

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM | FRIDAY | 26 FEBRUARY 2021

WEATHER



Max: 33.6°C
Min: 20.8°C
RH: 77%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Mist.
Max/Min temp.
33/20 9°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Shuddha
Chaturdasi till 13.44 pm
Star: Ashlesha till 12.30 pm
Varjyam: 11.52 pm to 1.23 am
(Saturday)
Durmuhurtam: 9 am to 9.46 am;
12.52 pm to 1.39 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 13,1442 AH
PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.50 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Magrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.17 AM
SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 5.12 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.33 AM

COUNTER POINT



Not bail papers, he is
distributing party tickets
to potential candidates!

SHORT TAKES

Moody's projects 13.5% growth

New Delhi: Moody's on Thursday upped India's growth projection for the next financial year beginning April 1 to 13.7 per cent, from 10.8 per cent estimated earlier, on the back of normalisation of activity and growing confidence in the market with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine. For current fiscal, the US-based rating agency expects the economy to contract 7 per cent, lower than its previous estimate of 10.6 per cent contraction.

ASI FINDS FIRST INSCRIPTION ON RAYA'S DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

Officials from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered the first epigraphical reference to the death of Krishnadevaraya, the emperor of Vijayanagara empire during 1509-1529, in an inscription found near Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli of Tumkur district recently.

The inscription found in Kannada recorded the demise of Krishnadevaraya, the third ruler from Tuluva dynasty on October 17, 1529 AD. Archaeological Survey of India received a photograph of this inscription from Prof. K.R. Narasimhan. It is engraved on a slab kept to the north of Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli.

Full report on Page 3

RUMOUR MILL

Demand for donkey meat up in belief that it cures illnesses

Meat love threatens donkeys in Eluru

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, FEB. 25

Donkeys are illegally being slaughtered on the banks of Eluru Canal in West Godavari and the remains are being dumped in the canal, endangering public health.

Donkeys are named in the extinction list. Yet, hundreds of them across the country and in Andhra Pradesh are being slaughtered for meat. Belief is that donkey meat can cure respiratory and breathing

problems and increase the sexual potential of humans.

According to sources, many donkey meat shops exist on the sly in Guntur, Cherukupalli, Bapatla, Tadepalli, Vetapalem, Chirala in Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam districts. The sellers are bringing the donkeys from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

For the past two years, animal activists in Maharashtra are lodging complaints on illegal transport of donkeys. Some cases

of illegal slaughter of animals other than those listed is unlawful practice and is against local municipal acts and rules and against the directions of the Supreme Court.

Donkey meat is sold at ₹600 per kilo. The meat sellers are buying the meat at ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 per donkey. Meat sellers say meat shops in Krishna, Guntur

and Prakasam chose Eluru for selling the meat.

Animal rescue organisation secretary Gopal R. Surabathula said donkeys are being carried to Andhra Pradesh from other states. Nobody makes any effort to curb it, though there are so many check-posts along the way of its transportation. He lodged a complaint with the DGP, seeking stoppage of illegal transportation and killing of donkeys. Sale of donkeys is rampant in several districts in the

state, the complaint said.

He said that the survival of donkeys is at serious stake. It has almost vanished from the state while donkeys are illegally transported from other states. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the ministry of health and family welfare issued a direction that the slaughtering of animals of any species other than the one listed, like Ovine, carpine etc, is not permissible under the FSS Act.



NATION | 5

SUV with explosives
near Ambani house



WORLD | 6

Xi claims victory on
poverty reduction



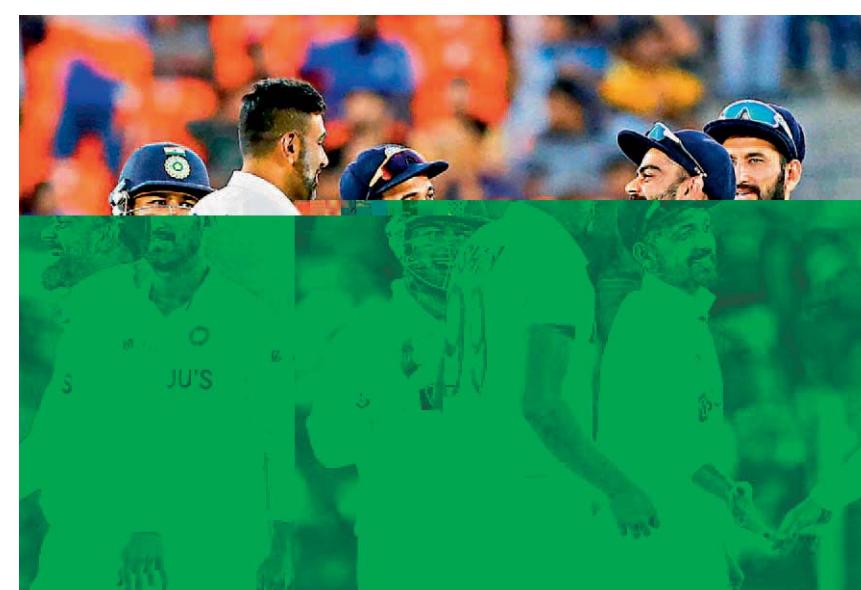
SPORTS | 7

Prithvi slams record
227 in one-dayer

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Short & Sweet



Indian captain Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant and R. Ashwin celebrate the wicket of England's Jack Leach on the second day of the third cricket Test match against England at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday. India registered their second Test win inside two days overhauling a meagre target of 49 against England to take an unassailable 2-1 lead in the four-match series on Thursday. Spin duo Axar Patel and Ashwin swung the match in India's favour. England's previous Test loss inside two days came way back in 1921 against Australia. ■ Reports on Page 7

— PTI

Nirav can be extradited

UK judge says diamantaire must answer Indian courts



London, Feb. 25: In a comprehensive extradition win for the Indian authorities, a UK judge ruled on Thursday that fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi not only has a case to answer in the Indian courts but that there is no evidence to suggest he would not receive a fair trial in India.

Nirav Modi, wanted in India on charges of fraud and money laundering in the estimated \$2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case, lost his legal battle against extradition on all grounds as District Judge Samuel Goozee also concluded that there are no human rights concerns that his medical needs would not be addressed as per several Indian government assurances.

The 49-year-old appeared via video link at Westminster Magistrates' Court from Wandsworth Prison

in south-west London, dressed in a formal suit and sporting a thick beard, and showed no emotion as excerpts of the judgment were read out in court.

"I am satisfied that there is evidence upon which NDM [Nirav Deepak Modi] could be convicted in relation [to] the conspiracy to defraud the PNB. A prima facie case is established," the judge noted.

He similarly concludes a

prima facie case to have been established on all counts of charges brought by the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate — money laundering, intimidation of witnesses and disappearance of evidence.

Under the UK Extradition Act 2003, the judge will now send his findings to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Priti Patel. It is the UK Cabinet minister who is authorised to order an extradition under the India-UK Extradition Treaty and has two months within which to make that decision.

Whatever the ministerial decision, the losing side — Nirav Modi — has up to 14 days within which to approach the High Court and seek leave to appeal after the Home Secretary has made her decision known.

Nirav's legal team did not immediately confirm if he intends to appeal against Thursday's ruling. — PTI

YSRC PICKS SIX MLC CANDIDATES IN MLAs QUOTA

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25



CONTENT ONLINE TO BE REGULATED

5 categories OTT platforms are
supposed to self-classify content:
U (universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+,
U/A 16+, and A (adult).

3-level grievance redressal
mechanism established
under the rules with two
levels of self regulation.

Level 1 Publisher themselves

Level 2 Self Regulatory Body

Level 3 Oversight

Mechanism under the
Ministry of Information and
Broadcasting.

NEWS PUBLISHERS on digital media must implement Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act

Prime Video will be required to quickly take down any contentious content flagged by the government or legal order.

They also have to appoint executives to coordinate with law enforcement and remove, within 24 hours, content depicting nudity or morphed pictures of women.

They also have to now appoint a resident grievance officer who shall register complaints in 24 hours and file monthly compliance reports. User grievances have to be resolved within 15 days.

Social media platforms, on being asked by court or government, will be required to disclose the first originator of the mischievous information that undermines the sovereignty of India, security of the state, or public order.

It is not out of place here to mention that the Railways had not been able to put this land to any use for more than 30 years. The land identified by the state government to be given to the Railways is suitable and located within the limits of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation," he said.

"More so as the land offered in exchange is of equal value. Both the encroached land and the land proposed for exchange were inspected by a joint team of revenue and railway officials."

He said YSRC would not be involved in the Teachers quota polls and would leave the decision to teachers unions.

■ Full report on Page 2

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PAWAN BALI and
SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, FEB. 25 | DC

The YSRC on Thursday announced the names of its candidates for the six MLC seats in the MLA quota and decided not to field candidates in the Teacher's constituency MLC election.

Speaking to reporters, adviser to the government (public affairs) Sajala Ramakrishna Reddy said that its candidates would Balli Kalyan Chakravarthy (Tirupati), Mohammed Iqbal (Hindupur), Challa Bhageerath Reddy (Kurnool), C. Ramachandraiah (YSR Kadapa), Mohammad Karimunneesa (Vijayawada), and Duvvada Srinivas from Srikakulam.

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■ Full report on Page 2

India, Pak armies agree to observe strict ceasefire

tensions at the LoC had risen after the terror attack on CRPF convoy in Pulwama in February 2019, and the revoking of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. There have been nearly 600 violations in first two months of 2021.

India's director-general of military operations, Lt. Gen. Paramjit Singh Sangha, and his Pakistani counterpart, Maj. Gen. Nauman Zakaria, held discussions over the hotline, and the two sides reviewed the situation along the LoC and all other sectors in a "free, frank and cordial atmosphere".

In contrast, there were 3,479 such violations in 2019 and 2,140 in 2018. The

A joint statement by both

armies read: "In the interest of achieving mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along the borders, the two DGMOs agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which have the propensity to disturb peace."

It said both sides agreed to the strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease fire along the LoC and all other sectors with effect from midnight February 24-25, 2021. "Both sides reiterated the existing mechanisms of hotline contact and border flag meetings will be utilized to resolve any unforeseen situation."

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SHORT TAKES
HC DIRECTS NACO DG TO APPEAR ON MARCH 9

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

Andhra Pradesh High Court directed the additional secretary and director general of National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) to appear before it on March 9 to show cause as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be admitted.

AP State Aids Contractual employees S. Venu, P. Venkata Subbaiah and M. Jay Kumar moved the High Court seeking contempt of court proceedings against the NACO officials as they failed to concede to their basic demands. The employees submitted a representation to the senior officials earlier seeking enhancement of remuneration on par with employees working in the same project. However, NACO revised remuneration to only senior medical officers and medical officers.

The employees approached the High Court to direct the additional secretary and director general of NACO Aarti Ahuja to act on the representation and pass an order.

However, the court allowed the NACO official to either appear before the court in person or through an advocate.

TD EX-MLA MOVES HC TO PERMIT HIM IN CIVIC POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

Former Telugu Desam MLA J.C. Prabhakar Reddy along with four others filed a petition in the High Court to allow them to contest in the ensuing municipal polls in Tadipatri on Thursday.

The petitioner's counsel informed the court that the petitioners were not allowed to file their nomination papers to contest in the civic polls earlier and their nomination papers were torn.

The counsel further informed the court that the State Election Commission issued an order recently asking those who failed to file their nomination papers and also those who were forced to withdraw their nomination papers under duress, to approach the district collectors to seek remedy.

After hearing the parties, the court posted the next hearing to March 1.

KADAPA OFFICIALS TOLD TO PAY ₹10K TO PETITIONER

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

Andhra Pradesh High Court directed the district collector and district education officer of YSR Kadapa district to pay ₹10,000 to the petitioner, granting leave to file counter affidavit as the duo failed to file it for a long period of 10 years.

A single judge bench headed by Justice Battu Devanandan held hearing on a petition filed in 2010, seeking appointment on compassionate grounds for untimely death of a teacher on 17-04-1995 in harness, here on Thursday.

The court observed that though both the officials who were the respondents were served notice to file a counter affidavit in the case on 18-10-2010, they failed to do so. The court said that as per Rule 12 of AP Writ Proceedings Rules, 1977, the respondents, who intend not file counter affidavits were to file within six months from the date of receipt of notice. In case they intend to file counter affidavit beyond six months stipulated period, they have to seek leave of the court by filing an appropriate application. However, under Rule 12 (ii), the six months period was reduced to 120 days through an amendment in 2017.

The court observed that the respondents came up with counter affidavit along with a leave application at present, with a reason for failing to file the counter affidavit for 10 years saying that due to oversight. It said that central government and state government and its instrumentalities were the biggest litigants in the country and around 80% of all cases were either contested by the state or appealed by it. The court felt the need on the part of officers to be made accountable for disposal of long pending cases.

Accordingly, the court granted leave to the officials (respondents) to file counter affidavit on condition of payment of ₹10,000 to the petitioner within 10 days from Thursday.

Committed to develop Amaravati, says Botsa

Govt has clarity on developing of the region as Legislative Capital

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

The state government has a clear-cut clarity on the development of Amaravati region as Legislative Capital towards which it has taken appropriate initiatives, said minister for municipal administration Botsa Satyanarayana.

Speaking to the media here on Thursday, he said a bank guarantee of ₹3,000 crore has been approved from the government side, which includes developing seed access and karakatta roads.

● The minister alleged that Telugu Desam was intentionally creating confusion among the people on Amaravati development even though N. Chandrababu Naidu failed to provide a wide access route to the region during his tenure.

● He wanted Naidu to explain why seed access roads could not be laid during the five-year TD term, and whether anyone had obstructed him.

during the five-year TD term, and whether anyone had obstructed him. He stated that Naidu had spent hundreds of crores on temporary structures misusing public money but did not acquire land for a small connecting bridge.

Satyanarayana said that the state government has proposed to construct karakatta road at a cost of ₹150 crore. That apart, the current seed access road would also be completed to

fully connect it to Kaza village on the National Highway. He assured to provide all basic infrastructures like roads, drainage and electricity in the capital area of Amaravati as promised by the previous government.

The minister wanted to know what Naidu had done for Kuppam and why he did not come up with the idea of urbanising Kuppam to elevate it as a municipality or a small city.

He said, "While Naidu

failed miserably in Kuppam, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy enhanced Pulivendula to a model city by taking up developmental activities. People are furious with Naidu and feel betrayed. This anger has been reflected in the recent panchayat elections."

Satyanarayana claimed that people have immense faith in the YSRC government as Jagan Mohan Reddy does not encourage unnecessary graphics to deceive people and public welfare is the priority. He added that Naidu is only concerned about the 29 villages in the Amaravati region rather than the overall development of the state.

The minister further added that as per the government policy, Visakhapatnam will be the administrative capital, Amaravati the legislative capital and Kurnool the judicial capital.



Minister Velampalli Srinivas conducts campaign at One Town in Municipal elections for YSRC candidates in Vijayawada on Thursday. — DC

Naidu meets partymen to retrieve lost ground

DC CORRESPONDENT
 TIRUPATI, FEB. 25

Put on a slippery wicket and shocked to his bones, former chief minister and Telugu Desam supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu returned with folded hands on Thursday to Kuppam, his assembly segment that has turned its back on him and his party in the Gram Panchayat polls.

Naidu, representing the assembly segment for the seventh consecutive term, has found his Telugu Desam won only 14 of the 89 panchayats, while the ruling YSRC took 74. He is seeking to rejuvenate the party cadre in an effort to retrieve the lost ground.

The former CM started a three-day tour of his constituency on Thursday and was chairing back-to-back meetings with party leaders in the constituency to review the results.

Addressing a gathering at Gudupalli, Kuppam rural, the TD chief indirectly hit out at panchayat raj and rural development minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy.

"The Punganur leader would not have contested from his constituency in previous elections if I had a thought of taking revenge on him. But I have never encouraged revenge politics."

"A minister visited Kuppam constituency more than a dozen times in the last one-and-a-half

TD ACTIVIST ATTEMPTS SELF-IMMOLATION NEAR NAIDU'S CONVOY IN KODATHANAPALLI

DC CORRESPONDENT
 TIRUPATI, FEB. 25

Tense situation prevailed for a brief while as Telugu Desam chief Chandrababu Naidu's convoy passed through Kodathanapalli in Kuppam assembly segment. A party activist attempted self-immolation by pouring petrol on himself.

The youth was identified as Somu. "He was unable to bear the harassment from YSRC leaders during the panchayat elections,

TD leaders claimed.

When the activist poured petrol on his body and tried to self-immolate, some local leaders prevented him and brought the issue to the notice of Naidu. The TD chief asked these leaders to take Somu to Amaravati where he would speak to him individually.

In the meanwhile, the Chittoor district police tightened security for Naidu. Some YSRC leaders had warned that they would obstruct his visit to Kuppam.

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Naidu also alleged that the YSRC leaders who had camped in Kuppam to threaten and influence TD workers had deployed outsiders there to defeat democracy. "Kuppam is known for its peace, reputation and ethical values. But the ruling party had completely polluted the atmosphere here, only to take revenge on me. I'm confident that the Kuppam people will revolt against the YSRC's unethical ruling and teach them a befitting lesson in the coming days," he said.

Candidates supported by the ruling party spent huge amounts of money and distributed liquor brought from Karnataka

years to do unethical politics and dent the morale of the TD cadre. I have seen many politicians but never anyone as bad as YSRC leaders. They should know that politics is meant to serve people's interests but not to serve personal interests and take revenge," he said.

Alleging that the polling process in panchayat elections was manipulated, Naidu lamented that the polls were held under the influence of money and power, and that the candidates supported by the TD were threatened by the YSRC leaders.

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SHORT TAKES
AP RECORDS
82 NEW CASES OF COVID, NO DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

Andhra Pradesh registered 82 fresh Covid-19 cases and no death in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities reported that out of 35,443 samples tested on Thursday, 83 persons were found infected with the virus. Out of a total number of 1,38,430 persons tested for the virus, 8,89,585 were found infected with the virus and of them, 8,81,806 were recovered while undergoing treatment and 611 are still active with the virus.

Among the daily cases of confirmed Covid-19, Chittoor reported 21 cases, followed by eight each in Guntur and Kurnool, seven each in Krishna and Visakhapatnam, six in Nellore, five each in Anantapur, East Godavari, Srikakulam, West Godavari, four Kadapa, one in Prakasam and zero in Vizianagaram.

With regard to cumulative Covid-19 active cases, Krishna continued to top the state with 91, followed by 84 in Chittoor, 67 in East Godavari, 66 in Nellore, 46 in West Godavari, 44 in Kadapa, 43 in Guntur, 38 in Anantapur, 36 in Srikakulam, 35 in Prakasam, 28 in Visakhapatnam, 23 in Kurnool and 10 in Vizianagaram.

CERTIFICATE LOST

I, VISWAJA GELLANKI D/o RAJESWARI GELLANKI R/o D.No. 1-120-23, FF-2 and FF-1, Apsara MVP Colony, Near Ushodaya Junction, L.B.Colony, Visakhapatnam-530017, Andhra Pradesh, I have appeared for the Indian School Certificate Examination (New Delhi) held in the March 2020 with Index No.7088268 through Siva Sivani Public School, Visakhapatnam that the certifying statement of result original issued by the Council for Indian School Certificate Examination has been lost by me while I was travelling by Auto from my home to Xerox Center on 10/02/2021.

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Identifying people for jabs turns tricky

AP awaits rules for vaccination to people aged over 60 yrs

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

● **HEALTH SOURCES** maintain that nearly 60 to 70 per cent of healthcare workers underwent both the first and second dose of Coronavirus vaccine.

With the Centres issuing directions to states on administering Covid-19 vaccine to people aged more than 60 years and also to those aged 45 years plus with comorbidities from March 1, and even as Andhra Pradesh gets ready to take up vaccination as per the schedule, they are facing a tough task in identifying the beneficiaries.

State health authorities are awaiting guidelines from the Centre on taking up vaccination for these two categories of people. Though there is an option to register on CoWIN app to undergo vaccination, it remains to be seen as to how many aged persons are able to download such an app on their smart-

phones and use it. With regard to the 45 years plus people having multiple health complications, they are supposed to get a certificate from their doctor about the kind of health problems they are facing to become eligible for the vaccination.

Health sources maintain that nearly 60 to 70 per cent of healthcare workers underwent both the first and second dose of Covid-19 vaccine as a good number of them, including doctors, avoided undergoing vaccination for varied reasons, including the fear of health complications and also due to death of two such workers after vacci-

nation.

At present, the frontline warriors, including police personnel, are undergoing the first dose of vaccination.

Health authorities admit that there is no readily available data on the beneficiaries and they may have to rely on details mentioned in Aadhar cards or any other document, especially with regard to their age.

Meanwhile, the state health authorities are planning to take up training programmes for health personnel on going about the process of identifying beneficiaries and counselling them

First ancient engraving refers to Devaraya's death, unearthed

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

Officials from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered the first epigraphical reference to the death of Krishnadevaraya Nayaka, the emperor of Vijayanagara empire during 1509-1529, in an inscription found near Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli of Tumkur district recently.

The inscription found in Kannada recorded the demise of Krishnadevaraya, the third ruler from Tuluva dynasty on October 17, 1529 AD.

The ASI received a photograph of this inscription from Prof. K.R. Narasimhan.

It is engraved on a slab kept to the north of Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli. The inscription mentions about Honnenahalli being empowered to provide

offerings to the god Viraprasanna Hanumanta of Tumkur by Timmappanna Nayaka along with some officials and inhabitants of Tumkur village.

Krishnadevaraya was born on January 17, 1471 and died of ill-health on October 17, 1529.

The finding of an inscription dated July 27, 1532 earlier, engraved on the north and west walls of the third prakara of the Kalahastisvara temple at Srikalasti in Chittoor district, mentioned the coronation of Krishnadevaraya's cousin Achyutraya as the king on October 21, 1529 AD before Kalahastisvara in Kalahasti.

Historians say that findings from these two inscriptions have confirmed for the first time that Achyutraya was crowned on the fourth day after the death of Krishnadevaraya.



ASI discovers first epigraphical reference to the death of Krishnadevaraya Nayaka in an inscription found near Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli of Tumkur district in Karnataka recently. — DC

SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICES EXTENDED

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 25

East Coast Railway decided to extend the special train services between Visakhapatnam-Jagdalpur (via Araku Valley) following demand from the public. The train comprises a Vista dome coach up to Araku Valley.

The train will leave Visakhapatnam daily at 6.45 am, with effect from March 1, which will reach Jagdalpur on the same day at 4.25 pm.

In the return direction, the train will leave Jagdalpur daily at 9.55 am with effect from March 2, which will reach Visakhapatnam on the same at 8.20 pm. These pair of trains will have stoppages at Simhachalam, Kottavalasa, Srungavarapukota, Borraguhlu, Araku, Koraput, Jeypore and Kotpar Road between Visakhapatnam and Jagdalpur.

SIX HELD IN MURDER CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 25

The MVP Colony police on Thursday arrested six persons in connection with the murder of rowdy sheeter Sanna Venkatesh alias Banda Reddy.

The police identified the arrested persons as Kothalanka Siva Santosh Raja (35) of P&T Colony in Visakhapatnam, Palla Anil Kumar (23), HB Colony, Sanapaka Durga Prasad (24), HB Colony, Teddu Raju (23), Peda Jalaripetta, Molisetti Mohan Rao (32), Old Dairy Farm and Beta Mahesh (25), Old Dairy Farm.

Vizag Steel Plant protest intensifies, enters 14th day

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 25

Former UPSC chairman and well-known academician Prof. K.S. Chalam alleged that some vested interest traded with the R Cards, depriving employment to thousands of farmers who gave away their cultivable lands for the construction of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

While speaking at the ongoing agitation against privatisation, which entered 14th day on Thursday, Prof Chalam said many farmers in spite of having a valid R Card, could not get employment in the steel plant. Some cunning elements, with the help of some selfish political leaders, who had migrated from other districts, took advantage of the situation, bought them off for a low price and pro-

vided them with menial jobs in unorganised sectors.

According to the recent reports, these elements, with the help of big corporate entities, have drawn a grandiose plan to grab most of the public land, including unused RINL land for their selfish benefits.

If these elements are not checked now, they will grab the agency hills," Prof Chalam said.

Meanwhile, thousands of workers unions from different organisations converged at the dharna point to join the ongoing agitation. The relay hunger strike was launched on February 12 by all the major trade unions.

CPM has announced Rasta Roko all over the state on Friday and chalked out many other state-wide programmes for the ensuing days.

Punish stalker sternly: Panel

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 25

● **PADMA LAMENTED** that she was shocked to know about the murder of Anusha by the stalker.

culprit.

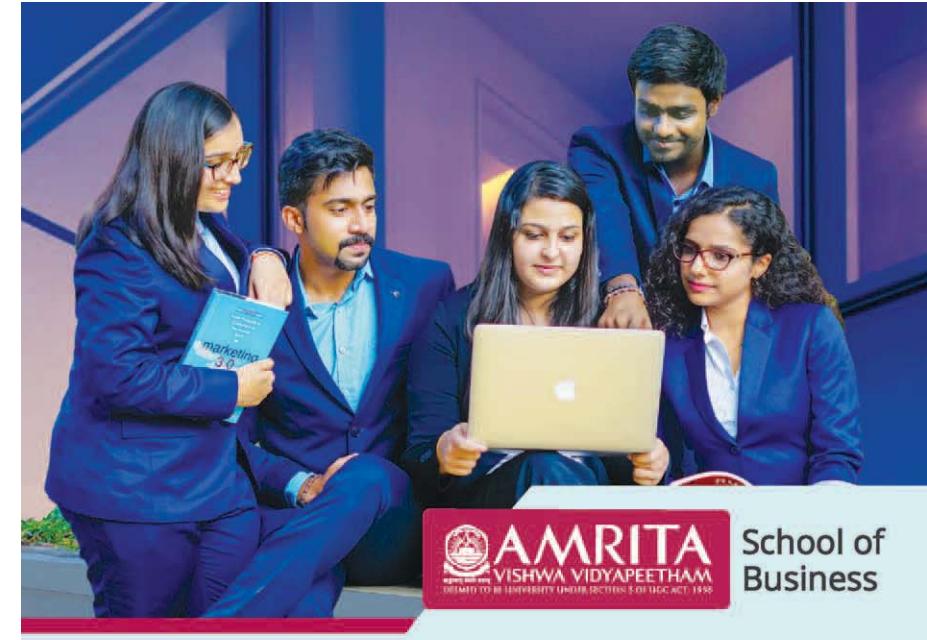
Ms Padma lamented that she was shocked to know about the murder of Anusha by the stalker. She paid floral tributes to the body of Anusha at Gollapadu village and consoled her parents. She stated that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy reacted seriously to the incident and directed to initiate stern punishment to the

police department is taking measures.

The students led by the Students Federation of India conducted a rally in Narasaraopet on Thursday demanding swift stern punishment to the culprit.

They further staged a human chain protest at the Saibaba temple bridge centre and demanded protection and safety to the girl students.

The SFI leaders warned about intensifying agitations in the coming days if the government fails to punish the culprit in the Anusha murder case.



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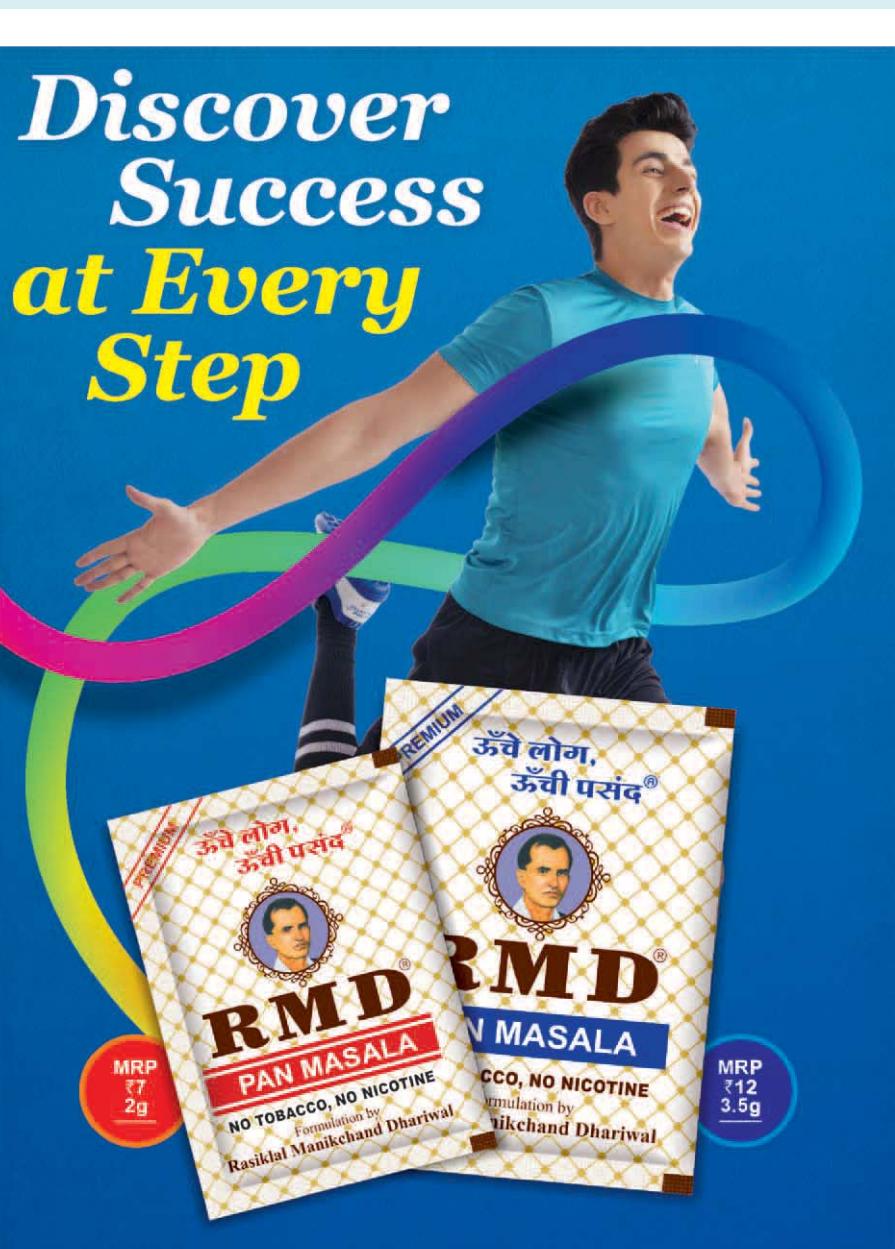
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DECCAN Chronicle

26 FEBRUARY 2021

Disha bail order should set welcome precedent

The order of the additional sessions judge of Patiala House Courts, Delhi, granting bail to Bengaluru-based climate activist Disha A. Ravi, arrested for her alleged role in the preparation of a "toolkit" that the police claimed led to the violent incidents in the nation's capital on January 26, has sought to right two wrongs. One, it has made a timely intervention and stopped the state from using legal tools to put dissenting citizens behind the bars for no end. Two, it has reassured the people that Article 19 (1) of the Constitution which guarantees the freedom of speech and expression has the strength to come to the aid of a legitimate dissenter.

The court demolished the Delhi police's case by pointing out that it was devoid of material evidence to connect the activist with the case slapped on her; and more importantly, whatever she did was protected by the Constitution. The court found that the investigating agency which charged the activist with sedition has produced "not an iota of evidence" to link her with seditious or violent acts; and reminded the police that it cannot resort to "surmises or conjectures" to convince itself of the culpability of an accused. The "scanty and sketchy" pieces of evidence the agency has produced are not enough to send a 22-year-old young woman with absolutely blemish-free criminal antecedents to jail, it said.

The strong words on the nature of the evidence were, in fact, a censure of the police, which went overboard picking up a citizen violating the Supreme Court's guidelines and her basic rights.

It's an irony that a government manned by people who have participated in the greatest freedom restoration movement in Independent India is resorting to suppressing voices of legitimate dissent

The court made a series of observations on the citizen's rights that a democracy would love the judiciary to assert and protect in the face of state assault. "Citizens are conscience keepers of the government in any democratic nation," it said. "They cannot be put behind the bars simply because they choose to disagree with the state policies." In a warning to the self-appointed "patriots" who miss no chance to threaten dissenters with the label "traitor" and the state which has a profligacy to slap sedition charge at the drop of a hat, the court said, "The offence of sedition cannot be invoked to minister to the wounded vanity of the governments." The court observed that difference of opinion, disagreement, divergence, dissent, or even disapprobation, are recognised legitimate tools to infuse objectivity in state policies. If the Constitution was not enough, the judge referred to the nation's 5,000-year old civilisation and the Rig Veda to remind everyone that we were "never been averse to ideas from varied quarters".

It's an irony that a government manned by people who have participated in the greatest freedom restoration movement in Independent India is resorting to suppressing voices of legitimate dissent. They should not ideally expect the nation to experience the silence of a graveyard when they go about implementing their agenda. They will face, to quote the judge, an "aware and assertive citizenry, in contradistinction with an indifferent or docile citizenry", which is, "indisputably a sign of a healthy and vibrant democracy". The refreshing thoughts must set in motion a process to free many more that are languishing in prisons facing similar charges.

An act of sycophancy

The Gujarat Cricket Association succumbed to the temptation of naming the stadium after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The cricket arena had many earlier monikers like Gujarat and Motera, besides having borne the name of a famous son of the soil in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The baptism does break an unwritten law that no edifice should be named after a living person even if it seemed apt to honour a person who headed GCA in the long running Indian tradition of politicians getting themselves elected as presidents of cricket associations. The concept of a magnificent, cricket arena that cost more than ₹800 crores came from his grand vision and its creation was carried out by the other leading contemporary political personality, Union home minister Amit Shah, and his son who is the BCCI secretary. Donald Trump, as US President, even paid a ceremonial visit there just before the pandemic was declared in 2020.

The honour bestowed spontaneously and sentimentally on Narendra Modi is somewhat akin to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru being awarded the Bharat Ratna by the first President Rajendra Prasad. But it does rank considering this is a stadium named like this since the Maharashtra politician and chief minister S.K. Wankhede named one in Churchgate in Mumbai after himself in 1974. A second cricket stadium within a stone's throw of historic Brabourne was owed to a clash of egos between Maharashtra Cricket Association and Cricket Club of India. The era of building an edifice of homage to members of one political family is thought to be well and truly over. And so the Congress playing the Sardar Patel card in criticism seems hypocritical now. The issue, however, is to do with the need for 21st-century India to evolve from a sycophantic, fetishist and neta-worshiping past.

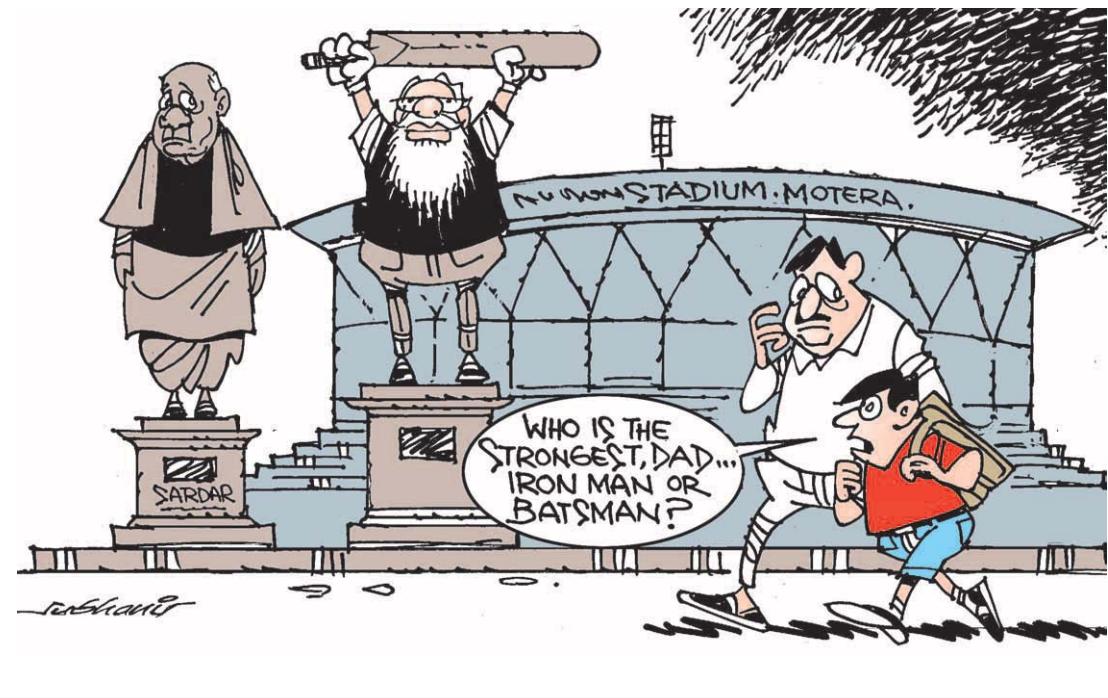
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Subhani



Arrests on flimsy basis undermine democracy

Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

It has been the bad practice and bad habit of the Indian police and criminal investigators to slap a mountain of charges against any accused in the hope that at least some, or even one, of them would stick. This amounts to indulging in slander in more than a legal sense. And this is what the Delhi police and its investigators have tried to do with the violence that erupted on January 26, 2021 when the farmers' tractor parade went off the rails at some points. Instead of focusing on what went wrong during the tractor parade, the Delhi police went off on a tangent, distracted by the tweets of American pop singer Rihanna and teenage climate protester/warrior Greta Thunberg. Greta Thunberg put out a toolkit, retracted and put it back again. And it is here that Bengaluru climate activist Disha Ravi, 22, entered the picture. The Delhi police saw it as a good opportunity to nail the international linkages of the imagined conspiracy when they found the toolkit linkage between Ms Ravi and Ms Thunberg. The police discovered that Ms Ravi had a hand in the toolkit when she edited it for Ms Thunberg.

In the heightened atmosphere of the exaggerated nature of the petty violence that broke out at Red Fort on January 26, the reckless overreach of the police under the guidance of an authoritative Union home ministry came into play. The Delhi police went off to Bengaluru, arrested Ms Ravi, and brought her to Delhi in total violation of all legal norms in a democratic polity. The courts did not

cover themselves in glory when the legal process was short-circuited in bringing Ms Ravi from Bengaluru to New Delhi as though this country was under martial law and no questions could be raised about the way the Delhi police went about hauling up an ordinary citizen in Bengaluru. The pusillanimity of the courts was further underscored when the police custody of Ms Ravi was readily granted for five days by judge Dev Saroha on February 14. This was the police riding roughshod over the law and the judge allowing it tamely. It is at the end of five days of police custody, two

days of judicial custody and another day of police custody, with the police wanting to confront Ms Ravi with the other two accused, Nikita Jacob Shantanu Muluk, that she was finally granted bail and released.

The excesses committed by the cybercrime branch of the Delhi police should have been condemned by additional sessions judge Dharmender Rana. It was easier for him to exorcise the police on the serious charge of sedition that they brought against the young woman from Bengaluru. The judge tore into the flaky evidence on which they based their charge. It was necessary that the judge had said what he had about the innocuous toolkit and the laboured connect that the police wanted to make between the toolkit, Ms Ravi and the Poetic Justice Foundation (PJF). And he rightly pointed out that the PJF was not a banned organisation for

agitation against the new laws brought by the Narendra Modi government has been the theme song of the government and the ruling party. It seems that the police just follows the lead of their political masters.

The "Khalistani" elements have been simmering beneath the surface for many years now,

but it is quite clear that the farmers have nothing to do with them either. The government and the police are fully aware

Judge Rana could have avoided the homilies about pluralist Indian civilisation going back to the Rig Veda and rapped the police for creating a faux chargesheet

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

the police to charge Ms Ravi with having associated herself with an illegal entity.

Judge Rana could have avoided the homilies about pluralist Indian civilisation going back to the Rig Veda and rapped the police for creating a faux chargesheet

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LETTERS

INDO-CHINA BIZ

India and China are inter-dependent for heavy machinery, electronics, highways and pharmaceuticals (*Business trumps nationalism*, DC, Feb. 25). Since there is a mutually agreed withdrawal of forces, it is the right time to normalise relations in limbo for some time affecting both economies.

Parthasarathy Mandadi
Tirupati

MURDER MOST FOUL

It is disheartening to note the murder of a girl student (*Stalker murders girl, people stage protest*, DC, Feb. 25). Government usually announces compensation. It must find out the root cause for such crimes and take remedial measures. Youth is being misled by movies on love and marriage. Young boys fail to realise that girls can choose whom they want as partner.

K.L. Rao
Visakhapatnam

PRIVATISATION COST

The Centre seems determined to divest public sector undertakings, if one goes by the Prime Minister's statement. Privatisation at full throttle cannot be a panacea for persistent economic problems. Moreover, such strategy will go against the economic and social aspirations of India by potentially deepening the divides between rich and poor and between socially advanced and disadvantaged by leaving the measures of social justice unattended.

Dr D.V.G.Sankararao
Vizianagaram

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Mulki rules cover all TS appointments

HYDERABAD, February 25
A full bench of the AP High Court today held that the Mulki Rules constitute a Special Law and appointments contrary to it would be invalid, although reservations for Mulki were not specifically made in departmental rules. The full bench consisted of the Chief Justice N. Kumarayya, Justice Gopal Rao Ekbot and Justice Samasiva Rao.

The petitioners, who were all superintendents of the Government departments, filed a writ petition challenging the rules for appointment of Assistant Treasury Officers and to set aside the appointment to that post by departmental recruitment.

Francis Pike

Is Antony Blinken, US President Joe Biden's secretary of state, preparing to abandon Barack Obama's powder-puff Asian foreign policies? It is now widely agreed that Mr Obama, under whom Mr Blinken served as deputy secretary of state, ceded to China uncontested control of the South China Sea. Mr Obama's so-called "pivot to Asia" was all talk and no trousers. Mr Blinken, who believes diplomacy must be "supplemented by deterrence", may be about to implement a more aggressive foreign policy in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

In his first speech as general secretary of the Communist Party of China in 2012, Xi Jinping made his intentions clear. He stated his commitment to "accepting the baton of history and continuing to work for realising the great revival of the Chinese nation in order to let the Chinese nation stand more firmly and powerfully among all nations". President Xi's international adventurism, under the umbrella of his "Belt and Road Initiative", has been most evident in his illegal military occupation of the South China Sea, but it is a global strategy for domination which can be observed in Central Asia, the Indian Ocean, the

Middle East, Europe, even the Arctic. How did Mr Obama respond? He did nothing. He issued platitudes. He vacillated over whether the Mutual Defence Treaty with the Philippines included the disputed South China Sea. By the end of his presidency, it was too late. And weakness in the South China Sea was undoubtedly an invitation for Mr Xi to push elsewhere on Mr Obama's open door.

There are indications that the Biden administration will seek to construct alliances in Europe and Asia to contain the Chinese and Russian threats. As a former deputy secretary of state, Mr Blinken has long been President Biden's point man on Europe and is known to be a long-time confidant. For a "multilateralist" who speaks fluent French, getting Europe onside will be important.

British PM Boris Johnson has been floating the idea of a "D-10" group: G-7 plus India, South Korea and Australia. Having finally decided to ditch Huawei, and persuaded by China's crackdown on democracy in Hong Kong, the UK has thrown its hat into the "Stop China" camp. D-10 is a grouping that has some logic. By comparison,

Nato is undermined by the continuing membership of Turkey, now closely aligned with China. Even France's President Emmanuel Macron said Nato was "brain dead". But is the D-10 a credible base for an anti-Chinese containment strategy?

A containment strategy needs real military power. Besides the UK and France, the other European nations are largely window dressing. One suspects neither Mr Biden nor Mr Blinken have the cojones to initiate armed conflict to contest China's already established military control of the South China Sea.

If Southeast Asia is lost, what next? China has already moved on to securing control of the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and Suez Canal trade routes. Burma is in China's pocket. Bangladesh, with 165 million people, where in 2016 Mr Xi made the first state visit by a Chinese leader in 30 years, is being increasingly suborned by Chinese infrastructure investment and armaments. In the south, where the Bay of Bengal meets the Indian Ocean, China is entrenched. In 2018, China negotiated a 99-year lease for Sri Lanka's Hambantota port and 15,000 adjacent acres — just off

India's coast.

There's the rub. For China's Southeast Asia strategy is to contain India, which it sees as its long-term geopolitical rival. Although India lags a distant third to America and China in terms of aggregate GDP, it is also likely to overtake the US in 20 to 30 years. India already ranks fourth in the world in terms of aggregate military power.

As the world's largest democracies, the United States and India should always be the best of friends. Yet US-Indian relations have rarely worked well. India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, rebuffed President Eisenhower; Nehru's meeting with President Kennedy was a car crash. (Kennedy later admitted it was "the worst head of state visit I have had".) Henry Kissinger described Indira Gandhi's meeting with Richard Nixon as a "dialogue of the deaf"; even the normally polite Kissinger described Mrs Gandhi as "a bitch". Relations between American and Indian heads of government have later improved, but their substance has not. Mr Obama liked Dr Manmohan Singh but judging from his autobiography they do not seem

to have discussed much more than "progressive politics". As for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ultra-nationalist Hindu head of the BJP, he is, like Donald Trump, a populist with a cult following. Mr Biden may well court Mr Modi too. Noticeably Mr Blinken, like Donald Trump, refers to Asia as the "Indo-Pacific" — a term that the Chinese government detests.

While the geopolitical interests of America and India are clearly in alignment, bringing them into a more formal arrangement may be difficult. India is proudly independent. It does things its own way, and its prickly relationship with the West remains.

While India — currently engaged in border skirmishes with China in the remote Himalayas — is fully aware of the Chinese threat, it may be difficult to lasso the country into a formal mutual defence relationship. The D-10 is one of those neat ideas that might look good in a state department or Foreign Office briefing but, given the difficulties of co-opting India and Germany, can it cut the mustard in the real world?

By arrangement with the Spectator

India, America & China: Can 'D-10' forge new relationships?

SHORT TAKES
CAR WITH GELATIN FOUND NEAR AMBANI'S HOUSE

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, FEB. 25

An abandoned vehicle with 20 gelatin sticks was found just metres away from business tycoon Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai on Thursday.

The SUV was noticed at around 3 pm after which some people from the vicinity alerted the local police, who rushed to the spot and cordoned off the entire area, sending the state government and the police into a tizzy.

A Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) team reached the spot immediately, he said. It was not an assembled explosive device, he said, adding that further investigation was on. "A Scorpio with 20 gelatin sticks was found near Mukesh Ambani's Mumbai residence. The crime branch of Mumbai Police is investigating the entire matter and the truth will emerge soon," Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh said.

According to reports, CCTV footage of the area revealed the SUV was parked beside a tree on the Carmichael Road at around 1 am. More than one person was seen alighting from the car. Deshmukh said that the car was parked some distance away from Ambani's palatial house. Mumbai Police spokesperson, DCP S. Chaitanya, said, "The gelatin sticks recovered in the SUV were not an assembled explosive device. But details of the risks they posed would be known only after a thorough probe."

Efforts are on to trace the persons who parked the vehicle there, from where they came, what were their diabolic motives, who or what were the exact targets etc., officials said.

RSS ACTIVIST'S MURDER: 8 SDPI WORKERS HELD

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
FEB. 25

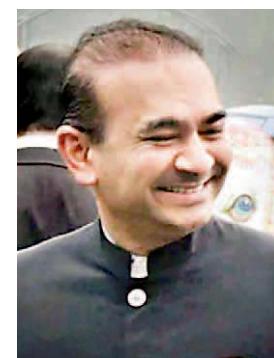
The brutal murder of RSS activist in Vayalar in Alappuzha district of Kerala allegedly by SDPI workers, the political arm of PFI, has created tension in many parts of the area.

Nandu N. Krishna, 23, was hacked to death allegedly by SDPI workers on Wednesday night following a political clash between the rival groups. Eight SDPI workers have been arrested in connection with the murder; Suneer, 33, Yasir, 32, Abdul Khader, 52, Mohammed Amaz, 24, Ansil, 33, Riyaz, 38, Nishad, 32, and Shabudeen, 49.

The police said that the murder was well-planned as the assailants had arrived at the spot in a car carrying sharp edged weapons.

Nirav: From diamantaire to fugitive

He has been lodged at Wandsworth Prison in London since his arrest in March 2019



Nirav Modi

London, Feb. 25: Nirav Modi's story up until the UK court verdict on Thursday, just two days before his 50th birthday, is one of stark contrasts. From someone flush with diamonds, quite literally, as a member of a Gujarati family of gem traders who grew up in the European jewellery hub of Antwerp in Belgium, to ending up holed up in a jail cell in one Europe's most overcrowded prisons.

The diamond merchant wanted in India on charges of fraud and money laundering in the estimated USD 2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case, lost his legal battle against extradition as a UK judge ruled that he does have a case to answer before the Indian courts.

He has been lodged at Wandsworth Prison in south-west London since his arrest on an extradition warrant in March 2019 at a central London bank branch, where he was trying to set up a new account.

He had been staying nearby at a plush penthouse in Centrepoin in the heart of the UK capital, regularly walking his dog to an apparently new jewellery business nearby.

It later emerged during remand hearings at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London that he had hired Boutique Law LLP in anticipation of the extradition proceedings on charges of fraud and money laundering by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED), trying to strike a voluntary surrender and bail deal.

However, as the CBI and ED evidence was presented in court by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), arguing on behalf of the Indian authorities, his offer of up to GBP 4 million as security to be allowed to be bailed under strict house arrest conditions was repeatedly rejected.

His detention in a shared cell with one other inmate is a far cry from his past billionaire lifestyle, which involved hobnobbing with high-profile celebrities and world stars.

"I was totally impressed with the craftsmanship at the workshop [in India]. It was the best quality I could see anywhere in the world," Thierry Fritsch, a high-end French jewellery expert, told the UK court during the course of the extradition hearing last year.

As someone who had served on the Advisory Board of Nirav Modi's company for three years since 2015, Fritsch was deposed by the defence team to vouch for Nirav's integrity and skills as an entrepreneur and creative person, who was passionate about establishing the first international brand of luxury jewellery out of India.

A gems expert, Dr Richard Taylor, was also fielded to go into the nitty-gritties of the diamond trade and how the Nirav Modi brand had succeeded in making a mark around the world.

"The industry relies on sending out high-value product to companies and to do that they require trust and confidence," said Taylor, in an attempt to establish Modi's credibility in the business.

"India is the largest and most important centre of diamond cutting it was a very significant trend that he [Modi] was part of," he added.

The picture painted in court was one of a talented jewellery designer who was only driven by one mission to make the Nirav Modi brand worthy of competition with the likes of global luxury jewellery brands such as Tiffany or Cartier. And, the accusations associated with the extradition case were painted as nothing more than a commercial dispute.

The CPS, in turn, presented documents and video evidence in an effort to establish a complex web of misuse of a bank credit facility called letters of undertaking (LoUs) and threats issued to so-called dummy directors of front companies to keep them out of the reach of Indian investigating authorities.

Throughout the extradition case in London, Nirav Modi's depression and mental health condition remained at the heart of arguments with his extended incarceration said to have worsened his condition.

Coupled with a severe condition of depression, in my view, he presents a high risk of suicide albeit not immediately. Dr Andrew Forrester, a forensic psychiatrist who examined him, told the court in September last year.

At the time, Forrester said Nirav's mental health condition was on a deterioration trajectory and met the criteria for hospital treatment in the absence of a multi-professional plan, involving antidepressants and psychotherapy.

Except for a few initial remand hearings in 2019, Nirav has been appearing only via video link from a room in Wandsworth Prison as the case was conducted in a part-remote setting due to Covid-19 lockdown.

During the hearings last year, he seemed alert and constantly referred to files related to the case made available to him. More recently, he has appeared via video link sporting a thick beard and at times more dishevelled than his appearance in a formal shirt and suit over the past year. — PTI

Rs.No.1647/2020 G2 Dt. 18.02.2021

Collector's Office, Vizianagaram

FORM NO-VI (A)

[under Section 11 (1) of the Act, 30 of 2013
Read with Sub Rule (1) of Rule 19]

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Vizianagaram that the lands specified in the schedule below are needed for a public purpose, to wit for excavation of Right Main Canal from Km.12.412 to Km.13.500 under Taraka Rama Teertha Sagaram Reservoir Project, Notice to that effect is hereby given to all to whom it may concern in accordance with the provisions of Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30 of 2013).

As Taraka Rama Teertha Sagaram Reservoir Project is a medium Irrigation Project it was exempted from the EIA & EMP clearances from the Government of India vide published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary part II and section 3, sub section (ii) Ministry of Environment and Forests dt.14.09.2006. No families are displaced due to this acquisition.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section-12 of the Act, the District Collector, Vizianagaram hereby designates the Special Deputy Collector (L.A.), T.B.P.Unt-II, Parvathipuram, his staff and workmen to exercise the powers conferred under the above said section.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale / purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of this notification without the prior approval of the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

Objections to the acquisitions, if any, may be filed by the person(s) interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section -15 of the Act before the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

SCHEDULE

District:Vizianagaram					Mandal : Denkada	Village: Vedullavalasa					
Sl. No.	Sy.No.	Classification	Total Extent in Acs	Area under acquisition (in Ac)	Name and Address of the person interested	Boundaries				Details of Trees, Structures etc. if any	
						North	South	East	West		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
1	12-23A	Wet	0.21	0.07	Jaggupalli Venkatakrishnarao s/o Apparao	Pattadar	21A	32B	23B	24	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-5
2	12-24	Wet	0.37	0.37	Pothina Kasulu s/o Chinna Suryanarayana	Pattadar	21A	25, 32B	23A	5	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-5, Teak-4
3	12-25	Dry	0.24	0.24	Gari Guruvulu s/o Yellanna	Pattadar	24	41	32B	26, 30, 29	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					
4	12-26	Dry	0.05	0.05	Bevara Suryanarayana s/o Appalaswami	Pattadar	5	30	25	27B	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					
5	12-27B	Dry	0.10	0.02	Pilla Suryanarayana s/o Pydithalli	Pattadar	5	28B	26, 30, 29	27A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					
6	12-28B	Dry	0.15	0.02	Rampilli Venkataswami s/o Appalaswami	Pattadar	27B	S.No.41	29	28A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					
7	12-29	Dry	0.05	0.05	Bevara Ramarao S/oAppalaswami	Pattadar	30	41	25	28B	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Shed-1, Mango-9, Kagu Trees-5, Badham Plants-7
8	12-30	Dry	0.06	0.06	Bevara Venkatanarayana S/oAppalaswami	Pattadar	26	29	25	27B	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
9	12-32B	Dry	0.93	0.25	Jaggupalli Venkatakrishnarao s/o Apparao	Pattadar	24, 23A	41	32A	25	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
10	41-2B	Dry	0.11	0.10	Rampalli Laxminaidu s/o Venkataswami	Pattadar	12-29	41-3B	4A	2B	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
11	41-3B	Dry	0.21	0.06	Rampalli Narayana s/o Sriramulu	Pattadar	2B	8B	4B, 7	3A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
12	41-4A	Dry	0.40	0.34	Gari Guruvulu s/o Yellaya	Pattadar	12-25, 35B	5A, 7	4B, 5A	2B, 3B	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
13	41-5A	Dry	0.15	0.09	Bevara Vijaya w/o Venkataramana	Pattadar	4A	7, 6A	5B	4A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
14	41-6A	Dry	0.10	0.02	Bevara Vijaya w/o Venkataramana	Pattadar	5A	14A	6B	7	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
15	41-7	Dry	0.23	0.23	Bevara Vijayamma w/o Venkataramana	Pattadar	4A, 5A	14A	6A	3A, 8B	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
16	41-8B	Dry	0.17	0.08	Bevara Ramarao S/oApparao	Pattadar	3B	9B	7, 14a	9A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
17	41-9B	Dry	0.15	0.05	Bevara Venkatanarayana S/oAppalaswami	Pattadar	6B	10B	14A	9A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4
18	41-10B	Dry	0.08	0.03	Bevara Venkatanarayana s/oAppalaswami	Pattadar	9B	11B	14A	12A	
					M/s Sukhibhava Sweet Homes PVT Ltd	Enjoyer					Mango-4

SHORT TAKES
GERMAN POLICE RAID ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS

Berlin, Feb. 25: Hundreds of German police officers conducted coordinated raids early Thursday in Berlin and the surrounding state of Brandenburg in the investigation of an organisation banned over allegations of Islamic extremism. Some 800 police, including SWAT teams, were involved in the raids of apartments linked to members of the organisation, authorities told the DPA news agency. The raids were carried out with the primary focus of obtaining evidence. No arrests were immediately reported.

DRONE HIT ON SAUDI PALACE WAS FROM IRAQ

Baghdad, Feb. 25: Explosive-laden drones that targeted Saudi Arabia's royal palace in the kingdom's capital last month were launched from inside Iraq, a senior Iran-backed militia official in Baghdad and a US official said. Speaking to *The Associated Press* this week, the militia official said three drones were launched from Iraqi-Saudi border areas by a relatively unknown Iran-backed faction in Iraq and crashed into the royal complex in Riyadh on Jan. 23.

Biden revokes Green Card ban

Lawyers: Was blocking legal immigration

San Diego, Feb. 25: President Joe Biden has lifted a freeze on green cards issued by his predecessor during the pandemic that lawyers said was blocking most legal immigration to the United States. Former

President Donald Trump last spring halted the issuance of green cards until the end of 2020 in the name of protecting the Coronavirus-wracked job market — a reason that Trump gave to achieve many of the cuts to legal immigration that had eluded him before the pandemic.

Trump on December 31 extended those orders until the end of March. Trump had deemed immigrants a "risk to the US labour market" and blocked their entry to the United States in issuing Proclamation 10014 and Proclamation 10052.

Biden stated in his proclamation on Wednesday that shutting the door on legal immigrants "does not advance the interests of the United States". "To the contrary, it harms the United States, including by preventing certain family members of United States

citizens and lawful permanent residents from joining their families here. It also harms industries in the United States that utilize talent from around the world," Biden stated in his proclamation.

Most immigrant visas were blocked by the orders.

As many as 120,000 family-based preference visas were lost largely because of the pandemic-related freeze in the 2020 budget year, according to the American Immigrant Lawyers Association. Immigrants could not bring over family members unless they were US citizens applying for visas for their spouses or children under the age of 21.

It also barred entry to immigrants with employment-based visas unless they were considered beneficial to the national interest such as health care professionals. And it slammed the door on thousands of visa lottery winners who were randomly chosen from a pool of about 14 million applicants to be given green cards that would let them live permanently in the United States. The

— AP

Coup attempt: Armenia PM

Yerevan, Feb. 25: Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan accused the military of an attempted coup and brought supporters to the streets on Thursday, as months of tensions over its defeat in last year's war with Azerbaijan came to a head.

Thousands marched through the streets of the capital Yerevan in support of Pashinyan, with the opposition urging him to step down to avoid bloodshed or even civil war.

President Armen Sarkissian, whose role is largely symbolic, said he was taking

urgent steps to try to defuse the crisis, calling on all involved to "show restraint and common sense." Under pressure for his handling of the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Pashinyan has ignored repeated calls to resign for losing swathes of territory to Azerbaijan in the war.

After largely backing the prime minister for months, the military's general staff on Thursday joined calls for him to step down, saying in a statement that he and his cabinet "are not capable of taking ade-

quate decisions".

Pashinyan hit back with an accusation that top brass were mounting an "attempted military coup" and fired the chief of the general staff Onik Gasparyan. Hundreds of supporters then joined Pashinyan to march through central Yerevan, chanting "Nikol Prime Minister!"

Speaking to supporters through a megaphone, Pashinyan called for calm, as dozens of police deployed outside the main government offices. "The situation is tense, but we must agree that there cannot be

SRI LANKA SEEKS \$2.2 BN FROM CHINA

Colombo, Feb. 25: Sri Lanka is seeking \$2.2 billion from Chinese banks, the government said, in echoes of a borrowing binge more than a decade ago that resulted in the country having to give up a strategic port. Money and capital markets minister Nivard Cabral said the government was hopeful of finalising a \$1.5-billion swap facility. — AFP

Eradicated poverty in China, says Xi

Beijing, Feb. 25: President Xi Jinping on Thursday declared that China has scored a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty by lifting over 770 million people out of it in the last four decades, calling it another "miracle" created by the country that will go down in history. Absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world's most populous country, Xi announced while addressing a gathering held here to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honour its model poverty fighters.

China has a population of around 1.4 billion. "No country has been able to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time," Xi said. Xi said that all poor people in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty. With this, China has achieved the UN goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline, he said.

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All the 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list, he said. Since the launch of the reform and opening up in the late 1970s, 770 million impoverished rural residents have shaken off poverty when calculated according to China's current poverty line, he said. China has contributed to more than 70 per cent of global poverty reduction over the same period, Xi, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), said.

With such achievements,



IN THEATRES
FROM
TODAY

RELEASING TOMORROW





Dutee Chand (right) flashes a victory sign beside her coach Ramesh of Hyderabad.

Dutee, Hima set the track ablaze

Patiala: Sprinter Dutee Chand blazed the track to win the women's 100m in the Indian Grand Prix II athletics at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports campus on Thursday. Dutee won in 11.44 seconds, an improvement on the 11.51 seconds she had clocked last week in the first GP. She is hoping to qualify for the Olympic Games by meeting the 11.15 seconds standard. She can also qualify as one of the 56 starters in the Tokyo Games on the basis of her rankings. She is world No. 33 at the moment.

Meanwhile, star Indian sprinter Hima Das ran her first competitive race in more than a year and won a gold in the women's 200m in 23.31 seconds. Hima, who is yet to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, had run her last competitive race in August 2019. She had suffered a lower back injury at the 2018 Asian Games and that forced her to miss the World Championships in Doha in September 2019. — PTI

Manideep upsets seasoned Savio

Hyderabad: G. Manideep out-played seasoned player Savio Mendes in the first round to register an upset in the Senior Snooker event of the Telangana State Ranking Snooker & Billiards Championship being played at the Telangana Cue Sports Association premises at Khamaguda on Thursday.

Manideep won the opener in straight frames at 3-0 — 55-44, 55-45, 63-33.

Meanwhile, Vibhas and Syed Maaz Ali set up the final in junior snooker. In the semis, Vibhas mauled Md Faisal 54-22, 66-10, 57-15; Maaz jinked past Jeetendar 53-13, 41-33, 59-15.

THE SCORES
Senior Snooker first round: Manideep G bt Savio Mendes 3-0 (55-44, 55-45, 63-33); Faisal Zubairi bt Vamsi Krishna 3-0 (69-19, 64-31, 71-31); Md Moin Ashrafi bt Syed Ghousie Mohiuddin 3-0 (52-41, 66-23, 68-20); Srikanth bt Dheeraj Kakumanu 3-2 (49-40, 57-32, 29-61, 32-55, 51-33).

Junior Snooker semifinals: Vibhas bt Md Faisal 3-0 (54-22, 66-10, 57-15); Syed Maaz Ali bt Jeetendar 3-0 (53-13, 41-33, 59-15).

Guptill stars in Kiwi victory

Dunedin, New Zealand: Veteran batsman Martin Guptill returned to form with a blistering 97 as New Zealand held on for a nail-biting win over Australia in the second Twenty20 international in Dunedin on Thursday.

Guptill's Black Caps set

Australia a challenging target of 220 after losing the toss but

were made to sweat as

Australia came within four runs

of victory.

Both sides took advantage of University Oval's short boundaries in a thrilling match that featured 30 sixes and 434 runs at an average of 10.9 an over. Marcus Stoinis starred for the

Australians with 78 from 37 balls but Guptill's 97 from 50 laid the foundation for New Zealand's win. — AFP

Brief scores: New Zealand 219/7 in 20 overs (Guptill 97, Kane 53, K. Richardson 3/43) vs Australia 215/6 in 20 overs (Stoinis 78, Santer 4/31).

Live on TV

CRICKET
South Africa T20 Challenge: Cobras vs Lions from 1:30 pm; Dolphins vs Titans from 6 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

FOOTBALL
Indian Super League: North East United vs Kerala Blasters from 7:20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Rugby No. J/VM-RNP/72

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AXARDHAM

Patel strikes back, makes Motera his own

Ahmedabad, Feb. 25: Left-arm spinner Axar Patel created an illusion of turn with 11 straighter deliveries that put India on the brink of the World Test Championship final with a 10-wicket demolition of England inside two days in the day-night third Test here on Thursday.

In only his second Test, Patel (15-0-32-5), with a match-haul of 11/70, relentlessly hit the good length, area and hoodwinked England batsmen, who played for turn only to find that there was none on offer from him.

The result was their lowest total against India — 81 all out in 30.4 overs leaving the hosts with a target of 49 which they achieved with minimum fuss taking a 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

At the other end, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (15-3-48-4) was an ideal foil, becoming the fourth Indian bowler and second fastest in the world to complete a commendable milestone of 400 Test wickets with the dismissal of Jofra Archer.

Incidentally, after Afghanistan's debut Test in 2018 in Bengaluru, this was the second time that India won a Test match, well inside two days.

This was after England skipper Joe Root's fabulous career-best spell of 62-3-8-5 resulted in India's dramatic collapse from 114 for 3 to 145 all out.

India lost as many as seven wickets for only 31 runs after looking solid at 114 for 3 at one stage in the game but England lost all 10 in an entire session in which no pacer was seen in action.

Ironically, it was the non-turning deliveries from Patel that had the England's rank and file pressing the panic button as they pre-empted away turn every time.

Whether it was Zak Crawley, Jonny Bairstow or skipper Root, everyone lost the mind-game as Ashwin also joined the fun with records tumbling one after another.

When Patel sent back Ben Foakes, he became the first spinner to get 11 wickets in a pink ball Test match.

While a bowler might end up getting the man of the match, Rohit Sharma's 66 off 96 balls in the first essay was 24-carat gold given that other batsmen looked like sitting ducks.

But Indian batsmen save Rohit did have a torrid time during an afternoon session when Root and Leach made their lives miserable.

Ajinkya Rahane was rapped on the pads as Leach fired one in and it was not much of an issue for umpire Nitin Menon to adjudge him leg before.

— PTI

England 1st Innings: 112

India 1st Innings (Overnight 99/3): Rohit Sharma lbw b Jack Leach 66, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Jack Leach 7, Rishabh Pant c Foakes b Root 1, Ravichandran Ashwin c Zak Crawley b Root 17, Washington Sundar b Root 0, Axar Patel c D Sibley b Root 0, Ishant Sharma not out 10, Jasprit Bumrah lbw b Root 1, Extras (B-2, LB-2, W-1) 5. **Total (all out in 53.2 overs) 145.** **FoW:** 1-3, 2-34, 3-98, 4-114, 5-115, 6-117, 7-125, 8-125, 9-134.

Bowling: James Anderson 13-8-20-0, Stuart Broad 6-16-0, Jofra Archer 5-2-24-1, Jack Leach 20-2-54-4, Ben Stokes 3-0-19, Joe Root 6-2-3-8-5.

England 2nd Innings: Z. Crawley b Axar Patel 0, D. Sibley c Pant b Patel 7, J.

Bairstow b Axar Patel 0, J. Root lbw b Axar Patel 19, B. Stokes lbw b Ashwin 25, O. Pope b Ashwin 12, B. Foakes lbw b Axar Patel 8, J. Archer lbw b Ashwin 0, J. Leach c Rahane b Ashwin 9, S. Broad not out 1, J. Anderson c Pant b Sundar 0. **Extras 0. Total (all out in 30.4 overs) 81.**

FoW: 1-0, 2-0, 3-19, 4-60, 5-56, 6-66, 7-68, 9-80.

Bowling: Axar Patel 15-0-32-5, Ashwin 15-3-48-4, Sundar 0.4-0-1-1.

India 2nd Innings: Rohit Sharma not out 25, Shubman Gill not out 15. Extras (B-8, LB-1). **Total (for no loss in 7.4 overs) 49.**

Bowling: J. Leach 4-1-15-0, J. Root 3-4-0-25-0.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER

Axar Patel of India appeals for England's Zak Crawley's wicket during Day Two of their third Test at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

England 1st Innings: 112

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— S. PERVEZ QASIER

wickets and go up 2-1 in the series.

Sourav Ganguly and Mohammed Azharuddin have 21 and 14 victories to their credit as captains with 35 wins.

India chased down a target of 49 runs in only 7.4 overs to win the Test by 10.

— PTI

on the points table, which is now led by India with 71 percentage points," the ICC stated.

"England are out of the race for a place in the final of the ICC World Test Championship after losing the third Test against India in Ahmedabad," it added.

England needed to win the four-match series 3-1 to play the June 18-22 final. New Zealand are assured of a place in the final with 70 percentage points.

If India lose the final Test then Australia will sneak in to make the final.

— PTI

on 64.1 percentage points

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