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West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee flashes victory sign at a press meet in Kolkata on Friday. — DC

MAMATA'S DARE: CONTESTS ONLY AT NANDIGRAM

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, MARCH 5

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee fielded 291 Trinamul candidates, while leaving the rest three for her secret ally — Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (Bimal Gurung faction) in the hills of North Bengal.

Banerjee will contest only from one seat — Nandigram. "I always keep my words. I won as MLA from Bhowanipore twice. If needed, I will fight from there again but later. Bhowanipore in any case remains in my grip. So it does not matter if I do not fight from here now," she said.

She challenged the BJP saying: "Khela hobey, dekha hobey, jita hobey" (game is on; we will contest, will fight, will win).

The TMC has dropped 27 MLAs mainly over the age of 80 and three ministers.

KCR won't bank on sympathy for win

To field local BC candidate for N'Sagar seat

L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has firmed up his decision to field a local candidate from Backward Classes, belonging to the Yadava community, for the upcoming byelection to the Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency, according to TRS sources.

Rao is learnt to have taken this decision ostensibly not to bank on any 'sympathy factor', which failed to work in the Dubbaka Assembly byelection last December.

This implies that Nomula Bharat, son of Nagarjunasagar MLA Nomula Narasimhaiah, will not get the ticket as was widely speculated earlier as Bharath Yadav (Tripuraram mandal), Mannem Ranjith Yadav and Katteboyina Guravaiah Yadav (Nidamanuru mandal).

Based on multiple survey reports, he has zeroed in on Guravaiah Yadav, son-in-law of former MLA Ramamurthy Yadav and a close

AS SYMPATHY factor did not work in Dubbaka, KCR is being extra cautious in the selection of the candidate where the Congress has decided to field its strongman K. Jana Reddy

iah's death has necessitated the bypoll. Rao reportedly assured Bharat of a nominated post soon.

The Chief Minister is learnt to have considered three local candidates from the Yadava community: Peddaboyina Srinivas Yadav (Tripuraram mandal), Mannem Ranjith Yadav and Katteboyina Guravaiah Yadav (Nidamanuru mandal).

Based on multiple survey reports, he has zeroed in on Guravaiah Yadav, son-in-law of former MLA Ramamurthy Yadav and a close

relative of the party's Rajya Sabha member Badugula Lingaiah Yadav.

An official announcement on Guravaiah's candidature is likely to be made immediately after the Election Commission announces the schedule for the bypoll.

The TRS chief gave a ticket to Solipeta Sujatha, widow of Solipeta Ramaiah Reddy in Dubbaka, relying on the 'sympathy factor'. However, the BJP defeated the TRS by projecting itself as the principal opposition in the state.

In this backdrop, Rao is being extra cautious in the selection of the candidate where the Congress has decided to field its strongman K. Jana Reddy, who has won seven times from this seat but lost to Narasimhaiah in 2018.

■ Page 2: Surveys suggest voters preferred a local

STATE ECONOMY OUTPERFORMS DESPITE COVID

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Despite the Covid-induced economic slowdown, Telangana state has "outperformed" various and registered a 1.35 per cent GSDP growth in the current fiscal 2020-21.

The state also registered 0.61 per cent growth in per capita income, according to data submitted to the Centre by the state government's Directorate of Economics and Statistics. The growth rate is better than the national average.

The government has put the GSDP (state's GDP) at ₹9,78,375 crore and per capita income at ₹2,27,145. At the national level, the GDP was ₹203.51 lakh crore last year. This year, in 2020-21, it fell to ₹195.86 lakh crore, amounting to a decrease of 3.8 per cent. At the national level, the per capita income decreased by 4.8 per cent.

■ Page 2: TS economy grew 12% since 2014



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HC contempt verdicts worry babus

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar has created a record of sorts, though for the wrong reasons, leading a group of officers facing the highest number of contempt of court cases in the Telangana High Court.

Recently, Chief Justice Hima Kohli categorically said that contempt of court

is a reflection of the wilful disobedience exhibited by the executive on the judiciary. Contempt cases drew attention following the recent three-month imprisonment slapped on a collector while two other officers were given the option of deciding between imprisonment and social service.

As many as 324 contempt cases have been filed against Somesh Kumar

since 2013. Rajeshwar Tiwari, former special CS, revenue, follows the CS with about 120 cases. Some cases have been dropped as they were later implemented by the court orders, but most cases are still pending.

Though he becomes the de-facto respondent on behalf of the state government by virtue of his position as CS, Somesh Kumar had faced or is still facing

many contempt charges for "wilful disobedience" in his other capacities also.

Inquiries by *Deccan Chronicle* revealed that the top officials had to face contempt for not implementing orders relating to cases as small as sanction of financial assistance to patients from the CM Relief Fund.

■ Page 5: Officials blame political bosses for inaction

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Star: Jyeshta till 9.39 pm

Variyam: Nil

Durmuhurtam: 6.34 am to 8.08 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

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Rajab 21, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.31 am

Zohar: 12.37 pm

Asar: 4.43 pm

Maghrub: 6.30 pm

Isha: 7.36 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.23 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.30 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 12.32 PM

MOONSET TODAY 11.57 AM

COUNTER POINT



We have a tie-up with one party, a secret pact with another, and an understanding with the rest!

IN BRIEF

Mayor accused of threatening man

Hyderabad: City Mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi was accused of threatening a person on Friday. Greater Hyderabad SC Cell president C. Ramchander alleged that Vijayalakshmi threatened him over phone on a nala encroachment issue. He asked TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao for protection as he was allegedly facing threat from the city mayor. When this paper tried to reach Vijayalakshmi she was unavailable for the comment.

CYBER FRAUDS CHEAT WOMAN OF ₹11 LAKH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

A woman from Hyderabad was allegedly cheated of ₹11 lakh by inter-state cyber fraudsters who claimed to be NRIs on a matrimonial site.

The Hyderabad cybercrime police said the victim, a dancer, had posted her personal details on a matrimonial site to seek a suitable alliance. She received a call from a man who expressed interest and claimed to be an NRI from the United Kingdom, working with a leading car manufacturer.

After a few weeks of being in touch, they decided to get married. The man then told her that would send her gifts of jewellery and costly gadgets.

Two days later, she received a call from another person claiming to be a Customs official from the Delhi airport, who said she should pay customs charges, tax and other expenses. She ended up paying ₹11.7 lakh to the fraudsters before she realised she was cheated.

POST | LOCKDOWN

More people in rural areas take state buses

More people opt for RTC buses

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC

HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

With economic activities back in full force, TSRTC is now plying 80 per cent of its buses in rural areas and 75 per cent in urban areas, compared to pre-Covid-19 times, Corporation officials have said.

The footfall too has risen in urban areas after colleges and schools reopened, they said. It may be recalled that after the janata curfew on March 22, 2020, TSRTC stopped its services for 58 days. When it resumed services across



Minister K.T. Rama Rao poses for a selfie with people attending the CII Telangana conference on 'T-Next: Reimagining and catalysing growth for a sustainable tomorrow', in Hyderabad on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Centre ignores TS projects: KTR

Urges BJP govt to place economics above politics in interest of the country

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao came down heavily on the BJP-led government at the Centre on Friday, saying it is meting out grave injustice to the state since its formation in 2014.

Addressing a conference, 'T-Next: Reimagining and catalysing growth for a sustainable tomorrow', organised by the Telangana chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here, the minister said several requests from the state government for sanction of new projects remained held up in Delhi.

These included proposals on a dry port, the IT Investment Region (ITIR), the Kazipet rail coach factory, a textile mega cluster, a branch of the National Textile Research Institute and Export Promotion Council, an Indian Institute of Handlooms, technology institutes, a defence incubator, a centre of excellence, a

● **K.T. RAMA RAO** also took a dig at the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

vaccine testing centre, a medical devices park, a plastics park and a leather park. All such requests have all fallen on deaf ears, he said.

The minister said the Centre was making a lot of money from Telangana state via collection of various taxes but giving nothing in return.

Rama Rao urged the BJP government to place economics above politics in the interest of the country. "Political considerations should not come in the way of sanctioning strategic projects. I would like to tell the central government that talks about Team India to make sure that they deliver on this promise and help states like Telangana to grow with the support of the industry," he said. The minister also took a dig at the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, saying mere slogans will not work

unless concrete steps are taken to achieve the desired goals. No company would like to invest under the Make in India programme unless the import duties on machinery are relaxed, he said.

"We sought strengthening of the existing railway network, but there has been no response. While construction of eight railway lines and survey of three more lines are pending, the proposals from the state for sanction of four new railway lines have been ignored. While the Centre has sanctioned a bullet train project for Gujarat, it has not allocated even a single corridor to the southern states. Is Telangana not eligible for bullet train project?" Rama Rao asked.

"Rather than supporting the Hyderabad Pharma City, the Centre brought the new bulk drug parks scheme which led to unnecessary competition between major states, delaying establishment of pharma industries here," he alleged.

EducationUSA centre launched for students

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

A new EducationUSA centre that provides advising to students intending to study in the United States was inaugurated in the city on Friday. The centre, will provide US higher educational advising to prospective students free of charge.

The US is by far, the destination of choice for Indian students.

Most of them come from this part of India,

Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, US

Consul General Joel

Reifman said after inau-

gurating the centre in Jubilee Hills.

Underscoring the numbers of Telugu speaking people going to the US to study, Reifman said, "One in four Telugu families

has a US connection."

On the issue of granting student visas to the US, Reifman, referring to the changes in education that were forced by the Covid-19 pandemic, said, "Our visa policy has remained constant. The US welcomes all qualified students. We prioritise student visa interviews. One in five international students in the US is Indian."

He said more US visa-seekers can be serviced each day a year from now when the US Consulate General building in the city will go operational. The current facility in Paigah Palace in Begumpet, has 14 interview windows while the new consulate will have 54. "The new consulate reflects the US' commitment to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha,"

Reifman said. David Kennedy, the minister counsellor for public affairs from the US Embassy in New Delhi, said the new advising centre, established in partnership with Y Axis Foundation, "is our clear commitment to extend our services."

The three-state region in the consulate in Hyderabad serves, "Is the beating heart of Indian students demand (to study in the US)," he said. The centre, he said, has the ability to provide accurate and unbiased information to students about education opportunities in the United States.

As many as 1,93,124 students from India are pursuing education in the US which has 4,700 accredited universities and educational institutions.

TSRTC recovers income, deposits PF

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

The TSRTC on Friday reported that after the loss-making period during the Covid-19 lockdown, it is slowly earning an average of ₹11 crore every day as revenue.

During the lockdown, the RTC earned about ₹2 crore

by providing bare minimum essential services.

The financial turnaround for TSRTC also enabled it to deposit around ₹32 crore into the Provident Fund accounts of its employees, the corporation said, adding that salaries for February were paid on Friday to the employees.

Water supply to be affected on March 8

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Water supply will be affected on Monday in several areas as the HMWS&SB takes up work on Phases I, II and III of the Krishna water supply scheme.

The affected areas are: Santhoshnagar, Vinayaga, Saidabad, Asmangadi, Yakutpura, Mahbub Mansion, Narayanguda, Boggulakunta, Adikmet, Shivam, Chilkalguda, Riyasathnagar, Aliabad, Miralam, BN Reddy, Autonagar, Vanasthalipuram, Maruthinagar, Elugutta, Habsiguda, Nacharam, Boduppal, Tarwnaka, Lalapet, Marredpally, Cantonment, MES, Prakashnagar, Mekalamandi, Balapur, Maisaram, Sahebnagar, Mairaldevpally, Bandlaguda, PDP, Golden Heights, Suleman Nagar; 9 No. Bhojagutta, Allabanda, Gandhamguda, Asifnagar, Prashsanagar, Madhapur and Shaikpet reservoirs.

● **IT WOULD** be hit as HMWS&SB takes up work on Phases I, II and III of the Krishna water supply scheme.

PRIME LAND ON MAIN ROAD FOR SALE

OPP TO STATE SECRETARIAT, SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD

Total Land Area :

1538 Sq Yds.

Land can also be used for Real Estate including Commercial Building, Malls or Residential

Interested parties/brokers/property consultants can contact on

98490 30540 | 98199 91011

odshibu@hotmail.com



Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Advertisement No.3/2021 (R-V)

BRIEF NOTICE

BARC invites applications for the following training course being conducted under the aegis of Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), which is deemed to be University.

Diploma in Radiological Physics (Dip. R.P.)

Duration of the Course 1 year (August 2021- July 2022)

No. of seats Non-Sponsored: 25, Sponsored: 05

Age limit (As on 01/08/2021)

- (a) General Category – 26 years
- (b) OBC – 29 years
- (c) SC/ST – 31 years
- (d) Dependents of those who died in the riots of 1984 (Dep1984) – 31 years
- (e) Persons domiciled in Kashmir Division of Jammu and Kashmir State from 01/1/1980 to 31/12/1989 (Dom Kashmir) – 31 years

Physically Challenged persons are eligible for age relaxation of maximum up to 10 years. The candidates with physical disabilities limited to the lower extremities, but permitting to stand, move and physically able to carry out the course requirement only will be considered. For the sponsored candidates the age limit as on 01/08/2021 is 40 years.

Master Degree in Physics (M.Sc., Physics) with not less than 60% marks in aggregate and B.Sc. Degree (with Physics as main subject) with not less than 60% marks in aggregate. In case of grade system, grade to percentage of marks conversion scheme obtained from University should be attached along with the application failing which application will be rejected. Those, whose final results of M.Sc. qualifying degree are awaited, but are otherwise eligible, can also apply. In addition to the above qualification, the sponsored candidates should have at least one-year working experience in Radiotherapy Department of Government Institution in India (supported by Personal monitoring services).

Stipend ₹ 25,000/- p.m. (for non-sponsored candidate)

Closing Date 05/04/2021 (Monday 5th April, 2021)

For receipt of application

Date of Common Entrance Test 09/05/2021 (Sunday 9th May, 2021)

Applications will be accepted On-Line ONLY. Facility for On-line application will be available from 06/03/2021 to 05/04/2021.

For General conditions and online submission of application please visit the website recruit.barc.gov.in / www.barc.gov.in

OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD
TSPGECET-2021 NOTIFICATION

(Post Graduate Engineering Common Entrance Test Conducted on behalf of TSCHC)

Applications are invited for appearing for Post-graduate Engineering Common Entrance Test (TSPGECET) for admission into M.E/M.Tech/M.Pharm/M.Arch/Graduate level Pharm. D (P.B.), (Full Time courses) in various Universities, constituent and Affiliated Engineering, Pharmacy and Architecture Colleges in Telangana State for the academic year 2021-2022.

Eligible candidates who wish to apply for TSPGECET - 2021 may submit their applications through online mode only. Online submission of application will commence from 12-03-2021. The related information regarding eligibility, Syllabi, instructions, procedure for online application and detailed time-table will be available on the website: <https://pgecet.tsche.ac.in> or <http://www.tsche.ac.in>.

Registration fee: Rs.1000/- (Rs.500/- for SC/ST/PWD candidates) per candidate per test. In case a candidate wants to appear for more than one test, separate registration fee has to be paid accordingly.

Examination dates: 19-06-2021 to 22-06-2021.

Mode of Exam: The Exam will be conducted online only i.e., Computer Based Test (CBT).

The Registration fee should be paid through payment gateway (Credit Card/Debit Card / Net Banking/TS Online / AP online).

Hyderabad, Date: 06-03-2021

DIPR No.1555PP/CL-Agency/ADVT/1/2020-21, Dt:05-03-2021

Sd/- CONVENER,
TSPGECET-2021

Directorate of Film Festivals



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



68th National Film Awards

</div

SHORT TAKES

FOREST DEPT GETS 5,488 FIRE ALERTS ACROSS STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

The forest department received 410 fire alerts on Friday, 76 of them coming from the Komaram Bheem-Arifabad district. The state has so far received 5,488 fire alerts of which all 3,726 fires were attended to. These fires destroyed 4,167.41 hectares of forests. Nagarkurnool district was worst affected where the fire razed 666.88 hectares.

A total of 314 fires occurred relating to forestry works and 364 relating to the Recognition of Forest Rights (ROFR) Act and encroachments.

In view of the rising number of fires, the forest department on Friday organised an awareness program which saw village sarpanches and others from the Pocharam section in the Medak district in attendance. Officials said that they have planned similar awareness camps in other parts of the state.

CONGRESS: TRS, BJP HAVE RUINED HYD BRAND IMAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Sameer Waliullah, head of the Hyderabad City Congress Committee (HCCC) minorities wing, on Friday blamed both TRS and BJP for ruining the brand image of Hyderabad, which is getting reflected in the way its national ranking has nosedived across sectors.

"Most of the time, it is the citizen's perception that plays a major role in a city earning a rank. The TRS government has failed in consolidating the brand image of Hyderabad. Consequently, this has changed people's perception about the city," he said. He said that the earlier Congress governments worked hard in transforming Hyderabad and made it a global brand. It was on top in Mercer's Quality of Living Index in India in 2015. However, the incumbent government's mismanagement in the last seven years, has destroyed the city's image and also its branding," he said.

SRILAKSHMI ASKS HC TO QUASH CBI CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Y. Srilakshmi, principal secretary in the AP government, has filed an additional affidavit before the Telangana High Court seeking to quash the CBI cases registered against her in relation to granting of mining licence to Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) and others in Anantapur district when she was secretary, industries and commerce, in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government.

This adds to her earlier application for quashing of CBI cases which has been pending before the court since 2015.

In the additional application, Srilakshmi said the allegations against her were with regard to the exercise before grant of licence to OMC. The CBI hadn't raised any contentions in its report about granting of licence to the OMC. This shows the allegations of quid pro quo against here were not maintainable.

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

This is to caution general public and prospective purchasers of house property bearing H.No. 3-4-768, Barkatpura, Hyderabad. In the proposed sale-auction dated 9-3-2021, brought to my notice by Canara Bank, Estate Policy and Contingency Section, General Administration Wing Head Office Bengaluru, claiming to be the owner of the property. My client, Sri R. Kalavathi Das and others, legal heirs, agreed to accept to decree in OS No. 211 of 1977, dated 4-4-1977 on the file of Vth Addl. Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad against the original owners Sri. Sundari Bai, W/o Late Lakshmi Das and others, legal heirs, agreed to decree in CCCA No. 236 of 1969 was withdrawn by them on 7-12-2012 thus giving finality to the decree of the trial court. Canara Bank, Karnataka Bank Limited and other concerned party to the CCCA in which an interim order of protection was granted in favor of my clients.

General public are further put on notice that Canara Bank is claiming the property on manipulation and independent purchaser from the original Disposals Order No. 4 of 1977. Further questioning the purchase made by Canara Bank. My clients have filed OS No. 161 of 1995 before the Vith Addl. Senior Civil Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad appealing the decree of CCCA No. 236 of 2007 is pending before the Hon'ble High Court to which Canara Bank is also a party.

Therefore, it may be noted that anyone seeking to purchase the property must be doing so at their own risk and such documents will not be binding on my clients.

Sd/-

V.RAHARIHAN

ADVOCATE.

Office at: 1-1-336/35, Vivek Nagar,

Chikkadpally, Hyderabad-500 020.

Mobile No. 9440057964

(S/2020/D01309)

Protest for salaries



Police detain BJYM activists who were protesting at the Intermediate Board Office in Nampally demanding salaries for college lecturers and to cancel the licence of colleges that are collecting extra tuition fee from students, in Hyderabad on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

Congress promotes social justice: Uttam

Rising unemployment, fuel prices will help Cong win MLC polls

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Congress president Sonia Gandhi for a general category seat. Therefore, he said, it becomes the duty of entire Congress cadre to work hard for the victory of Ramulu Naik in MLC elections.

Uttam Kumar Reddy slammed the BJP government at the centre and state government in the state for the huge rise in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. He maintained that this itself will majorly contribute for the defeat of BJP and TRS candidates.

The Congress MP accused Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao of doing nothing for the nearly 30 lakh unemployed youth in Telangana, 19 lakh of whom have registered with the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC). He demanded

that the state government immediately fill all the 1.91 lakh vacancies identified by the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), besides taking measures to generate employment opportunities for the remaining 28 lakh jobless persons. In the interim, the state government should provide the promised allowance of ₹3,016 to all unemployed youth with retrospective effect from December 2018.

The TPCC chief asserted that the main contest in the MLC election from Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency is between Congress and TRS. He said voting for Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) president Prof. M. Kodandaram will be a waste as he is not a strong contender. He said all graduates should unite for victory of the Congress candidate.

Rajeshwar Reddy has no moral right to seek votes in the MLC elections as he has done nothing for unemployed graduates or youth during the past six years as MLC. He charged that TRS leaders are now trying to win elections by spending their ill-gotten money and supplying liquor to voters.

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SHORT TAKES

MERCURY MAY RISE IN TS BY SUNDAY: IMD

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the heat would intensify by March 7. It has kept temperatures under watch for the next 48 hours.

"North-easterly and southerly winds are blowing over the state. So, we will have to monitor the changes in the temperature," Dr Nagarathna, director, IMD Hyderabad, told *Deccan Chronicle*. "We are also following an anti-cyclonic circulation over central India. This system could increase the temperature of the northern districts in the state by 2° to 4°C Celsius," she said. On Friday, Hyderabad recorded its highest temperature of 37°C at Trimulgherry, followed by 36.9°C at Maitrivanam in Ameerpet. Kusumanchi at Pedapallli district recorded 38.8°C.

DEFENCE MEET CALLS TO FOCUS ON CAPABILITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

The need for a shift from threat-based force structuring to one based on capability was emphasised during the second day of the national webinar, "Transformation: Imperatives for Indian Armed Forces" at the College of Defence Management in Secunderabad on Friday.

Air Marshal S.P. Wagle from the Headquarters, IDS, said this should be done to fulfil the national military objectives. Lt Gen. Rajinder Dewan from IHQ of MoD (Army) covered issues related to preparation for conventional / hybrid challenges. Commodore Susheel Menon from IHQ of MoD (Navy) on force projection based on India's security concerns in Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Air Vice Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari from Air HQ, who delivered a talk on Aerospace force structures for the future - Prospects for the IAF.

Felicitation



Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar felicitates para badminton world champion Manasi Joshi during the International Women's Day celebrations organised by Cyberabad police and Society for Cyberabad Security Council at Tech Mahindra, on Friday. Badminton coach Purnell Gopichand also attended the event.

— R. PAVAN

City reports two rape cases, 2 held

Optical shop owner, worker at masjid arrested

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Days before the International Women's Day, two rape cases were reported in the city, one in Rein Bazaar and one involving a minor girl in Bowenpally.

In the Bowenpally case, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped and raped by one Imran, 25, a worker at a nearby masjid, police said. Imran had lured her in the name of love and took her away from her house on March 2. As the girl was a minor, the police booked a kidnap case traced her before nabbing Imran.

"Though they claimed that the act was consensual, it will be considered rape as the victim is a minor," said Begumpet ACP Nareesh Reddy. The Rein Bazar police arrested an optical shop owner,

RACHAKONDA POLICE AVERT CHILD MARRIAGE, RESCUE 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

went to their houses and counselled them following which they called off their wedding," police said. Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat, appreciating the good work of the She Teams, requested citizens not to encourage child marriages as it is a crime. "Priests, wedding invitation printers, elders and supporters of the marriage and parents of the child would be held responsible," he said.

A child marriage was averted by the Rachakonda police She Teams of Bhongir division who rescued a minor girl on Friday.

According to the police, the parents of a 13-year-old girl of Masaipet in Yadadri had fixed her wedding with a 22-year-old man from the neighbouring village. "Upon receiving information, we

went to their houses and counselled them following which they called off their wedding," police said. Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat, appreciating the good work of the She Teams, requested citizens not to encourage child marriages as it is a crime. "Priests, wedding invitation printers, elders and supporters of the marriage and parents of the child would be held responsible," he said.

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IN BRIEF

RAPE SURVIVOR SET ABLAZE IN RAJASTHAN

Jaipur, Mar 5: A 33-year-old rape survivor was set afire in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district, police said on Friday.

The woman has been admitted to a hospital in Bikaner with serious burn injuries, Golupura Station House Officer (SHO) Omprakash said, adding that Pradeep Vishnoi, who was accused by the woman of raping her in 2018, has been detained for questioning. The incident occurred in the early hours of Thursday.

The victim, who has a daughter, was living with her maternal grandmother following a dispute with her husband, the police said.

A man entered their house premises in the early hours of Thursday, sprinkled kerosene on the floor, knocked on the door and called the woman by her name. As she opened the door, the man dropped a burning stick on the floor, resulting in serious injuries to her, the SHO said.

He said the victim's maternal grandmother has accused Vishnoi of committing the crime and the latter has been detained for questioning.

BRIDE DIES OF HEART ATTACK DURING BIDAII

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 5

Marriage celebrations turned into mourning in Odisha's Sonepur district on Friday morning as a newlywed bride collapsed and died after suffering a massive heart attack during the 'bidaai' ceremony.

The bride Gupteswari Sahoo (Rosy), daughter of Murali Sahoo and Menaka of Julunda village, was declared dead by the doctors at the Dunguripalli Community Health Centre before admission.

Rosy tied the knot with Bisakesan Pradhan of Tentulu village in a simple ceremony at the bride's parental house on Thursday evening.

On Friday morning when the family members were preparing for the 'bidaai' (bride leaving father's house for in-law's place) ceremony, Rosy who was crying inconsolably, suddenly fainted and collapsed on the ground.

Family members and relatives of the newlywed couple present at the spot tried to wake up Gupteswari by sprinkling water on her face. However, she did not gain consciousness. Subsequently, the bride was rushed to the Dunguripalli CHC in a vehicle but the doctors declared her brought dead. The doctors later confirmed that Rosy had died due to cardiac failure.

OVER 16,000 NEW COVID CASES REGISTERED

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

India has registered a cumulative figure of more than 1.9 crore Covid-19 vaccination doses so far and on Friday alone 10.34 lakh vaccine doses were administered.

Out of this, 8.25 lakh beneficiaries were given the first dose while 2.09 lakh health-care and frontline workers received the second dose of the vaccines.

Six states, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, have reported high daily new cases in the last 24 hours, with 84.44% of the new cases coming from these. India on Friday had 16,838 fresh cases and 113 new deaths.



Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K.S. Alagiri (L), party's election campaign management observer M. Veerappa Moily and AICC in-charge of Tamil Nadu Dinesh Gundu Rao, during the executive committee meeting, at Sathyamurthy Bhavan in Chennai on Friday.

'Owner' of car in Ambani case found dead in Thane

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 5

Hiren for maintenance of its interior. Hiren had kept the car in his custody when Sam didn't pay for it," he said.

Mr Fadnavis demanded NIA investigation into the case of explosives planted near Mukesh Ambani's house Antilia on February 25 to National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Maha Vikas Aghadi government on Friday handed over the enquiry to the state Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).

Meanwhile, Mansukh Hiren, whose car was found outside Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai, was found dead at Retibunder creek in Thane district. He was missing since Thursday and his kin had registered a missing complaint.

An official of Thane police informed "The body of one Mansukh Hiren whose car was found outside Mukesh Ambani's residence (with gelatin inside it), died by suicide by jumping into Kalwa creek. Accidental Death Report (ADR) registered."

Earlier in the afternoon, Mr. Fadnavis expressed his suspicion over API Sachin Vaze's role in the Antilia bomb scare case and therefore, he demanded the probe into it by the NIA. He also raised a question over the several co-incidences pertaining to the presence of Mr Vaze at several places in connection with this case.

Speaking with the reporters on Friday, Mr Deshmukh said that the government has decided to hand over the investigation to the ATS in connection with the case of explosives planted in scorpio near Mukesh Ambani's house Antilia on February 25.

As of now, the DMK has allotted two seats to the Manithaneyam Makkal Katchi, three to the IUML, six to the VCK and another six to the CPI.

The Kongu Makkal Katchi, the CPM and the Congress are yet to finalise the alliance.

DMK-CPI deal done, other allies wait

Coalition partners to be announced at a grand meeting

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, MARCH 5

on Saturday. The series of meeting at the TNCC headquarters remained inconclusive with a tug of war between two groups.

One group in the Congress did not mind the party making a compromise and settling down for a smaller number of seats, while the other group took a bellicose stand, saying that self-respect and honour were more important than winning a few Assembly seats in the elections.

The BJP will contest a total of 92 seats out of 126 seats. AGP will contest from 26 constituencies, UPL will contest from eight constituencies, and one seat has gone to Rabha Joutho

the DMK. Soon after signing the pact with the DMK, CPI State secretary R Mutharasan told the media that ideology was more important for his party than the number of seats and hence they agreed to contest in six constituencies.

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FARMERS' STIR INTERNAL ISSUE OF INDIA: UK

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 5

The statement filed by Customs Preventive Commissionerate in Kerala High Court disclosing that gold smuggling accused Swapna Suresh has given a confidential statement alleging chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's involvement in dollar smuggling, has triggered a political storm in the poll bound state.

Sumit Kumar, Commissioner of Customs, informed the court that in the statements recorded under section 164 CrPC and 108 of the Customs Act, Swapna revealed about the involvement of chief minister, speaker of Kerala and three ministers. She alleged that

THE PRIME accused in gold smuggling case revealed Mr Vijayan's close connections with the previous Consul General of UAE and the 'illegal' monetary transactions.

smuggling of foreign currency was done at the instance of Mr Vijayan and Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan with the help of the UAE Consulate. Swapna also revealed Mr Vijayan's close connections with the previous Consul General of UAE and the 'illegal' monetary transactions, Kumar added.

The statement was filed in response to a petition filed by the DG Prisons Kerala, against certain remarks in the order of the Additional CJM (Economic

Offences) Court's on providing security to Swapna who is lodged in Women's Prison, Thiruvananthapuram. The observation in the order will affect the credibility and bona fide of the jail department, argued the state.

The Customs officer said Swapna's statement exposed highly illegal, improper and immoral activities by those occupying high offices. The customs was prepared to produce the copies of the statements before the court in a sealed cover.

The statement said Swapna's apprehensions regarding her safety in jail were totally justified.

"They being high profile politicians and holding high positions in the government are capable of hitting back by all means," it added.

Amazon Prime India head Aparna Purohit not to be arrested

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

A day after emphasizing on the need to screen the programmes telecast on OTT (Over-The-Top) platforms, the Supreme Court on Friday made light of the recent regulations brought by the government to deal with the OTT and social media platforms, saying that they have "no teeth" but only guidelines and no mechanism to ensure no "objectionable contents" are screened online.

Having chided the government for bringing toothless

regulation to deal with social media and OTT platforms, the top court however, in a breather, granted protection from arrest to OTT platform Amazon Prime India head Aparna Purohit. "We direct that the petitioner (Aparna Purohit) shall not be arrested in FIR No. 14/2021 subject to her co-operation with the investigation. She shall appear before the Investigating Officer as and when required," the court ordered.

Purohit had approached the top court for anticipatory bail in connection with

the FIRs registered against her over the controversial 9-part web series Tandav that was released on the internet in January.

Earlier her plea for anticipatory bail was rejected by Allahabad High Court.

A bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice R Subhash Reddy, which had sought the regulations framed on February 25, for its perusal, said, "We went through the Technology intermediary guidelines. But there is no teeth. No power of prosecution. These are just guidelines. No mechanism to

control it. Without legislation you cannot control it."

Taking a dim view of the effectiveness of the regulations brought to regulate social media and OTT platforms, the court asked the government to consider bringing some law that regulates the platforms.

Noting that one of the issues that have cropped up before the court was that of "control and regulation of platform on which web-series are released", the court in its order today said that the perusal of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines

and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, that were brought by the government on February 25 2021, indicate that "the Rules are more and more in the form of guidelines and have no effective mechanism for either screening or taking appropriate action for those who violates the guidelines."

Put on defensive, Solicitor General said that the government will "consider and take appropriate steps for regulation or legislation as may be found fit" and the same shall be placed before the Court.

FLIGHT TEST OF SFDR TECHNOLOGY SUCCESSFUL

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BALASORE, MARCH 5

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

The SFDR was fired at around 10.30 am.

"All the subsystems, including the booster motor and nozzle-less motor, performed as expected. During the test, many new technologies were proven, including Solid Fuel based Ducted Ramjet technology," an official release of DRDO said.

Successful demonstration of Solid Fuel based Ducted Ramjet technology has provided DRDO with a technological advantage which will enable it to develop long range air-to-air missiles. At present, such technology is available only with a handful of countries in the world.

| REGIONAL OFFICE, CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION, HYDERABAD TENDER NOTICE | |
|---|--|
| Regional Office, Room No. 206, CGO Towers, Kavadiyal, Secunderabad - 500048 (Phone No: 040-27544478) inviting sealed quotations for hiring a well maintained passenger Sedan Car A/C for one year on contract basis. The rate quoted shall include fuel, insurance and driver's salary. Terms and conditions can be had on any working day from our office between 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. | |
| Distribution of applications from: 08-03-2021 Last date for submitting the quotation is 19-03-2021 (3:00 PM). Quotations will be opened on 26-03-2021. Sd/- Regional Officer, CBFC, Hyderabad. | |

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SG-664-21-SIG-2020-21, E-Tender is invited on behalf of the president of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of the work : Signaling work in connection with various sanctioned Engineering works for CTR, TRR, TSR in DHN Division under Main Engg. estimate No. 01, 02, 21, 07, 04, 05, 20, 13, 23, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 (2020-21) & 20, 14, 19, 02, 17, 18 (2019-20). 2. Appos. Cost of the work : ₹3,14,56,287.03. 3. Earnest Money : ₹0.00. 4. Date & time for closing of tender : 24.03.2021 at 12:30 Hrs. 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firms letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.reps.gov.in.

Note:-Tenders are requested to visit the website http://www.reps.gov.in atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.

Sr. D.S.T.E./ ECR/Dhanbad PR/01547/DHN/S/T/20-21/36

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

| Sr. No. | Tender No. | Brief Description | Qty. | Closing Date |
|---------|------------|---|---------|--------------|
| 01 | 19210647 | SUSPENSION TUBE COMPLETE FOR WAP-7/WAG-9 LOCO | 47 NOS | 09.04.2021 |
| 02 | 19212730 | PRIMARY SPRING OUTER (WAG-7) | 258 NOS | 02.06.2021 |

NOTE: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in for details.

2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 58/2020-2021 Dated : 05.03.2021

505/2021

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FRESH E-TENDER NOTICE

On-line offers are invited for empanelment of authorized/exclusive vendors/publishers willing to supply of books. The vendors are required to submit their offer on e-tender portal only i.e. www.etender.up.in in two bid system i.e. technical & financial bid. The details like terms & conditions, schedule of submission of offer & opening is available on e-tender portal and website of the Institute. The details of tender are available on website of the Institute also (www.sgpji.ac.in) for reference only. No offline offer shall be accepted. The Director reserves the right to accept/reject any offer in full or part without assigning any reason.

Advt. No. I/54/JDMLIBRARY/2020-21 DIRECTOR

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| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| A1 EXPRESS TELUGU 2D (U) 10:50 AM, 1:35 PM, 4:15 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:25 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:20 PM | SHADI MUBARAK TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:50 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:45 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:25 PM | UPPENA TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:25 PM, 7:45 PM, 10:20 PM | POWER PLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON ENGLISH 3D (U) 1:30 PM, 7:00 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | CHAOZ WALKING ENGLISH 2D (U/A) 11:30 AM, 4:55 PM, 10:20 PM | JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH ENGLISH 2D (A) 4:35 PM, 10:20 PM | DEVINENI TELUGU 2D 4:35 PM |
| NAANDHI TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:05 AM, 1:55 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:40 PM | CHECK TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:50 PM, 7:25 PM, 10:00 PM | SANDHYA35MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS) 11.00, 2.00, 6.00PM | INORBIT-4.50PM RK-12.05PM | PRESTON PRIME-1.00,6.00PM | CENTRAL-7.25PM GALLERIA-7.15PM | GSM-4.40PM GVK-1.30PM MP-1.10PM | CCPL(MALKAJGIRI)-10.30PM | CCPL(MALKAJGIRI)-10.30PM |
| POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON ENGLISH 3D (U) 1:30 PM, 7:00 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM | POWERPLAY TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:10 AM, 2:55 PM |
| KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE | KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE |

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PLAY BACK

SANDHYA35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00, 2.00, 6.00PM

INORBIT-4.50PM|RK-12.05PM

PRESTON PRIME-1.00,6.00PM

CENTRAL-7.25PM|GALLERIA-7.15PM

GSM-4.40PM|GVK-1.30PM
MP-1.10PM

CCPL(MALKAJGIRI)-10.30PM

CCPL(MALKAJGIRI)-10.30PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00,6.00PM

BALANAGAR-2.00,7.45PM

CHANDANAGAR-6.45PM

KOMPALLY 4.20PM

UPPAL 4.10PM

PVR PICTURES RELEASE 9963883444

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FANTASTIC HIT

PR PICTURES RELEASE

AVANTHIKA PRODUCTIONS
"SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"

PVR

Forum-1.30,7.45PM|Central-1.15,7.30PM

Inorbit-2.10,7.15PM|Hitech-12.45,6.00PM

L&T-4.15,10.15PM|RK-10.45PM

Preston prime-9.00PM|

Moosarambagh-3.45,9.00PM

Irrummanzil-1.15,6.30PM

PRASAD'S 9.00,3.00PM

MALLAPUR 10.30,7.30PM

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE GV-10.20PM | GSM-3.35PM

CCPL-10.20PM|DSL-10.00PM

MANTRA-10.40PM | SUDHA-10.20PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00,7.45PM

BALANAGAR-2.00,7.45PM

CHANDANAGAR-6.45PM

KOMPALLY 4.20PM

UPPAL 4.50PM

PVR PICTURES RELEASE 4.20PM

SHARWA'S ANOTHER FAMILY ENTERTAINER

ముహ్రు శార్వా అన్నా ఫెల్చుల్ వెడుల్

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SANDHYA35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)

RTC X ROADS

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

BIG CINEMAS

PRASAD'S

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally

MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga

Cinesquare-Uppal

AMB CINEMAS-Kukatpally

Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex

Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston

Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh

Next galleria

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE GV MALL | GSM

MP MALL

CCPL | DSL

MANTRA | SUDHA

SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR

PLATINUM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

TIVOLI
catch the stars

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

A1 EXPRESS
TELUGU U/A 148 MIN
11:00 AM, 1:50 PM, 4:40 PM,
7:30 PM, 10:20 PM

SHAADI MUBARAK
TELUGU U/A 136 MIN
11:15 AM, 4:50 PM, 10:30 PM

POWERPLAY
TELUGU U/A 117 MIN
11:20 AM, 4:45 PM

UPPENA
TELUGU U/A 148 MIN
2:00 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:10 PM

NANDI
TELUGU U/A 141 MIN
1:55 PM, 7:20 PM

CHECK
TELUGU U/A 148 MIN
1:45 PM, 10:15 PM

DEVVENI
TELUGU U/A 122 MIN
4:30 PM

ZOMBIE REDDY
TELUGU U/A 125 MIN
11:10 AM, 7:15 PM

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SHANTI 70MM NARAYANAGUDA
(FULLY RENOVATED)
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BRAMARAMBA 70MM
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

KONARK 70MM-DSNR
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
2.30 & 9.30PM

NARTHAKI 70MM-ALWAL
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

SRINIVASA 70MM-UPPAL
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

SIVAGANGA-11.00,6.00PM

SHA COMPLEX-11.30,6.30PM

RADHIKA-4.40,10.40PM

GPR-11.00,1.50,10.35PM

MCUBE-1.25,7.35PM

CINESQUARE-10.45,4.40,10.40PM

NARAPALLY-1.35,10.10PM

AMB 10.30,1.50,
7.25,10.10

PRASAD'S 5.15PM
1.45, 10.15PM

TIVOLI 1.45,
10.15PM

CINEPLANET 1.40,7.00,10.10

PLATINUM 12.30,5.15
7.45,11.00

DSL-12.20,3.00,9.40PM

SUDHA-1.20,7.35PM

CCPL-1.30,4.20,7.35PM

MANTRA-11.05,4.35,7.15PM

INOX 1.45,
10.45PM

GVK-10.05,7.05PM

GSM-11.40,6.20,9.30PM

RK-3.05PM|**PRESTON**-1.55PM

IRRUMMANZIL-1.25,10.00PM

ICON-4.25,10.30PM

GALLERIA-1.10,7.20PM

MUSARAMBAGH-4.45,10.30PM

INORBIT-1.15,10.20PM

CENTRAL-4.25,10.20PM

FORUM MALL-11.25,5.10,10.40PM

BALANAGAR-10.45,1.45,7.30

GEETHA-12.30,9.30PM

SHALINI-11.00,7.30PM

SUPER HIT..SEE TODAY

POWER PLAY

SANDHYA70MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.15 2.15 6.00 9.15PM

SHIVAPARVATHI70-KUKATPALLY
11.30 2.30PM

MANJU70-11.00,2.00PM

SREERAMANA COMPLEX-11.00,6.15PM

PADMAVATHICOMPLEX-KACHIGUDA
9.00PM(ONE SHOW ONLY)

SANTOSHIBPATNAM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

SUPER70MM 11.15AM

SRILATHA70MM 6.15,9.15PM

SENSATIONINSO 9.00PM(ONE SHOW)

TALLURICOMPLEX 11.15,6.15,9.15PM

SAPNAABIDS-11.30,2.30PM

SAMPOORNA70MM-11.15AM

LAXMISHAMSHABAD-11.30,2.30,6.00,9.00

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE-11.30AM

Cinesquare-1.45,7.45PM|

MCUBE-10.50AM,10.25PM

Sivaganga-2.15PM|Radhika-10.55,4.50

Gpr-11.00,7.40PM|Sha-2.15PM

AMB CINEMAS-11.10,7.25PM

MJR Square-10.40,7.30PM

GVK-10:00,4:50,10:40PM

MP MALL-10:30,4:40,10:40PM

GSM-1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10PM

CCPL-10.30,4.25,10.20PM

MANTRA-11.00,4.30,10.20PM

DSL-12.10,6.35,9.35PM|

SUDHA-10.30,4.25,10.10PM

12.00,5.00,10.00PM

10.55,4.30PM

10.45PM

11.00,4.45,8.40PM

DILSHUKNAGAR-10.45,7.15

BALANAGAR-10.40,8.00PM

CHANDANAGAR-12.00,6.30PM

11.00,7.50PM

TIVOLI 11.20,4.45PM

RK-8.05PM|PRESTON-7.50PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.15,6.05,8.45PM

CENTRAL-10.50,4.40,10.20PM

ICON-1.55,7.35PM

FORUM-11.00,1.40,4.45,7.30,10.10PM

INORBIT-11.00,7.50,10.30PM

MUSARAMBAGH-2.05,7.20,10.00PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

ASIAN CINEMAS
it's showtime!

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

WEAR MASK STAF SAFE

ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA

A1 EXPRESS(U/A)(TEL) 1.30,7.30,10.30PM

UPPENA(U/A)(TEL) 1.20,7.20PM

NAANDHI(U/A)(TEL) 1.40,4.50,7.40PM

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A)(TEL) 10.30,4.30,10.20PM

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 10.40,4.40,10.40PM

ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY

A1 EXPRESS(U/A)(TEL) 10.50,4.25,7.20,10.15PM

UPPENA(U/A)(TEL) 4.45,10.05PM

NAANDHI(U/A)(TEL) 10.55,1.50,4.35PM

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A)(TEL) 1.40,7.45PM

POWERPLAY(U/A)(TEL) 7.40PM

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 1.30,10.30PM

ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR(FULLY RENOVATED)

A1 EXPRESS(U/A) 10.55,1.45,4.30,7.25,10.20PM

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A)(TEL) 1.15,7.45PM

NAANDHI(U/A)(TEL) 1.45,7.05PM

POWERPLAY(U/A)(TEL) 10.50,10.20PM

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 1.25,4.35,7.35PM |

UPPENA(U/A) 10.30,4.20,10.35PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON(ENG)(3D) 11.00,4.40,9.50PM

ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A) 11.00,6.00,9.15PM

A1 EXPRESS(U/A) 2.00,9.00PM | POWERPLAY(U/A) 2.15PM

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 11.15,6.15PM

ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 11.15,6.15PM | POWERPLAY(U/A) 2.15PM

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A)(TEL) 11.00,9.15PM

A1 EXPRESS(U/A) 2.00,6.00,9.00PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON(ENG)(3D) 10.50,1.55,7.35PM

ASIAN CINESQUARE(FULLY RENOVATED)

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A) 1.10,7.05,10.00PM

A1 EXPRESS(U/A) 10.40,1.35,4.30,7.25,10.20PM

NAANDHI(U/A) 4.00,10.10PM

CHECK(U/A) 10.45,4.40,10.40PM

UPPENA(U/A) 2.25,7.15,10.30PM |

POWERPLAY(U/A) 7.45PM

A(U/A) 4.10PM | PLAY BACK(U/A) 4.20PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON(3D) 10.50,1.55,7.35PM

ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET

A1 EXPRESS(U/A)(TEL) 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

UPPENA(U/A)(TEL) 2.30,9.30PM

NAANDHI(U/A)(TEL) 11.15,6.30PM

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY

SHADI MUBARAK(U/A)(TEL) 4.35,10.20PM

A1 EXPRESS(U/A)(TEL) 10.45,1.45,4.40,7.35,10.20PM

POWERPLAY(U/A)(TEL) 4.30PM

CHECK(U/A)(TEL) 10.50,1.55,7.00,10.10PM

A(U/A)(TEL) 4.20PM | UPPENA(U/A) 10.25,1.35,7.25PM

NAANDHI(U/A)(TEL) 1.25,10.00PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON(3D) 11.00,7.15PM

ASIAN MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY

A1 EXPRESS

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| MOOSARAMBAGH | I IRRUM MANZIL |
| GALLERIA I CENTRAL | - Punjagutta |
| RK - BANJARA | I INORBIT - Cyberbad |
| GPR - Kukatpally | I SHA - Chintal |
| RADHIKA - Kapra | I M CUBE - Attapur |
| CINEPLANET - Komppaly | |
| SHIVAGANGA - Dilukhnagar | |
| LAXMIKALA - Moosapet | |
| GVK - Banjara | I GSM - Miyapur |
| MP MALL | - Kachiguda |
| DSL - Uppal | I MANTRA - Attapur |
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| S2 CINEMAS | - Mallapur |
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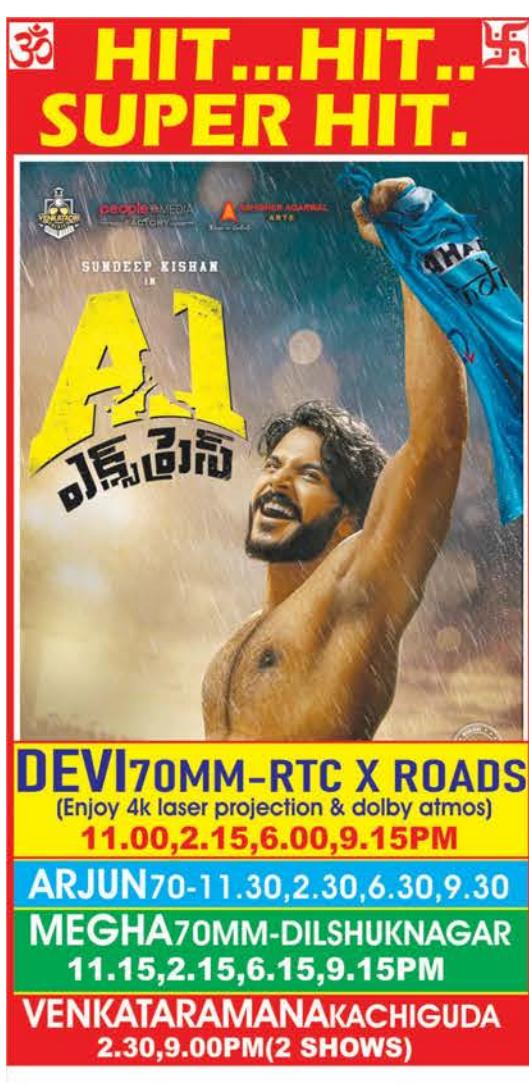
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| RAJADHANI DELUXE | |
| PRASAD MULTIPLEX | - Khairatabad |
| AMB CINEMAS | - Gachibowli |
| TIVOLI CINEMAS | - Secunderabad |
| FORUM - Kukatpally | I ICON - HITECH |
| MOOSARAMBAGH | I IRRUM MANZIL |
| GALLERIA I CENTRAL | - Punjagutta |
| RK - Banjara | I INORBIT - Cyberbad |
| GPR - Kukatpally | I SHA - Chintal |
| RADHIKA - Kapra | I M CUBE - Attapur |
| CINEPLANET - Komppaly | |
| SHIVAGANGA - Dilukhnagar | |
| LAXMIKALA - Moosapet | |
| GVK - Banjara | I GSM - Miyapur |
| MP MALL | - Kachiguda |
| DSL - Uppal | I MANTRA - Attapur |
| CCPL - Malkajgiri | |
| MIRAJ - Balangar | I Chandanagar |
| CARNIVAL CINEMAS | - Ameerpet |
| S2 CINEMAS | - Mallapur |
| TALLURI THEATRES | - Ecil X Road |



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pg| 8

REFUGEES' FLIGHTS CANCELLED

San Diego: More than 260 refugees who were vetted, approved and booked to come to the United States have had their flights cancelled by the State Department over the past two weeks because they do not qualify under restrictions imposed by Donald Trump, refugee resettlement agencies say. — AP



CHINA HIKES DEFENCE BUDGET TO \$209 BILLION

Beijing: China on Friday hiked its defence budget for the first time to more than \$200 billion, over three times higher than that of India, maintaining a single-digit growth for the sixth consecutive year with a 6.8 per cent increase in 2021.

The hike in defence spending was announced by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on the opening day of the National People's Congress, China's Parliament, amidst a military standoff with India in eastern Ladakh and growing political and military tensions with the United States.

This year's planned defence spending will be about 1.35 trillion yuan (about \$209 billion), state-run Xinhua news agency reported, adding that the annual defence budget maintains a single-digit growth for a sixth consecutive year.

China's defence budget is about one quarter of the US figure, which is \$740.5 billion for the 2021 fiscal year, it said. Friday's increase is over three times higher than India's defence budget of about \$65.7 billion (including pensions). Last year, China allocated 1.268 trillion yuan (about \$196.44 billion), according to the state-run Global Times.

In his 35-page work report outlining China's achievements in 2020 and tasks for 2021, premier Li described last year as a "major success" for the armed forces without mentioning China moving over 60,000 well-armed troops who were mobilised for annual exercises, to contentious areas like Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh, prompting India to match the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) mobilisation which led to an over eight-month long stand-off. — PTI

ISRAEL BOOSTS PLANS FOR IRAN ATTACK

Tel Aviv: Israel's defense minister said his country is upgrading contingency plans to strike Iranian targets if Tehran shows signs of nuclear escalation, the latest sign of rising tensions between the two archenemies.

Benny Gantz told the American cable network Fox News that Israel is still working on its plans, but that "we have them in our hands of course." His comments came as President Joe Biden considers re-joining a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers to limit Iran's nuclear program, with some changes to tighten curbs on Tehran's activities. Former President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the atomic accord in 2018 and imposed a so-called campaign of maximum pressure, including sanctions, on Tehran.

Since then, Iran has stepped up uranium enrichment. The U.N. atomic watchdog agency said earlier this week that Iran nearly tripled its stockpile of enriched uranium since November in violation of its deal with world powers. Iran and the Biden administration are deadlocked over how to revive the deal, with Tehran demanding an immediate lifting of sanctions and the U.S. calling on Iran to first return to full compliance with the restrictions of the nuclear agreement. Israel has vehemently opposed the nuclear deal. At the same time, tensions have been rising between arch foes Israel and Iran. Last week, an Israeli-owned cargo ship, the MS Helios Ray, was damaged by a mysterious explosion in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of attacking the vessel. — AP

SHORT TAKES
TURKEY BLAMES WEATHER FOR CHOPPER CRASH

Istanbul: Turkey's defence minister on Friday blamed bad weather for a military helicopter crash that killed 10 soldiers and a senior commander in the country's restive southeast.

Lieutenant General Osman Erbas, who headed the army's 8th Corps based in the eastern Elazig province, was among those killed in Thursday's accident. The crash was the deadliest since 13 soldiers died in the southeastern Sirnak province near Turkey's border with Syria and Iraq in 2017.

One shot dead in Myanmar

Yangon, March 5: A protester was shot dead in Myanmar on Friday, in the latest round of bloodletting at anti-coup demonstrations as the UN Security Council prepared to meet on the escalating crisis.

Despite an increasingly brutal crackdown by the military authorities that has seen more than 50 people killed, protesters took to the streets again in towns around the country to denounce the February 1 coup.

The violence has brought condemnation from around the world, with the UN rights chief demand-

ing the junta "stop murdering and jailing protesters", and the Security Council is set to discuss the crisis later Friday.

But despite the mounting international pressure, the generals have shown no signs of heeding calls for restraint.

In Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, hundreds of engineers took to the streets crying "Free our leader" in reference to ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, detained by the military since the first night of the coup.

A 26-year-old man helping at barriers set up in the

Indo-Americans take over US, says Biden

Appoints over 55 to key leadership positions in his admin

Washington, March 5: Indian-Americans are "taking over the country", US President Joe Biden said on Thursday, referring to the large number of "incredible" professionals from the community holding key positions in his administration.

In less than 50 days of his presidency, Biden has appointed at least 55 Indian-Americans to key leadership positions in his administration.

This does not include Vice President Harris, which is an elected position, and Neera Tanden, who a day earlier withdrew her nomination from the position of Director of White House Office of Management and Budget.

"Indian" of descent Americans are taking over the country: you Dr Swati Mohan; my Vice President (Kamala Harris); my speech writer, Vinay (Reddy). I tell you what. But thank you. You guys are incredible," President Biden said during a virtual interaction with scientists at Nasa who were involved in the historic landing of Perseverance rover on Mars on February 18.

Indian-American scientist Swati Mohan leads the guidance, navigation, and control operations of Nasa's Mars 2020 mission.

Biden, who was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States on January 20, has created history by appointing at least 55 Indian-Americans to key positions in his administration.

This does not include Vice President Harris, which is an elected position, and Neera Tanden, who a day earlier withdrew her nomination from the position of Director of White House Office of Management and Budget.

Nearly half of them are women and a sizable number of them are working in the White House. So far, the Obama-Biden administration (2009-2017) has the distinction of appointing the largest number of Indian-Americans in any administration, the previous Donald Trump administration was not lagging far behind as it appointed

the first ever Indian-American with a cabinet rank and inside the National Security Council.

The Biden administration has for the first time appointed such a large number of Indian-Americans in the first 50 days of his administration. This past week, Dr Vivek Murthy testified before a Senate Committee for US Surgeon General and Vanita Gupta is all set to appear for her confirmation hearing for Associate Attorney General Department of Justice.

"It is impressive to see how many Indian-Americans were ready to go into public service. There have been so many additions since we launched our Government Leaders list last month on Presidents' Day. I am so proud to see our community is going from strength to strength!" eminent Indian-American philanthropist and Indiaspora founder M. Rangaswami said. While the community is

disappointed that Tanden had to withdraw her nomination because of stiff opposition from the Republicans, Indian-American women have reached a new height in the Biden administration. Biden sought to speak with Swati Mohan, Guidance and Controls Operations Lead, Mars 2020. She is not a political appointee though.

Indian-American women appointed by Biden include Uzra Zeya, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, State Department; Mala Adiga; Policy Director to Dr Jill Biden; Aisha Shah; Partnership Manager, White House Office of Digital Strategy; Sameera Fazil, Deputy Director, US National Economic Council (NEC); Sumona Guha; Senior Director for South Asia at the National Security Council, White House; and Sabrina Singh; Deputy Press Secretary, Vice President White House. —PTI

CAPITOL POLICE CHIEF APPEALS FOR NATIONAL GUARD TO STAY

Washington, March 5: Worried about continuing threats, the acting chief of the US Capitol Police has appealed to congressional leaders to use their influence to keep

National Guard troops

HUGE QUAKE SPARKS PACIFIC-WIDE TSUNAMI ALERT

Wellington, March 5: Tens of thousands of coastal residents in New Zealand, New Caledonia and Vanuatu fled for higher ground on Friday as a cluster of powerful earthquakes sparked a Pacific-wide tsunami alert.

Warning sirens sounded across Noumea as authorities ordered evacuations amid fears that waves of up three metres (10 feet) were headed towards the French territory.

"People must leave beach areas and stop all water activities, and should not pick their children up at schools to avoid creating traffic jams," emergency services spokesman Alexandre Rosignol told public radio.

In New Zealand, communities along stretches of the North Island were warned to flee as tsunami alert sirens wailed after an 8.1-magnitude quake, which followed earlier tremors in the same region measuring 7.4 and 7.3. "Do not stay at home," the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said.

"People near the coast... must move immediately to the nearest high ground, out of all tsunami evacuation zones, or as far inland as possible." The largest of the quakes struck around 1,000 kilometres (640 miles) off the New Zealand coast at 8:28 am (1928 Thursday GMT), the US Geological Survey said.

It was preceded by two seismic jolts that were also enormously powerful, in an unusually strong cluster even for the Pacific ring of fire, where the Earth's tectonic plates collide. New Zealand's NEMA said the remoteness of the quakes did not minimise their potential impact. —AFP

Pope's historic Iraq trip



An Iraqi girl in a traditional dress offers Pope Francis a bouquet of flowers at Baghdad airport upon his arrival on Friday. Pope Francis is honouring the victims of one of Iraq's most brutal massacres of Christians by Islamic militants by saying their deaths are a reminder that violence is incompatible with religious teaching. —AFP

US SEES FEWER COVID CASES

Washington, March 5: The United States recorded fewer than 40,000 new daily cases of Covid-19 for the first time in five months, a piece of promising news as countries across the

globe struggle to hold off another infection surge before inoculations become widespread. With frustration over restrictions having long weighed on populations worldwide. —AFP

China claims veto over HK lawmakers

Beijing, March 5: China moved on Friday to grant itself veto powers over selecting Hong Kong's lawmakers, part of a campaign to eliminate dissent and ensure a "patriotic" government in the city following huge democracy rallies in 2019. Legislation to allow China's communist rulers

to vet all election candidates in Hong Kong was tabled at the opening of the final nails in the coffin of Hong Kong's democracy movement. If the measures are passed, as I'm sure they will be, then the voice of the opposition will be effectively silenced," said Willie Lam, China analyst at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The introduction of the vetting legislation — expected to be approved next week — was quickly interpreted as one of the final nails in the coffin of Hong Kong's democracy movement. "If the measures are passed, as I'm sure they will be, then the voice of the opposition will be effectively silenced," said Willie Lam, China analyst at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"This will effectively wipe out any remaining opposition." The measure had been widely expected with Beijing officials stating in the lead-up that only "staunch patriots" — those loyal to the Communist Party — should be involved in governing Hong Kong. —AFP

'Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn' takes the Golden Bear

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5



A movie still from I'm Your Man.

again of the need to choose between passivity and taking individual responsibility."

German actor Maren Eggert won the first ever gender-neutral Silver Bear Best Performance award (replacing best actor and actress prizes) for her leading role in Maria Schrader's *I'm Your Man*.

In the film Eggert plays Alma, a scientist at the famous Pergamon Museum in Berlin. To get a research fund, she accepts an offer to participate in a bizarre experiment. For three weeks Alma has to live with a rather handsome humanoid robot, Tom (Dan Stevens), who is programmed as her perfect life partner.

If she has a shot at a suc-

cessful, happy relationship, she is told that it is with Tom, a sum total of Alma-specific algorithms. He can romance, do the dishes, and will always be available for exhilarating sex. Shot in beautiful Berlin, *I'm Your Man* is about the pursuit of happiness and explores how far humans will go to find love.

Every year the Golden and Silver Bears are handed out at a glitzy ceremony at the 1,600-seater Berlinale Palast theatre. But for this year's 71st edition of the festival, which was truncated and online only, the trophies will be presented in person, in June, when organisers hope to invite stars for red carpet events and screen films for the public.

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SC03813;
website: www.pspcl.in; e-tendering portal: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Contact No.: 96461-19383, 96461-11036.

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-227/PO-C Date 04/03/2021
Chief Purchase Officer/MC, Central Purchase Organisation, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multistorey Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender of ISI/PQM marked MS Black Hexagon Bolts with Nuts of below mentioned sizes conforming to IS:1363 & 1367 (with latest amendment) and PSPCL's Specification. The size wise detail is as under:-

| Sr. No. | Size in mm (Dia. x Length) | Quantity (MT) |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | M 12x175 | 54 |
| 2 | M 12X200 | 40 |
| 3 | M 16X55 | 300 |
| Total | | 394 |

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 15.03.21 from 11:00 AM onwards
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C102/21

| Sl. No. | Land Description | Area (Hectare) | Rate per Hectare (₹) | Total Value (₹) | Land Tax (₹) | Stamp Duty (₹) | Other Charges (₹) | Total Amount (₹) |
|---------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 2 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 3 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 4 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 5 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 6 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 7 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 8 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 9 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 10 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 11 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 12 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 13 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 14 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 15 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 16 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 17 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 18 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 19 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 20 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 21 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 22 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 23 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 24 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | 90,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 | — | 93,600 |
| 25 | K.K.K. S/o Balaiyah | 0.09 | 1,000 | | | | | |

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------|
| Sensex | 50405.32 | -0.87 |
| Nifty 50 | 14938.10 | -0.95 |
| S&P 500* | 3,766.64 | -0.05 |
| Dollar (₹) | 73.02 | -0.24 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 101.00 | 0.44 |
| Euro (₹) | 87.00 | 0.71 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 43,887▲522 | 1.18 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 68.79 | 3.07 |
| IN 10Y bond yield | 6.232 | 0.00 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 1.608 | 0.058 |

* As of 8:30 PM IST

IT sector sales up 5.2% in Q3: RBI data

The IT sector remained in positive terrain throughout the pandemic period and the sector's sales rose by 5.2 per cent YoY in the December 2020-21 quarter, according to RBI data, drawn from quarterly results of 2,692 listed non-government non-financial (NGNF) companies. Sales of 1,685 manufacturing firms expanded by 7.4 per cent YoY in the December quarter after contracting in the preceding six quarters.

Blackstone in talks for minority stake in Sify



Blackstone Group Inc is in exclusive talks to acquire a minority stake in India's Sify Technologies Ltd, Bloomberg reported citing sources. The communications infrastructure firm has sought a valuation of around \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion for the transaction. Sify, led by chairman Raju Vegesna and CEO Kamal Nath, owns data centres and India's largest multiprotocol label switching, or MPLS, network.

SBI Payments offers contactless transactions

SBI Payments and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have joined hands to launch RuPay SoftPoS that will enable merchants to make contactless transactions of up to Rs 5,000 through their smart phones. The solution has the capability to transform NFC (near field communication) enabled smartphones into merchant Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals for retailers, a joint release said.

Laurus dips 4% after promoters sell 1.3% holding

Shares of Laurus Labs Ltd fell over 4 per cent after two promoters offloaded the company's shares. On the BSE, the scrip ended at Rs 351.3, down 4.63 per cent. In a regulatory filing on Thursday, Laurus Labs said Dr Satyanarayana Chava, founder promoter, CEO & ED, sold 52 lakh equity shares worth Rs 191.67 crore and Mrs Nagarani Chava, one of the promoters, sold shares worth Rs 66.04 crore.

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■ Metal cheaper by ₹1,200/gm from Aug. high Customers wait for gold to bottom out

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 5

With the gold price having fallen Rs 12,000 per 10 gm from their record-high levels in August, the bullion channel is stocking up physical gold for customers who are waiting for some stability in prices to make purchases.

India had seen gold jewellery demand falling to a multi-year low of 315 tonnes in 2020. The first three quarters of the calendar year was a wash-out in terms of gold demand.

However, the pent-up demand is likely to trigger buying with the supportive movement in prices. Gold prices have dropped to Rs 44,280 per 10 gm in the Multi Commodity Exchange from the highs of Rs 56,590 in August—losing more than Rs 12,000 per 10 gm.

The correction has led to some improvement in demand, but not yet at the customer level. The gold channels have been stocking up the yellow metal expecting the demand to rise once the wedding season starts and vaccination picks up. This has been evident from the gold import figures.

Gold imports had risen 72 per cent in volume terms and 154 per cent in value terms in January. As per the latest trade figures, gold imports are up 124 per cent in value terms in February as well.

"Gold imports in 2020 had fallen substantially as the channel was blocked



due to the lockdown. In the past few months there has been some re-stocking happening with the channel for replenishment purposes," said Ashish Pethé, chairman of the All-India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council. Further, the channel had stayed away from replenishment of stocks at higher price levels.

According to Pethé, investment demand is still robust while jewellery demand is yet to pick up. Investment demand had in fact started picking up in the fourth quarter of 2020 when the consumption was up by 8 per cent compared to Q4 2019.

According to Amit Bhandari, founder of Tezbid.com, for investors the recent downturn in prices offers a good entry point, preferably with a long holding period.

"Inflation is expected to be higher going forward and gold offers a good hedge against rising prices—the speculation

continues," he said.

"The buoyancy in the market is tangible. People are waiting and watching with the intent to buy. The duty cut and gold price fall are favourable factors for buying," said Somasundaram P.R., managing director, World Gold Council India.

—PTI

on bitcoin is a good example of the kind of froth/asset bubbles building up in financial markets. Some allocation to gold is prudent," said Bhandari.

However, jewellery buyers are still waiting for the right time. "Jewellery customers are still in a wait-and-watch mode and are looking for stability in prices. Once prices stabilise, demand will pick up. Further, festivals like Gudi Padwa and Akshaya Tritiya are coming up and the wedding season too will start soon. This year, we might see more number of weddings happening. Hence the demand is expected to recover to 2019 levels," said Pethé.

"The buoyancy in the market is tangible. People are waiting and watching with the intent to buy. The duty cut and gold price fall are favourable factors for buying," said Somasundaram P.R., managing director, World Gold Council India.

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Such information is not shared with other Star Alliance member airlines for this data transfer, the airline said.

—PTI

not involve KrisFlyer and PPS member passwords, credit card information and other customer data such as itineraries, reservations, ticketing, passport numbers and email addresses.

Such information is not shared with other Star Alliance member airlines for this data transfer, the airline said.

"The information involved is limited to the membership number and tier status and, in some cases, membership name, as this is the full extent of the frequent flier data that Singapore Airlines shares with other Star Alliance member airlines," said SIA.

—PTI

not involve KrisFlyer and PPS member passwords, credit card information and other customer data such as itineraries, reservations, ticketing, passport numbers and email addresses.

Such information is not shared with other Star Alliance member airlines for this data transfer, the airline said.

—PTI

NIPPON STEEL TO SHUT 20% CAPACITY BY 2025

MASUMI SUGA
MARCH 5

Japan's oldest and largest steelmaker is cutting capacity as it contends with shrinking domestic demand and pivots operations to help meet the nation's ambitious target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Nippon Steel Corporation will shut one of its largest domestic blast furnaces near Tokyo as well as production lines to trim its steelmaking capacity, according to a statement on Friday. That along with previously announced measures will cut its capacity by 20 per cent by March 2025. The company

also aims to lower carbon dioxide emissions from its operations 30 per cent by 2030 from 2013 levels, it added.

President Eiji Hashimoto is pushing through structural reforms to fend off challenges from faster growing foreign rivals—particularly top producer China. Competition is now spreading to the development of fossil fuel-free steel manufacturing after governments in Europe, China and Japan pledged net-zero emissions in the coming decades.

Innovations for decarbonisation, including the development of hydrogen reduction steel production, will require research and development costs of about 500 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) and as much as 5 trillion yen in investment in facilities, the company said, which could double the cost of steel over the next 30 years.

—Bloomberg

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—Bloomberg

Skoda gives glimpse of Kushaq interiors

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, MARCH 5

Skoda, the Czech car manufacturer, which is all set for the world premiere of its new SUV Kushaq on March 18 and will go on sales in India thereafter, has released the first set of the Kushaq's interior.

The Skoda Kushaq will take on popular SUVs such as Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos, MG Hector and Tata Harrier.

The new SUV, likely to be priced in the Rs 10 lakh to

Rs 17 lakh bracket, is the first of four models specially adapted for India by Skoda Auto from the Skoda and Volkswagen brands as part of the India 2.0 product campaign of its turn-around strategy. The second model will be

Volkswagen Taigun. The technical development is being carried out at Skoda Auto's Technology Centre in Pune.

The Kushaq will come with a layered dashboard that gets a thin chrome bar to separate the top from the bottom. This chrome bar spans the length of the dash and connects the large, chrome-lined vents at each end.

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SHORT TAKES

Sindhu in semis as Indians sink Denmark's Min Blichfeldt

Olympic silver medalist P. V. Sindhu advanced to the semifinals of the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament with a straight-game win over Thai Busanan Ongbamrungphan. World champion Sindhu took a minute less than an hour to see off a fighting Busanan, seeded fifth, 21-16, 23-21 to set up a clash with fourth seed Denmark's Min Blichfeldt.

However, it was a bad day in office for other Indians in fray as none of them could reach the last four. Olympic hopeful B Sai Preeth, who reached the final in the last edition, lost 14-21, 17-21 to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in 45 minutes.

Ajay Jayaram's campaign ended after a 9-21, 6-21 loss to eighth seeded Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn in another last eight men's singles match.

Earlier, Satwikairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa fought hard before going down 17-21, 21-16, 8-21 to fifth seeds Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing of Malaysia in quarterfinals of mixed doubles. — PTI

Hyd sides for throw, handball

Hyderabad: Following are the Hyderabad district throwball sub-junior and handball women's teams for the inter-district tournaments to be held from Saturday:

THROWBALL

Boys: Balaji (captain), Manideep, Harshith Varma, Vishnu, Karthik, Shaik Abbas, Omkar, Siddharth, Rahul, Tarun Teja, Mayank, Prashanth, Harshith, Akshith, Satwik Reddy, Pranay. **Coach:** Siddeshwar Reddy. **Manager:** Kiran Chary.

Girls: Harika (captain), Sai Shruthi, Jahnavi, Ananya, Amuktha, Sneha Reddy, Shailu, Shobha Rani, Vidyaa, Snigdha, Mahima Rani, Lakshmi. **Coach:** Suchetana. **Manager:** G Raju.

HANDBALL

Rishika (captain), M. S. Gayatri, Aishwarya, Hemalatha, Nanditha, Likhitha, Haritha, Divya Rani, Tanisha, Priya Darshini, Ashwini, Siddi Patil, Uma Rajender, Haindavi, Madhavi, Srihitha Reddy.

Coach-cum-manager: Siva Kumar. — PTI

Preetesh cracks triple ton in one-day league

Kotesha Venkatesh, Azizuddin, Mahesh, Karthik, Om, Nagaraju shine

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

Preetesh Rawani cracked a triple century in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's one-day league while S. Kotesha took six wickets in the two-day grade to emerge top performers on Friday.

Preetesh slammed 366 which contained 40 fours and 24 sixes to propel Roshanara to 608 for 9 in 50 overs against Starlets, for whom Karthik took 6 for 115. Starlets were all out for 258 in 46 overs, thanks to Om Prakash's 5 for 24.

In another one-day match, Nagaraju's 107 powered Gunrock to a four-wicket win over Ranga Reddy.

In the two-day games, Kotesha bowled cheerful Chums to a big win over Rakesh XI with fine figures of 6 for 20 in nine overs.

Shanti XI's Venkatesh Sheshadharan (5/26), CCOB's Syed Azizuddin (5/66) and Adilabad District's Mahesh (125 n.o.) were the other performers in the two-day section.

Brief scores:

TWO-DAY LEAGUE

- Cheerful Chums 260 in 73 overs vs Rakesh XI 70 in 30.3 overs (**Kotesha 6/20 – 9-1-20**). **Points:** Cheerful Chums 5, Rakesh XI 0.
- Shanti XI 357 in 89 overs vs Hyderabad Panthers 80 in 39.1 overs (**Venkatesh Sheshadharan 5/26, Venkatesh Sheshadharan 5/26, Venkatesh Chandra 3/27**). **Points:** Shanti 5, Panthers 0.
- CCOB 339 in 66.4 overs bt ours



Preetesh Rawani

Venkatesh

Syed Azizuddin

AUSSIES PACK OFF KIWIS TO FORCE DECIDER

Wellington, March 5: Australia crushed New Zealand by 50 runs in a low-scoring fourth Twenty20 international in Wellington Friday to level the series at 2-2.

The result sets up a winner-takes-all blockbuster in the final match on Sunday, with Australia in red-hot form after struggling early in the series.

Australia scored 156 for 6 in 20 overs after winning the toss. In reply, New Zealand were all out for 106.

Captain Aaron Finch anchored the tourists' innings with a gritty 79, making him Australia's most prolific T20 international run scorer on 2,310, ahead of David Warner's 2,265.

Brief scores: Australia 156/6 in 20 overs (Finch 79; I. Sodhi 3/32) bt New Zealand 106 in 18.5 overs (K. Jamieson 30; K. Richardson 3/19).

ONE-DAY LEAGUE

■ Roshanara 608/9 in 50 overs (Deepak Tak 80, Preetesh Rawani 366 – 40x4, 24x6, Karthik 6/15) bt Starlets CC 258 in 46 overs (Venkat 49, Praneeth 44, Shashank 41, Lokesh 3/54, Om Prakash 5/24).

■ Crown 220 in 65.2 overs lost to BCC 222/5 in 44.2 overs (Vara Prasad 73, Yash Dubey 40 n.o.). **Points:** BCC 5, Crown 0.

■ Shalmal 317 in 62.5 overs bt HUCC 302 in 83.4 overs (Prudhvi Naik 30, Sree Madhav 56, Pranav Chand 50). **Points:** Shalmal 5, HUCC 0.

■ Brothers XI 167 in 60.3 overs (Likhith 30, Ajay 51, Ersheed Pasha 3/32, Shyam Reddy 4/30) lost to Vijay CC 168/4 in 25 overs (B. Shiva 74 n.o., Badal 62). **Points:** Vijay CC 5, Brothers XI 0.

■ Adams XI 362 in 54.4 overs bt Bharat 277 in 61.4 overs (B. Bhargav 77, Aditya Varma 40, Suraj Rao 31 n.o., M. Balaji 3/3, Khaled Khan 4/72). **Points:** Adams 5, Bharat 40.

■ Team Kun 160 in 47.3 overs (Naveenanth Reddy 30, Sasi Charan 3/28, Rai Suryansh 3/34) lost to LNCC 161/5 in 23.2 overs (Gopi 38, Praveen 58 n.o., Palash 3/43).

■ Concept CC 199 in 34 overs (Abhinav 37, Vamsi 3/7) lost to Safiqguda 120/1 in 23.2 overs (Lokesh 71 n.o., Ayush 39).

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DC ESTATE

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021

Pg II | > City offers wide range to invest

Pg III | >> APR sells homes, hopes to leave good memories

3 Qs to help you decide

There is a critical factor that you must address before investing in property, and that is what kind of property is ideal for you meets your requirement — a plot of land, a villa or independent house or a flat.

S. UMAMAHESHWAR

You might have often stumbled upon columns of ants busy moving around in the summer months. They are busy because they are investing their time and effort for a comfortable life in the rainy and winter months. Our elders often tell us to save for the rainy days — that implies saving or rather investing your surplus to take care of your needs in a difficult time.

During the olden days, the goal of investment was — as in the case of ants — confined to securing food stocks. As human beings evolved and their needs got more complex, their investment horizon too widened.

They have products to secure their future — be it debt instruments like fixed deposits, equity, bullion (gold and silver), precious collectables and, of course, good old real estate.

While all other categories of investment could be made in bits and pieces over a period of time, investment in real estate always required a single huge chunk of money — whether from savings or financed through a bank loan.

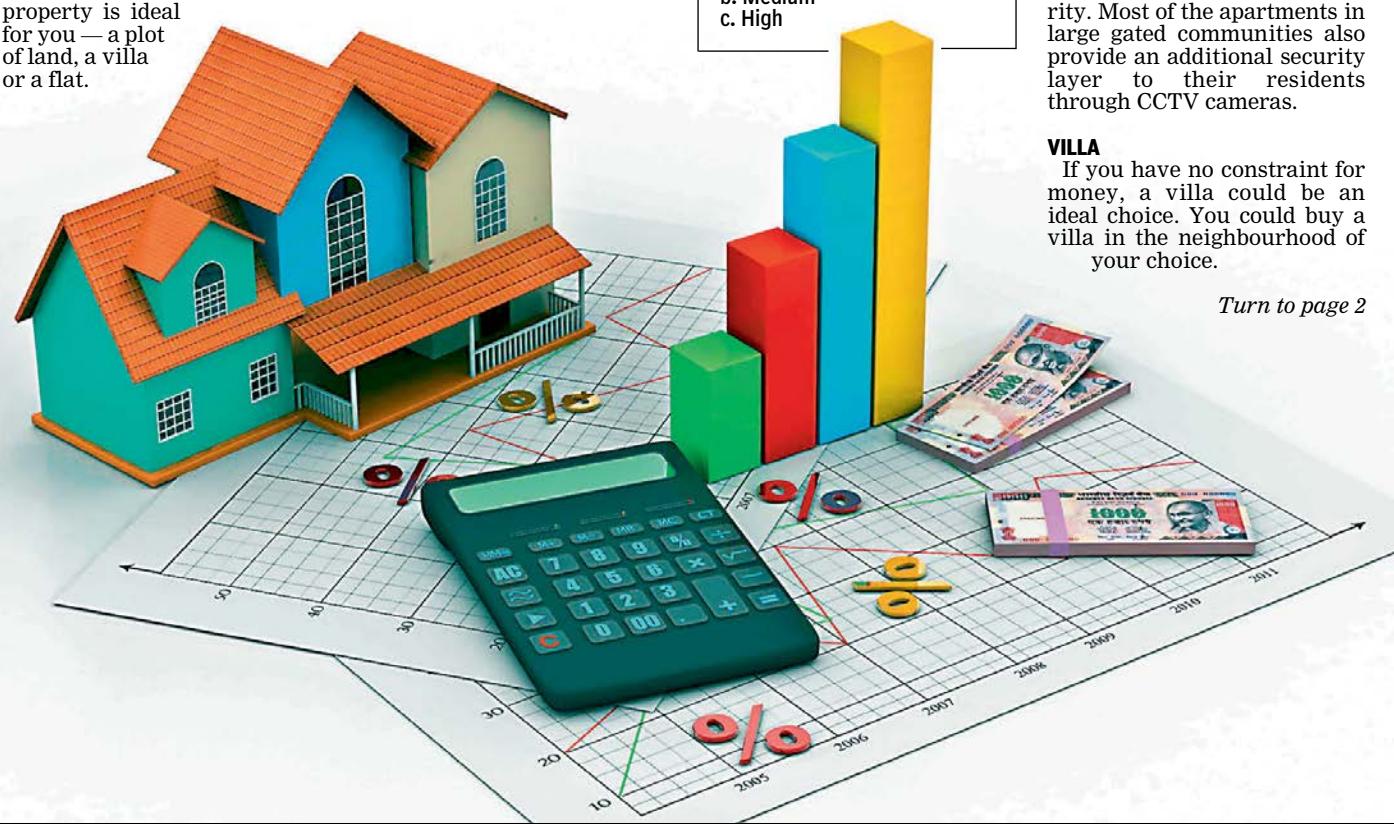
A single mistake could erode the lifetime savings or leave a person with debt-laden for a dead investment. Caution, therefore, should be the byword for real estate investment.

You will obviously conduct

due diligence of the property in terms of legal status and physical attributes (such as construction quality if you are buying a house and the quality of soil if you are buying a plot of land apart from other features).

Apart from these two issues, there is a critical factor that you must address before investing in property and that is what kind of property is ideal for you — a plot of land, a villa or a flat.

The answers to these three basic questions could help you evaluate your risk appetite and requirement.



1 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING PROPERTY?

- a. Residential purpose for yourself
- b. To generate monthly rental income
- c. Long-term capital appreciation

2 WHAT IS YOUR INVESTMENT HORIZON?

- a. Short-term
- b. Medium-term
- c. Long-term

3 WHAT IS THE RETURN EXPECTED?

- a. Low
- b. Medium
- c. High

Now, let's look at how each of the three categories of the real estate fare.

FLAT

Purchasing a flat is ideal if you want a place to stay in, at an affordable price. The flat could also free you of the hassles of maintenance. While an individual house would require you to pay personal attention to every problem that arises from time to time such as plumbing, cleaning, etc, the apartments association will take care of such mundane works if you are staying in a flat. The flat could also be more secure because of private security. Most of the apartments in large gated communities also provide an additional security layer to their residents through CCTV cameras.

VILLA

If you have no constraint for money, a villa could be an ideal choice. You could buy a villa in the neighbourhood of your choice.

Turn to page 2



Pudami plots light on purse

Projects like Jewel City in Shankarpalli and Sunray Township in Kadthal are built into a serene green landscape, offering open plots at prices of not more than ₹4,999 per sq. yd.

HARLEEN MINOCHA

The booming real estate sector in Telangana state has given opportunities to several firms and businesses in this field to grow. Among these is Pudami Developers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state that has been providing affordable land through its projects in Shankarpalli and Kadthal for about four years now.

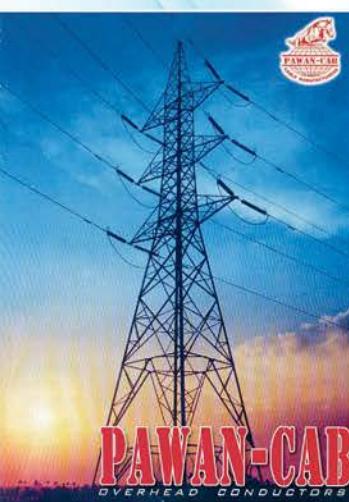
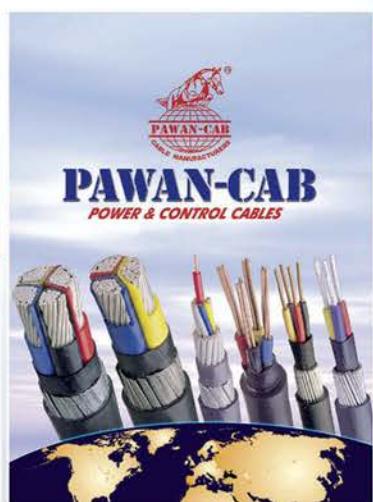
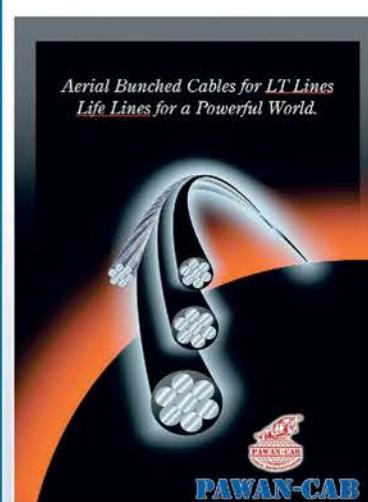
Projects like Jewel City in Shankarpalli and Sunray Township in Kadthal are built into a serene green landscape, offering open plots at prices of not more than ₹4,999 per square yard.

These plots are available for home construction, ranging from a single-storey buildings to a duplex homes, said Chanikya Gupta, executive director at Pudami Developers.

Turn to page 3



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GACHIBOWLI: RAJDURGAM Main road Sandhya Techno-one; 1st floor 10705ft commercial space for sale 9989503399 (HYMM/2021/C07488)

SALE - COMMERCIAL Space At Himayatnagar Prime Location 1st Floor 40465sqft. Contact: 9246155026/ 6281550200. (HYMM/2021/C07772)

✓ A ROAD side corner plot (open to both sides) of about 1000sqft yards available for Commercial/Banks/ Residential in Karmanghat locality near Ring road on TKR College Road (adjacent to Gayatri Nagar colony). Only original interested parties may contact directly. Brokers please excuse. Contact Mr.Srijit Mobile: 9980259328 (HYMM/2021/C07653)

✓ STANDALONE COMMERCIAL Building for Sale @ Hitechcity, Madhapur. Plot Size: 8305sqft, Stalls: 2000sqft, 5 floors, Stalls Parking +5 floors +Terrace, Possession in 1month, Suitable for Offices, Etc., Expecting Reasonable Price, &Excellent option for investment & Future Returns, Cost to Cost giving call for More Details. Call: 9800030874/ 7331108869. (HYMM/2021/C07676)

INDUSTRIAL SHED for sale at IDA Nacharam Road No15, 823sqyds with 4,000sqft RCC building and with 40hp Power. Cell:9866350647/ 9849022166 (HYMM/2021/C07728)

✓ COMMERCIAL SPACE: hot property in Nanakramguda (financial district) waverock Rd Total 3BHK, 1567sqft, new cybervalley 100+ pillars Happy Homes, good connectivity with all major roads, need to 100% road of high speed railway station, full ground water, new hafeezpet, Konapur, near world one school, call: 9652123441. (HYMM/2021/C07584)

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3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3625/- Stt in gated community with club house & amenities @ Hayathnagar nr LB Nagar 3 BHK starts from 43.35 lacs onwards. Mod. Builders 7677120120. (B/2021/C01075)

✓ 3BHK NEW Ready to Move-in It's perfect Vaastu, East/ West facing @ Marredtpoly 24hrs Water/ Party hall/gym/ Generator Backup/ Play area. For details call: 9963814987/ 040-27803848. (HYMM/2021/C07411)

3BHK SEMI Furnished 1436sqft apartment with one car park for sale besides S.D. Eye Hospital, Medhipatnam. Call: 9347514121, 9986350607. (HYMM/2021/C07680)

CONCRETE AVASA FLAT For Sale at Nagole over 270 Flats 2BHK Flats 4BHK, 300sq.yds, 2600sqft, 100% Vaastu, Separate Club House, Swimming Pool, GYM, Multi Purpose Hall, Children Play Area, Indoor Games, 24hrs Water, 24hrs Security, CC Camera, Guest Room etc. position in months. Ph:9959020577/ 9550366964 (HYMM/2021/C06349)

NIZAMPET, 3KM from Metro Station, 3BHK, 1450 Sqft, East, new Flat, Road#98, Vasanthnagar. Ph: 8793042325 (HYMM/2021/C07474)

PANJAGUTTA, DWARAKAPURI Colony Rank Residency 2340 Sft, 4BHK Flat for Sale. Contact: 9908565665, 8801774807 (HYMM/2021/C07479)

STERLING HEIGHTS 3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3650/- Sft in Gated Community with club house & amenities at Gundla Pochampally near Kompalay, 3 BHK starts from 56.57 lac onwards. Mod. Builders 7677120120. (B/2021/C01074)

3BHK FLAT For Sale in Kalpataru Residency. Near Sanath Nagar Ready To Move 1895sqft East Facing Corner Garden View. 9985196655. (HYMM/2021/C07670)

SUPER LUXURY 3BHK flat at Shaikpet, 3Car Parking, 3250SFT, 171Sqyds land share, Fully furnished with cupboards, Italian Marble, Leather Sofas & Beds, Modular Kitchen, AC, Club House, Swimming pool, Ready to move, 2Yrs old, rarely used Price 10000 on per sqft. 9949911636 (HYMM/2021/C07733)

SHANTHI NAGAR (A.C.Guards) "Vijaya Towers Apartment", A-Block, 2200sqft each flats are available, 112sq.yards (undivided share) with water supply, electricity & carparking. Contact: 9444442221. (HYMM/2021/C07745)

SOMAJIGUDA LAKE Residency Apartments, 3 Bedroom, Deluxe Flat, 603, Semi-Furnished, 1540 sqft, Car Park, South East Facing, Good surroundings, 7th floor, Nagpur Nagar, "JayaGarden" Near Kanchanagar Road, Plenty Boring & Drinking Water. Contact: 9959048367. (S/2021/C02518)

FLATS FOR sale @ Hayathnagar, Shantivan Township, 2BHK East Facing 940Sft @4150/- Sft. Ready to occupy. Limited Flats Available. GST Free. Loan Facility Available. Cont: 8886112663 (HYMM/2021/C07715)

LAPALI, NEAR Tarnaka, New Flats, 3rdfloor 2BHK, 800sqft. (301) @27L, 850sqft. (302) @28L, No Lift, Water available. Contact: 9849344771 (HYMM/2021/C07562)

✓ 2BHK FLAT for Sale - NEW & Semi Furnished - 1 car Parking space - Private Location - 920 Sq.Ft - Shivagni Colony, LB Nagar. Ph:9940086605 / 7799108811 (W/2021/A01224)

AT KAKATHIYA nagar, Malkajgiri 2BHK flats for sale, main road site. contact: 8069539356. (HYMM/2021/C07723)

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SEGUMPET NEWLY constructed 3 BHK, 2699 sqft, 3rd floor, Agrasen Arcade, Brahmankudi, 2 car parking, only serious buyers. Contact: 9848025252. (A/2021/C00619)

EAST MARREDAPALLY Luxurious 4 BHK Flat 2100 sqft recently renovated, fully equipped with parking at prime location. Genuine buyer. Contact: 9394806188. (S/2021/C02337)

GACHIBOWLI- KHAGAJADA 3BHK Flats For Sale, ACE Atlantis, 1800Sft, With 2car Parkings And All Amenities 5Years Old Ph:7981611659, 9346391945 (HYMM/2021/C07758)

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REAL estate company wants to purchase and sell land in Jigopti, Sanagreedy, Shrishamall Road, Sadasiyepet and Vikarabad areas. Others also may contact. Ph:9010421323, 6309272280 (HYMM/2021/C07434)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

DOUBLE BEDROOM

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

<p

APR sells homes, hopes to leave good memories



SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

The APR Group, which began its operations just a few years ago with two residential projects — APR Praveen's Luxuria, and APR Praveen's Nature, the three- and four-bedroom duplex villa complexes — near Patancheru, did not take long to earn the trust of people who made their homes here and also became ambassadors for APR Group.

Avula Praveen Reddy, director, who joined the family-run APR Group soon after completing his Master's degree from United Kingdom, said, "When I took up the responsibility, the market was facing the crisis arising from Covid-19. However, because of the trust our APR Group earned, we never lacked customers. Our clientele mostly comprises people and families that come to us through referrals from those who have already purchased their homes from us."

He added, "Our philosophy is to offer best prices to families, along with quality construction, so that

they remember us throughout their lives."

So far, the company has 1,200 villas that were specially designed for mid- and high-income group families in APR Nagar. It is not just homes, but also constructed were two schools, a hospital building, and two commercial complexes. This colony is, in many ways, a world within itself.

Along with villas, the company also builds residential apartments, an example being APR Praveen's Prime, at Patancheru.



Among the ongoing projects that will be ready for occupation in a few months are APR Praveen's Grandio that consists of 433 villas spread over 30 acres. As with the company's some other projects, this venture is also near Patancheru and close to the Outer Ring Road. APR Praveen's Higheria, another high-rise residential complex with six towers, will have a total of 730 apartments with all amenities and comforts.

On the other side of Hyderabad, near Vanasthalipuram, the APR Group is constructing a 150-villa residential complex that is nestled amidst greenery and will offer a world-class club house. This project is already witnessing enormous interest with many inquiries coming in, the company said.

Q Our clientele mostly comprises families that come to us through referrals from those who have purchased their homes from us. Our philosophy is to offer best prices to families, along with quality construction, so that they remember us.

— Avula Praveen Reddy, APR Group director

Pudami plots light on purse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The projects have a clubhouse, CCTV cameras, well-established underground drainage system, current lines with separate transformars, avenue plantation, play area for children, among other facilities. The vision is to give consumers a chance to live in a serene environment, with all facilities available at the doorstep, and yet not having to burn a hole in their pocket, said Gupta.

"Both projects are located in such areas that have easy connectivity from most places. For example, Jewel City is located near most engineering colleges. IIT Hyderabad is just a 20-minute drive from this township, a 40-minute drive to ISB Gachibowli, and a 25-minute drive to the Outer Ring Road. Similar is the case with the Sunray project in Kadthal," said Gupta. Both projects are surrounded by developed industries, he added.

He said that so far 60 per cent of plots have already been sold from both projects in Shankarpalli and Kadthal. "While I cannot disclose the number yet, the sales have been great in the past few months for both the projects and we hope to expand further," said Gupta.



Both projects, Jewel City and Sunray, are located in areas that have easy connectivity from most places, said Chanikya Gupta, executive director at Pudami Developers.

Realty firms see big growth after Covid

A gradual unlocking of the economy and pent-up demand are supporting housing sales. The repo-linked lending rate for home loans is at a historic low. Attractive discounts and payment schemes have provided further stimulus, says rating agency ICRA

DC CORRESPONDENT

Despite being impacted severely by the Covid-19 pandemic, the residential housing sector has been able to find its feet amidst a challenging environment in the country. However, the recovery from the pandemic impacts varies between large listed players in the realty sector who are doing better than smaller unorganised players.

In its findings on how the realty industry has been doing in the 2020-21 financial year, ICRA Limited, in an analysis found that while the broader market remained 24 per cent below pre-Covid levels on a year-to-year basis in the third quarter of 2020-21, and 39 per cent below pre-Covid levels in the first nine months of the year, the top 10 listed realty companies witnessed a 61 per cent year-to-year in the third quarter, and 13 per cent growth in the year's first nine months.

This disparity in sales growth rates is resulting in accelerated consolidation in the aftermath of Covid-19, and the market share of the top 10 listed realty companies has nearly doubled in the current year, ICRA said. The larger developers, it reasoned, were benefiting from demand consolidation and better credit availability. In terms of launches as well, their market share has increased from 11 per cent in FY2019-20 to 22 per cent in 2020-21.

According to Shubham Jain, senior vice-president and group head at ICRA: "For the broader market, Covid-19 triggered one of the worst demand crashes in recorded history, with housing sales volumes witnessing a 62 per cent decline this year compared to the last across the top



Home-buyers are leaning towards developers with an established track record of on-time and quality project completion. This resulted in large, listed players reporting healthy sales and collections in recent years

Shubham Jain
Senior V-P, ICRA

eight cities of the country." Home-buyers, he said, are leaning towards developers with an established track record of on-time and quality project completion even prior to the onset of the pandemic.

"This resulted in large, listed players reporting healthy sales and collections in recent years, despite the prevailing liquidity crisis and unfavourable supply-demand dynamics. Post Covid-19, better demand prospects, strong balance sheets and adequate liquidity have enabled larger developers to weather the storm better than smaller players, who have been finding it difficult to cope with the prevailing market conditions," he said.

A gradual unlocking of the economy and pent-up demand has been supporting housing sales. Moreover, the repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) for home loans has touched a historical low. This has resulted in improved affordability and has been stimulating house purchases, at least from larger, reputed developers with a strong track-record of timely project completion and quality construction.

Attractive discounts/payment schemes have provided further stimulus. With the onset of the pandemic, home/holiday-home ownership has also become more important.

Overall operating cash flows for most developers, including the listed players, are expected to witness moderation in the current financial year, resulting in increased reliance on available liquidity and/or refinancing to meet committed outflows. However, the larger, organised players have maintained considerable liquidity buffers, and have low levels of leverage, together with high financial flexibility.

These aspects have provided significant support in managing event-related shocks. Thus, most large organised players with established brands, low leveraged balance sheets and adequate liquidity are benefiting from the acceleration in consolidation in the residential real estate segment. Range-bound prices and low loan rates are also expected to further support sales for these players.

Though the current situation in the market appears to be favour big realty companies with strong financials and track records, with smaller companies in the sector making up nearly 80 per cent of this sector, the slow pace of recovery from this large section of companies will weigh heavily on the sector as a whole.

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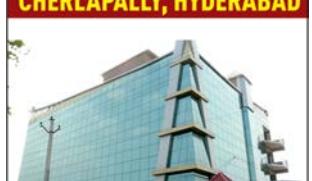
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