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HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 27 FEBRUARY 2021

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5 poll results out on May 2

Bengal elections in 8 phases, Assam 3 phases, rest 1 phase

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

The stage is set for Assembly elections in two states in eastern India, and two states and a Union territory in the South, as the Election Commission announced the voting days in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry UT. The Assembly polls for 294 seats in West Bengal will be conducted over a record eight phases, from March 27 till April 29, and that of Assam's 126 seats in three phases — from March 27 to April 6. The southern states and the UT will hold polls in a single phase on April 6. The counting of votes for all five states/UT will be held on May 2.

Kerala has 140 Assembly seats, Tamil Nadu 234 and Puducherry 30. The term of Assemblies in Assam, TN and WB end in May

POLL DATES	
West Bengal:	TOTAL SEATS 294
March 27	April 17
April 1	April 22
April 6	April 26
April 10	April 29
Assam:	TOTAL SEATS 126
March 27	
April 1	
April 6	
APRIL 6, 2021	
Tamil Nadu	TOTAL SEATS 234
Puducherry	TOTAL SEATS 30
	Kerala TOTAL SEATS 140

while that of Kerala and Puducherry expires in June.

■ Page 6: 18.69 cr voters to vote for 824 seats

Indian economy in +ve zone, grows 0.4%

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, FEB.26

The road to recovery appears to be in sight for the Indian economy, with the country's gross domestic product growing by 40 basis points or 0.40 per cent in the October-

December quarter. The size of the economy had shrunk in the April-June quarter and July-September quarter, pulling down the country into a technician recession.

■ Page 6: Expenditure trend remains weak

MLC poll: BJP lawyer leads

SRI RAM KARRI | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The electoral race for the member of the Legislative Council representing the Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar (HRRM) graduates constituency has just started acquiring its

HYD-RR-MBNR

contours after the last minute entry of Surabhi Vani Devi, daughter of former prime minister late P.V. Narasimha Rao, but all indications show that she has a lot of ground to cover to catch up with incumbent

■ Report on Page 6



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SHORT TAKES

FALAKNUMA BRIDGE
TO BE CLOSED
FOR 6 MONTHSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Falaknuma bridge will be closed for six months from March 1 and traffic diverted to facilitate the construction of the new road overbridge (RoB) parallel to the existing bridge over the railway line, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar said. In view of the diversions, traffic coming from Mahbubnagar crossroads towards Enginebowli will be diverted via Old Chandrayangutta, Suhana Function Hall, graveyard, Kandikalgate flyover (Chattrinaka), Ramaswamyganj, Lal Darwaza temple and Shamshergunj. Heavy vehicles will not be allowed on this route.

Another route is via Hashamabad, Bandlaguda, Pallecheruvu, Mairdevpally crossroad, My Feel Hotel, Vattepally road and railway gate. Heavy vehicles will be routed via Hashamabad, Bandlaguda crossroad, Moghal College and the crossroads at Pallecheruvu, Mairdevpally, Durganagar, Aramgarh, Shivarmpally, Hasannagar, Shastripuram and Tadban and Shamshergunj.

Traffic from Enginebowli towards Mahbubnagar crossroads will be diverted via Shamshergunj, Aliabad, Shah Gouse Restaurant, Nagulchinta crossroad, Lal Darwaza temple, Venkat Rao Memorial School, Ramaswamyganj, Kandikalgate flyover, graveyard, Suhana Function Hall, Old Chandrayangutta Junction and DRLR.

Traffic from Enginebowli towards Mahbubnagar crossroad will be diverted via Vattepally crossroad railway gate, Mehfli Hotel, Pallecheruvu, Bandlaguda and Hashimabad. Heavy vehicles will be diverted via Shamshergunj, the crossroads at Tadban, Aramgarh, Shastripuram, Hasannagar, Shivarmpally, Durganagar, Mairdevpally, Moghal College, Bandlaguda and Hashamabad.

Free drinking water scheme caught in inter-dept dispute

Water Board, threatened with power cut over huge dues, says can't pay

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Implementation of the free drinking water scheme for supply of 20 kilolitre per month by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) is caught in an inter-departmental wrangle.

The Water Board claims it cannot clear the pending dues of about ₹1,100 crore and bear the electricity charges for the supply of the water. Citing its weak financial condition, it has urged the electricity department not to disconnect power until a budgetary allocation for this purpose was made by the state government.

Notably, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had intervened in the matter and previously promised suitable budgetary allocations. On this basis, the Water Board urged the power depart-

ment to continue the power supply for three months by which time, it said, the issues could be sorted out with the government.

In a request to the TS Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSEC), the Water Board said it had incurred a net loss of ₹232.33 crore for 2016-17, ₹330.01 crore for 2017-18, ₹299.95 crore for 2018-19, ₹577.49 crore for 2019-20 and ₹265.86 crore for 2020-21 up to October.

The board said the deficit was on account of operations of the board which does not include capital expenditure. "Due to the vast spread of urbanisation, it has become a challenging job to supply potable water to all citizens in and around Hyderabad. The maintenance of sewer systems has also become a challenging job for the HMWS&SB."

The present operational area is about 1,570 sq km, which includes the GHMC area extending up to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The supply of drinking water has become more challenging due to the concessional tariff and with an average cost recovery of ₹10 per kilo litre against a cost of production of ₹47.

The board proposed a concessional power tariff, which was sanctioned by the government. "This could be a great help for sustenance of our operations and also help achieve self-sufficiency over a period. Otherwise, the operations would suffer." It said the cost of production was increasing by the day, while the tariff has been retained for the last nine years.

The electricity department responded claiming that it too was in a sad condition. There was no revision of tariff since 2017-18. If the orders dated July 18, 2020 of the regulatory commission

were to be implemented with effect from 2018-19, distribution companies (discoms) were bound to incur a revenue loss of ₹244.57 crore, for fiscal 2018-19, ₹257.38 crore for fiscal 2019-20, ₹63.59 crore for the first quarter of fiscal 2020-21. Further the discoms would be losing ₹21.19 crore per month till the revised tariff orders are approved. This loss was due to lack of tariff revision and fall in revenue.

Hence, the total impact on revenue for discoms is ₹538.95 crore up to June 2020, including ₹83.35 crore towards surcharge.

It said the commission has given its nod to supply power to all water supply pumping stations of HMWS&SB at a tariff linked to energy charges at ₹3.95 per unit as decided by the government in August 3, 2018, and as per the directions given to the commission in the letter dated June 26, 2020, from

fiscal 2018-19.

It would continue to do so till a final view is taken by the commission on determination of tariff for retail supply for fiscals 2019-20 and 2020-21 and also in a true up of retail supply tariff for fiscal 2018-19.

A senior Water Board official told *Deccan Chronicle* that the issue has been brought to the notice of the Chief Minister. The CM has asked the Water Board to make part payment immediately and assured that he would make suitable budgetary allocation for the present fiscal.

He also advised the electricity department not to disconnect power supply to HMWS&SB for the next three months until the budgetary allocation is made. The CM said the free drinking water supply scheme would continue as the government has given such an assurance to the people.

3 ARRESTED FOR POSSESSING MARIJUANA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A three-member interstate drug peddling gang was caught at Jiguda by the Kulsumpura police who seized 16 kg of marijuana from the trio on Friday.

The arrested were identified as Vikas Jadav alias Avinash, 22, of Karnatka, N. Manikanta, 27, from Adikmet and K. Satish, 24,

from Bidar. Two others, Satya Vishu from Adikmet and Anand from Vijayawada, were reported absconding.

Police said Vikas, who had been previously jailed for drug peddling, induced the two others into the trade by offering them a commission. They procured marijuana from Satya and Anand at low rates and sold them to customers in Hyderabad for higher rates, police said.

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राष्ट्र के खाद्य सुरक्षा प्रहरी

IMD warns of rising temp, Hyd already 2°C hotter than normal

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

It has begun to feel a little like summer in Hyderabad and some parts of the state. Friday saw the city record its highest temperature for this year, 36° Celsius, 1.8°C more than the normal for this time of the year.

Hyderabad was, however, cooler by 2.8°C compared to Bhadrachalam which recorded 38.2°C. This is 2.6°C above normal, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Ramagundam and Mahbubnagar reported 37.6°C, followed by Adilabad at 37.3°C, and Nizamabad

37°C. The lowest maximum temperature of the day of 34.8°C was reported from Nalgonda, the IMD said.

According to the forecast by the TS Development and Planning Society, the next three days are expected to see temperatures touch 40°C degrees in parts of Nalgonda, Suryapet, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Bhadradri-

Kothagudem,

Warangal Rural, Mulugu, Jayashankar-Bhupala, Peddapalli, Mancherial, Jagtial, and Kumrumbheem-Apisbad districts.

Temperatures in the city are expected to hover around between 36°C and 38°C during the next three days. The minimum temperatures are expected to rise over the next few days.

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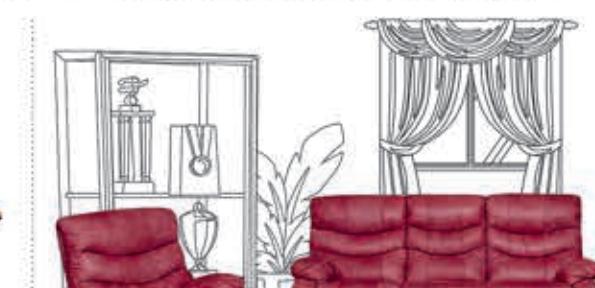
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2021

VENUE
HITEX EXHIBITION
CENTRE,
HITECH CITY, HYDERABAD

SHORT TAKES

KAVITHA PLANS HANUMAN CHALISA EVENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Nizamabad MLC K. Kavitha announced to organise Hanuman Chalisa recitations programme at Hanuman temples across Telangana for 41 days.

Kavitha announced her decision to perform Hanuman Chalisa Parayanam for 41 days from chinna Hanuman Jayanti to pedda Hanuman Jayanti, after having darshan at the famous Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy temple located in Muthyumpeta village of Mallik mandal in Jagital district on Thursday.

She said all arrangements were made to perform Hanuman Chalisa Parayanam across the state with Kondagattu as the focal point. She said she took the decision following the advice of priests of Hanuman temple in Kashi.

OFFICIALS HOLD MEET AHEAD OF MLC POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Harpreet Singh, convener for the Mahbubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad graduates constituency election for the Legislative Council, met with candidates at the GHMC headquarters on Friday.

Priyanka Ala, returning officer for the poll, explained briefly the dos and don'ts during election and also distributed the rules handbook for candidates. LB stadium will be the reception, distribution and counting (DRC) centre for the poll.

Postal ballot facility has been allowed for disabled persons and those above 80 years of age. Covid-19 patients can also avail the facility by submitting a letter from their hospital; those in home quarantine have to provide a letter from the district medical and health officer.

The official said that candidates will have to apply from the returning officer or the respective district collector for permission at least 24 hours before holding rallies, meetings, padayatras. Pre-certification must be obtained for campaign material.

AGRI VARSITY TO HAVE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday announced the setting up of a centre of excellence (CoE) in the Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University on the city outskirts, and allotted it 300 acres on the campus.

The decision came during a review meeting that the Chief Minister chaired on drafting a horticulture policy with senior officials at Pragathi Bhavan on Friday.

The Chief Minister said that there was a need to do more research to expand the cultivation of horticulture crops and introduce modern methods in horticulture farming and the CoE would be helpful in achieving this goal.

He directed officials to draft the horticulture policy keeping in mind the needs and weather conditions. He stressed the need for strengthening agriculture university for the purpose.

Rao assured that he would sanction more funds to the agriculture university in the upcoming Budget. He instructed officials to take steps to increase seats in agriculture polytechnic college in Vantimamidi and Ramagiri Killa.

The Chief Minister said that areas around municipal corporations and municipalities should be identified to take up cultivation of horticulture and vegetable crops and ensure that urban areas should no longer depend on imports from other states for vegetables and flowers.

The horticulture department is headed by one commissioner. The CM said the government will soon appoint three more commissioners to take care of fruits, vegetables and palm oil cultivation.

THE CHIEF Minister assured that he would sanction more funds to the agriculture university in the upcoming Budget. He instructed officials to take steps to increase seats in agriculture polytechnic college in Vantimamidi and Ramagiri Killa.



TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with senior Congress leaders, submits a petition to Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan on Friday.

— R. PAVAN

Lawyers murder case: Cong. seeks CBI probe

Total collapse of law and order in state, says Uttam

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Victim's dad also wants CBI probe

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Lead by N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), a delegation of the state Congress met Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan here on Friday and requested her to direct a court-monitored Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the murder of the lawyer couple Gattu Vaman Rao and P.V. Nagamani in a fair manner.

"Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife P.V. Nagamani were hacked to death by TRS activists in broad daylight at Ramgiri on February 17. The couple, appearing as counsels in different cases, had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) about the alleged custodial death of Seelam Rangaiah, who had information regarding the sand and mining mafia in Manthani. Nagamani had previously addressed a letter to the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, praying that the alleged lock-up death be taken up suo motu."

The couple was killed in broad daylight near Manthani on February 17. The case was registered with the Ramagiri police. In his petition, Kishan Rao stated that Vaman Rao and Nagamani were eliminated by anti-social elements in collusion with Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) leaders and police officials as the couple was questioning the illegal activities resorted to by Putta Madhukar, the zilla parishad chairman of Peddapalli, and his wife Shailaja, chairperson of Manthani

municipality.

The petitioner informed the court that Madhukar and his wife developed animosity towards Vaman Rao and Nagamani as their illegal activities were questioned by the advocate couple.

Nagamani had filed an election petition challenging the election of Madhukar in a lower court in Karimnagar and brought to light the lock-up death of Sheelam Rangaiah, who had information regarding the sand and mining mafia in Manthani. Nagamani had previously addressed a letter to the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, praying that the alleged lock-up death be taken up suo motu.

The TPCC chief said the Congress would also write to the Chief Justice of India, president of the Bar Council of India and other authorities regarding the lawyer couple's murder.

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, MLAs Sridhar Babu and Jaggadeep, TPCC SC department chairman N. Preetam and senior leader Annaiah Goud were part of the delegation.

He also alleged that local police were trying to shield Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) leaders involved in brutal murders.

The lawyer couple's murder is directly linked to Manthani's custodial death, which is again linked to the sand mafia, backed by top TRS leaders.

However, local police are trying to suppress

facts to protect TRS leaders involved in the murders," he said, adding that police commissioner Satyanarayana was "acting like an agent" of TRS leaders.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that although the High Court had directed the Telangana police to submit a report on March 1, the local police could not be trusted as they were being pressured by the ruling party to hush up the matter.

"Chief Minister Rao did not issue a single-line statement condemning the brutal double murders. This clearly shows that KCR is giving a free hand to sand, land and mines mafia to establish their control, using murders as a tool to instil fear among common people," Reddy said.

The TPCC chief said the Congress would also write to the Chief Justice of India, president of the Bar Council of India and other authorities regarding the lawyer couple's murder.

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, MLAs Sridhar Babu and Jaggadeep, TPCC SC department chairman N. Preetam and senior leader Annaiah Goud were part of the delegation.

Later, the Congress leaders met Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy and requested him to expedite the investigation into the double murder case.

They also requested the DGP to take necessary steps to ensure protection of family of the victims.

Stop taking jobless youth for a ride, Dasoju tells KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

AICC spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju addresses Congress workers in Hyderabad on Friday.

to 1.91 lakh and the total number of existing employees stood at only 2.28 lakh whereas the creation of new districts and gram panchayats would imply that the sanctioned jobs had to be 5.19 lakh. As per the Biswas Commission, the state has only 2.28 lakh

employees while 4.19 lakh sanctioned jobs are available, which means 47% of jobs are currently vacant in Telangana.

"Like father, like son. You betrayed 40 lakh unemployed youth with your fabricated statement of having filled up 1.32 lakh vacancies since coming to power".

Ridiculing KTR's statements, he pointed out that there were 4.19 lakh sanctioned jobs in 2014 and the employee strength was 3.12 lakh.

Countering the minister's claims he wanted to know how the vacancies had risen from 1.07 lakh

10,000 field supervisors from MGNREGA scheme. 20,000 ration shop dealers are in a pathetic state without salary while over 1.2 lakh contract employees are being exploited even though the Chief Minister has assured that there won't be any contract employment, he lamented.

Regularising contract employees, working for 10-15 years in Transco and Genco cannot be considered as filling up of vacancies. Even the black gold mine - Singareni Collieries Company Limited is not an exception. There were 65,000 employees before 2014 and now the work-force stands at just 45,000.

Entrepreneurship has taken a backseat considering that lakhs of self-employed applications are pending with BC Finance Corporation, SC, ST and minority finance corporations, which expose the true colours of TRS party, he said.

He condemned the move to remove nearly

Make Dharani portal easy to use, KCR tells officials

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

● ALTHOUGH THE CM launched Dharani on October 29 last year to make property transactions completely online and check corruption in the revenue department, people are continuing to suffer because of several procedural hurdles with regard to land transfers, mutations, errors in land data, land extent, ownership and so on.

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WEATHER



Max: 36°C
Min: 18.6°C
RH: 23%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 36/19°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttaryana

Tithi: Magha Shuddha Pournami till

1.43 pm

Star: Magha till 11.15 am

Varijam: 6.41 pm to 8.10 pm

Durmuhurtam: 6.39 am to

8.12 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 14,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.36 am

Zohar: 12.39 pm

Asar: 4.43 pm

Maghris: 6.27 pm

Isha: 7.35 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.22 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.35 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 6.32 PM

MOONSET TODAY 6.39 AM

COUNTER POINT



We will save 99% of election expenses by campaign on bicycles!

SHORT TAKES

Woman held for cheating NRI men

Hyderabad: A woman who posted fake advertisements on Telugu matrimonial websites and cheated NRI men looking for brides, was arrested by the Rachakonda police on Friday. Police said the accused, Korem Swathi alias Archana alias Indra Priyadarshini, a resident of Nellore, had completed her MBA from SV University and was married to Durga Praveen of Ranganayakulupeta, Nellore, a lecturer. Swathi had been earlier arrested by the Cyberabad, Rachakonda, and Hyderabad cybercrime police for cheating men after promising to marry them. Police said in the latest instance Swathi posted fake profiles in Telugu matrimony sites with photographs downloaded from Google and sought alliances from abroad. She posted fake foreign virtual numbers generated from second-line mobile apps. When prospective bridegrooms or their parents reacted out on the virtual mobile number, she would speak to them in different voices using voice modulation software, police said.

RURAL SCHOOLS SEE HIGHER TURNOUT THAN HYD KIDS

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

About 33.35 per cent attendance was recorded in government and local body schools in the rural schools in Classes 6-8 but it was a mere three per cent in the city. Only 815 students attended schools out of 26,132 enrolled, as per government data, in Hyderabad. The second lowest attendance was recorded in Komaram Bheem district at 10 per cent.

The highest turnout was recorded in the Kamareddy district at 37 per cent, or 7,699 students in attendance out of 20,725 in 314 schools followed by Jagtial and Jangaon districts with 34 per cent and Mahbubnagar district with 33 per cent.

In private schools, the lowest attendance was recorded in the Mulugu district at five per cent or 107 out of 2,106 students turning up in 45 schools. Karimnagar and Mahbubnagar districts recorded six per cent, whereas the highest attendance at 83 per cent was recorded in the Jayashankar district with 1,431 out of 1,717 students attending in 65 schools.

In Hyderabad, only 14 per cent attended school in Classes 6-8. The lowest cumulative attendance in all schools was recorded in Karimnagar district at 10 per cent and the highest at Jagtial and Narayanpet districts at 30 per cent. Hyderabad recorded a cumulative attendance of 13 per cent on Friday, as per the data released by the school education department. Classes 9 and 10 in government schools recorded at 75 per cent attendance on Friday, and private schools 73 per cent.

Unite but not for stir: RSS

RSS chief says farmer protests will go on; speaks up for organic farming

DC CORRESPONDENT
MANKAPUR (ADILABAD), FEB. 26

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday called upon farmers to unite and solve their problems while in distress but avoid embarking on agitations. However, he said he has no objection to the present farmer protests at Delhi as such agitations will go on.

He was addressing a gathering of 1,500 farmer families practising organic farming in erstwhile Adilabad district. The event was organised by the Ekalavya Foundation (NGO). He performed a 'gau puja' at the event.

Bhagwat stressed on the need for agriculture-based employment and business to strengthen the national economy. Organic farming can create both employment and business.

He shared his experi-



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in Nirmal on Friday.

ences during his visits to the continents of Africa, Europe and America. "The vegetable there were tasteless due

to excessive use of chemicals and fertilisers. Vegetables used to be tasty in India at that time," he said.

The RSS chief said the country will become stronger and farmers will be liberated from debts and distress.

Bhagwat hoped that the cause of organic farming will be spread across the country. "India will become a role model to the world in the near future," he said and appreciated the efforts being made by Venugopal Reddy of the Ekalavya Foundation for encouraging farmers in organic farming.

He described the farmers of India as "scientists" and agriculture fields as "laboratories". He added: "Farmers are doing experiments and Indian farmers are having more traditional knowledge than the scientists of any agriculture university."

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

E. K. JANAKI AMMAL
NATIONAL AWARD ON TAXONOMY
FOR THE YEAR 2020

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change invites nomination for Taxonomists with outstanding contribution for conferring three awards, one each in the field of Plant Taxonomy, Animal Taxonomy and Microbial Taxonomy for the year 2020. Details are available on the following websites of BSI, BSI-ENVIS and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

<http://bsi.gov.in>;
<http://www.bsienvis.nic.in>;
<http://www.envfor.nic.in>

Davp 13101/11/0028/2021



Members of the Shia community take out a sehra procession in the Old City to celebrate Hazrat Ali's birthday.

— P. SURENDRA

Old City celebrates Hazrat Syedna Ali

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The birth anniversary of Hazrat Syedna Ali ibn Abi Talib, son-in-law of Prophet Mohammed and a revered figure in the Islamic world, was celebrated with gaiety here on Friday. He is respected by both Sunni and Shia Muslims for his honesty, belief, courage, knowledge, loyalty to the Prophet and devotion to Islam.

Followers of both sects in the Old City observed the day and organised different programmes while there were congregations at mosques, dargahs, khanqas and aashoorkhanas.

To mark the day, ulamas of different schools of thought paid glowing tributes to the abstinance and achievements of Syedna Ali. They highlighted excerpts from the life of the Imam and described his sacrifices for the glorification of Islam.

Shia-dominated areas like Darushifa, Noor Khan Bazaar, Dabeerpura, Etebar Chowk, Yakutpura and Mandi Mir Alam were bathed in red with flags and bunting. Houses and offices were duly decorated. Several youth wore red shirts and kurta to symbolise the birth of Hazrat Ali.

As part of the celebrations, processions were taken out from different places in the Old City to Koh-e-Moula Ali at Malkajgiri.

The Sehra (festoon) procession was also taken out by Shia organisations to Koh-e-Moula Ali. Podiums were set up along the route and they were welcomed by political and community leaders.

Union minister for social justice, Ramdas Athawale attended a meeting at Hyderabad Press Club, which was organised by Firasat Ali Baqri of the BJP Minority Morcha. He cut a cake on the occasion of the 1466th birth anniversary of Imam Ali.

MIM MLC Riyaz-ul-Hasan Effendi, corporators Nasreen Sultana, Alamdar Walajahi and former chairman of SETWIN Inayat Ali Baqri and others paid floral tributes during the Sehra procession.

HC seeks govt's decision on Kukatpally land

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

1065 in Kukatpally with forged and fabricated documents.

In a dispute over Survey No. 1007 of Kukatpally, Aditya Constructions, a real estate company, has alleged that Prime Properties and Real Estate is trying to grab land worth ₹3 lakh crore.

Aditya Constructions, which is the development agreement holder on the land belonging to Pilli Mallaiyah and five other farmers, on Friday filed a counter affidavit in the Telangana High Court on the dispute.

It alleged that Prime Properties was trying to take possession of 1,500 acres in Suvey Nos. 806, 1007, 1009 and 1043 to the

case was posted on July 18. The stay imposed on the single judge order would remain in force.

AT NIN FOOD SURVEY, RESPOND TO GET NUTRITIONAL STATUS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

cators of people of all age groups.

Participants can on a voluntary basis fill out the e-survey forms on the website www.esurveynin.res.in.

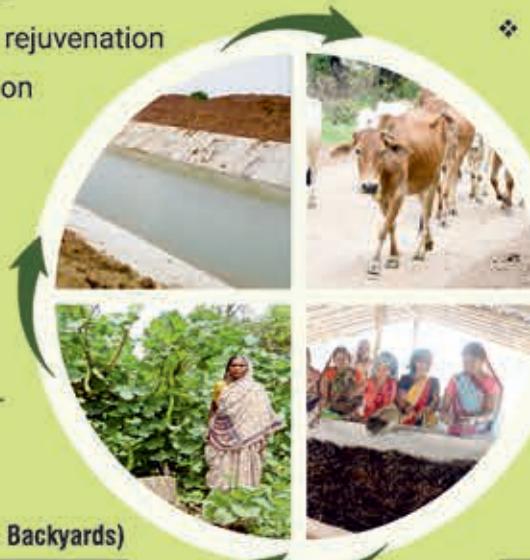
Immediately on filling the forms, the respondents can get a quick glance of their nutritional status,

NARVA

(Rivulets and Streams)

Regenerating and Conserving Water Resources

- ❖ 3,272 drains indentified for rejuvenation
- ❖ 19,48,417 water conservation works approved
- ❖ 11,44,598 works related to water conservation completed
- ❖ In 5 years irrigation facilities to double



GARVA

(Livestock Management)

From Cow Protection to Entrepreneurship

- ❖ Approval for 9,182 Gothans (cowsheds) across the state, 5,102 Gothans already functional
- ❖ Govt purchasing cow dung at the rate of ₹2 per kg from Gothans
- ❖ Collected cow dung repurposed into organic manure and other useful items, providing livelihood to the villagers

GHURVA

(Bio-Composting from Farm Waste)

Organic Farming Becoming a Movement

- ❖ 51,849 quintal bio compost made by self-help groups
- ❖ Sale of 27,695 quintal repurposed compost

Pro Active - Pro People

Shri Bhupesh Baghel

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

S-280164

SHORT TAKES
EXPENDITURE TREND REMAINS WEAK

From Page 1

However, the positive growth — though not very strong yet — has taken the Indian economy out of the recession.

A consistent growth in consumer demand, festive spends and a jump in government expenditure appear to have supported the Covid-battered economy to spring back into the positive territory. The expenditure trend, however, remains weak as government and private consumption expenditure continued to contract in the third quarter.

"The GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q3 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 36.22 lakh crore, as against Rs 36.08 lakh crore in Q3 of 2019-20, showing a growth of 0.4 per cent," data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation showed on Friday.

The Indian economy had grown at the rate of 4.7 per cent in the same quarter last year. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the farm sector recorded a growth of 3.9 per cent, and the manufacturing sector output grew by 1.6 per cent. The construction sector advanced by 6.2 per cent, while electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services clocked a 7.3 per cent growth.

Trade, hotels, transport, communications and services related to broadcasting continued to bore the brunt of post-Covid consumer behaviour.

18.69 CR VOTERS TO VOTE FOR 824 SEATS

From Page 1

Nearly 18.68 crore voters are expected to cast their votes at 2.7 lakh polling stations for 824 Assembly seats across Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said. The EC has decided to appoint two special observers for West Bengal and a third may also be sent if required, Mr Arora said.

The CEC said webcasting will be done at polling stations in critical and vulnerable areas, while adequate deployment of Central armed police forces will be ensured. He added that all critical and vulnerable areas have been identified and advance teams have already been deployed across the four states and one Union territory. The CEC said that in view of the Covid-19 safety protocols, candidates can file their nominations online and voting will be allowed for an additional hour. Door-to-door campaigning will be restricted to five persons, including the candidate, while roadshows will be allowed with a maximum of five vehicles.

Meanwhile, in order to enable the voter to know the serial number of the electoral roll of his/her polling station, date of poll, time, etc, the EC has decided to issue a "Voter Information Slip" in place of the "Photo Voter Slip" which will include all such information but will not have the photograph of the voter. The Voter Information Slip will be distributed at least five days before the date of poll to all enrolled electors by the district election officer. However, this Voter Information Slip will not be allowed to be used as a proof of identity for voters and people will have to carry other documents.

BJP lawyer leads race despite Vani's entry

Prof's charisma falls short to win Hyd-RR-MBNR MLC poll

SRIRAM KARRI | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

EMPLOYEES OF central and state public sector enterprises, retired employees, employed and unemployed students make for a tough lot to access together. Party affiliations are relevant but not deciders.

Interestingly, while Ramchander Rao says the pro-BJP wave in the state and a prevailing narrative that it will not only challenge but prevail against the TRS in the next Assembly elections, the positive image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and his own work for the graduates, unemployed youth and state employees will make him a clear winner, all the others feel the fight is respectively between them and the BJP candidate.

Prof. Nageshwar said, "The fight is between BJP's Ramchander Rao and I. While his strength is based on the party's rising tide, and money power of an organised party in power, I am facing him based on my passionate championing of causes dear to the constituents."

Prof. Nageshwar also dismisses the factor, saying the appeal of Narasimha Rao is one of respect, not charisma of a kind either NTR or YSR had to get votes in his name. "People, especially the Brahmin community, will not vote based on caste."

The Congress leader, who started with a strong campaign, is losing out because of the high stakes and resources being pitched in by the two leading parties — the BJP and TRS.

tional institutes."

While she feels the race is between her and the BJP's incumbent and popular lawyer, she feels in the end, she will triumph. Ramchander Rao also exudes confidence when he says, "There is a pro-BJP wave across Telangana as much as an anti-TRS wave. The people are still barely recovering from the shock of the double murders in Manthani of the lawyer couple. Yet, there has not been a single word of condemnation from the TRS chief and CM. The elections will see the BJP win with a resounding majority. The race is really between the others for second place."

Speaking about the crucial P.V. Narasimha Rao factor, Ramchander Rao says, "Everyone can see through the political game of KCR. Trying to distract attention from his failures, by invoking the name of the illustrious late PM he won't get away. Giving a losing ticket to the daughter of PV is a great disservice to the family."

Ravi Srivatsa, a graduate constituency voter from Hyderabad, said, "Based on the campaign and whatever I have seen of the candidates, I think, at least in the city, the BJP is clearly ahead. But how differently do voters think, in say Mahbubnagar, I cannot be sure. In absence of any ability to decide based on candidates most people would vote for a party."

While the BJP's lawyer will enjoy the thought, the others, including the educationist and daughter, professor, former minister and other independents would be hoping otherwise and they have not just a few weeks to change it.

Shops remain closed in view of Bharat Bandh to protest against the new GST rules and hike in petrol and diesel prices in Hyderabad on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

OWAISI SLAMS NEW RULES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday sharply criticised the new rules issued by the Centre to regulate social media on Thursday, saying "vague grounds" of "sovereignty of India", "security of state", friendly relations with foreign states or "public order" can cover all types of lawful speech.

In a series of Tweets, he said: "Currently, many messaging platforms are end-to-end encrypted. No one except the sender and recipient of a message knows about its content, now govt rules want to force platforms to trace the 'originator' of forwarded messages (sic)."

He said the government was "forcing platforms to trace messages on vague grounds of 'sovereignty/integrity of India, security of state, friendly relations with foreign states, or public order' can cover all types of lawful speech.

From news reports on @PMOIndia's weakness on Chinese intrusions to "Modi job do", anything can be covered (sic) (by the provisions.)"

Traders and shop owners from some parts of the city, including Begum Bazaar, took part in the protest today and gathered at Siddiambazar Bazaar for a demonstration, said Khemchand Wadhwan, the HTDA secretary. "Our appeal is that tyres be brought into a lower tax bracket from the 28 per cent slab," he added.

The Hyderabad Kirana Merchants Association, the Telangana Lorry Owners Association, and the Hyderabad Tyre Dealers Association (HTDA) were among

those who took part in the protests and shut down their businesses. "All our members took part in the protest today and gathered at Siddiambazar Bazaar for a demonstration," said Khemchand Wadhwan, the HTDA secretary. "Our appeal is that tyres be brought into a lower tax bracket from the 28 per cent slab," he added.

In LB Nagar, workers and leaders of the CPI-M and other Left parties organised a dharna in support of the traders bandh.

Traders bandh evokes mixed response in TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The "Bharat Vyapar bandh" on Friday, called for by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to protest against rising fuel prices and provisions of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law evoked mixed response.

Several merchants, both kirana and wholesale, downed their shutters, the bandh had its impact on the transport sector with most trucks going off the roads.

Traders and shop owners from some parts of the city, including Begum Bazaar, took part in the protest today and gathered at Siddiambazar Bazaar for a demonstration, said Khemchand Wadhwan, the HTDA secretary. "Our appeal is that tyres be brought into a lower tax bracket from the 28 per cent slab," he added.

In LB Nagar, workers and leaders of the CPI-M and other Left parties organised a dharna in support of the traders bandh.

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88-A/J/21

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SHORT TAKES

CAMPAIGNING FOR GUJ LOCAL POLLS ENDS

Ahmedabad, Feb. 26: Campaigning for polls to various local bodies of Gujarat ended on Friday evening with voting scheduled for February 28. Counting of votes for elections to 81 municipalities, 31 district panchayats and 231 taluka panchayats will take place on March 2, a release by the State Election Commission said.

While the BJP is riding high after winning all six civic corporation polls held recently, the Congress believes the hike in fuel prices and public disenchantment with the ruling party will turn the tide.

On the last day of campaigning, Gujarat BJP president C R Paatil led a road show in Navsari, while Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Parresh Dhanani, took part in a motorcycle rally in Amreli.

Aam Aadmi Party head and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal sought votes during a road show in Surat.

For the first time, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen has fielded candidates in minority-dominated seats in Godhra, Modasa and Bharuch municipalities, with party chief Asaduddin Owaisi holding public gatherings in Modasa and Godhra two days ago.

State Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia said over 44,000 policemen, including State Reserve Police and 12 companies of CAPF, along with 54,000 homeguards will be deployed on February 28 to ensure incident-free voting in 23,000 booths.

ON BIKE, IRANI LEADS RALLY FOR WB POLLS

Sonarpur (WB), Feb. 26: Riding a scooter, Union minister Smriti Irani led a rally of the BJP on Friday as she campaigned for the upcoming West Bengal elections in the South 24 Parganas district.

Taking part in the BJP's state-wide 'Poribortola Yatra', Irani along with BJP MP Roopa Ganguly and Agnimitra Paul began the campaign in Gangajora near Garia on the party's 'rath' - a bus decked up with slogans and photos of the leaders.

After covering a short distance, the minister got down from the 'rath' and took to a scooter, wearing a black helmet and a mask.

"When we began the 'rath yatra' on Friday, the administration deliberately tried to delay it. We will ride two-wheelers, walk on foot because West Bengal is on the march towards change," Irani said.

Enthused by the minister's spontaneity, scores of BJP workers followed Irani on two-wheelers, chanting "Jai Shri Ram" and "Khela Hobey", meaning 'game on' - a slogan first raised by the Trinamool Congress, which has now become the catchphrase of this election season.

EVERYONE ON POLL DUTY TO GET COVID-19 VACCINE

New Delhi, Feb. 26: Everyone on election duty for the upcoming polls for five assemblies will be vaccinated against Covid-19 before polling day, the Election Commission said on Friday.

Voting will take place for 126 seats in Assam, 234 in Tamil Nadu, 294 in West Bengal, 140 in Kerala and 30 in Puducherry.

Nearly 18.68 crore electors will be eligible to vote at 2.7 lakh polling stations for 824 seats in five assembly elections. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said at a press conference here.

Arrangements will be put in place for candidates to file their nominations online for the five assembly polls. Voting will be allowed for an additional hour, keeping in mind Covid-19 safety guidelines, he said.

Also, webcasting arrangements will be in place at polling stations in critical and vulnerable areas, while adequate CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) deployment will be ensured for the assembly polls, Arora said. All critical and vulnerable areas have been identified and advance teams have been already deployed across all four states and one union territory Puducherry going to the polls, he added.

He said door-to-door campaigning will be restricted to five persons, including the candidate, while roadshows will be allowed with a maximum of five vehicles.

Mamata questions 8-phase elections in West Bengal

Are poll dates announced as per suggestions of Modi, Shah, asks Didi

Kolkata, Feb. 26: Questioning the eight-phase assembly elections in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Friday that she suspects that the dates were announced as per the suggestions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for better management of the BJP's poll campaign.

Addressing a press conference at her residence in Kalighat, Banerjee said the Election Commission should not look at the state "through the eyes of the saffron camp" a reference to the BJP.

"With all due respect to the Election Commission, I want to say that questions are being raised on why elections will be held in so many phases in Bengal while other states will be voting in one phase. If EC doesn't provide justice to the people, where will the people go," she said.

"I request the Election Commission to consider West Bengal as their own state," the Trinamool Congress chief said.

Banerjee also raised questions on the way the phases were divided.

"They have divided our stronghold districts such as South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas into three parts. This is unprecedented," she said.

Banerjee said that despite "all these tricks", she will win the elections.

"I have information from my sources that the poll dates are similar to the ones BJP wanted. Have the dates been announced as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's suggestions? The PM and the home minister cannot misuse their power for the state elections," she



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a press conference at Kalighat in Kolkata on Friday. She has taken exception over the EC appointing two special police observers for West Bengal. - PTI

added. Banerjee also urged the EC to stop the misuse of money power.

"The Union home minister should work for the country. He cannot misuse his powers for the elections here. We welcome the PM, but he cannot misuse his powers for West Bengal polls," she said.

Banerjee said that despite "all these tricks", she will win the elections.

"I have information from my sources that the poll dates are similar to the ones BJP wanted. Have the dates been announced as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's suggestions? The PM and the home minister cannot misuse their power for the state elections," she

ELECTIONS FOR THE
West Bengal assembly will
be held in eight phases,
up from seven last time.

AFTER HAVING a limited presence in the politically polarised state for decades, the BJP has emerged as the TMC's main rival over the last couple of years, managing to win 18 out of 42 seats in the Lok Sabha polls of 2019 and following it with inducting popular TMC MLAs and ministers into the party

Centre against "misuse of power", Banerjee said it would prove detrimental

for the BJP. "Centre can't misuse their powers for a state election. If they do it, then it will be a big blunder and they will have to face the music. We are common people, we will fight our battle. I request the EC to stop the misuse of money. BJP has sent money to all the districts through agencies," she alleged.

Banerjee also took exception over the EC appointing two special police observers for West Bengal - Vivek Dubey and M K Das.

"Vivek Dubey is the same man who was the observer for Bengal during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. We all know the role he had then played then,"

she said. Banerjee said she is the daughter of the state and knows Bengal better than the BJP, exuding confidence about her party Trinamool Congress winning the elections.

Banerjee's allegations drew sharp reactions from the BJP, which alleged that she is perplexed over the eight-phase elections as her party won't be able to intimidate the voters.

"Why is she so worried about eight-phase elections? Is she worried because TMC goons won't be able to influence the elections? We welcome the EC's decision for eight-phase elections to ensure free and fair polls," BJP leader Rahul Sinha said.



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, HP Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and State Legislative Assembly Speaker Vipin Parmar arrive to attend the budget session in Shimla on Friday. - PTI

Bandaru Dattatreya 'manhandled' in Assembly complex

Shimla, Feb. 26:

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya was allegedly manhandled by some Congress members in the Assembly complex on Friday, following which five MLAs were suspended for the entire Budget session till March 20 on a motion moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Bhardwaj.

Earlier, the Congress MLAs created a ruckus in the House during the Governor's address. He then skipped to the last sentence after reading initial few pages and stated that the entire speech should be deemed as read.

Suspended Congress MLA Harsh Vardhan Chauhan said that they were waiting outside the Speaker's office and just wanted to ask the Governor why he cut short his address but they were not allowed to do so.

He alleged that it was Deputy Speaker Hans Raj who manhandled the MLAs, a charge denied by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Bhardwaj, who said the Congress legislators had planned to create a scene. Chauhan also said they did not have any intention of manhandling the governor.

The Speaker said that this is for the first time in the history of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly that a Governor was manhandled by Opposition members. - PTI

KEJRIWAL EYES 2022 GUJARAT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Surat, Feb. 26: Buoyed by the Aam Aadmi Party's good performance in the recently-held Surat civic polls, party chief Arvind Kejriwal has now set his eyes on the 2022 Gujarat Assembly polls.

Kejriwal, who arrived in Surat on Friday, said that AAP would seek votes from the people of the state in the next Assembly polls based on the performance of the party's 27 newly-elected corporators in the city.

Polls to six civic bodies in Gujarat, including in Surat, were held on Sunday.

While the BJP retained power in the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) by winning 93 seats, the AAP bagged the remaining 27 seats. The Congress failed to win even a single seat.

During his address to the party corporators here, Kejriwal said, "The people of Gujarat are watching you with great hope. In our first attempt, AAP won 28 Assembly seats in Delhi and came to power. People trusted us because they knew that we are true patriots, as we were associated with Anna Hazare's agitation."

"In the 49 days of our rule, we did a lot of pro-people work. As a result, the people of Delhi gave us 67 seats in the second election. Now, six crore people of Gujarat will observe the work of 27 AAP corporators. If you perform well, I am sure there will be a huge revolution in 2022," the Delhi chief minister added.

Fearing a "poaching attempt", Kejriwal warned the elected representatives to inform the party leaders if "anyone from the BJP" contacts them over phone and gives an offer to switch sides. - PTI



Kerala: UDF hopes to return to power, CPM repeat win

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 26

THE CPM district committees have already finalized the preliminary list of candidates which will be vetted by state committee, the UDF has decided to prepare the list within a week.

With the Election Commission announcing single phase poll for Kerala on April 6, the principal parties are left with just 38 days for devising strategies, selecting candidates and venturing out on the ground to campaign.

The three major fronts; CPM-led ruling LDF, opposition Congress-led UDF and BJP-led NDA which were going slow on candidate selection, will have to expedite the process and introduce their contestants before the electorate at the earliest.

The UDF on the other hand is focusing on the failures of the government, corruption, gold smuggling case involving chief minister's former principal secretary, money laundering, backdoor appointments and unemployment. But the latest issue regarding the clandestine MoU signed with an American company for ₹5000 cr deep sea trawling project is seen by the UDF as their trump card in polls. There are 40 constituencies in the coastal belt and about 10 constituencies lying close to coastal areas. Of these the LDF had won 30 in the last elections. The UDF could bag only nine.

The UDF has scaled up the campaign against the MoU which has now been scrapped, accusing the LDF of plotting the sell out of precious marine wealth to US company. The UDF is taking out two jathas from March 1, along the Kerala coast to campaign on the issue.

The LDF is wary of UDF campaign. It has decided to organise public meetings in coastal areas to contain the damage.

The BJP-led NDA which had secured nearly 15 per cent votes in the last elections and managed to open its account in Kerala Assembly, is trying hard to expand its base.

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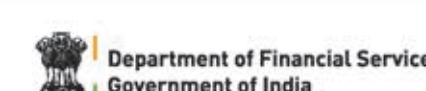
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DECCAN Chronicle

27 FEBRUARY 2021

A welcome first sign of an India-Pak thaw

The joint statement released by the militaries of India and Pakistan on Thursday, February 25, on observing the ceasefire at the Line of Control and in all other border areas, and respecting previous agreements in this regard, is a positive development that deserves to be built upon.

It marks the first sign of thaw in India-Pakistan relations since January 2, 2016, when Pakistan-based terrorists struck the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot a mere eight days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Lahore on Christmas Day to celebrate the birthday of then Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif.

Understandably, this was taken as a sign that the Pakistan Army, which calls all the shots in that country, was not comfortable with the potential of an evolving entente between the two countries.

Since then it has been a roller-coaster ride of negativity in bilateral ties, as the Uri terror attack of September 2016, India's "surgical strike" days later, the subsequent Pulwama terrorist attack in early 2019 that killed 40 CRPF personnel, India's retaliatory airstrike across the LoC, and the immediate response of a Pakistani fighter jet crossing the LoC, showed.

If the Pakistan Army chief's initiative has to survive, he must ensure that J&K is out of bounds for terrorism. This means the message must go down to the homegrown Kashmiri outfits as well.

Through this sorry saga, in response to overtures by Pakistan PM Imran Khan, New Delhi maintained that "talks and terror cannot go together". Clearly, this left room for the idea that dialogue leading to mutually favourable long-term bilateral outcomes — which will benefit the region as a whole — is indeed possible if terrorism is taken off the menu.

After five years of a hostile stasis in the relationship, Pakistan Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a February 3 address, attempted to mark a change of course in ties with India. He said: "We stand firmly committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. It is time to extend the hand of peace in all directions. Pakistan and India must also resolve the longstanding issue of Jammu and Kashmir in a dignified and peaceful manner."

The joint defence statement suggests that India was not unresponsive, and both sides got on to practicalities. Across governments, India has held that it is the Pakistan Army that is the fly in the ointment, and that a turn in a beneficial direction is contingent on the Pakistan Army desiring it. Evidently, Gen. Bajwa's remark has emerged as a possible catalyst.

How the thaw unfolds lies in the future. Over the decades, Pakistan Army has tied itself into knots by cultivating terrorist outfits as its surrogates operating in Kashmir, in other parts of India, and in Afghanistan with which India seeks to deepen its friendship.

If the Pakistan Army chief's initiative has to survive, he must ensure that J&K is out of bounds for terrorism. And this means the message must go down to the homegrown Kashmiri outfit as well. Further, terrorist actions against all Indian entities in Afghanistan must also cease.

The joint statement is a military statement. At some point, if things go well, it needs to acquire a political dimension at the level of the two governments. The statement notes that it was "agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which have (the) propensity to disturb peace and lead to violence". Such a formulation covers terrorism as well as Kashmir. India should not fight shy of taking the "K" word on board in all its dealings with Pakistan.

Diamonds aren't forever

The decks have been cleared for the extradition from Britain of the diamond merchant Nirav Modi. It is up to India to use its heft in pursuing the matter to a conclusion by convincing the UK home secretary Priti Patel to sign off on the court ruling and allow the repatriation of a jewel thief who masterminded one of the great heists of the time in defrauding the Punjab National Bank. The booty to the tune of Rs 14,000 crore (nearly US \$2 billion) is nearly the equivalent of what thieves took from the 1963 Great Train Robbery in the UK.

The Indian people, whose money it is that was swindled from the bank by the illegal use of Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) in connivance with bank officials, would be hoping that the justice system here would ultimately hand down an apt sentence commensurate with the crime. Mr Modi has also added to his repertoire such crimes as intimidation of witnesses in the form of death threats and tampering with the evidence. A jail in India may not, however, be to the liking of the notorious diamantaire as it may not quite match the decorated cell in Her Majesty's Prison in Wandsworth which boasts of flat screen TV, high ceiling fans and a large clean bathroom.

Indian officials have done exceptionally well in pursuing the case with all the documentation necessary for the judge to deliver such a stinging indictment of Nirav Modi's modus operandi. But, in its inability to ferret out a fraud amounting to robbery, the banking industry may not have acquitted itself as professionally. And this is not a case of straightforward business loss like many that have blighted banking to the tune of several lakh crores that have become NPAs in just the last two decades. There could not possibly any grounds on which such a character can claim asylum in Britain either, which means that at least one big fraudster who took India for a ride gets his comeuppance.

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Farrukh
Dhondy
**Cabbages
& Kings**



"They say all property is theft
Hence, I own nothing and am
left bereft
My ancestors were never Earls
or thieves
And depending, then, on what one
believes
About making it rich through toil
and sweat
It's just not true — so I'll place
my bet
On Proudhon who formulated the
phrase
With which Marx disagreed — All
praise, all praise!"

— From Dil Deykey Dildo by Bachchoo

Life on Zoom: You learn a lot about yourself, and others too

To "zoom", a dictionary will tell you, is to travel fast or rise quickly and perhaps noisily. It must have been, I thought with some irony, that the principal instrument I seem to use to confer with anyone in the lockdowns of the plague year was called Zoom. One goes nowhere. If it is, as I suspect, not a Chinese but an American device, there was probably no ironic intent in naming it. After all, 74 million Americans don't care whether a

person is a self-obsessed habitual liar, misogynist, racist, fraudster, rabble-rousing insurrectionist, anti-democrat and fantasist, they still want to make him President. Not very high on the irony scale, then.

But one must admit that Americans are good on the onomatopoeic front. It was their popular and renowned form of literature, the comic, which gave us words for violence. I suppose "bang bang" may have preceded Amerigo Vespucci's discovery of Trumpistan and may have been imported, perhaps from Ireland, but adding "Chitty Chitty" to it was a stroke of genius attributed to the USA. But I digress.

What I meant was that the comics gave us words for fistcuffs such as "sook" and "pow". Who can't see in their mind's eye the spiked splatter of a powerful punch from Superman or Batperson landing on the villain's skull as this nasty individual tilts away from the vertical? The words inside the spiked bubbles or splashes, giving visual form to the impact of fists, aren't exactly onomatopoeic, as a punch sounds more like "phut" — but "pow" packs

imaginative power. So, gentle reader, Zoom, as the name of a device by which you connect to anyone (who has an appropriate electronic device, of course) anywhere in the world, may be a word that is supposed to and successfully conveys the speed of contact between stationary persons — two or a full screen of them.

If Indians had invented the ethereal conversation device and needed an onomatopoeic name for it, they would probably have called it "Dhishoom", because as far as I know it's the only sound word that we have invented. It is of course Bollywood for the sound of a gun going off, and there are always two shots fired so it becomes "Dhishoom! Dhishoom!" The precedent is the Western "bang bang" — because if it's just the one word, it could merely stand for the slamming of a door. I venture to speculate that we would have called our communication device "Dhishoom" because having invented the word, we use it as the name of a chain of very good British restaurants.

That's not supposed to represent the explosion of your stomach when you eat there.

My constant, even daily, use of Zoom has given me several useless insights into human behaviour, perhaps not new ones, but ones that confirm what we do and are. It has also reinforced my self-consciousness in not terribly positive way.

You see, Zoom forces you to see yourself as you speak to others and, depending on the strength of echo in your device, you can even hear yourself speak and, like me, be rather surprised at your lamentable accent, the slight lisp you hadn't noticed before and the stupid fumbles and pauses you thought others made but which your fluency was free of.

And then there's appearances, of course. Before a Zoom call, I check my hair and brush it this way and that. My creeping baldness (a family inheritance which, as they say, looking on the bright side, allows more space for rude tattoos) and the fact that I haven't had a haircut since the lockdown began does funny things, in my self-conscious perception, to my appearance. The hair in the centre of my head insists on standing upright, as though I was auditioning for the role of TinTin from the French comics.

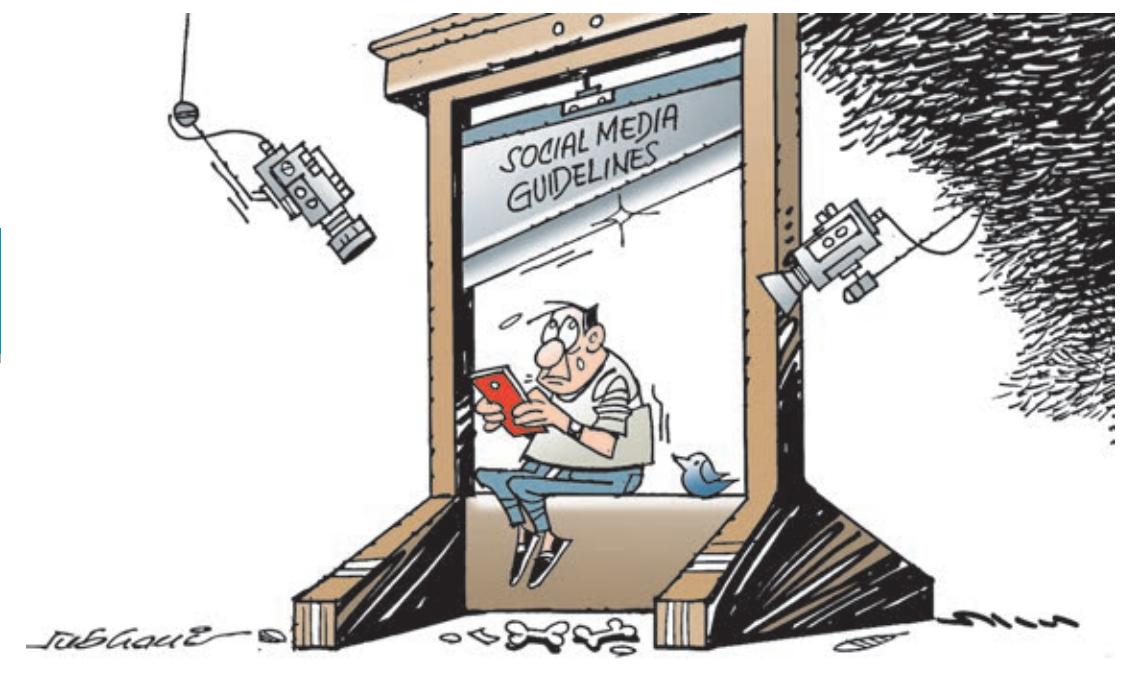
I used to despise the self-deceivers who brushed their hair forwards to hide their baldness, but now find myself wondering, comb in hand at the mirror, whether it's a good strategy. It's not.

Gentle reader, in my job as a teacher, and then in my short and happy life as an agitator and pamphleteer, I have addressed countless classes, assemblies and audiences. I never began with the old opening: "unaccustomed as I am to public speaking", but perhaps should have.

Zoom has demonstrated to me that any conceit I cultivate about my ability to present an argument is precisely that. I have now taken a vow during the Christian Lent to begin speaking on Zoom with that precise and modest caveat. Watch that screen!

Zoom gives one an insight into the rooms that your "zoomists" work or speak from. The convention is to have a bookshelf or some dignified piece of art behind you, but that may only be true of the people I associate with or speak to or watch on a televised Zoom. I wonder if others have dirty pictures or washing hanging up behind them as they interlocute.

Subhani



Judges need to protect right to dissent, protest

Patralekha
Chatterjee

Dev 360

At a time when the people's faith in key institutions is plummeting, judicial verdicts that seek to restore the citizens' faith in justice and fair play are hugely welcome. In recent days, two court orders in particular have buoyed spirits because they emit a powerful signal — that the attempts to invoke the law to muzzle freedom of thought and expression and quieten disquiet will not always work.

A Delhi court has granted bail to 22-year-old climate activist Disha Ravi, arrested by the Delhi police on February 13 from her Bengaluru home in the now famous "toolkit" case, saying there was just not enough evidence to keep the young woman in custody. Additional sessions judge Dharmander Rana's order set Disha free on bail on the condition of her furnishing two sureties of ₹1 lakh each and with the directive that she cooperate with the investigation into the FIR and not leave Varavara Rao.

A few days earlier, there was another welcome verdict. The Nagpur high court granted interim bail on medical grounds to ailing 82-year-old poet-activist Varavara Rao. These verdicts are good news; but the questions they raise and the momentum they have generated need to be sustained and leveraged to trigger a public debate on judicial reforms.

As citizens, reading both the verdicts is instructive. While granting conditional bail on medical grounds to Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad-Bhima Koregaon case, the Bombay High Court pointed out that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had kept him in custody for a long period without framing charges.

While taking the decision to grant bail to Ms Ravi, the court noted that "mere engagement with persons of dubious credentials which is indicitable, rather it is the purpose of engagement which is relevant for the purpose of deciding culpability," the judge said.

The prosecution had sought to connect Ms Ravi with the violence that rocked Delhi on January 26. The court pointed out that there was no evidence of this. The judge noted that merely sharing a platform with people who oppose a law is not secessionist.

"In the absence of any evidence to the effect that the applicant/accused agreed or shared common purpose to cause violence on January 26 with the founders of the PJF, it cannot be presumed by resorting to surmises or conjectures that she also supported the secessionist tendencies or the violence caused on January 26, simply because she shared a platform with people who have gathered to oppose the legislation," the order said.

While granting bail to Varavara Rao, the Bombay High Court pointed out that the National Investigation Agency had kept him in custody for a long period without framing charges

"We feel that the Bar and Bench cannot watch silently as young people are forced into long incarceration," the letter said.

The judiciary must take heed.

The writer focuses on developmental issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.

LETTERS POLLUTED HYDERABAD

Government should take precautionary measures to prevent Hyderabad from getting polluted like other cities (*Second most polluted city in winter was Hyd, DC, Feb. 25*). We can prevent Hyderabad from getting too polluted.

Aditya Bopparaju
Hyderabad

RISKING LIVES

Why has the government asked schools to reopen? (*In pandemic year, more students in high school, DC, Feb. 26*). Why are we forced to put our lives in danger? Why can't they reopen schools in the next semester? These questions have been raised by parents of several students. Parents are concerned about the health of children due to Coronavirus mutations hitting TS and other states. Teachers are being forced to put their lives in danger. The government is requested to cancel the order and continue with online classes.

Tanishka Singh
Secunderabad

EXCELLENT SHOW

Congratulations to Team India for the grand success against England (*Axardham, DC, Feb. 26*). It took nearly 60 years for the talented Axar Patel to break the record of another great Gujarat spinner Jassu Patel whose guile and wizardry in off spin broke the back of the great Australian team of 50s.

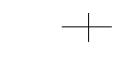
Pradeep Kumar
Hyderabad

The real villain of this so-called Test match is the atrocious pitch which helped India grab a 10-wicket win in the third Test match against England. If the pitch starts spinning from the first ball, it is not good for a Test match. Why would the public pay to watch 30 wickets falling inside of two days? It is a disgrace to Test cricket and the BCCI. Phaneendra V. Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Assassination threat to PM

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26 The Congress (R) today handed over to police a letter which threatened Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with death if she does not stop criticising the Jana Sangh or the RSS. The letter written in Hindi said: "I want to warn PM Indira Gandhi that if she continues to criticise the Jana Sangh or the RSS, I shall finish her physically — yours, an active worker."



SHORT TAKES

RIGHTS ACTIVIST NAUDEEP KAUR GRANTED BAIL

Chandigarh, Feb. 26: Around six weeks after her arrest in a criminal case filed under several charges including attempt to murder, labour rights activist Naudeep Kaur was on Friday granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

"The court accepted the bail application of Naudeep Kaur. She has been granted bail by the High Court," her counsel Arshdeep Singh Cheema said here.

Kaur was arrested in Haryana's Sonipat for allegedly gheraoing an industrial unit and demanding money from a company on January 12.

Police had claimed that a team of cops was allegedly attacked with sticks, resulting in injuries to seven policemen in the incident.

A case under several sections of the Indian Penal Code including 307 (attempt to murder), 384 (punishment for extortion), 148 (rioting), 353 (assault of criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 379 B (snatching and use of force) was registered by the Sonipat police. Kaur's bail plea came up for hearing on Friday.

Justice Avneesh Jhingan while allowing Kaur's bail petition said in his order, it will suffice that the petitioner shall maintain a restrain while being on bail to ensure that no law and order issue arises due to her actions.

The court of single bench cited that the Supreme Court in case of Anita Thakur and others versus Govt. of J&K and others, 2016, held that holding of peaceful demonstration is a right which can be traced to the fundamental right but this right is subject to reasonable restriction.

C'GARH: 7 MAOIST CAMPS DESTROYED

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 26

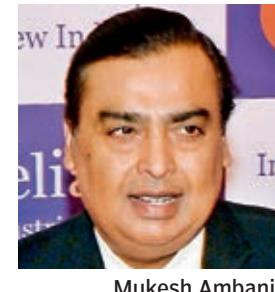
Security forces have destroyed seven camps of Maoists in Naxal-stronghold Abujhmad, a 4,000 sq km area extending from south Bastar in Chhattisgarh to Gadchiroli in Maharashtra.

Huge cache of explosives and arms were seized during the raids on the rebel camps, Bastar range inspector general of police P. Sunderraaj told this newspaper on Friday.

A counterinsurgency operation, launched in the region in the last three days, has uncovered the camps being run by the ultras in the remote pockets of Abujhmad region of districts of Narayanpur and Kanker in Bastar, he said.

The operation was launched jointly by personnel of District Reserve Group (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), Border Security Force (BSF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the forested villages of Baramtola, Kudulpad, Kumachalmeta, Tekmeta and Kukurgaon in Abujhmad where senior leaders of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of Maoists were said to be holed up.

Encounters took place between the security forces and Maoists at several places in the region leading to killing of a jawan of DRG and injuring to another jawan on the first day of the operation on Wednesday.



Mukesh Ambani

POLICE MAKE PUBLIC 'THREAT LETTER' TO MUKESH AMBANI

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, FEB. 26

The Mumbai police on Friday made public contents of the letter found inside explosives laden car parked near billionaire Mukesh Ambani's residence and said that it was a threat letter terming the incident as trailer and warning of returning with more preparation next time to target the family.

According to the police, it is a handwritten letter in a broken English, addressed to Mukesh Ambani and his wife Neeta Ambani. The police has stated that there are grammar mistakes in the letter and the writer is either not much educated or is pretending to be so.

The letter was found on next to driver's seat.

Scanning of the CCTV has also revealed that even though the said SUV was parked on the Carmichael Road near Ambani's residence Antilia at around 1am however, the driver of the car sat in the car post 3am. The driver came out of the car from the rear door of the car but could not be identified, as he was wearing a mask as well as a hoodie.

The police is scanning CCTVs of nearby areas to locate the driver. The police will enhance the quality of the CCTV footage to identify the suspect.

Disengagement at all friction points necessary, says India

EAM tells Chinese minister bilateral relations have been severely impacted

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

India has now told China clearly that the disengagement of troops "at all friction points" in the Ladakh sector alone will lead to the restoration of peace and tranquility between the two countries, adding that "both sides should now quickly resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh" after the "successful" disengagement at the northern and southern banks of Pangong Tso lake. This was made clear by India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar in a 75-minute phone call with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi on Thursday afternoon, when the two ministers also agreed to establish a hotline between them.

Jaishankar told the Chinese minister that "bilateral relations have been impacted severely over the last year adding — in an obvious reference to the deadly Galwan Valley clash last June — that "disturbance of peace and tranquility, including by violence, will inevitably have a damaging impact on the relationship". But seeking to put the blame on India, the Chinese foreign minister claimed that "there has been some wavering and back-peddalling in India's China policy, and practical cooperation between the two countries has been affected".

Significantly, while India stepped up the pressure on China to disengage from all friction points, Beijing — in a statement put out by the Chinese foreign ministry — only said "it is imperative for the two sides to cherish the hard-won relaxation... further ease the situation and improve the border management and control mechanisms". But China did say that "India wants more dialogue and consultation with China to realise quick disengagement at the remaining points".

In a statement on Friday, the external affairs ministry said, "The external affairs minister and the state councillor and foreign minister of China, Wang Yi, had a phone conversation on Thursday. It

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has welcomed Thursday's Indo-Pak agreement on the "strict observance" of the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC), hoping that "this positive step will provide an opportunity for further dialogue".

A spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General said, "The Secretary-General is encouraged by the joint statement issued by the militaries of India and Pakistan on their agreement to observing the ceasefire at the Line of Control in Kashmir and engaging through established mechanisms. He hopes that this positive step will provide an opportunity for further dialogue."

India had on Thursday evening also said it "desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan" and has "always maintained that we (India) are committed to addressing issues, if any, in a peaceful bilateral manner".

Asked whether this was the start of the resumption of the Indo-Pak peace process, New Delhi, however, had merely said that "on key issues, our position remains unchanged".

In a joint statement released on Thursday, both countries had said, "The Director Generals of Military Operations of

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resolution of the remaining issues. It was necessary to disengage at all friction points in order to contemplate de-escalation of forces in this sector. That alone will lead to the restoration of peace and tranquility and provide conditions for progress of our bilateral relations."

In its separate statement on the conversation, the Chinese foreign minister said, "state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi ... noted that what had led to the situation last year at the China-India boundary was clear and that lessons from the past deserve deep contemplation. There has been some wavering and back-peddalling in India's China policy, and practical cooperation between the two countries has been affected. This does not serve the interests of either side. Decades of experiences have shown repeatedly that heightening differences does not help solve problems, and that it only erodes the basis of mutual trust."

Beijing added, "Wang said that the frontline troops of the two countries have recently completed disengagement in the Pangong Lake areas. The situation on the ground has been noticeably eased. It is imperative for the two sides to cherish the hard-won relaxation, and work together to consolidate the progress, keep up the consultation momentum, further ease the situation, and improve the border management and control mechanisms. The two sides also need to advance the boundary talks to build up mutual trust and realise peace and tranquility in the border areas."

INDIA SLAMS UN PANEL'S CONCLUSIONS ON MICHEL

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

Hours after foreign media reports that the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) has concluded that alleged British middleman Christian James Michel was being detained arbitrarily in India, New Delhi on Friday evening "rejected the opinion rendered by the Working Group", and "regretted that the conclusions drawn by the Working Group are based on limited information, biased allegations from an unidentified source and on an inaccurate understanding of India's criminal justice system". Slamming the "selective leaks" of the WGAD opinion "even before its official release" in this case, India also said the "allegations which form the basis of the opinion rendered by the Working Group are contrary to facts", adding that "the Working Group is not a judicial body, and therefore, its opinions are not legally binding on the Member States".

It may be recalled that in December 2018, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had extradited Michel to India in the ₹3,546 crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal case. Michel was reportedly wanted on charges of alleged money laundering, bribery and fraud in connection with the cancelled deal.

India had subsequently granted Britain consular access to Michel who is a British national. New Delhi said that the "extradition was done entirely in accordance with the provisions of the Extradition Treaty signed between two sovereign States."

Godse supporter's entry kicks up storm in Cong.

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 26

FORMER PCC president Arun Yadav released a video in which he made a scathing attack on the decision by Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath for welcoming Babul Chaurasia.

Congressmen and threatened to hit the street to oppose Chaurasia's induction in the party.

"I am ready to make any political sacrifice for opposing such a move (by the state party leadership). I will take the battle to the streets on the issue", he warned in a separate statement issued here on Friday.

The former union minister also took a dig at Congress leaders who supported the decision to admit Chaurasia into the party.

Gwalior South Congress MLA Praveen Pathak who was said to have described the move as unacceptable to him and many other

be the brain behind the move has earlier justified Chaurasia's induction in Congress saying that the latter has reposed faith in Gandhian ideology.

"A man who worships Godse cannot relate to Gandhian ideology", Yadav, who is said to belong to the camp of former chief minister and powerful factional leader in MP Congress Digvijay Singh, observed.

MP PCC vice-president and former minister Raja Pateria also echoed Yadav's sentiments saying that antecedents of leaders should be thoroughly scrutinised before admitting them in Congress.

"Congress leadership should be careful in admitting leaders in the party. Otherwise, fascists and followers of Godse will one day hijack the party", he warned.

Tigress' killing: Court closes contempt case against babus

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

The Supreme Court on Friday disposed of a plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against senior Maharashtra government officials including principal secretary to Department of Revenue and Forest Vikas Kharge allegedly for announcing reward to the villagers who had killed tigress 'Avni' who was described as a "man-eater" and was being hunted for killing 13 people in the Pandharkawada-Ralegaon forests of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra in 2018.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde and also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian, which had earlier issued notice for initiating contempt action

against Kharge and eight others, disposed of the matter after the court was informed that it had earlier accepted the killing of the tigress.

Chief Justice Bobde said that a reply by the state government says that a report on tigress Avni was submitted in court and was accepted by it (top court).

"We cannot review the decision. Celebration after

death was done by villagers ... Villagers were happy and hence they celebrated. Officers have stated on oath that they did not celebrate," the court said today.

Earlier, the court had

observed that the petition had raised an "important point" on the flouting of its orders prohibiting rewards to persons who kill wild animals and issued contempt notice.

During the earlier hearing, Dogra had claimed that the forest officials killed Avni on a baseless allegation that she was a man-eater responsible for the killing of 13 persons, pointing out that the post-mortem report of the tigress showed that she was not a man-eater.

In 2018, the top court had permitted the killing of Avni, officially known as T1, if the attempts to tranquilise her fail. It had further directed that no prize or incentive should be declared for any person responsible for the killing of the tigress.

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US strikes Iranian militias in E. Syria

22 killed in 1st military action in Biden's presidency

Beirut, Feb. 26: The US military has struck Iranian-backed militias in eastern Syria, killing at least 22 fighters according to a war monitor, in what the Pentagon said was a message from the new administration after recent rocket attacks targeting US troops in Iraq.

In its first military action against Iranian-linked groups since Joe Biden became president five weeks ago, the Pentagon said it had carried out air strikes on Thursday at a Syria-Iraq border control point used by Iranian-backed groups, destroying "multiple facilities".

"At President Biden's direction", the US raids targeted "infrastructure utilised by Iranian-backed militant groups in eastern Syria", spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.

"These strikes were authorised in response to recent attacks against American and coalition personnel in Iraq, and to ongoing threats to those personnel," he said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 22 fighters were killed when the strike hit three trucks loaded with munitions coming from Iraq near the Syrian border town of Albu Kamal.

Military border posts were also destroyed, the war monitor said.

It said all the dead were from Iraq's state-sponsored Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force, an umbrella group that includes many small militias with ties to Iran.

Kirby said the location was used by Kataeb Hezbollah and Kataeb Sayyid al-Shuhada, two Iraqi pro-Iranian groups operating under the Hashed umbrella.

Kataeb Hezbollah has yet to formally comment but an official with the group said one of its fighters was killed.

"One of our fighters was killed and a small number wounded by two missiles targeting one of our points along the Syrian-Iraqi border" he said on condition of

anonymity. Syrian state television condemned the "American aggression" against the Iraqi fighters, who are allied with the Damascus government.

The US action followed three rocket attacks on facilities in Iraq used by US and coalition forces fighting the Islamic State group.

But the administration has also made clear it will not brook "malign activities" in the region by Iran.

Although Kataeb Hezbollah did not claim responsibility for the attacks, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said that the powerful pro-Iranian group was behind them.

"We're confident in the target we went after. We know what we hit," he told reporters on the plane back to Washington after a tour of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off the California coast.

"We are confident that the target was being used by the same Shia militia that conducted the strikes" against US interests in Iraq, he said.

Iran is believed to be searching for an opportunity to avenge the US assassination of top general Qasem Soleimani one year ago. Soleimani, a senior Revolutionary Guards commander, was Iran's key liaison to its allies in Iraq and Syria, and elsewhere in the region.

— AFP

US, EU AFFIRM VAX ROLLOUT IS ON TRACK

Washington, Feb. 26: The United States hailed progress in turning around its troubled Covid-19 vaccine rollout, as the European Union said it was on track to meet jab targets and Asia's inoculation drive gained pace on Friday.

Brazil hit 2,50,000 fatalities — the second-highest national death toll after the United States — while the worldwide vaccine campaign received the endorsement of Queen Elizabeth II, 94, who urged people not to be wary of the shot.

President Joe Biden declared the US rollout is now "weeks ahead of schedule" as he celebrated 50 million doses administered since he took office on January 20, but he warned Americans to keep masking up.

"We're moving in the right direction despite the mess we inherited," Biden said, referring to the program under his predecessor Donald Trump.

The United States is the world's hardest-hit country, with coronavirus deaths crossing the 5,00,000 mark earlier this week.

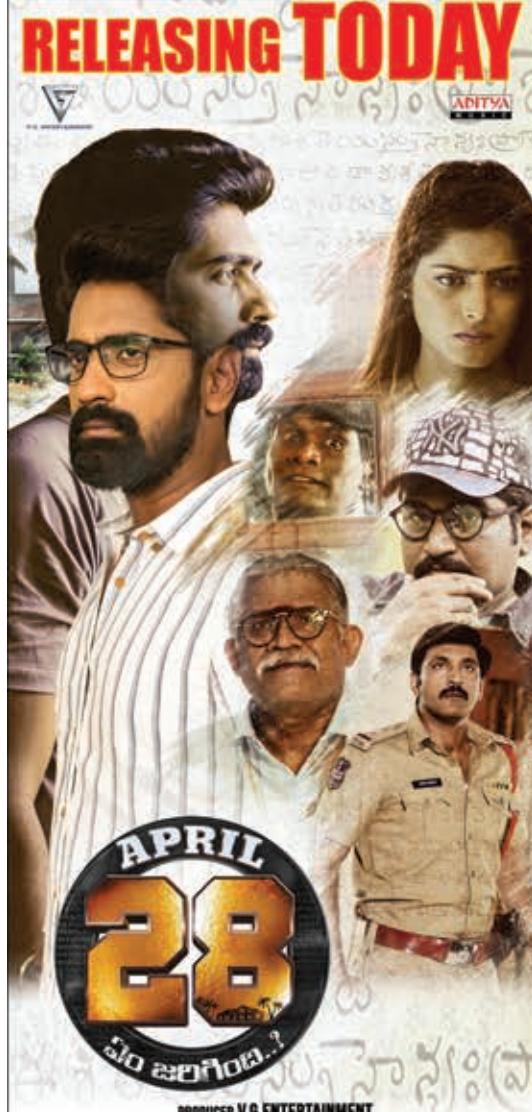
Rollouts in Asia also gathered momentum as Hong Kong and South Korea began their mass vaccination programs on Friday. — AFP



KUMAR	70MM-KACHIGUDA
SIVASAKTHI	70MM-KAPRA
SANTOSH	70MM-ABIDS
SREEPREMA	70MM
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE	
BIG CINEMAS-AMEERPET	
Radhika-Kapra GPR-Kukatpally	
MCUBE-Attapur Sivaganga	
Cinesquare-Uppal	
AMB CINEMAS-Kukatpally	
Forum-Kukatpally RK Plex	
Inorbit Central Hitech Preston	
Irrummanzi Moosarambagh	
Next galleria	
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CCPL DSL MANTRA SUDHA	
SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR BALANAGAR	
PLATINUM	
COLORS & CLAPS ENTERTAINMENTS thru ABC CINEMAS RELEASE-9392650216	

#AKSHARA	#AKSHARA
THRILLING HIT	
DEVI 70MM [4K & DOLBY ATMOS]	
Daily 2 Shows : 2.15pm & 9.00pm	
MALLIKARJUNA 70MM	11.15am & 2.30pm
TARAKARAMA 70MM	11.15am & 6.00pm
TIVOLI CINEMAS - 11.20am & 7.50pm	
LAXMIKALA - 6.45pm	
TALLURI - 11.15am & 2.15pm	
PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 8.15pm	
AMB CINEMAS - 10.30am, 1.35, 10.20pm	
FORUM - 10.50am, 1.45, 7.15pm ICON - 4.45pm	
10.10pm MOOSARAMBAGH - 1.25pm, 6.50pm	
IRRUM MANZIL - 1.15pm, 7.05pm GALLERIA - 11.00am, 4.30, 9.55pm CENTRAL - 4.20, 10.55	
RK - 4.45pm INORBIT - 2.00pm, 7.25pm	
GPR - 1.45pm & 4.40pm RADHIKA - 10.55am & 4.35pm M CUBE - 1.30pm & 7.15pm SHIVA - 2.15pm CINEPLANET - 1.40pm & 4.40pm CINESQUARE - 10.55am & 7.40pm SHA - 2.30	
DSL - 3.40am & 9.30pm MANTRA - 1.05, 7.30pm CCPL - 1.30pm & 7.40pm SUDHA - 1.30pm & 7.40pm	
GVK - 11.05am & 7.10pm GSM - 1.30, 7.15pm MP - 12.40pm & 7.25pm	
BALANAGAR CHANDANAGAR 2.50pm, 10.40pm 6.45pm	
S 2 - 2.10pm & 10.45pm	
BVK MULTIPLEX - 11.00am & 4.45pm	
PLATINUM - 10.30am, 3.50, 9.30pm	

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RELEASING TODAY	GAME WIN
SHANTI 70MM NARAYANAGUDA (FULLY RENOVATED)	
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	
SANDHYA 70MM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	
BRAMARAMBA 70MM	11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM	
KONARK 70MM-DSNR	11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE	11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM
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CCPL MALL 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	
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10.00, 10.45, 11.30, 1.00, 1.50, 4.00, 4.55, 7.00, 8.00, 10.00, 11.00PM	
SHALINI SHIVANI 12.15, 7.30PM	
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IDPL COLONY 1.30, 10.20PM	
1.30, 10.20PM	
CHANDANAGAR 9.30PM	
9.30PM	
RAICHUR 10.30PM	
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INOX 1.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	
1.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	
S2 CINEMAS 1.45 PM	
1.45 PM	
MR MALL 1.50, 10.40 PM	
1.50, 10.40 PM	
MJR SQUARE 1.45 PM	
1.45 PM	
GSM MALL 1.00, 9.50 PM	
1.00, 9.50 PM	
GEETHA USHPRASAD ASIAN NIZAMBAD 10.25PM	
ASIAN NIZAMBAD 10.25PM	
S2 CINEMAS WARANGAL - 12.45, 8.15	

TIVOLI catch the stars
TODAY'S SCHEDULE
CHECK
TELGU U/A 148 MIN 10:50 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:30 PM
NANDI
TELUGU U/A 141 MIN 11:00 AM, 1:50 PM, 7:45 PM, 10:40 PM
APRIL 28 EM JARGINDI
TELUGU U/A 113 MIN 4:50 PM, 10:20 PM
KSHANA KHASHANAM
TELUGU U/A 110 MIN 11:15 AM, 7:20 PM
AKSHARA
TELUGU U/A 136 MIN 11:20 AM, 7:50 PM
UPPENA
TELUGU U/A 148 MIN 2:00 PM, 4:45 PM, 10:45 PM
CHAKRA
TELUGU U/A 130 MIN 1:40 PM
THE MARKSMAN
ENGLISH 2D U/A 110 MIN 4:50 PM
EXTREME
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY. ENJOY A SAFE CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE.
TIMINGS SHOWN IN BOX ARE PLAYING AT
EXTREME
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quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	49,099.99	-3.80
Nifty 50	14,529.20	-3.76
S&P 500*	3,853.11	0.62
Dollar (₹)	73.47	-1.42
Pound Sterling (₹)	101.83	0.80
Euro (₹)	88.76	-0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	45,599▼342	0.75
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	66.13	-1.12
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.229	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.491	-0.024

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Inflation band okay for next 5 years: RBI report

With the next review of the flexible inflation target (FIT) framework coming up soon, the RBI said the current inflation target of 4 per cent with a +/- 2 per cent tolerance band is appropriate for the next five years. India adopted the FIT framework in 2016, and the next review of the inflation target is due by March 31. "The current numerical framework for defining price stability...is appropriate for the next five years," it said.

PFC board okays ₹1 L cr borrowing plan for FY22



Power Finance Corporation said its board has approved a plan to borrow Rs 1 lakh crore under different debt segments. The borrowing will be made in one or more tranches in FY21-22, PFC said. The NBFC plans to raise a maximum of Rs 60,000 crore from long-term borrowing, Rs 20,000 crore from long-term foreign currency borrowing, Rs 5,000 crore from short-term borrowing and Rs 15,000 crore from commercial papers.

Brazil to buy 20m Covaxin doses from B. Biotech

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech will supply 20 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin to Brazil during the second and third quarters of current year, the city-based vaccine maker said on Friday. It has signed an agreement with the Brazilian government for the supply of the vaccine. The company also said that several countries around the world have expressed strong interest in Covaxin.

RailTel Corp makes strong market debut

Telecom infrastructure provider RailTel Corporation of India Ltd made a strong debut with its shares zooming over 29 per cent on closing compared with the issue price. On the BSE, the scrip opened on a strong note of Rs 104.6 apiece against the IPO price of Rs 94. In intra-day trade, the stock touched a high of Rs 125.5 before settling at Rs 121.4, higher by 29.15 per cent. The RailTel IPO was subscribed 42.39 times.

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Sensex sheds more than 1900 points US bombing, bond yields spook mkt

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, FEB 26

Investors suffered notional loss of over Rs 6 lakh crore as the domestic stock market experienced its worst fall in the last 10 months after the US bombing in Syria and sharp overnight rise in bond yields in the US market.

Rising Covid cases in India also added to negative sentiments in the market, said analysts.

The Sensex fell 3.8 per cent, or 1939 points, closing at 49099 while the Nifty-50 fell 3.7 per cent, or 568 points, to close at 14529.

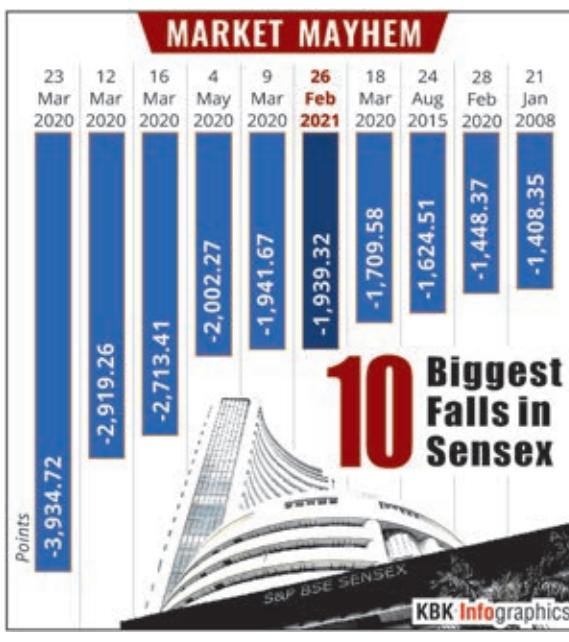
Intra-day the Sensex fell over 2000 points to a low of 48890.48. All the Sensex and Nifty constituents closed in the red.

Overnight US bond yield rose to a high of 1.61 per cent and finally closed at 1.51 per cent, scaring the global investors. US benchmark indices Dow Jones fell 1.75 per cent and Nasdaq 100 fell 3.56 per cent, setting off negative opening for the Asian markets.

India's 10-year government bond yield also rose sharply intraday to 6.242 per cent and closed at 6.229.

As per provisional data, foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs 8,295.17 crore.

Financials suffered the most among sectoral indices after the recent rally, with the Nifty Bank Index closing down 4.78 per cent. Other big losers were Nifty Auto (-3.12 per cent) and Nifty Metal (-2.70 per cent). NSE's volatility index



RUPEE DIVES 104 PAISE AGAINST \$

Mumbai, Feb. 26: The rupee on Friday posted its biggest single-day fall in nearly 19 months, tumbling 104 paise to close at 73.47 against the US dollar, as a rout in global bond markets weighed on investor sentiments. Besides, rising geopolitical tensions between the US and Syria also led to weaker appetite among investors in domestic forex markets, analysts said. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 72.43 against the dollar, then lost further ground. It finally ended at 73.47.

—PTI

India VIX shot up 22.93 per cent to 28.14, indicating a volatile market ahead.

The GDP data expected after the market hours also weighed on the market sentiments. "The Q3 GDP growth number at 0.4 per cent is lower than our esti-

mates of 0.8 per cent but quite short of some other estimates which were in the range of 1.4-2 per cent. The equity markets may be a tad disappointed with these data points," said Dhiraj Relli, MD & CEO, HDFC Securities.

mate

Friday.

"Enhancement of sterilisation capacity may be necessary to deal with possible surges in capital flows in the future," the report pointed out.

The RBI report recommended further strengthening foreign-exchange reserves, citing the swings in the rupee around the time of the global taper tantrum in 2013. India's stockpile is already close to \$600 billion and exceeds most standard metric requirements.

— Bloomberg

Current laws forbid the RBI from selling its own paper, and budgetary constraints could prevent the government from issuing so-called market stabilisation

scheme, or MSS, bonds that authorities have used in the past. That's made it harder for the central bank to navigate what's known as the Impossible Trinity, i.e. maintaining an independent monetary policy while also allowing free flows of capital and ensuring a stable currency.

"Sterilised intervention is an effective solution to managing the trilemma in India," the central bank said in its annual Report on Currency and Finance, published on

Friday.

The Reserve Bank of India may consider issuing its own bonds to help soak up a deluge of foreign money into stocks that threatens financial stability, according to a report published by its researchers.

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scheme, or MSS, bonds that authorities have used in the past. That's made it harder for the central bank to navigate what's known as the Impossible Trinity, i.e. maintaining an independent monetary policy while also allowing free flows of capital and ensuring a stable currency.

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"Sterilised intervention is an effective solution to managing the trilemma in

SHORT TAKES



Showrya Samala poses with his trophy and certificate.

Showrya sweeps both titles again

Hyderabad: Promising tennis player Showrya Samala made his second successive sweep, winning the singles as well as doubles titles at the All India Tennis Championships Under 14 age group tournament held at Saria Mirza Tennis Academy near Hyderabad on Friday. Showrya had won the singles and doubles at the RTA Championship in Kakinada last week. Like in Kakinada, Showrya did not drop a single set in the tournament.

Seeded No.8, Showrya defeated third seed V. Dhiraj Reddy with a 6-1, 7-5 scoreline in the singles final. Earlier in the semi-finals, he had thumped seed No.5 Thirumurugan of Tamil Nadu 6-0, 6-2. The quarterfinals too were an easy affair for Showrya who hemmed in fourth seeded Rishik Vavilapally 6-1, 6-3.

In the doubles, Showrya partnered Rishik Vavilapally to beat Anish Jain & Rahul Lokesh 6-4, 6-1. Earlier in the semis, the champions had got past the combine of V. Dhiraj Reddy and Murali Koushal 6-2, 6-4.

AIIMS Bibinagar sparks sport fest

Hyderabad: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Bibinagar on Friday began its annual sports carnival 'Spark' at its campus. The event is part of the hospital's efforts to promote the 'Fit India' campaign that seeks to promote healthy outdoor and sports activities among the people. Inaugurating the sports meet, Dr Vikash Bhatia, the AIIMS Bibinagar executive director, called on all the hospital's staff to take part in sporting activities round the year to stay physically fit. Events of the sports festival include cricket matches, volleyball, football, throwball and table tennis tournaments.

Kavya Hyderabad women's captain

Hyderabad: V. M. Kavya will lead the Hyderabad Women's Senior team in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy scheduled to be held from March 11 at Surat, Gujarat.

The team: V. M. Kavya (captain), Pranavi Chandra (vice captain), D. Ramya, Anuradha Nayak (wicketkeeper), G. Trisha, Mamatha Kanjola, Bhogi Shravani, K. Anitha, Keerthi Reddy, Rachana S. Kumar, Yashasree, B. Anjali, M. Mamatha (wicketkeeper), Trisha Poojitha, P. Parvathi, Kranthi Reddy, M. Anitha, Jyothika Chowdary, Likitha Nandini, Chitra Maheshwari, Smrigha Shekar, B. Paramala.

Coach: Vidhyut Jaisimha. **Manager:** Manasa Sai. Players should report at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal at 11 am on Monday, a release from the HCA said.

Live on TV

English Premier League: Manchester City vs West Ham United from 6 pm; West Brom vs Brighton from 8.30 pm; Leeds United vs Aston Villa from 11 pm; Newcastle United vs Wolverhampton Wanderers from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

Indian Super League: Odisha vs East Bengal from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Italian League: Spezia vs Parma from 7.30 pm; Bologna vs Lazio from 10.30 pm; Verona vs Juventus from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

UFC: Fight Night: Dominick Reyes vs Jiri Prochazka from 6.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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SURESHOT SPINNER

Match-winner Axar says confidence did trick

Ahmedabad, Feb. 26: It was a long wait for Axar Patel and it didn't help that everyone around him had just one question for the past three years — "Why aren't you in the Indian team?"

But Patel was unfazed as he knew, his time would come. "I think it's all about confidence," said the 27-year-old spinner from Anand in Gujarat.

With his record 11 wickets in the day-night third Test against England, the left-arm spinner finally found his big moment in international cricket, seven years after he made his India debut in an ODI against Bangladesh.

Since that day, he has been in and out of the team with the spin all-rounder's spot firmly with Ravindra Jadeja.

In this series too, he made it because Jadeja was out injured. He hadn't been in the national team since 2018 and made his Test debut in the second game against England last week in Chennai.

"I have been out of the team for three years and at that time, I used to think about the areas of my game which need to be worked upon. So, I was working on my bowling and batting," he told Hardik Pandya in a *bcci.tv* interview, thoroughly enjoying his good time.

"When you are out of the team, many people, friends keep asking you 'why aren't you in the team despite doing well?' These things keep coming in the mind," he said.

"So, I told myself 'just wait for the right time and whenever I get an opportunity I will give my 100 per cent,'" he added.

Captain Virat Kohli said England may have been "relieved" when Jadeja was injured. "But then this guy comes in. Bowls it quicker and from a bigger height as well. It is a tribute to his hard work, his accuracy. It is impossible to sweep him, impossible to defend him all day. If the wicket gives him anything he is just a lethal bowler," Virat added.

— PTI



India's star spinner Axar Patel appeals for a wicket during the third Test in Ahmedabad.

Ignored Yusuf calls it quits

New Delhi, Feb. 26: Out-of-favour India all-rounder Yusuf Pathan on Friday announced retirement from all forms of cricket, saying time has come to "put a full stop to this innings of my life."

He had been going unsold in the past two IPL players' auctions. The 38-year-old Pathan

was part of the inaugural T20 World Cup-winning side in 2007 and also the one that triumphed in the 2011 ODI World Cup at home.

"The time has come today for me to put a full stop to this innings of my life. I officially announce retirement from all forms of the game," he said in a statement posted on Twitter.

"I thank my family,



The time has come today for me to put a full stop to this innings of my life. I officially announce retirement from all forms of the game.

— YUSUF PATHAN
after announcing his retirement

friends, fans, teams, coaches and the whole country wholeheartedly for all the support and love," he wrote.

Pathan, elder brother of former India seamer Irfan, played 57 ODIs and scored 810 runs at a strike-rate of 113.60 with two hundreds and three fifties. He also featured in 22 T20Is where he made 236 at a strike-rate of 146.58

and was also a part of Kolkata Knight Riders' triumphs in the IPL. "I still remember the day when I wore the India jersey for the first time. I didn't only wear the jersey that day, but I took upon my family's, coach's, friends' the whole country's and my own expectations on my shoulders as well," Pathan recalled.

"Winning two World

Cups for India and lifting Sachin Tendulkar on my shoulders were some of the best moments of my career. I made my international debut under M S Dhoni, IPL debut under Shane Warne, Ranji debut under Jacob Martin and would like to thank them for believing in me," he added.

Meanwhile, veteran Karnataka medium pacer R. Vinay Kumar, who also represented India and led his state team to successive Ranji Trophy titles, also announced his retirement from international and first-class cricket.

The 37-year-old Kumar played one Test, 31 ODIs and nine T20 Internationals for India, taking 49 wickets across the three formats. — PTI



Hima Das is all smiles in her police uniform.

SPRINTER HIMA INDucted AS DSP IN ASSAM

Guwahati, Feb. 26: Star sprinter Hima Das was on Friday inducted as Deputy Superintendent of Assam Police in the presence of chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and described the moment as a childhood dream coming true.

Hima was handed the appointment letter by Sonowal, also a former Union Sports Minister.

"Since my early school days, I harboured a wish to become a police officer one day and my mother also wished that," Hima said, adding, "I got everything due to sports, I will try to work for betterment of sports in the state and try to make Assam one of the best."

— PTI



Prashant lines up a shot during his match against Srikanth in the Telangana State Ranking Snooker & Billiards Championship in Hyderabad on Friday.

Mubashir, Junaid, Sai, Prashant move ahead

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Saikiran silenced Shanawaz 3-1 (62-40, 40-66, 60-45, 71-48) and Prashanth pinned Srikanth 3-1 (19-48, 48-48, 32-12, 61-10).

THE RESULTS

Senior Snooker first round: Imran Nazri bt Akshay Medi 3-1 (32-59, 57-51, 62-31, 57-54); Riyaz Pasha bt Shaahbaaz 3-1 (51-37, 71-28, 14-47, 56-45); Khaleel Pasha bt Zeehan 3-0 (48-20, 65-39, 59-26, 76-12); Dev Pal bt Aquib Nizakbara 3-0 (35-20, 52-18, 49-38); Shreyan bt Anurag 3-1 (49-25, 62-9, 54-14); Sandeep bt Imran Syed 3-1 (60-33, 45-8, 70-35, 62-29); Mubashir Ahmed bt Rameez Usmani 3-0 (61-44, 68-33, 51-26); Junaid bt Milap 3-0 (59-20, 58-8, 54-47); Jitendar bt Rayyan Khan 3-1 (71-34, 64-20, 52-67, 65-57); Vijay Kumar bt Kartikeya 3-0 (53-2, 52-29, 74-28); Rashid Qureshi bt Syed Sajid 3-0 (62-11, 60-14, 78-29); Surya bt Prateek Dugar 3-0 (67-22, 61-16, 73-17); Alamarbt Mohsin Ahmed 3-1 (63-51, 49-52, 64-33, 49-34); Nayyer Javedi bt Mirza Athar 3-1 (54-44, 10-59, 45-18, 43-40); Saikiran bt Shanawaz 3-1 (62-40, 40-66, 60-45, 71-48); Prashanth bt Srikanth 3-1 (19-48, 48-35, 32-12, 61-0); Faizan Khan bt Md Faizal 3-1 (13-52, 48-38, 56-32, 61-43); Clinton bt Adnan 3-0 (82-19, 70-47, 69-34); Abhishekbt Abdul Irfan 3-1 (50-72, 67-54, 55-44, 73-5); Rahul Jain bt Syed Mansoor Ahmed 3-1 (18-60, 47-31, 61-26, 52-49). — PTI

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Elegant Cc 229 in 64.2 overs bt MWCC 217 in 51.3 overs

Sri Shyan 234 in 66.5 overs lost to Classic 236/6 in 35.5 overs (V. Nishchal Nayak 37 n.o, M. Siddhu Nayak 36, Sai Kiran 3/46). Points: Classic 5, Sri Shyan 0.

Deccan Wanderers 257 in 68.3 overs (Aawaz Ahmed 86, Kanthi Kiran 46, Md Babailal 33, Aary Upada 32/27) vs Balaji Colts.

■ Our CC 312/9 in 90 overs lost to Nizamabad District 315/7 (Md Adnan 93, D. Ajith 92, D. Manish 3/7). Points: Nizamabad 5, OURS 0.

■ Acrylic CC 499/4 in 90 overs bt Adams XI 99 in 30.4 overs (M. Balaji 41, A. Shiv Kumar 5/30, M. Sai Prateek 31/2). Points: Acrylic 5, Adams 0.

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DC ESTATE

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021

Pg III | > Rajapushpacarves out a niche for nature lover

Pg III | >> If colours in a room could speak, hear what they say

Suchirindia on fast lane

With projects in Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, and Mysuru, Suchirindia is now all set to spread its wings to Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, and Kazakhstan and ensure that clients not just get a house, but a lifetime of joy and happiness

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

As real estate developing companies go, Suchirindia Group, which started small in 2005 and has grown into a ₹2,000 crore group today, stands out. Not just for its commitment to adhere to environmental standards in its projects. But also for the deep commitment that every home is a dream come true for its owners irrespective of their budget, and making sure the best design and amenities stay a part of every residential building that the Suchirindia group builds. With projects so far in Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, and Mysuru, Suchirindia is now all set to spread its wings to Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, and Kazakhstan. The Honorary Consul for the Republic of Bulgaria for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the CEO and Managing Director of Suchirindia Group, Dr Y. Kiran Kumar, says it is important to become a part of a dream of a home owner, and work to ensure the clients not just get a house of their choice, but a lifetime of joy and happiness after making such a choice. Tales of Greek, the residential complex, launched this January at Satamrai village near Shamshabad, is an example of this thought process being converted into action. This will be Hyderabad's first ever residential complex aimed at



Papyrus Port, an Egypt-themed resort, one of Suchirindia's ventures

the middle classes that will come with dedicated lounges where residents can relax, work from home, or just meet friends or celebrate life's important events. "My idea is to give middle class home owners things that buyers of expensive villas experience. So, Tales of Greek will have every alternate floor designed as a lounge space, where people can work from. There will be vending machines where you can get a cup of coffee or tea. Or just use the space to relax," Suchirindia CEO says.

While Tales of Greek, one of Suchirindia's latest projects

is aimed to be budget friendly but not lacking in the good things that make a building a home, the company has in its portfolio of projects, villas ranging from ₹65 lakh to ₹2.5 crore, and apartments ranging from ₹40 lakh to ₹2 crore. And it is not just residential spaces that the company builds. Among its successful ventures are two rest and recreation projects — Papyrus Port, an Egyptian themed resort near Kothur village on the Bengaluru highway, and Honey Berg, near Shamirpet on the Karimnagar highway.

Names of the project, he says, are very important to him. The Spanish villas project Timber Leaf, is a mix of Spanish and Indian architecture styles, the 80-acre project near Alwal, Aryavarta Nagari, has street names and facilities derived from ancient Indian names with a wholly Indian architecture style. Ivy Dreams near Maheshwaram is focused on greenery, and Tales of Greek draws inspiration from Greek stories, he says.

Popular as Lion Dr Y. Kiron, the Suchirindia CEO also known for his philanthropic

work, says he is passionate about the journey of life while being dedicated to work. The approach won him and his company several laurels. "My approach," he says, "is to think out of the box and outside your comfort zone."

— Dr Y. Kiron,
Suchirindia CEO



Throwing light on using Vastu

Some of the principles of Vastu, such as placement of doors and windows have much to do with letting in natural light and have air inside a home circulating with ease. Does it really work? We explore

DC CORRESPONDENT

Some say it is not a science and dismiss it as some mumbo jumbo. Those who practice it, follow it and advise home owners or businesses, swear by its beneficial effects. Vastu has always been a topic for many that they hold dear to, whether over their belief and faith in it, or being dismissive about it.

But one aspect does stand out though. Some of the principles of Vastu, such as placement of doors, windows have much to do with let-

ting in natural light and have air inside a home circulating with ease. Does it really work?

According to Srinivas Kasinadhuni, a Vastu consultant with 38 years of experience in the field, and who runs Subramanian & Consultants, "Vastu is a science, and it is 5,000 years old. And this is one sphere in our lives that has nothing to do with any religion, caste or creed. It can make a lot of difference for the better in the lives of people who choose to follow it."

Turn to page 2



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Rajapushpa carves out a niche for nature lover

Rajapushpa Provincia at Narsingi with each tower having 40 spacious floors with state-of-the-art architecture, is designed to give the residents a close feel of nature. Eighty per cent of the land is open space, and the complex will have a 1.2 km walking track.

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

Spreading joy and happiness comes in many ways. For Rajapushpa Properties Pvt Ltd, this has been a matter of faith, an act performed with dedication in every residential or business realty project it has taken up over the past 15 years. Says P. Sreenivas Reddy, Rajapushpa's executive director: "Our entire team is passionate and dedicated towards delivering the best to our clients." For him, quality, state of the art construction and designs of homes and offices that immediately make one feel welcome into them, is very personal. "The company is named after my father and mother, Raja Reddy and Pushpaleela. This is a family-owned business. From the day of inception, our company is known for its quality and timely delivery. Rajapushpa is known for its gated community development and commercial I-T complexes for businesses."

Continuing with what it does best, Rajapushpa is now in the process of creating a world class gated community with 11 high rise towers in an area of 24

acres. Rajapushpa Provincia at Narsingi with each tower having 40 spacious floors with state-of-the-art architecture, is designed to give the residents a close feel of nature. Eighty per cent of the land is open space, and the complex will have a 1.2 km walking track. Also to be part of this gated community will be two large club houses with sophisticated facilities. For the residents it will be a world within itself, the company says.

When it comes to the commercial I-T spaces, Rajapushpa Stoneridge, and Rajapushpa Summit are considered as landmarks for business operations. Two more such complexes with a total spread of 4.5 million square feet of space and coming up in the Financial District are the Rajapushpa Paradigm and Rajapushpa West Avenue.

Rajapushpa began its journey in 2006 with 'Silicon Ridge', a 300-apartment complex on four acres. Rajapushpa Open Sky, a project with 48 villas, followed in 2008 at Kokapet in the Financial District and was completed in 2010. Designed and built as world class luxury villas, this state-of-the-art gated community has an ultra-modern



(Top) An artist's impression of Rajapushpa Provincia and (above) the Rajapushpa West Avenue

club house and was equipped with a swimming pool, banquet halls and other amenities.

The other luxury projects which have been completed by this group include Rajapushpa Retreat, Rajapushpa

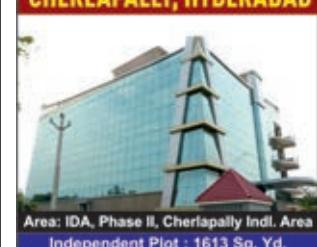
Cannondale, Rajapushpa Atria, Rajapushpa Regalia, Rajapushpa Greendale, and the one which is almost ready and about to be delivered to the clients is Rajapushpa Eternal.



The company is named after my father and mother, Raja Reddy and Pushpaleela. This is a family owned business. From day of inception, we are known for quality and timely delivery and out gated communities and commercial I-T complexes for businesses.

— P. Sreenivas Reddy, executive director, Rajapushpa

SALE / LEASE INDUSTRIAL / COMMERCIAL CHERLAPALLY, HYDERABAD



Area: IDA, Phase II, Cherlapally Indl. Area
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If colours in a room could speak, hear what they say



Did you know that babies tend to cry more in yellow-coloured rooms and green ones prevent nightmares, asks Abigail Dsouza, interior designer

NAVEEN KUMAR

Colours are not simply background or accent elements in a décor as they play much larger roles, both obvious and subliminal. They generate certain emotions and they also change our mood.

So choosing the right colour for your interiors is important, opine home decorators, mentioning specially how bedroom is the personal space we come home to at the end of the day and how it's important for us to select the shades.

"Colours are categorised as warm and cool. Blue, green and light purple are categorised as cool colours as they make you feel calm, relaxed and refreshed after a long stressful day. It makes you think of the endless blue sky and the serene waters and that's why cool hues are great for bedrooms and baths. These colours are great for small bedrooms when used in lighter shades, as it makes the room appear more spacious," said Madhumita, an architect.

"Bedroom should always have peaceful colours and not dark vibrant ones. Pastel shades and breezy colors like lilac are sug-

gested. If you need more character, you can add texture and warm tones from carpentry work in the room will go well. You can also play with light colours and texture while designing your house. The patterns should always be smaller in bedrooms and you can add small articles like green cushions to bring out lively characters. If it's a studio bedroom connected to the living room, you need to add more colour and have a common theme," added Rafael Malik, a home decorator.

Speaking further about the importance of colours, Abigail Dsouza, an interior designer, said that yellow represents energy, happiness and attention, while pink represents love and sweetness.

"While it's common knowledge that red cars can trigger aggression, did you know that babies

tend to cry more in yellow coloured rooms and that green ones can prevent nightmares? When it comes to decorating the bedroom, it's best to stick to green, lilac, pink and blue, and avoid yellow. Try orange, a social colour, in public areas of the home, and use blue in the office to boost productivity and intelligence," she opined.

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