

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

AUTOMOTIVE-LEASE/HIRE

CARS.COM WANTED white plate. All Four Wheeler Vehicles. Like Small diesel vehicles, Big vehicles, own plates. Ph:9515947791, 9789203499, (HYMM/2021/C08147)

FURNITURE

JEWELLERY SHOWROOM Furniture in Bulk for Sale included Jhumka, Counters, Showers, Cassette & Split AC's, 25 No's. Godrej iron Almarah, Wooden Sofa & Chairs 100 No's, CCTV Camera Setup, Sound system & many more Contact: 7780399599, (HYCL/2021/C0331)

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

500 SQ.YDS. Main road Commercial Complex (G+1), 2 Side Road, 14 Shutters, 3L/Month Getting Rent. Fatehnagar, Banlagar X'Roads. Call: 8686687421. (HYCL/2021/C03379)

KONDAPUR MAIN road, opp. side of Chirred Public School, 120ft on main road, North facing, Area 1100 sq.yard+ 100 sq.yard TDR. Suitable for Hotels, Hospitals, Schools, Shopping Malls. Contact WhatsApp: 9121255500. Email: ceo@smotroflex.com (S/2021/C02643)

NEW COMMERCIAL Space, ready to occupy, 2000/3000/ 5000sqft 3rd & 4th Floor, N.E Entrance, ample parking, Good Vaastu, 10% Clear Title @ Ramkote (Mani Ratan Towers) Call: 9849010077 (HYMM/2021/C08245)

FLATS

DELUXE FLATS at Budvel, near Pillar No.215, PV Express way, Rajendranagar, Hyd, Royal Crest, 2/3BHK, 100% vastu for sale. Genuine parties may contact: 8008333869. (HYCL/2021/C03355)

GOOD NEWS for investors! Pre Launch Offer. Upto March 20th Near O.R.R, Medchal Malkajgiri Collectorate Office, &BTS Bilani University. 7Acrs Gated community with all amenities, at Shampril Karimnagar Highway, Per Stt 199/-, On live demo Contact: 9553404329. (HYMM/2021/C08125)

THREE & MORE

NEW 3BHK Super Deluxe Flats Ready to occupy, Good Vaastu, at Pragati Colony, AmanGhar X Roads (Model Flat Ready), Bank Loan Available. Contact: 9849010077, 9100011559, (HYMM/2021/C08244)

HMDA APPROVED Highrise Gated Community Apartments (18F+2BHK @Gachibowli - Kollur, Sft @4000/- with 75000 Sqft Clubhouse Amenities Exclusive movie, Theatre & Work Space. Ph:7959122269. (HYCL/2021/C03375)

GATED COMMUNITY Apartments @ Kardanur, Near Kollur, sft @1999/- with world class amenities. Offer ends till March 20th. Ph:7993296119. (HYCL/2021/C03369)

RARELY USED deluxe flat with immediate possession admeasuring 2660Sqft with 110Sq Yards undivided share of land at 4th floor Opp. Indian Bank, West Marredpally, Secunderabad for sale. Parties may contact: 8790057592 (HYMM/2021/C08096)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

300 SQ yards west facing 4- Bhk 2000 Sft HUDA Layout fully developed colony at Sai Ram Nagar colony opp. Army school Bandlaguda Jagir municipal closer to Financial district Gachibowli contact:9346601919. (W/2021/A010281)

120SQ.YARDS G+2 Building at Gachibowli, Lanco Hills, Road for sale, Asking Rate 1.40Crre. Call:900459573. WhatsApp: 8019551557 (HYMM/2021/C08249)

PREMIAL VILLAS in gated community for Sale at Mokila @ 1.80 crs (Special Offer available). For further details, Contact 7353588658. (HYMM/2021/C08180)

LAND

1 GUNTA land for 2.50 L. Near Jachderla with Plantation and 12 Years Maintenance, Call @ 7373040444 (HYMM/2021/C08176)

PLOTS

HMDA APPROVED Layout 880 Sq.yds commercial plots for sale @Amulya Green Valley in Dindigul, near Sundara Chaitanya Ashram, Ph:9398492626. (HYCL/2021/C03321)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

405 SFT Office Space/Ready To Use/ 1st Flr/1st Per Metre/6 Month Adv At Amerpet Metro Station On Mumbai NH/Investment Option Avbl @ 37.5 Lacs Negotiable/Call: 9391074652 (S/2021/C02663)

LAKDIKAPUL OFFICE/ office cum residence 1100 sq.ft. furnished car parking, opp RBL AG Office, 3F, Samrat, R'Complex, Saifabad, Hyderabad. Ph:9440058400. (B/2021/C01158)

INDIVIDUAL rooms with attached bath available for Rent/ Long Lease in 1st floor above Heritage Fresh Super Market, Padmarao Nagar, Secunderabad, 8 ft road facing. Suitable for Corporate Consultants/ CA/ Small offices/ Consultancies, etc. Contact: 9849477751, 955007775. (S/2021/C02027)

SANATHNAGAR independent building for Lease/Rent. Area 10,000 sft. (G+2). Suitable for Labs, Corporate Offices, Banks, etc. Contact: 929835939. (S/2021/C02644)

FULLY FURNISHED Office Space available in Somajiguda 800 and 1000sqft 1st & 2nd floor, No Lift, Ample Car, Ample Parking for Two wheelers. Please Contact: 9866338060. (HYCL/2021/C0337)

PLUG & Play independent building for office. G+1, GF (1100 sft) & 1st (800 sft), total 1900 sft, Vikrampuri Road, No.1, adjacent to Ratnadeep Super Market, Kharkana, Ph:9391075259, 9542422520. (S/2021/C02621)

LEASE

COMMERCIAL

WANTED 2000SFT Commercial Space for Car Showroom @ Gachibowli, Fin District & Attapur. Call: 7660008129, 733080050. (HYMM/2021/C08171)

SIKH VILLAGE, 50 Bedded Rehabilitation Centre for Sale with Licence and All Equipment. Contact: 9989340333. (S/2021/C02626)

REQUIRED

REQUIRED 10000-15000 sq.ft OFFICE SPACE ON LEASE in Banjara Hills/ Somajiguda/ Panjagutta 1st/2nd/3rd Floors Please Contact 7815911877

FLATS

BRAND NEW apartment building in Kondapur for lease companies/ hostels, 10 Three BHk Apartments. No. Brokers no. Sublet. Contact: 8074623823. (S/2021/C02674)

SITUATION VACANT

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

BACK OFFICE females 5-7 yrs. exp/ tally knowledgeatty cash handling and e tendering with good communication skills mail your Cv to uniteddagroengg.com phone 8074765531. (S/2021/C02666)

LEADING BUILDER requires Sr. Accountant, min 05 years experience. Walk-in interview, Modi Properties, above Yamaha Showroom, M.G.Road, Secunderabad. Ph:66335551. (S/2021/C02685)

ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

A REPUTED Bank Requires Customer Sales Support Female With Good Communication Skills Inter/ Degree/ Exp/Freshers. Amerpet, Timings: 10 To 5pm: 7939572145 (HYMM/2021/C03374)

MARKETING EXECUTIVE for air conditioner, two wheel must. Computer & cool care services, Flat No.103, Veena Apartment, Dhamakaram Road, Amerpet. Ph:9246362899, 040-23734386. (HYCL/2021/C03279)

WANTED FULL Time Sales & Marketing Staff (M/F) to promote HMDA Approved Layouts. Qualification: Any Graduation. Call: 9154858585 (W/2021/A01026)

SALES, SALES

girls helper for readymade garments shop, Sona ladies and children wear Abids. 999491586 (HYMM/2021/C01922)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED

Sales Executive For Real Estate Pvt Ltd Firm Experience Preferred Call: 8886608880 (HYMM/2021/C02838)

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Counter Sales Executives (Male) for their Stores at Star Hotel, Malls & High Streets. Stores with 2-3 yrs experience in Jewellery/Refit/Hospitality/Industry. Young, Presentable, Fluent in English, Walk-in with CV on 15th 16th Mar, Krishna Pearls & Jewellers near Topaz Building, Panjagutta, Hyderabad. Between 11:00pm. (B/2021/C01180)

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SANATHNAGAR independent building for Lease/Rent. Area 10,000 sft. (G+2). Suitable for Labs, Corporate Offices, Banks, etc. Contact: 929835939. (S/2021/C02644)

WANTED CIVIL Engineer B.Tech/ Diploma Freshers for Civil Works in Villa & Apartment Projects at Hyderabad. (Sal: 10k-15k), 9949836096, 8309475836 Send CV to: rcpfrecruiting@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C02608)

WANTED STRUCTURAL draftman min 2years experience. Send resume Mail Id: crupaliram.2008@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C0337)

GENERAL

WANTED A Male or Female Nurse or Day or Night Attendant Good in English. Apply with your Passport photo, photograph, Birth certificate to Sree Ram Rao, B-9, Vikrampuri Near KFC, Gate No.4, Road No.4, Near Karkhana, Secunderabad. Ph:9345899001. (S/2021/C0205)

HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE

REQD OFFICE Admin (Male/ Female) For Office Administration, Front Office near Charminar. Call: 9618642050 between 10 to 6 (HYMM/2021/C02835)

WANTED YOUNG Male Office Admin for paper work documentation at Sanjana's Courtyard, a construction company at Kandikoya. Require good command over English with proficiency in MS Word and MS Excel. Contact: Raja 7093490339. (HYMM/2021/C08175)

LAW OFFICERS

A PRIVATE Limited Company is looking for Senior Legal Manager/Advocate with 10-15 years experience. Should be able to coordinate with Advocates in Civil, Criminal and High Court cases. Should have ability to file complaints in the Police station and do follow up. Walkin/Send resume with expected salary: resume2014acnpltd@yahoo.com (Ph:09912234560). (S/2021/C02666)

LECTURERS

WANTED FRONT Office Staff Qualification: Graduation, fresher or 2 years experience can apply Good Salary for Deserving Candidates. St. Joseph's Jr. College, St. No.8, Himayathnagar, Hyd. Walk-in with relevant certificates today or tomorrow between 11AM-4PM, Ph:7936423727, 798101784. (HYCL/2021/C03376)

MANUFACTURERS

WANTED Manufacturers (MIG WELDERS) (S.S/C/T.I.) 4Posts Minimum 2years Experience in Relevant Field. Contact Original Testimonials On 16th,17th & 18th March-2021. Between 11 AM to 4 PM. At EPE Process Filters & Accumulators Pvt Ltd. Works: 59-A, C.I.E (Expt.), Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad. Ph:9426875001. (S/2021/C02639)

TEACHERS

REPDUCED CBSE Dchool in Banjara, Suncity And Basheerbagh requires Trained And Experienced Teachers For Primary And High School Subjects. Applications In: 9949835381. Interview With Good Communication Skills. Good Salary/ Immediate Start. Please No Calls/Whatsapp/CV Only: 6304853568. (HYMM/2021/C08074)

EXHIBIT GALLERY

SBK MEGA Expo 2021 invites the Exhibitors to take part in 40days Exhibition. Reserve your stall today. Promote ur products and expand your sales & business. Contact: 8500877025/ 8330900111 (HYMM/2021/C08247)

HIRE

HIRING FOR voice semi voice and non voice process Customer care executive Qualification, English Hindi Tamil kannada Salary. 13000 to 20000. Contact 7337463434/ 937453434/ 7337473434 (W/2021/A010284)

MOSQUITO NET

MOSQUITO MESH: Glass Fiber, Aluminium meshes with different systems. Detachable: Velcro, openable: with Aluminium powder coated frames for windows, Door, Roll-on, U-PVC Sliding systems. For Estimation, Installation, (Ph:9849805973/ 9849805974). (S/20

WEATHER

Max: 35.6°C
Min: 19.2°C
RH: 25%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky.
Max/Min temperature 37/19°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarakaya
Tithi: Phalguna Shuddha Tadiya till 9 pm
Star: Ashwini whole day
Varjyam: 3.02 am to 4.49 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.50 am to 9.38 am
Rahukalam: 3 am to 4.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
2nd Sha'ban, 1442 H
PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.24 am
Zohar: 12.35 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.32 pm
Isha: 7.39 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.26 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.23 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.39 PM
MOONSET TODAY 8.06 AM

COUNTER POINT



Not only giving you a washing machine, we will also wash and iron your clothes....

SHORT TAKES

6 HELD FOR KILLING MAN ACCUSED OF MURDER

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The Hyderabad South Zone police arrested six men for the murder of history-sheeter Mohammed Parvez alias Farhu Don, who was killed at Adilabada Bazaar.

Police alleged that Shaik Suleman, 23, Shaik Feroz, 24, Shaik Esha, 23, Shaik Awais, 21, Syed Zameen, 20, and Syed Sadiq, 38 had attacked Parvez at Chotapet.

Dr Gajrao Bhupal, DCP South Zone said Suleman bore a grudge against Farhu as he had snatched ₹50,000 that he had won in gambling the previous day.

SPECIAL FEATURE AT IIIT-H TO MARK F.C. KOHLI B'DAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The Kohli Centre on Intelligent Systems (KCIS) at the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH), to commemorate the birth anniversary of Faqir Chand Kohli, referred to as the 'Father of Indian IT Industry', will hold a special programme on March 19 to celebrate his life through research and innovation.

The online event will include an interactive session with chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand on the topic 'AI In Chess: A World Champion's Perspective'. A lecture by Prof. Devi Parikh, School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech, is also listed.



Standstill



A huge traffic jam seen on Khairatabad flyover to NTR Marg in Hyderabad on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

Rise in Covid-19 cases in schools worries govt

Covid hits 14 in Mancherial school

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

With concerns being raised over growing Covid-19 cases across the country, the school education department says it is monitoring the situation closely with regard to opening of schools and following the safety protocol. This comes days after students and teachers in schools and colleges tested positive for coronavirus in districts like Adilabad and even Hyderabad.

Owing to the spike in cases in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, among others, a senior education department official told *Deccan Chronicle* that they have directed district officials for strong imposition of SOPs and safety protocols, especially those close to the state borders.

They also added that any decision pertaining to the approaching exams and offline classes will be taken by the government, which is closely monitoring the situation from the time schools and colleges reopened.

"The virus is still very much among us, and we are still collectively battling a pandemic."

Earlier six students of a government school in Talamadugu tested posi-

tive in Mancherial headquarters.

This is in addition to the recent instance where five students from a tribal residential school in Booth mandal, Adilabad district, had tested positive.

While many students are attending online classes, quite a few are still unable to cope up with online classes in the absence of smartphones, poor signals and abysmal connectivity and no power supply, particularly in the remote villages of old Adilabad district.

tive on March 8. In old Adilabad district's Booth mandal five out of 35 students of 9th and 10th classes contracted the virus in a tribal welfare residential school.

On Monday, 15 persons, including 11 staff members, a student and 2 mess workers at the Macherial government girls high school also tested positive for the virus.

Act against polluting units, HC orders govt

Seeks closure of such commercial units in residential areas

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The Telangana High Court on Monday gave an ultimatum to the GHMC to immediately initiate action for closure of polluting commercial units in the residential areas of Shastripuram and Tatanagar here.

Censuring the civic body over its inaction in getting the units to move out, as also over the lapse of time even after the High Court passed orders to do so seven months ago, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayeswari has fixed a time-limit for closure of the units.

At the same time, the bench directed the city civil court of Hyderabad

to not pass any injunction orders or give relief to the owners of these units over the GHMC closure notices. Stay orders issued by a single judge bench of the High Court, which restrained GHMC from taking coercive steps, will be vacated, the division bench said.

Electricity connections to such units should be stopped by the power distribution company of Shastripuram area immediately after it received a communication from the GHMC, in which it would specify which all units needed to be closed, the court said. Fixing a time schedule for closure of these units, the division bench directed the GHMC to immediately identify such

Shastripuram and Tatanagar. After identifying such units, notices must be served on these units, asking them to satisfy the GHMC authorities within seven days as to how their units do not come under the category of 'pollution-causing units'.

Once the exercise is completed, the GHMC should give its final closure orders to all the pollution-causing units, asking them to vacate the place within 14 days.

The GHMC has been told to file the status report before the High Court, in compliance with the orders issued by court. No court should entertain any application filed against the GHMC's notices.

The bench was dealing with a PIL filed in 2012 and a batch of petitions relating to pollution-generation by commercial units in the Shastripuram residential area. In 2020, the court had directed the GHMC to vacate such units by following the due process. When the notices were served, more than 116 unit owners have approached the single bench of the High Court and others went to the city civil court for relief.

As per a report, 345 units were identified as pollution-causing in the 30 acres of the Shastripuram residential area. Some 146 of these units have shifted to other areas after they received closure notice. Some of the units have been closed.

PATIENTS TO GET BETTER FACILITIES AT TIBBI COLLEGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The marketing intelligence team of the Hyderabad cybercrime police arrested two men for cheating two city locals of over ₹40 lakh.

Shivam Shantni Singh of Bokaro, Jharkhand, and Rahul Kumar of Nasrapur in Bihar, were picked up from their residential areas in different cases.

The first arrest was made following a complaint by a resident of Nallakunta, who trades in stocks. In February last, one Narendra Kumar contacted with him through a UK number.

Posing as a stock adviser, he convinced the target to invest ₹21.60 lakh by promising him high returns.

In the other case, on November 25, 2020, a man looked online for a firm to acquire distribution licence for its products. He received a call from a person to be from the company. He made the victim part with a total of ₹21.60 lakh.

AMD suspends Amrabad tiger reserve project

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

ed among the public, creating fear among them that if the exploration is taken up, they would die, said Dr Sinha.

The director also said that there was a need to educate the public that uranium exploration requiring drilling of boreholes as narrow as 52 mm is a usual and safe procedure.

Dr Sinha, stated that the decision to suspend the project was "Telangana's loss."

He said the Atomic Minerals Directorate was in no hurry in Telangana state as mining-friendly states like Rajasthan and Jharkhand were welcoming them.

As of December 2019, the Atomic Minerals Directorate had identified 3.25 lakh tonnes of uranium oxide resources with a major chunk in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Telangana state which were to be explored further.

Hyderabad collector Sweta Mohanty on Monday emphasised the need to increase in-patient and out-patient and ante-natal services at the Government Nizamia Tibbi College.

She expressed concern over a decline in the turnout of patients while speaking at a meeting of the Government Nizamia Tibbi College and General Hospital Development Society on Monday.

She observed that long after the lockdown had been lifted, the number of patients had not increased. Before lockdown, 1,000-1,200 patients used to avail the services of the Unani hospital, which has fallen to 200-250.

She has assured to sanction the budget for procuring the medicines.

She asked the officials to send her estimates for the repairing works of the building.

19 MEDICAL STUDENTS FALL SICK

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Nineteen students of the Osmania Medical College suffered food poisoning on Monday. It was after lunch at the college mess that the students complained of upset stomach and 20 of them suffered from sudden bouts of vomiting and dysentery.

All the 20 were admitted at Gandhi Hospital where their condition was reported to be stable.

It is expected that the college authorities will launch an investigation to find out how the students came to consume contaminated food and what action is to be taken against the guilty.

Advt. No. 26/2021
Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of Director (Technical) in Western Coalfields Ltd Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on 3rd May, 2021. For details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>



*Indicated rate above is available for home loan applicants with a credit score of 800 and above, applying for loans on or before 31.03.2021 and availing disbursements (part/full) on or before 15.04.2021. *Limited period offer for salaried cases with women applicants / co-applicants only and is subject to taxes as may be applicable. All loans are at the sole discretion of HDFC Ltd. For detailed terms and conditions visit www.hdfc.com. CIN: L70100MH1977PLC09916 NETWORK HDFC3574-20

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SHORT TAKES

ENERGY MINISTER THANKS GOVERNOR FOR PRAISE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Energy minister G. Jagadish Reddy has welcomed Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan's Budget speech in the Assembly appreciating the progress made by the state in the power sector during the last six and a half years.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Jagadish Reddy pointed out that before the TRS government came to power, Telangana state had suffered immense electricity cuts. Industry had to suffer power holidays. But after the KCR government took over, the state had made tremendous progress in the field of electricity.

The minister asserted that Telangana has the record of being the only state in the world to provide 24-hour free electricity to agriculture and uninterrupted power supply to all sectors. The transmission capacity of 13,900 MVA has now increased to 37,000 MVA. It is noteworthy that average per capita electricity consumption in the state is much higher than the national average.

KCR PUSHED TS INTO DEBT TRAP: KOMATIREDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy charged that the decisions taken by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had pushed the state into a debt trap. The condition is so bad that even salaries are not being paid to employees, he maintained.

Speaking while visiting Gajwel constituency in Siddipet district, Venkat Reddy alleged the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme had been undertaken spending thousands of crores only to receive kickbacks from contractors implementing the project. He feared that farmers will not be paid their compensation for lands unless the bills of these contractors are not cleared.

The Bhongir MP accused the Chief Minister of focussing only on development of Chintamadaka, his native village, and ignoring Gajwel, from where he was elected. He demanded that Gajwel farmers too must be given double bedroom houses and ₹10 lakh, just like farmers of Chintamadaka.

GOV'S ADDRESS MISLEADING, SAYS SHABBIR ALI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Former minister Shabbir Ali has described Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan's address to the State Legislature on Monday as being factually incorrect and misleading.

"The Governor's claims on annual growth rate, GSDP and per capita income are factually incorrect. The CAG and the 15th Finance Commission have clearly pointed out serious auditing errors in the Budget figures. They accused the government of inflating figures to show high revenues. Therefore, any estimation on growth rate, GSDP or per capita income based on those inflated figures will be erroneous and cannot not be relied upon," Shabbir Ali said.

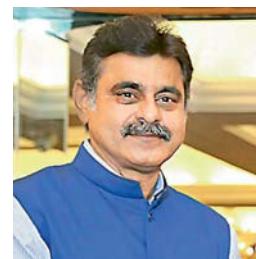
He said the state government had claimed 17.24 per cent annual growth from 2014 to 2019.

URBAN CIVIC | POLLS

Vishweshwar quits Cong.

Former MP to take a three-month break from politics

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15



Ending a long drama of suspense and keeping all sides waiting, senior leader Konda Vishweshwar Reddy formally resigned from the Congress on Monday.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, the former MP said, "All options are open. Since it would have been unethical to explore options while being in the Congress, I wanted to first submit my resignation to the party. I waited for all these days because I was waiting for the MLC elections to be over so as not to cause damage to Congress candidates, especially G. Chinna Reddy, who contested from the Hyderabad-Mahbubnagar-Ranga Reddy graduates constituency."

After formally submitting his resignation, the former Lok Sabha member of Parliament from Chevella, said that he would be taking a three-month break from politics before finalising his next course of action.

"All options are open. I may join the BJP but I am not under any com-

pulsion to join the saffron party," he said, before taking a dig at his former party, the TRS, saying, "If the party gets a decent leadership, someone like Etala Rajendar or Harish Rao and apologises to the people of Telangana for its misdeeds, who knows, I might even join the TRS. But it is most unlikely."

Without ruling out even creating a new regional political party, bringing all those who are unhappy with the TRS and the Congress but not keen on moving to the BJP, he said, "I am presently keeping the choice on the table. I will meet and discuss with various leaders from all political parties and maybe float a new party in Telangana. But if I take up this option,

Reddy said that he is very open to joining the BJP, which is looking at this point of time as best placed to ending the TRS reign in the state, saying he would publicly talk about his next step in three months' time.

Reddy had previously, on various public platforms, openly disclosed that he would quit Congress if the party functioning does not change. On Monday he finally officially resigned from the Congress.

Mr Reddy joined the TRS in 2013 during the Telangana movement and won his maiden elections as a member of Parliament seat from the Chevella Lok Sabha constituency in the 2014 general elections by over a margin of 75,000 votes.

Later, he shifted his loyalties to the Congress during the Assembly elections in 2018. In 2019, he took part in the Lok Sabha elections from Congress but was defeated.

"After a hectic time campaigning in the MLC polls, I will be taking a break and won't be very active on Twitter for a week or so. However, I may organise a meeting with Tweeple this Sunday. In the meantime I will leave with a thought to think about, with a Tweet later today (sic)," Reddy tweeted through his official handle.

HYD RECORDS 67.26% TURNOUT, WARANGAL 76.41%

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15



BJP delegation led by state president and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar addressing the press after meeting Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Alleging that the state government was harassing Hindus in Bhainsa, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar accused Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao of intentionally depriving them of their constitutional and human rights.

He said that if the government does not take any action against the culprits responsible for creating communal tension in the town, the party activists would storm Pragathi Bhavan demanding immediate justice.

Leading a party delegation to Raj Bhavan, he submitted a representation to Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan seeking her intervention in the Bhainsa incident. He lamented that the government was not even coming to the rescue of the victims, who had lost their properties.

The BJP leader said that it was unfortunate that the government was filing cases against Hindus and

allowing the actual perpetrators to go scot-free. He wondered if Chandrashekhar Rao had any humane considerations given that treatment of the rape victim, a minor, was being taken care of by the BJP and not the government.

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He wanted to know why leaders from the Congress

IN BRIEF
Student adopts peacock at NZP

Hyderabad: A Class 10 student, Meghana, adopted a peacock for a period of two months at the city zoo on Monday. She presented a cheque of ₹5,000 to V.V.L. Subhadra Devi, curator, Nehru Zoological Park. The official said she was happy to see that teenagers were coming forward to adopt animals.

CLERICS PROTEST P.I.L. TO REMOVE QURAN VERSES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Shia and Sunni clerics and community elders on Monday staged a demonstration at Darushifa ground against Waseem Razvi, former chairman of UP Shia Waqf Board, for filing a public interest litigation seeking to remove 26 verses from the Quran. The Old City Welfare Society, Wadi-e-Salam Committee and Telangana Shia Welfare Development Committee organised the protest. The protesters burnt a photograph of Razvi and expressed their wrath. The participants asserted that both Shias and Sunnis believed that the Quran was a divine revelation and protected from any interpolation. They claimed that to divert the attention from a probe by CBI into the illegal sale of Waqf properties and appease the BJP government Razvi had approached Supreme Court demanding the removal of the verses claiming that they instigate Muslim youth to adopt the path of terrorism. Moulana Syed Nisar Hussain, member, Waqf Board, Moulana Ali Hyder Farishta, Moulana Hyder Zaidi, Mushtaq Malik, president, Tahreer Muslim Shabban, Moulana Hafiz Muzaaffar and others participated.

AFTER SPIKE, ONION PRICES FALL STEEPLY

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The price of onions is continuing to fall after a recent spike. On Monday, onions were being sold for ₹20. The Malakpet market yard, considered the largest onion market in the city, received 70 truckloads of the bulbs, 43 of them from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Experts said that the over-production of onions had led to the drop in prices.

"The trucks from Karnataka and Maharashtra brought in 5,640 quintals of onion. In the state, there are places like Mahubnagar, Medak, and Tandur and in Andhra Pradesh we have Kurnool, from where we get onions. From these places we received 23 trucks carrying 2,760 quintals of onion," said Damodar, an AMC with the agriculture department.

He said many farmers had chosen to plant onions as the prices had risen last year. But the prices had risen as farmers were unable to send their yield out due to the pandemic. "We had a lot of supply issues last year. Now there is a surplus amount of onions," he said.

G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, agrarian expert from the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, said: "Going by the look of things, the prices of onions are expected to fall even further."

This is a usual occurrence, the price falls every time a new crop comes to the market." The price falls steeply only twice. While the first is in March the next time would be around September.

WORK | MODE
Genco, BHEL discuss construction of 4,000 MW Yadadri plant

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The Bhadravati Thermal Power Project, producing 540 megawatts of electricity, will add another 270 megawatts towards its commercial operations in the next 10 or 12 days, it was announced here on Monday.

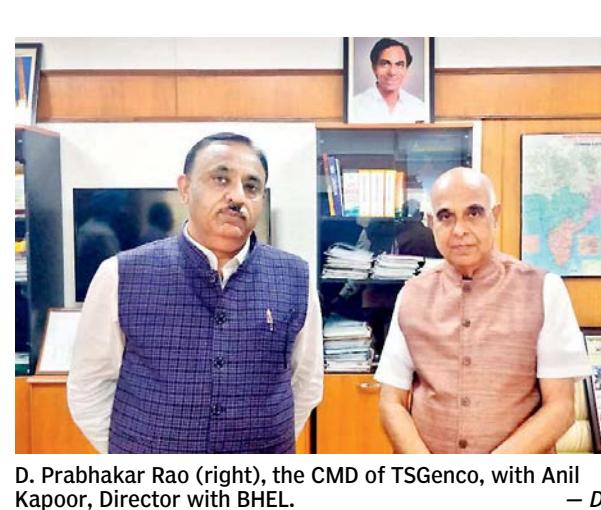
The Bhadravati power project, at Maniguru in Bhadravati-Kothagudem district, comprises four 270 MW generation units of which two are operational. Work on the fourth unit is progressing at a fast pace and it is expected to begin commercial operations in

the first quarter of 2021-22.

The progress in this project's works, along with that of Yadadri Thermal Power Project, were on Monday reviewed at the TSGenco office. The meeting was chaired by D. Prabhakar Rao, chairman and managing director of TS Genco and TS Transco, and Anil Kapoor, director (HR) holding additional charge of director (power) at BHEL. The progress of both the projects was reviewed in detail and Genco and BHEL officials were given directions to further expedite the projects. BHEL is also executing

the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Project at Dameracherla, Nalgonda district, for Genco. The project is the largest thermal power project in south India and work on this project is also in full swing.

BHEL supplied sets contributing to nearly 90 per cent of the coal-based power stations installed in Telangana state, and projects equipped with BHEL-supplied sets such as the ones at Ramagundam and Kothagudem, have consistently been winning merit awards from the Union power ministry for their performance.



D. Prabhakar Rao (right), the CMD of TSGenco, with Anil Kapoor, Director with BHEL

— DC



Locals dump garbage at Nampally (left) while residents throw trash despite a board warning against the practice in the Railway Officers Club lane near Keshavnagar Colony in Secunderabad.

WAKF BOARD ASSURES HIGH COURT OVER MOSQUE IN SECRETARIAT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

with other buildings in the Secretariat for building a new complex.

Counsel Harender Pershad for the Telangana government and Abu Akram for the Wakf Board maintained that they had no specific instructions as to whether one or two mosques will be built in the complex or would they be built at the same place of demolished mosques.

The proposed mosque will be in lieu of the two mosques demolished along

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY URBAN FORESTRY	
HGCL Building, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 008.	
Tender Notification	Dt: 15.03.2021
RC No. 6111/UF/HMDA/2021	
The Urban Forestry of HMDA is inviting tenders for Maintenance of plantations on ORR - Railway Corridor, Service Road, Central Median & Main Carriageway on ORR and other maintenance / development works in HMDA jurisdiction from the registered contractors in any State or Central Government Departments / Organizations who have previous experience of executing similar nature of works on e-procurement platform. The last date for tender filling is 25-03-2021. For further details please visit HMDA official website http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in	
Sd/- DIRECTOR, Urban Forestry, HMDA	

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS	
(An autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, Ring Road, Uppal, HYDERABAD - 500 030. Ph: No. 040-27160278, Fax: 040-2716019)	
Email: icfd@icfd.org.in	
TENDER NOTICE NO: CCFD/EC/NC/CIVIL/WORKS/2020-21/23 DATE 11-03-2021	
On behalf of Director, CCFD, invited tenders are invited from the working contractors of CPWD, Railways, MSS, State PWD, State R&B, G-MC for the work "Providing Storm water drain at CCFD, Laboratory campus, Uppal, Hyderabad"	

Estimated Cost	Tender Cost	EMD	Time for completion of work	Last Date for submission of Tender	Date of opening of Tender
₹10.60 lakhs ₹ 500/-	₹ 21,200/-	25 days	31-03-2021 upto 3 p.m.	31-03-2021 at 3.30 p.m.	

Tender Documents can be downloaded from the website www.ccfd.org.in and www.eprocure.gov.in. tender cost and EMD to be submitted in the form of Demand Draft. Amendments / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the CCFD website only.

Sd/- I.C. Civil Engineering

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE NO. 32 DATE 15.03.2021

Website www.indianrailways.gov.in E-mail: cos-ner.railnet.gov.in

Fax No. 0851-220721

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.reps.gov.in

Item	Tender No	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1	22200770	06.04.21	Kit for Injection etc.	RDSO	2115 Set.	139760/-
2	30201093	06.04.21	0.5 HP self priming mono block pump etc.	ICF	736 Nos.	62980/-
3	22201240A	07.04.21	Set of Control Arm Assembly etc.	ICF, MCF, RCF	187 Set.	69120/-
4	29200006	08.04.21	Magneto Telephone etc.	RDSO	1290 Nos.	104720/-
5	22201073	09.04.21	UIC Type Vestibule arrangement etc.	ICF	268 Set.	212570/-
6	22201081A	12.04.21	Pad for secondary etc.	ICF	3150 Nos.	789510/-
7	29201059	13.04.21	Low Maintenance Load Acidic etc.	RDSO	1028 Nos.	133150/-
8	22211086A	07.05.21	Silent block for roll link etc.	ICF	1297 Nos.	610440/-

PROPS-63 Principal Chief Material Manager, N.E.Railway, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU)	
E-TENDER NOTICE	

NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal <https://tenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. The suppliers need to get enrolled in the E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. However, EMD in the form of DD, drawn in favour of PAY & ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NRB, MUMBAI should be sent by post to our Mumbai Office so as to reach us by the tender opening date. No paper quotation will be accepted.

Sr. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date of Uploading the tender	Opening Date of the tender
1	DPS/NRBPSU/07/N2/370/PT	Cement Fixation System	09/04/2021	09/04/2021
2	DPS/NRBPSU/03/N2/372-TPT	Chilled Water Plant	05/05/2021	05/05/2021
3	DPS/NRBPSU/01/N2/393-TPT	UPS	10/05/2021	10/05/2021

CORIGENDUM OF TENDER NO.DPS/NRBPSU/03/N2/271-A/TPT

The Due Date for ONLINE sub missioning tender is extended as follows:

Sr. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Revised due date
1	DPS/NRBPSU/03/N2/271-A/TPT	Compactor (200 Te)	16/04/2021

Details of EMD, Pre-Bid Meeting (if applicable) are given on the above portal. Bidders shall ensure that, minutes of pre-bid meeting and / or corrigendum if any uploaded on the E-Tender portal would be viewed / verified for any modification before uploading their offer.

For details on Bid Preparation, please see the user manual in the portal. For technical assistance, please contact help desk 020-2515555 or email: support.dpsdae@nextenders.com Website-tenders.dpsdae.gov.in

Part II opening date in the tender will be intimated after evaluation of part-I to only those bidders who have been technically selected. Date of pre-bid meeting if any, is given in the tender.

The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Regional Director, (NRBPSU)

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS)	

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DECCAN Chronicle

16 MARCH 2021

Why does SC need relook at Places of Worship Act?

The Supreme Court's decision to seek the opinion of the Union government on a public interest litigation petition (PIL) challenging the validity of certain provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 appears to be a legitimate legal procedure but one that calls for meticulous handling by all stakeholders.

The petition contends that Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Act create an "arbitrary and irrational retrospective cut-off date" for retaining the character of the places of worship or pilgrimage. Section 3 of the Act bars conversion of any place of worship of any religious denomination into a place of worship of a different section of the same religious denomination or of a different religious denomination; Section 4(e) says any legal proceeding with respect to the conversion of the religious character of a place of worship shall abate and that no such proceedings shall lie on or after such commencement in any court, tribunal or other authority. In effect, the religious character of all religious places in India is fixed as per their character on the day of Independence and no person can alter it, nor can a court entertain a petition seeking an alteration. The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute was the only exception the law mentions.

Going by the petitioner, the law has closed the legal options of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs against illegal encroachment on their places of worship and pilgrimage. Interestingly, the petitioner, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, raises the point that the law is ultra vires several key Articles of the Constitution which deal with equality, discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, protection of life and personal liberty, freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion, freedom to manage religious affairs and protection of interests of minorities. Moreover, the PIL argues, it violates the principles of secularism, which is an integral part of the Preamble and the basic structure of the Constitution.

From the looks of it, the PIL is an innocent demand for justice but in fact it stands logic and the Constitution on their heads. Parliament had passed the law in the backdrop of the demolition of the Babri Masjid by a group of religious fundamentalists and vandals (who were last year absolved of their crime by the trial court). The P.V. Narasimha Rao government, that was accused of being a silent spectator to one of the most barbaric acts Independent India has witnessed, enacted the law to prevent a repeat of the same. This was because the same elements which brought down the Babri Masjid, showing scant regard for the basic concepts of democracy such as respect for the rule of law and the sanctity of judicial orders were targeting other such structures as well.

Civilisations survive and thrive not by going back to history and righting everything that went wrong. After all, the scale changes with time. India definitely doesn't have the luxury to engage its several future generations on issues religious with a scale that surpasses time, ignoring poverty, ignorance and disease. The Supreme Court will do justice to itself, and to the people, by remembering this simple point.

Jagan is South's big star

From being a political upstart who intrepidly challenged the mighty Sonia Gandhi at the height of the United Progressive Alliance's stint in power at the Centre to the latest founder of a powerful regional party in the South, to one of India's youngest chief ministers, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has traversed an exciting and peerless journey, lickety-split, with remarkable ease.

With a sweeping win even before his first term as chief minister reaches its mid-point, reducing the Opposition Telugu Desam led by an experienced political giant of another era, N. Chandrababu Naidu, to rubble, Mr Reddy is now the undisputed political czar of Andhra Pradesh. But is he actually more than just that?

A cursory scan of South India's political map — read hot in parts because of the ongoing Assembly election campaigns — will find the answer is yes. At a time when several incumbent CMs and their challengers are fighting to etch the next episode of their career and destiny, Mr Reddy is sitting pretty on his people-gifted throne.

Karnataka's B.S. Yediyurappa is past his prime and Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is battling intense anti-incumbency and an exceptional political challenge from the BJP. Kerala's incumbent chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan may be on the verge of making history as a rare instance of a front retaining power in that state, but as part of a political party and ideology without any larger national salience or relevance, he will remain a state-level leader.

In Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin's long wait may finally be over and his tryst with power may bring upon him the status of being a new icon in national politics from the south. But a big "if" stands between Mr Stalin and the results on May 2. In the context, Mr Reddy is now bigger and more than just the chief of the YSR Congress or the CM of Andhra Pradesh; he is the most powerful political leader in South India. He's also the creator of a new brand of politics whose best times may still be ahead: far, far ahead.

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KAUSHIK MITTER

Editor

Subhani



As Afghan mess grows, India must be cautious



Anand Sahay

Far & Near

It is becoming apparent that the Americans are finding it hard to orchestrate their plan to get out of the Afghan quagmire. The way things are going, an outcome satisfactory to all is unlikely from the set of ideas that Washington has lately advanced.

In these circumstances, India must learn to do its own sums even as it seeks to be collegial. Its abiding interests in the Afghan theatre are self-evident. Its best bet is to align with the people of Afghanistan at a crucial juncture, and to develop working relations with key constituencies, banking on the goodwill it has earned.

The Biden administration's ideas were projected in a letter by secretary of state Antony Blinken to President Ashraf Ghani, and the so-called draft peace proposals canvassed by Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special envoy for Afghan Reconciliation, to enable constitution-making afresh (in a new order), shape post-US governance through an interim government to start with and pave the way for a comprehensive ceasefire.

Practically rejecting this line, President Ghani declared on March 6: "Transfer of power through elections is a non-negotiable principle for us." He said that he was ready to discuss free and fair elections "under the auspices of the international community".

"We can also talk about the date of elections and reach a conclusion," the Afghan President added, showing readiness to forgo more than half his term. His words were pithily reaffirmed by vice-president Amrullah Saleh, a redoubtable former intelligence chief, suggesting that this is a deliberated position — indeed, the articulation of an alternative formulation to America's.

In 2019, the BJP won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal. It is hard to see why it will not win the Assembly elections now because it has so much more resources than the rest (more than 90 per cent of electoral bond money, which is the anonymous but legal funding by corporates to political parties, according to RTI reports) and also the power of the Central administration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised he will bring real change to West Bengal. Perhaps he will. The interesting thing to me is that his party has never defined what this "change" is.

Formed in 1951, the Jan Sangh/BJP manifesto moves effortlessly back and forth from grand and formless expression like "national rejuvenation yagna" directly to things like running more trains with third-class compartments as opposed to air-conditioned ones, pushing the benefits of cow manure and asking linguists to introduce technical and scientific terms based on Sanskrit to replace English.

The party's ideology, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, did not want the states to exist. In his Integral Humanism lectures, he had said: "According to the

key Afghan political elites is likely former President Hamid Karzai, chairman of the country's reconciliation process Abdullah Abdullah, and others to the US proposals isn't developed yet, President Ghani's interjection can leave little doubt that the US plan is facing rough weather inside Afghanistan".

While the response of the US is not only wispy, it is self-serving. Does the US seriously believe that Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran and India, besides America itself (the six countries Mr Blinken envisages will be at the table), can project a "unified approach" as "these countries share an abiding common interest in a stable Afghanistan"?

While Pakistan and China may be expected to be favourable to the Taliban outright, what the US is perhaps really saying is that Iran, India (and Russia) should lump it and accept the Taliban's hegemony in Afghanistan once the remaining American troops have exited. Even if India or Iran can develop a functional relationship with the Taliban in time, how realistic is this prospect in the immediate future?

The US of course already accepts the Taliban as the hegemon. That indeed was the basis for the earlier Trump administration to reach the Doha agreement with this Pakistan-nurtured politico-military outfit in February 2020, and the reason why the Biden administration is being openly solicitous of the group which continues to rain violence on the Afghan people.

In the American scheme,

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LETTERS

MLC ELECTIONS

A massive turnout of graduates to exercise their democratic right by voting is a good sign. The Election Commission's enrolment drive and easily accessible online registration made a difference. Further, a small step of curbing money power in the election system can give a good chance of a committed representative win.

M.G. Sai Baba
Hyderabad

MAMATA BANERJEE

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should be appreciated for her will power to continue the campaign for Assembly elections on a wheelchair (*Didi shuns bed rest, renews campaign in wheelchair, DC, March 15*). This will send a strong message to all women of various ages to be bold and brave to fight against all odds, that they face in their daily lives, like eve teasing, stalking and so on.

Indira Agarwal
Secunderabad

COVID-19 CASES

The report 'Daily Covid cases double in 1 week' (DC, March 14) is a wake-up call for the state to step up preventive measures to arrest the spread of Covid-19. The government may initiate young 'Covid volunteers' to continuously sensitise people to use masks, observe social distancing and hand sanitisation and washing.

G.V.N. Murthy
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Directive issued to police, administrators

NEW DELHI, MARCH 15. Bangla Desh, as East Pakistanis have been calling their troubled land was on the verge of unilateral independence today with Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announcing that he was taking over control from the military authorities.

Mr. Rehman made the announcement just a the ultimatum given by the Martial Law authorities to employees of defence undertaking, who had been staying away from work in response to his call for non-cooperation was about to expire.

He had earlier asked the employees to defy the ultimatum which threatened them with dismissal and imprisonment.

Aakar Patel



BJP has never spelt out what 'parivartan' it hopes to bring

first para of the Constitution: 'India that is Bharat will be a federation of states', that is Bihar Mata, Banga Mata, Punjab Mata, Kannada Mata, Tamil Mata, all put together make Bharat Mata. This is ridiculous." He did not tell us that if we removed the states, what mechanism of administration would come between the Union government and the village.

In the first manifesto, the party identified blackmarketing, profiteering and nepotism as the country's key problems. Over time, the Jan Sangh dropped all references to these problems without saying whether they had been solved or had become less relevant to the party.

On agriculture, the party was for "encouragement of the use of mechanical appliances in agriculture". However, later it said that "tractors will be used only to break virgin soil. Their use for normal ploughing purposes will be discouraged". (1954). This was because it was trying to protect oxen from slaughter.

Even though the idols were smuggled into the mosque in December 1949, there was no reference to Ayodhya or a Ram temple there in any manifesto from 1951 to 1980.

In defence policy, it wanted compulsory military training for all boys and girls

SHORT TAKES

ANTI-KAMAL NATH LEADER EXPELLED FROM CONGRESS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MARCH 15

AICC member Manak Agrawal who has recently criticised head of Madhya Pradesh Congress Kamal Nath for inducing a 'supporter' of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse in the party, was on Monday expelled from Congress on charges of 'anti-party activities' and indiscipline.

The development has brought to the fore 'growing rift' between Nath and Congress veteran Digvijay Singh since Agrawal was considered a staunch loyalist of the latter.

The disciplinary committee of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) which met here on Monday decided to expel Agrawal from the primary membership of the party for six years, a statement issued by PCC vice-president Chandrabhas Sekhar said.

Agrawal, however, cried foul saying that PCC was not empowered to take action against him since he was an AICC member.

He said he has done nothing wrong in disapproving party leadership's decision to induct Godse's supporter Babul Chourasia, a leader of Hindu Mahasabha, in Congress.

Congress spokesman here Narendra Singh Saluja however indicated that Agrawal was removed from the party for indulging in anti-party activities in the 2018 Assembly elections in MP.

BSP TO CONTEST ASSEMBLY POLLS IN 3 STATES, UT

Lucknow, March 15: Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Monday asserted that her party will contest the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry on its own, saying the BSP has had a bitter experience of aligning with other parties in the past.

She also stated that her party will go alone in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections next year.

"We are working internally on the elections. We do not reveal our strategy. The BSP will contest on all the 403 Assembly seats in UP, and will perform well. The performance of the party will be good in the panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh," she told reporters at an event to pay tributes to BSP founder Kanshi Ram on his 87th birth anniversary.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said her party has had a bitter experience of aligning with other parties in the past.

"The experience of our party forging an alliance with others has not been good. Our party leaders, workers and voters are highly disciplined. This is not the case with other parties of the country. In an alliance, our votes are transferred to the other party, but the votes of the other party are not transferred to us," she said.

DHINAKARAN MOVES COURT IN AIADMK CASE

Chennai, March 15: AMMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran on Monday filed a memorandum before a city court, where a case challenging the resolutions adopted at the general council meeting of the AIADMK in September 2017 was pending, to detach him from the case.

Recording the same, the judge A.R.V. Ravi adjourned the matter to April 9 with a direction to the original petitioner, late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa's confidante V.K. Sasikala, to inform the court of her stand on the issue.

The 2017 general council had expelled Sasikala and Dhinakaran as the party's interim general secretary and deputy general secretary, months after she was convicted in a disproportionate assets case and then rival leaders, Chief Minister K. Palaniswami and his current deputy O. Panneerselvam, merging their led respective factions.

Originally, Sasikala moved the Madras High Court to declare the resolutions adopted at the general council meeting as null and void.

She also sought the court to declare Palaniswami, Panneerselvam, minister Dindigul C. Srinivasan and senior leaders S. Semmalai and E. Madhusudhan as not members of the AIADMK.

'Titans' of TN politics file nominations

Palaniswami, Stalin, Dhinakaran, Kamal Haasan were among the many candidates who filed papers

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 15

The heavy rush for filing of nominations on Monday, an auspicious day in the Hindu calendar, saw more than 100 candidates for the April 6 Assembly elections submitting their papers with their respective returning officers across the state, including all the Chief Ministerial candidates.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami (Edapadi), DMK president M.K. Stalin (Kolathur), AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran (Kovilpatti), Naam Thamizhar Katchi founder Seeman (Thiruvottiyur) and Makkal Neethi Maiam president Kamal Haasan (Coimbatore South) were among the hordes of candidates who filed their papers.

Most of the AIADMK minister nominated to contest the elections, Speaker Dhanapal, BJP state president L. Murugan, DMK Youth Wing secretary



DMK president M.K. Stalin arrives to file his nomination papers for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections in Chennai on Monday. — PTI

Udayanidhi Stalin, BJP national women's wing president Vanathi Seenivasan also did not miss on the auspicious day. Soon after filing his nomination to contest from

Kolathur constituency in Chennai, Stalin left for Thiruvarur to launch his campaign from the birth place of his father the late M. Karunanidhi. He took a chartered flight to Trichy

to reach Thiruvarur. Kamal Haasan, too, took a chartered flight to Coimbatore from Chennai, where he landed in the morning by a helicopter. He had boarded the helicopter fr-

om Kanchipuram, where he had stayed overnight after a campaign drive. Haasan's helicopter landed at 11.30 am in Chennai and the flight to Coimbatore took off at 12.00 noon.

Shah mocks Didi's campaign in wheelchair

Didi calls PM 'incompetent'

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, MARCH 15

Union home minister Amit Shah being felicitated during a programme Agrami Assam, ahead of Assam Assembly elections, at the Srimanta Sarakadeva International Auditorium in Guwahati on Monday. — PTI

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, MARCH 15

Rubbing salt into the wounds of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday raised doubts on her claim that she was attacked as part of a conspiracy and teased the injured Trinamul supremo for resuming her poll campaign in a wheelchair and then wished her a quick recovery.

Shah, however, cancelled his attendance in person at the first of his two campaign rallies for the BJP candidates in the first phase of polls on March 27, blaming a snag in his helicopter in wake of a miserable turnout in Jhargram and addressed it virtually.

Mocking the CM in his second rally at Ranibandh in Bankura he said, "I apologise to you for my delay in reaching here. My helicopter developed a glitch. But I am not going to complain that there was a conspiracy in it. The helicopter malfunctioned sometimes."

He added, "I have seen Mamata suffered leg injuries. Didn't you see it? How she got injured is yet to be ascertained.

A probe is underway. TMC is crying of a 'big conspiracy' to leave her injured. But the EC has already called it an accident, not an attack. God knows who is speaking the truth."

He also wondered, "Didi, you have got hurt and sad and you have started roaming around in a wheelchair. I want to ask her if she knows the pain of our 130 party workers who were killed in her politics of violence or not while she feels the pain of her leg injury? Weren't the victims someone's father or son or brother or husband? Didn't they feel pain while dying?" People of Bengal will give her their reply in votes this time. I pray to God for your quick recovery. But it would have been better if you felt pain for the 130 slain."

THE ACTOR-TURNED-POLITICIAN'S exit from the TMC came a day after former Kolkata Mayor and TMC turncoat Sovan Chatterjee quit the BJP.

Raidighi in South 24 Parganas later alleged, "I had many complaints which were ignored. So I quit. If the BJP approaches me, I will look into the possibility."

The actor-turned-politician's exit from the TMC came a day after former Kolkata Mayor and TMC turncoat Sovan

Chatterjee, whom she was earlier very close to, quit the BJP alongwith his close friend Baishakhi Banerjee for not getting a ticket.

In fact, Roy tried to enter the BJP when Chatterjee and Baishakhi went to join it in August of 2019. But her chance diminished as Chatterjee, prompted by Baishakhi, strongly objected to her induction to the BJP and made it clear to the saffron party that they would not join if Roy was inducted.

During the day the BJP

workers laid a siege at their election office in Hastings of South Kolkata protesting against the distribution of tickets to TMC turncoats Rajib Banerjee at Domjur and his aide Mohit Ghati at Panchala. They broke barricades and demonstrated in front of BJP vice-president Mukul Roy and Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh.

At Uttarpara in Hooghly where another TMC turncoat Prabir Ghoshal got a ticket, BJP supporters circulated posters against him.

HM OFFERS TEAM OF SPECIALISED COMMANDOS TO PROTECT MAMATA

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15Shivraj Singh Chouhan
CONGRESS WILL DESTROY INDIA, SAYS SHIVRAJMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, MARCH 15

Bogged down by growing polarisation of Muslim votes, the BJP leaders have launched a frontal attack on Congress party accusing them of following the "footsteps of Jinnah" instead of Mahatma Gandhi in the ensuing Assam Assembly polls.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan who addressed three rallies in Upper Assam on Monday said, "Congress is not following in Mahatma Gandhi's footsteps. Congress and Rahul Gandhi are following in Jinnah's footsteps. And Jinnah's steps will destroy Assam and India."

Referring to the Congress alliance with AIUDF in Assam, Chauhan while addressing a public rally at Naharkatia in Dibrugarh district said, "Congress has allied with Badruddin Ajmal, who has filled Assam with infiltration... He has a perfume business, but is spreading poison in the society... If 'naagraj' and 'saapra' ally, then Assam cannot be developed."

LATHIKA MAY CONTEST AS INDEPENDENT

Thiruvananthapuram, March 15: Former Mahila Congress president in Kerala Lathika Subhash, who resigned from the post and tonsured her head hurt over the denial of election ticket, on Monday said she would take a "decisive decision" about her political future this evening.

Her statement comes amidst widespread speculation that she would contest as an independent candidate from Ettumanoor, her hometown, in the April 6 Assembly polls.

"I will make a decisive decision about my future plan this evening. I am discussing it with my supporters and well-wishers. I cannot say anything about it right now," Subhash said.

Sources close to her said the woman leader was likely to resign from her primary membership in the Congress party to contest from Ettumanoor constituency, the seat from where she had been keen to contest on the party ticket in the upcoming elections. — PTI

Twitter to bring back #HerPoliticalJourney video series for women leaders

Twitter reveals plan to tackle poll-related 'talk'

New Delhi, March 15: Ahead of Assembly elections, Twitter on Monday announced a slew of initiatives in a bid to protect public conversation and tackle poll-related misinformation.

Announcing the multi-lingual initiatives, the microblogging platform pledged its commitment to "facilitating meaningful political debate, driving civic participation during elections", in real-time.

"With the #AssemblyElections2021 taking place in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry, Twitter announced a

custom emoji to encourage participation, a series of pre-bunks and debunks to tackle election-related misinformation, and a youth discussion series titled #DemocracyAdda aimed at voter literacy and civic participation among young Indians for the upcoming elections.

These will be activated across six languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Assamese and Malayalam, in order to cater to audiences across India.

Additionally, to put a focus on women in Indian politics, the service would be bringing back

#HerPoliticalJourney, a video series where women political leaders share their personal stories with leading women news journalists.

It is pertinent to mention here that voting for five Assembly elections will begin on March 27, with West Bengal hosting eight phases over a month. Counting of votes in the four states and one union territory will take place on May 2.

Kamat thanked the Election Commission of India, the State Election Commissions for their support, and hoped that the platform's efforts would "contribute to

unfolds".

"With digital penetration accelerating in India, more people now have access to credible, authoritative and timely information — crucial tools for exercising their civic rights. By leveraging the power of the open Internet, we are encouraging people across India to be a part of the #AssemblyElections2021 conversation," Kamat said.

Kamat thanked the Election Commission of India, the State Election Commissions for their support, and hoped that the platform's efforts would "contribute to

healthy and vibrant civic dialogue".

Elaborating on the initiatives, Twitter said the information search prompt would make it easy to find credible and authoritative information about candidate lists, voting dates, polling booths, and EVM voter registration, among other election-related topics.

The custom emoji is aimed at stimulating participation in election-related discussions. Featuring an inked finger to represent a citizen who has exercised their right to vote, the emoji is available till May 10, 2021. — PTI



SHORT TAKES

AMARNATH YATRA LIKELY TO SEE HEAVY RUSH: CRPF

Jammu, March 15: This year's Amarnath Yatra is likely to witness heavy rush of pilgrims, a top CRPF officer here said on Monday, and asserted that all necessary arrangements will be made to ensure it passes off peacefully.

Inspector General (IG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jammu sector, P.S. Ranipise said all units and formations have been briefed about the threat posed by sticky bombs, and asked to remain on high alert.

The 56-day yatra to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in the South Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to start from the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal on June 28 and culminate on August 22.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating a free medical camp organised by the 166th Battalion of the force in Sidiha here, the CRPF IG said, "It is likely that the yatra this year will attract heavy rush, and keeping this thing in mind, we will study the requirements, and all necessary arrangements will be made for the success of the pilgrimage."

"We already had a meeting with civil police and projected the requirement... We will study the logistic requirements needed at the Yatri camps and might require more forces," he added.

To a question on the number of troops required for the pilgrimage, the IG said, "That will be decided by the government after a review of the overall situation."

ARMS IMPORTS TO INDIA DOWN, SAYS REPORT

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

India's arms import decreased by 33 per cent between 2011-15 and 2016-20, according to a report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Monday.

Russia was the most affected supplier, although India's imports of US arms also fell, by 46 per cent. "The drop in Indian arms imports seems to have been mainly due to its complex procurement processes, combined with an attempt to reduce its dependence on Russian arms," said SIPRI report. It said India is planning large-scale arms imports in the coming years from several suppliers.

Globally, United States remained the largest arms exporter, increasing its global share of arms exports from 32 to 37 per cent between 2011-15 and 2016-20. Russia and China both saw their exports declining.

The arms exports by Russia, which accounted for 20 per cent of all exports of major arms in 2016-20, dropped by 22 per cent (to roughly the same level as in 2006-10).

"The bulk — around 90 per cent — of this decrease was attributable to a 53 per cent fall in its arms exports to India," said the report.

ODISHA MAN, SON HELD FOR SETTING FOREST ABLAZE

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 15

A man and his son were on Monday arrested for allegedly setting a forest ablaze at Madhapur in Odisha's Boudh district. The accused duo, identified as Asan Majhi and his son Shyamghan, were caught red-handed while setting dry leaves on fire in Mundeswar reserve forest under Madhapur range.

Saroj Mishra, the local Madhapur range officer, said the forest department personnel found smoke emanating from four to five places Mundeswar reserve forest during patrolling.

"Our personnel immediately rushed to the spot where the accused father and son were setting the forest afire. The duo started running to escape the forest patrolling team. Our squad chased them and arrested the father, son-duo. Later, they were produced before a court," said Mishra.

Earlier, on March 13, four persons were arrested on similar charges in Purunakata range in the district while two other were arrested from Subarnagiri forest under Manamunda range. A gun was also seized from them.

In a similar crackdown on March 11, three persons had been arrested on charges of setting fire at Ranjagada reserve forest in Dhenkanal district.



Students wearing masks attend morning prayers at school in Srinagar on Monday. Most of the primary schools reopened in the Kashmir valley from today amid strict Covid-19 guidelines imposed by the government. — PTI

Vande Bharat Mission world's largest repatriation drive: EAM

Exercise saw the return home of over 45 lakh people from 98 countries

MP: 5 MLAs test +ve for Covid

Bhopal, March 15: With five MLAs contracting Coronavirus infection, the ongoing Budget session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly may be cut short this week, an official said.

The session started on February 22 and was scheduled to end on March 26.

Five legislators and four marshals have contracted Covid-19 since the session

started and there is growing concern among members, said an official of the Assembly secretariat.

Therefore the session might conclude this week after transacting the scheduled business, he said.

Earlier in the day, as soon as the proceedings started, Legislative Affairs Minister Narottam Mishra rose and informed that five members of the

House have contracted the virus so far. Coronavirus cases have increased after a lull, the minister said.

Senior Congress leader Govind Singh said he had a discussion with Leader of Opposition Kamal Nath on the issue.

Speaker Girish Gautam said he talked to the MLAs who tested positive. "I request the members again to undergo tests," he said. — PTI

Qatar: The EAM also said that among the states, Kerala received the maximum returnees, followed by Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. He also said that the United Arab Emirates was the country from where the maximum number of stranded Indians returned, followed by Saudi Arabia, USA and

happened without the goodwill and cooperation of partner governments. And if that was so forthcoming, it is because of the enormous efforts of this Government's diplomacy starting from the Prime Minister personally.

Whether it was in reaching out, invoking relationships, using our

networking or engaging in direct contacts, we really went all out to ensure the welfare of our brothers and sisters abroad."

He added, "At the end of the day, the sympathetic response of others reflected their positive image of us. Indeed, this was a real testimony of India's enhanced global standing."

LS: Bill on pharma institutes tabled

New Delhi, March 15:

Union chemicals and fertilisers minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda on Monday introduced a bill in Lok Sabha that seeks to provide the national importance tag to six pharmaceutical education and research institutes in the country.

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021 provides for granting the status of nation importance to the six institutes in Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Raebareli were established during 2007-08.

"A need is felt to bring clarity that the six institutes so established as well as any other similar institute to be established under the said Act shall be institutes of national importance," the statement of objects and reasons regarding the bill said.

In order to coordinate the activities of all such institutes, to ensure coordinated development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards, etc., there is a need to establish a central body, to be called the Council, it noted. — PTI

Vaze moves HC against arrest, claims its illegal

Mumbai, March 15: Suspended police officer Sachin Vaze on Monday filed a 'habeas corpus' petition in the Bombay High Court, challenging his arrest by the NIA in connection with the recovery of an explosives-laden SUV near Mukesh Ambani's multi-storey house 'Antilia' here last month.

The NIA, on the other hand, denied before a lower court that he had been detained illegally before the arrest.

Vaze, an assistant police inspector with Mumbai police, was arrested by the National Investigation Agency on Saturday for his alleged involvement. The petition, filed through his brother Sudharm, claimed that Vaze (49) was made a "scapegoat" by "certain political powers".

A Habeas Corpus petition is usually filed to challenge 'illegal' detention or arrest. The plea, moved by his lawyer

Sunny Punamiya, sought a direction to the NIA to produce Vaze before the HC and to prove that due procedure was followed during the arrest.

The police officer was not provided a copy of the FIR and he was also not explained the reasons for arrest, nor was his family informed, the petition said.

The haste with which he was arrested showed that the central agency acted with malafide intentions, it alleged. The NIA is probing the recovery of an explosives-laden Scorpio near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's multi-storey house 'Antilia' here last month.

The case was taken over by the NIA after the mysterious death of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hirani who had claimed the vehicle had been stolen from his possession. — PTI

SENA CALLS VAZE'S ARREST INSULT OF MAHA POLICE

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, MARCH 15

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has reacted strongly to the arrest of police officer Sachin Vaze by the NIA, calling it "an insult of the Maharashtra Police."

It has also condemned the BJP saying those who are celebrating the arrest are hurting the state's autonomy.

In an editorial named "Atak Karun Dakhavli" (They finally arrested him) in the party mouthpiece 'Saamana,' the Sena on Monday alleged that Vaze's arrest by the NIA was to settle the scores for his act of exposing the TRP scam of journalist Arnab Goswami.

India to raise 'racism' issue with Britain

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

member which had gone "unpunished".

Vaishnav, a BJP Rajya Sabha member from Odisha, also raised the allegations of racism levelled recently by Prince Harry's wife Meghan Markle (against a member of the British Royal family) and wondered what would be the state of affairs if such attitudes existed at the "highest levels" in a society. The BJP MP alleged that there appeared to be a "continuation of attitudes and prejudices from the colonial era especially in the UK", while asking the Indian government to take up the issue of racism with the UK. He also alleged segregation of migrants on a racial basis in Britain, adding that "if the UK wants our respect, it has to change".

The developments are being seen as a strong message to Britain, particularly after the BJP MP Ashwini Vaishnav on Monday raised the issue of the recent resignation of an Indian student from Karnataka Rashmi Samant who resigned from the post of President of the Oxford Students' Union following some of her earlier social media posts that were reportedly deemed controversial. The BJP MP also alleged that the Indian lady-student had been "cyber-bullied" into resigning from her post, adding that even the Hindu religious beliefs of her parents was attacked by a faculty

Rajnath urges for talks between farmers, govt**DELHI-GHAZIABAD ROAD OPENED FOR TRAFFIC**

New Delhi, March 15: The carriageway of NH-24 going towards Ghaziabad from Delhi, which was closed since January 26, was reopened for commuters on Monday, police said.

The carriageway from Ghaziabad towards Delhi, however, remains closed, they said.

In view of the prevailing law and order situation at the Ghazipur border and keeping in mind the aspect of public convenience, the carriageway of NH-24 going towards Ghaziabad from Delhi has been opened in due consultation with the police officials of the district, a senior official said.

The stretch had been closed since January 26, when violence broke out in the national capital during a tractor parade by farmers.

The carriageway was briefly opened on March 2. The Tikri and the Singhu borders continue to be closed due to the farmers' agitation. — PTI

BJP leaders speak about construction of the Ram temple, he said, referring to the foundation laying ceremony last year. — PTI

HISTORIC MOMENT Iconic bridge will soar 359 metres above the bed of Chenab river in J&K's Reasi district**Lower ends of arch of rly bridge in J&K connected**

Jammu, March 15: In a historic moment, the railways has connected the two ends of the main arch of the world's highest bridge on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district which will provide direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley.

The iconic bridge will soar 359 metres above the bed of the river and will be 30 metres higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in

Paris. Railway officials termed the development a "historic" one.

Railway minister Piyush Goyal had recently shared the news on Twitter. "In a historic moment, the arch bottom of the Chenab bridge has been completed today. Next, the arch upper of the engineering marvel in making will be completed," he said. The minister, who also shared a video of the achievement, had said

it was set to become the world's highest railway bridge.

Facing grave challenges and life-threatening hazards posed by rough terrain and geological thrust zones, engineers and workers are toiling overtime to meet the last extended deadline set for completion of the world's highest railway bridge connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

The 272 km railway line is being undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹28,000 crore by the Northern

Railway. The first section connecting Udhampur to Katra and the third section between Banial and Baramulla have been completed with both sections operational.

The work to complete the most difficult Katra-Banial section is going as per schedule, they said. The Udhampur-Katra (25 km) section, Banial-Qazigund (18 km) section and Qazigund-Baramulla (118 km) section have already been commissioned.

The terrain passes through young Himalayas, which are full of geological surprises and numerous problems. For execution purposes, the project has been divided into three sub-sections, they said. Katra-Qazigund leg, the most difficult stretch of the project, and its alignment of this stretch which is 129 km long, passes through Patni and Pir Panjal ranges, they said. — PTI

GRAND RELEASING
19th FRIDAYSAPTHAGIRI
70MM-RTC X ROADSLAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
MOOSAPET

AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga
Cinesquare-UppalForum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzi | Moosarambagh
Next galleriaINOX GV MALL | GSM MP MALL
CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA
SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR
BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX
TALLURI 70MM-ECIL X ROADS
KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

SUDARSHAN 35MM

{ Enjoy 4K Laser projection & Dolby Atmos Sound }

11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 1.30pm, 7.00pm

AMB - 7.25pm PLATINUM - 8.00pm

TALLURI - 2.15 \$2 - 2.50, 8.15pm

PVR CINEMAS

FORUM - 10.35, 2.05, 2.55, 4.50, 7.35, 10.20pm |

RK - 11.00am, 5.00, 8.10pm | INORBIT - 10.05,

2.05, 8.00, 10.45pm | L&T - 10.00, 2.35, 5.20, 8.05

10.50pm | MOOSARAMBAGH - 3.35, 4.30,

7.05pm | IRRUM MANZIL - 4.30, 7.15, 10.00pm |

CENTRAL - 11.05, 2.05, 8.15 | ICON - 5.00, 7.45 |

Cinépolis

DSL - 8.05, 10.40pm | CCPL - 4.45, 7.30pm |

SUDHA - 11.35am | MANTRA - 12.00, 5.25pm |

INOX

GVK - 11.10am, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10pm |

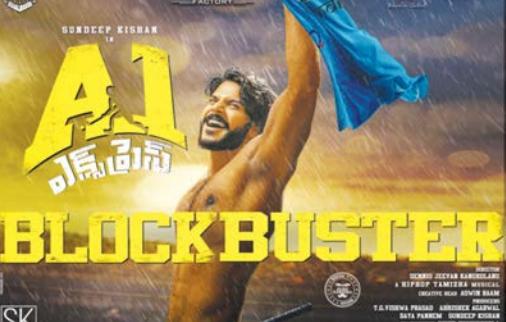
GSM - 11.15am, 2.00, 4.50, 7.40, 10.45pm |

MP - 2.05, 5.00, 7.25, 10.50pm

BALANAGAR - 10.45am, 11.00pm

AMEERPET - 10.45, 4.40pm

GRAND 2nd WEEK



AMB CINEMAS - 6.50PM

CINESQAURE - 1.50, 7.35PM

GPR - 10.30PM

RADHIKA - 4.40PM |

CINEPLANET 7.40PM

PVR FORUM MALL 1.40PM

PLATINUM 7.40PM

GACHIBOWLI 11.00PM

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS 9.45PM

NARAPPALLY 7.40PM

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS

★★★ For those who loved Stree Roohi is a hardnosed entertaining mix of shivers and giggles with three livewire performances by Janhvi, Rajkumar, and Varun. See it in a theatre near you. - Subhash K Jha

★★★ A must watch film for theaters. Super Entertaining - Navodaya Times

★★★ Roohi Uniquely delightful & funny horror pop corn - Glamsham

★★★ An Entertaining blend of laughs and thrills - Times of India



VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATHI - KACHIGUDA - 11:45AM, 9:30PM
SAPNA 35MM - ABIDS RAMAKRISHNA GLITTERATI
2 SHOWS 11:30AM & 9:00PM
PRASADS LARGE SCREEN AMB CINEMAS - GACHIBOWLI
2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 10:20, 1:10, 7:50, 10:45
DSL - UPPAL - 12:30, 3:30, 6:55, 10:20
SUDHA - SHALIBANDA - 10:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
MANTRA - ATTAPUR - 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
CCPL - MALKAJGIRI - 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, 10:40

CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA -
10:50, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00

RK COMPLEX - BANJARAHILLS - 1:45, 10:55PM

ICON - HITECH - 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 | INORBIT
MALL - MADHAPUR - 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY - 10:15, 11:00, 1:05,
2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 | PRESTON PRIME -
GACHIBOWLI - 1:25, 7:50, 10:50 | IRRUM MANZIL -
KHAIRATABAD - 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40 | HYD-BAD

NEXT GALLERIA - MOOSARAMBAGH - 1:40, 4:40,
7:40, 9:30, 10:40 | HYD - BAD NEXT GALLERIA -
PUNJAGUTTA - 10:40, 1:10, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

INOX GSM MALL - MADEENAGUDA - 1:30, 4:35, 7:40,
10:45 | GVK MALL - BANJARAHILLS - 10:10, 1:15,
4:15, 7:25, 10:35 | MP MALL - KACHIGUDA - 10:00,
1:05, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30

MIRAJ - BALANAGAR - 2:00, 4:50, 10:50

GEETHA - CHANDANAGAR - 3:00, 9:30

SHALINI SHIVANI - DILSUKHNAGAR - 1:15, 4:00, 10:15

RADHIKA - KAPRA - 4:00PM

CINESQUARE - UPPAL - 1:45, 4:35, 10:40

MUKTHA A2 MIR SQUARE - NARAPALLY - 11:00, 1:00, 10:25

M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR - 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 10:35

TIVOLI 11:30, 7:40, 10:15 11:00, 4:50, 10:30

MOVIE TIME - GACHIBOWLI - 10:30 S2 NOMA - MALLPUR
11:50, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50, 11:10 1:25, 4:25, 10:50PM

SRI SAIRAJA - MUSHEERABAD METRO - BAHADURPURA
11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:15 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00

YAKUT MAHAL - YAKUTPURA - 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30

GRAND RELEASING
19th FRIDAY

THE STORY OF THE WORLD BIGGEST I.T. SCAM
MANCHU VISHNU, KAVAL AGARWAL &
SUNIL SHETTY IN & AS



VISHNU MANCHU JEFFREY GEE CHIN

SUDARSHAN 35MM

RTC (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION &
X ROADS DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY

RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR

SANTOSH/SAPNAABIDS

INTRA VENKATARAMANA/
PADAMAVATHI COMPLEX

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally

MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga

Cinesquare-Uppal

Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzi | Moosarambagh
Next galleria

INOX GV MALL | GSM MP MALL

CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA

SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR

BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX

AARADHANA 70MM TARNAKA

SENSATION SUNSHINE KAIRATBAD

SRILATHA 70MM R.C.PURAM

SAIPOOJA 70MM SOORARAM

SHIVASAKTHI 70MM KAPRA

LAXMIKALA ECIL X ROADS

& YOUR FAVOURITE THEATRES

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

Martial law in 6 Yangon townships

Security forces have killed dozens in crackdown on resistance to coup

Yangon, March 15: Myanmar's ruling junta has declared martial law in six townships in the country's largest city, as security forces killed dozens of protesters over the weekend in an increasingly lethal crackdown on resistance to last month's military coup.

State broadcaster MRTV said Monday that the Yangon townships of North Dagon, South Dagon, Dagon Seikkan and North Okkalapa have been put under martial law. An initial announcement was made late Sunday saying two other townships Hlaing Thar Yar and neighbouring Shwepyitha were being placed under martial law. At least 38 people were killed Sunday and dozens were injured in one of the deadliest days of the crackdown on anti-coup protesters, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, or AAP, an independent group tracking the toll of the violence. Several estimates from other sources gave higher figures.

Complicating efforts to organise new protests as well as media coverage of the crisis, mobile internet service has been cut, though access is still available through fixed broadband connections. Mobile data service has been used to stream live video coverage of protests, often showing security forces



Anti-coup protesters display cards and shout slogan as they protest against the military coup in Mandalay, Myanmar, on Monday.

attacking demonstrators. It had been turned off only from 1 am to 9 am for several weeks, with no official explanation. The blockage of internet service forced postponement of a court hearing in the capital, Naypyitaw, for Myanmar's deposed leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who was supposed to take part via a video conference, said her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw.

Suu Kyi and President Win Myint were detained during the Feb. 1 military takeover, and have been charged with several criminal offences that their supporters believe are politically motivated to keep them locked up. Since the take-over six weeks ago, Myanmar has been under a nationwide state of emergency, with its civilian leaders ousted and detained, and military leaders in charge of all government. But Sund-

ay's announcement was the first use of martial law since the coup and suggested more direct military control of security instead of local police. The announcement said that the State Administrative Council acted to enhance security and restore law and order, and that the Yangon regional commander has been entrusted with administrative, judicial and military powers in the area under his

command. The orders cover six of Yangon's 33 townships, all of which suffered major violence in recent days.

Thirty-four of the deaths were in Yangon. Video from Hlaing Thar Yar township showed people running away after gunfire was heard at nighttime. Those fleeing carried one injured person and tried to revive two others, one who seemed to be dead or dying.

BIDEN DECLINES TO CALL FOR CUOMO TO QUIT

Washington, March 15: President Joe Biden on Sunday passed up an opportunity to join other Democrats calling for the resignation of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is under investigation after multiple allegations of sexual harassment. Asked by a reporter if Cuomo should resign, Biden responded, "I think the investigation is underway and we should see what it brings us." Biden, who made the comments, had not previously spoken publicly about the allegations against Cuomo.

However, his comments reflect the wait-and-see position the White House has taken regarding Cuomo's future. White House press secretary Jen Psaki would not say whether Biden believes Cuomo should resign. She said every woman who has come forward who has come forward "deserves to have her voice heard, should be treated with respect and should be able to tell her story."

Austin, Blinken in Japan for China-centric talks

Tokyo, March 15: Shared worry about China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region will take centre stage when President Joe Biden's defence chief and secretary of state visit Japan for their first in-person talks with their Japanese counterparts.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived Monday, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken to join him later in Tokyo for meetings meant to reaffirm America's commitment to the region and to the two nations' alliance following former President Donald Trump's more confrontational approach.

The two secretaries are holding so-called "two plus two" diplomatic and security talks on Tuesday with their Japanese counterparts, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi. "The United States is now making a big push to revitalise our ties with friends and partners — both in one-to-one relationships and in multilateral

institutions — and to recommit to our shared goals, values, and responsibilities," Blinken and Austin said in a piece published Monday in The Washington Post.

The US and others share the values and principles of keeping an open Indo-Pacific region, but China is "all too willing to use coercion to get its way," the two ministers said. "Here again, we see how working with our allies is critical."

The United States will lead with diplomacy, maintain America's military might and renew our alliances and ensure they're fit for purpose to address the threats and opportunities of our time," Blinken and Austin wrote.

Together they can hold China accountable for its human rights abuses and other problems in Xinjiang, Tibet, as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan, they said.

In a move meant to signal his intention for the US to return to the Asia-Pacific region, Biden on Friday held a first summit of the leaders from





SANDHYA 35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BRAMARAMBA 70MM
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.30PM

SHIVAPARVATHI 70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

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

MANJU 70MM-SEC'BAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TARAKARAMA 70-KACHIGUDA
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

INJARA VENKATARAMANA/ PADMAVATHICOMPLEX-2.45,9.30

PRASAD-8.45,11.00,1.30,3.45, 6.15,8.30,11.00PM

OAMB 10.30,1.45,4.55,7.00,10.25

MULTIFLEX YELLA LAKHONI 11.00,1.55,4.50,7.50,10.50

ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-11.15,2.00,6.15PM GPR-10.40,1.25,7.30,10.20PM RADHIKA-10.30,1.30,7.00,9.50PM MCUBE-10.40,1.30,4.30,7.00,10.10PM UPPAL-10.50,1.30,4.30,7.30,10.20PM CHINTHAL-11.00,2.00,6.30PM

10.40,1.30,4.10,7.20,10.00PM MJR-10.50,1.40,4.40,7.00,9.50PM

LAXMIKALA-1.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

INOX GSM-11.45,12.45,3.00,4.00, 6.15,7.15,9.30,10.30PM GVK-10.00,1.05,4.15,7.20,10.30,10.50 MP-9.50,12.50,4.00,7.15,10.30PM

Cinépolis MANTRA-10.00,11.00,1.55, 4.50,7.45,10.30PM DSL-1.00,4.10,6.15,7.20,10.30PM CCPL-10.00,11.15,1.45,4.30,7.55,10.40 SUDHA-10.30,1.25,4.20,7.10,10.05PM

PVR RK-11.20,1.10,7.45,10.25PM ICON-1.15,3.10,7.20,9.15PM PRESTONE-1.45,4.40,7.35,10.30PM FORUM-10.10,11.10,2.05,5.00,7.15,7.55 10.10,10.50PM

INORBIT-10.20,2.05,5.00,7.35,7.55,10.50 CENTRAL-10.05,1.25,4.10,7.05,10.30PM GALLERIA-10.05,11.10,2.05,5.00,7.55, 10.00,10.50PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.40,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.50 MOOSARAMBAGH-12.40,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.50

MIRAJ CINEMAS CHANDANAGAR-12.00,4.00,9.45PM SHALINI-10.15,2.00,4.45,7.30,10.45PM BALANAGAR-10.15,1.15,4.15,7.15,10.15

2 11.00,5.05, 8.00,10.55 TIVOLI 11.15,2.10, 4.45,10.00PM PLATINUM 10.05,12.15, 3.15,8.30,11.20 10.35,4.40,7.40,10.35

SANTOSHABIDS SUPER 70MM 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SENSATION SWAPNA COMX 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.15PM

VIJETHA 70MM VIMAL 70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

AMBA 70MM SREERAMANA 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SRLATHA 70 SAMPOORNA 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

INJARA RAMAKRISHNA SIVASAKTHI 2.30,6.00PM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SRINIVASAT0 TALLURI COMPLEX 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

NARTHAKI 70-11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 VLS SRIDEVI 70 BHUJANGA 70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

KRISHNA NAGARAM JYOTHI IDABL RM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

LAXMI SHAMSHABAD VENKATASAI 11.30,2.30,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SANTOSH 70MM SREEPREMA 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SV CINESQUARE MAHESWARI 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

VENKATESWARA 70-GUMMADIDHALA 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

**THIS YEAR'S FUNNIEST FILM
DIAMOND BLOCKBUSTER**
IMDb ★ 9.1/10 bookmyshow 93%

HOUSE FULL
CHINTAKAYA KASAM
MAA PREKSAKULU AWESOME!!

పుట్టబడ్డారు

DEVI 70MM
(Enjoy 4K Laser Projection & Dolby Atmos Sound)
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

ARJUN 70MM
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

MALLIKARJUNA 70
11.15am, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30pm

RAJADHANI COMPLEX
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00pm

KONARK 70MM
11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

VISWANATH 70MM
11.45am, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45pm

SANGEETHA 70
11.00am,2.30,6.00,9.00pm
MAHALAXMI 70
11.00am,2.00,6.00,9.00pm

**PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 10.30am,11.30, 2.15,4.15,5.00,5.30,7.45,10.00,10.45pm
LARGE : 12.15,3.00,5.45,8.30,11.15pm**

AMB - 10.35,1.40,4.40,7.40,10.40pm

PVR CINEMAS

RK - 10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40 | CENTRAL 10.00,10.55,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40 | FORUM 10.00,10.50,1.10,4.20,7.30,7.50,10.40, 11.00 | ICON - 12.45,1.50,3.55,7.05,10.15

MOOSARAMBAGH - 1.00,4.10,6.20,7.20, 10.30 | IRRUMANZIL - 1.00,4.10,7.00, 7.20,10.30 | GALLERIA - 10.00,10.20,1.30, 4.40,7.20,7.50 | PRESTON - 12.30, 3.40,6.50,10.00 | INORBIT - 10.20,10.55, 1.30,4.40,7.50,11.00 |

INOX

GVK - 11.00,12.50,2.30,4.00,7.20,10.20 MP - 11.35,3.00,6.30,7.15,10.00,10.40 GSM MALL - 10.30,11.30,1.00,1.50,3.00, 4.20,6.30,7.40,9.10,10.00,10.30,11.00

Cinépolis

DSL - 11.20,1.00,2.50,6.20,9.30,10.10,10.50

MANTRA MALL - 11.00,1.00,4.00,7.00,10.00

CCPL - 10.40,1.10,1.45,4.20,5.00,7.40,10.40

SUDHA - 12.15,1.15,4.30,7.45,10.00,11.00 |

MIRAJ CINEMAS

SHALINI - 10.00,1.15,4.30,7.45,11.00

BALANAGAR - 10.00,1.15,4.30,7.45,11.00

CHANDANAGAR - 1.00,3.00,7.00,10.00 |

TIVOLI - 11.00,1.50,4.40,7.30,10.20 | BVK - 10.45am,1.45,4.45,7.45,10.45pm

PLATINUM - 11.45,2.30,5.15,8.00,10.45pm

S2 - 10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40,11.00 |

LAXMIKALA ASIAN SHA 11.10,2.40,6.10,9.40 11.15,2.30,6.15,9.30 |

SHIVAGANGA TALLURI 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

AARADHANA 70 SHARADA 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

SUSHMA 70 RANGA 70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

GOKUL 70MM SREERAMANA 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

SAI RANGA 70 ALANKAR 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

JYOTHI 70MM SAI POOJA 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

SRI KRISHNA 70 LAXMIKALA MANDIR 11.15,2.15,6.00,9.15 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 |

VYJAYANTHI RAMAKRISHNA 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.30am & 9.15pm |

SRI SAI RAM 70 ASIAN SWAPNA 11.15,2.30,6.15,9.30 11.00,6.15,9.15 |

VENKATARAMANA GANESH 70MM 11.15,2.15,5.45,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

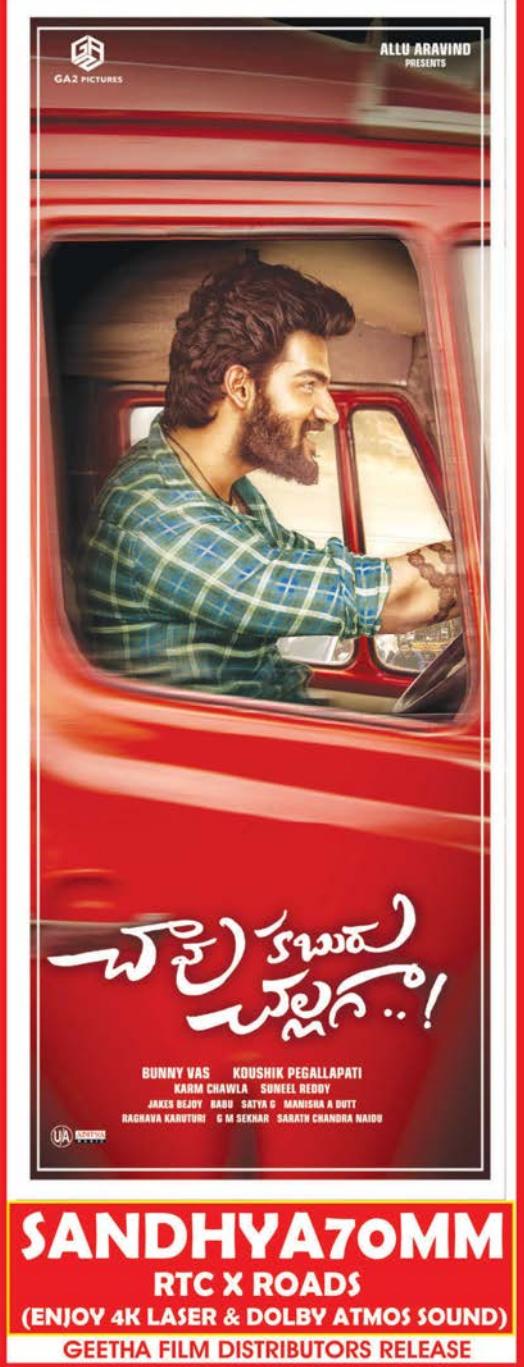
SENSATION SUNSHINE BR HITECH 70 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

SRI LAXMI 70 RAMAKRISHNA 35 12.00,3.00,7.00,10.00 2.30pm & 6.00pm |

RAJ LAXMI 70 SRIDEVI 70 RC PURAM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 |

BRIDGE FILMS

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SANDHYA 70MM
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INDICATORS %

Sensex	50395.08	-0.78
Nifty 50	14929.50	-0.68
S&P 500*	3,940.39	-0.07
Dollar (₹)	72.47	0.45
Pound Sterling (₹)	101.11	0.14
Euro (₹)	86.68	0.05
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,364.61	0.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	68.56	-0.95
IN 10 Yr bond yield*	6.201	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.607	-0.028

* As of 8:30 PM IST

WPI inflation rises to 4.17% on costlier food, fuel

The wholesale price-based inflation rose for the second consecutive month to a 27-month high of 4.17 per cent in February, as food, fuel and power prices spiked. The WPI inflation was 2.03 per cent in January and 2.26 per cent in February last year. After witnessing months of softening of prices, the food articles in February saw 1.36 per cent inflation. In January it was (-) 2.80 per cent.

₹2,000 notes not printed in last 2 years: Govt in LS



The Rs 2,000 currency notes have not been printed in the last two years even as the quantum of the note has come down, the Lok Sabha was informed. In a written reply, minister of state for finance Anurag Singh Thakur said 3,362 million currency notes of Rs 2,000 denomination were in circulation on March 30, 2018, constituting 3.27 per cent and 37.26 per cent of the currency in terms of volume and trade respectively.

Kia Motors names Hardeep Singh Brar as sale head

Kia Motors India said it has appointed Hardeep Singh Brar (48) as national head of sales and marketing, with immediate effect. Prior to joining Kia, Brar had served at Great Wall Motors, Maruti Suzuki, Volkswagen, General Motors and Nissan. He is a mechanical engineer.



UAE-listed firms must have one female director

Listed companies in the United Arab Emirates must have at least one woman on their board of directors, the Securities and Commodities Authority said. The move, an amendment of a previous decision by the authority's board, is "in the context of keenness to empower Emirati women and encourage them to play a greater role in the boards of directors of listed companies," the SCA said.

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Sector set to see PE/VC, FII interest Bill to hike insurance FDI cap placed in RS

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, MARCH 15

In a move that would open further avenues for investors of insurance companies and attract considerable activity from private equity, venture capital firms and foreign institutional investors (FIIs), the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday introduced a bill in the Rajya Sabha to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector to 74 per cent from 49 per cent.

The Insurance Amendment Bill 2021 seeks to make changes in the Insurance Act 1938 to increase the permissible FDI limits. The bill has been cleared by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday.

Under the new structure, the majority of directors on the board and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of directors being independent directors, and a specified percentage of profits being retained as a general reserve.

Currently, most Indian promoters of insurance companies, namely public sector banks, NBFCs, corporates, need capital to fund their core businesses and would use the FDI opportunity to monetise their investments and sell their stakes to PEs, VCs or existing foreign joint venture partner.

In 2015, when the FDI limit was lifted from 26 per cent to 49 per cent, the



expectation was that the insurance sector would get fresh capital of Rs 25,000 crore, however, the actual infusion into the sector was just around Rs 5,400 crore, since the Indian promoters of existing companies monetised their investments by selling their stake to the foreign joint venture partners.

Also, the premise that higher FDI would increase insurance penetration appears faulty as despite 20 years of privatisation and raising the FDI limit, India's insurance penetration (life and non-life) languishes much below the world average. Life insurance premium as a percentage of GDP is 3.6 per cent in the country, way below the global average of 7.13 per cent, and in the case of general insurance, it is even worse at 0.94 per cent of GDP, against the world average of 2.88 per cent.

Karthik Srinivasan, senior vice president, group head-financial sector ratings, Icra said, "Instead of

promoters monetising their investments, if the capital is infused into insurance companies then that would help companies to scale up their business and increase insurance penetration."

"Barring a few companies, most other players have adequate regulatory capital as indicated by high solvency levels, but going forward since most are growing their protection business and with natural calamities and mortalities, pace of capital consumption can increase," added Srinivasan.

Ashvin Parekh, managing partner at Ashvin Parekh Advisory Services, said, "It is a long-awaited reform and should be welcomed as it would bring in about Rs 30,000 crore in the insurance sector over the next three years...Another important point is that since foreign capital can come in any form, we could also see activity from private equity, venture capital firms and FIIs."

No proposal to bring petrol, ATF under GST: FM

PRIVATISATION TO UNLOCK REAL VALUE OF PSUs: SITHARAMAN

New Delhi, March 15: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said efficient management and use of the latest technology by the private sector will help unlock the real value of CPSEs undergoing strategic sale and bring much higher dividends for the economy.

She said Niti Aayog had been mandated to identify and recommend CPSEs — which are not in the priority sector — for strategic disinvestment, based on the criteria of national security, sovereign functions at arm's length, and market imperfections and public purpose.

These CPSEs are reckoned as low priority for the government notwithstanding that they may be

proposal to bring crude petroleum, petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas under GST," Sitharaman said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.



Nirmala Sitharaman

profit-making companies.

"The unlocking of real value through better/efficient management and use of latest technology by the private sector may bring much higher dividends for the economy as a whole in terms of growth, productivity and employment," Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha.

— PTI

She said the law prescribes that the GST Council shall recommend the date on which the GST be levied on petroleum crude, high-speed diesel, motor spirit (com-

MTAR TECH IPO INVESTORS STRIKE GOLD ON DAY 1



RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, MARCH 15

IPO investors in Hyderabad-based MTAR Technologies nearly doubled their investment on the company's market debut on Monday.

The company, which develops and manufactures precision components and critical assemblies for clean energy, nuclear, space and defence sectors, has raised Rs 597 crore in the public issue between March 3 and March 5.

MTAR shares listed at 82 per cent premium at Rs 1,063.90 on the BSE and at Rs 1,050 on the NSE against the public issue price of Rs 575. Later the share price rose further to more than double to Rs 1,154 in the intra-day trade, as there is no upper circuit filter applied on the debut day on any listing of shares through the initial public offering.

Finally, MTAR shares closed at Rs 1,082.25 on the BSE and at Rs 1,078.30 on the NSE, registering a gain of 88.22 per cent.

At the market close, the company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 3,328.96 crore on the BSE. Shares worth Rs 163.79 crore were traded and on the NSE.

Market trims losses after sinking 1000 pts

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, MARCH 15

The Sensex recovered from early blows partially after suffering close to 1000 points loss intra-day on poor domestic macroeconomic data, surge in US bond yields and a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases in India.

The Sensex fell 993 points, drowning below the 50,000 level to the day's low of 49,779.07, but later positive global cues from Asia and Europe helped in a pullback that helped the benchmark index to finally settle at 50,393.08, down by 397 points, or 0.78 per cent.

The Nifty-50 closed at 14,929.50, down by 101.45 points, or 0.67 per cent.

"Market was impacted adversely after February headline CPI inflation rose around 100 basis points to 5.03 per cent led by unfavourable base effect, higher vegetable



prices, higher energy and transportation prices and increase in core goods inflation," said Emkay Global Financial Services.

"Also the Index of Industrial Production lost momentum after rising for the previous two months, and in January 2021 contracted 1.6 per cent, dragged down by poor manufacturing activity and muted consumer demand."

Before the US Federal Reserve's Federal Open

Market Committee's scheduled meeting on March 16 and 17, the 10-year US treasury yield still ruled above 1.6 per cent, making equity investors cautious.

Both foreign portfolio investors and domestic institutions were net sellers of equities worth Rs 1,101.35 crore and Rs 749.71 crore, respectively.

"We saw selling pressure right from the word go and Nifty corrected sharply to breach 14,750 level during the day. The banking index was reeling under pressure and it seemed that bears have complete control today. However, the index started recovering gradually in the last couple of hours and managed to trim much of the intraday losses and end well above 14,900," Ruchit Jain, senior analyst-technical and derivatives, Angel Broking said.

Govt to sell up to 16.12% in Tata Comm

New Delhi, March 15:

The government may sell additionally over 1.74 crore equity shares representing 6.12 per cent of stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) through an offer for sale (OFS) starting on Tuesday at the floor price of Rs 1,161 per equity share.

As part of its exit plan from Tata Communications (earlier VSNL), the government is initially offering to sell up to 2.85 crore equity shares representing up to 10 per cent of the total paid-up capital of the company.

The government may sell 10 per cent for retail investors.

As per the shareholding pattern of TCL, the promoters hold 74.99 per cent in the company. Of this, the Government of India holds 26.12 per cent stake while Panatone Finvest holds 34.80 per cent and Tata Sons holds 14.07 per cent. The remaining 25.01 per cent is with the public.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) plans to sell its entire stake in TCL in the current fiscal. — PTI

Gail bifurcation plan dropped

New Delhi, March 15:

The government is not considering any proposal to bifurcate state-owned gas utility Gail (India) Ltd, and the PSU is focused on building pipelines to connect gas sources to consumers to accelerate gas usage, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

Gail is India's biggest natural gas marketing and trading firm and owns 60 per cent of the country's 26,284-km gas pipeline network.

To resolve the conflict of a transporter also being the marketer, it was proposed that Gail's pipeline business should be hived

off into a separate entity. But the proposal has been dropped for now.

"There is no such proposal under consideration at present," Pradhan said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. He said the share of natural gas in India's primary energy basket is targeted to be increased to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.3 per cent.

For this, the government is promoting the expansion of natural gas infrastructure — pipelines, LNG import terminals and city gas distribution network.

"GAIL is executing projects related to the expansion of gas infrastructure," he said. — PTI

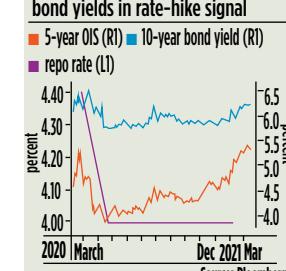


Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry/KBK Infographics

Market wrong on RBI rate-hike bets: Birla Sun

NOT SO EARLY

Swap rates have jumped toward bond yields in rate-hike signal



RAHUL SATIJA

MARCH 15

The growing market wagers about the most aggressive interest-rate tightening in India of any nation in Asia, according to Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC.

Five-year interest-rate swaps jumped to 5.42 per cent on March 8, the highest in more than a year, reflecting surging expectations of a tighter monetary policy, and were at 5.32 per cent on Monday. "Markets are mispricing quick rate hikes," said Maneesh Dangi, co-chief investment officer at Aditya Birla.

Dangi, who oversees Rs 1.8 lakh crore of debt assets (\$25 billion), expects the policy rates to remain low for longer as the central bank prioritises a nascent economic recovery over signs of picking inflation.

SHORT TAKES
Kapil is now PGTI board member

New Delhi: Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev was on Monday inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the sports body said. Dev, who captained India to World Cup glory in 1983, said he would work for the development of golf in the country. "I thank PGTI for allowing me to be a part of their board. I am extremely happy to be a part of PGTI and will do my best to promote golf as a sport that is doing well and has the potential to become one of the most coveted tours in sports," Kapil said in a PGTI release. — PTI

Ronaldo hits back with a hat-trick

Milan: Cristiano Ronaldo hit back at his critics with a quick-fire hat-trick as Juventus brushed aside Cagliari 3-1 on Sunday, five days after their Champions League elimination, while Inter Milan moved nine points clear at the Serie A summit. The 36-year-old scored a header in the 10th minute at the Sardegna Arena, added a second from the penalty spot 15 minutes later, and completed a 'perfect' treble on 31 minutes with a fine left-footed strike. Defending champs Juventus are 10 points behind leaders Inter Milan, who beat Torino 2-1 earlier on Sunday. — AFP

Bhadradri to meet Warangal in final

Hyderabad: Vineel Kumar shone as Bhadradri and Warangal set up the final of the TCA U-16 Inter-Districts Championship being played at Bhadradri Stadium in Manuguru.

Bhadradri's Vineel (5/30) ran through the Suryapet's batting line-up and then his side easily chased down a measles target of 88 with nine wickets in hand.

In another semifinal, Warangal Urban rode on Rohith Thatipelli's steady 60 to defeat Yadadri by 25-runs.

BRIEF SCORES

Suryapet 87 in 17.1 overs (Uday Kumar 20, Vineel Kumar 5/30) lost to Bhadradri 88/1 in 12.4 overs (Ranadeer 42). Warangal Urban 162/6 in 25 overs (Rohith Thatipelli 60, Pardhipan 33) bt Yadadri 127 in 21.4 overs (Venu 30, Pardipan 3/25).

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ACTION REPLAY

Kohli & Co. look to take lead against England in 3rd T20

Ahmedabad, March 15: Their confidence soaring high after a resounding series-leveling win, India would look to build on their new approach of batting freely and fearlessly when they take on England in the third Twenty20, here on Tuesday.

The Men in Blue were off to a horrible start in the T20 series, suffering a demoralising eight-wicket loss in the opening match but turned the tables on England with a seven-wicket win in the second game.

In stark contrast from the first match, Virat Kohli and his men excelled in all departments.

The inclusion of Ishan Kishan, who made a sparkling debut with a 32-ball 56, allowed India to go ahead with their new approach that encourages batsmen to express themselves.

Despite losing K.L. Rahul in first over with no runs on the board, the 22-year-old attacked from the word go, smashing Jofra Archer for a boundary in the very first ball he faced.

The hosts will also gain confidence from Kohli unbeaten innings in the previous game as he took the side past the finish line, breaking a sequence of low scores.

The skipper did not have the best of times in the preceding Test series and also got out cheaply in the first T20. Both Kohli and Shreyas Iyer will target big scores.

The bowling department, which didn't have runs to defend in the opener, did a fabulous job to restrict England to 164. The biggest positive would be Hardik Pandya bowling four overs which allowed the hosts to go with an extra batsman.

The bowlers will look to replicate their good show from the last match where they found their rhythm.

What India would aspire is a better effort from Rishabh Pant, who has been promoted to number four ahead of Iyer. The big-hitting wicket-keeper has looked lethal in both outings but failed to capitalise on his starts.

India are unlikely to tinker with the winning combination save the return of star white-ball opener Rohit Sharma who is expected to be back in the side after being rested for a couple of games. With Kishan faring well, Rahul, who looked out of sorts in both the outings, is expected to make way for Rohit. — PTI



India's K.L. Rahul plays a shot during a practice session ahead of the third Twenty20 against England in Ahmedabad on Monday. — AP

NO SPECTATORS AS COVID CASES RISE IN GUJARAT

Ahmedabad, March 15: The remaining three T20 Internationals between India and England will be played here without spectators in the wake of rising Covid-19 cases. Gujarat Cricket Association vice-president Dhanraj Nathwani said on Monday.

"T20s on March 16, 18 and 20 will be played without audience at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Refund will be given to the spectators who have purchased tickets," Nathwani stated.

"Due to rise in the number of Corona cases, we at GCA have decided, in consultation with BCCI, to hold the matches behind closed doors and not to allow spectators in the ground during T20 Internationals to be played between India and England at Ahmedabad," he added.

Nathwani said the GCA will form a policy for refund of money to the spectators who have already purchased tickets for these three T20Is.

The first two Twenty20 games at the world's largest cricket stadium had attracted more than 60,000 spectators, raising questions over the safety of the fans amid the pandemic.

— PTI

IPL stint made Kishan fearless

Ahmedabad, March 15: Young batsman Ishan Kishan says having faced the best pacers from across the world during the IPL had given him the confidence to play fearlessly against England on his India debut.

Kishan's blistering 56-run knock at the top laid the platform for India's comfortable and successful chase in the second Twenty20 on Sunday night. The 22-year-old left-hander acknowledged the contribution, the IPL stint has made in his growth as a batsman. "It obviously helped (to face the likes of Mumbai

In IPL you get to face quality bowlers from across the world and you start getting used to these bowlers. And I think that really helped me.

— ISHAN KISHAN

after his match-winning knock against England

Indians teammates Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah) in the nets. They are very pacy bowlers and to hit shots against them gives confidence," Kishan said at the post-match virtual press conference.

"In IPL you get to face quality bowlers from across the world and you start getting used to these bowlers. And I think that really helped me."

Kishan also said that the team management had backed him to play his natural game without feeling the pressure. "Before the match I was told to go and open the innings and play freely the way I play in IPL. I was told not to take extra pressure. But it being my first game I was little nervous while going at the ground."

"But when you wear the jersey of your country

that pressure simply goes away and you try to give your best."

The debutant was in awe of Virat Kohli during their 94-run stand and hopes to pick the brain of India skipper during the five-match series. "It was proud feeling for me because I had just seen him (Kohli) on TV, his attitude on the ground, but to see it from the other end is totally different. I think it is something which I can change in myself, his energy, his appearance on the ground, there is a lot to learn from him," Kishan said.

— PTI

Madhya Pradesh archers miraculously escaped the Shatabdi Express train fire on their way to the national championships and, without any pre-match day practice, won three silvers and one bronze medal at the event.

"With less than an hour to reach Dehradun on Saturday, the eight-member recurve men's and women's team experienced the horror of being chased by black thick smoke and fire as they jumped to safety to the adjacent bogey. But they lost all their belongings — equipment, Aadhaar cards and birth certificates — after their coach C5 was charred near Kansrao."

Starting from scratch with a new set of equipment that arrived in the wee hours of Sunday, the archers without any pre-match day practice concluded their campaign with two silver and one bronze in the recurve category and a team silver in the compound category.

"The first thing I asked them was 'Are you all safe?' After hearing that they all are safe, our first job was to boost their morale and ensure that they stay focused on the competition the next day."

With a combined support from the MP state administration and Archery Association of India, they managed to get a new set of equipment ordered from Patiala.

— PTI

LOCAL PLAYERS ANAND, SIVA IN KHO KHO POOL



Anand Kumar Siva Reddy

Hyderabad, March 15: Hyderabad's Anand Kumar and Andhra Pradesh's P. Siva Reddy, who was adjudged Best Pole Diver in the previous edition, are part of the players pool for Ultimate Kho Kho that promises to revolutionise the traditional Indian sport.

The franchise-based league will consist of men and under-18 players from all states across India, who are registered with Kho Kho Federation of India. Player drafts are scheduled later this year with franchise-owners offered a bank of over 150 Indian players based on their performance and scores in the Nationals as also the high performance training camp that concluded last month.

"Ultimate Kho Kho has the potential to not only revolutionise the sport but also create a unique experience for the audience," said Amit Burman, Dabur Group chairman and promoter of the Ultimate Kho Kho.

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