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HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 20 MARCH 2021

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WEATHER

Max: 34.4°C
Min: 21.5°C
RH: 33%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Maximum/Minimum temp. 36/21°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttaramaya
Tithi: Phalguna Shuddha Saptami full day

Star: Rohini till 4.42 pm
Varjyanam: 7.42 am to 9.30 am;
10.55 pm to 12.41 am

Durmuhuram: 6.23 am to 7.59 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Sha'b'an 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.22 am

Zohar: 12.34 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrib: 6.33 pm

Isha: 7.40 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.27 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.19 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 10.47 AM

MOONSET NA

COUNTER POINT



That's his caste certificate!

SHORT TAKES

FASTag lands in Bombay HC

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Union government to file an affidavit in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the decision to make FASTag, the electronic toll collection chip, mandatory for all vehicles at toll plazas on national highways.

Twitter seeks public opinion

New Delhi: Twitter has sought public opinion on whether world leaders should be subject to the same set of rules as others on the microblogging platform. "Should a world leader violate a rule, what type of enforcement action is appropriate," the microblogging platform asked.

Centre moves HC on WhatsApp

New Delhi: The Centre Friday urged the Delhi High Court to restrain WhatsApp from implementing its new privacy policy and terms which are to take effect from May 15. Under the new policy, users can either accept it or exit the app, but they cannot opt not to share their data.

State may cancel exams till Class 9

Favours promoting all students to higher classes in view of increasing Covid cases

More students contract Covid

HARLEEN MINOCHA & BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The state government is seriously considering a proposal to stop offline classes and promote all students to higher classes without exams till Class 9. This is in view of the fresh rise in Covid-19 cases and the disruption caused to the academic schedule in the 2020-21 academic year.

According to official sources, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao would make an announcement on this in the Assembly on March 22.

All schools had remained closed from March 2020 until February 2021 following the Coronavirus-linked lockdown. The schools were reopened in February for students from Class 6 to 10 as was directed by the state government.

Students were confined to their homes, attending online classes for most part of the academic year 2020-21. The government allowed schools to conduct offline classes for

students tested positive in a social welfare residential school in Jagtial district, as also 15 children from a Kasturba Gandhi Girls School in Rajanna-Sircilla district.

Four children from two private schools in Adilabad district were also reported to have tested positive for Covid-19. The total for the day stood at 67 cases. Till Thursday, 174 children attending classes school have become Covid infected.

According to reports, 26

Class 9 and 10 students from February 1 and for Class 6, 7 and 8 students from February 24.

However, with fresh rise in Coronavirus cases in schools especially in government-run schools,

the government is planning to order closure of these institutions again and promote students to higher classes.

■ Page 2: Govt keen on holding SSC, Inter exams

US def sec lists strategic ties

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 19



Lloyd James Austin III

US secretary of defence Lloyd James Austin III on Friday reached New Delhi for a three-day official visit, at a time when India and the US are concerned over an increasingly assertive China in the region.

This is the first high-profile contact between the Joe Biden administration and the Indian political leadership. The visit is seen significant as Austin included India as his first foreign tour with the US seeking allies to counter the Chinese.

He called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and conveyed Biden's greetings.

A PMO statement said the Austin reiterated Washington's continued

commitment towards strengthening the bilateral defence ties and "expressed strong desire" to further enhance the strategic partnership for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

He was scheduled to meet National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Friday and hold bilateral talks with defence minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

The LDF, however, did not give details of the amount of pension or any criteria for it.

Real estate, IT, industries top job providers for Telangana

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The real estate, information technology and industries sectors remain the top job providers in the state, according to the Socio-economic Survey Outlook 2021 tabled by the state government in the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Medchal-Malkajgiri dis-

trict topped in attracting industries. Ranga Reddy district topped in job creation and investments. The survey noted that the Coronavirus-linked lockdown and subsequent slowdown of the economy had adversely affected job creation in 2020-21.

The real estate, IT and industries sectors together provided employment to 1,24,829 people in 2020-

21, significantly lower compared with the creation of 3,95,964 jobs in 2018-19 and 1,64,023 in 2019-20. The decrease in 2019-20 is attributed to the global economic slowdown. Pharma and textile sectors together provided employment to 9,371 people in 2020-21.

■ Page 2: Ranga Reddy gets lion's share of funds

LEGAL MAZE SC to hear PIL on states passing resolution on Centre

Can states criticise Central law?

New Delhi, March 19: The Supreme Court on Friday sought to know from a petitioner-NGO whether the state legislatures have the right to express their opinion or not on central laws and asked it to do some more research on the subject.

The top court was hearing a PIL filed by an NGO challenging legislative competence of different State Assemblies in passing resolutions against central laws like Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the three farm laws saying it falls under the Union List of the Seventh Schedule.

● The PIL sought direction from the Supreme Court to declare that state legislatures have no jurisdiction to discuss and make any resolution against any law concerning subjects mentioned in Union list

The NGO has made the Centre and the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal party in the petition, saying the apex court is already seized of multiple petitions challenging these laws

passed by Parliament.

A bench of Chief Justice Bobde and Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian adjourned the hearing on the PIL after four weeks while observing, "We don't want to create more problems than resolving the issue. We will see."

During the hearing, senior advocate Soumya Chakraborty, appearing for NGO Samata Andolan Samiti said that the state Assemblies are incompetent to pass such resolutions against the central legislations.

The bench asked the

counsel to show the resolutions he was objecting to.

Referring to CAA law and the Kerala Assembly resolution, Chakraborty said the state legislature said that central law was against the basic structure of the Constitution. "This is the opinion of majority of Kerala Assembly and this may not have the force of law. This is just an opinion. They have simply requested the Centre and sought repeal of the law. Do they have no right to express their opinion? They have not asked the people to disobey the Central law," the bench observed. —PTI

VANI, PALLA LEAD MLC RACE, THIRD PREFERENTIAL VOTES TURN KEY

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

With no candidate securing more than 50 per cent of votes in the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduate constituencies of the Legislative Council, the Election Commission has begun counting the second preference votes for both the seats on the third consecutive day of counting of votes for the elections.

In Nalgonda, of the total 3,87,969 polled votes, 3,66,333 were found valid and 21,636 invalid. The half-way mark is about 1.8 lakh votes, which the winning candidate has to cross.

The counting of valid first preference votes was completed in seven rounds in which TRS candidate Palla Rajeshwar Reddy was ahead with 1,10,840 votes while independent candidate Teenmar Mallanna was placed second with 83,290.

This put Rajeshwar Reddy ahead by 27,500 votes against his nearest rival in first preference votes. In the due process, 55 out of 71 candidates with the least votes were eliminated and the TRS candidate was leading with 1,11,190 votes while Mallanna got 83,629.

Telangana Jana Samiti candidate Prof. Kodandaram who got 70,472 votes turned out to be crucial to decide the winner.

■ Page 2: 43,000 votes declared invalid in MLC poll

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ACCOUNTANT MF: B.com with 4 to 5 years experience on Tally ERP9, in Manufacturing/ Trading, Organisations, below 40 years age for Office at M.G.Road, Secunderabad. Ph:9849953636. (S/2021/C02719)

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I DASSETY, Srinivasulu, Residing at #4-507, shivanagar, Dharmavaram, 515671, I have changed My daughter Name Dasety, Tarani Rajeswari To Dasety, Tarini wife affidavit Dt: 18/03/2021. (HYMM/2021/C08344)

I SUJATHAMMA Dinne, W/o. Srinadh Reddi, Age 49 years, Occ. House wife, R/o. H.No.4-10/A, B C Colony, Peddadur Village, Itkal Mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal District, TS, informed that I have changed my name from Sujathamma Dinne to Sujathamma, hence my new name is Sujathamma for all future records. Hence this affidavit. (HYCL/2021/C0339)

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SHORT TAKES
**RLY EMPLOYEE
SENTENCED FOR
HARASSEMENT**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

A railway employee was sentenced to three years in jail for harassing his wife and marrying another woman. His mother Lakavath Latha and his sister Lakavath Archana were convicted to one year rigorous imprisonment.

The employee, L. Prem Kumar, 35, had two children from his first marriage. His first wife complained to the Kushaiguda police that in May 2016, Prem Kumar came home in an intoxicated state and abused and beat her. He was already married to another woman, the complaint stated.

The Kushaiguda police registered a case and collected evidence and arrested Kumar whose sentencing was announced on Friday.

**KTR ORDERS
MEETING ON SCB
ROAD CLOSURE**

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

In a respite for residents of the north-eastern colonies, minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday asked Arvind Kumar, principal secretary, municipal affairs and urban development, to have a preliminary meeting with the Local Military Authority (LMA) on the closure of roads in the Secunderabad Cantonment area.

The minister said on Twitter: "Request @arvindkumar_ias to have a preliminary meeting on the illegal closure of roads in SCB. We will certainly stand with our citizens in ensuring the unwarranted inconvenience is addressed (sic)."

Rama Rao's Twitter post came after the Green Sainikpuri group asked the minister for political intervention in reopening the roads. "There has been systemic closure of roads in the area. From 2018 onwards, a total of 21 roads have been sealed and the people are facing the brunt of the closure," C.S. Chandrasekhar of Green Sainikpuri told Deccan Chronicle.

● **K.T. RAMA RAO'S** Twitter post came after the Green Sainikpuri group asked the minister for political intervention in reopening the roads.

Narrow escape from tree fall

Lansum residents complain of poor facilities, insensitive management

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

A resident of Lansum Housing, on Road No. 78 of Jubilee Hills, had a narrow escape when a tree got uprooted and nearly fell on him earlier this week — and social media followed it up with a long list of complaints against the realty firm.

In the CCTV footage of the incident, a few seconds after the tree fell, a crane was seen tripping over on the walking area. Residents complained that the residential area is poorly organised and managed.

"The management seems to be very insensitive towards flat-buyers. Lots of flat-buyers in their flagship project in Hyderabad have repeatedly complained about them, especially their middle and lower level cadre. Project amenities have been delayed as well," said Satish Srivastava, a resident.

The crane incident occurred on Tuesday around 6 pm when the resident was taking a walk. CCTV footage



CCTV footage shows the resident escaping from the falling tree.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

showed him walking away from the camera when the tree fell inches behind him. The small branches brushed against his back and he can be seen waving the leaves off and walking away just as the crane fell where the tree stood.

Speaking about maintenance costs and unprofessionalism, Siva Naresh, another resident, said this firm was new to the apartment construction business, the quality of the construction was not high.

"The project was delayed by more than a year and the clubhouse construction got stalled. Not one response to customers' emails.

Mandating 100 per cent two-year upfront maintenance costs is ridiculous without completing and providing the promised basic facilities," Naresh alleged.

He added, "The most unethical thing is that they charged customers 24 per cent interest per year on the disbursement delay right from the day of their disbursement request."

Asked about the residents' condition, an official from the TS human rights commission said, "They can either approach the police to book a case or we can book a suo motu case based on the media report of the issue."

Another resident, Satish Gandham, said since this was Lansum's first project in Hyderabad, "We were hoping they would set a good example. Date after new date (was given for occupation) with absolutely no work happening in between. The project is delayed by 18 months. You don't even get the delay penalty with their ridiculous 24 per cent interest per year right from the day the demand letter is raised," Gandham said.

"Even after requesting them several times to respond and share regular updates, all our emails go unanswered. There were changes to the master plan, for example, and the removal of one of the tennis courts wasn't communicated to the buyers," he claimed. The resident had another complaint. "We had a damaged main door frame. We got approval to have it changed after chasing them for three months. After some days, they said the door frame was changed and they polished the door. When I

asked them to show me proof (of changing the frame), they said the manager at that time had resigned and they don't have the details. Luckily, I have the photos before the polish," Gandham said.

"I had the daunting task of convincing them that the door frame wasn't changed. Now I have been following up with them for two months to get it replaced. All our doors have cracks at the locks and they are proposing some makeshift arrangements. So much for the premium specs. While this had everything to be called a landmark project, the poor management, lack of intent and taking buyers for granted have let the project down," Gandham said.

Asked about the incident, Hyderabadi West Zone DCP AR Srinivas said that if they receive a complaint, they would take action. Jubilee Hills sub-inspector Naveen Reddy said, "We have not received any complaint." Officials from Lansum Properties were unavailable for comment.

Hyd woman swims into records

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19



G. Syamala

A 46-year-old entrepreneur from Hyderabad, G. Syamala, on Friday swam into the record books as only the second woman to swim across the 30-km Palk Strait that separates India from Sri Lanka.

In achieving this feat, Syamala also became the first Telugu woman to not just undertake, but also complete, the daunting task of swimming across the Palk Strait.

According to information reaching here, Syamala set out from Sri Lanka at 4.15 am on Friday and reached Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu after swimming for 13 hours and 43 minutes.

Syamala, who took up swimming just a few years ago, had previously made her mark in the National Open Water Ganga River Swimming Competition, completing the 13 km course in one hour and 50 minutes.

She also previously represented Telangana in the World Masters Championship in

● **SYAMALA**, WHO took up swimming just a few years ago, had previously made her mark in the National Open Water Ganga River Swimming Competition, completing the 13 km course in one hour and 50 minutes.

Natation (FINA) — the international federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee for holding international water sport competitions.

Syamala trained at the Sports Authority of Telangana State swimming pool at Gachibowli for her latest swimming challenge.

She was initially trained by senior IPS officer Rajiv Trivedi, currently the DG Prisons, and a former Palk Strait swimmer himself — he swam from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in 2011 in 12 hours and 31 minutes — and later by swimming coach Ayush Yadav.

Once they agreed to marry, Rajvansh started extracting money from her by citing various reasons like expansion of business and medical emergency. After taking ₹3 lakh, he stopped taking her calls.

After realising that she was cheated, she approached the cyber-crime police who tracked down Rajvansh.

MAN HELD FOR CHEATING WOMAN ON PRETEXT OF MARRIAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

One Kumar Rajvansh, 49, was arrested for cheating a woman of her money under the pretext of marriage. The Rachakonda cybercrime police said Rajvansh had posted his details in online dating sites where he met the victim, a widow. Rajvansh introduced himself as divorcee and businessman.

Once they agreed to marry, Rajvansh started extracting money from her by citing various reasons like expansion of business and medical emergency. After taking ₹3 lakh, he stopped taking her calls.

After realising that she was cheated, she approached the cyber-crime police who tracked down Rajvansh.

NEW OPEN AIR GYM AT RIYASATNAGAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

According to Riyasatnagar corporator Mirza Saleem Baig, the facility will provide an opportunity to the people to keep themselves healthy and fit, especially those who cannot afford to go to gyms.



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A Jindal Group Company i.e. Jindal Naturecare Limited, an associate of Jindal Naturecare Institute has been manufacturing various herbal products for the last 3 years for maintaining perfect health. The herbal products are made from herbs and vegetables grown in our own 250 acres of farms near Bengaluru and are in great demand being of high quality and efficacy

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- Experience in Ayurvedic products
- Large marketing network

Those interested can apply alongwith below details:

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- Office/Godown space available
- Details of marketing network available including manpower



Send your application to email id: contact@jindalherbals.com
For details call: Naveen Mehta, President,
Jindal Naturecare Ltd., Jindal Nagar, Tumkur Road,
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NOW IN THEATERS



ALLU ARAVIND
PRESENTS



BUNNY VAS KOUSHIK PEGALLAPATI
KARM CHAWLA SUNEEL REDDY
JAKES BEJOY BABU SATYA G MANISHA A DUTT
RAGHAVA KARURI G M SEKHAR SARATH CHANDRA NAIDU

KLM FASHION



Pipeline works stopped midway due to lack of permission from Archaeological Survey of India adds to the hardships of people at Laad Bazaar in Charminar on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

Laad Bazaar pipeline work halted midway

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The Hyderabad Metro Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has stopped the work on re-laying of the old sewage pipeline from Laad Bazaar to Moti Galli Crossing after officials of the Archaeological Survey of India raised objections.

This followed complaints that the contractor used an earthmover-powered pneumatic drill to tear the cobblestone flooring and reinforced concrete base on the Laad Bazaar stretch to reach the old pipeline buried five feet below ground.

Ghansi Bazaar owner Ghaseen Sultana said the decades-old eight-inch pipeline was damaged and it got frequently blocked and overflowed twice a week, causing difficulties to the residents and shopkeepers. The HMWS&SB has decided to replace it with an 18-inch pipeline to take the sewerage load.

SELECTION RALLY FOR ENROLMENT OF OUTSTANDING YOUNG BOYS IN WEIGHT LIFTING DISCIPLINE OF BOYS SPORTS COMPANY IN AOC CENTRE SECUNDERABAD

1. AOC Centre will be conducting an open induction rally for induction of raw and proven players as sports cadets into Boys Sports Coy, AOC Centre scheduled from 20 Apr 2021 to 24 Apr 2021 in weightlifting discipline.

2. In this selection trials physical and technical skills test in the disciplines will be held under sports authority of India coaches and Board of Officers. The selection will be provisional until approved by Sports Authority of India.

3. Eligibility:-

- Education: Minimum class 5th std pass with adequate knowledge of Hindi.
- Medical Fitness: Medical will be ascertained by medical officer of the AOC Centre and specialist of Army Sports Medicine Centre.
- Applicant should have medal / participation in Sub Junior / Junior National, State or Inter School state level championship.
- No applicants will be selected having any type of permanent Tattoo on any part of the body.
- The criteria for age, height and weight as applicable for BSC enrolment is given below:-

S. No.	Age	Minimum Height	Minimum Weight
(a)	11 Yrs	NA	NA
(b)	12 Yrs	153 CM	35 KG
(c)	13 Yrs	155 CM	42 KG
(d)	14 Yrs	160 CM	47 KG

(14-16 years, in exceptional cases of medal winners at international / National level)

4. Reporting Time and Registration:

(a) Date of Trials - 20 Apr 2021.

(b) Time - 0700 hrs

(c) Venue - Ordnance Hall, AOC Centre, Secunderabad

(e) Desirous candidates will have to travel to AOC Centre, Secunderabad on their own expenses and will have to make their own arrangements for boarding and lodging.

5. Medical Aid: Medical aid will be available at the venue. However, this centre does not hold any responsibility for any injury incurred to the applicant during the course of trials / tests.

6. Documents To be Produced during Pre induction rally:

- Original Birth Certificate.
- Certificate from school indicating class in which he is studying presently.
- Sports participation certificate if any.
- Six photographs of the candidate duly attested.
- Original copy of sports participation / Medal certificates in district and above levels if any. Original to be shown and one CTC to be deposited.
- Original copy of character certificate from Gram Pradhan & School.
- Original copy of residential / Domicile Certificate (issued by tehsildar / SDM).
- Aadhar Card.

Note: Original to be shown and two CTC to be deposited with application form.

7. COVID-19 Precautionary Measures: All candidates will be carrying mask, gloves, sanitizer and will have to produce RT-PCR/Rapid Antigen Negative Certificate when they report for the rally.

8. Contact For Further Details:-

SHORT TAKES

BDL SIGNS MEGA CONTRACT WITH DEFENCE MINISTRY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a contract worth ₹1,188 crore on Friday with the defence ministry for the manufacture and supply of Milan-2T anti-tank guided missiles.

The contract was signed by Dipti Mohil Chawla, joint secretary (AM & LS) on behalf of the defence ministry's acquisition wing and Commodore T.N. Kaul (Retd), executive director (marketing), on behalf of BDL.

BDL chairman and managing director Commodore Siddharth Mishra (retd) stated that receipt of the order had given a boost to the order book of the company which now has orders worth over ₹9,000 crore.

In line with Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defence sector, many items have been exclusively earmarked for Indian industry and a negative list of imports has been released by the defence ministry.

43,000 VOTES INVALID IN MLC POLL

From Page 1

In Hyderabad, TRS nominee Surabhi Vani Devi was leading with 11,921 votes followed by N. Ramchander Rao, the incumbent MLC from the BJP, with 1,04,885 votes and independent candidate Prof K Nageshwar with 53,747 votes. Vani was winning all successive rounds in first and second preferences votes. As many as 49 candidates out of the total 93 with the least number of votes were eliminated.

Trends suggest that Surabhi would most likely touch the magic figure of 1,68,519 votes (half-way mark) +1 vote to emerge as the winner.

As many as 43,000 votes have been declared invalid in both seats. On the instruction of the Election Commission, returning officers at the counting centres deployed more staff to speed up the counting.

If the main candidates do not get a majority in the second preference vote, the EC will have to take up the counting of third preference votes. This would require another 24 hours and the process would continue till any one candidate gets 50 per cent-plus one vote.

Officials said that at Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam constituency, counting of third preference votes would be inevitable and the results will most likely be announced after Saturday evening.

GIVE DETAILS OF PHARMACY STORES: HC

VUJINI VAMSIDHARA
IDC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The Telangana High Court has sought details from the state government as to how many pharmacy shops are registered in the city and in the state, and how frequently are they being inspected to confirm whether they follow the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act as also the Pharmacy Act.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy issued the order while dealing with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by pharmacist Seetharam Babu.

Babu complained that most of the pharmacy establishments in the state and Hyderabad are not deploying the trained and registered pharmacists.

According to the petitioner, provisions of the relevant law contemplate that pharmacy establishments must have a registered pharmacist with full-time working.

Yet, "stores are running in the absence of qualified pharmacists and most medicines are supplied without due checks and also without prescription from doctors. Untrained persons are impersonating as pharmacists in most medical shops, the petitioner told the court.

The government has filed an affidavit, but, it lacked details as to how many pharmacy stores were registered and how many trained pharmacists were registered in the state.

The bench sought relevant details and said these should be submitted within four weeks. The High Court adjourned the case to June 24.

High alert



Rapid Action Force personnel stand guard near the Charminar during the Friday prayers at the Macca Masjid.
— P. SURENDRA

TRS candidate for bypoll after session

CM to hold few more surveys before taking final decision

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Budget session of the Legislature ends. The Budget session is expected to conclude March 26.

The Election Commission has announced bypoll schedule on March 16. The election notification will be issued on March 23 and the nomination process will begin the same day. The last date of filing the nomination is March 30.

Sources said the Chief Minister wants to commission a few more surveys by independent agencies in Nagarjunasagar before

taking a final decision on the candidate.

With the TRS doing better in graduate MLC polls by leading in the first preference votes in both the seats — and one of the seats covers Nalgonda district of which Nagarjunasagar is part

Chandrashekhar Rao wants to assess the pulse of the voters again in the changed political scenario.

MIM TO CONTEST POLLS IN DELHI, SAYS OWAISI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Gudur Narayana Reddy

total debt service would be about 17 per cent of the Budget. Every month it has to pay more than ₹3,000 crore towards interest and principal.

Narayana Reddy said that the per capita debt would be about ₹1.05 lakh by the end of the next financial year, ₹10,000 more than the present financial year.

He has nominated Kalimul Hafiz as the president of the party's Delhi unit.

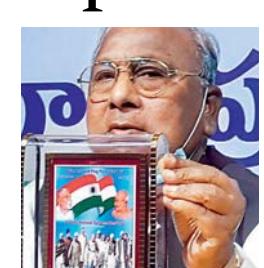
Sources said Owaisi wants to launch the MIM in a powerful manner in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections scheduled for next year.

He has started the exercise to strengthen the party base at National Capital Territory (NCT)-Delhi by constituting the state committee.

Hafiz owns several hotels and runs educational institutions.

Asaduddin Owaisi was busy in Delhi negotiating with senior politicians. It is learnt that several leaders belonging to different political parties are in touch with him.

VHR to hoist Flag on April 1

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Veteran Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao displays an old photograph of Mahatma Gandhi at Vijayawada AICC meet in 1921 when for the first time the National flag designed by Pingali Venkayya was hoisted.

National Flag. They are restricting themselves to celebrating 75 years of Independence, Hanumantha Rao, a former MP, said.

He criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for ignoring the greatest contribution of a Telugu — Pingali Venkayya, who had designed the Tricolour — by not celebrating the centenary of the event.

11th DAY CEREMONY

Smt. POTHRAPALLI JANGAMMA
W/o: Pothrapalli Eshwar Telangana Folk Singer
DOB: 10-11-1970 DOD: 11-03-2021

You will forever remain in our hearts forever!

Husband: Pothrapalli Eshwar (Deceased Singer)
Sons: P. Sudhar-P. Prema, Daughters-in-Law: Manasa

Son-in-Laws: Dasharath Ram, Kiran

Grand Children: Chitra, Brothers: Prasad, Lakshman

Sister in Law: Sugatha

11th Day Ceremony on 21-03-2021 (Sunday) at our Residence # Sal Nagar Colony, Balapur, Hyderabad. Mobile No. 9109150148 (Sridhar)

(S/2021/D01360)

With Profound Grief We Announce the Sad Demise of

LEONORA (LEENA) ROZARIO
DOB: 06-05-1945 DOD: 19-03-2021

The Funeral mass will be held on 20th March 2021 at St. Andrew's Church, Bandra (west) at 11:00 AM.

Followed by Burial.

Inserted by: Stanley Rasheed & Family

(S/2021/D01362)

14th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

K. SUDHAKAR ANTHONY (Chitty)
DOB: 13-06-1952 DOD: 20-03-2011

Though it has been ten years since you passed away, you have never been forgotten even single day. Memories of yours still linger near as we hold you close to our hearts so dear.

A tribute of Love from: Wife, Daughters,

Sons-in-Law, & Grand Children

Ph: 9848110956

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MR. PNG NAIR (Ex Deccan Chronicle Staff)
DOB: 20-03-1908 DOD: 26-06-2013

"You will never be far from us, We still feel your presence, and you are always in our hearts!"

Inserted by: Prem Kumar, Radhika & Family.

Sethafalmandi - Secunderabad

(S/2021/D01362)

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

GELLI NARAYANA CHETTY
I.A.S. (Retd.)
DOB: 20-03-1908 DOD: 26-06-2013

A DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR (Recognised and Rewarded)

FAMILY MEMBERS

040-23233208

(S/2021/D01362)

Short Takes

BDL SIGNS MEGA CONTRACT WITH DEFENCE MINISTRY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a contract worth ₹1,188 crore on Friday with the defence ministry for the manufacture and supply of Milan-2T anti-tank guided missiles.

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BDL chairman and managing director Commodore Siddharth Mishra (retd) stated that receipt of the order had given a boost to the order book of the company which now has orders worth over ₹9,000 crore.

In line with Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defence sector, many items have been exclusively earmarked for Indian industry and a negative list of imports has been released by the defence ministry.

Corruption case: 'Inspector raj' under guise of GST, says HC

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Under the guise of GST, it seems an "inspector raj" is on, the Telangana High Court observed on Friday while hearing a case filed by a steel trader who alleged officials asked him to pay ₹5 crore as bribe to get out of a tax-evasion case.

The court questioned the jurisdiction and powers vested in the GST authorities in arresting traders on the allegations of tax evasion.

A division bench comprising Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao and Justice Tadakamalla Vinod Kumar observed that it seemed the GST officials were wrongly following the lines of the local police handling matters of law and order.

The bench heard a petition from J.S. Sridhar Reddy of Bharani Commodities, which runs steel business in the wholesale market.

He submitted that he was in Singapore on February 27, 2019, when a search of his house and office premises at Punjagutta was done by the GST anti-evasion cell. After the search, they took his wife to their office at Basheerbagh and she was made to remain there up to 4 am the next day, after officials accused that his firms indulged in a tax evasion of the order of ₹8.74 crore.

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He told the court that the officials Anand Kumar, C. Sudha Rani and B. Srinivas Gandhi had demanded that he pay ₹5 crore as bribe to them to escape from the case. "These officials told me that the amount would be handed

over to the principal commissioner M Srinivas and the money will be shared between officials as per a secret understanding between them," the petitioner said.

The petitioner said the tax evasion charges were being registered against him based on statements given by third parties and he was not allowed to cross-examine them.

Citing Supreme Court orders in similar cases, in which the apex court allowed cross-examination, the petitioner complained that the GST officials took a different stand. Thereon, the bench criticised the GST authorities and allowed the petitioner to cross examine the third parties who had given statements against him and his companies.

leaders recalled the alleged attack on Sanjay ahead of the GHMC elections in December last year at People's Plaza on Necklace Road in the city. It was repeated during the Dubbakk bypoll, they said and alleged that there were several attempts to block Sanjay's convoy.

There were also attempts to attack him physically, the BJP leaders said.

Attack on Bandi's convoy: BJP delegation meets DGP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

A BJP delegation submitted a representation to DGP M. Mahendar Reddy about the alleged attack on the convoy of party state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar in Kodad.

On Friday, the leaders including former minister Vijaya Rama Rao, former MP

Ravindra Naik and former MLA Kuna Srisailam Goud met the DGP and told him about the threats that Sanjay was receiving.

The leaders requested the DGP to provide protection for Sanjay to prevent any untoward incident.

They also demanded that a case be filed with regard to the Kodad attack. Later, speaking to the media, the



In Loving memory of Late Mrs. Udamula Arogyamma
3rd ANNIVERSARY

And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead.
1 Corinthians 6:14

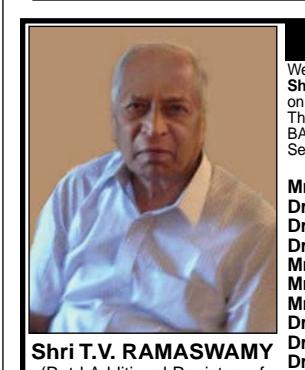
late. UDUMULA AROGYAMMA

D.O.B: 15-10-1940 D.O.D: 20-03-2018

"YOUR MEMORIES REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS FOR EVER"

Inserted by:

Husband: Sri U.G.REDDY & Family Members
St. Anthony's High School - Himayat Nagar,
St. Joseph's Public School - King Koti,
St. Joseph's High School - King Koti,
St. Joseph's School - Malakpet,
St. Joseph's School - Habsiguda.



OBITUARY

We sincerely regret to inform you that our father Shri THOGARI RAMASWAMY breathed his last on 19th March 2021 at 3:00 PM.

The Final rites will be conducted at BANSLALPET Crematorium Ground, Secunderabad on 21st March around 11:00 AM.

Inserted by:

Mrs. Thogari Tulasi (Wife)
Dr. Ramani (Daughter)
Dr. Nursing Prasad (Son-in-law)
Dr. Rajani (Daughter)
Mr. B. Prakash (Son-in-law)
Mr.Raghuram (Son)
Mrs. Sangeetha (Daughter-in-law)
Dr. Rohini (Daughter)
Venkatacharan (Son-in-law)
Dr. Ravi Mohan (Son)
Dr. Sarala (Daughter-in-law)
and their Grand Children

SHORT TAKES
**FOREST DEPT,
 CCMB CONDUCT
 TRAINING SESSION**

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The state forest department, in association with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) on Friday began a training programme for its field officers and staff in biological sample collection at the Amrabad tiger reserve in Nagarkurnool district.

Department staff and officials from different parts of the state are undergoing the training which includes theory and practical classes on collecting samples from wildlife crime scenes. Proper collection of samples – especially when a carcass is mutilated or rotting or when only traces are left at a crime scene – will help in accurate identification of the victim animal but also help in identification of an animal that might attack humans or farm animals.

HC: Encroacher must vacate journos' land

Says govt followed due procedure by serving notice

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The Telangana High Court on Friday asked counsel for D. Narendra Babu, who encroached upon a part of the government land in Survey No. 332 in Nizampet, to make clear how much time he would take to vacate the plot and remove all the structures and machinery he had illegally erected there.

The land was part of 32 acres allotted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Mutually Aided Journalists' Cooperative Housing Society.

Considering a petition filed by Narendra Babu challenging the eviction notice issued by revenue authorities, Justice P.

- HC DIRECTED revenue authorities to not remove structures as adequate time should be given to the encroacher to remove them.

Naveen Rao noted that the petitioner was an encroacher of government land and he had admitted this himself. The government followed due procedure by serving an eviction notice, the court said.

"You get word from your client as to how much time he would require to vacate the land," Justice Rao asked petitioner's counsel.

The court posted the matter to Tuesday and directed revenue authorities to not remove structures as adequate time

should be given to the encroacher to remove them.

Bachupally tahsildar N.R. Saritha issued the eviction notice, giving in detail the illegal steps taken by Narendra Babu and also the misrepresentation of facts thereof.

Representing the journalists' housing society, advocate R.N. Hemendranath Reddy brought to the court's notice the repeated attempts of the Narendra Babu to hold on to the land by filing a series of cases. "In all these cases, the encroacher was misleading the court. While he owns one acre and 15 guntas in adjoining Survey No. 333, he also encroached on land in Survey No. 332," Hemendranath Reddy said.

Reddy also brought to the court's notice that the Supreme Court had given an order to the government to hand over possession of the land to the society and to prevent encroachments there. "After all, an open government land is an orphan," he pointed out.

HC pulls up labour secy over delay in setting up board

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

The Telangana High Court has pulled up Rani Kumidini, principal secretary, labour, over her failure to constitute the state-level social security board for unorganised workers for last four years.

Though the secretary submitted that the board was being constituted and some 28 members were being appointed, she failed to explain the delay of four years. The process of appointments was taken up a few days ago after the court took note of the delay. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayesw Reddy was dealing with a petition from Congress leader C. Damodhar Rajanarasimha, former deputy chief minister.

Asking the officials to wake up from their slumber, Chief Justice Kohli advised them to better live up to the people's expectations.

Based on the petition, on February 25, Chief Justice Kohli had given an ultimatum to the officials of the labour department to either constitute the board or be ready to be jailed. The bench had ordered the labour secretary to explain the delay.

Thereon, government counsel for the labour department Arun Kumar submitted an affidavit on behalf of the principal

secretary, stating that the board has been constituted and its members are being appointed at present.

But the affidavit, submitted in a casual manner, did not explain why the delay and whether members from the SC, ST, minority, and women categories have been appointed. Even the details of the formation of the board, like whether it had started functioning or not, were missing in the affidavit.

This angered the court and it observed that the officers were acting in a callous manner and not performing their duty. By noticing only one name from women category, out of the 28 members, the Chief Justice questioned whether the state was falling short of competent women to form part of the board.

"You do not wake up till the court pinches you but how can courts monitor the administration's functioning on a regular basis," the CJ asked.

The court reprimanded the labour secretary, in specific, for filing an incomplete affidavit. The court also pulled up the government counsel for approving such an affidavit and desired that counsels showed due diligence.

The court sought a copy of the minutes of the board meeting and details of registration of unorganised workers.

Constable booked for drunk driving

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

entered into argument some transgender persons who were there.

Passersby informed the police who reached the spot and tried to pacify the cop and the transgenders.

Arun argued with the police patrol staff in an inebriated condition and was sent to the traffic police station at Vanasthalipuram where his breathalyser test revealed his blood alcohol percentage as 145.

New tool in place to geo-tag plants

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

In a first-of-its-kind move, the state government is to identify open areas that are good for plantations, plant saplings there and monitor the plants by geo-tagging.

Telangana Remote Sensing Application Centre (TRAC), the nodal agency, is to provide a dashboard through which the government can access information, said Srinivas Reddy, additional DG, TRAC.

He said, "The system facilitates in identifying potential avenues, blocks

and individual sites for plantation through high-resolution satellite data."

On Friday a presentation was made to Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and senior officials. Kumar said, "This system will be a game-changer. It is very timely and is in sync with the Chief Minister's vision of making the state green. It will help officials focus on multi-layer avenue plantation, inch by inch plantation along lakes, roads and scattered lands so as to ensure that no area is left vacant."

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DECCAN Chronicle

20 MARCH 2021

Peace whiff, but Pak has to show that it's serious

Pakistan's Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has apparently renewed efforts for a move toward long-term peace between his country and India. His remarks last month had paved the way for the culmination of a cease-fire agreement between the militaries of the two countries on February 25.

Although these are early days, the ceasefire is holding. In the past six years the ceasefire signed in 2003 had been observed in the breach, with LOC cross-fire acquiring menacing proportions at times.

Are General Bajwa's observations made at the first edition of the Islamabad Security Dialogue on Thursday in the nature of a natural follow-up that goes beyond the military dimension to embrace a political process underwritten by governments? The proof of the pudding will be in the eating — or at least in a trial tasting.

Just for the record, after the ceasefire was activated, India permitted an equestrian team from Pakistan for a sporting event after a dry spell of no contacts extending many years. This is a move on. Waters are once again being tested although New Delhi's stated position remains: "terror and talks cannot go together". This is not a rejectionist stance. India must seek "an environment free of terror", above all when it discusses Kashmir, the principal issue for Pakistan.

In his most recent remarks Pakistan's Army Chief has called on India and Pakistan "to bury the past" by resolving the Kashmir issue peacefully. He has held out the bait that this would "unlock" the resources of Central and South Asia and permit India direct access to Afghanistan and beyond.

Let's remember that conceptually there is nothing new here. Times without number, at various forums, including SAARC, India has sought to persuade Pakistan of the benefits of genuine peace. If the Pakistani generals are taking that

line, it is to be welcomed. But given the history, it has to be ensured that we are looking at a genuine article, and not a counterfeit.

A day before General Bajwa spoke, Prime Minister Imran Khan said pretty much the same thing adding, however, that it was for India to "take the first step". He is a politician, and this is understandable. What's important is to ascertain the processes that lie beneath.

In this context, the first thing that comes to mind is that General Bajwa's February intervention and his most recent remarks come at a time when America's new Biden administration is in the process of working through its end-game plans for Afghanistan in which India too — for once — is formally at the table along with Pakistan and other key players.

If, as before, Pakistan continues attacking Indian interests in that country, the US plans may be affected in the event India retaliates militarily. The US wouldn't want that. Nor would Pakistan since its protégé Taliban are poised to gain the most through the US peace plans. By bringing India to the talking table on Afghanistan, and by urging Pakistan to be conciliatory, Washington would hope to moderate India's behaviour.

For a start, on Kashmir, we can revert to alluding to the four-step Musharraf-Mannohar Singh formula to test Pakistan and to see whether it is ready — at this stage — to give geo-economics a real chance and bury the past.

A welcome directive by SC

For all those who got the shock of their life a few weeks back when the Chief Justice of India enquired a man accused of raping a minor girl if he was willing to marry her, there is some reason to cheer now. A refreshing thought in the form of a judicial verdict has come out of the same precincts effectively putting an end to the practice of Indian courts playing patron saints of patriarchy while adjudicating cases involving gender-related crimes. Such cases should be decided and bail conditions imposed strictly in accordance with the requirements of Indian Criminal Procedure Code and they should not reflect stereotypical or patriarchal notions about women and their place in society, the court has now ordered. It has also prescribed an elaborate set of guidelines that take into account the sensitiveness of the topic for the courts in the country to follow.

The apex court's pathbreaking order has come while annulling an order of the Madhya Pradesh high court that had directed a man accused of having outraged the modesty of a woman to present himself before her so that she may tie a rakhi on his wrist to be eligible for bail. Using rakhi-tying as a condition for bail transforms a sex-assaulter/groper into a "brother" by a judicial mandate, the court observed and said in no uncertain terms that this thought process was "wholly unacceptable". The courts should ask for nothing suggestive of a compromise between the prosecutrix and the accused as it is beyond their ambit of jurisprudence, the apex court reminded the lower courts.

The seriousness with which the court has approached the issue is reflected in its directive to the National Judicial Academy, which trains young judges, to incorporate gender sensitiveness in its programmes. The Supreme Court has taken a major step towards gender justice, and it's for the nation to do the follow-up.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

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"The spoof of the bidding is in the cheating.
The source of the ruse is known as propaganda.
One man's meat is a cannibal's horizon.
People in glass houses should keep their clothes on..."
— From Bar Bar To The Bar My Friends by Bachchoo

For UK, Sarah Everard killing a wake-up call like Nirbhaya

Sarah Everard, 33, was walking home at night in South London. She crossed Clapham Common and walked down the South Circular, one of London's arterial roads, to get home — a distance of about half an hour perhaps. She never got there.

She was reported missing, police inquiry was launched and a couple of days later her remains were found in woodland in Kent, around 50 miles away. A policeman in his 40s was arrested and charged with her murder. That one death was, with all the Covid-19 deaths raging around Britain, a shocking and dominating national event.

The trial of the alleged murderer will in all probability ascertain the motive for her abduction and murder. As yet, nothing is clear.

To Britain the murder of Sarah was what the Nirbhaya rape-murder was to India. It was the straw which cracked the camel's back of tolerance of the crimes against women. In the last available statistic for March 2020, there were 207 women murdered in the UK in a year. Of these, 57 per cent were by partners, ex-partners or family members of the victims. The previous year's figures were higher by 30 per cent.

Sarah's abduction and murder brought thousands of women onto the streets and the commons of Britain to express dismay and disgust at this palpable vulnerability. Women are targeted on the streets for being women. The protests had no uniform demand. That men change their attitudes, that Parliament stiffen the punishment for crimes against women, that the law take the prosecutions for rape more seriously as only 5.7 per cent of cases brought to court resulted in convictions, were all possible.

Feminist organisations contend that this statistic in itself suggests a kind of decriminalisation of the offence of rape. It sends out the signal that rapists, using one or other tried and now tested defence, can get away

with it. One of the demonstrations by women and their men sympathisers gathered on Clapham Common on Saturday night. The demonstrators by and large wore masks and held aloft their phone torchlights.

The Metropolitan Police, London's force, moved in. The demonstrators were openly breaking the lockdown laws passed by Parliament. Scuffles broke out and 16 people were arrested. Young women who offered resistance to the arrests were physically subdued, handcuffed and led away to police vans.

A huge outcry followed. Women's organisations demanded the resignation of Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, the ultimate head of the force that confronted the demonstrators. Others went further, demanding the resignation of Priti Patel, the home secretary, who is ultimately responsible for all UK police forces.

No resignations followed. Cressida Dick said her men were enforcing the lockdown law and the public should respect the fact. The demonstrators, everyone, were certainly conscious that they would be violating the lock-

down and possibly endangering their own lives and others they came into contact with.

And therein lies the question. Should the police have stood by and made an exception, using their judgment? If the virus was to be spread by the demonstrators being where they were, the damage was surely done by the time they saw fit to wade in? A vast section of the public would certainly sympathise with the police action if it were against an illegal rave or drinks and drugs party. But a demonstration of mostly young women protesting against the unsafeety of the country's streets at night?

I wonder what the arresting officers, male or female, said to the young women they were carrying away in their vans to police stations and cells to be processed for their "crime".

I ask the question, gentle reader, because of my own experience of being arrested at a demonstration years ago.

That demo was in support of the mainly Asian workforce of a factory called Grunwick. The workers who wanted, almost unanimously, to join a union had been denied that right and dismissed. I joined the protests

as the member of a union myself and of a black and Asian radical organisation called Race Today.

I won't rehearse the circumstances of my arrest, but I found myself handcuffed to a police constable, being driven to the police station. He began, in a pseudo-friendly way, to question me and to express his own views about troublemakers and Communists. He said he was resolutely against this sort of demonstration which would lead to anarchy. I just laughed and reminded him that his police union had recently fought for an increase in wages which the government had granted them.

The memory made me wonder what the arresting officers thought they were doing on Clapham Common. The old dog Lenin said that the State was a group of armed men acting in the interests of a class. Did these officers think they were acting in the interests of the health of the nation?

And what do the soldiers who attack, kill and imprison pro-democracy protesters on the streets of Myanmar or Hong Kong think or feel they are doing? Do any of them sympathise with their victims and even perhaps contemplate mutiny?

Subhani



Something rotten... Why is Maha in such a mess?

Shobhaa De

LETTERS

BJP'S 'REALITY'

I read with bewilderment the comments made by the state BJP leadership that the Budget presented by finance minister T. Harish Rao was far from realistic (*Budget proposals not rooted in reality: BJP, March 19*). The Centre has ensured that fuel prices will soon hit the three-digit mark, and LPG prices four digits, breaking the backs of most Indians. One wonders which Budget, the central or the state, is more realistic?

Dr Prasad Chitra
Hyderabad

GOVT SCHOOLS

It's heartening that Harish Rao provided ₹4,000 crore for the upgradation of government schools. Government schools are the most neglected. We should learn from the countries like Finland, Japan and Denmark on how public schools are managed.

P.J. David
Hyderabad

COVID ALERT

The Telangana High Court has expressed its anguish over the spread of Coronavirus cases. It is time the government is more alert and ensures that the protocols against the spread of the deadly virus are implemented strictly. Special teams must visit huge gatherings and anyone found not following the rules should be punished.

D. Manoj Kumar
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Bengal certain to have non-marxist govt.

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

The formation of a non-Marxist Ministry in West Bengal became a near certainty today after an hour-long meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board of the Ruling Congress at which Pradesh Congress leaders — Mr. B.S. Nahar, Mr. Tarun Kanti Ghose and Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ravi — were also present.

The board, which met informally, could not, however, decide whether it should itself form a single-party Ministry or work towards a coalition Ministry comprising the Congress (R), the Communist Party of India and others ready to join in such an effort.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com



Farrukh Dhondy
Of Cabbages & Kings



SHORT TAKES

ED SUMMONS 3 CIVIL SERVANTS FROM BENGAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, MARCH 19

Expanding its net on the bureaucratic coterie of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the eve of the Assembly election, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned three of her trusted civil servants for questioning in two different high-profile financial scams.

Two of them are the CM's principal secretary Goutam Sanyal and a senior IAS officer B.P. Gopalika who was earlier posted as the secretary of the state animal resources department. Sources claimed that the duo has been called for grilling next week in the controversial divestment of 47 per cent stake of the state government in Metro Dairy in 2017.

Their summons coincided the ED's questioning of another senior IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Sinha, now posted as the secretary of the state agriculture marketing department, during the day. Recently, state home secretary H.K. Dwivedi got summons from the ED asking him to appear before it on March 23.

Meanwhile, state security advisor and Surajit Kar Purkayastha, got summons in the multi-crore Saradha chit fund scam. The former state DGP has been asked to appear before the ED on March 25. In the same case, another retired IPS officer Rajat Majumdar, who was earlier arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation, has been called by the same agency a day before Purkayastha's date.

TMC REPLACES FOUR CANDIDATES AFTER DISSENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, MARCH 19

Hit by a massive dissent recently over distribution of tickets for the Assembly election in West Bengal, the ruling Trinamool Congress, in a major move, on Friday replaced four of its candidates, dropping two more sitting MLAs Rammendra Nath Biswas and Dhiman Roy among them while bringing back one sitting MLA for his demand.

At the Kalyani constituency in Nadia, Aniruddha Biswas has been fielded in place of Rammendra Nath while Narayan Goswami will contest from Ashoknagar in North 24 Parganas, instead of Roy. The list of replacement also saw Rafikur Rahman, the sitting MLA of the TMC at Amdanga in North 24 Parganas, getting back to contest from his constituency where a new face: Mostaque Mortaza Hossain was the candidate.

Followers of Rahman, an MLA of the seat since 2011, burst into protest and blocked the road after his name was dropped from the TMC candidates' list on March 5. At Dubrajpur in Birbhum going to polls on April 29 in the eighth and final phase, the TMC made Debrabrat Saha its candidate in place of Asima Dhibar following a discontent against her within the party. This was the second time Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party had to change its candidates.

Earlier Sarala Murmu was replaced by Pradip Baske at Habibpur in Malda of North Bengal after she refused to contest the polls because she wanted a different seat.

RSS LIKELY TO REPLACE 'BHAIYAJI' JOSHI

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

The two-day long meet of the RSS' decision making body Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha began in Bengaluru on Friday amid speculations that Sangh's second-in-command Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi could be replaced due to health reasons. While name of joint general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale is doing the rounds to succeed Joshi, there is a buzz that another joint general secretary's name is also being considered for the post.

However, the decision to replace Joshi or not, will be taken by the core group of the RSS. Election in the Sangh national office-bearers team takes place every third year and this is for the first time that the pratinidhi sabha is meeting outside Nagpur during the election year.

Vaidya, who briefed the media, said there is a "growing curiosity to know about RSS" and in the next three years, the Sangh aims to reach all the mandals in the country.



PUDUCHERRY: CPM NAMES CANDIDATE

Puducherry, March 19: The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has named its candidate for the Muthialpet seat in the April 6 Puducherry Asse-

mblies elections while announcing that it would support the Secular Democratic Alliance (SDA) in other constituencies. — PTI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi eats lunch with tea garden workers at Chuba tea estate, ahead of the state Assembly elections in Dibrugarh district on Friday. — PTI

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER Batch No: 70/21/E-Tender

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials participation in through web portal of IREPS- www.reps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hours.

Sl. No.: 01, Tender No.: 04211530, Brief Description - Lower spring beam Quantity : 291 Nos. Published online - 14.03.21/16.22.45, Closing on - 12.04.21.

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS- www.reps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in the above portal.

Principal Chief Material Manager PR/1624/HQ/MHX, Patna PR/1623/CONS/S&T/T/20-21/20

Shanki to connectivity with Shanki Station and doubling with BRKA Avoiding in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway. Approximate cost : Rs.290330746.74, Earnest Money : Nil (Bid Security required), Cost of Tender document : Nil, Completion Period : 18 Months, Last Date & Time of submission of online E-Tender : 07.04.2021 up to 12.00,

For details information, may kindly see the tender notice and tender documents which are available at Indian Railways website http://www.indianrailindia.com and www.eprocure.gov.in, the last date for submissio

n of tender is 19.04.2021 till 15.00 hrs.

The Bark reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Chief Manager

I'm not Modi, I don't lie: Rahul

Gandhi promises ₹365/day to tea workers, 51 jobs, 200 units of free power, no CAA in Assam

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, MARCH 19

Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that if the Congress is voted to power in Assam, it would ensure that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is not implemented in the state.

Addressing an interaction with college students at Lohawal in poll-bound Dibrugarh district, Gandhi also slammed the BJP at the Centre for the decline in democracy, increasing unemployment amongst youth, CAA and farm laws protest.

Asserting that no religion teaches enmity, Gandhi accused the BJP of selling hatred to create divisions among people. "It is the BJP that uses hatred to divide society. No matter where they go to spread hatred, the Congress will continue to spread love and harmony," he said.

In an obvious reference to the RSS – the BJP's ideological fountainhead – the Congress leader said there is

one force in Nagpur that is trying to control the entire country but the youths must resist this attempt with love and confidence as they happen to be the future of the country.

"You think democracy is declining. Youth is unemployed, farmers are protesting, CAA is there. The question is what is India? People from different cultures, languages, religions make up India. We can't ask the people of Assam to forget their culture, history and language if they come to Delhi. The day we say this, the idea of India ends. One force, born in Nagpur, trying to control the whole country," said Gandhi.

During the student interaction ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, Gandhi also urged the youth to actively participate in politics and fight for the state when they feel the state is being robbed by an outside force. "Democracy means the voice of Assam should

control Assam," he added.

Gandhi who is campaigning in the tea-belt of the state said, "BJP promised ₹365, but gave ₹167 to Assam tea workers. I'm not Narendra Modi, I don't lie. Today, we give you five guarantees – ₹365 daily wage to tea workers, non-implementation of the CAA, five lakh jobs, 200 units of free electricity and ₹2,000 for housewives."

On the tea industry, he said that the Congress manifesto was in consultation with the tea tribe and the people, and not framed behind closed doors. "For the tea industry, we will start a special ministry to solve all your issues. Our manifesto is in consultation with the tea tribe, people, and not framed behind closed doors," he said.

Assuring that if Congress is voted to power, it will ensure all round development of the state, Gandhi said that the BJP spreads hate, increases unemployment while the Congress works to erode hate.

Sonia lauds Mitra for refusing BJP ticket

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, MARCH 19

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has reportedly lauded Shikha Mitra, wife of late chief of the party's West Bengal unit Somen Mitra, for refusing to contest the Assembly election on a BJP ticket.

Thanking Mitra for her bold decision, Gandhi also assured her of getting her "due respect."

On Thursday evening Gandhi dialled Mitra after learning about her move as the BJP, while announcing its list of candidates from New Delhi in the afternoon for the last four phases of the polls, fielded her at Chowringhee seat in central Kolkata without "consulting" her and against her "wish."

According to sources, Gandhi, during a talk of 15 minutes with Mitra over phone, said that

the way she turned down the saffron party's offer demands praise. "It was expected from you. The party will give due respect to you for this," sources quoted Sonia as telling Mitra who is among two BJP candidates who have refused to contest the polls after the announcement of their names. Speculation is rife that Mitra may get a ticket from the Congress.

Kamal for white revolution in TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 19

Promising to turn the state into a trillion dollar economy by taking it to a level on par with developed nations, the Makkal Neethi Maiam (MNM) lashed out at the DMK and AIADMK for taking the state down the hill.

Calling it a 10 year vision plan for the state, the election manifesto, running to 108 pages, enumerates its schemes under 41 heads, envisaging a 'white revolution' that mean providing a clean corruption free government and was unveiled by party founder Kamal Haasan at Coimbatore on Friday.

Under Blue Revolution, it talks about linking water bodies. Mettur and Vaigai will be linked through a 350 km waterway and so will be other water bodies like Mettur and Palar (250 km), Vaigai and Tamarabarani (130 km) and Tamarabarani and Perunchani to create the Tamil Nadu Smart Waterway Grid.

One important promise is a change in the liquor policy. TASMC

would be partly privatised, prices of liquor will be hiked with one part of the additional revenue going to the private partner, one part to the government and another part to the families of the liquor consumers by allowing them to make purchases in canteens.

The ban on toddy, the indigenous drink, would be lifted if the MNM came to power and any loss incurred by the government in regulating the sale of alcohol would be compensated by selling purified water, manifesto said.

It promised to train accredited journalists for six months and one year in the IIMs and provide them life and accident insurance cover for ₹10 lakh. For traders a Daily Loan and Development Bank would be set up to protect them from usury. On developing air travel, it said trips per capita would be increased from the present 0.04 to 0.55, the present ratio of one aircraft for 2.89 million people would be changed to an aircraft for every million people.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
SEBI BHAVAN, 5TH FLOOR 'B' WING
C4 'A', G BLOCK, BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX
BANDRA EAST, MUMBAI 400 051, Tel: 26449000
INVITATION for Expression of Interest for
SEBI ITD Internship Program

SEBI invites "Expression of Interests" from eligible institutes to participate in SEBI ITD Internship Program.

The details of the aforesaid advertisement are available on SEBI website: www.sebi.gov.in under section "Careers". The last date for submission of "Expression of Interests" is 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspapers.

Davp 15204/11/0381/2021

S. No.	Brief Description	EXISTING CLAUSE	REVISED CLAUSE
1	211- Manufacture & supply of Elastic Rail Clips Mark-V to RDSO Dg, No. T-5919 of the Research Design and Standards Organisation, Lucknow and in accordance with I.R.S specification T-31-2018 (Fourth Revision) and as amended upto date of opening.	EXISTING Clause 7.11.1 (c) of the Tender Document.	Revised Clause 7.11.1 (c) of the Tender Document
2	2662- Minimum Decrement shall be 0.20%	Minimum Decrement shall be 0.10%.	Minimum Decrement shall be 0.10%.
2020-22-NR	EXISTING Clause 15.1.2 (B) of the Tender Document	Revised Clause 15.1.2 (B) of the Tender Document	The quantity to be ordered may be split by the purchaser amongst two or more sources for ensuring better availability of material keeping in view the vital/critical nature of item, quantity to be procured, delivery requirements, capacity of the firm and past performance of the firms. Quantity shall be allotted generally as per RDSO approved capacity of the firm for production of ERC MK-III or of ERC MK-V, whichever is higher. Quantities shall first be allotted to the tenders eligible for bulk order of ERC MK-V (Refer clause 2.0 of Instructions to Tenderers and General Conditions of tender for supply contract). Maximum quantity that can be awarded to such a tenderer shall be up to 1.0 times of tenderer's capacity certified by RDSO for production of ERC MK-III in 24 months (Delivery Period) or quoted quantity whichever is less. In case the production capacity of ERC MK-III for such an eligible tenderer has not recently been assessed by RDSO, the production of ERC MK-III for that tenderer shall be taken as 1 lakhs/month. The balance quantity, after distribution to the tenders eligible for bulk order of ERC MK-V, shall be distributed to tenders eligible for developmental orders in this tender i.e. RDSO approved vendor for manufacture and supply of ERC MK-II to RDSO Dg. No. T-3701 (Refer clause 2.0 of Instruction to Tenderers and General Condition of tender for supply contract). The maximum quantity which may be distributed to such tenders eligible for developmental orders of ERC MK-V shall be restricted upto 20% of Net Procurable Quantity. Further, the Ceiling of quantity in developmental orders of ERC MK-V shall also be 1.0 times the tenderer's capacity certified by RDSO for production of ERC MK-III in 24 months (Delivery Period) or quoted quantity whichever is less.
22-NR	The quantity to be ordered may be split by the purchaser amongst two or more sources for ensuring better availability of material keeping in view the vital/critical nature of item, quantity to be procured, delivery requirements, capacity of the firm and past performance of the firms. Quantity shall be allotted generally as per RDSO approved capacity of the firm for production of ERC MK-III or of ERC MK-V, whichever is higher. Quantities shall first be allotted to the tenders eligible for bulk order of ERC MK-V (Refer clause 2.0 of Instructions to Tenderers and General Conditions of tender for supply contract). Maximum quantity that can be awarded to such a tenderer shall be up to 1.0 times of tenderer's capacity certified by RDSO for production of ERC MK-III or of ERC MK-V, whichever is higher. Quantities shall first be allotted to the tenders eligible for bulk order of ERC MK-V (Refer clause 2.0 of Instructions to Tenderers and General Conditions of tender for supply contract). 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SHORT TAKES

NO RELIEF TO MUFTI FROM HC ON ED SUMMONS

DC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to stay summons issued to former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. A bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jasmeet Singh said they are not granting any relief to the PDP leader.

The 61-year-old leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has been served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital. The court asked the ED to file a short note of submission along with compilation of judgements relied upon by them before the next date on April 16.

It also asked Mufti's counsel to file their short note. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, said Mufti just has to appear before the officials. The ED, which had earlier summoned Mufti for March 15, had not insisted for her personal appearance at that time. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister has been now summoned for March 22 by the ED.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, representing Mufti, urged the court to ask ED not to insist for her personal presence as was done earlier. To this, the bench said, "We are not giving any stay. We are not granting any relief."

Mufti has sought quashing of summons issued to her by the ED in a money laundering case. She has also sought to declare section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as void and inoperative, being unfairly discriminatory, bereft of safeguards, and violative of Article 20(3). Section 50 of the Act empowers the authority, that is, officers of ED, to summon any person to give evidence or produce records. All persons summoned are bound to answer the questions.

Covid: Uddhav warns of another lockdown

India records 39,726 cases, highest daily rise since Nov. 29

DC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

India on Friday recorded nearly 40,000 fresh infections of Coronavirus as Maharashtra, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka and Gujarat continue to register the highest single-day surge. The 39,726 fresh cases were highest daily rise since November 29 while 154 deaths were recorded.

The spike comes ahead of Assembly elections in Assam, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry where maintaining Covid protocols in between political rallies and campaigns is turning out to be a huge challenge for the authorities. Incidentally, Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab account for 76.48 per cent of India's total active cases.

In the wake of rise in daily cases, Maharashtra, which is reporting 65 per cent of the daily cases in the country, has issued fresh curbs till March 31 in several cities while Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has made RT-PCR negative



People, not wearing face masks, walk at the Heritage Street near Golden Temple, amid Coronavirus pandemic in Amritsar on Friday.

— PTI

test report mandatory for people entering shopping malls. The BMC will also be conducting rapid antigen tests at various places in Mumbai to detect infections.

Mumbai's slum areas has about 34 containment zones and 270 buildings have been sealed after Covid-19 patients were found there. As Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray warned people of another strict lockdown if safety protocols were not followed, the state government on Friday issued orders curtailing the capacity in theatres and private offices by 50 per cent till March 31. "I see lockdown as an option going ahead. But I trust people of the state to cooperate (and follow the Covid-19 norms voluntarily

ly) like the last time," he said. When the pandemic began last year, there was nothing to fight the virus with," Thackeray said.

All private offices except related to health and other essential services to function at 50% capacity," the order said while allowing government and semi-government offices to take a call on staff attendance.

Shiv Sena claims Param Bir victim of 'Delhi lobby'

SONU SHRAVASTAVA | DC

MUMBAI, MARCH 19

SHIV SENA defends Param Bir Singh stating that the transfer does not make him guilty.

transfers were preceded by marathon meetings held by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning with ministers, bureaucrats and police officers including Singh himself.

The editorial also questioned the move of the NIA taking over the probe into the Gelatin-laden SUV found parked near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house last month, saying that the agency generally investigates terrorism-related cases, but there was no terror angle involved in this episode.

It also said that NIA probes terrorism-related cases. The NIA's probe into the terror attacks of Uri, Pathankot and Pulwama is still a mystery. "How many people have been arrested so far in these cases?", the editorial asked.

The Sena also alleged that the opposition is politicising the death of Hirant Nagara and lowering the morale of the state police.

WAZE NOT COOPERATING: NIA TELLS COURT

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC

MUMBAI, MARCH 19

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday told a local court in Mumbai that they are not getting any cooperation from Sachin Waze in the investigation of Mukesh Ambani security scare case.

Before a court in Mumbai, the agency claimed that it has not been able to conduct a proper interrogation because of non-cooperation by Waze.

The special NIA court in Mumbai on Friday rejected an application by Waze seeking permission to consult his lawyer and speak to him in private during his remand in the case related to the recovery of explosives-laden Scorpio near industrialist

Mukesh Ambani's residence in South Mumbai. The judge said that the order passed by court about his consultation with lawyer is clear. The court has allowed Waze's lawyer to remain present at NIA's office during Waze's interrogation but he can stay at a distance from where he can see interrogation but can't hear it.

On the same day, two senior NIA officers met newly appointed Mumbai police commissioner Hemant Nagrare.

Inspector general Anil Shukla and superintendent of police Vikram Khalat of the NIA met newly-appointed city police commissioner Hemant Nagrare.

The NIA officials spent around 30 minutes at the police commissioner's office and Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Milind Bharambhe and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Akbar Pathan were also present at the meet.

2L Olive Ridley turtles arrive on Odisha coast

AKSHAAY KUMAR SAHOO | DC

BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 19

Nearly two lakh Olive Ridley turtles have turned up in the last 10 days for mass nesting at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Odisha's Kendrapara district.

Although not in large numbers, a total 2,03,635 sea turtles have been

spawning at Nasi-2 island of Gahirmatha sanctuary for the past 10 days, forest official sources said on Friday. The mass nesting process had begun on March 8 at Gahirmatha.

While a minimal number of endangered turtles participated in mass nesting on the first day, the number increased later.

According to data, 300 Olive Ridleys laid eggs on

210 on March 13, 18,350 on March 14, 32,560 on March 15, 72,600 on March 16 and 69,200 on March 17.

The mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha shore was first spotted in 1975. The state government has prohibited fishing in sea upto 20 km from Gahirmatha after declaring it as the first marine sanctuary.

March 8, 800 on March 9, 1,250 on March 10, 7,940 on March 11, 425 on March 12,

Around 4.70 lakh female turtles had turned up in 2020 to lay eggs at Gahirmatha. The annual sojourn of the female turtles to lay eggs is also called Arribada.

The hatchlings mostly emerged during the first fortnight of May. Each female lays around 100 to 120 eggs. Hatchlings emerge out of the eggs after 45 to 50 days of the incubation period.

Olive Ridley turtles have a high mortality rate, with just one in thousand growing into an adult.

"It's a rare visual treat as the delicate hatchlings with mothers nowhere in sight generate a hissing noise, creating a soothing cacophony. Later, they make a beeline towards the sea," said a senior forest official.

WORLD

SHORT TAKES

MOUSE PLAGUE SWEEPS RURAL AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Swathes of Australia's rural east are battling a "plague" of mice that is infesting crops and producing hair-raising scenes of rodents running amok. Farmers in New South Wales have reported "a drastic increase" in the mouse population, with the creatures invading grain silos, barns and homes, according to the NSW Farmers association.

Videos captured on the Moeris family farm in Gilgandra — a five-hour drive north-west of Sydney — show thousands of mice scurrying from under pipes through storage columns and over machinery.

The skin-crawling clips were too much for some social media users. "This is exactly what nightmares are made of! I can't even watch the videos," said one Facebook user in response to Melanie Moeris' posts.

BIBI FATE RESTS ON RAZOR-THIN MARGIN IN POLLS

Jerusalem: A final batch of polls by Israeli media outlets on Friday showed a razor-thin election, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's fate likely turning on the performance of small parties and a former ally who has criticised him but has not ruled out joining his coalition.

The elections next Tuesday — the fourth in less than two years — are widely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, who has presided over one of the world's most successful coronavirus vaccination campaigns but is also on trial for corruption.

The polls show Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party in the lead, projecting that it will win around 30 seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's parliament. But an alliance with his natural allies, the ultra-Orthodox parties and a small far-right party, would only yield around 50 seats. On the other side is an ideologically diverse array of parties committed to ousting Netanyahu, which together are projected to win 56-60 seats, also just short of a majority.

US, China clash during first talks

Blinken says China's actions threaten the rules-based order that maintains global stability

Washington, March 19: US Secretary of State Tony Blinken has bluntly told China's top diplomats that Beijing's actions have threatened the rules-based order that maintains global stability, as the two sides exchanged sharp rebukes in public during their first in-person high-level meeting since President Joe Biden took office.

The talks involved Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on the US side, facing off with China's top foreign policy official, Yang Jiechi, and foreign minister Wang Yi.

In his opening remarks to the much-anticipated US-China talks being held in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday, Blinken said that the issues to be raised by his delegation are relevant not only to the two countries but to others across the region and indeed around the world.

The Biden administration, Blinken asserted, is committed to leading with

diplomacy to advance the interests of the United States and to strengthen the rules-based international order. "That system is not an abstraction. It helps countries resolve differences peacefully, coordinate multilateral efforts effectively, and participate in global commerce with the assurance that everyone is following the same rules," Blinken said.

"The alternative to a rules-based order is a world in which might makes right and winners take all, and that would be a far more violent and unstable world for all of us," he said.

At the first-ever meeting of the Quad last week, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said they were committed to promoting a free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and pros-

perity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

"We support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity," the top leaders of the US, India, Australia and Japan said in a joint statement, amidst China's aggressive actions in the strategic Indo-Pacific.

Blinken said the meeting was an opportunity to discuss key priorities, both domestic and global, so that China can better understand the Biden administration's intentions and approach. The relations between the US and China are at an all-time low.

The two countries are currently engaged in a bitter confrontation over various issues, including trade, Beijing's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea and human rights in Hong Kong and Xinjiang region.

Beijing, March 19: China said on Friday a "strong smell of gunpowder and drama" resulted from talks with top American diplomats in Alaska, continuing the contentious tone of the first face-to-face meetings under the Biden administration.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, speaking in Beijing, said American officials at the Alaska meetings had provoked Chinese officials into making a "solemn response" after US officials made "groundless attacks" against Chinese foreign and domestic policies.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Communist Party foreign affairs chief Yang Jiechi took aim at each other's country's policies on Thursday in their meeting in Anchorage.

Zhao accused the US side of overrunning the agreed time for opening remarks, prompting the sharp response from the Chinese delegation.

The meetings, set to continue Friday, come amid disputes over trade, technology, human rights and China's territorial claims to Taiwan and islands in the South China and East China seas.

China has also strongly objected to US calls for greater transparency about the origins of the coronavirus pandemic, the first cases of which were recorded in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

"It was the US side that ... provoked the dispute in the first place, so the two sides had a strong smell of gunpowder and drama from the beginning in the opening remarks. It was not the original intention of the Chinese side," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

At the Alaska meeting, Blinken affirmed US solidarity with its allies in pushing back against China's increasing efforts to spread its authoritarian mode of government through political and economic pressure.

Yang responded with a list of Chinese complaints, accusing Washington of hypocrisy for criticising Beijing on human rights and other issues.

TANZANIA GETS FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

Dar Es Salaam, March 19: Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in on Friday as Tanzania's first female president after the sudden death of John Magufuli from an illness shrouded in mystery.

The 61-year-old, dressed in black suit and red headscarf, took the oath of office in Dar es Salaam before inspecting troops at a military parade and receiving a cannon salute.

"I promise to be honest and obey and protect the constitution of Tanzania," she said before a room of dignitaries, who applauded when the brief ceremony was complete.

Under the constitution, Hassan will serve the remainder of Magufuli's second five-year term, which does not expire until 2025. She is the only other current serving female head of state in Africa alongside Ethiopia's President Sahle-Work Zewde, whose role is mainly ceremonial.

Europe resumes Astra jab rollout

Paris, March 19: Several European countries including the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal are also ending their suspension, while in Asia, Indonesia said it would follow suit.

The vaccine was also brought back into use in France on Friday — but just hours later, the national health regulator recommended it should only be given to people aged 55 and over, given the reported blood clots were only seen in younger people.

Germany and Italy, both of which are attempting to fight off a third wave of the Coronavirus, announced they were using the jab again as of Friday after the European Medicines Agency said it was "safe and effective".

Myanmar crackdown triggers exodus

Yangon, March 19: Roads out of Myanmar's biggest city were choked on Friday with people fleeing the junta's deadly crackdown on anti-coup dissent, as authorities have sought to crush with a campaign of violence and fear.

AT LEAST two more protesters were killed on Friday.

effectively putting nearly two million people under direct control of military commanders.

Some of those areas have become battle zones, with protesters firing sling shots and throwing petrol bombs at security forces who have fired live rounds.

Smoke has also risen above nearly deserted streets, with security forces burning barricades made of vehicle tyres and fences that have been set up by protesters.

— AFP



A protester pours Coca-Cola on the face of a comrade to diminish the effects of tear gas during a crackdown by security forces on a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon's Thaketa township on Friday.

— AFP

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TIVOLI
catch the stars
TODAY'S SCHEDULE

JATHI RATNALU
TELUGU U/A 148 MIN
11:00 AM, 1:25 PM, 1:50 PM,
4:10 PM, 4:45 PM, 7:00 PM,
7:50 PM, 10:00 PM, 10:40 PM

CHAVU KABRU CHALLAGA
TELUGU U/A 137 MIN
10:45 AM, 4:25 PM, 10:10 PM

MOSAGALLU
TELUGU U/A 135 MIN
11:15 AM, 2:00 PM, 7:30 PM

SASHI
TELUGU U/A 131 MIN
1:40 PM, 7:20 PM

MUMBAI SAGA
HINDI U/A 134 MIN
11:10 AM, 4:50 PM, 10:20 PM

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March 27th Release

SANDHYA 35MM R.T.C X Road

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairatabad
AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli
TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad
FORUM - Kukatpally I ICON - HITECH
MOOSARAMBAGH I IRRUM MANZIL
GALLERIA I CENTRAL - Punjagutta
RK - BANJARA I INORBIT - Cyberbad
GPR - Kukatpally I SHA - Chintal
RADHIKA - Kapra I M CUBE - Attapur
CINEPLANET - Kompally I
CINESQUARE - Uppal I
SHIVAGANGA - Dilsukhnagar I
LAXMIKALA - Moosapet I
GVK - Banjara I GSM - Miyapur
MP MALL - Kachiguda
DSL - Uppal I MANTRA - Attapur
CCPL - Malkajgiri
MIRAJ - Balangar I Chandanagar

★★★★ Get scared and laugh your heart out with Roohi as you go to the theatres again - Shravan Shah, Miss Malini
★★★★ Amazing Film funny and scary at the same time - Punjab Kesari
★★★★ Rajkummar Rao's and Varun Sharma's camaraderie steals the show; Janhvi Kapoor impresses with her contrasting double act - Peeping Moon

2nd WEEK
FROM THE MAKERS OF
Roohi
MARD KO JYADA DARD HOGA

SUDHA - SHALIBANDA - 1:50PM
MANTRA - ATTAPUR - 1:10PM
CCPL - MALKAJGIRI - 5:00PM
DSL - UPPAL - 3:40PM

PVR CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA - 11:00PM
INORBIT MALL - MADHUPUR - 1:50, 7:40PM
FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY - 1:50, 4:50PM
IRRUM MANZIL - KHAIRATABAD - 9:50PM
HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA - MOOSARUMBAGH - 4:50PM | ICON - HITECH - 4:15PM
HYD - BAD NEXT GALLERIA - PANJAGUTTA - 11:10AM & 8:00PM

INOX GVK MALL - BANJARAHILLS - 1:15, 10:30PM
MP MALL - KACHIGUDA - 4:20, 10:30PM

MOVIE TIME - GACHIBOWLI 12:35 & 5:50PM
S2 NOMA - MALLPUR AT 1:30 PM

NOW SHOWING
VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATHI
KACHIGUDA
NIGHT SHOW 9:30PM

INDRA RAMAKRISHNA 70MM - ABIDS
2 SHOWS 2:30 & 9:00PM

PRIYA 70MM - MALLEPALLY
12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30

SRISAIRAJA 70MM - MUSHEERABAD
11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00

THE SHOCKING TRUE STORY BEHIND BOMBAY BECOMING MUMBAI

GULSHAN KUMAR, T-SERIES AND WHITE FEATHER FILMS PRESENT
MUMBAI SAGA

WRITTEN PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY SANJAY GUPTA
PRODUCED BY CHUSHAN KUMAR, KRISHN KUMAR, ANURADHA GUPTA AND SANGEETA AHIR

MARCH 26th At a Theatre Near You

RUCKUS 70MM

6012! Gimme Some Love!
SURYADEVARA NAGA VAMS | VENKY ATLURI | P.C. SREERAM
NAVIN NOOJI | AVINASH KOLLA | S.VENKATARATHINAM (VENKAT)

Narayanguda
SHANTI 70MM
R.T.C X Road

SUDARSHAN 35MM
Kukatpally

VISWANATH 70MM
BRAMARAMBA 70MM
Dilshuknagar

KONARK 70MM

MAHALAXMI, Kothapet
EESHWAR, Attapur
SANGEETHA, R.C Puram
SRI LAXMI, Karmanghat

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairatabad
AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli
TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad
FORUM - Kukatpally I ICON - HITECH
MOOSARAMBAGH I IRRUM MANZIL
GALLERIA I CENTRAL - Punjagutta
RK - Banjara I INORBIT - Cyberbad
GPR - Kukatpally I SHA - Chintal
RADHIKA - Kapra I M CUBE - Attapur I
CINEPLANET - Kompally I
CINESQUARE - Uppal I
SHIVAGANGA - Dilsukhnagar
LAXMIKALA - Moosapet
GVK - Banjara I GSM - Miyapur I
MP MALL - Kachiguda I
DSL - Uppal I MANTRA - Attapur I
CCPL - Malkajgiri I
MIRAJ - Balangar I Chandanagar
CARNIVAL CINEMAS - Ameerpet I
S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur I

Kachiguda	Abids
VENKATARAMANA	RAMAKRISHNA 35
Mosapet	Erragada
SRI RAMULU 70	GOKUL 70MM
ECIL X Road	Mosapet
TALLURI THEATRE	LAXMIKALA
Malkajgiri	Kapra
SRI SAI RAM 70	SHARADA 70
Jeedimetla	R.C Puram
RANGA 70MM	JYOTHI 70MM
Uppal	Alwal
SRI KRISHNA 70	NARTAKI 70
Khairatabad	Amberpet
SENSATION SUNSHINE	SREERAMANA
Vanasthalipuram	Nacharam
SUSHMA 70	VYJAYANTHI 70
Miyapur	Medipatnam
SAI RANGA 70MM	AMBA 70MM
Langerhouse	Borabanda
ALANKAR 70	VIJETHA 70
Madhapur	Balapur
BR Hitech	SUPER 70MM
Tarnaka	Balangar
ARADHANA 70	VIMAL 70MM
Surraram	Chilkalguda
SRI SAI POOJA	VLS SRIDEVI
Kattedan	Isnapur
ASIAN SWAPNA	SHIVRANJANI
IDA Bolaram	Nagaram
JYOTHI 70	KRISHNA 70
Gummadidala	Shamshabad
VENKATESHWARA	GANESH 70
ASIAN MUKUND	Medchal

AMB CINEMAS
SCHEDULE FOR TODAY
WEAR MASK STAY SAFE

ASIAN SHIVAGANGA - DILSUKHNAGAR
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)11.00AM, 2.15PM
6.00PM. MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)2.00PM, 9.00PM
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)11.15AM, 6.15PM, 9.15PM

ASIAN SHA SHAHSENHAL - CHINTHAL
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)11.00AM, 6.00PM, 9.15PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)2.30PM, 9.45PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)11.15AM
2.00PM, 6.30PM

ASIAN RADHIKA - A S RAO NAGAR
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)10.40AM, 1.30, 4.20, 7.15
10.10PM, MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)10.55AM, 1.50
7.25, 10.30PM, SASHI(U/A)(TEL)1.40PM
SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)4.40PM, CHAVU KABURU
CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)10.35AM, 4.20, 7.35, 10.20PM

ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)10.30AM, 1.25, 4.20
7.20, 10.20PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)10.55AM, 1.35, 7.30, 10.30PM
SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)4.30PM | SASHI(U/A)(TEL)4.40PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)10.40AM
1.45PM, 7.40PM, 10.40PM

CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)10.40AM, 1.30, 4.45PM
7.20PM, 7.30, 10.20PM, SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)4.20PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)11.00AM, 1.45, 4.30, 7.40, 10.30PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)10.30AM, 1.20
4.20, 7.00, 9.50PM SASHI(U/A)(TEL)10.50AM, 1.35PM
MUMBAI SAGA(A)(HINDI)10.20PM

ASIAN M CUBE MALL-ATTAPUR
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)10.40AM, 1.30, 4.45PM
7.20PM, 7.30, 10.20PM, SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)4.20PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)11.00AM, 1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)10.30AM, 1.20
4.10, 7.00, 10.00PM SASHI(U/A)(TEL)1.40PM
MUMBAI SAGA(A)(HINDI)10.55AM, 4.45PM, 10.30PM

ASIAN CINE SQUARE - UPPAL
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)10.50AM, 1.25, 1.45PM
4.25, 4.40, 7.35, 7.40, 10.30PM
SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)4.35PM, 10.25PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)10.40AM, 1.55, 4.45, 7.15, 10.40PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)10.30AM, 1.35
4.20, 7.25, 10.10PM SASHI(U/A)(TEL)10.45AM, 7.30PM
MUMBAI SAGA(A)(HINDI)1.40PM, 10.20PM
EE KATHALO PATHALU KALPITHAM(U/A)(TEL)11.00AM

ASIAN MUKTHA A2 M SQUARE - NARAPALLY
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)10.50AM, 1.40
4.30, 4.40, 7.00, 7.20, 10.10PM
SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)1.30PM, 10.20PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)10.50AM, 1.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.40PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)10.30AM, 1.50
4.10, 7.30, 10.30PM SASHI(U/A)(TEL)11.00AM, 4.20PM
ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA CINEPRISE-MOOSAPET
JAATHI RATHNALU(U)(TEL)11.00AM, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM
SRIKAARAM(U)(TEL)6.30PM
MOSAGALLU(U/A)(TEL)11.15AM, 6.15, 9.45PM
CHAVU KABURU CHALLAGA(U/A)(TEL)11.30AM
9.45PM, SASHI(U/A)(TEL)2.45PM

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE ON bookmyshow
SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE STRICTLY FOLLOWED

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

JATHI RATHNALU
TELUGU 2D (U)
10:35 AM, 10:50 AM, 1:25 PM,
4:40 PM, 4:50 PM, 7:30 PM,
7:45 PM, 10:20 PM, 10:35 PM

MOSAGALLU
TELUGU 2D (U/A)
10:50 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:40 PM,
7:25 PM, 10:15 PM, 10:30 PM

SASHI TELUGU 2D (U/A)
11:00 AM, 4:25 PM, 10:10 PM

SRIKAARAM TELUGU 2D (U)
1:45 PM, 7:10 PM

CHAUVU KABURU CHALLAGA TELUGU 2D (U/A)
10:45 AM, 1:55 PM, 4:45 PM,
7:20 PM, 10:30 PM

MUMBAI SAGA HINDI 2D (A)
11:15 AM, 2:00 PM, 7:45 PM,
10:25 PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON 4:45 PM

SRIKAARAM TELUGU 2D (U)
1:45 PM, 7:10 PM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS ON www.ambcinemas.in/bookmyshow
SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE STRICTLY FOLLOWED

THRILLING HIT
SEE TODAY

SUDARSHAN 35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SANTOSH CINEMA-ABIDS
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM

INARA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI COMPLEX-KACHIGUDA
6.00PM(ONE SHOW)

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

OAMB
AMB CINEMA-10.50, 1.45, 4.35, 7.25, 10.05, 10.25PM

PRASAD'S-9.00, 12.45, 3.15, 5.45, 8.15, 10.45PM

ASIAN CINEMAS
RADHIKA-10.55, 1.50, 7.25, 10.30PM
SIVAGANGA-2.00, 9.00PM

CINESQUARE-10.55, 1.55, 4.45, 7.15, 10.40
MCUBE-11.00, 1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM

SHA-2.30, 9.45PM|**GPR**-1.35, 7.30, 10.30PM

PVR

FORUM-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM

RK-5.05, 10.40PM

GALLERIA-10.15, 4.10, 7.10, 10.10PM

CENTRAL-11.25, 1.50, 5.10, 8.00PM

INORBIT-11.00, 1.50, 8.00, 11.00PM

PRISTON-5.00, 10.50PM

MOOSARAMBAGH-1.50, 7.50, 9.45PM

IRRUMMANZIL-1.10, 4.10, 7.10, 10.10

ICON-4.40, 7.15, 10.15PM

CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY
11.00, 1.45, 7.40, 10.40PM

MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY
10.55, 1.20, 7.40, 10.40PM

INOX

GVK-11:00, 4:30, 7:25, 10:30PM

MP-10:30, 1:15, 7:15PM

GSM-11:40, 3:00, 6:35, 9:15PM

Cinépolis

CCPL-11.00, 4.55, 10.50PM

MANTRA-10.50, 1.20, 7.35, 10.35PM

DSL-12.40, 7.10, 10.20PM

SUDHA-11.00, 4.35, 10.50PM

MIRAJ CINEMAS

CHANDANAGAR-3.45, 9.45PM

BALANAGAR-11.15, 1.40, 7.40PM

SHALINI SHIVANI-11.15, 1.40, 7.40PM

PLATINUM-10.30, 1.15, 6.45, 8.00, 10.45

BIG Cinemas-**AMEERPET**-4.20, 10.30PM

BVK-11.00, 4.40, 10.40PM

TIVOLI-11.15, 2.00, 7.30PM

MALLAPUR-11.00, 2.00, 7.50PM

AARADHANA 70MM-TARNAKA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

AMBA 70MM-MEHIDIPATNAM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

SENSATION IN SOMNIA
11.30, 2.30PM(2 SHOWS ONLY)

SREERAMANA COMPLEX
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ANJALI 70MM-SECUNDERABAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREESAIPOOJA 70-SOORARAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SVR'S SIVASAKTHI 70-KAPRA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BHUJUANGA 70-JEEDIMETLA
11.00AM(ONE SHOW)

SRLATHA 70MM-R.C.PURAM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

TALLURI 70MM-ECIL X ROADS
2.15, 9.15PM(2 SHOWS)

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

THIS YEAR'S FUNNIEST FILM
2nd BLOCKBUSTER WEEK

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

SHANTI 70MM
11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

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

MALLIKARJUNA 70
11.15am, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30pm

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

SANGEETHA 70
11.00am, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00pm

MAHALAXMI 70
11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

LAXMIKALA ASIAN SHA
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30

SHIVAGANGA TALLURI
11.15, 6.15, 9.15

VENKATARAMANA SHARADA 70
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15

RAMAKRISHNA 35 RAMAKRISHNA 70
2.30pm & 9.30pm 11.00am & 6.00pm

SENSATION SUNSHINE 6.30pm
INSOMNIA 9.00pm

VENKATESHWARA ALANKAR 70
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GOKUL 70MM SREERAMANA
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SRI KRISHNA 70 LAXMIKALA MANDIR
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15

SUSHMA 70 RANGA 70
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SRI SAI RAM 70 ASIAN SWAPNA
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30

SUPER 70MM GANESH 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SRI PREMA 70 JYOTI IDA BOLARAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

JYOTHI 70MM MUKUND 70
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SRI DEVI (CHILKALGUDA) 11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15

PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 12.00pm, 7.15pm
LARGE : 10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

AMB - 10.30, 10.55, 1.25, 1.40, 1.55, 4.25, 4.45, 7.00, 7.30, 7.45, 10.25, 10.40pm

PVR CINEMAS

RK - 10.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50pm

INOX - 10.00, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

INOX - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

CCPL - 10.10, 1.15, 7.35, 10.40pm

SUDHA - 10.10, 1.15, 7.45, 10.50pm

MANTRA - 10.30, 1.35, 7.45, 10.50pm

DSL - 12.10, 3.30, 6.50, 10.10pm

PRASADS - 11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00

RK - 11.00, 1.30, 7.40pm

INORBIT - 10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

GALLERIA - 10.00, 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00pm

IRRUMMANZIL - 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00pm

PRISTON - 3.45, 6.45, 9.45pm

ICON - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

INOX - 11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00

INOX - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

INOX - 10.00, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

PLATINUM - 10.00, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	49,858.24	1.30
Nifty 50	14,744.00	1.28
S&P 500*	3,925.36	0.25
Dollar (₹)	72.48	0.25
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.99	0.25
Euro (₹)	86.47	0.16
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,580▼168	0.37
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	64.04	1.20
IN 10-Yr Crd yield*	6.193	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.730	0.001

* As of 8:30 PM IST

State Bank digital transaction share reaches 67%

State Bank of India has seen a perceptible increase in the number transactions happening at its multiple digital channels, with the percentage share of such transactions moving up from 60 per cent in the pre-pandemic period to 67 per cent, chairman Dinesh Khara said. The rise in digital transactions was largely driven by e-commerce, which gave the bank's digital channels "wider currency and acceptability."

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Fares hiked by 5% to ₹2,310 & ₹7,560 Airfare floor raised again

SANGEETHA G
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
CHENNAI, MARCH 19

Airfares will pinch the pocket of passengers a little more now, as the government has increased the lower limit on airfares by five per cent amidst rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday. ATF prices have risen 150 per cent in the past nine months from their lows during the lockdown.

The upper limit on airfares will remain as it is for now. A month back, the Centre had increased the lower and upper limits on domestic airfares by 10-30 per cent.

While announcing the resumption of scheduled domestic flights in May last year, the aviation ministry had placed limits on airfares through seven bands classified on the basis of flight duration.

The first band consists of flights having less than 40-minute duration and its lower limit has been increased to Rs 2,310 on Friday. The threshold fare for the highest band of flights having duration of 180-210 minutes was further hiked to Rs 7,560.

"There has been a continuous rise in price of ATF so it has been decided to increase the lower fare band by 5 per cent keeping the upper fare band unchanged," Puri tweeted.

"We may open the sector for 100% operations when



daily passenger traffic crosses 3.5 lakhs on 3 occasions in a month."

Currently, the airlines are permitted to operate not more than 80 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights.

"Last few days have seen

a decline in the number of air passengers largely due to restrictions & imposition of compulsory RT-PCR test by various states. Due to this we have decided to retain the permissible limit to 80% of schedule," Puri added.

Scheduled international passenger traffic continues to remain suspended in India since March 23, 2020 due to the pandemic. However, special international flights have been operating since July 2020 under air bubble arrangements formed with various countries.

While the government has allowed carriers to increase the air fares by 10 to 30 per cent earlier, most of them were not able to hike the rates owing to low capacity levels.

ATF prices in New Delhi have risen from about Rs 21.45 per litre on May 25, 2020 to Rs 53.80 per litre as on February 1, 2021—an increase of 150.8 per cent in nine months, the government informed Parliament.

The government on February 11 increased the minimum fare by only 10 per cent and the maximum fare by only 30 per cent. However, the industry has not been able to hike rates.

"The carriers are running at around 75 per cent capacity. Unless they return to 90-

92 per cent capacity utilisation, they won't be able to hike the rates. Due to the heavy competition in the sector, they have not been able to resort to dynamic pricing as earlier," said Mayur Milak, senior research analyst-auto & aviation sector at IndiaNivesh Securities.

The domestic traffic reduced from around 10.8 crore during April-December 2019 to around three crore during April-December 2020.

NAZARA TECH IPO SUBSCRIBED 175 TIMES, SURYODAY SFB 2.37 TIMES

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, MARCH 19

Nazara Technologies' Rs 583-crore IPO was subscribed over 175 times, with heavy demand from high networth individuals (HNI) investors on the final day of subscription on Friday while Suryoday Small Finance Bank's IPO of Rs 582 crore was subscribed 2.37 times.

As per stock exchange data, non-institutional investors or the HNI category was subscribed 389.89 times, qualified institutional investors' portion was subscribed 103.77 times and retail individual investor portion was subscribed 75.29 times.

As investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala holds more than 10 per cent stake in Nazara Technologies.

Nazara, a India based diversified gaming and sports media platform had raised Rs 100 crore in February 2021 from Hornbill Capital Advisers, an investment vehicle of the North America based Hornbill Orchid India Fund and Rs 261 crore just before the public issue opening on March 16 from overseas and domestic investors like Government of Singapore, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Goldman Sachs, SBI Mutual Fund, HDFC Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential MF, Kotak MF, Axis MF, Sundaram MF, Aditya Birla Sunlife MF, among others.

Facebook building kids' version of Instagram

KURT WAGNER
MARCH 19

Facebook Inc is building a version of the photo-sharing tool Instagram specifically for children under the age of 13, an effort to get its popular products into the hands of the next generation of internet users.

The new app was announced internally on Thursday, but is not yet launched. Instagram currently requires that users must be at least 13 years old.

BuzzFeed News previously reported on Instagram Kids.

Instagram, bought by Facebook almost a decade ago for \$1 billion, has become one of its most popular products at a time when its main social networking prop-



erty has failed to resonate with some younger users.

"Increasingly kids are asking their parents if they can join apps that help them keep up with their friends," Joe Osborne, a Facebook spokesman, said in a statement.

"Right now there aren't many options for parents, so

we're working on building additional products—like we did with Messenger Kids—that are suitable for parents. We're exploring bringing a parent-controlled experience to Instagram to help kids keep up with their friends, discover new hobbies and interests, and more."

Messenger Kids is a version of Facebook's messaging app for pre-teens. That app includes a number of parental controls, but a flaw previously allowed some kids to chat with people their parents had not approved. The incident sparked concern from regulators that it didn't adequately protect children.

—Bloomberg

INDIA GETS \$232 BN PE/VC FUNDS IN A DECADE

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 19

India received \$232.4 billion as PE/VC investments in the past decade.

Between 2011 and 2020, Indian companies and startups received a total of \$232.4 billion. This is more than twice the value recorded in the preceding decade. Of the total investments, 68 per cent or \$158.5 billion came in during the last four years, as per an ICVA-EY report.

Financial services, infrastructure, real estate, e-commerce and technology were the most preferred sectors for PE/VC investments accounting



for 60-70 per cent of all investments during the decade.

"2011-2020 was a pivotal decade for the Indian PE/VC industry during which the industry grew from a nascent asset class to a mature ecosystem, crossing many significant milestones," said Vivek Soni, partner and national leader for private equity services, EY.

"A large part of the

funds invested were sourced from globally fungible pools of capital managed by international GPs (general partners). Only \$58.2 billion of India dedicated funds were raised between 2011 and 2020 and this is approximately 25 per cent of the PE/VC investments of \$232.4 billion invested during this period," added Soni.

The Flipkart-Walmart deal was a turning point for the Indian PE/VC industry.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the decade ended on a record high of \$47.6 billion in PE/VC investments in 2020.

GAMES

SHORT TAKES TFA secy's son dies in mishap

Manoj, Aijaz have ball of a time

Dinakar, Manish, Izhan, Mudassir, Mehul, Ujjwal, Vinay, Akhilesh and Hussain also shine

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19



Dayani (5/48) were the other performers in the Two-Day league.

In the One-Dayers, Ujjwal (5/20) of Sutton CC; Mahesh CC's Vinay Reddy (5/21) and Akhilesh (5/29); and Syed Mohammed Hussain (110) of St Andrews CC rose to the top.

Brief scores:

TWO-DAY LEAGUE

■ Ours 291 in 79 overs vs Meg City 208 in 55 overs (Zubair 46, Prakash Laman 56, D. Manoj Kumar 7/67 — 10.4-2-67-7). Points: Ours 5, Meg City 0.

■ WMC 347 in 68 overs lost to Nizamabad District 348/9 in 74.1 overs (Md Adnan 46, J. Rohit Kumar 44, N. Anish Reddy 4/95). Points: Nizamabad District 5, WMC 0.

■ Shanti XI 435 in 89.5 overs vs XI Master 125 in 36.1 overs (Kiran Paul 37, Mehlul Dayani 5/48). Points: Shanti XI 5, XI Master 0.

■ WMC 347 in 68 overs lost to Nizamabad District 348/9 in 74.1 overs (Md Adnan 46, J. Rohit Kumar 44, N. Anish Reddy 4/95). Points: Nizamabad District 5, WMC 0.

■ Noble 271 in 55.5 overs vs Adams XI 112 in 32 overs (Hussain Bin Jaffa 4/53, Rahul Reddy 4/20). Points: Noble 5, Adams XI 0.

■ Vijayputri Willowmen 283 in 66 overs vs Bharat 161/9 (all out) in 55 overs (Rahul Revant 83). Points: Vijayputri Willowmen 5, Bharat 0.

■ Adilabad District 243 in 71 overs vs PKMCC 107 in 49.2 overs (Md Izhan Awali 5/23). Points: Adilabad District 5, PKMCC 0.

■ Elegant 116 in 50.3 overs vs Shalimar CC 99/8 (all out) in 26.4 overs (Md. K. Mudassir Ahmed 5/39). Points: Elegant 5, Shalimar CC 0.

■ Shanti XI 435 in 89.5 overs vs XI Master 125 in 36.1 overs (Kiran Paul 37, Mehlul Dayani 5/48). Points: Shanti XI 5, XI Master 0.

■ Acrylic CC 273/7 in 90 overs vs Warangal District 234 in 54.2 overs (M Devender 40, B. Kumar 32, Sai Prateek 4/50, Sankeert 4/81). Points: Acrylic 5, Warangal 0.

■ Starlets CC 150/5 in 25 overs (Adithiv Reddy 76, R. Shashank 37) lost to Victory CC 151 no loss in 12 overs (Paul 80 n.o., Navdeep 63 n.o.)

■ Saifguda CC 212 in 41.3 overs (J. Ayyash 33, V. Vineeth Pawar 33, Ranjith Yadav 41) lost to Natraj CC 179/5 in 50 overs (Arun 64, Sannithi 35 n.o.)

■ Consult CC 269/9 in 49 overs (Jaydev 60, Abhinav 75, Sai 38) lost to Sutton CC 175 in 36 overs (Madhav 83 n.o., Sikander 33, Sai 3/31)

■ Hyderabad District 159 in 38.3 overs (Praveen 30, Akshay 4/26) lost to Akshit CC 160/5 in 28.2 overs (Ishan 35, Anirudh 36, Ashish 48, Umang 3/61).

■ Sutton CC 243 in 44.2 overs (Aashish 91, Hyder 3/20) vs Mahesh CC 251 in 41.3 overs (Sai Charan 68, Abhinav 33, Ram 36, Ugend 3/48) lost to Youth CC 147 in 35 overs (Vinay Reddy 5/21, Akhilesh 5/29).

■ St Andrews CC 274/8 in 50 overs (Aditya 37, Syed Mohammed Hussain 110, Ved Vyasa 38 n.o., Anurag 3/65) vs Cosmos 187 in 42.1 overs (Ganesh 33, Abdul 40, Yuvraj Yadav 3/34).

■ St Marys 258/8 in 50 overs (Melvin Oldbury 60, Karthik 30, Lavoni Johnson 39, Ritvik 3/44) vs Navjeetan Friends 157 in 39.1 overs (Kiran 39, Teja 4/34).

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Tee time at NISA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

Ravi Yerra, Sudhakar Murthy, Col Hemant and Raghunath Reddy won the spot prizes as the inaugural NISA Open Golf Tournament got underway at the NISA Environmental Park and Training Area (NEPTA) in Hakimpet, Hyderabad, on Friday.

Ravi Yerra and Sudhakar Murthy were the closest to the Pin in the first and second sessions respectively while Col Hemant and Raghunath Reddy took the awards for the Arrow Strike in the two sessions.

As many as 45 golfers entered the fray with 36 making Sunday's final after two rounds of qualification.

STATE RANKING CHESS IN HYDER

SHORT TAKES
Sutirtha, Kamal
qualify for Tokyo

Doha: India's second-highest-ranked female table tennis player Sutirtha Mukherjee and discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur qualified for Tokyo Olympics. Sutirtha did it via a 4-2 (7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 4-11, 11-5, 11-4) win against Manika Batra at the Asian Olympic Games Qualification Tournament in Doha. Despite her defeat against Sutirtha, Manika is also set to make the cut because of her ranking.

Meanwhile, discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur booked her Tokyo Olympics berth with a sensational national record effort of 65.06m at the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala. — PTI

Anjum, Divyansh, Arjun in final

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics quota holders Anjum Moudgil, Divyansh Singh Panwar and Arjun Babuta qualified for the women's and men's 10m air rifle finals respectively on the opening day of the ISSF World Cup here on Friday.

In the 60-shot qualification, the 18-year-old Panwar finished sixth with a total of 629.1, while

2016 ISSF junior world cup bronze medalist Babuta grabbed the third place after firing 631.8 at the Karni Singh Shooting Range. Anjum, 27, qualified for the women's 10m air rifle final by finishing an impressive second after aggregating 629.6 over six series of 60 shots. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET
 India vs England: Fifth T20 from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

India vs South Africa women: 1st T20 from 7 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

BADMINTON
 All England Open: Semifinal matches from 3.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

FOOTBALL
 FA Cup Quarterfinals: Bournemouth vs Southampton from 5.45 pm; Everton vs Manchester City from 11 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

FINAL SHOWDOWN

Battle for glory among two best teams in last gambit

Ahmedabad, March 19: Having outsmarted England in challenging conditions, a confident India will back themselves to win the series-decider here on Saturday and take another firm step towards finalising their core for the T20 World Cup.

India find themselves well-placed in their preparations for the mega event at home later this year, irrespective of what happens in the fifth game.

India, who did not have the depth earlier to attack in all situations, finds itself full of 'x-factor' with the emergence of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav, whose willow bludgeoned the England bowlers, making it a dream debut on Friday.

His innings at number three was pure delight and left even the likes of Kohli "stunned", reinforcing the role of IPL in providing polished talent to the national team.

With Kishan and Suryakumar making massive impact in their maiden series, Rahul Tewatia is the only one in the squad left to make his debut and that could happen on Saturday. Another big plus for India in the series has been Hardik Pandya contributing with the ball regularly.

Rahul Chahar also did a decent job while Washington Sundar had a rare off day. India will now be hoping K. L. Rahul fires at the top, having showed some form in the previous game following scores of 1, 0, 0.

England, on the other hand, will expect Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan to show more consistency with the bat. Jofra Archer and Mark Wood have been impressive but they have not got a lot of support from Chris Jordan, who leaked most runs in the fourth T20. — PTI



Indian skipper Virat Kohli and England captain Eoin Morgan in this file photo.

Prasidh, Krunal and Surya in India ODI squad vs Eng

New Delhi, March 19: Karnataka pacer Prasidh Krishna, all-rounder Krunal Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav earned their maiden ODI call-up on Friday as selectors named them in India's 18-member squad for the three-match series against England.

Krishna and Krunal have been rewarded for their good performances in the recently held Vijay Hazare Trophy while Suryakumar's selection was not a surprise given his stupendous T20 debut in the fourth T20 against England. Krishna, who has been on the radar for a while and has also earned Virat Kohli's praise, took 14 wickets in the domestic

THE SQUAD

■ Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Lokesh Rahul (wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Krunal Pandya, Washington Sundar, T. Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur.

50-over competition while Krunal, who has played 18 T20s, earned his maiden ODI call-up by scoring two hundreds and as many fifties in five games for Baroda. All three ODIs will be played in Pune, starting March 23.

Rishabh Pant and pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar are back in the side and so is Washington Sundar, who played his only ODI in December 2017.

Bhuvneshwar is set to play his first ODI since August 2019. In the absence of the rest of Jasprit Bumrah and injured Mohammad Shami, the UP pacer will lead the pace attack.

T Natarajan has regained fitness and therefore finds a place in the squad following an impressive outing in Australia. It seems, the squad has been picked in such a way that India continue to work on their preparation for the T20 World Cup. — PTI

LAKSHYA LIMPS OUT OF ALL ENGLAND OPEN

Birmingham, March 19: Indian ace Lakshya Sen crashed out of the All England Open Championships quarterfinals after losing to Mark Caljouw of the Netherlands 17-21, 21-16, 17-21 here on Friday.

The match, which lasted 55 minutes, saw the end of Indian challenge in men's singles.

The women's doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy also bowed out of the tournament following their defeat in straight games to Netherlands' Selena Piek and Cheryl Seinen in the quarterfinals.

The World No.30 Indian pairing went down 22-24, 12-21 to 24th-ranked duo of Selena and Cheryl in 39 minutes.

Men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded sixth, had crashed out of the event after losing 16-21, 21-11, 17-21 to Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen in the second round.

In the men's singles, Sameer Verma too suffered a second successive loss to third seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark, going down 22-20, 21-10 in the second round.

The mixed pairing of Dhruv Kapila and Meghana Jakkampudi also bowed out after losing 19-21 8-21 to Niclas Nohr and Amalie Magelund of Denmark.

Caljouw, who had defeated Sen once before, claimed the first set 21-17 in seventeen minutes. — PTI



India's Nikhat Zareen punches two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan at the Bosphorus Boxing Tournament in Istanbul on Friday. — PTI

Nikhat on a roll, strolls into semis

New Delhi, March 19: Continuing her giant-killing run, Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen on Friday stunned two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan to enter the women's 51kg semifinals at the Bosphorus Boxing Tournament in Istanbul.

Zareen, who had earlier defeated 2019 world champion Paltceva Ekaterina of Russia in the pre-quarterfinals, looked unfazed and confident against her opponent from Kazakhstan.

She stamped her authority right from the beginning and prevailed 4-1 win over Kyzaibay, a gold medalist from 2014 and 2016 World Championships.

Zareen has ensured herself at least a bronze medal with a place in the last-four. Apart from Zareen, 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medalist Gaurav Solanki (57kg) also sailed into the semifinals after a tough contest against local pugilist Aykol Mizan.

Both the boxers attacked throughout the bout but Solanki showed his technical supremacy to secure a 4-1 win and assured himself of at least a bronze medal.

Among other women boxers, Sonia Lather (57kg), Parveen (60kg) and Jyoti (69kg) made exits with losses in their respective quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, Shiva Thapa (63kg) lost 1-4 to Turkey's Hakan Dogan. The fourth day of the tournament will see two Indian boxers fighting in their respective semifinal bouts later on Friday. Zareen will face another tough challenge as she takes on Busenaz Cakiroglu of Turkey while Solanki will be up against Argentina's Nirco Cuello. — PTI

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DC ESTATE

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

Pg II | > Design speaks in many languages

Pg III | > Feel like a king in your own castle

Modi Properties blaze trail

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

Modi Properties, in the field of construction for 40 years, has successfully completed 4,000 homes spread over five million square feet. The company is on the verge of completing another 1,500 houses covering another three million square feet.

The company designs its projects to provide a great lifestyle to its customers. Its projects are gated communities with modern amenities, such as clubhouses, swimming pools and sporting facilities. The company firmly maintains a focus on keeping each of its projects environmentally friendly, and all its projects are designed and constructed in well-connected areas. The company is prompt in delivery, most of the projects have been completed within the short span of a year.

Modi Properties are focusing on their ongoing projects - Vista Homes at Kapra, 403 flats on 5.65 acres; Nilgiri Estate, 188 villas on 10 acres at Rampally; Bloomdale, 72 villas on five acres at Shamirpet; Silver Oak Residency at Cherlapally; AVR Gulmohar Homes, 91 villas on 6.5 acres at Miryalaguda; and Morning Glory Apartments, 30 flats at Genome Valley, all scheduled for completion this year.

The other projects, which will be completed in 2022 and 2023, are Silver Oak Villas Phases 1, 2, 3, 95 villas on 6.5 acres of land at Cherlapally; Bloomdale Residency @ Genome Valley, 108 flats, near Shamirpet; Mayflower Platinum, 189 flats at Mallapur; Greenwood Heights, 119 flats at Kowkur; and Gulmohar Residency, 354 flats on eight acres of land at Mallapur.

The commercial projects of Modi Properties which are shaping up now are Innopolis which is a 6 lakh square feet lab for life sciences on 9.2 acres at Genome

Modi Properties is known for their timely delivery of projects. Their constructions are typically completed in a year and handed over to customers. The company is working on a slew of projects that will be completed this year, and is planning many more.



An example of residential flats and villas in Hyderabad that are part of the repertoire of Modi Properties.

Valley; Colabs, another lab space for life sciences with 1 lakh square feet on an area of 2.25 acres also at Genome Valley.

The success of the company is seen in its completed projects, the three phases of Silver Oak bungalows, 250 villas on 25 acres, at Cherlapally; Nilgiri Homes at Rampally with 95 villas; Gulmohar Gardens Phases 1 and 2 on 5 acres with 505 flats in Mallapur; Villas at Silver Creek, 54 villas at Nagaram and Greenwood Residency, 345 flats on 6.1 acres of land at Kowkur.



be assured that the investments they might make, are safe," Rao told a press conference.

The three-day Hyderabad Property Show-2021, organised by Credai, will be held at Hitex beginning April 16.

Announcing the event on Friday, P. Rama Krishna Rao, president of Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai), Hyderabad, said this is the biggest property show organised in the city where every participant with homes or office spaces to offer is allowed to showcase their projects only after every required government permission is obtained.

"Every exhibitor taking part in the Credai property show follows our code of conduct and follows every government rule and regulation. Only properties that have received all government and regulatory approvals are offered, cutting across budget ranges, and customers can

stop by for enquiries. He said the residential and office property market has stayed robust despite initial fears over the impact on the home construction industry because of Covid-19 pandemic.

According to V. Rajashekhar Reddy, general secretary, Credai-H, Hyderabad has seen the highest number of launches for residential and commercial projects, backed by rapid absorption in the last quarter. "We urge the people to use the present low prices and purchase the property as the prices will increase many-fold shortly," he said.

Credai's show from April 16 will feature approved projects

Exhibitors at the three-day exhibition must follow Credai code and have government clearance for their projects. The exhibition at Hitex will follow Covid-19 guidelines.

DC CORRESPONDENT

The three-day Hyderabad Property Show-2021, organised by Credai, will be held at Hitex beginning April 16.

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Credai office-bearers announce the 10th edition of Hyderabad Property Show 2021.

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DCESTATE



If you can't have the original, you can have a copy. Many families get copies of antique furniture made for their homes.

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Craftsmen in the city can make old-style furniture if you cannot lay your hands on the expensive antiques.

AATHER MOIN

Attaction to the uncommon is a common instinct. Having something rare not only feels pleasant, but can also project a higher status and pride for the possessor as traditional pieces have distinct visual markers that bring back warm fuzzy feelings. Antique pieces usually carry this aura. With real antiques hard to come by, and which can be expensive when available in the market, or for sale by their owners, a market has developed by master craftsmen who can create that antique look, be it in furniture, lighting fixtures, and the like.

Most of such antique furniture is made from hardwood such

as mahogany, cherry wood, dark pear wood, oak, elm, beech, silver birch, teak, ebony. Most of it is made by hand, by skilled craftsmen. The traditional furniture made kings and queens of commoners — even if that regal feeling has been limited to just their living room. That is the reason people show interest in the vintage furniture. If they do not find vintage articles, they try to decorate their houses with copies of master antique pieces. Mir Abbas Ali Moosvi, an expert in antiques said there was a lot of difference between the furniture used in palaces and houses of nobles of the past, and the people of that time. "If you see furniture in royal palaces of the past, you will find a few kinds of chairs and in the Mughal era. During the 18th century, furniture began to be imported from Europe. Later, foreign companies opened their workshops here and started making furniture with the local craftsman, using their own patterns." Moosvi explained.

He said that though the use of traditional furniture has declined sharply, as its cost is out of reach of most people, many love to have traditional furniture in their homes. "There are many craftsmen who can copy the antique pieces here in the city," Moosvi said.



Old-style furniture evokes warm, fuzzy feelings which is why there is a demand for them.



The traditional furniture made kings and queens of commoners

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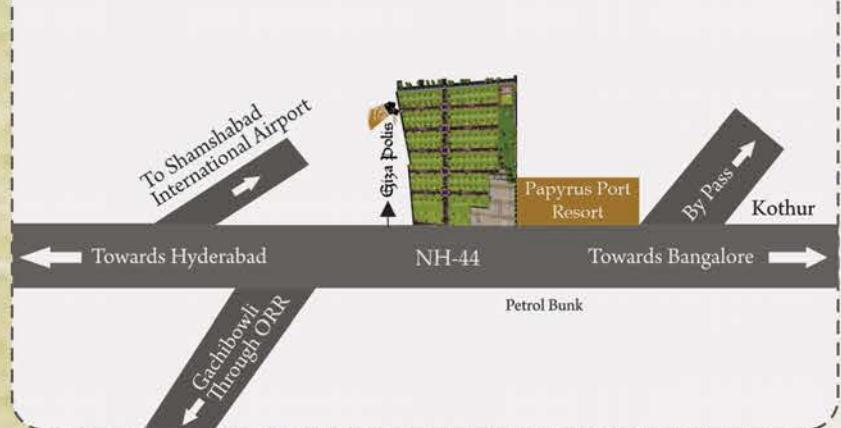


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