

# DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 22 JANUARY 2021

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## WEATHER

Max: 32°C  
Min: 17.2°C  
RH: 75%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning.  
Max/Min temp. 30/17°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+14,229)	(+285)
1,06,24,702	1,53,028

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+226)	(+1)
TS: 2,92,621	1,584
(+139)	(+0)
AP: 8,86,557	7,142

### CASES AROUND THE WORLD

9,75,68,114	DEATHS
20,89,522	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	219

[worldometers.info/coronavirus](http://worldometers.info/coronavirus)

### Watch out for



DC is launching DC Estate, a four-page weekly supplement, giving you a great perspective of the real estate in the city, connecting buyers, sellers, builders and industry professionals.

### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Pushya Shuddha Navami till 6.27 pm

Star: Bharani till 6.38 pm

Varijyam: Nil

Durmuhurtam: 9.07 am to 9.51 am; 12.49 pm to 1.34 pm

Rahukalam: 10.30 pm to 12 noon

HJRI CALENDAR

Jamadi- ul- Akhir 8,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.46 am

Zohar: 12.37 pm

Asar: 4.29 pm

Maghrab: 6.11 pm

Isha: 7.22 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.05 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 12.19 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 12.21 AM



Not farmers' protest, it is the Sensex!

### SHORT TAKES

#### Sensex crosses

50,000 mark

Mumbai: The Sensex breached 50,000 barrier for the first time ever in early morning trade and made a new all time high of 50,184 on positive global cues. However due to profit taking in the last hour of trade the benchmark index fell sharply from the historic highs and closed at 49,624 down by 167 points.

[Full report on Page 11](#)

## AP MOVES TOP COURT AFTER HC LETS POLL PANEL HOLD ELECTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENTS VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 21

The Andhra Pradesh government filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court on Thursday expressing its difficulty to conduct the gram panchayat polls as scheduled by the State Election Commission and hold the Covid-19 vaccination programme simultaneously.

The SLP followed the Andhra Pradesh High Court's verdict earlier in the day allowing conduct of the polls despite objections from the state government.

The court opined that the single judge did not assign any reason in which aspects the SEC failed to consider the state government's views on conduct of elections and how the conduct of elections would hamper vaccination process.

The government expressed the fear that performing both the tasks at the same time could jeopardise the safety of the general public and the employees. It sought the intervention of the apex court to defer the polls.

Meanwhile, state government adviser (public affairs) Sajala Ramakrishna Reddy said the government cannot put the lives of employees in peril by forcing them to hold the panchayat polls.

## 4 Indian fishermen killed as Lanka Navy rams boat

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/CHENNAI/RAMANATHAPURAM, JAN. 21

India on Thursday lodged a "strong protest" with Sri Lankan foreign minister Dinesh Gunawardena in Colombo over the death of three Indian fishermen and a Sri Lankan national in a "collision" between their vessel and a Sri Lankan naval craft.

New Delhi also emphasised to Colombo the "need to deal with issues pertaining to fishermen in a humanitarian manner" and adherence to the "existing understandings between the two governments" in this regard, adding that "utmost

## 5 killed in Serum Institute fire



Workers wearing protective gear walk away after a fire broke out at the Serum Institute in Pune on Thursday. Five men died in the fire in the five-storey under-construction building at the Serum Institute's Manjari premises. All the victims were construction workers whose bodies were recovered by fire brigade personnel from the fifth floor. Nine other workers were evacuated from the spot. The Manjari facility is where Covishield vaccine used in the nationwide inoculation drive against the pandemic is made. Serum Institute CEO Adar Poonawalla said Covishield production would not be affected due to the fire. — AFP

[Report on Page 6](#)

efforts should be made (by Sri Lanka) to ensure that there is no recurrence" of such an incident.

The tragic incident reportedly took place three days ago after which the Sri Lankan Navy on Thursday recovered the bodies of the four deceased.

The Indian Tamil fishermen claim that the Sri Lankan Navy deliberately rammed a fishing boat resulting in the deaths while the Sri Lankan Navy has reportedly claimed that it was the fishing boat that collided with its naval craft after the Indian fishermen were resisting arrest for fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

He also promised compensation for the boat that was sunk and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take up the issue with Sri Lanka.

Fishermen on Thursday

launched a black flag protest in Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu. The Federation of Traditional fisherman of Rameswaram also filed a habeas corpus petition in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on the issue on Thursday, said Chinnathambi, coordinator of the federation.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, meanwhile, announced a relief of ₹10 lakh each to the families of the dead fishermen.

He also promised compensation for the boat that was sunk and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take up the issue with Sri Lanka.

Fishermen on Thursday

## FARMERS REJECT GOVT'S OFFER TO FREEZE 3 LAWS

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 21

The agitating farmers' unions on Thursday rejected the Centre's offer to suspend the three controversial agricultural reform laws for 18 months and set up a joint committee to address their grievances. The unions also rejected a suggestion by the Delhi police to hold their proposed Republic Day tractor rally on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway instead of Delhi's busy Outer Ring Road.

The farmer unions reiterated their demand for a full repeal.

[Full report on Page 6](#)

## Fast bowler visits dad's grave to pay homage after landing in city

## Racial abuse spurred Siraj to fight

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

An emotional Mohammed Siraj drove straight from the airport to the graveyard and paid his last respects to his father Mohammed Ghouse, on his return to Hyderabad on Thursday from a successful tour of Australia with the national cricket team.

Ghouse, who had wanted to see his son play at the highest level for India, had died on November 20 last

year, about a week after the fast bowler landed in Australia with the Indian team. Siraj was advised by family members to stay back with the team and play on, as his father would have wanted.

He did, and played a key role in India's historic series win, taking 13 wickets — the most by an Indian bowler — in three Tests, including a five-wicket haul in the fourth and final game in Brisbane.

Later, speaking to reporters at his residence, the 26-year-old said he had pointed to the sky after taking 5 for 73 at the Gabba to honour his father.

"I wanted to dedicate my performance to my Dad. I miss him a lot... at times I almost reached out to my phone to call him but realised he is no more," the 26-year-old Indian fast bowler said.

Siraj laid flowers at his father's grave and offered prayers before heading for his home in Toli Chowki, after several months.

have been of huge help. My friends too were there for me when I needed them," he said.

Help was also readily available on the field. Senior pace partner Jasprit Bumrah bhai supported me a lot and kept giving me constant tips with regard to bowling as well as mental framework during the series," Siraj recalled.

Siraj also recalled the support he received from his family members. "They

## 'KTR for CM soon' chorus gets louder

More ministers back change of guard in state

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Deputy Speaker Padma Rao on Friday joined the list of ministers Etala Rajendar, V. Srinivas Goud, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Gangula Kamalakar and Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender, who have in the past said that party working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao has the capabilities to become the Chief Minister and should be indeed given the position "soon".

Addressing the inauguration of an office building of the South Central Railway Employees' Sangh, Padma Rao said, "I congratulate KTR, who is going to become the Chief Minister very soon... on behalf of the Assembly and railway employees. I wish KTR should safeguard the interests of railway employees after becoming Chief Minister."

Unlike in the past when both Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his son Rama Rao dismissed such talk as "mere speculation", Rama Rao, who was present at the meeting when Padma Rao made these remarks, did not react.

In the past few days,

MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan and Shakeel Ahmed have also joined the TRS chorus to amplify the voice to see Rama Rao as Chief Minister.

The state government has finally decided to implement reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in Telangana.

Opposition parties are observing the situation in TRS keenly. Congress leaders, including Telangana Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, said that any change in the Chief Minister was an internal party issue of the TRS, but if Chandrasekhar Rao made way for his son, it proved that he too agrees with the growing public perception that he was a failure in governing the state.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay said KCR's decision to make Rama Rao the CM was an internal matter of the TRS, but added that the BJP would be happy and welcome it if a Daft was made the CM as per KCR's promise.

[Page 2: Overall quota in state is 60% now](#)

[Page 2: Some TRS leaders say it's not good decision](#)

MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan and Shakeel Ahmed have also joined the TRS chorus to amplify the voice to see Rama Rao as Chief Minister increased after health minister Etala Rajendar, in an interview

Kolkatta, Jan. 21: In a development that might upset political equations in election-bound Bengal, Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui of Hooghly district's Furura Sharif on Thursday floated a new political outfit, contending that he wishes to be the kingmaker.

The influential cleric said his outfit — Indian Secular Front (ISF) — plans to contest all 294 Assembly seats. The pizda said that a tie-up with the Left-Congress alliance might be in the offing.

"We have formed this party to ensure that constitutional democracy is protected, everybody gets social justice and all of us live with dignity," Siddiqui, head of the prominent Sufi mazhab, said.

The 34-year-old debutant in politics rejected assertions that his outfit would be a B-team of the BJP, eating into the vote share of the TMC, which banks on the state's 30 per cent Muslim electorate.

"Why are you talking about a split in Muslim

votes? There are so many more political parties, but you never talk about any split in Hindu votes. If there are some who have problems with my outfit, they should think about what needs to be done. It is not my job to worry about the TMC's poll prospects," Siddiqui said.

Earlier this month, AIMIM supremo Asaduddin Owaisi had met Siddiqui and discussed an alliance. Asaduddin Saab has already said that he would support me in this state. The nitty-gritty (of seat-sharing) would be decided later," the pizda added.

[Page 2: Ruling Trinamul Congress in West Bengal on Thursday met the full bench of the Election Commission of India \(ECI\) and alleged that the BSF is threatening people to visit various villages and asking people to cast their votes in favour of a particular political party.](#)

The Border Security Force (BSF), however, denied the TMC's allegation as "baseless" and "far from the truth".

[Team India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj pays respects to his deceased father Mohammed Ghouse at a graveyard in Hyderabad on Thursday, after his return from the tour of](#)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

## FOUR WHEELERS

2016 INDICA-V2 Taxi, Lifetaxi Paid, Hyderabad Showroom, Good Condition, Nissan Micra-X 2013 Own, Diesel, Brick Red Excellent Condition. Ph: 834080279, 9246191279. (HYMM/2021/C05885)

MACONS 2016 & 2017 Model MST-4, Self Loader Concrete Mixture 4 Vehicles for Sale, Ph: 7095846803, 940266101. (HYMM/2021/C05901)

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

## COMMERCIAL

NANAKRAMGUDA ORR Circle, 3170 sqft, ideal for Showroom, Bank, Offices, 1st floor, Road facing. For details, call: 800977701/ 9502856525. (S/2021/C02013)

COMMERCIAL SHOPS /Office Space for Sale in Prime Location S.Road, Secunderabad. 150 Sq.ft to 390 sqft. Contact: 7780170873, 905277777. (HYCL/2021/C02436)

## FARM HOUSES-SITES

OFFER 2 DAYS 303sqds farm plot 13acs. Actual 18alets, wooden villa 35acs. Organic fruits, sandalwood 100acres added @Mumbai H/W, sadashivpet. 7416613247. (HYMM/2021/C05900)

## FLATS

## SINGLE BEDROOM

DON'T MISS. 1/2km to Yadadri Temple 1 & 2BHK Luxury Suits Flats in Lowest Price With Rental Agreement/ Bank Loan. Ph: 6281856610. (HYCL/2021/C02426)

## DOUBLE BEDROOM

UPPAL XROADS opp: Chikkanagar HP petrol Bunk 2Bhk 1100Sft New Deluxe Flats, per sqt Rs.400/-only. Contact: ph: 9291556646. (HYMM/2021/C05925)

PRE LAUNCH Highrise Apartment 80L Worth Flat @44L Miyapur Main Road Full Payment Option. Ph: 7093387969. (HYMM/2021/C05890)

FLATS FOR Sale @Shameerpet Big Infra Company Gated Community Soft Launch Offer St 1999/- Double Investment Sir Months. Whatsapp Only 7337519977. (HYCL/2021/C02432)

TARNAKA, LAPALAP, New Flats, 1BHK 600sqft @18L, 2BHK 850sqft @27L, 900sqft @28L, No Lift, Bank loan Available. Contact: 9849344771 (HYMM/2021/C05897)

## THREE & MORE

BRAND NEW 3B/R 2300sqft at Eramanji near Red Rose Hotel, 3B/R 2150sqft at Himayat Nager, 3B/R 1650sqft at Narayanguda is for Sale. Contact: Pradeep Estates 9246102046. (HYMM/2021/C0251)

**SOMAJIGUDA NEAR** Eramanji Metro Station, 3Bhk, 2nd & 3rdFloor New Super Deluxe Flats East Face for sale, 2300sqft, 100% for Vaastu. Ready to Occupy Ph: 7569211327, 9391428899, 9705365633. (HYMM/2021/C05926)

## INDEPENDENT HOUSE

LUXURY DUPLEX Villas @Aushapur Near Ghatsar, HMDA & RERA Approved Project. 167sq +1500sq =Rs.75 Lakhs+ Registration 90%Bank Loans available. Ph: 6300306926, 7661931189. (HYMM/2021/C05906)

PREMIUM VILLAS in Gated community for Sale at Mokila @ 1.70 crs (Special Offer available). Contact 7353585358 (HYMM/2021/C05874)

## INDUSTRIAL LAND

MALLAPUR IDA - Available for Sale 3030 Sqds Land with G + 1 Built up 18000 Sqft in Mallapur IDA. Contact 7893460684 from 8 am to 6 pm. (W/2021/A000925)

## LAND

3.5ACRES FOR sale at Kistapur Village, Medchal RR District. Close to Medcity Hospital. Write to sreyas56@hotmail.com Brokers excuse. (HYMM/2021/C05912)

15ACRS OF Hill land useful for cursing units for sale, on the way to Pochampally from Hyd-Vja highway Call 949045666 (HYMM/2021/C05863)

## PLOTS

**PLOT FOR sale:** LRS paid 240sq.yards, Uppal, NewVijayapuri Colony, Behind South India Shopping Mall, Near Rankers Techno School & Building for sale: 900sq.yards, 700sqft building in 360sq.yards in Kothakota, Wanaparthi District. School Recognition up to 2030. Contact: 9160018292. (HYMM/2021/C05871)

NORTH EAST corner Plots for sale, Pharma city 2000' and 1000' road facing ventures, near Airport, kandukur kadthal. Contact: 9615312345. (HYMM/2021/C05934)

MEDHIPATNAM EAST Facing Open Plot For Sale, 36X60 Size, 240 sq.yds. Maruti Nagar, Near PVNR Express Flyover Pillar No-84. Ph: 9848015799, 8125325678. (HYCL/2021/C02434)

PATANCHERU & SULTANPUR Open Plots HMDA Gated Community 6kms from BHEL & Chandanagar, 8kms from Miyapur, 11km from JNTU, 80% Loan available. Ph: 8688023402, 8688021020. (HYCL/2021/C02435)

39LAKS FOR House @Shadnagar DTCP Layout 1km from NH-44, Near Tool Plaza, Open Plots also, Bank loans Available. Gated Community. Ph: 9640954763 (HYMM/2021/C05933)

## REAL ESTATE

## PLOT REQUIRED

WANTED APP 2000 sqyards plot for constructing warehouse or readymade industrial shed in kizipally, Gaddapotharam, Bonthrapally industrial area. sales@ sarthakchemicals.comcall 9848018090 (W/2021/A000891)

## REQUIRED

LEADING DEVELOPER in Hyderabad who has constructed over 3Million Sqft projects near Gachibowli required Land for Sale/Development in & around Gachibowli, Gopalpally, Tellapur, Narsingi, Kondapur, Kokapet, Kukatpally, Manikonda, Madhapur, Manchirevula. Required Land between 5acres to 25acres suitable for constructing Highrise Apartments, Villas Commercial Buildings. Ph: 7658966666, 7288966666 (HYMM/2021/C05908)

## RENTALS

## COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL RENT/ Lease 3500Sft, Prime Commercial Space with 100 Feet Frontage & 15 Feet Height available for Rent/ Lease. Suitable for Jeweller, Showroom, Restaurant or Food Outlet. Contact: 9505133133. (HYMM/2021/C05910)

SHOP FOR rent 500sqft ground floor 500sqft Mezzanine, opposite GS Estate J.N Road, near M.J Market, Hyderabad. Contact 8885052535. (HYMM/2021/C05913)

COMMERCIAL OFFICE for rent 4th floor, Plug & Play 3800 sqft with parking at Amsri Plaza above Domino's Pizza, opp petrol bunk, S.Road, Secunderabad. Ph: 9866889877, 9000030357/ 59. (S/2021/C01988)

VIDYANAGAR MAIN Road Ground Floor Shop, (22x10), Rent 20,000 For Any Business, Also Second Floor 2000Sft, Rent 30,000 For Office, Institutions, Ph: 9905611111/ 9701239999 (HYMM/2021/C05932)

**HIMAYATHNAGAR MAIN** road Ground Cell Shop for any commercial purpose, 600 Sft, 2nd floor 950 sq ft for any office purpose. Ph: 8712366000, 7799222334. (B/2021/C00836)

## FLATS

## DOUBLE BEDROOM

2BHK FLAT For Rent, Mahaveer Apartment, King Koti Road, Hyderabad, Contact: 9358251644 (HYMM/2021/C05911)

2BHK FLAT Punjagutta Amenities Parking Lift Immediate Occupation Furnished with AC Bedrooms For Couple/It Professionals/ Bank Employees Contact 9848969620/21 (HYMM/2021/C05911)

VIDYANAGAR TWO Bedroom 900Sft, First Floor, Rent: 8500. Also One Bedroom Third Floor, Rent: 5000 For Family, Bachelors. Ph: 9246042013/ 9391122316 (HYMM/2021/C05931)

## THREE & MORE

**BANJARAHILLS ROAD** No.1, 3BHK Duplex Flat with attached toilets and one common toilet, 2800 sq. ft. Marble flooring with Wooden wardrobe & kitchen cabinets with good ventilation and 3 balconies. Ph: 9848122687 (W/2021/A000947)

## INDEPENDENT HOUSE

WANTED B.S.C. Pass (BZC specialised) candidate for Position of Lab Assistant. Call: 9849256000. For details and Walk-In-Interview between 3pm to 5pm. (HYCL/2021/C02401)

WANTED EXPERIENCED DMO and Ward boys. Contact between 11am- 2pm Sagaril Memorial Hospital, Musheerabad, Ph: 9581177862, 7981945540. (HYMM/2021/C05886)

## SINGLE BEDROOM

EAST MARREDPALLY, Independent Two Rooms Accommodation, opp: Geetha Nursing, adjacent Park. Single Families, Decent IT Bachelor. Ph: 9841761684. (S/2021/C02002)

## INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

AVAILABLE ACC Sheds 8735& 7945sq.feets or full 16680sq.feet at APIE, Balanagar 3rd plot from main road, for godown purpose, only. Contact No. 8919476864, 998533522. (HYMM/2021/C05920)

## RESI/COMM

## THREE & MORE

RENTAL: LUXURIOUS Villa, 4Bedrooms, G+2, 5000sq.ft. East facing fully furnished with a swimming pool, 2carparks, Home Theatre and garden in 1000sq.yards for rent. Preferably for families and Corporates. Forest Ridge Community, Near BITS Pilani Collage, Shameerpet, Ph: 9701862778. (HYMM/2021/C05921)

## LEASE

## COMMERCIAL

HIGHWAY: Stilt +4 Floors, 13,000sqft, 24 rooms with attached toilets for Lease, ideal for corporate guest-house/ service apartment/ exclusive hostel. Ph: 9542542347. Mr. Shanker. (HYCL/2021/C02433)

WAREHOUSE SPACE available at Medchal & kalaikar main road 20000 to 30000sqft @ 9rupees/ per sqft. Ph: 9248015799, 8125325678. (HYCL/2021/C02434)

LUXURIOUS SEMI-furnished Villa available on Lease/ Rent with 315sq.yds. plot situated at "Private- XVIII" Gated Community, Corner Plot No.12, Kokapet, Village, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy Dist just 2km from WIPRO junction & Financial Dist. Contact: Cell No. 9100726007 (S/2021/C01982)

✓ AVAILABLE FOR Lease - 1400Sft & 1800Sft Retail Space with parking @Secunderabad -SD road, Main road Property, Suitable for -Restaurants, Apparels & Retail outlets. +91-7032710550. (HYMM/2021/C05914)

## SITUATION VACANT

## ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

WANTED ACCOUNTANT with 2 to 3 years experience for a manufacturing company in Jeedimetta. Experience in Tally ERP9, and filing of PF, ESI and TDS returns preferable. Please send your resume to kjroffice@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C05898)

## LEADING CONSTRUCTION

required: Sales Manager, Sales Executive & Front Desk Executive with 2- 6 years of exp. Accounts Manager with 5- 10 years of experience. Work location: Palwancha, Khammam Dt. Call: 9502770822. Email: chaitanya@srihomes.com (S/2021/C02005)

## WANTED 40 DRA & Non DRA

Telecallers and Executives, Team Leaders with Collection experience for Reputed Collections Center for Credit Cards & Personal Loans for all Banks. Serious Persons Only. Interview timings: 1pm to 5pm. Location at Paradise, Secunderabad. Please Contact: 8074829169/ 7307296192. (A/2021/C02012)

## ON WEBSITE

LOOKING FOR Backend support executives with good English communication and typing skills, good salary & incentives. Immediate joiners Contact 912816752. (HYMM/2021/C05918)

## OTHER VACANCIES

WANTED EXECUTIVE Male/ Female experienced in Billing and payments for a reputed medical facility nearby. Diamand Point. Ph: 9849719470. (HYMM/2021/C05916)

## MNC CALL

center urgently required Females with good communication skills in English, Nightshift(9 pm-6am) @ Ameerpet 9700121570, 040-40124178 (W/2021/A000944)

## CHEMISTS

WANTED CHEMISTS and senior chemist for a start-up pharma company. Qualification: M.Pharm and M.Sc organic chemistry. Candidates can walk in for interview on 27th Jan 2021. Call: 9990592800 for any other info. (HYMM/2021/C05927)

## HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE

REPUTED DEGREE and PG College requires Principals, and Admin Managers for its multiple branches in Hyderabad, Candidates with only relevant experience can apply. Ph: 6309584290/ 9963851084 (HYMM/2021/C05907)

## LECTURERS

WANTED SENIORs Junior Faculty for Junior College/ Academy at Zaheerabadi to teach NEET/ JEE. Subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Mathematics & Civics, Economics & Commerce, Sanskrit & Hindi. Contact: 9100543336, 8465877455. Email CV to jsviuniorcollege@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C02439)

## MANAGERS

WANTED FRONT Office Manager For Textile Fabrics - Raymond Distributors at Secunderabad Contact Ph: 9849025924 (HYMM/2021/C05930)

## BOREWELLS

TARUNSAI BOREWELLS 6 1/2" 2500 ft, 4 1/2" 1000 ft drilling, flushing & rebores. Contact: 9890991144. (HYCL/2021/C00203)

## MEDICAL

</

## IN BRIEF

## Jagan files plea for exemption

**Hyderabad:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday filed the petition before the designated special court for Enforcement Directorate cases, seeking exemption from appearance in the hearings on the Jagathi Publications case. Apart from the CBI, the ED had filed had cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Out of six chargesheets filed by the ED against him, Jagan Mohan Reddy has filed petitions for exemption of appearance in the cases related to Hetero Pharma and Aurbindo Pharma investments into Jagathi Publications. The ED has sought time to file its counter.

## OVERALL QUOTA IN STATE CLIMBS TO 60% NOW

From Page 1

"There is a need to implement 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the economically weaker classes. We have decided to implement ten per cent reservations for EWS while continuing the reservations for those who are already enjoying the benefit as is. As on date, 50 per cent reservations are being implemented for weaker sections in Telangana. With 10 per cent reservations for EWS, overall reservation percentage would go up to 60 per cent," the CM clarified.

## SOME TRS LEADERS SAY IT'S NOT GOOD DECISION

From Page 1

However, some senior TRS leaders, who are not coming in front of the media with their opinion, privately confessed that it was not a good decision for the party.

"If KCR made KTR the CM, the Cabinet would be automatically dissolved and a new Cabinet would be formed. This is a risky move when some leaders are waiting to create trouble. They can divide the party and create a rebel group of MLAs," a senior leader said.

Several MLAs, discussing the issue, said, "KCR should not make KTR the CM in the present critical political scenario, as the young leader cannot handle the challenges."

One of them also wondered that if Rama Rao is made CM, who will become the party working president position? Supposing K. Kavitha gets the post, what about minister Harish Rao? What would be his position in a KTR-led government?

Some leaders, who maintain proximity with Chandrasekhar Rao, said Planning Commission vice-chairman B. Vinod Kumar may join the Cabinet if Rama Rao becomes CM, in which case Kavita will handle the party as its working president.

Subsequently, Harish Rao could be made Planning Commission vice-chairman and told to continue his political journey with Chandrasekhar Rao.

"If this happens, the BJP will get an even stronger impact and response from people when they call us a nepotistic, family-owned business," a TRS leader said.

A few of such critics aside, the bulk of the TRS is euphoric about the possibility. "If KTR becomes CM and KCR shifts to national politics, it will make the party stronger and the state more developed," said another leader.

● **MINISTER HARISH** Rao could be made Planning Commission vice-chairman and told to continue his political journey with KCR.

## I worked hard during lockdown: Siraj

From Page 1

Then there was "Virat Kohli bhai who backed me while I was playing white-ball cricket. As you know the chances for bowlers are rare in T20s and the 2018 IPL was a bad season for me, but he kept encouraging me. At the IPL last year, I got to learn quite a bit from Dale Steyn (Royal Challengers Bangalore's South African pacer). All these players have contributed to my career," he said.

"Then there are the fans who keep egging me on. I can."

## Residents spend ₹2,000 to combat mosquitoes

## Left untended, many lakes turn mosquito breeders

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Every family spends around ₹2,000 a month to overcome the mosquito menace in the residential areas in the Golconda fort and at Tolichowki.

Their arsenal for the daily battle typically comprises a combination of repellent coils, special agarbattis with fancy names like Dragon and Godzilla, ointments, killer bats, bed nets and mesh/screens for doors and windows. Besides, there are medical expenses if anyone catches malaria, dengue or chikungunya.

Irrespective of whether it is a kirana store, a bakery, a pan shop, or a stationery store, all of them stock mosquito fighting equipment.

The mosquito menace in these areas is a round-the-year feature with several water bodies in the areas in addition to the moat around the fort. All it takes is someone in the house forgetting to shut all windows and doors before sunset for the house to be swarmed.

Abdur Rahman of Golconda said unlike children in other areas in Hyderabad, "Our children can't study at night due to the mosquitoes. If

we forget to close doors after sunset, swarms of mosquitoes enter the house and for this mistake, we have to take extra measures and spend half an hour swatting mosquitoes. We have to ensure we have enough money for medical needs for treatment as our children fall ill frequently because of mosquito bites."

He suspects the two ponds in the nearby golf course as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. These ponds, according to him, are in addition to the water bodies in and around the fort area including Katora Houz, Jamali Kunta, Shah Hatim Talab, Langer Houz Tal-

ab, Naya Qilla ka Talab. Likewise, the major open Nalas like Balkapur Nala, Gulshan Colony Nala and Moti Darwaza Nala.

Abdullah who sells mosquito bed nets on the footpath at Qutub Shahi tombs, said, "My main business is selling mobile phone accessories, but I noticed there is a demand for the nets. I started selling different kinds of nets ranging from ₹200 to ₹750. Somedays, I sell more than five nets."

Shazia Shabbir Taher of Al-Hasnat Colony said, "You will find all kinds of mosquito repellents in our area as these repellents do not suit everyone. In our family,

some use an ointment, while others are allergic to it. We frequently change brands of mosquito-killing coils as mosquitoes develop immune to particular repellent ingredients." According to the doctors of Area Hospital, Golconda, the cases of malaria and dengue are not reported from the fort area. Dr M. Gopal, medical superintendent, said, "The main reason for the decrease in cases is maintaining hygienic after Covid-19. Last month 234 patients were tested and only two were dengue positive and there have been no case of malaria in the previous months."



The many lakes in the Golconda fort area which are badly maintained are places where mosquitoes breed.

— By arrangement

## Dusty city



Motorists drive dangerously through the dust on a road near the Tarnaka flyover in Hyderabad on Thursday. The road has been dug up and has not been repaired again.

## CONGRESS TO ANNOUNCE NOMINEES FOR MLC POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

preneurial activities as a mini-major project will be given.

"It will allow students to work on innovative prototypes/problem validation, case study report, projects on open-ended problems, participate in social entrepreneurship right from first year to earn credits equivalent to mini-project," an official communication from the university said.

Students will be allowed a maximum of 10 per cent exemption in all years to participate in events, bootcamps, conferences etc. Students will be allowed gap year facility after the second year subject to the condition of compl-

etion of the degree within the stipulated time. Application and prior approval by the review committee within the first one month of the semester is mandatory.

Students will be able to specialise in minors such as entrepreneurship, innovation and products, design engineering by earning 18-20 credits over and above the credits for the award of the BTech degree.

The courses are related to be taken through MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) over the fifth and sixth semesters. Engineering institutions will be ranked by the university on innovation and entrepreneurship index annually.

With graduate MLC elections round the corner, the Telangana Congress started the exercise of finalising names of its official candidates.

Party state affairs in-charge Tanagore held a meeting with key leaders, including TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday.

On the first day Tanagore discussed with senior leaders from Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Mahbubnagar graduate MLC candidates.

Party sources said that former minister Chenna Reddy and Vamsi Chander Reddy are front-runners for Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar MLC election.

Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah faced racial abuse from the spectators during the third Test in Sydney, forcing the Indian team management to lodge an official complaint with the match referee.

"Those chants from the crowd made me mentally strong. The case is going on, let's see whether I get justice or not. My job was to report the incident to the captain and I did. The on-field umpires offered us to leave the game but (captain Ajinkya) Rahane bhai said we won't. We did no mistake, so we will play," he explained.

Siraj refused to be drawn into the captaincy comparison between Kohli and Rahane. "Both are good captains," he said.

The pacer picked the dismissal of Marnus Labuschagne in the second innings of fourth Test first in Brisbane as his favourite. "It was important at that point of the game, he had scored a century in the first innings," Siraj said.

With big exploits already,

Siraj served a warning to opponents: "I want to keep performing, will continue to bowl my heart out."

## RTC babus say increase fares, don't hike staff pay

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

● OFFICIALS SAID that if salaries of the RTC employees were increased, there would be a heavy financial burden. Unless the government extends major financial assistance and ticket prices are raised, then the financial burden cannot be reduced.

They explained that if salaries of the corporation employees were increased, there would be a heavy financial burden on the TSRTC. They made it clear that unless the government extends major financial assistance to the RTC and ticket prices are raised, then the financial burden cannot be reduced.

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Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, principal secretaries Sunil Sharma (transport) and Ramakrishna Rao (finance), financial advisor Ramesh, cargo special officer Krishna Kanth and executive director Yadagiri.

"The last time when fares were increased, the price of diesel was ₹67 per litre. It has increased by ₹15. The RTC is not in a position to bear the burden if salaries are enhanced at this point in time. Hence, the state

government should extend more financial assistance. Bus fares should be increased. Unless these two measures are taken, RTC will not be able to come out of the crisis," officials explained.

They said that compared to the past, TSRTC's position is better. With help from the state government and several measures taken in the RTC, there is a qualitative change. Plying buses to Andhra Pradesh has been a wise move with occupancy rate at 58 per cent. "This is earning ₹9 crore profit every day. But the increase in diesel rates is causing losses," they said.

Rao congratulated the officials as the cargo service had carried 17.72 lakh parcels and earned ₹22.61 crore. He praised cargo services' Krishna Kanth.

## LEAKING GAS CATCHES FIRE, 14 INJURED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Thirteen persons reportedly sustained minor burns following a fire accident caused when leaking LPG gas exploded near the Balaji temple at Chowk Maidan in Mirchowk here early on Thursday.

According to the police, the leakage occurred from a small LPG cylinder while some youngsters were cooking food at around 2 am.

Locals who woke up to a huge sound and screams of the victims rushed to their rescue and alerted the Mirchowk police who called the fire department.

Two fire engines reached the spot and doused the fire within an hour. The injured persons make jewellery and stay in a rented portion of a house. Officials said they are investigating if any chemical being used for making and cleaning ornaments caused to the fire. The injured individuals were shifted to Osmmania General Hospital for treatment, where their condition was stated to be stable, police said.

## Police wants footpaths cleared for pedestrians

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

The police department has urged the GHMC to do whatever is needed to make footpaths available for use by pedestrians in the city.

A majority of all footpaths are encroached either by vendors, or businesses — both small and big — that use the spaces as parking lots for vehicles or as display areas for their products. The footpaths do not have any standard dimensions either in terms of their width and their height from the road level.

Last year saw as many as 501 accidents involving pedestrians in Hyderabad that resulted in 63 deaths. The Cyberabad police commissioner limits saw 174 such accidents but had 176 people losing their lives.

Police officials who attended a city coordination committee meeting that was chaired by GHMC

commissioner Lokesh Kumar on Thursday said the GHMC should, on priority, develop footpaths, maintain existing footpaths and provide proper signboards.

They also urged GHMC to fill up potholes on the roads and submitted a

## DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

The announcement came at a city coordination committee meeting on Thursday. He said all identified beggars will be shifted to GHMC shelter homes where they will be provided training in skills depending on individual abilities.

He called on people for information on beggars at road and traffic junctions and places of prayer in the city.

list of black spots where accidents tend to happen the most.

According to a news release from the GHMC, the Commissioner instructed corporation officials to take action immediately on these matters.

F. No. 54/25/2020-Media Government of India Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Government Notified the List of Posts Identified Suitable for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 4th January 2021 notified 3566 posts in Central Government establishments as suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities (disability of 40% and above) under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. These posts include 1046 in Group A, 515 in Group B, 1724 in Group C and 281 in Group D posts. Posts have also been identified suitable for new categories of persons with disabilities such as dwarfism, acid attack victims, muscular dystrophy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, specific learning disability, mental illness and multiple disability have been added. This list is not an exhaustive one and Central Ministries/Department/Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings may further supplement. This notification will broaden the scope for employment for persons with benchmark disabilities in Government establishments.

A list of 2973 posts identified suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities was last notified on 29.07.2013 in terms of the repealed Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. As compared to the earlier notified list, 593 new posts have been added.

The list of posts notified by the Central Government on 04.01.2021 is based on the recommendations of an expert committee constituted under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and consisting experts, persons with benchmark disabilities and representatives from various associations of persons with disabilities.

Details of the list are available on the website of the Department. Notification is also available on <http://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2021/224370.pdf>. Dwp 38117/11/0057/2021

## SHORT TAKES

LAWCET PHASE II  
ADMISSIONS  
TO BEGIN TODAYDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

The Phase II schedule for Lawcet/PGLCET 2020 admissions will begin on Friday with online registration cum verification of certificates, online payment along with the process of uploading scanned copies of certificates. It will go on till January 26. Selected students will have to report at their colleges for verification of original certificates along with tuition fee payment challan from February 4 to February 9.

Second phase counselling for admission into LLB (three-year and five-year courses) and two-year LLM courses offered by various universities is scheduled from January 22 to 26. All candidates who have not submitted or have made incomplete submission have been directed to complete the online submission of scanned copies of relevant original certificates to enable exercising of web options and participate in the second phase of counselling.

BALALA ACCUSES  
TRS OF NOT  
RELEASING CDFDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Malakpet MLA Ahmed Balala on Tuesday accused the TRS government of not releasing the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) of legislators for two years resulting in developmental works being stalled in their constituencies.

Balala was speaking to mediapersons after inspecting developmental works in Malakpet constituency along with GHMC, HMWS&SB and discom officials. He instructed officials to complete the pending works as soon as possible.

He said that though Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had announced an increase in the CDF from ₹1.5 crore to ₹3 crore per annum, no fund had been released for two years.

He said works of laying water pipelines and drainage worth ₹5 crore had been sanctioned in Saidabad, Green Land Colony, Sairamnagar, Kalyannagar, Jayanagar and VK Dilage Nagar and near Dream Point Hotel. However, the process of tendering was not complete for many works.

"We asked contractors to start the works while officers were requested to complete the formalities," Balala said. Apart from this, civic works like laying of BT roads, stormwater drains and street-lights worth ₹5 crore were also sanctioned.

• AHMED BALALA instructed officials to complete the pending works as soon as possible.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Members of General public are hereby informed that our client is intending to purchase premises No. 17-6-190 admeasuring 472 Sq.yds situated at Alawa Bibi, Deoburpa, Hyderabad from its owners and possessors. Celzar Ali- Asghar and three others if any member of general public has any right, title, claim or interest in respect of the said property, they are hereby called upon to furnish particulars of such claim along with copies of the documents etc., to the undersigned within a period of (7) days from the date of this publication failing which our client shall proceed with the transaction and conclude the same and objections, if any, raised subsequently will not be entertained.

SUNIL B GANU  
M. NARASIMHA REDDY  
ADVOCATES, M/s. Ganu and Co  
Advocates 201 - 202, 3-6-874/A,  
Vipanchi Estates, Hyderabad,  
Hyderabad - 500 029

## MLA: Don't donate for temple at Ayodhya

## Tension in Jagtial after BJP leaders stage protests

PULI SHARATH  
KUMAR | DC  
JAGTIAL, JAN. 21

Jagtial district, Rao came down heavily on the BJP.

TRS legislator Kalvakuntla Vidyasagar Rao on Thursday appealed to the people not to donate any money for the construction of the temple.

"They have started begging from the people while going to every house. Why should people from the state give money for the temple, which is coming up in Uttar Pradesh? Are we not capable of constructing Ram mandirs in our villages? We too are true devotees of Lord

Sri Rama," he said.

Vidyasagar Rao appealed to the people, "Not to fall for such cheap gimmicks and not believe them as they are trying to encourage communalism in the country."

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, the state is witnessing all-round development across spheres. Equal importance is given to all religions and all castes. All festivals are celebrated on a grand note," the MLA said.

Having learnt of the comments made by the

MLA, BJP leaders staged dharnas, burnt his effigies and took out protest rallies in the erstwhile Karimnagar district. A surcharged atmosphere prevailed in Jagtial district.

BJP leaders reached Vidyasagar Rao's house in Metpally in large numbers and staged a dharna. They demanded that the MLA take back his words and apologise for his comments.

When the situation was reaching a flash-point, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

## BJP: KTR is grabbing lands

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

BJP state vice-president N.V.S. Prabhakar accused IT minister K.T. Rama Rao and bureaucrat Jayesh Ranjan of trying to grab industrial lands. The former legislator demanded that

the Governor sack Rama Rao from the state cabinet.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Prabhakar alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was giving subsidies to units and factories where his kin had stakes. He alleged that Hyderabad Distillery and Modern Bakery were bought by Rama Rao's friends. He stated that the TRS will disappear in the coming days and if Rama Rao becomes the Chief Minister, he will not last for more than one year.

KTR warns  
leaders against  
group politicsDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Party working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao took exception to Khammam TRS leaders indulging in group politics in the district.

He was at a meeting with Khammam MLAs, MLCs, MP and other senior leaders with regard to the upcoming Graduate MLC and Khammam Municipal elections and the leaders urged Ajay to concentrate across the erstwhile Khammam and not restrict himself only to the Khammam Assembly segment. He made it clear that TRS had to win the MLC and Municipal elections and the leaders should strengthen the TRS and put up a united front during elections. He urged Ajay to

the old and new leaders in order to build a cohesive unit.

Rao said that MLAs coming in from other parties should strengthen the TRS and put up a united front during elections. He urged Ajay to

strengthen the TRS and put up a united front during elections. He urged Ajay to

After the meeting, Tummala Nageswar Rao met the working president alone in Pragathi Bhavan and discussed party issues pertaining to Khammam.

Start Tribal  
varsity classes:  
Min to CentreDC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 21

Minister for tribal welfare Satyavathi Rathod on Thursday inspected the land and the building allotted by the state for the Tribal University to be set up in Telangana state in accordance with the AP Reorganisation Act.

After Mulugu and Mahbubnagar were suggested as the possible locations for the university, the Centre after examining the issue decided to set it up at Mulugu.

The state government has given 116 acres of assigned land, 50 acres of forest land and 169 acres of government land for the university. The building was also made ready for temporarily organising classes.

"Since it is already late in the academic year, we will ask the Centre to start classes immediately as all the facilities are already provided," she said. MLA Seethakka, ZP chairman Kusuma Jagadish were present.

"In the state of Andhra Pradesh, where a tribal uni-

versity was sanctioned along with Telangana state as per the reorganisation act, the university has already begun its academic activities in one block of the Andhra University campus.

The AP state government has neither given an acre of land, nor a proper building," she pointed out.

Satyavathi Rathod alleged that the Centre was showing stepmotherly treatment towards Telangana state. She asked BJP leaders to stop criticising the TRS on the issue and said the government was trying to bring this issue to the attention of the Centre during the forthcoming Parliamentary sessions.

"Since it is already late in the academic year, we will ask the Centre to start classes immediately as all the facilities are already provided," she said. MLA Seethakka, ZP chairman Kusuma Jagadish were present.

"In the state of Andhra Pradesh, where a tribal uni-

Bawarchi,  
Cafe Bahar,  
Astoria finedDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Officials of the GHMC on Thursday imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on Bawarchi Hotel, Cafe Bahar and New Astoria Hotel for not maintaining their kitchens and for using meat without the authorisation

stamp.

The raids were conducted in the presence of a gazetted food inspector and a veterinary officer. During the raids officials found that Bawarchi Hotel was using unhygienic kitchen.



**HOMAGE & RESPECTS**

**Shri Mocherla Bhaskar Rao**  
Chartered Accountant, founder member of M. Bhaskar Rao & Co  
Passed away on 21 January 2021  
We miss you beyond Measure  
Mocherla Ramchandra Rao,  
Mocherla Parthasarathy  
Mocherla Venkateswara Rao (Venku)  
Mr. & Mrs. Mocherla Natraj  
Mr & Mrs Mocherla Mohan

**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**VODELA SATISHCHANDER**  
DOB: 02-09-1953 DOD: 22-01-2020  
We miss you every moment in our life,  
your presence continues to surround us,  
in our hearts, you are always there.  
Wife: Mrs. VODELA VISALAKSHI  
Daughters & Sons-in-law:  
SUMANA & ISHORE KUMAR  
BHAVANA & RAGHAVENDRA  
Grand Children: AARUSH & VIANA  
Brothers & Sisters: VODELA SURESH, GIRUA & FAMILY  
VODELA RAMESH & SARITHA  
Dr. G. NARASIMHULU, Dr. SHOBHA & Family  
K.N.MURTHY VIJAYALAKSHMI & Family

**NADUPPU CEREMONY**

**Smt. T.D. MALATHI**  
(Correspondent Balaji High school, Malkajgiri)  
W/o Late Sri T.D. DATTA THIRYAN  
Left for heavenly abode on 14-1-2021.  
Naduppu Ceremony will be held on Saturday, 23-1-2021 from 6 pm onwards at Residence, Karmandram on 24-1-2021 at 7:30 pm.  
Inserted by: Family Members.  
Mob: 8897926235

**OBITUARY**

**Shri Mocherla Bhaskar Rao**  
Chartered Accountant, founder member of M. Bhaskar Rao & Co  
Passed away on 21 January 2021  
Your life was blessing for us  
B. Raghavender Rao  
Kalpavalli, Pujitha &  
Nandagopa, Abhishek Rao

**SSD 13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Shri KISHANCHAND BUDHRANI**  
Men may come and Men may go,  
but 'U' will be remembered always.  
(13) "Tera Tera Satguru Mein Devotee Tera"  
Inserted by:  
Sister: Shanta Khemchand & Family  
PH. No.: 7893832630

**10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
Most respectful homage to...

**Late Sri K.G. SHASTRY**  
(Advocate)  
DOD: 22-01-2011  
Inserted by:  
Usha K. Shastray (Wife)  
and Family Members

**11th ANNIVERSARY**  
in Ever Loving Memory of

**Late Shri. G. P. SANGHI**  
DOB: 30-12-1932 DOD: 22-01-2010  
" You do Good, I will Clap "  
From:  
Subodh Kumar Sanghi - Ruchita Sanghi,  
Anuj Sanghi - Rashti Sanghi,  
Aanchal Goel - Pankaj Goel  
and Viana Goel  
(S/2021/D01091)

**OUR RESPECTFUL HOMAGE**  
We deeply regret the sudden & sad demise of

**FOND MEMORY**

**Ghulam Mohiuddin**  
SEH-Divisional Manager-P&SB-NRE. (Retd.)  
President : All Bank Minors Employees  
Welfare Association of India (ABMEWA)  
DOB : 05-11-1941 DOD : 17-01-2021  
The values you set, will always remain with us.  
Loving Family Ph: 8247478866  
Due to Covid restrictions, we request you to pray for the departed soul at home

**4th ANNIVERSARY**

**ADITUNI NAVEEN KUMAR**  
DOB: 10.10.1977  
DOD: 22.01.2017  
"No words can tell the loss we had."  
Till memories fail and life departs. You will live forever in our hearts.  
May Your Soul Rest In Peace.  
From:  
Father: Adituni Aydhya Sharma  
(Retd. D.C.T.O.)  
Mother: A. Swarnalatha  
(Retd. RTA Office)  
& Family, Relatives,  
Friends: Mahesh, Arun Kumar  
Ph: 040-27076783 / 9393676783  
(S/2021/D01103)

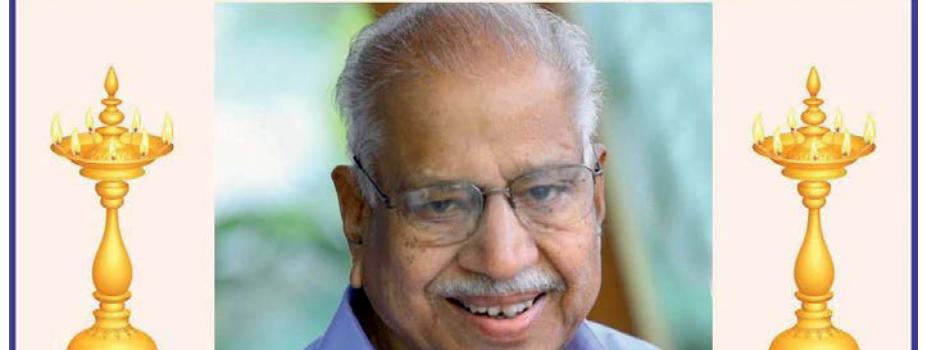
**CONDOLENCE**

**K. VIDYA SAGAR**  
(Reservoir Superintendent, DB/PRIS,  
Secunderabad, SCR)  
DOB: 17.05.1961 DOD: 20.01.2021  
You will always be remembered in our hearts.  
Heartfelt Condolence to  
The Bereaved Family  
Inserted by:  
Colleagues, CCM/PM's Sec, Railway  
Reservation Complex, Secunderabad  
(S/2021/D01106)

**10th ANNIVERSARY**  
"He that believeth in Lord, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25  
Inserted by:  
GEDDAM RAJU  
DOB: 23-11-1948 DOD: 22-01-2011  
Inserted by:  
Family Members  
Ph: 8008152020 / 9885721020  
(S/2021/D01102)

**11th ANNIVERSARY**  
In Ever Loving Memory of

**Late Shri. G. P. SANGHI**  
DOB: 30-12-1932 DOD: 22-01-2010  
" You do Good, I will Clap "  
From: Management and Staff of  
M/s. Hydro Pneumatic Engineers  
(Hyd) Pvt.Ltd. www.hpehyd.com



**Our Profound Grief at the Irreparable Loss**

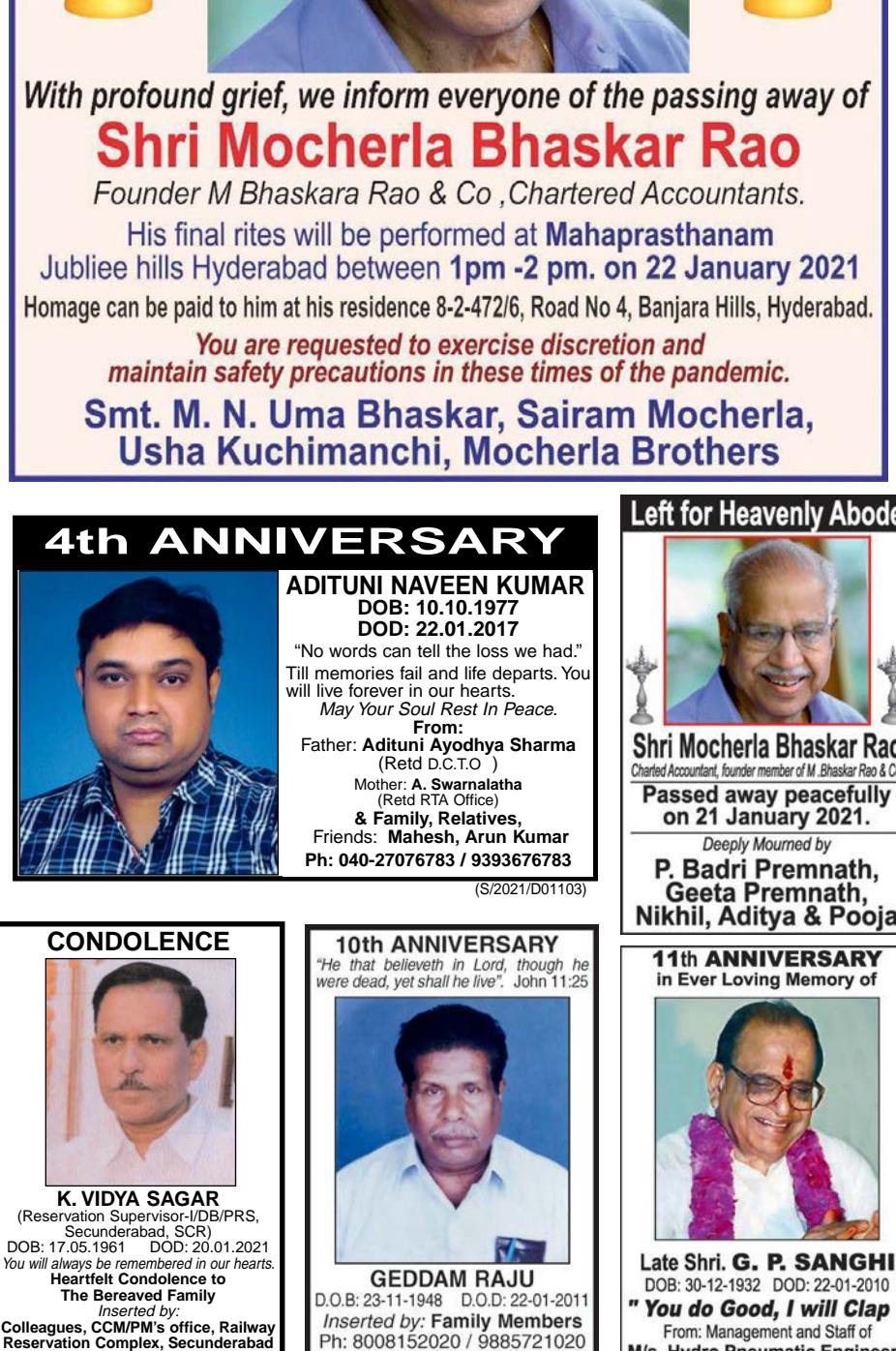
**With profound grief, we inform everyone of the passing away of**  
**Shri Mocherla Bhaskar Rao**  
Founder M. Bhaskara Rao & Co, Chartered Accountants.

His final rites will be performed at Mahaprasthanam Jubilee hills Hyderabad between 1pm - 2 pm. on 22 January 2021

Homage can be paid to him at his residence 8-2-472/6, Road No 4, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

You are requested to exercise discretion and maintain safety precautions in these times of the pandemic.

**Smt. M. N. Uma Bhaskar, Sairam Mocherla, Usha Kuchimanchi, Mocherla Brothers**



**Left for Heavenly Abode**

**Shri Mocherla Bhaskar Rao**  
Chartered Accountant, founder member of M. Bhaskar Rao & Co  
Passed away peacefully on 21 January 2021.

Deeply Mourned by  
P. Badri Premnath, Geeta Premnath, Nikhil, Aditya & Pooja

**4th ANNIVERSARY**

**ADITUNI NAVEEN KUMAR**  
DOB: 10.10.1977  
DOD: 22.01.2017  
"No words can tell the loss we had."  
Till memories fail and life departs. You will live forever in our hearts.  
May Your Soul Rest In Peace.  
From:  
Father: Adituni Aydhya Sharma  
(Retd. D.C.T.O.)  
Mother: A. Swarnalatha  
(Retd. RTA Office)  
& Family, Relatives,  
Friends: Mahesh, Arun Kumar  
Ph: 040-27076783 / 9393676783  
(S/2021/D01103)

**CONDOLENCE**

**K. VIDYA SAGAR**  
(Reservoir Superintendent, DB/PRIS,  
Secunderabad, SCR)  
DOB: 17.05.1961 DOD: 20.01.2021  
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(S/2021/D01106)

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Inserted by:  
**GEDDAM RAJU**  
DOB: 23-11-1948 DOD: 22-01-2011  
Inserted by:  
Family Members  
Ph: 8008152020 / 9885721020  
(S/2021/D01102)

**11th ANNIVERSARY**  
In Ever Loving Memory of

**Late Shri. G. P. SANGHI**  
DOB: 30-12-1932 DOD: 22-01-2010  
" You do Good, I will Clap "  
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M/s. Hydro Pneumatic Engineers  
(Hyd) Pvt.Ltd. www.hpehyd.com

## IN BRIEF

**M. Bhaskar Rao passes away**

**Hyderabad:** Mocherla Bhaskar Rao, founder of M. Bhaskar Rao & Co., chartered accountants, passed away here in the city on Thursday. He was 84.

Bhaskar Rao founded the firm in 1961 and led it in addition to serving as a director on the boards of several companies as well as Syndicate Bank and Punjab National Banks.

The last rites will be performed at Mahaprasthanam in Jubilee Hills on Friday between 1 am and 2 pm

**CENTRE PRAISES STATE'S MISSION BHAGIRATHA**

## DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat appreciated the Telangana state government for achieving its vision of ensuring drinking water supply to every household.

Shekhawat Tweeted on Thursday that Goa is nearing 100 per cent drinking water supply. Puducherry has completed 87.32 per cent, Haryana 85.11 and Andaman and Nicobar at 83.76 per cent. Gujarat is sixth with 81.63 per cent.

Reacting to the Tweet, panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said, "Thankful to the Union minister for appreciating that our government has ensured drinking water supply to every household. That credit goes to our Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and MA&UD minister K.T. Rama Rao. Mission Bhagiratha programme was completed on a war-footing. The role model project is set to be emulated by several states."

Errabelli said the drinking water has no fluoride content and reaches all interiors. The government spent ₹45,000 crore on Mission Bhagiratha and is saving ₹8,000 crore. The radical decision will help in avoiding consumption of packaged drinking water.

**FILL TOP POSTS OF SSC AND PCA, HC TELLS GOVT**

## DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

The Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the state government to expedite the process of appointments of chairpersons to the State Security Commission (SSC) and the Police Complaint Authority (PCA) that deals with the grievances of the public on abuse of power by police personnel.

These bodies are to be constituted as per guidelines framed by the Supreme Court in 2007 vide the Prakash Singh's case. However, even after one decade, the directions have not been implemented. The High Court took a serious note of this.

Recently, the government had set up the authorities but the chairpersons had not been appointed on the ground that the court should recommend the names of retired judges as SSC chairperson who would look into the grievances of the public at the state level. Retired district judges are eligible to hold the post of chairperson of PCAs at every district headquarter.

Advocate-General B.S. Prasad told the court that the government had forwarded names of some retired judges to the HC registry on January 8 for its approval and recommendations. The court directed the government to appoint the chairpersons within four weeks after it got a communication from the HC.

The Telangana High Court pulled up the AP government for delaying the establishment of SSC and PCAs. As this matter now stood with the Telangana high court, it directed AP to complete the process within four weeks.

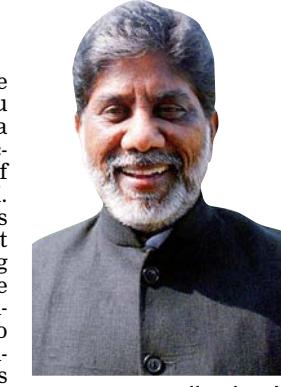
**RECENTLY, THE** government had set up the authorities but the chairpersons had not been appointed on the ground that the court should recommend the names of retired judges as SSC chairperson who would look into the grievances of the public at the state level. Retired district judges are eligible to hold the post of chairperson of PCAs at every district headquarter.

**Cabinet busy with KTR drama: Bhatti**

CLP leader says welfare activities ignored; accuses BJP of making empty threats

## DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

Mallu Bhatti  
Vikramarka**CHAIN SNATCHED, WOMAN INJURED**

**Hyderabad:** A 55-year-old woman sustained bruises after chain-snatchers tugged her chain off her neck in the Housing Board Colony in Medchal on Thursday. Police said R. Navami, was going to her textile shop when two unidentified persons came from behind, snatched her gold chain.

Chandrashekhar Rao was diverting the attention of the people from his failures with the proposal to make Rama Rao the CM.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay was making sensational statements only for his advertisement, Bhatti said. He demanded that Sanjay if he had the guts to get the Centre to order a probe into irrigation projects and Chandrashekhar Rao's corruption. He asked Sanjay if the BJP was ready to arrest Chandrashekhar Rao.

At a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, party spokesperson Medipally Satyam criticised called Chandrashekhar Rao an incompetent CM and asked the TRS leaders to agree that he had failed to rule the state. He demanded that the TRS chief make a Dalit MLA the CM as was promised during the statehood agitation.

Satyam asked government Whip Balka Suman and Dalit MLAs why they were not demanding that Rama Rao be made CM.

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

E-Tender Notice No. UBL/TRD/02/2020-21

Date: 18-01-2021

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of Work Approx. Value (Excl. GST)

Outsourcing of TRD, Rs. 47,52,213/- maintenance &amp; breakdown activities in Ballari - Rayadurga, Ballari - Hosapet, Toranagallu - Ranajipura, Hosapet Depot section with sidings for 2 years period.

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 22.02.2021.

For details log on: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TR PUB/244/AAS/PRB/SWR/2020-21 Hubballi

**Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation MOOSAPET CIRCLE - 23**

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount/ ECV	Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids	Name & Address Officer
36/GHMC/MPT/EB/2020-21	UGD	Rs. 164.75/- Lakhs	22.01.2021/ 12:00 PM 27.01.2021/ 05:00 PM	Sri. E. Nagender, Executive Engineer, GHMC, Moosapet Circle-23, Cell: 984996758

For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ [www.tender.procurement.gov.in](http://www.tender.procurement.gov.in)

R.O No: 8690/PP/CL/Adv/1/2020-21 Sd/- Executive Engineer, GHMC, Moosapet Division-23

**IN BRIEF**

**SC GRANTS BAIL TO KANNADA ACTRESS RAGINI**

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 21

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to Kannada film actress Ragini Dwivedi who is in custody since September 4 last along with others in a drugs racket case.

A bench of Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, Justice Navin Sinha and Justice K.M Joseph set aside the November 3, 2020, order of the Karnataka High Court, refusing bail to Dwivedi and others in the case registered under various provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The court had heard the matter at length on Wednesday, the order was pronounced on Thursday.

The court noted that Ragini is entitled to get the bail since the maximum punishment for the crime alleged against her is only one year imprisonment.

She was in the Bengaluru prison for the past four months in the arrest affected after a raid on her house in the city on September 4.

Her lawyer noted that the officials did not recover any drugs from her house in the raid on September 4 and yet she was arrested on the charge of conspiracy.

**SONU SOOD'S PLEA REJECTED BY HIGH COURT**

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, JAN. 21

The Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by Bollywood actor Sonu Sood challenging the demolition notice issued by the Mumbai municipal corporation. The civic body has alleged that Mr Sood has conducted unauthorised construction and converted a residential structure into a hotel.

Mr Sood, who shot to fame for helping thousands of migrant workers reach their home from Mumbai during the lockdown, had approached the court seeking interim relief against the notice.

The actor had approached the high court after a City Civil court rejected his plea. Through the petition, he had sought to quash the notice and to grant interim relief by not taking any 'coercive' action against him.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had issued notice to Sood in October 2020 under section 53 of the Maharashtra Regional Town Planning Act, with regard to alterations made to a six-storey residential building in Juhu.

While opposing his plea, the BMC claimed before the court that Mr Sood was a "habitual offender," who was repeatedly trying to convert a residential building into a hotel.

**PM TO TAKE VACCINE IN SECOND ROUND**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 21

With hesitancy slowing down the progress of Covid-19 vaccination drive, the central government on Thursday launched a major drive to convince healthcare workers and others to come forward and take the shot. In the last six days, over 10.4 lakh persons have been vaccinated across India at 18,161 session sites. On Thursday itself over 2.33 lakh beneficiaries were vaccinated, with no deaths due to Adverse Effect from Immunisation reported.

In the last six days, close to 10 lakh persons have been vaccinated across India at 18,159 session sites.

On Thursday itself over 1.92 lakh beneficiaries were vaccinated, with no deaths due to Adverse Effect from Immunisation reported.

However, it is felt that the progress is slow and given this pace of vaccination, it will take much longer time than expected to reach the target of 3 crore beneficiaries in the first phase and may delay the second phase when people above 50 years are to be vaccinated.

The President, Prime Minister, union ministers, chief ministers, MPs, MLAs, and judges will be among those who will get the jab in the second phase.

India on Thursday registered 15,223 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 151 new deaths. So far, 145 persons have been found positive with the mutated UK strain of the virus.

**CWC TO DISCUSS ROADMAP FOR NEW CONGRESS PREZ POLLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JAN. 21

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will be meeting on Friday to take stock of the political situation prevailing in the country.

The meeting is also expected to draw up a schedule for the long-pending organisational elections that could also pick a new party chief.

In the August meeting of the CWC, interim President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi had asked the CWC to relieve her of her duties and pick a new party chief.

The process of internal elections started in September with electoral roles of the party being revised.

Insiders say that an AICC session along with a 'Chintan Shivir' is expected to be called after the budget session of Parliament to look for a new President.

Several leaders have come out in the open and demanded that Mr. Rahul Gandhi once again take up the reins of the party.

Several leaders had a written a letter to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi in August last year demanding sweeping changes in the functioning of the party. They also pressed for internal elections for electing the President and CWC members.

Last month Mrs. Gandhi had met some of these letter writers in a bid to assuage their feelings and to initiate the free flow of ideas. Back room parleys have also been held with these leaders. The party does not want any embarrassment if a situation arises when elections are not being held.

The CWC is also expected to release a strongly worded resolution in favour of the farmers and against the farm laws. The issue of alleged Chinese incursions is also expected to be taken up. The issue of national security that came up post the purported chats of Arnab Goswami may find a mention.

# 5 dead in Serum Institute fire; Covishield facility unaffected

Fire breaks out due to an electric fault during the ongoing construction



Workers of Serum Institute of India come out of the building after fire broke out in it in Pune on Thursday. - PTI

**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC with agency inputs**

MUMBAI, JAN. 21

Five people including four men died on Friday in a massive fire which broke out in Pune's Serum Institute of India (SII). The fire broke out in an under construction building. Six people were rescued by the fire department personnel. However, the production of Covid vaccine would not be affected.

Maharashtra Public Health Minister Rajesh Tope said that the fire is under control. Five bodies were found after the fire was doused.

Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said that as per the preliminary information, the fire broke out due to an electric fault during the ongoing construction works. He will visit the Institute on Friday.

Speaking with this newspaper, Pune police commissioner Amitabh Gupta, who visited the spot, said, "The bodies are yet to be identified."

A senior official of Disaster Management Unit, requesting anonymity, said, "The fire erupted suddenly around 1.00 pm on the fifth floor of a building at the SII complex in Gopal Patti. Prima facie, it appears that the cause of the fire is short-circuit."

Speaking with the reporters, Mr. Tope said that the fire broke out at a newly constructed building, where work related to rotavirus plant installation was underway. The fire was noticed around 2.00 pm.

"Five fire tenders and three water tankers were sent to the spot. It took around two-three hours to extinguish the fire. Fire personal discovered five bodies when they entered the building after the fire was completely doused," Mr. Tope said.

The health minister said that the Covishield vaccine's building is far away from the fire. He also said that the police investiga-

tion is underway and a fire audit would also be conducted.

In a series of tweets, SII CEO Adar Poonawalla said, "We have just received some distressing updates; upon further investigation we have learnt that there has unfortunately been some loss of life at the incident. We are deeply saddened and offer our deepest condolences to the family members of the departed (sic)." In another tweet, Mr. Poonawalla said, "I would like to reassure all governments & the public that there would be no loss of #COVISHIELD production due to multiple production buildings that I had kept in reserve to deal with such contingencies at @SerumInstIndia. Thank you very much @PuneCityPolice & Fire Department (sic)."

A team of the National Disaster Response Force was also sent to the spot from Taloja on the outskirts of Pune.

Cyrus S Poonawalla, chairman and MD of Serum Institute of India, on Thursday said the vaccine major will offer a compensation of ₹25 lakh in addition to the mandated amount as per the norms, he added.

"We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone for their concerns and prayers in these distressing times," Poonawalla said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his grief at the loss of lives in a fire at the Serum Institute building. Modi tweeted, "Anguished by the loss of lives due to an unfortunate fire at @SerumInstIndia. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives. I pray that those injured recover at the earliest."

"We are deeply saddened and offer our condolences to the families of the departed. In this regard, we will be offering a com-

pensation of ₹25 lakh to each of the families, in addition to the mandated amount as per the norms," he added.

"We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone for their concerns and prayers in these distressing times," Poonawalla said.

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said it was distressing to learn of the tragic loss of lives in a fire incident at a Serum

Institute of India facility and urged the state government to provide necessary help to the victims and their families.

"While it's distressing to learn of the tragic loss of lives in the fire incident at Serum Institute, the news of another fire is extremely worrying," Gandhi said in a tweet.

"My condolences to the family of the deceased. I request the state govt to provide necessary help to the victims & their families," he said.

The Manjari facility is where the Covishield vaccine used in the nationwide inoculation drive against the pandemic is made.

The building where the fire broke out is part of the under-construction site of the Serum facility and is one km from the Covishield manufacturing unit, sources said.

## ARMY JAWAN KILLED IN SNIPER ATTACK

DC CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, JAN. 21

An Army jawan was killed in a sniper rifle attack from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday.

The Army and police sources said that Havaldar Nirmal Singh from 10 JAK Rifles was deployed at a forward Indian Army post in Mankote area of the LoC when targeted either by the Pakistani troops or militants. He received a bullet injury in right side of the chest and was immediately evacuated to the Army command hospital in garrison town of Udhampur in a helicopter. However, before doctors could attend on him, he succumbed, the sources said.

The sources added that the soldier's corpse was flown back to Poonch and that it would be handed over to the family for last rites after completion of autopsy at the government-run sub-district hospital at Mendhar.

However, a defence spokesman said in Jammu that the soldier was critically injured in unprovoked ceasefire violation by the Pakistani troops in Krishnaghati sector of the LoC and later died while being evacuated to hospital. He added that the Indian Army responded "strongly" to the Pakistani firing.

Havaldar Nirmal Singh was a brave, highly motivated and a sincere soldier. The nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," the spokesman said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Army had claimed that it foiled yet another infiltration bid along the LoC's Akhnoor sector by killing three militants. Four Army jawans were injured in the clash, it said.

The Army alleged that the Pakistan Army had tried to facilitate the infiltration by providing firing cover to the militants.

## Naravane: Defence modernization held hostage; flays 'rigid' process

**PAWAN BALI | DC**

NEW DELHI, JAN. 21

Indian Army chief Gen M.M. Naravane on Thursday hit out at the bureaucratic procurement process holding defence modernization a "hostage" and called for "revolution in bureaucratic affairs" to realize the vision of "self-reliance".

The Army chief pointed out that the new weapon acquisition policy Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 which came into force around four months back has 681 pages against the earlier policy Defence Procurement Procedure 2016 which had just 450 pages. He said that the former defence minister

Manohar Parrikar had once remarked that our entire procurement process is based on distrust. "We are not being able to fast-track the process of acquisition. It is because we have tried to cater for every contingency and every loophole. This results in acquisition process getting tied up in knots. To that end what has happened is that the process and procedures, rather than the product, have become paramount and these are holding hostage the defence modernization," said Gen Naravane.

He said that any contemplated change takes this already delayed cycle back to the start point. "And then you have to start once again so this becomes a vicious cycle. We need to be able to fast track all these things. Since we have made the rules, we should also have the latitude to override them. Rules should be user

friendly for the customer that is armed forces as well as the manufacturer. This waiver clause must be there to cater to operational condition and to accommodate different specifications then were originally promulgated," he said.

Army chief said that once skis to be used in snowbound terrain were rejected because vendor offered ultra-light skis weighing 1.6 kilos against formulated qualitative requirements of 2 and 5 kilos. Similarly, punji which are sharp pointed spikes used as obstacles, were rejected because it was of 6 kilos against notified requirement between 3 and 5 kilos.

## Farmers say no to 18-month pause on 3 new farm laws

**SANJAY KAW | DC**

NEW DELHI, JAN. 21

The protesting farmers' unions on Thursday rejected the central government's proposal to suspend the three contentious agriculture laws for 18 months and set up a joint committee to address grievances.

The unions also rejected a suggestion by the police officers to hold their protest on Republic Day on the Kundli-Maneesar-Palwal Expressway instead of Delhi's busy Outer Ring Road.

In a general body meeting of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of the protesting

farmer unions, the members reiterated a full repeat of the three laws and enacting legislation for remunerative MSP as the pending demands of the peasants' movement.

Generally, representatives of 41 farmers' unions had been participating in such meetings. But Thursday's meeting was attended by about 80 farmers' unions.

After the meeting, a statement issued by the Morcha said, "the proposal put forth by the government on Wednesday was rejected. A full repeat of three central farm acts and enacting a legislation for remunerative MSP for all farmers were reiterated as the pending

demands of the movement."

The union leaders also paid homage to the 143 farmers who have been martyred in this agitation which has been going on at Delhi borders for the last 57 days.

The Morcha said, "These companions are separated from us while fighting this mass movement. Their sacrifice will not go in vain and we will not go back without the repealing of these farm laws."

On Wednesday, when the Centre put forward the offer during their tenth round of talks with the farmers, the union leaders said they would decide upon it only after holding internal consultations.

### Banerjee to contest from Nandigram against the backdrop of Suvendu quitting Trinamul

## Forgotten Nandigram divided between Didi, Dada

**Nandigram (WB), Jan. 21:** Two large cut-outs of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her protege-turned-rival Suvendu Adhikari adorning opposite sides of the street in Tengua bazar of Nandigram sum up the prevailing political mood of the area which is hogging national limelight following the former's announcement of her candidature from here.

The obscure Nandigram village that shook the base of mighty Left regime and became a bastion of the Trinamul Congress 14 years ago, now stands divided between its favourite "Didi and Dada" amid speculations of Banerjee taking on her trusted lieutenant in the anti-Lok Sabha election

movement, Suvendu Adhikari. Though, the BJP is yet to take a call on fielding Suvendu from Nandigram which he represented in the assembly before quitting after joining BJP, the dashing leader has expressed willingness to take on the challenge and defeat Banerjee in the polls.

Many locals in the cradle of change, Nandigram, were feeling 'disenchanted and forgotten' and yearning for another change till a few months back.

But, with the announcement of Banerjee's candidature and Adhikari, a political heavyweight of the region, who had switched over to the BJP vowing to defeat her, has put the entire East Midnapore district, especially Nandigram, on edge.

The people of Nandigram are not very happy with the TMC and also have grievances against Mamata di as she hardly visits Nandigram. Had there been any other candidate of the TMC, the defeat would have been imminent."

But, there is a section of the people who have a soft corner for the TMC chief.

"We can't forget the tough days of the movement when she and Suvendu da were our only saviours," Anisur Mondal, a sharecropper who was part of the Bhumi Uchched Pratirodh Committee (BUPC), said.

Mondal's views were echoed by local BJP leader Sabuj Pradhan, who agreed that Banerjee's poll announcement is likely to change the social-political equations on the ground level.

"Till last month the situation in Nandigram was not in favour of the TMC. It will be a divided house if both Mamata Banerjee and Suvendu Adhikari contest from Nandigram assembly.

"If one of them pull out from the contest, the elections will swing easily the other way," Pradhan, a former Congress leader and part of BUPC, who had recently joined the BJP, said.

Banerjee and Adhikari were heroes of the Nandigram movement. The feisty Trinamul Congress





## Iran telecom min released on bail

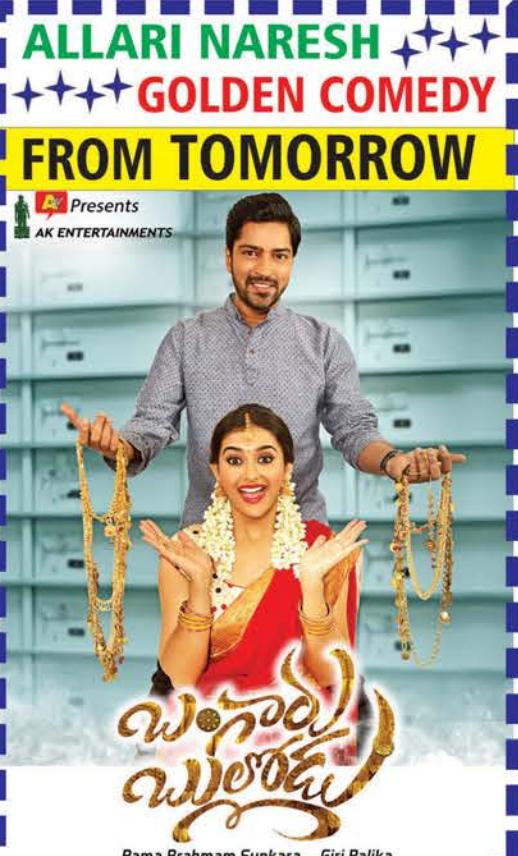
Tehran, Jan 21: Iran's judiciary released the country's telecom minister on bail Wednesday after he was summoned for prosecution by Iran's general prosecutor, state TV reported.

The state media outlet quoted Jamal Hadian, a

spokesman for the telecommunications ministry, as saying Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi appeared before a prosecutor Wednesday, was released and had already returned to his office.

— AP

## CINEMA



### TARAKARAMA 70MM

11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

### ARJUN 70-KUKATPALLY

11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

### MEGHA 70MM-6.15, 9.15PM

### PRASANTH 70MM-SEC'BAD

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

### OAMB

10.45, 11.00, 1.45, 4.15, 7.15,

7.35, 10.00, 10.25PM

### O ASIAN CINEMAS

Sivaganga-11.15, 6.15PM

Gpr-10.40, 1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 10.00PM

Radhika-10.50, 1.40, 4.30, 7.20, 10.00PM

Mcube-10.50, 1.40, 4.45, 7.20, 10.10PM

### Cinesquare-10.40, 1.25, 4.20, 7.10, 10.00PM

Chinthal-11.15, 6.15

Prasad Multiplex-4.30, 7.25, 10.20

Laxmikala Cinepride-11.30, 2.45, 6.15, 9.45PM

MJR Square-Narapally-10.55, 1.45, 4.35, 7.25, 10.20PM

### PVR

Central-1.30, 4.15, 7.00, 9.45PM

Forum-11.30, 2.15, 5.00, 7.45, 10.30PM

Inorbit-11.15, 2.00, 4.45, 7.30, 10.15PM

Icon-1.00pm, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15PM

Galleria-11.15, 2.00, 4.45, 7.30, 10.15PM

Irrummanil-12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00PM

Musarambagh-12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00PM

RK-0.45, 5.30, 8.15PM

### INOX

GVK-12.45, 4.40, 7.45, 10.40PM

MP-10.40, 4.30, 10.30PM

GSM-11.00, 3.30, 7.15, 10.40PM

### Cinépolis

CCPL-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM

SUDHA-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM

DLS-12.30, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00PM

MANTRA-12.30, 6.35, 9.45PM

### PLATINUM

10.00, 4.00, 7.00PM

L.B.NAGAR-11.00AM, 1.45PM, 7.40PM, 10.25PM

### MIRAJ CINEMAS

SHALINI-10.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30PM

BALANAGAR-11.00, 1.10, 7.20, 10.20PM

CHANDANAGAR-04.15, 7.15, 10.15PM

### BIG Cinemas

10.45, 1.30, 7.25, 10.20PM

TIVOLI XTRINS-11.15, 2.10, 7.30, 10.10PM

### TALLURI 70MM-11.00, 2.15, 6.15PM

### SENSATION

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

### SAIPOOJA

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

### SUPER 70MM

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

### SRIDEVI R.C.PURAM

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

### SAMPOORNA

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

### SAIRANGA

6.00 & 9.00PM

### SIVARANJANI

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

### SIVASAKTHI 70

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

### ASIAN MUKUND

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

# Covid-19 fatalities in US top World War-II deaths

Prez Biden warns the worst of the pandemic is still to come

Washington, Jan 21: New US President Joe Biden warned the worst of the pandemic is still to come, as the number of American coronavirus deaths surpassed the country's troop fatalities in World War II.

Coronavirus cases have surged past 96 million worldwide, fuelled by the emergence of new variants including one that was first detected in Britain and has now spread to more than 60 nations, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The United States remains the worst-hit country, with around a fifth of the two million global Covid-19 deaths, and Biden has made the fight against the pandemic his administration's top priority. "We need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter. We're entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus," Biden said at his inauguration, where those in attendance wore face masks and social distancing was enforced.

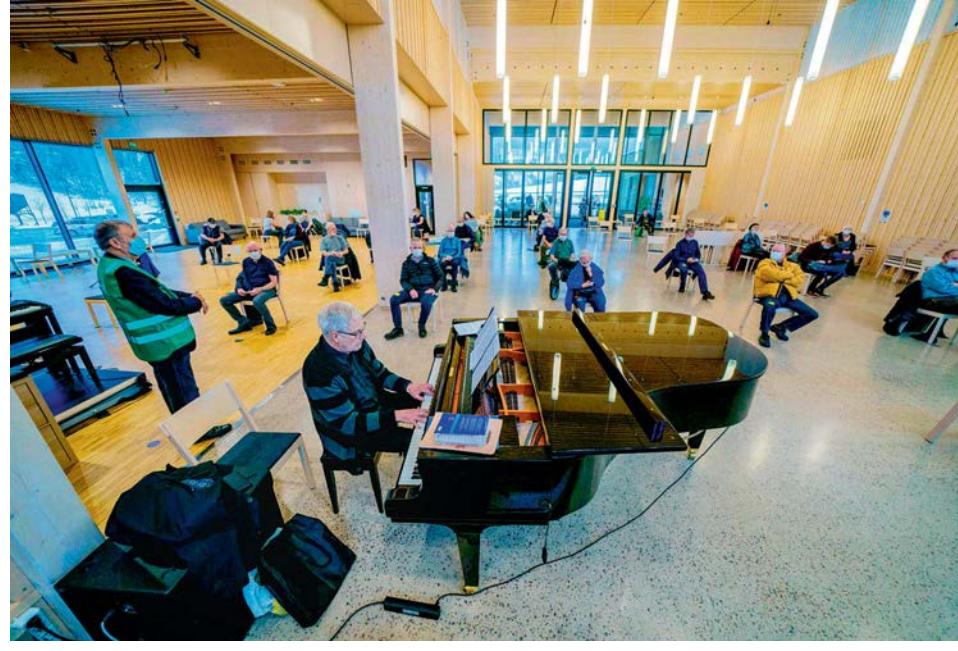
A Johns Hopkins University tracker on Wednesday showed that 405,400 people have died from the disease, more than the 405,399 total US combat and non-combat deaths in WWII.

Among the Biden administration's targets is to inoculate 100 million Americans in 100 days, hoping to revive a vaccine rollout that had floundered in the last weeks of the Trump presidency.

E-commerce titan Amazon on Wednesday offered its vast logistics infrastructure to help with that effort.

Biden's point-man for fighting the pandemic, Jeff Zients, said the US would also rejoin the WHO, reversing his predecessor's decision. He added that top US expert Anthony Fauci would lead a delegation to the WHO executive board meeting on Thursday. The announcement came as the WHO confirmed that the virus variant first detected in Britain had spread to more than 60 countries, while one that emerged in South Africa has made it to 23. The South African variant is more contagious than earlier ones, experts have warned.

Both have tempered optimism that mass vaccination will help to end the unpopular restrictions such as shutdowns that have wrecked economies around the world. There was some good news, however, with early results from two studies on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine showing it is effective against the British variant, which is fuelling a surge that has overwhelmed UK hospitals. "When you go into a hospital... in some cases it looks like a war zone," the British government's chief scientist, Patrick Vallance,



Norwegian pianist Ove Nyvik entertains elderly residents from Nittedal, some 20 kilometres outside Oslo, as they wait for their coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccination inside Rotnes church in Nittedal, Akershus, Viken county, on Thursday.

— AFP

## Shanghai evacuated after 3 virus cases

Shanghai, Jan. 21: Shanghai authorities began evacuating a residential neighbourhood near the historic Bund riverfront after Chinese officials discovered at least three new coronavirus cases on Thursday.

Officials did not say how many people were being moved out of the area in central Shanghai as they ramped up testing to stamp out the small outbreak, the latest example of China's tough response to small clusters. Two of the people found with the virus work at hospitals and are neighbours, local health officials told a press conference. The third

case was detected in one of their contacts.

An AFP reporter at the scene said that buses were on standby and being disinfected before whisking away people living in the neighbourhood to a hotel. Some roads were sealed off.

The Coronavirus emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year, unleashing a global pandemic which has killed more than two million people and shattered economies. But with aggressive lockdowns, mass testing and travel restrictions, the country has broadly managed to bring the virus under control. — AFP

told Sky News. Britain is mounting a massive vaccination drive, that has involved the repurposing of all kinds of large buildings – including Salisbury Cathedral, where thousands of elderly people are receiving shots.

Two musicians worked in shifts throughout the day on its 19th-century organ, playing soothie pieces by composers including Bach and Dvorak. — AFP

## MEXICO POSTS NEAR-RECORD COVID-19 DEATHS

Mexico City, Jan. 21: Mexico is recording some of its highest daily death tolls since the Coronavirus pandemic began, with 1,539 deaths reported Wednesday and 1,584 the previous day.

There was also a near-record one-day rise in new virus cases of 20,548 Wednesday. Mexico has seen almost 1.69 million confirmed coronavirus infections and over 144,000 test-confirmed deaths related to Covid-19. The country's testing rate is extremely low, however, and official estimates suggest the real death toll is closer to 195,000. Hospitals in Mexico City, the current centre of the pandemic in Mexico, were at 89% capacity Wednesday, while 61% of hospital beds nationwide were filled.

The difficulty in finding open hospital beds has led many families to try to treat their relatives at home, which has created spot shortages of oxygen and tanks, and sparked an uptick in thefts targeting oxygen tanks. An armed thief stole oxygen tanks from a hospital in northern Mexico. — AFP

## Russia pushes back after Putin 'palace' probe

Moscow, Jan. 21: Russian prosecutors warned supporters of Alexei Navalny on Thursday against staging demonstrations, after his probe into President Vladimir Putin's alleged "palace" became the Kremlin critic's most-watched YouTube investigation.

Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Thursday that the two-hour video report into an opulent Black Sea property allegedly owned by Putin had been viewed more than 41 million times since its release Tuesday. The 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner published the investigation into "the world's most expensive palace" days after his arrest in Moscow on arrival from Germany.

Navalny in the video urged his supporters to take the streets on Saturday to protest Putin, who had ruled over Russia for two decades.

Prosecutors responded on Thursday by warning Russians who called for "illegal mass protests" and demanded a ban on websites — including TikTok, a video app popular among teens, and even dating app Tinder — to voice support and urge a large turnout on Saturday.

A number of figures including actors, musicians and athletes have in recent days spoken out in support of the jailed opposition figure. — AFP

## 15 days to reach trapped miners

Beijing, Jan. 21: It will take at least 15 more days to get through a massive amount of debris and reach miners already trapped for 11 days since an explosion in a gold mine in eastern China, authorities said Thursday.

The mine shaft is blocked 350 meters (1,000 feet) below the surface by 70 tons of debris that extends down another 100 meters (330 feet), the Yantai city government said in a statement on its social media account.

"Based on expert evaluations, the extent of the blockage ... is well is out of expectation," the statement said. One worker has died from head injuries in the explosion, state media said earlier Thursday. Of the remain-

ing 21, rescuers have established contact with 11, and the status of the other 10 is unknown.

The deceased worker had been in a coma. Two others are said to be in poor health. Rescuers have delivered food, medicine and other supplies to the group of 11 as they work to remove debris and improve ventilation.

The state media reports said exhaustion has set in among some of the workers since the Jan. 10 explosion ripped through the mine that was under construction in Qixia, a jurisdiction under Yantai in Shandong province.

Rescuers were attempting to clear cages and other debris blocking the main shaft while drilling other shafts. — AP

Japan court upholds ban on dual citizenship

Tokyo, Jan. 21: A Japanese court upheld a ban on dual citizenship on Thursday, rejecting a suit that challenged the measure's constitutionality and sought damages for those affected.

Japan is one of around 50 countries internationally, including China and South Korea, that only permits its citizens to hold one nationality.

Under current rules, Japanese people who acquire another passport are asked to relinquish their Japanese citizenship, but in 2018 eight plaintiffs started legal proceedings, arguing the rule was unconstitutional.

One of them, Hitoshi Nogawa, has told reporters that being forced to give up his nationality was a "painful experience." "I obtained Swiss nationality because my job requires it, but I'm emotionally attached to Japan and this is the foundation of my identity," the Asahi Shimbun newspaper quoted him as saying.

The plaintiffs are six people who have already obtained Swiss or Liechtenstein citizenship. — AFP

## Whale carcass washes up on Bali beach

Denpasar, Indonesia, Jan. 21: The rotting carcass of a nearly 14-metre (46-foot) whale washed up Thursday on Bali beach popular with tourists.

The conservation agency said it was investigating the death of the giant creature, which was first spotted in shallow waters near Batu Belig beach, north of Seminyak.

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## SHORT TAKES



Rishitha Basi Reddy

**Rishitha sinks top seed Laxmi**

**Hyderabad:** Rishitha Basi Reddy defeated top seed Laxmi Siri Dandu 6-4, 7-5 to set up the girls final with Ika Raju, who got past Princy 6-3, 6-0 at the All India Tennis Association C7 Under-14 tournament being held at Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Murtuzaguda.

Showrya Syamala will meet V. Thirumurugan in the boys final. Showrya beat Pratyush Jayaram 6-0, 6-1 while Thirumurugan defeated V. Dhiraj Reddy 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals.

**THE RESULTS**

**Boys U-14 semifinals:** Showrya Syamala bt Pratyush Jayaram 6-0, 6-1; V. Thirumurugan bt V. Dhiraj Reddy 6-3, 6-3.

**Girls U-14 semifinals:** Rishitha Basi Reddy bt Laxmi Siri Dandu 6-4, 7-5; Ika Raju bt M. Princy 6-3, 6-0.

**Boys U-14 doubles semifinals:** Hrishik Valipally / Showrya Syamala bt V. Thirumurugan / V. Dhiraj Reddy 7-5, 6-3; Rahul Lokesh / Anish Jain bt Pratyush Jayaram / Murali Koushal 6-2, 7-5.

**Girls U-14 doubles semifinals:** Ika Raju / Rishitha Basi Reddy bt Shanwita Reddy / Krithika Reddy 6-1, 6-3; D. Laxmi Sri / Rithika Kakarlamudi bt Ishu Raju / Swana Malvika 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

**Medchal hockey selection trials**

**Hyderabad:** The selection trials to pick the Medchal district senior hockey side will be held at the West Marredpally ground opposite Shenoj Nursing Home, on Saturday from 6.30 am.

Players selected will take part in the Senior inter-district tournament to be held at BHEL grounds in Sangareddy district from February 5 to 7.

Players must bring original as well as copies of their Aadhar cards, Olympian and Hockey Medchal secretary Alloysius Edwards said in a statement.

For further details, contact Edwards on phone number 8142388886.

**Basketball events on Republic Day**

**Hyderabad:** The Keystone Basketball Academy is conducting 3x3 basketball tournament at Keystone International School premises, Financial District, Nanakramguda on Tuesday, January 26 in remembrance of NBA star and FIBA World Cup brand ambassador Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna who met a tragic end in a helicopter crash last year. Competitions will be held for boys in the age categories of 12 years (born on or after 01.01.2009), 14 years (born on or after 01.01.2007) and 16 years (born on or after 01.01.2005) and in the girls' section for 14 and 16 years. For further details, contact 9121081305.

**TOURNAMENT AT CITY COLLEGE ON JANUARY 26**

Meanwhile, the CCOB Basketball Club too is organising one-day basketball tournament at City College ground on January 26. Matches will commence from 9 am while the organisers promise free lunch to all the participants. Only seven players per team will be allowed. Winner and runner-up teams will be awarded cash prizes. Entry fee is pegged at ₹400 per team. Spot entries will be accepted upto 11 am, a press release said. For further details, contact Hanumanth Rao Singam on phone number 9393004825.

**Collin's 42 puts Nets in shambles**

**Los Angeles:** Collin Sexton scored a game-high 42 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a James Harden triple double and spoiled the debut of the Brooklyn Nets' Big Three with a 147-135 double overtime victory in the NBA. The marathon contest was supposed to showcase the Nets' star trio of Harden, Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving playing together for the first time together. Irving finished with 37 points. — AFP

# MAN U ON A ROLL

## Pogba, Cavani steer Red Devils into driver's seat

**London, Jan. 21:** Paul Pogba produced a moment of magic as Manchester United came from behind to beat Fulham 2-1 and reclaim the Premier League lead on Wednesday, ending Manchester City's short stay at the top.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's in-form team started the match third in the table after 24 hours of chopping and changing at the summit.

The win sent the Red Devils two points clear and equalled the club record of 17 Premier League away games without defeat set by the treble-winning side of 1999.

United were forced to dig deep after Ademola Lookman punished them for an untidy start before Edinson Cavani pulled them level with a poacher's goal later in the first half.

Pogba — back in the starting line-up in recent weeks after a spell on the periphery of Solskjaer's team — put United in front with a stunning left-foot curling effort from outside the area in the second half.

United have now won seven Premier League games after going behind this season.

The Premier League race is shaping up to be a thriller, with just eight points separating United from seventh-placed West Ham. United knew they



Fred (right) of Manchester United vies for the ball with Fulham's Ademola Lookman during their English Premier League match at the Craven Cottage stadium in London on Wednesday. Manchester United won 2-1. — AP

had to respond after City beat Aston Villa 2-0 earlier on Wednesday to leapfrog Leicester, who topped the table after their 2-0 win against Chelsea the previous evening.

But the defensive discipline they showed in their goalless draw against Liverpool on Sunday was absent in the early min-

utes and they paid the price. United were punished in the fifth minute when Lookman sprang the offside trap, collecting a ball over the top from Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa.

The forward had time to pick his spot and gave Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea no chance, striking the ball into the bottom corner with his right foot.

The away side settled

and were level in the 21st minute through Cavani, moments after Bruno Fernandes had hit the inside of the post.

Alphonse Areola failed to hold a Fernandes cross from the left, spilling the ball into the path of the veteran Uruguayan, who made no mistake with a left-footed finish from close range.

The increasingly influential Fernandes tested Areola from distance as United began to flex their muscles without creating many clear-cut chances.

— AFP



Alcoyano's Jose Solbes (left) and Real Madrid's Mariano Diaz jump for a high ball during their Spanish Copa del Rey Round of 32 match at the El Collao stadium in Alcoy, Spain, on Wednesday. — AP

## 3rd-tier Alcoyano humiliate Madrid

**Madrid, Jan. 22:** Real Madrid suffered an extraordinary defeat in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday as La Liga's reigning champions lost 2-1 to Alcoyano, who play in Spain's third tier and had a man sent off in extra-time.

Zinedine Zidane threw on the likes of Eden Hazard, Karim Benzema and Toni Kroos as substitutes, while Alcoyano's Ramon Lopez was sent off in the 109th minute for a late challenge on Casemiro.

But against all the odds, Alcoyano still scored the winner, Juanan diverting it at the near post to pull off an incredible upset that continues a worrying dip in form for Madrid.

After a surprise loss to Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish Super Cup semi-final last week, Madrid have now responded with an embarrassing exit in the cup.

After one victory in their last five matches, this humiliation will bring a fresh wave of pressure on Zidane. As expected, he rotated his starting line-up but a team that included

the likes of Marcelo, Isco, Casemiro and Vinicius Junior should have had enough to beat an opponent sitting fourth in their division in Segunda B.

And when the first-choice stars were introduced in extra-time to put the game to bed, the opposite happened, as Alcoyano, with a man less, scored the winner on the counter-attack.

Alcoyano have not graced Spain's top flight since 1951 and their El Collao stadium holds less than 5,000 spectators. The only shame here was their fans were not able to see it.

They were comfortable in the first period but Madrid scored with their first chance on the stroke of half-time as Marcelo's delivery to the back post found a diving Eder Militao, who headed in.

After a surprise loss to Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish Super Cup semi-final last week, Madrid have now responded with an embarrassing exit in the cup.

But Madrid still laboured in the second half, even after Benzema replaced Diaz, and Alcoyano equalised in the 82nd minute, a corner flicked on by Lopez to the back post, where the sleeping Vinicius allowed Solbes to a simple finish.

— AFP

## Ronaldo rocks to bag Super Cup

**Reggio Emilia (Italy), Jan. 21:** Andrea Pirlo won his first trophy as a coach on Wednesday as Juventus beat Napoli 2-0 in the Italian Super Cup.

This trophy is very important because it can give us confidence for the rest of our season.

— CRISTIANO RONALDO  
Juventus star player

ing 2-0 to second-placed Inter Milan last weekend. The Scudetto is possible.

“Milan and Inter are very strong, but there are still a lot of games to be played and we can still do it,” added Ronaldo.

It was the first meeting between Pirlo and Napoli coach Gennaro Gattuso, who won the 2006 World Cup together and spent a decade as AC Milan teammates, winning two Serie A titles and two Champions League crowns together.

They have not faced off this season after Napoli refused to travel to Turin for their October league match because of coronavirus cases — a fixture which has still to be played.

“I’m sorry for Gennaro Gattuso, but we wanted to react after the defeat against Inter Milan,” said Pirlo.

Juventus sit fifth in the league, 10 points behind leaders AC Milan, after los-



Players of the Juventus team celebrate during the awards ceremony for the Italian Super Cup final after defeating Napoli 2-0 at the Mapei stadium in Reggio Emilia, Italy, on Wednesday. — AP

## Lewa scores in Bayern victory

**Berlin, Jan. 21:** Robert Lewandowski scored his 22nd Bundesliga goal of the season as Bayern Munich stayed four points clear, helped by a late penalty miss from Alfred Finnbogason in a 1-0 victory at Augsburg on Wednesday.

Lewandowski's 13th-minute penalty was enough for a win which kept the reigning champions clear of second-placed RB Leipzig, who edged out Union Berlin 1-0 thanks to an Emil Forsberg goal.

But Bayern survived a

late scare in the Bavaria derby as Finnbogason could only hit the post from the spot with 14 minutes to play.

Poland striker Lewandowski has scored 10 goals more than his nearest rival, Dortmund's Erling Braut Haaland, in the Bundesliga this term.

Bayer battered the hosts' goal with 15 first-half shots while Augsburg did not trouble the European champions with a single attempt in the first 45 minutes.

— AFP

## Saqlain, Gireesh, Trivendra, Akash, Thejodhar have a ball

### Varun, Adil, Moosa, Rushil, Anil, Shashank, Paul, Manish, Anurag, Hussain, Vijendra, Shoaib also shine

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 21

It was a bowlers' day in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-1 Division league matches on Thursday.

Mohammed Saqlain Arafat and G. Gireesh scalped six wickets each while Trivendra, Akash Sana and B. Thejodhar triggered five dismissals in the three-day games.

Brief scores:  
**A-1 DIVISION (THREE-DAY)**

**Group-A****Day-3:**

■ BDL 253 in 69.1 overs & 163 in 35.3 overs (B. Revanth 35, K. Hima Teja 54, Mir Jaweed Ali 4/16) bt Budding Star 139 in 29 overs (**AKASH SANA 5/66 – 15-65, B. THEJODHAR 5/55 – 13-55-55**)

& 181 in 30.2 overs (Mir Jaweed Ali 47, Kamal Sawariya 62, B. Thejodhar 3/33, Chiranjevi 4/43). **Points:** BDL 6, Budding Star 0.

■ Union Bank of India 253 in 71.4 overs & 219/9 in 40 overs (Neeraj Bist 35, Jagadeesh 3/45) bt SCRSA 183 in 46 overs & 204/7 in 40 overs (Vamsi Krishna 84, Vasudeva 3/58). **Points:** UBI 6, SCRSA 0.

■ Jai Hanuman 404 in 89.2 overs & 163 in 35.3 overs (B. Revanth 35, K. Hima Teja 54, Mir Jaweed Ali 4/16) bt Budding Star 139 in 29 overs (**AKASH SANA 5/66 – 15-65, B. THEJODHAR 5/55 – 13-55-55**)

& 181 in 30.2 overs (Mir Jaweed Ali 47, Kamal Sawariya 62, B. Thejodhar 3/33, Chiranjevi 4/43). **Points:** BDL 6, Budding Star 0.

■ Ilyanath Rao 313 in 88 overs & 101 in 23.5 overs (G. Gireesh 6/31 – 8-2-31-6)

lost to MP Colts 275 in 84.4 overs & 143/6 in 37.2 overs (Ashesh Singh 52, Abhinav Tej 32). **Points:** MP Colts 6, Zinda Tilismath 0.

■ Evergreen 161 in 57.5 overs & 103 in 32.4 overs (Chandan Sahani 47, Trivendra 5/23 – 7-1-54-5) lost to AOC 224 in 60.3 overs & 41/3 in 8 overs (Ilyanath Rao 313/9). **Points:** AOC 6, Evergreen 0.

■ Hyderabadi Bottling 217 in 51.5 overs & 237 in 36.1 overs lost to Combined Districts 321 in 70.3 overs & 134/2 in

**Saqlain Arafat**

Anirudh 49, Shaik Sohail 31, Ajay Dev Goud 56, Manish Reddy 32.

**Group-B**

■ Concorde CC 243 in 68.1 & 144 in 34.4 overs (Salveen Mirza 42, Tushar Tripathi 31, **Md Saqlain Arafat 6/31 – 8-0-31-6**) lost to Continental CC 271 in 67.5 overs & 117/6 in 24.2 overs (A. Vigneshwar 51 no., Syed Ahmed 30).

■ Continental 6, Concorde 0.

■ Zinda Tilismath 313 in 88 overs & 101 in 23.5 overs (G. Gireesh 6/31 – 8-2-31-6)

lost to MP Colts 275 in 84.4 overs & 143/6 in 37.2 overs (Ashesh Singh 52, Abhinav Tej 32). **Points:** MP Colts 6, Zinda Tilismath 0.

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## SHORT TAKES

## Women's hockey side stun Chile

Santiago, Chile: The Indian women's junior hockey team rallied from a goal down to script a stunning 3-2 win over the Chilean senior side at the Prince of Wales Country Club here. Deepika (39th), Sangita Kumari (45th) and Lalrindiki (47th) scored for India after Fernanda Villagran (21st) had given the hosts the advantage.

Chile's Simone Avelli (56th) pulled one back late in the match, but it was not enough to force a comeback as the Indian junior team secured a creditable win. It was India's third consecutive victory on the tour. They had defeated Chile's junior side twice earlier this week. India started the match on the front-foot, twice penetrating inside Chile's striking circle, but without causing much damage. The home side's first real attack came in the 10th minute when they earned a penalty corner, but to no avail as the visitors defended it well. — PTI

## Need our best to beat India: Root

Galle: India's come-from-behind series win over Australia was a "great advert" for Test cricket and his side will have to be at their "absolute best" to challenge them at home, said England captain Joe Root.

"It was a fantastic series to watch from start to finish with some brilliant cricket played," Root said.

"India showed great fight, character and resilience and depth in their squad for guys to come in and perform the way they did. As a cricket fan watching

Test cricket it was a great advert for the game and for us going out to India it makes that tour even more exciting now."

England will tour India to play four Tests, beginning in Chennai on February 5. The Test series will be followed by five T20Is and three ODIs.

"I expect India to be full of confidence. They are a very good team and know how to get the best out of their conditions. We are going to have to be at our absolute best," Root further said. — PTI

# Warm welcome for warriors

Nation's pride Rahane and victorious Indian team back home



India's stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane (centre) carries his daughter while his wife walks behind as they are welcomed by family and supporters on his arrival at his residence in Mumbai on Thursday. — PTI

Matunga, where residents had made elaborate preparations to accord their hero a royal welcome.

Rahane was welcomed with the beats of dhol, while others showered the cricketer with flower petals. Rahane was also joined by his wife and two-

year-old daughter in the celebration.

Rahane acknowledged the love and adulation showered on him by the people of the city, many of whom waited for his team at the airport wearing masks amid the Covid-19 pandemic. In his society,

residents and videographers jostled to capture the moments and the unassuming batsman posed happily for them.

Rahane was then greeted in a traditional manner as he walked towards the entrance of the building. — PTI

## FIVE TEAM INDIA MEMBERS ADVISED HOME ISOLATION

Mumbai, Jan. 21: Five members of the Indian cricket team arrived here from their Australia tour on Thursday morning and they have been advised to remain in seven-day home quarantine, officials said.

The cricket team members will have to undergo RT-PCR test on arrival at the international airport here, Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said.

"The players are also advised to remain in home quarantine for next seven days," Chahal said.

The Indian cricket team's stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Shardul Thakur and Prithvi Shaw, and head coach Ravi Shastri landed in Mumbai in the morning, after their momentous Test series victory over Australia, an official from the BCCI said.

India beat Australia by three wickets in the series-deciding fourth Test in Brisbane on Tuesday to clinch the series 2-1.

On their arrival in Mumbai, the players were felicitated by Mumbai Cricket Association officials. — PTI

● Olympic silver medalist P. V. Sindhu outclassed Malaysia's World No. 92 Kisona Selvaduray 21-10, 21-12 in the second-round of Thailand Open.

also made it to the quarterfinals with a stunning 22-20, 14-21, 21-16 win over world No. 17 German duo of Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Herttrich in a match that lasted close to an hour.

Satwiksairaj also paired up with Chirag Shetty in the men's doubles to notch up an upset 21-18, 23-21 win over seven seeds Korean combination of Choi Solgyu and Seo Seung Jae.

Prannoy, however, failed to cross the second round hurdle, going down 17-21, 18-21 to Malaysia's Daren Liew.

Meanwhile, Indonesian fifth seed Anthony Ginting suffered an unexpected defeat to Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk-yiu, who moved into the quarter-finals with a 21-19, 13-21, 21-12 win. — PTI

# Sindhu, Sameer, Satwik in quarters

Bangkok, Jan. 21: Indian shuttlers P. V. Sindhu and Sameer Verma stormed into the quarterfinals of the Toyota Thailand Open after registering straight-game wins but HS Prannoy bowed out of Super 1000 tournament here on Tuesday.

Olympic silver medalist Sindhu expectedly outclassed Malaysia's world No. 92 Kisona Selvaduray 21-10, 21-12 in a lop-sided second-round contest that lasted just 35 minutes. She will face either Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon or Korea's Sung Ji Hyun next.

World No. 31 Sameer also continued his impressive run, stunning world no. 17 Rasmus Gemke 21-12, 21-9 in just 30 minutes for his third victory over the Danish player.

The Indian, who had shocked Malaysia's eighth seed Lee Zii Jia in the opening round, will face third seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark, who received a walkover, in the quarterfinals.

The mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa

## MALINGA RETIRES FROM FRANCHISE CRICKET

Mumbai, Jan. 21: Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga on Wednesday announced retirement from franchise cricket after Mumbai Indians released him ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League season.

Malinga informed his decision to the Mumbai Indians management earlier this month, making himself unavailable for the champion side, MI said in a statement. Malinga has already retired from Test and ODI cricket but he is yet to call it quits from T20 internationals. Last year, he had expressed his desire to lead Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup earlier scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November 2020.

"After discussing with family, I think now is the right time to retire from all franchise cricket," Malinga said.

"The pandemic situation and the restrictions on travel will make it difficult for me ... to participate fully in franchise cricket for the next year and therefore it is best to make this decision now," he added. — PTI



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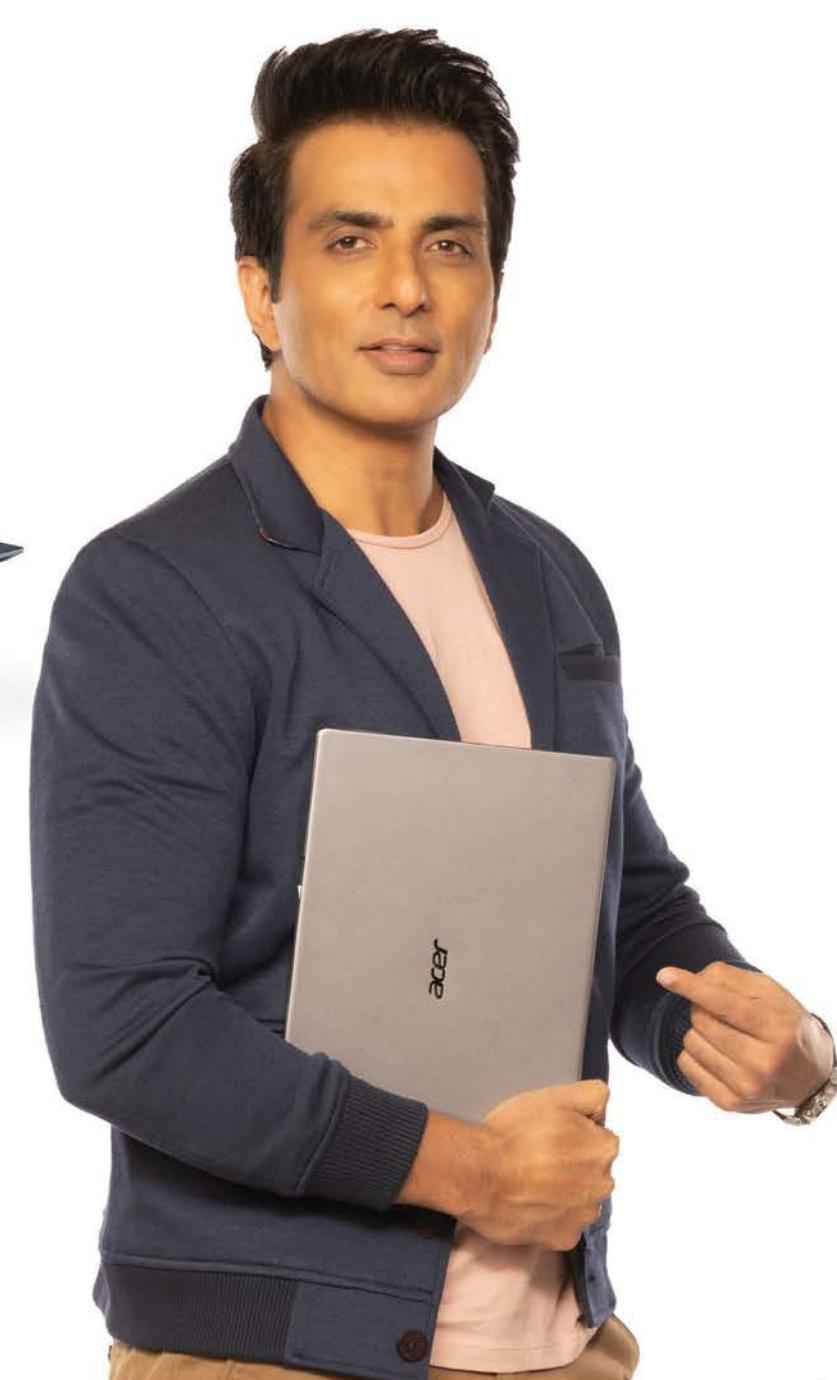
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# DC ESTATE

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

Pg II | &gt; Apara changes city's skyline, people's lifestyles

Hyderabad real estate back with a bang: CREDAI &lt;&lt;

## Hyderabad realty comes out stronger

Property development, be it layouts, mid size and mega residential complexes, has picked up in full swing in and around Telangana's capital

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS

The impact of political and economic crisis on Hyderabad's growth proved minimal and temporary in the past and it is no different during the worst ever global pandemic Covid-19.

After a few months of standstill due to lockdown, the property development, be it layouts, mid size and mega residential complexes, picked up in full swing in and around the capital city.

The buoyancy of realty sector is a key indicator of the respective urban agglomeration's overall economic well-being and its ability to continue to attract both investors in property development and buyers of the property developed. Distress sale on the contrary pulls down the city's image.

Fortunately, Hyderabad, as many country wide surveys indicate, retained its most favoured destination tag. The Mercer's quality of living survey has put the city on top of the list of Indian metros and city has also been voted the best mega city in citizen feedback in the Centre's Swachh Surveykhan.

In sharp contrast to doomsdayers' predictions of city's fall post bifurcation of the State and social unrest among the groups that are divided on regional lines, the strong and inclusive political leadership ensured the city's safe passage through the turbulent times. A special pat for IT and Municipal Minister K.T. Rama Rao, the poster boy

of Hyderabad, for constantly keeping the city on the radar of development.

It witnessed an upward trend in land prices and launch of several residential projects a year and a half before the outbreak of Coronavirus. Allaying the fears of a slump in the post-lockdown period, the city indeed is passing through a stabilised scenario — absence of distress sale coupled with stagnation in the sale price — providing a win-win situation for the buyer and the seller.

"I would say Hyderabad is the only city in country where real estate actually has seen a positive upward trend during and after the pandemic," asserts Arvind Kumar, principal secretary Municipal Administration and vice chairman of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, the core area of development. Strategically located, city has truly metropolitan set up, robust employment opportunities, reasonable cost of living including housing in terms of both rentals and acquisition and above all political stability and good upkeep of law and order are factors he attributes to city's unhindered growth.

The municipal authorities making best use of the traffic going off roads during lockdown built 24 new roads, expedited construction of flyovers and completed many urban infra projects adding to the ease and convenience.

In a recent report, the housing.com, a realty portal, revealed that the inventory



Hyderabad's skyline turns lively with construction activity picking up

overhang in the city is lowest compared to other metros. The unsold inventory in Hyderabad is 3,37,02 units which is just 4.6 per cent of the national pool of seven lakh plus unsold units. The average price, according to the portal, in city is ₹5,593 per sq ft.

The realty development however continued to be the IT-corridor centric going by the inventory of the readily available, ongoing and just launched housing units.

Areas like Nallagandla, Tellapur, Kokapet, Narasing and newer colonies around Miyapur have been witnessing more activity compared to the other areas. With the extension pro-

jects of Apara, the name to reckon with in the city's realty sector, nearing completion in Nallagandla, the area itself is turning into a mini city and the proposed biggest mall in the city by the group will be the last requirement to be fulfilled for the residential wing of the Gachibowli IT hub.

Tellapur is the hot destination for individual villa projects and the improved connectivity between the Outer Ring Road and Lingampally covering Tellapur gave a boost to these projects. Several new projects are being launched in Kokapet while Mokilla and areas beyond Pattancheru are yet to witness the construction activity pick-

ing up, though brisk business is going on in terms of the individual plots in lay outs.

Manchirevula, another area near the IT corridor, saw a restricted growth till recently considering the large extent of the land parcels and settlement of elite sections of the society. With the land prices shooting up, the builders are lining up with mid-size residential complexes. The Alkapur area is also chosen by the buyers due to a better planned growth contrary to its neighbouring Manikonda.

The look East policy of the government is yet to show the results and all that happened in this area is change of nomenclature to GRID (growth in dispersion). The development on the Vijayawada highway also did not improve much. Except for smaller residential complexes and construction of individual houses near Uppal, the cluster between Vijayawada and Warangal highway did not see booming activity of construction unlike the IT corridor hub.

The cluster between Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar highways are proving to be better bet for future investments. Huge activity of layouts is witnessed in

these areas and same is case with the Shamshabad side. Except one or two major projects announced recently, the Kompally area did not grow exponentially. But land prices have gone up tremendously in these areas in the last four years.

Builders however urge the government to give top priority to roads which are in worst condition in the city outskirts as improved connectivity will help the city grow. "We are experiencing the positive results of the metro rail despite its limited coverage. Extending it to newer areas and increasing frequency of MMTS will contribute a lot," a builder said adding that the government should take immediate steps to treat all the fraternity members alike and implement the single window clearances in letter and spirit.



A special pat for IT and Municipal Minister K.T. Rama Rao, the poster boy of Hyderabad, for constantly keeping the city on the radar of development. Beating fears of a slump in the post-lockdown period, the city is passing through a stabilised scenario — absence of distress sale coupled with stagnation in the sale price — providing a win-win situation for the buyer and the seller.

"Only those having access to the powers that be are getting permissions and approval for conversion of land use. Hundreds of remaining applications are lying unaddressed. This should change," said another developer. They want the recent phenomenon of the politician-official nexus resulting in forcible change of ownership of properties by altering the revenue records should be curbed to protect Hyderabad's image.

Maintaining that the recently announced integrated township policy would end the selective or discretionary approach in granting change of land use, C Sekhar Reddy, former national president of CREDAI, asked the government to make changes in the master plan itself declaring the five km zone away from ORR as multi purpose. "Once the government converted the area it should not again insist for payment of charges for conversion," he pointed out.

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## Aparna changes city's skyline, people's lifestyles

Aparna Constructions Limited, that started its journey 24 years ago in Hyderabad, now has presence in three cities, Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bengaluru. In just Hyderabad alone, it is credited with playing a major role in the development of quality housing in the city.



SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

**T**he transformation of Hyderabad's skyline, and elevation of quality of living in the city has been witnessing a major shift.

As Ayn Rand once said "Integrity is the ability to stand by an idea."

In the arena of construction, 'Aparna' has emerged as an organisation that stands for integrity, honesty, and commitment towards quality and delivery. The company, Aparna Constructions Limited, that started its journey 24 years ago in Hyderabad, now has presence in three cities, Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bengaluru.

In just Hyderabad alone, it is credited with playing a major role in the development of quality housing in the city. And this endeavour is spread over 42 of its projects that comprise plots, villas, and apartments, with a whopping 24.5 million square feet of living space which in turn are being enjoyed by 17,000 families.

By any means, it was a modest beginning for Aparna when it began its first project, a 5-floor building in 1996, here in the city. And today, the company has in its portfolio one of the tallest skyscrapers in the city, a 36-floor building.

Aparna is also the first to be certified as per the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) norms. The principles that the company followed during the former and united Andhra Pradesh, of having open spaces, and being pioneers in building gated communities in Hyderabad, have seen over the years how company attracted people to the homes it built, based on referral by its earlier clients and emerged as the most preferred real-estate brands of Hyderabad.

Further, Aparna concen-



It was a modest beginning for Aparna whose first project was a 5-floor building in 1996 in the city.

trates more on environmentally friendly locations, and this is the reason all its properties are well located and well connected with the closeness to nature but strategically planned sites that are close to work places.

Also part of its projects are creating some of the best landscaped gardens.

This is one of those construction companies which focuses on backward and forward integration, and Aparna has its own production of tiles, UPVC windows and RMC ready mix concrete, and for the end user, has the Aparna property management services.

The projects currently shap-

ing up under the Aparna banner include Aparna ONE, located between Jubilee Hills and Shaikpet. This is an ultra-luxury project which is IGBC certified. The sixty-five thousand square feet project will also include along with various other facilities, a state of an art club house.

Elsewhere at Nallagandala, the Aparna Sarovar Zenith is set to be destination for cosmopolitan lifestyle with 2475 apartments with 80 per cent of dedicated open space, catering, 2BHK, 4BHK options spread over 24.6 acres. This is a IGBC gold rated project. It has a jogging track and a walking track and 70,000 square feet club house, indoor swimming pool with a temperature control.

Aparna has its own production of tiles, UPVC windows and RMC ready mix concrete, and for the end user, has the Aparna property management services.

Restaurant with outdoor deck and kitchen.

Aparna Kanopy Marigold at Kompally, which is well connected to the work place, will have an exclusive club house with a large swimming pool, squash and badminton courts, indoor games fully equipped AC gym, aerobics room, yoga and meditation center along with a spa, a coffee shop, a multipurpose hall, AC guest rooms and a creche. While for nature lovers there will be an aromatic, rain and a butterfly garden, for the pet lovers there will be a dog park. And for those special occasions for families, an amphitheater and party lawn for hosting private events will also be there.

Aparna Serenity at Kompally has been planned as perfectly balanced for peaceful living and connectivity with the rapidly developing localities. With full amenities within its gates, round the clock electricity back-up, supermarket, clinic and pharmacy and for sporting enthusiasts, there will be a basketball, and a tennis court, cricket nets, cycling and jogging tracks along with the indoor sports including squash, table tennis and billiards.



## Dharani would be a game changer: Realtors

Experts have opined that Dharani would be a one-stop solution for purchase and selling of lands since mutations were done online immediately.

MADDY DEEKSHITH

**R**egistration of non-agricultural lands and properties through Dharani, an integrated land record management system portal would be a one stop solution for all registrations in Telangana if existing lacunae would be addressed. It would not only encourage the buyers but also eradicates corruption in the real estate sector. However, the realtors claimed that the State government should spare at least one year time to prepare an accurate database for results to be fruitful.

Realtors opine that the registration of non agricultural lands through Dharani should be on par with the agricultural. The government in order to maintain transparency should first have a complete database of every inch on land in the state then develop a software which has been piloted for at least six months in a sub-registrar office in the state, identifies lacunae in the process and address the issue to launch it for statewide non agricultural registrations. In the existing registra-

tion, there is no provision to rectify clerical mistakes, there is no provision in the new Revenue Act for resolving the problems of Inam, ceiling, tenancy, POT, assignment, Wakf and Bhudan land. Overall the government does not have a database to do online registrations.

However, the experts opine Dharani would be a one-stop solution for purchase and selling of lands since mutations were done online immediately. It would build the trust among the consumers since they can check

Buyers can check history of the property with zero human interface and understand the legality of the purchase

their plot online without any brokerage or human interface.

Gummi Ram Reddy, founding president of Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (Credai)

| iNTERVIEW | RAJASHEKHAR REDDY

## Hyderabad real estate back with a bang: CREDAI

The Knight Frank India's 14th edition of half-yearly report released in the first week of January, said that the residential real estate market sales in Hyderabad, jumped up by 127 per cent in Q4, as compared to Q3 2020.

HARLEEN MINOCHA

**A**fter a brief lull due to Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown for about 3 months in Q1 of 2020, the residential real estate sector in Hyderabad has picked up pace, said Rajashekhar Reddy, General Secretary of CREDAI Hyderabad, in an exclusive interview with Deccan Chronicle.

Ever since restrictions were lifted in the city, there has been a substantial boom in investors coming to the Hyderabad market for residential projects. The pumping of money into the system by investors as well as relaxation measures by the government have helped in sales of home units, along with a rise of opportunities and employment in the sector, he said.

"Of all the residential projects launched across India in the past couple of months, Hyderabad constitutes no less than 40 per cent of them," said Mr Reddy.

This is reflective of the Knight Frank India's 14th edition of half-yearly report released in the first week of January, that said that the residential real estate market sales in Hyderabad, jumped up by 127 per cent in Q4, as compared to Q3 2020.

The success stories of Chandan Valley as well as the Medical Device Park, that are attracting major investments are also a contributor to the prospects of a higher concentration of residential projects in and around the area. "Due to the opportunities and employment generation in these areas and around the area. "Due to the opportunities and employment generation in these areas and around the area.

He said that such a turnaround was least expected, and at such a fast pace after the unlock phase in the country. The pent up demand and relaxations by the state government are likely the major reasons behind this, he said.

The state government's decision of slashing property tax by 50 per cent for the urban population of the State who bore the brunt of Covid-19 in November 2020, and the announcement by Minister K.T. Rama Rao that payments already made by now will be adjusted in the demand that will be raised in 2021 boosted the morale of buyers as well as builders, Mr Reddy added.

The government's much touted Dharani initiative for non-agricultural properties, once fully functional, will also add to the benefits for the market, by bringing more transparency to the system, he said.

However, it is the retail commercial market in the estate sector that shows a rather gloomy picture, and has not been able to revive like the residential did, according to the CREDAI Hyderabad General Secretary.

The shift to a work-from-home model of companies has resulted in major challenges over the past year. Even as in the post COVID recovery phase, absorption of office spaces in the city has taken place, the revival of the retail commercial sector is at least six months away still, said Mr Reddy.

"As and when markets start to bounce back, most of which will be a result of positive results of the vaccination drive, and people start to work from offices, a revival can be expected by the month of June," he said.



**Q** Due to the opportunities and employment generation in the success stories of Chandan Valley as well the Medical Device Park by companies like Wellspun among others, the prospects of occupation are available for not just a year or two, but the trend will be persistent for the next 8-10 years.

— RAJASHEKHAR REDDY  
General Secretary, CREDAI Hyderabad



it has to do a test and trial before launching it for hassle free registrations and the entire database to be digitalised for transparency and accountability. All in all it would eradicate corruption done through middle man ultimately benefit the consumers", he added.

C. Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII-IGBC Hyderabad Chapter and Immediate Past President, CREDAI - National said that the State government through Dharani is heading towards the right direction. He said that if it's digitalised it would encourage bankers to offer loans and pump money into the real estate sector. "Since everything would be available online, consumers or realtors check the legality of the property online and even check Encumbrance Certificate (EC). It should also ensure the norms in the Title Guarantee Act in the public domain. However, prior to the full launch of Dharani, it should carry out registration both online and manually since a major transition in the process has to be needed. At least it should until every land document in the state is digitalised," he added.



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