She Teams warn Holi revellers

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

She Teams have warned revellers against harassing women on the pretext of celebrating Holi. "Consequences for those caught in such acts will be very dire," they warned.

"Bura na maano Holi hai" translates to "Don't be offended, it is Holi". Using this phrase, certain revellers throw colour or water on neighbours or even strangers. "This should stop, as it amounts to normalising harassment," opines a psycholo-

OFFICIALS TO CURB SALE OF BHANG

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

Holi heralds the consumption of 'bhong' or marijuana paste with or without milk or with sweets. But as marijuana consumption is prohibited officials of Excise Department are gearing up to curb sales of bhong.

"As per our regular protocol, we are conducting raids on suspected places to curb sales of bhong," an official of Excise

Department said. Specific instructions have been issued to keep vigil on bhong and ganja mixed delicacies available at hotspots like Begum Bazar, Dhoopet and Mahabubganj.

"In addition, we are keeping an eye on habitual offenders to ensure that no drugs are available on the pretext of Holi," the official said.

As per definition, ganja is a narcotic in the NDPS Act.

Hyderabad gets 358 more CCTV cameras

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

As a part of the Community CCTV project, 358 CCTV cameras were installed in the Hyderabad commissionate limits and were inaugurated on Saturday by home minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali.

These areas include Osmania General Hospital, Housing Board Colony, certain crime-prone areas and bastis like Singareni Colony, Sundernagar 'A' Colony, Friends Colony, Shivaji Nagar Colony, Swarnadham-nagar Colony, Jai Santoshi Nagar Colony (East), Pardivada and Chowk Maidan areas.

Further, about 33 new areas have been identified for installation of CCTV cameras, taking into consideration the ground level requirement of police personnel.

Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy and Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar along with several higher officials attended the inauguration.



— R. PAVAN

DIGGING | PAST The 'terracotta cakes' are shaped like a tablet

Ancient tiles found in Warangal

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, MARCH 27

History and archaeology researcher Reddy Ratnakar Reddy has claimed that ancient 'terracotta cakes' have been found on and near the Kothakonda hill in Bheemadevarapalli mandal of Warangal Urban district.

According to him, three types of baked clay tiles were found in the cotton fields on and beside the hillock. Some of the finds were similar to those recovered from the Indus Valley Civilization sites.

"These terracotta tiles are shaped like a tablet cut

in half. Others are rectangular and the edges are sharp. The remaining are bent in the shape of the English letter 'L'. They are about 3.5 inches long and three inches wide with half an inch thickness," Ratnakar said. Terracotta cakes glued to lime mortar were also found on the edge of the hillock, he said adding that archaeological evidence suggests that they were used in pyro technology operations.

Speaking about the find, Ramakrishna, retired director of archaeology, opined that the terracotta tiles appeared to be from the Chalcolithic era, the earliest historical era.

"A variety of terracotta cakes along with triangular terracotta cakes have been found in historical places like Lothal, Kali Bangan, Rakigar and Banavali where the Indus Valley Civilization flourished," he said.

Noting the places where the terracotta cakes were known to be found, Ratnakar Reddy said they could also be seen in the Mughal monuments in Delhi but are a bit larger and called lacquer bricks. He said similar tiles were used on the inside of the

Rin LIQUID

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Result may vary according to the amount of chlorine in the water and dyes of the fabric.

MRP 99 (incl. of all taxes) for 800ml bottle.
Based on test conducted on select fabric and stains.
Tested selected dyes on the fabric under lab condition.

1228.2021

TS reports fall in Covid cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

The state saw a slight fall in the number of Covid-19 cases on Friday, 495, when compared with 518 cases on Thursday. Two deaths were reported on Friday, taking the case-load to 3,05,804 and deaths to 1,685.

The number of active cases reached 4,241 on Friday, which means that the spread is fast and this will reduce the doubling time of the virus.

A total of 58,029 tests were conducted on Friday, 49,704 in the government sector and 8,325 in the private sector. The health department said 25,532 primary contacts and 6,963 secondary contacts were tested.

The GHMC area recorded 142 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 45 and Ranga Reddy 35. In the districts, Nizamabad had 30 cases, Narayanpet 21, Sangareddy 20, Mahbubnagar 18 and Karimnagar 16 cases.

40,323 TAKE COVID VACCINE IN TELANGANA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

In 722 Covid-19 vaccination centres across the state, 40,323 beneficiaries took the shot on Friday according to the state health department bulletin issued on Saturday. Of these, 37,115 took their first vaccine dose and 3,208 the second.

The second dose was given to 955 healthcare workers, and 2,253 frontline workers. The total number of vaccines spent was 11,25,414 and wastage stood 0.74 per cent, the health department said. A total of 3,70,290 senior citizens have been administered the first dose so far.

Mahbubnagar 18 and Karimnagar 16 cases.

Goods gutted in godown fire

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

A major fire broke out at a godown in the Chandulal Baradari area of Bahadurpura late on Friday night, reportedly gutting property worth lakhs of rupees. According to fire officials, they received an alert at about 1.30 am, past midnight, in a warehouse. Speaking to Deccan

Chronicle

G.

Venkateshwar Reddy,

station fire officer of

Chandulal Baradari

said,

"Eight fire

engines

from

Mogulpura,

Salarjung

Museum,

Secretariat

and Malakpet

were

used

to put off the fire.

Due to the combustible

material

present in the

godown

it took more

than 10 hours to douse the fire." No casualties were reported.

GOV. FOR ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF TRIBALS

Hyderabad, March 27: Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday called for a time-bound action

among the PVTs, she

called

for a result-ori-

ented

action

plan to

address

the issue on a

pri-

ority-basis.

She was discussing the 'Nutritional Intervention Action Plan for the Primitive Tribal Groups in Telangana,' with the scientists of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN).

— INN

Expressing her concern over the severe malnutrition and micro nutrient deficiencies

From Page 1

The minister stated that the offline facility was launched for those who are unable to use the mobile app.

Devotees can avail these services at the Yadadri Laxminarasimha Swamy temple, Bhadrachalam Sri Rama temple, Basar Saraswati temple, Vemulawada Rajarajeshwari temple, Kondagattu Anjaneya temple, Komuraveli Mallikarjunaswamy temple, Ujjaini Mahankali temple, Secunderabad Ganesh temple, Balkampet Yellamma Pooham temple and the Karmanghat Hanuman temple. On April 7, 2020, the endowments department had launched the online puja facility in 12 temples for devotees who were not able to physically attend and offer puja as entry into temples was restricted due to the Coronavirus lockdown then in vogue since mid-March.

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DECCAN Chronicle

28 MARCH 2021



Shreya Sen-Handley

Off the beaten track

Defend our freedoms, just connect the 'dots'

Around the world in March, millions died from Coronavirus, cancer, and the many maladies we don't seem able to prevent or cure. And with our new irrational rejection of vaccines, including the ones that have conclusively, over centuries, helped eradicate disease, millions will perish. But, after rampaging diseases, our single biggest problem is male violence, surely, whether it manifests itself in full-scale warfare, environmental degradation, or the brutalisation of the vulnerable, including women?

This month (and every other in my long career as a woman), I have despaired over the widespread murder of women. As I lament the loss of London's Sarah Everard, the six Asian women gunned down in Atlanta, and the rising tide of femicide of the past weeks in India, I am gripped by a terrible *déjà vu*. We've all been here before; reassured by our leaders that they'll take firm steps to protect women, we watch history repeating as they blithely fail. And like a cracked record I find myself railing against our mistreatment again; fitfully hopeful that speaking up might make a tiny difference. Didn't the Suffragettes' dissent eventually garner votes for British women? Didn't the recent Indian Farmers' Protest, especially the tenacity of its women, focus the world's attention on their predicament? Yet, over time, so little has changed for the better in man's treatment of man, and indeed, woman that my faith in our voices being heard has been shaken.

What would our sagacious leaders suggest we do instead?

Talk less, say Japanese Olympics chiefs Mori and Sasaki. If women stopped airing their concerns, according to them, 'women's problems' would simply evaporate (so negligible are they). And isn't it a fact, such men point out, the moment women stop 'nagging', nobody hears about these issues again? Proving they never actually existed. All it requires then is to solve 'women's problems', is for women, or nags, hags, and "Olympigs", as Sasaki



Hundreds gather in London for the Sarah Everard vigil despite ban. — AFP

would have it, to keep quiet.

Be seen less, spouts the Uttarkhand CM, in charge of an Indian state of around 5 million women. Bare female knees, sayeth he, will be the undoing of society. Leading to the collapse of morals, sense, and civilisation, ultimately. Haven't we heard that (and similar) from the patriarchy, times without number? Nor can it be wrong, surely, if so many men agree? Women revealing anything at all, including their capabilities, are immoral, dangerous and destructive. The only women worth respecting are the ones you can't see. Or hear. Because quiet, retiring women, whether locked in their homes, muzzled, or DEAD, can't upset our perfectly inequitable planet.

Walk less too, we're told often. Women shouldn't go anywhere on their own, except in a straight line between work and home. Not that every place of work is acceptable! If you work in a spa for example, you might get bumped off by frustrated men, and the fat-cat-owned media will slaver over it, but have no sympathy to spare. And even less action will be taken. Taking the path that suits you – literally and figuratively as well – is not for women, you expect Dark Age patriarchs to proclaim. But no, this is the message from our modern judiciary and police: guardians of our wellbeing. In Britain this month, not only was it revealed that a policeman had murdered homeword-bound-after-sundown Sarah Everard, they then stymied multiple vigils to mourn her in the name of Lockdown. Like all stalwarts of the status quo, I suspect they'd suggest a woman's place is at home if they could. The necessary Lockdown mantra of 'stay home, stay safe' has never been just a pandemic-protection slogan when it comes to women, but imposed rules to live by through history. It kept us so safe sometimes, we never felt pain again: as the reality of 137 women killed around the world DAILY by men intimately known to them attests.

But if staying home, staying covered, staying silent, hasn't kept safety for us, what will? Unlike the prized collection of exotic birds we're sometimes perceived to be, safety is only a small part of our needs. We must continue to educate. Teaching women early to be free, to aspire to every wonderful opportunity this world has to offer, and young men to respect these same freedoms and aspirations in women, is key. But as the mother of both a son and a daughter, I've discovered that this is harder to achieve than I'd imagined. We encourage, support, and remodel the right behaviours for both, yet find that the occasional stereotype, or mild sexist trope, still winds its way home. Through conversations with our children, their friends and teachers, it's become obvious that this is the influence of playground chatter, media and the Internet; as much of which we've as possible, like all concerned parents. Yet, the trickle that filters into their lives is proof of the pervasive nature of prejudice, and how impossible that is to eliminate entirely. And is shielding from reality the right approach anyway? So, we discuss inequities with them instead, explain why they're wrong, where they come from, and how best to address them. Thus teaching them both NOT to 'know their place'.

That isn't a complete solution either, is it? Just like protecting ourselves isn't enough, nor protesting. What's required, of course, is a major overhaul; systemic change that runs deep and wide through society, and belongs to us all. The answer then, though neither original nor revolutionary, lies in connecting the dots – literally! Because "dots", funny enough, is what middle-class India calls its daughters. Our political leaders and corporations don't want upheavals, and activist organisations sometimes grow too big to make a deep-rooted difference. But if we can join, in small but ever-widening circles, our young women (and many peaceable men) – the dots – to work towards change, whilst providing support and the benefit of our experience, there's hope yet. The possibility even of societal transformation. Then, no matter what our sex, sexuality, class, caste, colour, age or creed, we might finally walk, in darkness and in light, bare-kneed or bare anything-at-all, any which way we please.

Shreya Sen-Handley is the author of the recently published Strange: Stories, the award-winning Memoirs of My Body, and a forthcoming book of travel misadventures. Her Twitter and Insta handle is @shreyasenhan.

Subhani



India's Gilded Age



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

One thing that stood out during the recently concluded budget session of Parliament was how ministers of the Union kept parroting ad nauseam "It is not the business of government to do business". It left me wondering as to whether they really even understood the full import or implications of their utterances.

I could not help wondering every time the above proposition was articulated that the next inevitable and portentous consequence would be that it no longer would remain the business of government to be in government. By the time the grand garage sale of India's public assets would be over economic and, by extension, political power would have become so intensely concentrated in the hands of chaebols and oligarchs that they would be the real overlords of India giving even the American gilded age a run for its money.

No government would in future either be able to challenge them meaningfully or deliver public goods and services for the teeming millions who make up the bulk of our populace and require them most.

The Gilded Age, 1870-1899, was a period in American history when a few people through gross chicanery and outright sophistry became vulgarly wealthy in a very short span of time.

The eminence grise of the gilded age were the quick-rich moguls namely John D. Rockefeller, Andrew W. Mellon, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Flagler, Henry H. Rogers, J.P. Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt and John Jacob Astor. However in the popular imagination of American people they are still the robber barons who had become affluent through illegitimate means.

The later iterations of the

gilded age have been periods in the history of nations when public assets created out of public money have been privatised on a mega scale.

The person who really put wheels under this large-scale privatisation of public assets in the penultimate decade of the twentieth century was Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

On becoming the Premier in May 1979, she sold off steelmakers, carmakers, aerospace firms, oil and gas giants, airlines and the telecoms' monopoly in the face of robust protests by well meaning and sober public intellectuals, and even the directly impacted workers of these former state-owned enterprises.

Even public housing was pawned of the tenants who lived in it.

However, in the ultimate analysis, this privatisation turned out to be more of a societal shock, rather than therapy for an ailing economy. It was a violent act of economic engineering enforced by resorting to the coercive powers of the state. Its social implications were colossal. Short sighted un-egalitarian, and antithetical to the notion of public investment, it did not lay the underpinnings for either sustainable or pervasive prosperity. It was a chimera.

In fact, a 2005 study by economists Blanden, Gregg and Machin found that: "The rapid increase in UK income inequality that began in 1979 is sometimes justified by the argument that society is now more meritocratic so that it is easier for the poor to become richer if they are willing and able to work hard. In fact, our research shows that the opposite has occurred – there has actually been a fall in the degree of social mobility over recent decades. Children born to poor families are now less likely to break free of their background and fulfil their

potential than they were in the past. Thus the only enduring legacy of the Thatcher years was that while the rich became richer the poor became poorer."

Post the collapse of the

Russian State or provincial governments became putty in their hands. The bottomline was not wealth generation but wealth extraction.

As a consequence, billions

of dollars of public

money found its way into

private hands as unearned

income. The result was

that there was hyper-inflation,

the bottom dropped out of the Russian currency

and ordinary people

were forced into the most

extreme form of destitution.

It was a plight far worse than even the years of Communism.

Similarly in India today there are capitalists who are benefiting from a very similar modus operandi.

They are "growing fatter"

by the hour cornering pub-

lic assets at basement

prices aided and abetted

actively by a collusive

state. Airports, airlines,

public sector units, power

utilities are all being put

on the chopping block under a

falacious construct that it

is not the business of govern-

ment to be in business.

The consequences of such a

ill-conceived strategy in

the name of privatisation

and disinvestment would

haunt India for decades to

come.

A country that lifted

271 million people

out of poverty

between 2004 and

2014 is today

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They are "growing fatter" by the hour cornering public assets at basement prices. More often than not oligarchs just stripped their requirements of all value simply leaving a shell of a company behind.

They acquired natural resources and then re-sold them at hefty premiums and parked the money abroad. Another favoured modus operandi was the

productive establishments and other precious assets were simply pawned off at a fraction of their worth. A tiny clique of oligarchs and carpetbaggers simply took over much of Russia's economy and became filthy rich. They snapped up valuable state assets at rock bottom prices. More often than not oligarchs just stripped their requirements of all value simply leaving a shell of a company behind.

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IN BRIEF
PATOLE: CONG WILL RECONSIDER SUPPORT TO MVA

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, MARCH 27

The row over the Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's statement that NCP chief Sharad Pawar should lead the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) has not died down as the Maharashtra Congress has once again issued a threat to Shiv Sena, saying the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state is in power because of its support.

State Congress chief Nana Patole said that if Raut does not stop criticising Congress leadership, they will have to think over their decision of supporting the government.

"The MVA government exists due to Congress' support. A time has come to make them understand that they (Sena and NCP) are not the government. If Sanjay Raut continues to speak against the Congress, we will have to take our own decision," said Mr Patole in Bhiwandi on Saturday. Mr Raut had said in New Delhi that the UPA is "paralysed" now and hence a non-Congress leader like Mr Pawar should lead it at the national level.

His statement has invoked an angry reaction from the Congress leaders, which asked whether the Sena leader was a spokesperson of Mr Pawar.

Reiterating his support to the NCP chief, Mr Raut said that "some people in Delhi" are preparing to form UPA-II, which is why the existing UPA needs to be strengthened if the opposition is to fight the BJP.

The Congress leader also hit out at Mr Raut saying he should stop advocating Mr Pawar for the post of UPA head. Those who are not a part of the UPA should not talk about its leadership, he said.

SONOWAL CONFIDENT OF GETTING 100 SEATS

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, MARCH 27

Over 74 per cent voters exercised their franchise on Saturday in the first phase of the Assam Assembly polls which were held amid heavy security in 47 constituencies of the state.

Except for some Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) glitches no major incidents reported so far from any of the poll bound Assembly segments.

After casting his vote at Sahitya Sabha Bhawan in Dibrugarh, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who is contesting from Majuli, told reporters that that BJP would get over 100 seats.

Besides Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the first of three phases of the Assembly election has also decided the fate of other prominent faces in the fray like state Assembly speaker Hitendra Nath Goswami (Jorhat), state Congress chief Ripun Bora (Gohpur), Assam Gana Parishad chief Atul Bora (Bokakhat), Congress Legislature Party leader Debabrat Saikia (Nazira), jailed Rajbari Dal president Akhil Gogoi (Sivasagar) and Assam Jatiya Parishad president Lurimyoti Gogoi (Dulaijan).

This election has been pitched as a battle between the BJP's '10 promises' and the Congress' '5 guarantees'. Between the TMC and BJP cadres who hurled bombs on each other. The injured duo was admitted to hospital.

At Dantan in West Midnapore, Soumendu Adhikari, who is the brother of Nandigram BJP candidate Shuvendu Adhikari, had a narrow escape when his car was vandalized by a group of armed TMC workers in the broad daylight near a polling booth at Sabajput.

His driver Ramgovind Singh, however, suffered injuries.

Soumendu, who recently joined the saffron party,

Sporadic violence marks first phase in West Bengal

Didi's purported audio clip seeking help from BJP leader to win surfaces



Women show their identity cards as they wait to cast votes at a polling station, during the first phase of Assembly polls in Midnapore on Saturday.

- PTI

Till the reports last came in the evening, the voters' turnout stood at 79.79 per cent out of over 73 lakh voters who got the option to decide the fate of 191 candidates.

Though the polling recorded a high figure, attacks and counter attacks between the ruling Trinamul Congress and BJP became evident throughout the day despite the presence of a massive central paramilitary forces' deployment.

At Kanthi South in East Midnapore, Soumendu Adhikari, who is the brother of Nandigram BJP candidate Shuvendu Adhikari, had a narrow escape when his car was vandalized by a group of armed TMC workers in the broad daylight near a polling booth at Sabajput.

His driver Ramgovind Singh, however, suffered injuries.

Soumendu, who recently joined the saffron party, claimed that he reached the booth after getting complaints of rigging by the TMC there. At Salboni in West Midnapore, Sangjukta Morcha candidate of the CPI(M) Sushanta Ghosh, who is also a former minister, was heckled by a group of angry TMC activists. He was rescued by the police from the spot. Four persons were held by the police later.

At Bhagabnupur seat in East Midnapore, officer-in-charge of Patashpur police station Deepak Kumar Chakraborty and a central force jawan were injured when they led the troops to stop a clash

between the TMC and BJP cadres who hurled bombs on each other. The injured duo was admitted to hospital.

At Dantan in West Midnapore, the central paramilitary forces lathi-charged after the TMC and BJP workers clashed with each other over tearing party flags and leaving four injured.

In another incident, the villagers of Dadra at Keshiary in the district blocked the road by putting wood logs. They accused the central forces of beating them after they protested against their alleged order to cast votes in favour of a political party.

Later, a TMC delegation led by MP Sudip Bandopadhyay lodged a complaint with Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal Ariz Aftab claiming that the central forces jawans tried to influence the voters in 15 constituencies.

In Purulia, TMC candidate Sujoy Banerjee was seen allegedly threatening to "shoot" some BJP workers in presence of the police near a polling booth during a heated altercation. The Election Commission has sought a report on the incident.

Meanwhile, two-time West Bengal chief minister and Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, who is contesting from Nandigram, landed in a tight spot on Saturday after an audio clip in which she is allegedly heard asking a local BJP leader, who was earlier in her party, to work for her victory in the hot seat against her nemesis Shuvendu Adhikari sur-

facted.

While Ms Banerjee remained silent, her party strongly supported her over the audio clip of two minutes and 52 seconds which appears to be a phone conversation she recently had with Proloy Pal, BJP district vice-president of East Midnapore.

In the evening, TMC spokesman Kunal Ghosh, in a bid to counter the BJP's attack on the

workers in presence of the police near a polling booth during a heated altercation. The Election Commission has sought a report on the incident.

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Didi.

To placate him, the TMC chief allegedly argued, "I know everything. But do you know who did it? It was the handiwork of a local leader who once used to be in our party. He did not allow me to visit either Nandigram or Midnapore. They ran it like their zamindari. You know everything brother!"

Mr Pal, however, called it "fake".

During her alleged talk with Mr Pal, Ms Banerjee said, "You are a very young chap. You also work very well. I know everything about you. Please help us this time. You will have no problem. Be assured about that."

Mr Pal, however, replied, "My family inspired by you and your ideology, came into politics. The day you took oath as the CM, I performed a yagna inviting five Brahmins to it and took out rallies also. But I feel sad to see myself not getting the president's post (in the district) after doing so much for you,

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NORTH EAST Facing 500sq.yds Commercial Residential Plot with roads on 2nd sides at a prime location in Abdulla purhamet, Hayathnagar only 700meters from NH65 At a very reasonable Rate don't miss the opportunity. Contact : Owner Ph:995084604, (HYMM/2021/C0874)

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KONDAPUR CENTRAL Park 31 Y W/F HUDA Sudarshan Colony, Main Road 185 Y/N/E, Gachibowli 350/248 W/F HUDA, Gowlidodd 35ft Y HUDA, Ph: 9849632154 (HYMM/2021/C08193)

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MANU 70MM

SECUNDERABAD

TALLURI THEATRE

ECIL X ROAD

VENKATARAMANA KACHIGUDA

SHARADA 70MM

KAPRA

BHUJANGA 70MM

JEEDIMETLA

SENSATION INSIMI KHARITABAD

SREEARAMANA 70

AMBERPET

VYJAYANTHI 70

NACHARAM

SUSHMA 70MM VYASANTALIPURAM

VIJETHA 70MM

VARABANDA

SAI RANGA 70MM

MIYAPUR

BR HITECH 70MM MADHAPUR

SUPER 70MM

BALAPUR

SV CINESQUARE

PATANCHERU

VLS SRIDEVI 70MM CHILKAGUDA

SRI PREMA 70MM

TUKKUGUDA

KRISHNA CINEMA

NAGARAM

ASIAN SWAPNA KATTEDAN

SANTOSH 70MM

IBRAHMINTAP

JAGDAMBA 70MM

GHATKESAR

SHIVRANJANI 70 ISNAPUR

JIYOTHI 70MM

IDA BOLARAM

KRISHNA CINEMA

ALIYABAD

MAHESHWARI 70 MAHESHWARAM

VENKATESAI 70

KEESARA

VENKATESHWARA

GUMMADIDALA

LAXMI 70MM

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ASIAN MUKUND

MEDCHAL

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TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad

FORUM - Kukatpally I ICON - HITECH

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GALLERIA I CENTRAL - Punjagutta

RK - BANJARA I INORBIT - Cyberbad

GPR - Kukatpally I SHA - Chintal

RADHIKA - Kapra I M CUBE - Attapur

CINEPLANET - Kompally I

CINESQUARE - Uppal I

SHIVAGANGA - Dilshuknagar

LAXMIKALA - Moosapet

INOX

GVK - Banjara I GSM - Miyapur

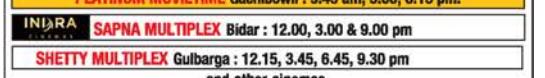
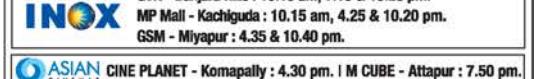
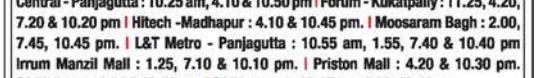
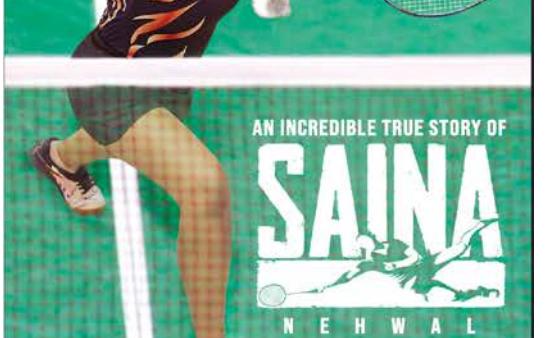
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WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 28 MARCH 2021

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Myanmar junta kills over 90 protesters on 'day of shame'

Lethal crackdown across country on Armed Forces Day

Yangon, March 27: Security forces killed more than 90 people, including some children, across Myanmar on Saturday in one of the bloodiest days of protests since a military coup last month, news reports and witnesses said.

The lethal crackdown, which took place on Armed Forces Day, drew strong renewed criticism from Western countries. British Ambassador Dan Chugg said the security forces had "disgraced themselves" and the U.S. envoy called the violence horrifying.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the junta leader, said during a parade to mark Armed Forces Day that the military would protect the people and strive for democracy.

State television had said on Friday that protesters risked being shot "in the head and back". Despite this, demonstrators came out on the streets of Yangon, Mandalay and other towns,



Protesters taking part in a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon's Hlaing township on Saturday.

as they have done almost daily since the Feb. 1 coup that ousted elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The Myanma Now news portal said 91 people were killed across the country by security forces.

At least 29 people, including a 13-year-old girl, were killed in Mandalay but there were conflicting reports later that he may have survived. Another 13-year-old was among the dead in the central Sagaing

region. "Today is a day of shame for the armed forces," Dr. Sasa, a spokesman for CRPH, an anti-junta group set up by deposed lawmakers, told an online forum.

— Reuters

UK, US EMBASSIES CONDEMN JUNTA OVER KILLING

Yangon March 27: The US embassy in Myanmar condemned the junta for "murdering" civilians on Saturday as the military celebrates its Armed Forces Day. "Security forces are murdering unarmed civilians, including children, the very people they swore to protect," said a statement released on the embassy's Facebook page.

"These are not the actions of a professional military or police force."

The European Union and the United Kingdom said on Saturday that actions by Myanmar's junta are "indefensible" after scores of anti-coup protesters were reportedly killed as the country marked Armed Forces Day.

In a statement released on Facebook, the EU embassy in Myanmar said, "This 76th Myanmar Armed Forces Day will forever stay engraved as a day of terror and dishonor. The killing of unarmed civilians, including children, are indefensible acts."

— AFP/Agencies

CHINA WINE DUTY: AUSTRALIA TO TAP WTO

Sydney, March 27: Australia's trade minister threatened to take China to the World Trade Organisation on Saturday over its "unjustifiable" decision to hike duties on Australian wine imports for up to five years. In the latest salvo between Beijing and Canberra, China's commerce ministry announced levies ranging from 116.2 percent to 218.4 percent would be slapped on Australian wine imports from Sunday.

Trade Minister Dan Tehan said the tariffs meant it was "basically impossible" for Australian wine to be competitive in the Chinese market.

"This decision which has been taken by the Chinese government is extremely disappointing and completely unjustifiable," Tehan told reporters in Melbourne. "We will be looking at next steps, and those next steps will include looking at taking this matter to the World Trade Organisation." On Friday, the Chinese commerce ministry said it was imposing the duties after an investigation found "dumping and subsidies on imported wines" from Australia impacted the Chinese market.

— AFP

GRAND RELEASING THIS WEEK

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SHORT TAKES
Maiden I-League title for Kerala

Kolkata: Gokulam Kerala FC on Saturday clinched their maiden I-League title in spectacular fashion as they came back from a goal down to beat TRAU 4-1 in the final match of the season here.

Bidyashagar Singh's 23rd minute strike did little to stop the Gokulam juggernaut as goals by Sharif Mohamed (69th), Emil Benny (74th) and Mohammad Rashid (90+6) handed them the trophy.

With Churchill Brothers winning 3-2 against Punjab FC in the day's other match held simultaneously at another venue here, Gokulam shared points (29) with the Goan side but were crowned champions on head-to-head record. — PTI

Verstappen takes Bahrain GP pole

Sakhir: Red Bull's Max Verstappen took a superb pole position for the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix on Saturday and will start the race immediately ahead of Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen earned his fourth career pole to deny Hamilton his 99th, edging out the world champion by .39 seconds on his final attempt.

Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas was .59 behind Verstappen in third, while Charles Leclerc qualified in an encouraging fourth for Ferrari. Verstappen clinched the season-ending Abu Dhabi last December from pole and now goes for the 11th win of his career. Hamilton seeks a record-extending 96th win. — AP

Medvedev, Osaka through in Miami

Miami: Daniil Medvedev celebrated his rise to second in the world with a seamless entry into the Miami Open on Friday, trouncing Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun in less than an hour. Russia's Medvedev needed just 56 minutes to subdue Lu 6-2, 6-2, firing nine aces with just one double fault as he advanced to a third-round meeting with Australian Alexei Popyrin, a 6-4, 6-2, winner over 30th-seeded American Reilly Opelka.

Women's world No. 2 Naomi Osaka had a tougher time, but conquered her nerves in her first match since winning the Australian Open to beat Aussie Ajla Tomljanovic 7-6 (7/3), 6-4. Men's third seed Alexander Zverev became the biggest upset victim, falling 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 to 83rd-ranked Finn Emil Ruusuvuori. — AFP

Hyd vs RR in hockey final

Hyderabad: Hyderabad set up the final against Ranga Reddy in the 5th Senior Inter-District Women's Hockey Tournament being played at the Gymkhana Ground in Secunderabad. In the first semifinal, Hyderabad defeated Medchal 5-0 via goals scored by T. Anjali (2), Meenakshi (2) and Sneha (1). In the other semi, Ranga Reddy beat Nizamabad by a solitary goal scored by R. Srilekha.

Another one-run win for Yadadri

Hyderabad: Yadadri and Vikarabad emerged victorious in the Telangana Cricket Association's U-19 Inter Districts West-Central Zone tournament at IOC Grounds in Gajwel.

Yadadri eked out yet another one-run win as they contained Medchal to 134 thanks to top show from Kranti (4/25) while Yuvaraj (4/30) bowled out Vikarabad to a 10-run victory against Siddipet.

Brief scores

■ Yadadri 135/9 in 20 overs (Kranti 40, Venu 32, Gowtham Kumar 4/22) bt Medchal 134/9 in 20 overs (Manne Sourav 55, Kranti 4/25).

■ Vikarabad 160 in 25 overs (Kalyan Pavar 42, Aman 31, Ashraf 2/14, K. Mohan Sai 2/17) bt Siddipet 150 in 24.5 overs (K. Mohan Sai 56, Md Nazimuddin 24, Yuvaraj 4/30).

Live on TV

CRICKET
India vs England: Third ODI from 1.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL
European Qualifiers for 2022 World Cup: Kazakhstan vs France from 6.30 pm on Sony Ten 2

FORMULA ONE
Bahrain Grand Prix: Race from 8.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

DECODING DECIDER

India, England look to end series on high in winner-takes-all game

Pune, March 27: Indian cricket team may like to revisit its 50-over template while picking up pieces from the Friday carnage with an aim to complete a hat-trick of series wins against England in the third and final ODI here on Sunday.

On batting belters that's been on offer at the Gahunje Stadium, England hit an astounding 20 sixes in a 337-run chase which became a cakewalk thanks to inepit bowling from spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Krunal Pandya.

Never before has captain Virat Kohli missed Ravindra Jadeja as much as he would have on Friday when Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes took the mickey out of India's left-arm wrist and orthodox spinners.

In the bowling department, Kuldeep scripted an unwanted record when he conceded 8 sixes, most by an Indian bowler. He leaked 84 runs in the second game after giving 64 runs in the first. And, so did Krunal Pandya, who gave 72 runs in six overs with an embarrassing average of 12 per over.

So, in all probability, the duo could be replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar, who can also chip in with the bat, if needed.

From team's perspective, it would be impossible to ignore Yuzvendra Chahal's inclusion in the playing XI even though the Haryana leg-spinners hasn't been in the best of forms.

Pandya senior would still make it to the team because of his batting skills but the apology of left-arm spin has certainly ensured that he won't be considered as a long term option.

In terms of batting, a total of 337 is certainly not bad by any standards but perhaps India can now look to have strategic shift in terms ofinnings building process.

The Men In Blue are the only team that always believes in accelerating in the last 15 overs, a template that was set by their illustrious former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

It has worked on most occasions but of late, England with a world title has shown the world that attacking up front on batting tracks is the way forward. — PTI



India captain Virat Kohli (left) congratulates England's Jonny Bairstow after the second ODI at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Friday. — AFP

Jonny to stick to his fearless shots

ARCHER TO UNDERGO RIGHT HAND SURGERY ON MONDAY

Pune, March 27: Injured England speedster Jofra Archer, who has already been ruled out of the Indian Premier League, will undergo a surgery on his right hand on Monday.

Archer played in two Test matches and five T20 Internationals against India before returning home a few days ago after the completion of the shortest format. "England fast bowler Jofra Archer will undergo a procedure to his right hand following a scan and subsequent Consultant review since he returned to the UK on Tuesday," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Saturday.

"He has also had a further injection for the right elbow injury that had seen him declared unfit for selection for the current ODI series versus India.

"The procedure on Jofra's hand will take place on March 29 so he can recover during the planned break following his elbow injection." — PTI

Jason Roy (55) and debutant Liam Livingstone (27 not out) also added to India's misery as they conceded 20 sixes in total

— the joint most by them in an ODI. They had conceded a similar 20 sixes against South Africa in 2015.

"If you look at where the game is going around the world, whether that be in T20, or 50-over cricket the team that hits the most boundaries generally wins the game. And if you're hitting boundaries that are going for six rather than four, then the numbers are going to stack up slightly more."

"There's 20 today — now, that's an extraordinary number in one game... If we can keep hitting boundaries, keep putting bowlers under pressure, they know if they miss their lengths, then that potentially could go for six."

The reigning world champions are however aware of their high-risk approach, having lost the series-opener by 66 runs despite Bairstow and Roy getting the team off to a similarly spectacular start. — PTI

Squash Challenger delayed after two Indians test +ve

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 27

The opening leg of the HCL SRFI Indian squash Tour has been postponed after two players tested positive for Covid-19. The event, the first international challenger tournament since the onset of the pandemic, was scheduled to start at the Indian Squash Academy here on Saturday afternoon.

The two Indian players who tested positive — Abhishek Pradhan and Abhishek Agarwal — have been withdrawn from the draw and the start of the tournament has been delayed until Tuesday, March 30," a

statement from the organisers said.

All players are in a bio-bubble at a city hotel and they have been told not to step out of the room until they receive a negative test result. The tournament has participants from Egypt, Russia, France, Canada and the USA. If it starts, the tournament will now be held behind closed doors.

The Professional Squash Association which is in close contact with the Squash Rackets Federation of India has given players an option to withdraw from the tournament and also reimburse the cost for the extended stay.

If the next round of testing finds no positive Covid-19 tests, then the tournament will take place from March 29 to April 1, with both the second round and quarter-finals taking place on Tuesday, March 30," a

Monday. There will be another round of RT-PCR testing on Monday morning.

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KRISHNA PRIYA POWERS INTO POLISH OPEN SEMI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 27

Hyderabad player Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli reached the semifinals of the Polish Open badminton tournament being played at Gniezno in Poland.

Krishna Priya defeated Simona Pillgard of Denmark in the quarterfinals in straight games at 21-14, 21-13. She will now meet second seed Krishnita Kuba of Estonia.

This was Krishna Priya's first tournament post the Covid-19 pandemic. She said the lockdown had given her the opportunity to assess her strengths and weaknesses.

Earlier in the energy-sapping second round, the Hyderabad girl beat Edith Urell of Sweden 21-17, 21-16, 23-21. An hour ago, Krishna Priya had trumped Tereza Svabikova



Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli

of Czech Republic 21-14, 18-21, 21-16 in the first round.

Urell had earlier overcome the tournament's third seed and world number 62 Jordan Hart of Poland.

Krishna-Vishnu in final, Saina out of Paris event

Saina Nehwal lost 17-21, 17-21 to Denmark's Line Christoffersen.

Women's duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy went down 18-12, 9-21 to top seeds from Thailand.

Saina lost 17-21, 17-21 to Denmark's Line Christoffersen in 28 minutes, while women's duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy also faltered 18-12, 9-21 to top seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongsai at the Orleans Masters here on Saturday.

Saina lost 17-21, 17-21 to Denmark's Line Christoffersen in 28 minutes, while women's duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy also faltered 18-12, 9-21 to top seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongsai at the Orleans Masters here on Saturday.

However, Krishna and Vishnu cheered up the Indian camp with a 21-17, 21-17 win over English pair of Callum Hemming and Steven Stalwood in a 35 minute semifinal clash to reach their maiden final of a Super 100 event.

The Indian duo, playing their first event together this year, will take on either Indonesian pair of Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi

Isfahani or fourth seeded English combination of Ben Lane and Sean Vendy in the title clash.

Krishna and Vishnu had a slender 42 early on but the English pair soon jumped to a 11-8 lead at the break. However, the Indian pair soon caught up at 13-13 and marched on to seal the opening game.

In the second game, Krishna and Vishnu slowly moved ahead to a 11-7 advantage at the interval and even though their rivals narrowed down the gap to 15-17, the Indian duo ensured there was no hiccups.

Krishna, 21, is India's No.1 ranked doubles player and used to pair up with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in his junior days. — PTI

TEJASWANI, SIDHU SHOOT MIXED GOLD

New Delhi, March 27: India's Vijayveer Sidhu and Tejaswani claimed the gold medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team event to extend the country's dominant run in the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday.

In an all-Indian gold medal match, Sidhu and Tejaswani comfortably beat the duo of Gurpreet Singh and Ashok Abhidnya Patil 9-1 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

In the Qualification 2, Gurpreet and Patil finished at the top with a total score of 370 while the team of 16-year-old Tejaswani and 18-year-old Sidhu aggregated 368.

On Friday, Sidhu won the individual silver medal in the 25 rapid fire pistol event ahead of Anish Bhanwala and Gurpreet.

However, the Indian pair of Kynan Chemai and Shreyasi Singh missed out on a podium finish as they settled for the fourth place in the trap mixed team final.

The home team lost to Turkey's Safiye Sariturk and Yavuz Ilman 35-38.

Kynan, who finished fourth in the individual men's trap on Friday, began badly but improved as the mixed final progressed, even as Shreyasi too missed a few shots while finding the target on other occasions.

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