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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 4 MARCH 2021

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### WEATHER

Max: 36°C  
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RH: 22%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 37/20°C

### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarakaya  
Tithi: Magha Bahula Shashthi till 10.01 pm

Star: Visakha till 11.58 am  
3.45 pm to 5.16 am (Friday)

Durmuhurtam: 10.39 am to 11.17 am; 3.12 pm to 3.58 pm

RahuKalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

### HJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 19,1441 AH

### PRAVERS

Fajar: 5.32 am

Zohar: 12.38 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrib: 6.29 pm

Isha: 7.36 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.23 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.31 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 11.30 PM

MOONSET TODAY 10.17 AM

### COUNTER POINT



Now, we have introduced platform reservation to avoid overcrowding!

### SHORT TAKES

#### Force to guard Tibet trijunction

New Delhi: The government has sanctioned a dozen fresh Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) battalions, comprising over 13,000 personnel for the Nepal and Bhutan borders guarding force, to "fortify" defences along these fronts including the tri-junction area in Sikkim that adjoins Bhutan and Tibet, officials said.

#### Prez gets Covid vaccine dose-1

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind was administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at an army hospital on Wednesday and urged all eligible citizens to get vaccinated. According to tweets on his official handle, the president, 75, was accompanied by his daughter when the vaccine dose was administered to him at the army's Research and Referral Hospital here.

#### BJP FAILED TO GET ITIR TO HYD, MUST APOLOGISE TO PEOPLE: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday demanded that the BJP offer an apology to the people of Telangana state for its failure to get the ITIR (IT Investment Region) project to Hyderabad.

Despite the statement by Union information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in Parliament that the ITIR scheme has been shelved, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay was spreading lies on ITIR day in and day out, Rama Rao said.

In response to an open letter written by Sanjay on the ITIR on Tuesday, Rama Rao said, "His open letter showed his ignorance," adding that the ITIR has not gone ahead even in Bengaluru though the same party runs governments both at the Centre and in Karnataka.

"Apart from Hyderabad, the ITIR project was sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka but has not seen any development in any of these states. Is the TRS government responsible for lack of development there too," asked the TRS working president, the mocking directed the question at Sanjay.

"We will provide all the letters written to the Union government since 2014 and also the Detailed Project Report of the ITIR to Mr Bandi Sanjay. Does he have the power to get ITIR to Hyderabad," Rama Rao asked.

■ Page 2: Let BJP get Centre's nod for ITIR: KTR

#### Fervour peaks



Devotees perform during procession ahead of Kumbh Mela 2021, amid the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, in Haridwar, on Wednesday. — PTI

## SC says dissent is not sedition

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

● The Supreme Court also imposed a fine on the petitioners for not substantiate their allegations

Pakistan against India on the Article 370 issue.

"The expression of a view which is dissent from a decision taken by the Central government itself cannot be said to be seditious. There is nothing in the statement which we find so offensive as to give a cause of action for a court to initiate proceedings... Not only that, the petitioners have nothing to do with the subject matter and this is clearly a case of publicity interest litigation for the petitioners only to get their names in the press. We must discourage such endeavours," the bench said.

The Supreme Court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the petitioners, Rajat Sharma and Neh Srivastava, after they failed to substantiate their allegation that Dr Abdullah had sought the help of China and

“We will provide all the letters written to the Union government since 2014 and also the Detailed Project Report of the ITIR to Mr Bandi Sanjay. Does he have the power to get ITIR to Hyderabad,” Rama Rao asked.

■ Page 2: Let BJP get Centre's nod for ITIR: KTR

## Karnataka minister quits over sexual abuse charge



Ramesh Jarkiholi

request you to accept it," he said.

Social activist Dinesh Kallahalli had on Tuesday lodged a police complaint against Ramesh, alleging he had sexually harassed a 'job aspirant' and threatened the woman and her family with dire consequences.

Dubbing it as 'sex for job' scandal, purported video clips showing Jarkiholi getting intimate with an unidentified woman was widely aired by local news channels.

Sources said Jarkiholi tendered his resignation on the directions from the high command. — PTI

The allegations against me are far from the truth. It has to be investigated at the earliest. Though I'm confident about my innocence, taking moral responsibility, I'm resigning from my position as the cabinet minister. I

“We will provide all the letters written to the Union government since 2014 and also the Detailed Project Report of the ITIR to Mr Bandi Sanjay. Does he have the power to get ITIR to Hyderabad,” Rama Rao asked.

■ Page 2: Let BJP get Centre's nod for ITIR: KTR

### TIMELY CHECK

#### HC rebukes Nalgonda collector for ignoring orders

## Collector told to do social service

VUJJINI  
VAMSHIDHARA I DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Continuing to put officials who show disrespect in their place, the Telangana High Court on Wednesday asked Nalgonda collector Prashant. J. Patil to do social service in lieu of the punishment imposed for contempt of court. Patil had violated court orders when he was joint collector of Warangal and had been ordered to pay costs.

A division bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and

The bench said officials in higher authority, who are well aware of the Constitution, must respect court orders instead of filing appeals after they have been punished.

Justice B. Vijayen Reddy was dealing with an appeal filed by Patil, who sought the division bench to suspend the operation of imposing costs of ₹2,000 against him. The costs had been imposed on grounds of

willful disobedience of court orders issued in 2016.

Sanjeev Kumar, special counsel, informed the division bench that the court directions had been complied with, and sought suspension of the orders that were issued against Patil.

To this, the bench said officials in higher authority, who are well aware of the Constitution, must respect court orders instead of filing appeals after they have been punished.

The bench said that it was suspending the costs imposed on Patil, but he

#### SASIKALA QUITS POLITICS AHEAD OF TN ELECTIONS

● Weeks ahead of Tamil Nadu polls, V.K. Sasikala, expelled AIADMK leader, said she will "stay away from politics" but asked people to defeat DMK.

■ REPORT ON PAGE 7

## KCR to call grads for MLC election

#### To counter Oppn claims against TRS govt

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will call a few graduate voters over phone and seek their votes for party candidates fighting the March 14 MLC polls for two seats.

Official sources in TRS said the CM took this decision at the party's MLC election strategy meeting held with in-charge ministers and senior party leaders on Wednesday. This is for the first time that the Chief Minister will be speaking directly to voters over phone, seeking votes for the TRS in the elections.

The decision came as a surprise to party leaders and cadre who said that it showed the importance being given by the party chief to the MLC polls. In the past, the party never took the MLC elections seriously.

Rao is learnt to have directed ministers and

party leaders to provide him with the phone numbers of graduate voters in six districts that are going to the polls.

The CM asked them to categorise the voters as graduates, postgraduates, private employees, government employees, women, IT employees, advocates and other professionals and provide their mobile phone numbers accordingly.

The TRS chief said he would select the names of a few voters randomly covering Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Mahbubnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda and speak to them directly over the phone, explaining the welfare schemes and development programmes undertaken by the TRS government.

The CM will also counter the claims of the Opposition that the TRS failed the youth, students and employees. Sources said he wanted to discuss with voters the high

salary hikes and increments he had extended to government employees and the highest-ever filling of 1.32 lakh government jobs in six years.

The TRS chief wanted to assure the employees and students about the government's plans to implement the new Pay Revision Commission to employees and issuance of job notifications to fill over 50,000 posts soon after the MLC polls.

The CM was spending six to eight hours every day to discuss party's strategy for upcoming MLC polls and Nagpur bypass for the past two weeks. This has boosted the morale of the party leaders and cadre.

Party sources say that, barring Assembly elections, the CM had never spent this much time on any election in Telangana since 2014 and had, instead, handed over all the election responsibilities to his son K.T. Rama Rao.

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## MULTIPLE FLATS

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**WANTED EXPERIENCED** Accountant with Tally & GST knowledge to work in a Audit Firm & at client place. Contact No. 040-23714821 / 040-402404821 (W/2021/A001170)

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## ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

**NEED A** female CRM (Customer Relationship Management) team member with good English, Hindi, Telugu communication skills. Epitome Projects, Banjara Hills. Contact: 9946922222. (HYMM/2021/C07656)

**WANTED SALES** Manager & Executives with experience in field sales for FMCG, F&B products. For Interview location & sending resume WhatsApp: 9000014083. (HYMM/2021/C07547)

**WANTED SALES** Managers For Mobile & Computer accessories across Hyderabad & Secunderabad. Attractive salary +Fuel +Incentives. Contact: 6385122167. (HYMM/2021/C02526)

**WANTED MARKETING** Officers for a Mfg. co. located at Kukatpally for marketing innovative product to Builders Contact, Ambience, KPHB Main Road. Ph:9248122301, 9248122303. (HYCL/2021/C03136)

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## D.T.P OPERATORS

**WANTED DATA** Entry Operators to work in notary Office of Kukatpally, Vivenkanandnagar colony, nearby preferred only ladies. Ph:966691228, 8309137265. (S/2021/C02527)

## DRIVERS

**WANTED: DRIVER** for Create/Ashok Leyland and Innova, minimum 2-3years experience, candidate staying near Gachibowli preferable, duty timing 9.00am to 9.00pm. Contact: 9002253. (HYCL/2021/C03135)

## ENGINEERS

**WALK IN** Interview For Cnc Lathe Operators & Quality Control Engineer B.Tech (Mech) Contact With Original Testimonials on 2nd, 3rd& 4th March. Between 10Am-2Pm, at EPE Process Filters & Accumulators Pvt Ltd 50A- 59A1 C.I.E (Expn) Gandhinagar, Balanagar Hyderabad-37, Ph:040-23085750/ 040-23085937. (S/2021/C02523)

## TEACHERS

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## LECTURERS

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Faculties to Teach Degree B.Sc., Nutrition, Zoology & B.Com Commerce, New Madina Degree College, Shailabanda. Ph:9885576060, 8686585551 (HYMM/2021/C07633)

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with atleast 5years experience, Computer Operator, Must be good at Drafting Letters, Fabrication Supervisors, with atleast 5years experience, ITI Welders/ Fitters& Electricians. Walk in interview 2pm-5pm, Shivra Cranes(P)Ltd, Taramandal Complex, Saifabad, hyd. Ph:98590783, 040-23248499. Mail: careers@shivpracrane.com (HYCL/2021/C03097)

## WANTED HAVE

a opening for Account Executive assistant at job profile. 1)Accounting & Financial work 2),GST Work- returns, payments & all supporting works. 3)Direct tax works Naveen Associates' 5-3-878, 2nd floor, Prem Towers, Lane beside Karchi Bakery,Mozamjahi Market, Hyderabad- 50001 Ph:9849062159 (HYMM/2021/C07654)

## WANTED TAN

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and experienced personnel for a reputed CBSE/SSC school in secunderabad/ hyderabad. Principal/ Vice principal/ co-ordinators (post graduates/B.Ed) trained post graduate/ graduate teachers for senior secondary/secondary/primary/ pre-primary/all subjects) JEE-IIT/NEET/CA-CPT coaching faculty 5 to 10 yrs experience. Age: below 45yrs. walkinschool@gmail.com (W/2021/A001214)

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Manager Trainee, Fluent in English, Telugu & Hindi. Salary around Rs.12,000.00. Call 9849323655 (SC) (S/2021/C02525)

## RECEPTION-CUM-TEL-OPRTRS

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## COLLEGE ESTD:

2001 Full/ Part time courses. Spot Admissions. Degree, PG, MBA, B.Ed (OU), M.Sc & Ph.D. Contact Principal 8186047777, 040-27705677. (S/2021/C00178)

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## COLLEGE ESTD:

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## COLLEGE ESTD:

2001 Full/ Part time courses. Spot Admissions. Degree, PG, MBA, B.Ed (OU), M.Sc & Ph.D. Contact Principal 8186047777, 040-27705677. (S/2021/C00178)

## COLLEGE ESTD:

2001 Full/ Part time courses. Spot Admissions. Degree, PG, MBA, B.Ed (OU), M.Sc & Ph.D. Contact

**IN BRIEF**  
**Man held for exploiting woman**

**Hyderabad:** The Jubilee Hills police arrested a 26-year-old man on Wednesday for allegedly sexually exploiting a woman after promising to marry her. Police said the accused C. Sai Ganesh, a resident of Bhongir, had befriended the victim, aged around 22, and sexually exploited her on several instances after promising to marry her. "Ganesh then started avoiding her when asked about the marriage after which the victim lodged a complaint," police said.

**COUPLE HELD FOR ROBBING, KILLING HOUSEOWNER**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

A couple that had eloped from Guntur was arrested by the Shadnagar police on Wednesday for murdering their houseowner and robbing her. Police said G. Venkatesh Rao, 33, a mason and S. Nagalaxmi, 30, a homemaker, had left their families a few months ago.

They rented a house at Ramnagar Colony, Chatanpally, of Shadnagar in November last and earned the trust of houseowner, A. Suvarna, 45, and her husband Balram, said Shamshabad DCP N. Prakash Reddy.

Rao procured sleeping pills which the couple mixed with toddy and gave Suvarna, police said. When Suvarna fell unconscious, they strangled her and fled with her jewellery. The couple pledged the gold in Guntur and Suryapet and stayed in Bengaluru for a month.

When they ran out of money, they went to Ghatkesar and attempted to rob another houseowner in a similar manner. However, a case was booked against them and they were caught as they were trying to retrieve the gold they had pledged, the DCP said.

**BUSINESS WOMEN EXPO TO BE HELD FROM MARCH 6-8**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

The Business Women Expo 2021 will be held from March 6 to 8 at the Hyderabad International Trade Expositions Centre (HITEX). The exposition will be inaugurated by Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, and Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy. The event is being organised by the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE) and HITEX as part of International Women's Day celebrations on March 8.

Women entrepreneurs from micro, small, medium sized enterprises and start-ups, are expected to showcase their products and services. They will receive mentoring from other women entrepreneurs, COWE national president, Soudamini said. Also part of the event will be knowledge sessions and seminars on skills, aptitude and gender roles.

Rashida Adenwala, board member of The Indus Entrepreneurs, said the second edition of TiE Women's Global Pitch competition will be organised during the expo. Women entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to pitch their business ideas and selected ones will receive training, mentoring, and access to funding.

Also on the cards as part of the three-day event is the India Lifestyle and Bridal Fashion Week Season 3.

**A bridge too far**



Residents of a colony in Bowenpally dangerously cross a nala to reach their flats across a broken bridge, on Wednesday. Floods in October damaged the bridge and no repairs have been taken by up by the Cantonment Board authorities to reconstruct it.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Municipal body quietly extends property tax sop

Despite collecting ₹1,402cr so far, dept reintroduces scheme

**MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

The municipal administration and urban development department has quietly released a government order extending the one-time settlement scheme (OTS) for property taxpayers, even as the model code of conduct (MCC) is in place for the MLC polls in nine districts.

The government had ordered a waiver of 90 per cent accumulated arrears on property tax provided that taxpayers cleared the principal amounts for 2019-20 with 10 per cent of arrear interest.

It had announced that the OTS would apply from August 1 to September 15. The scheme was extended till November prior to the GHMC polls. Now, via GO 207, the government had reintroduced the scheme ahead of the elections to

**PROPERTY TAX**  
target: ₹1,900 crore from 16,74,988 taxpaying

**TAX COLLECTED** so far: ₹1,420 crore from 11,14,345 assessee

**TAX COLLECTED** last year: ₹1,245 crore from 9,86,327 assessee

availed the scheme during this three-month period. The scheme allowed for the waiver of 90 per cent of accumulated arrears on the interest component of property tax in all the ULBs, including the GHMC.

Despite collecting ₹1,420 crore till date, which was over ₹150 crore compared to the same day last year, the MA&UD department has once again reintroduced the scheme. The GHMC also promised that it would take action and ensure that the benefits accrued to all taxpayers who cleared their property tax arrears at one go in fiscal 2020-21.

The official said that as many 11,14,345 taxpayers have paid ₹1,420 crore towards property tax.

Last year, ₹1,245 crore was collected by the same day.

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### BENGAL NATIVE ELECTROCUTED IN MEDCHAL

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

A West Bengal native was electrocuted at his residence in Housing Board Colony at Medchal on Wednesday morning. Police said Sandeep Roy, 23, used to work as a centering worker and consume alcohol frequently.

On Tuesday night, his neighbours noticed thick smoke coming from Roy's room and called the police. A team reached the spot and found Roy dead on the floor with severe burns.

The switch board and other home appliances including a small gas cylinder were found damaged. The police suspects that a short circuit led to the electrocution.

### Experts call for quality promotion of Urdu

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Distinguished fellow for research and information system for developing countries, Prof. Amitabh Kundu, said that in the global index, countries are ranked on the basis of development in addition to equality.

India's rank could have been better than Bangladesh, but it went down due to lack of equality.

He expressed these views at a roundtable discussion "Education Policy Round Table: Education Quality, NEP & Marginalised Population" at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU).

Prof. Kundu said equality in income, health and education is inevitable for public equality. He

**PROF. KUNDU** said equality in income, health and education is inevitable for public equality.

gave detailed data about the income, health and education indicators of Muslims and compared it with other reserved categories. Muslims lag behind in availing public health services, he pointed out.

Prof. Abdul Shaban, School of Development Studies, TISS, Mumbai opined that the academic standards of Urdu-speaking population will not improve unless they have Urdu philosophers.

Attention should be paid to the curriculum. State patronage and market viability play crucial roles in the development of any language, he

pointed out. Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah said that Indian constitution is the best as it gives importance to equality.

"If we are not doing better at different levels we are only responsible for such a situation," he said. He said the National Education Policy has focused on multi-disciplinary education and skills. He advised teachers to be well prepared for the classroom.

Prof. Siddiqui Mohammed Mahmood called the success of the education system, reflected a country's success.

Moderator of the programme, Prof. Amir Ullah said that the budget for minorities should be used to offer scholarships and build infrastructure for them.

**OLD AND HELPLESS**

Cops fail to register elder's plaint against caregivers for abuse

## 91-year-old tied, hit at old age home

**SANJAY SAMUEL**  
PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

The case of a nonagenarian who was "tied up and hit" by caregivers at an old age home here has turned more tragic with a former DGP bemoaning that cops are not only ignoring the victim's plight but also his request to register an FIR.

According to Benjamin Marthand, 91, a bachelor and well-known pianist here, he fell down at his rented house three months ago. The houseowner called the police for assistance and had him admitted to Navjeevan Hospital in Karkhana, Secunderabad.

Later, his nephew moved him to the Serene Senior Living Care Home in Bowenpally.

The aged eyes welling up with tears, Marthand told *Deccan Chronicle* at his brother's house in Yaprak, where he is currently staying, that he was treated cruelly at the old age home. "My hands and legs were tied up. They took away my cellphone and when I asked for it, I was punched at and beaten by the staff," he said.

"Anytime I demanded something loudly, they would beat me up. They did not want anyone to hear my complaints. I want to do something with the 12 acres of land I own near

Shamirpet and build a home for the aged where people like me will be taken care of," he said.

Marthand said that cops did not register a written complaint he gave on

against the old age home to the Bowenpally police.

Former director general of police Swaranjit Sen told *Deccan Chronicle* that he spoke with senior police officials about Marthand's plight and the complaint on February 23. "I spoke to the DCP and ACP and urged them to investigate the case properly and take action. Justice must be done," Sen said, adding that no action was taken yet.

Bowenpally station house officer Ravi Kumar acknowledged the receipt of the complaint. "An investigation is going on. We will also be taking into consideration the medical report on him."

*Deccan Chronicle* spoke to Bibin Mathew who runs the Serene Senior Living Care home.

He said, "When Marthand came here, his condition was not good." Admitting that Marthand was tied to his bed, Mathew said it was because his condition was such. "We wanted him to stay in bed and recover," he said, adding that the family was yet to pay the bill for Marthand's stay.

Mathew said there were around 35 inmates at the home and they were all being taken care of well. He alleged that there appeared to be some differences within the family over the land owned by Marthand.



Benjamin Marthand

## Eflu recruitment for 58 vacancies gets court boost

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

● AFTER A complaint by Congress leader Dasoji Sravan alleging that the reservation policy was being violated in the recruitment process, NCBC member Talloju Achary conducted a hearing in the university and directed them to withhold the recruitment process.

Telangana High Court on Wednesday allowed English and Foreign Languages University (Eflu) to go ahead with interviews for recruitment of 58 vacant positions of professor, associate professor and assistant professor.

The process was stopped following the February 2 and 5 orders of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

However, the court directed the university not to declare the results of interviews, until further orders by it.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayeswara Reddy, was dealing with a petition filed by the university, which sought suspension of orders issued by NCBC.

After a complaint by Congress leader Dasoji Sravan alleging that the reservation policy was being violated in the recruitment process, NCBC member Talloju Achary conducted a hearing in the

university and directed them to withhold the recruitment process.

Devotees requested the chairman to expand the Masjid prayer space. During Juma, festivals and special days, a large number of people could not be accommodated within the premises and many offered prayers on the road.

Saleem advised officials to repair the wuzukhana (ablution place) and purify the water tank. He asked them to remove the encroachment on the graveyard and should not allow either devotees or shopkeepers to disrespect the graves.

### ASST DIRECTOR OF PVT SCHOOLS ARRESTED FOR TAKING BRIBE

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials arrested Bodla Srinivas, assistant director of private schools for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹40,000 on Wednesday. Following a complaint, ACB officials laid a trap and caught Srinivas with the money at the office of the Director of School Education at Saifabad.

● ACB OFFICIALS laid a trap and caught Srinivas with the money.

"Srinivas had demanded a bribe from Neelam Shiva Shankar, manager of a private school, to process the file for upgrading from Classes VIII and X," the ACB said.

Srinivas was arrested while he tried to place the money in a draw in the table and placed under arrest.

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**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA - ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT**

E - PROCUREMENT NOTICE

"e" NIT. No.: 57/E-in-C/SR& CRN/DC(E)/CRN/DEEP/AEE/1/2020-21, Dt: 02.03.2021.

- Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 1 Road, work in Medak District under Corenet Plan work, vide this "e" NIT, Dt: 02.03.2021.
- Tenders can download the tender schedules and have further details from e-market place i.e. [www.eprocurement.gov.in](http://www.eprocurement.gov.in). The last date of receipt of tenders is 15.03.2021 upto 3.30 P.M.

R.O. No.: 1050-DP-CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21, Date:03.03.2021

For Engineer-in-Chief (R&B)  
State Roads & CRN



**IndianOil**

Marketing Division

Telangana & Andhra Pradesh State Office

**INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED REQUIRES LAND FOR RETAIL OUTLETS (PETROL / DIESEL PUMP) IN TELANGANA STATE**

This advertisement is ONLY for procurement of suitable Lands and NOT for appointment of Retail Outlet Dealerships. Sealed offers are invited on a two bid system i.e. (a) Technical Bid and (b) Financial Bid from interested parties holding valid and clear marketable title of land in possession, before the date of release of this advertisement, for transfer of plot of the land by way of outright Sale / Lease / Tripartite Sub-Lease (minimum 19 years 11 months with renewal option for lease / tripartite sub-lease) to Indian Oil Corporation Limited for setting up Retail Outlets in Telangana State. The detailed guidelines and other relevant details of the advertisement are available in our website [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) (website link [> IndianOil for Business Partners > RO/KSK DEALERSHIPS > Advertisement for procurement of land for Retail Outlets in Telangana State](http://www.iocl.com)). The applicants in their interest should carefully go through the advertisement and understand the conditions of the land offer before submitting their applications. Interested parties may apply by the due date and time indicated below at the following addresses:

For Sl.No.1 to 45	Deputy General Manager (Retail Sales), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Secunderabad Divisional Office, No.9-1-83 & 84, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003. [Tel.: 9550462763]
</tbl\_header

## SHORT TAKES

**PRO IN CMO  
VIJAY KUMAR  
'SACKED'**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Gatika Vijay Kumar, public relations officer (PRO) in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) since 2014, quit the post on Wednesday. He also quit his other post as general manager (corporate communications) of TS Transco.

Though Vijay Kumar tweeted that he had resigned due to personal reasons, it created a buzz in political and official circles as speculation was rife that he was sacked by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for misusing his position and indulging in irregularities.

Though the CMO has a chief PRO, there are complaints that Vijay Kumar was reigning supreme there. There were also allegations that he had indulged in "settlements" of land disputes and transfers of officials and employees.

All these complaints reportedly went to the notice of CM, who took a serious view and decided to sack him, it is learnt.

### US CONSUL GENERAL PATS KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Joel Reifman, US Consul General in Hyderabad, on Wednesday congratulated IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on receiving the SKOCH award recently.

Reifman posted on Twitter, "Kudos to the Telangana administration and @KTRTRS on receiving SKOCH awards for your efforts in e-governance and in implementing IT initiatives to improve public services (sic)." The minister responded, saying, "Many thanks CG Reifman (sic)."

The state was awarded SKOCH's 'e-Governance State of the Year' award while Rama Rao bagged the 'Best Performing IT Minister' award. Rama Rao had won the award in 2016 as well, making him the only state minister to be so honoured twice. The SKOCH governance report card is based on ongoing studies across states and the Centre since 2013.

### WE-HUB SIGNS MoU WITH MEESHO

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

WE-Hub, the government-led incubator for women entrepreneurs, on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Meesho, an Indian-origin socio-commerce platform. This year-long partnership aims to aid women entrepreneurs to achieve financial independence via fresh market exposure.

The MoU was inked between WE-Hub CEO Deepthi Ravula and Meesho founder and CEO Vidit Aatre in the presence of women welfare minister Satyavathi Rathod.

"The start-ups will benefit in the form of seamless onboarding, free cataloging, and market access on the national platform which will create avenues to increase business and trade opportunities," it was stated. Satyavathi Rathod said, "This will be a path-breaking partnership for the state that will enable women to use the power of technology for creating their own identity and will, in turn, help us take a big step forward towards diversity and financial inclusion."

Deepthi Ravula said, "Small businesses in Telangana will learn about taking the next step in expanding their markets and converting their customer base and sales in entirely new ways."

### PUBLIC NOTICE

All the general public is here by informed that my client is intending to purchase all that the plot No.2 admeasuring 258 sq.yards bearing municipal No.6-2-969 situated at Khairatabad, Hyderabad from its lawful owners VINOD BEHARILAL, S/o. Rai Bansidhar, and MUKUL BEHARILAL, S/o. Rai Bansidhar, both are r/o. H.No.6-2-969, Khairatabad, Hyderabad. If any person having any objection whatsoever for the said sale transaction, may approach the undersigned along with all original documents within 7 (seven) days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed further and no claims will be entertained subsequently.

**SHAIK MAHABOOB VALI**

Advocate  
Flat No.301 & 302, 3rd Floor,  
Manzi Chambers, Beside Jayabhusan  
Hospital Lane, Mehdipatnam,  
Hyderabad. Ph: 9989207444.

Dated: 03-03-2021

(CA-3540)

# TS to reclaim ₹10K cr from 28,000 deposits

**Telangana has the highest number of PD accounts**

L. VENKAT RAM  
**REDDY I DC**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

The state government would close about 28,000 personal deposit accounts (PDAs) opened by various departments in which over ₹10,000 crore is lying unused for the past few years.

A scrutiny done by the finance department has revealed that the departments had opened the accounts in violation of norms. With the state government facing a funds crunch due to the Coronavirus-induced financial crisis, the finance department is exploring all the options to mobilise funds ahead of Budget 2021-22.

The scrutiny found that TS government

tops the country in having the highest number of PD accounts at 28,087 in which ₹10,873 crore is lying unused. Though there are other states with higher PD accounts, they stand nowhere nearer to Telangana state. The other states with higher PD accounts include Odisha (827), Gujarat (478), Tamil Nadu (201), West Bengal (153) and Haryana (124).

On the one hand, the state government is borrowing at an average interest rate of 7.40 per cent to fund various welfare schemes and development programmes. On the other, the state government is not getting any benefit towards interest on deposits accrued in Personal

Deposit accounts. In this way, the government is suffering dual financial losses.

As per norms, funds deposited in PD accounts should be credited into the state government account if they remained unused for more than three years. But it was found that these norms were never followed.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) too in its reports every year was finding fault with the state government for continuing with such a large number of PD accounts.

"Paying interest at higher rates (7.40 per cent) on borrowings while keeping huge amount in PD accounts

will lead to a risk of non-detection of leakages in revenue and irregularities in expenditure," CAG said.

CAG recommended the finance department to review all the PD accounts and ensure that the amount unnecessary lying in these accounts are immediately remitted to the consolidated fund and all the inoperative deposit accounts are closed.

Telangana BJP leaders, especially from the state's southern region, are worried about their political future if the party does not perform well in the ensuing graduate constituency elections to the Legislative Council. This fear is driving them to go the extra mile in convincing voters to back their nominees.

Towards this, leaders from Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Mahbubnagar and Hyderabad districts are meeting young voters, in particular, in their respective Assembly constituencies.

BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna has worked relentlessly to muster the support of voters in erstwhile

Mahbubnagar district, besides coordinating with Assembly-wise and second level leaders. Aruna is concentrating on teachers, lecturers unions, student organisations, retired employees association and employees association for bolstering BJP prospects.

Electioneering and interaction with the Nalgonda electorate is spearheaded by Mothkupalli Narasimhulu and Sankineni Venkateswar Rao, who are touring their Assembly segments daily and pockets where they hold sufficient influence. They are appealing to the voters to ensure the win of party candidates.

Meanwhile, key leaders from Mahbubnagar like A.P. Jithender Reddy and Yennam

Srinivas Reddy are engaged in a field-level campaign for party candidate N. Ramchander Rao.

Canvassing was actively taken up by A. Chandrasekhar, who recently joined the BJP, in Vikarabad district. National BC Commission member Acharya and Mahbubnagar district president Erra Shekhar and other leaders are also working for Ramchander Rao's win.

In Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts, former Chinatala Ramachandra Reddy, N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, and Kuna Srisailam Goud, former Mayor Banda Kartika, Ravikumar Yadav, Vikram Goud and others are extensively touring their respective constituencies.



TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Congress leaders visit the Lingamanthula Swamy Temple in Suryapet on Wednesday on the occasion of the temple Nagar.

— P. ANIL KUMAR

### ₹74.87L WORTH GOLD IN PASTE FORM SEIZED AT AIRPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Customs officials at the Shamshabad seized 1,593 grams of gold worth ₹74.87 lakh from a woman passenger who had arrived from Dubai early on Wednesday.

The gold was being brought in the form of paste and was discovered during regular checking by officials. The woman was detained by the Customs authorities for further action, a release said.

In another case, the Customs officials at the airport seized about 40,000 pieces of foreign cigarettes which were being smuggled by a passenger who had arrived from Abu Dhabi. The cigarettes were valued at ₹4 lakh.

The consignment was confiscated and a case was booked and prosecution taken up, Customs officials said.

"The start-ups will benefit in the form of seamless onboarding, free cataloging, and market access on the national platform which will create avenues to increase business and trade opportunities," it was stated. Satyavathi Rathod said, "This will be a path-breaking partnership for the state that will enable women to use the power of technology for creating their own identity and will, in turn, help us take a big step forward towards diversity and financial inclusion."

Deepthi Ravula said, "Small businesses in Telangana will learn about taking the next step in expanding their markets and converting their customer base and sales in entirely new ways."

Congress spokesperson Sravan Dasoju on Wednesday claimed that the lawyer couple Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife P.V. Nagamani were murdered after the state government had received a setback in a special leave petition that it had filed against the lawyer in the Supreme Court.

On other issues, Dr Dasoju asked TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao why the government had not filled the 1.9 lakh job vacancies and regularised the services of

Reddy of Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar Graduates constituency. The TPCC chief and Chinna Reddy performed puja at the Mahankali temple in Lal Darwaza and later visited Dargah Yousofain at Nampally.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Old City has a huge potential for tourism. But no efforts were made to improve roads and other facilities.

He said TRS government was not interested in the affairs of the Old City. Similarly, the MIM and GHMC showed little interest in the development of Old City. Both TRS and MIM apparently want Old City to remain backward and appear like a slum area," he said.

"MIM is contesting elections across the country. It is fielding its candidates on every seat where BJP could win due to division of votes. Why is MIM not contesting the MLC elections," he asked.

He was addressing a series of meetings in the Old City on Tuesday as part of campaign for the MLC candidate G. Chinna Reddy.

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believed that the government would provide jobs. "Why have the vacancies gone up to 1.91 lakh from 1.07 lakh in 2014," Dr Dasoju asked. Terming BJP state president Bandi Sanjay's letter to minister K.T. Rama Rao on the ITIR project, Dr Dasoju asked the BJP and the TRS to "stop writing love letters" but to initiate the project with state funds following the detailed project report prepared by the then Congress government which requires ₹13,000 crore but can create about 60 lakh direct and indirect jobs.

**ON THE ITIR project, Dr Dasoju asked the BJP and the TRS to "stop writing love letters"**

S. Ramadorai who was then with TSC, G. Mallikarjun Rao of the GMR group, G.V. Krishna Reddy of the GVK Group, Rameshwar Rao of the MyHome group were roped in as advisers to this skilling programme later becoming role models for the country.

He said when the TS Public Service Commission itself was headless and had only 80 employees out of 300

required how can it be

replaced.

Dr Dasoju said eminent personalities like

one lakh contract employees. He asked Rama Rao to visit the universities to see the sense of desperation among students.

The AICC leader reiterated that only the Congress had regularly recruited for government jobs. "Y.S. Rajashekhar Reddy had given a jumbo notification through which 50,000 teachers were recruited. Kiran Kumar Reddy provided skill development and training for 5 lakh unemployed youth by spending over ₹770 crore," he said.

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## SHORT TAKES

## WOMAN FOUND DEAD, DOWRY ABUSE SUSPECTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

A woman was found dead at her house in Kulsampura late on Tuesday night after her husband allegedly forced her for additional dowry. The victim, Meraj Begum, was married to Imran about a year ago. "Mera's parents said in their statement that last week Imran had sent her to their house and asked her to bring ₹lakh for him to do business," said the police.

On Tuesday morning, Meraj Begum complained of chest pain and was taken to Osmania General Hospital for a check up and returned home. "In the evening, she complained of uneasiness and was rushed to a private hospital where she was pronounced dead," a Kulsampura police official said. The body has been sent for an postmortem examination to establish the cause of death.

## AP TO SPEND ₹12K CRORE TO DEVELOP FARM FACILITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 3

The state government will spend ₹12,000 crore on developing multi-purpose farm facilities, including warehouses, drying yards, cold rooms and crop collection centres, apart from acquiring farm equipment and machinery. Tenders will be finalised by April 15 for construction of warehouses within a year, officials informed Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at a Palavurru review meeting.

Officials said farmers are getting a fair price due to implementation of various government schemes. They pointed out that the cost of buffalo milk in YSR Kadapa district, which was ₹44.31 earlier, is now ₹53.95, leading to a gain of ₹9.64. Similarly, there is additional profit of ₹7.80 on cow milk, whose price has increased from ₹25 to ₹32.80. In Chittoor district, farmers have gained an extra ₹8.75 on buffalo milk and ₹8.13 on cow milk. In Prakasam district, the gains are ₹14.15 and ₹8.78 respectively.

Earlier, officials informed the Chief Minister that DCCBs of Kadapa, Kurnool, Anantapur and Eluru are in poor condition. Their licenses could be cancelled soon. They pointed out that 45 per cent of primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS) are running in losses and 49 percent of mandals are not linked to DCC banks' network. They suspected corruption in disbursal of loans as no technology is being used to track loan distribution and collection.

Agriculture and cooperatives special chief secretary Poonam Malakondaiah, cooperative services special secretary Y. Madhusudan Reddy, commissioner and registrar of cooperative services Ahmed Babu and other officials were present in the meeting with Chief Minister.

**THEY POINTED out that the cost of buffalo milk in YSR Kadapa district, which was ₹44.31 earlier, is now ₹53.95, leading to a gain of ₹9.64. Similarly, there is additional profit of ₹7.80 on cow milk, whose price has increased from ₹25 to ₹32.80. In Chittoor district, farmers have gained an extra ₹8.75 on buffalo milk and ₹8.13 on cow milk.**

## Clean up time



Water hyacinth being removed at Hasmathpet lake as part of the beautification works in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

— S.SURENDER REDDY.

## Voltage woes in several areas

Power problems affect residential colonies as summer begins

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

● THE ELECTRICITY department said these areas have growth of vegetation near the transformers. Wires get damaged.

tial colonies have sent messages to families to restrict the use of air-conditioners. Satish Kumar, resident at Yaprak, said, "We are a gated community and facing fluctuations and power tripping since the last week of February. For the time-being, a request has been sent out to members to restrict the use of ACs."

The electricity department said these areas have growth of vegetation near the transformers. Wires get damaged. There is also vegetation on the main wires. Birds damage some of the circuits. Wind movement is another reason for the wear and tear.

The department stated that when complaints were received they would be resolved quickly.

Temperatures rise across TS, mercury nudges 40°C

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Summer appears to be truly on its way to settling over Telangana with the TS Development Planning Society (TSDPS) reporting that Garimellapadu in Bhadrak-Kothagudem district, recorded a maximum temperature of 39.8°Celsius, on Wednesday. At this rate it is feared that the state will breach the 40°C-mark this month.

April and May are the peak months of summer in Telangana and the rising temperatures across the state, with several districts reporting maximum temperature in the upper 30°C band, could bring summer early this year.

"The summer would be here sooner than expected. The temperatures are rising because the states to the north of Telangana are also heating up. The hot winds from these areas are blowing over Telangana, making the state warmer," Dr K. Nagarathna, director, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, told Deccan Chronicle.

Meanwhile, the IMD said Nizamabad reported a maximum of 38.6°C, followed by Adilabad with 38.3°C. Bhadrachalam recorded 38.2°C and Mahabubnagar reporting a maximum temperature of 37°C. The day's maximum in Hyderabad according to the IMD was 36.2°C.

The lowest minimum temperature of 13.4°C in the state was reported from Arli in Adilabad district by the TSDPS.

The next few days will continue to witness dry weather across the state with maximum temperatures in parts of Nalgonda, Suryapet, Khammam, Bhadrak-Kothagudem, Mahabubnagar, Jangam, Warangal Urban & Rural, Mulugu, Karimnagar, Raja-mna-Sircilla, Jayshankar-Bhupalapalli, Peddapalli, Mancherla, Gjital, Kamarreddy, Nizamabad, Nirmal, Adilabad, and Kumrumbuddhe-Asifabad expected to be between 37.1°C and 39.1°C.

## Tiger scare keeps villagers away from water sources

PILLALAMARI SRINIVAS I DC KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, MARCH 3

The need of the hour is creation of water sources in forests and reduction of human-wildlife conflict during summer in the likelihood of high temperatures this season. The possibility of animals, including tigers, visiting villages in search of drinking water will increase in the coming days. There has been an increased tiger movement on the outskirts of some villages in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.

Water sources such as streams, rivulets and ponds are gradually getting dried up with soaring temperatures and the situation may worsen in the days ahead. Keeping this in view, forest officials should create drinking water sources like saucer pits, ponds that are filled with water with the help of solar pump sets to quench the thirst of forest animals, especially tigers that are entering villages that are located on the fringes of forests.

constituted by the state government to resolve man-animal conflict.

Villagers are reporting tiger sightings on a daily basis in these mandals. Villagers of Digida of Dahegaon mandal and Kondapelli in Penchikalpet appealed to the committee to visit villages where people are scared of the increased tiger movement. Two persons were killed in separate incidents in these mandals last November.

Locals say that the human-wildlife conflict is now gradually becoming a conflict between villagers and forest officials as far as tiger conservation and tiger attacks are concerned.

## RAJENDRANAGAR POLICE ARREST 3 FOR CONVERTING VOIP CALLS TO LOCAL CALLS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

The Rajendranagar police on Wednesday arrested three persons who were converting VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) calls to local calls.

The accused were identified as Mohammed Ashfaq, 23, a driver from Sun City, Rajendranagar, Syed Mohammed Nasir, 30, of Balapur, and Shaik Akbar, 25, of Maila-

rdevpally. Police said Ashfaq had completed a course in IT. He had been arrested in a similar case in January 2017. After his release, he started driving a private cab.

He met the other two during the lockdown and they hatched the plan to convert international VoIP calls into local calls. They set up 'Selva Technology' purchased a 500-channel SIP trunk device from a cellphone firm.

BIG SCREENS About 80 pc of total 550 theatres functioning in TS

## Theatre owners seek relief pack

SANJAY SAMUEL  
PAUL I DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Theatre owners and movie exhibitors have reminded the state government about implementation of its promise of a relief package for the industry and urged the government to at least allow them collect a parking fee from vehicle owners.

After the prolonged Covid-19 lockdowns, theaters were allowed to resume shows with 50 per cent occupancy from Dec. 4. They were permitted to have full occupancy from Feb. 12. More and more people have started reaching movie theatres to watch films.

● AFTER THE prolonged lockdowns, theaters were allowed to resume shows with 50 per cent occupancy from Dec. 4. They were permitted to have full occupancy from Feb. 12. More and more people have started reaching movie theatres to watch films.

December 4 or 'Uppena' that hit the screens on February 12, more and more people have started reaching movie theatres to watch films.

About 80 per cent of the total 550 theaters are currently functioning in the state, says owners.

According to Balgovind Raj, joint secretary of the Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce, who also owns a theatre at RTC crossroads, the state government announced a

three hours. Despite losses and increase in operational costs, we also have to pay taxes as these are commercial properties," he said.

Sunil Narang of Asian Theatres said, "When the properties are paying high rates of taxes, they should at least be allowed to charge nominal parking fees. That helps us get some revenue, at least to pay salaries to the parking attendants and meet sundry expenses.

Theatres are already in a bad state in terms of earnings. The overheads of salaries, interest on bank loans and other maintenance charges are heavy."

relief package to the theatre industry on November 24, shortly before the GHMC elections.

"Till now, nothing has come of it. We have been asking for waiver of demand charges on electricity bills during the lockdown period, and even that did not happen."

He appealed to the government that the owners be allowed to collect at least the nominal parking charges.

"It is ₹20 for a bike for

## Nature plays big role in treating waste, finds study

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

● THE TEAM collected data from 48 cities across the globe and found that nature treats approximately 41.7 million tonnes of human waste per year worldwide, a service worth around \$4.4 billion.

preventing the degradation of ecosystems. These studies neglected the role that ecosystems themselves play in treating human waste, Dr Mishra said.

The team demonstrated the opportunities and challenges of quantifying these "sanitation ecosystem services" to raise awareness on using nature as a means of sustainable energy, along with the engineering infrastructure. "This is a promising route for further research and may allow adaptive design and management, reducing costs, and improving effectiveness and sustainability" researchers said. The study has been shared with the GHMC and the HSMWS&SB, Dr Mishra said.

The team collected data from 48 cities across the globe and found that nature treats approximately 41.7 million tonnes of human waste per year worldwide, a service worth around \$4.4 billion. According to Dr Mishra, previous studies have mentioned the importance of safe disposal of human waste for human wellbeing, while

## Woman alleges fake divorce against her

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

● AFSHAN HAS alleged that Shiraz Khan, of Shiraz Foundation, has misused her signed paper in collusion with Iftekhar (husband) to create a self-declaration document seeking Khula (divorce).

Mohammed Nagar on November 11, 2020. The certificate stated that Iftekhar has accepted and approved the Khula offer from Afshan Fatima on September 5, 2020, and has given talaq-bayin (irrevocable divorce).

Afshan said she had married Iftekhar in December 2019. Due to harassment by her husband and in-laws, she approached Shiraz Khan of Shiraz Foundation for help on September 2, 2020. Shiraz reportedly collected ₹15,000 from her and asked her to pay another ₹35,000 for initiating legal proceedings.

Afshan said Shiraz also collected her and her mother's signatures on a blank paper, apart from a proforma, for enabling divorce. As she could not arrange the extra amount, Afshan said she approached the women's police station CCS on September 9, 2020, who registered a case of dowry harassment.

Afshan recounted that when police called her husband Iftekhar on December 22, 2020, the husband handed over to the police a copy of the Khula certificate issued by Qazzath Qillah (witness) and Syed Rasheed (qazi) with the Humayunagar police station on January 18, 2021. Afshan said no action has been taken so far.

Chief qazi of Qilla Mohammed Nagar Mohammed Yousufuddin Hussain said they never issue Khula certificate unless both parties appear before them. The qazi said he was ready to furnish all documents on the particular issue. The husband did not respond when this correspondent tried to contact him on phone.

## Career Chronicle

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#3-5-215, St.No.15, Near Urdu Hall, Hayatnagar, Hyderabad-029, Ph: 040-23221712, 23220975

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Secretary



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— S.S

# DECCAN Chronicle

4 MARCH 2021

## Cyber warfare and state surveillance new normal

Cyberattacks have become the new normality. Warfare using Internet-enabled technology to attack another nation's digital infrastructure with viruses or carry out denial-of-service attacks is also becoming common enough. Strenuous denials as in the suspected cyberattack on the Maharashtra electricity grid that brought about a blackout in Mumbai in October 2020 when suburban train services and stock market trading were halted are barely believable because the likelihood of state-sponsored actions in a cyber battle was very high at a time of India-China tensions along the LAC. The employment of non-state actors to carry out such attacks to aid plausible deniability cannot be discounted either since cyber hits for hire are dime a dozen in an increasingly connected world.

There are no innocents in this battle of wits fought through computer networks. India is also suspected to have sponsored phishing activity in the time of the coronavirus to aim at Chinese entities while China is said to have been behind a string of hacking attempts aimed at India's banking sector. America responded recently to Russian cyber threats to its electricity grids by littering the Russian system with code in a cyber warning. The history of Russia intervention and activist actions goes back some way, extending to interfering with a Presidential election. The recent Russian intervention through the SolarWinds hack that nine government agencies and 100 corporations including Microsoft had set the cyber world abuzz about State versus State cyber action.

Cyber security is the watchword but cyber protection is an expensive exercise as dependence on foreign hardware and software in India is extremely high and vulnerabilities exist in all systems that are networked for operational efficiencies. Even as the Indian Army has been prid-

ing itself on electronic warfare capability it enjoys on the borders, LAC and LoC, military experts have been calling for replacement of Chinese-made hardware in utilities like power and railways. Vaccine research and manufacturing has also become the target of attacks lately suggesting how susceptible the world is to cyber theft. The government has a great responsibility towards funding cyber security measures in all sectors that are strategically important while individuals are left to their own devices to protect their privacy.

Another facet of new normality has equally sinister implications. In this modern technological environment, the State has been empowered to use cyber tools in surveillance as technology in this field has improved by giga leaps and bounds. Myanmar is an extreme example now in its extensive use of military grade surveillance in targeting critics of the February 1 coup. The capacity to mine phones and computers and employing software and spyware to eavesdrop on conversations and the use of drones and iPhone cracking devices are part of a vast digital arsenal that the State has built up towards electronic warfare in repressive surveillance of its people. An Orwellian dystopia is very much upon us already as States get more powerful in sustaining surveillance upon its critics, rebels and dissidents and just about anyone disagreeing with its ideology. As Bob Dylan said, the times they are a-changin'.

## India is out of recession, but...

After stonewalling demands to lower taxes on fuel, the Union finance ministry suggested that it was in talks with all stakeholders to lessen the tax burden on fuel consumers. While it is good news for the general public, especially the middle class, which has been hit hard by an unprecedented near-three-digit fuel price, the statement, however, comes with a qualification — any reduction should not affect the government's finances.

Though the economy has begun to see an uptick in activity, the government may not get such elbowroom any time soon. The Reserve Bank of India, too, has been cautious in its assessment of the economy. Despite highlighting various positives seen in the economy, the RBI concluded, stating that "the jury leans towards such recoveries [seen in India] being shallow and short-lived". The central bank has also pointed out that the private investment — a key driver in a country's growth story — was missing in action. The credit off-take by large corporations continued to be in negative territory.

Another driver for economic growth is foreign direct investment (FDI). However, the RBI report quoting UNCTAD data states that FDI flows globally has recorded a precipitous decline, plunging by 42 per cent to an estimated US \$85 billion in 2020 from US \$1.5 trillion a year ago. Though emerging economies like India have been modestly hit, the RBI admits that downside risks to the outlook of FDI flows remain in 2021 due to persistent uncertainty clouding the course of the virus. This worry, perhaps, could be one of the driving factors for easing curbs on investments from China. While India could be better placed than the Western countries, it would be wrong to say that its economy has come out of the woods.

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Sunanda K.  
Datta-Ray  
**Reflections**

If Biden can't  
punish MBS,  
US image will  
take ethics hit

**B**y taking an expedient stand on Jamal Khashoggi's brutal killing, US President Joe Biden may have thrown away the chance of drawing an ethical line between his administration and its predecessor. It looks almost as bad as allegations that India had sent naval commandos to capture beleaguered Princess Latifa of Dubai off the Goa coast and handed her over to the UAE in March 2018 to please one of the world's richest heads of state.

Pragmatism isn't always reconcilable with ethics, which also explained India's long boycott of Israel. Moreover, as Morari Desai found in 1977, he couldn't easily distance India from the Soviet Union. Of course, the Democratic President, from whom Americans and the world expect so much, and who spent his first hours in the White House cancelling many of Donald Trump's executive orders, might yet redeem himself. He has already taken the US back into the Paris climate agreement and is exploring ways of reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Mr Biden has also ordered a review of US arms sales to the Saudis and is reportedly considering a ban on all non-defensive purchases.

But surely the world's only super-

power claims a higher moral role than just organising the distribution of weapons and pocketing the profits. That was emphasised in 1990 as the USSR's collapse prompted Richard Nixon to crow triumphantly from retirement that the time had come for America to reset its geopolitical compass. "We have a historic opportunity to change the world", he wrote.

Mr Biden's ambitions needn't be that grandiose, but he does have an opportunity to correct some of the distortions and aberrations of the past four years, give even 74 million Trump supporters a sense of true pride in their country's achievements, and inspire foreigners with confidence in Washington's sense of fair play. Sadly, some of Mr Trump's partnerships recalled the old story of an American President infamously claiming that a particularly unsavoury South American dictator "might be a son of a bitch, but he is our son of a bitch". Americans were taken aback in 2018 when Mr Trump appeared to support Vladimir Putin over US intelligence claims on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. His applause for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and courtship of North Korea's Kim Jong Un also looked like aligning the US with regimes that are the antithesis of values the US claims to promote.

At home, the deadly Charlottesville protest in 2017, the rise in violent right-wing extremism, and the viral spread of malevolent conspiracy theories that he encouraged were accompanied by mounting police brutality against blacks. The rise of groups like the Proud Boys, a violent street gang that gained new notoriety after Mr Trump acknowledged them during a pre-election debate with Mr Biden, was a particularly dangerous feature of those years.

It's the close military and strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia that disturbs many Americans. When Mr Trump and Saudi King Salman signed a \$350 billion arms deal in 2017, Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, warned: "Saudi Arabia is a country with a devastating record of human rights violations at home and abroad and has a long history of providing support to terrorist organisations that threaten the American people". The sale was the reported handiwork of Mr Trump's all-powerful son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, said to be close to the kingdom's real ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 35. Mr

Jong Un also looked like aligning the US with regimes that are the antithesis of values the US claims to promote.

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Kushner, who cultivated relationships with Saudi royals, personally contacted Lockheed Martin during the deal-making process.

Widely known as MBS, the crown prince has been accused by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence of ordering Khashoggi's murder and the dismemberment of his body. "We assess Saudi Arabia's crown prince... approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey, to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi", says the ODNI's four-page report. Resident in the US, Khashoggi, who wrote for the Washington Post, was lured into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and never seen again. When the Central Intelligence Agency levelled the same charge only a month later, Mr Trump blocked the report's declassification and continued Washington's strong ties with Riyadh. He refused to hold the prince publicly responsible for the crime even as the US government demanded that the perpetrators be punished.

To do the crown prince justice, he accepted Saudi Arabia's overall responsibility for the murder of a dissident journalist who was his most vocal critic. But he denied any personal link although the ODNI says

"the crown prince viewed Khashoggi as a threat to the kingdom and broadly supported using violent measures if necessary to silence him". Antony Blinken, US secretary of state, says the US will not admit foreigners who threatened dissidents. To flesh out that oblique warning, Washington has banned 76 Saudi nationals implicated in Khashoggi's killing.

Nevertheless, if action isn't taken against the prime suspect, the drama might resemble Frederick Forsyth's thriller *The Cobra* in which the US President sanctions the creation of an elaborate and expensive state-within-a-state machinery with the sole objective of destroying the cocaine industry. But when the resultant civil conflict threatens political careers, the US government abandons the cause. In the words of the man who was appointed to take on the cocaine underworld: "It has become corrupt and venal, weak and yet arrogant, dedicated to the obese and the stupid."

Nobody can say that of Mr Biden's administration. But he has yet to live up to the convictions that earned him a historic victory.

*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*

Subhani



## India must learn from Chanakya, not a Shah!

Mohan  
Guruswamy

**M**ohamed Reza Pahlavi, the second and last Shah of Iran from the Pahlavi dynasty, was the son of an Iranian gunnery sergeant who managed to seize control of that country in 1925 and crown himself king. Like Rajput kings who gave themselves extravagant genealogies of being descended from the sun or the moon, Mohammed Reza gave himself a 2,500-year-old lineage descending from Cyrus the Great. To him the surest and simplest way to greatness was to use Iran's new petro-dollar millions to buy the latest weapons that money can buy.

Iran then was a low-income country, but the Shah's vision was soaring. The Americans encouraged him. The US Air Force and the Navy loved him for he helped to defray the cost of development of new weapons. Flushed with his weapons, he grandiosely announced that after the two superpowers, Iran was the greatest military power and, encouraged by the United States, he appointed himself as the keeper of peace and order in the near region. Reza Pahlavi's megalomania blinded him to the reality of Iran and a man called Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a Shia theologian who was banished to a Paris suburb. We know what happened next.

This should be a lesson in history for all those strategists who think that weapons confer status. India's diplomatic and military establishment seems gripped by grandiose visions of an India sitting on global high tables like the UN Security Council. India's new middle classes blithely talk about India becoming a superpower, and against this rising tide

few are willing to question why? Recent studies reveal that as much as 70 per cent of Indian households make do without the minimum standards evolved by international bodies like the UNDP to be considered above the poverty standard. India's own poverty line is indeed a starvation line that prescribes a minimum calorific norm. Even by that self-serving standard, a quarter of India is excruciatingly poor. And not only is India poor, it is also economically backward, with a relatively small manufacturing base supporting a disproportionately large service sector, giving it the economic profile of a post-industrial society like the US or Europe. We mostly miss the irony of looking post-industrial without having industrialised!

India's pursuit of iron-clad national security and global status ambitions makes it annually import as much as \$20 billion, or ₹120,000 crores, of weapons, putting us in a league of our own. Our military leaders want even more and to this extent they now have a vested interest in weapons acquisitions. Most of our other engineering imports are to facilitate domestic production, either as plant and machinery or as components. Thus, they contribute to overall value addition. Military hardware imports are a one-way street and the only ones who benefit by it are the exporting economies.

In the next decade alone, India will import over \$200 billion of weapons. Consider this. This is the kind of money that can give us brand-new high-speed rail quadrilateral or 10 new world-class cities of 10 million people each. If we factor in the military's wishlist, then we are really looking at infinity. And much of what is being

Empirical evidence suggests that the survival ability of a twin-engine fighter is not better than a single engine fighter in a conflict.

It's very easy to become a Shah with poor people's money. Clearly, India doesn't need to be inspired by a Shah. However, it does need to be inspired by Chanakya or even Sun Tzu.

*The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.*

## LETTERS

### JAIL FOR COLLECTOR

Telangana High Court judge M.S. Ramchandra Rao has delivered a landmark judgment for state officials disobeying court orders and sentenced Sircilla district collector and other officials to three months simple imprisonment and a fine of ₹200. (*High Court jails collector, 2 officials for contempt, DC, March 3*). This sets an example to other officials that no one can escape the law and all are equal before it.

**D. Manoj Kumar**  
Secunderabad

It is highly distressing to note that Sircilla collector and two officials have not obeyed the interim orders of the court and had to be punished under the contempt of court provision. Government officials at all levels must follow court orders and avoid such punishments and black marks in their service registers.

**G.V.N. Murthy**  
Hyderabad

The cartoon by Subhani (*The shot, DC, March 3*) is hilarious and it's a fact. I too felt the pain by the "shot" of the rising prices of all essential commodities. I also enjoyed the sly look of the PM in the cartoon. How I wish Subhani could send this cartoon to our dear PM so that he too can have a hearty laugh.

**Jyothi David Raj**  
Hyderabad

## SUPERB CARTOON

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NEW DELHI, March 3 As the flames of protest kindled by the postponement of the Pakistan National Assembly sessions engulfed the entire Eastern Wing, leading to the imposition of a curfew on at least two towns, President Yahya Khan today called the country's political leaders to a conference in Dacca on March 10 to thrash out their differences over constitution-making.

Addressing a meeting he said, "the voice of the people of East Pakistan cannot be stifled".

Nevertheless, if action isn't taken against the prime suspect, the drama might resemble Frederick Forsyth's thriller *The Cobra* in which the US President sanctions the creation of an elaborate and expensive state-within-a-state machinery with the sole objective of destroying the cocaine industry. But when the resultant civil conflict threatens political careers, the US government abandons the cause. In the words of the man who was appointed to take on the cocaine underworld: "It has become corrupt and venal, weak and yet arrogant, dedicated to the obese and the stupid."

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*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*

## SHORT TAKES

## FOREST FIRE RAGES AT SIMILIPAL SANCTUARY

AKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 3

A major forest fire raging in Simlipal sanctuary spread across 2,750 square km for the past one week and has endangered the lives of animals. Several trees in the sanctuary have been turned into ashes.

As per reports, the fire has already spread to Betonati, Rasgobindpur and Morada forest range of the sanctuary.

Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar has directed officials to take immediate action to bring the Simlipal fire under control. "I have ordered officers to take immediate action and report it to me," Javadekar tweeted on Tuesday.

Initially, Akshita M. Bhan Deo, the princess of Mayurbhanj, had posted a message on social media about the devastating fire in the Simlipal sanctuary, Asia's second largest biosphere.

Earlier on March 2, Union petroleum and natural gas minister Dharmendra Pradhan drew the attention of the Union environment minister on the Simlipal fire by tagging him on the social media. Pradhan also tagged Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the social media post.

## I-T RAIDS ANURAG KASHYAP, TAAPSEE PANNU PROPERTIES

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, MARCH 3

The Income Tax Department on Wednesday raided premises linked to filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who launched the now dissolved production house Phantom Films, Reliance Entertainment group CEO Shishirashish Sarkar and Taapsee Pannu. The I-T searches are in connection with Kashyap's Phantom Films, which was dissolved in 2018.

Searches took place at 30 locations in Mumbai and Pune, including premises linked to a talent agency as well as Phantom Films, which was co-promoted by Anurag Kashyap, producers Vikas Bahl and Madhu Mantena. In the meantime, the income tax officials were questioning both Kashyap as well as Pannu in Pune.

Speaking about these raids, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar in a briefing stated that the Income Tax department probes someone based on whatever information they get and the issue goes to court later.

Anurag Kashyap and Taapsee Pannu are outspoken critics of the government and have lent their voice to various causes, including the ongoing farmer protests against central laws.

According to an I-T official, the searches were carried out as there have been instances of tax evasion. The movies produced by the production house have been super hit, but the profits and account statements of the company are showing disproportionately low income. The action drew severe criticism from the opposition parties and activists.

## ARMY OFFICER, JAWAN DIE BY SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 3

An Army officer and a young soldier on Wednesday ended their lives by shooting themselves with their service weapons at two different places in Jammu and Kashmir.

The police and Army sources said that the officer Colonel Sudeep Bhagat Singh reportedly shot himself dead inside the unit he was posted at in Khamnoh area on the outskirts of capital Srinagar.

On hearing the gunshots, some soldiers rushed to the spot and found the officer lying on ground in pool of blood. He was taken to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, the sources said.

Earlier during the day, the bullet-riddled body of an Army jawan was found at a camp in Gurdan area of frontier Rajouri district in Jammu region. The police said that preliminary investigation into the incident point out to the 24-year-old soldier's shooting himself dead with his service weapon.

Rajouri Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Superintendent Dr. Javaid Iqbal Choudhary said that the soldier had died on way to the hospital and that it appeared to be a case of suicide.

## SASIKALA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM POLITICS

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
CHENNAI, MARCH 3

In a surprise move, V.K. Sasikala, the erstwhile confidante of J. Jayalalithaa, announced that she was retiring from politics and said that she would be praying continuously for the return of Jayalalithaa's golden rule in the state.

Even her nephew and founder of AMMK, T.T.V. Dhinakaran was vexed. He told the media that the announcement came as a bolt from the blue.

Great expectations in some quarters of Sasikala storming the AIADMK citadel and establishing her supremacy have evaporated.

The announcement made through a typed message on a plain sheet of paper with her signature in Tamil, dated March 3, caused the raising of eyebrows for her previous statement came from her 'camp office' in a letterhead that had the AIADMK flag embossed boldly on the middle and identified her as the 'general secretary.'

During a seat-sharing talk in Chennai a few days ago, the BJP gave great importance to her by putting pressure on AIADMK leaders to accommodate Sasikala in their alliance, which was vehemently resisted. The reason given by the BJP leaders was that the AIADMK votes would be split if AMMK was to stand alone.

In Wednesday night's statement, Sasikala repeatedly urged the followers of MGR and Jayalalithaa to be united in the coming elections and defeat DMK, the common enemy identified by Jayalalithaa herself.

She did not exactly say if she was referring to the AIADMK party of the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) as the one that would usher in the 'golden rule of Amma.'



Security personnel conduct a flag march, ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections in Kanyakumari district on Wednesday. — PTI

## TN alliances in turmoil over sharing of seats

TNCC leaders to take a final call after a meeting today

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC  
CHENNAI, MARCH 3

not in favour of continuing with the alliance if the DMK refused to give in to their demand.

It was the same case with the other allies, too, with all of them wanting at least 10 seats each. Since the DMK itself is keen on contesting in as many as 170 or more seats, the allocation to the allies is being sought to be cut drastically, say sources.

But the smaller parties, too, want to get recognition by polling adequate percentage of votes and they feel it can be achieved only by increasing the number of seats.

So, the VCK, CPM, CPI and MDMK are refusing to take what was being offered to them during the talks.

The DMK's offer to give more seats if parties like the VCK and MDMK could contest in the 'rising sun' election symbol, too, has angered the allies as they want to maintain their individual identity and also aspire for recognition as

state parties. The same issue is also facing the AIADMK as its ally, the Tamil Maanila Congress, has upped its ante, demanding 12 seats.

The problem that the AIADMK was facing of late with the BJP was on the identification of the seats, rather than the numbers.

Most of the seats that the BJP is eyeing are also being sought by either the PMK or certain AIADMK functionaries, who had expended their resources in developing the constituencies.

The earlier hitch in the AIADMK-BJP ties has been ironed out with the BJP not insisting on the AIADMK accommodating the AMMK of T.T.V. Dhinakaran.

Not only did BJP leader C.T. Ravi make it clear that it was for the AIADMK to take the call on uniting with the AMMK, fisheries minister D. Jayakumar once again ruled it out on Wednesday, saying that

the BJP had never interfered in the internal affairs of the party.

Apart from that, the AIADMK was unable to finalise the agreement with the DMDK as the party was also demanding a Rajya Sabha seat in future, besides Assembly seats. With the AIADMK saying a firm no, it was also learnt that DMDK was not averse to switching over to the DMK-led front.

If the DMK agrees for its demand for the Rajya Sabha seat and if the Congress breaks away from the present alliance, the DMDK might land in that alliance, sources say, adding that the possibilities, however, were very remote.

But if the Congress snaps ties with the DMK and goes on its own, some other small parties, now peeved with the manner in which they were treated by the DMK's negotiating team, might also leave the alliance, sources say.

## 'Khela Hobe' vs 'Jai Shri Ram' even at sweet shops

## TMC: PM free to visit WB anytime

Kolkata, March 3: The bitter fight for elections in Bengal has reached the sweet shops with popular retailers in the state churning out new delicacies, capturing the mood of the season - 'Khela Hobe' vs 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Balam Mallick Radharaman Mallick, one of the iconic sweet shops of Kolkata, has launched sandesh with the two slogans written on them. While 'Khela Hobe' is written on the sandesh in white and green, the 'Jai Shri Ram' sandesh is in white and orange.

'Khela Hobe', meaning 'Game On', is a slogan first given by Trinamul Congress as scores of its leaders switched to the BJP, pitching Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee against all the opposition faces.

The slogan has since become popular with a pop version of it being played at TMC rallies and hoardings coming up across West Bengal. The opposition parties have also launched their own versions of the slogan, making it a flavour of the poll season.

Besides, 'Jai Shri Ram' — the popular BJP slogan has turned into the party's battle-cry ahead of the closely-watched elections, which will begin on March 27.

"The soft-rolled Nalen Gur sandesh with either 'Khela Hobe' or 'Jai Shri Ram' embossed on them are already being bought by the respective political parties," Sudip Mallick, said the owner of the sweet retail chain.

Modi sandesh and Didi Sandesh, with images of the two leaders etched on them, and other 'mishtis' (sweets) bearing symbols of the BJP and TMC are also on the

market. May be they (Narendra Modi and Amit Shah) want to see for themselves how much Bengal has progressed after TMC came to power in 2011... how roads look like, how power cut has become a rarity, how people in rural areas are getting better amenities and how states like UP and MP are lagging behind," Basu said.

BJP sources said Modi is slated to address multiple rallies during the eight-phase polls in the state stretching a little over a month. Leaders like Shah and J.P. Nadda will also address several meetings as well as other BJP heavyweights like Yogi Adityanath.

Asked about two-time TMC MLA from Pandabeswar and former Asansol mayor Jitendra Tiwari joining the BJP on March 2, Basu said, "It is the culture of the saffron party to admit people having tarnished reputation with open arms". — PTI

tray for sale, he said. "Such sweets have demand during the elections," Mallick said.

Another prominent sweet shop Felu Modak in Rishra which had previously launched delicacies themed on popular political campaigns, is also selling such desserts. Amitabha Dey, one of the owners of the shop, said, "There is no political motive behind the decision to sell sandesh on the 'Khela Hobe' theme. We just wanted to connect with

the people who love the slogan, we wished to touch their emotions."

There are three types of sandesh with the 'Khela Hobe' slogan — in white, green and orange, he said. The sandesh, having chocolate, strawberry and mango flavours, are priced between ₹40 and ₹100, depending on the size, he said.

"We are hopeful that apart from the supporters of the political parties, the sweet will be a hit among the common people," Dey said. — PTI

## Hectic parleys on in 3 major Fronts in Kerala

GILVESTER ASSRAY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 3

The CPM, Congress and BJP-led Fronts in Kerala are engaged in hectic deliberations to finalise their candidates for coming Assembly polls.

The district leadership of the CPM has almost finalised the list of prospective candidates in all 14 districts.

Barring some leaders, the names of most sitting MLAs including senior ministers have been recommended by the district leadership for the coming polls.

The issue of exemption for four and five time legislators will be taken up at the CPM state committee meeting on March 5.

The No 2 party in the LDF, CPI which contested 27 seats in 2016 Assembly polls is likely to get 25 seats this time. Some of the seats of the CPI are likely to be given to the new allies. Similarly, the number of CPM seats will also come down to accommodate the alliance partners.

The CPI leadership has asked the district councils to prepare a panel of candidates in each district.

The panel will be discussed at the state executive meeting. Subsequently the final list will be announced.

The Congress-led UDF is also in the process of final-

ising the candidates. Congress election committee meeting held in Thiruvananthapuram decided not to field sitting MPs in the coming polls. The members of the committee submitted separate recommendations about candidates to the top leaders.

KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran has decided to opt out of the elections this time as he wants to concentrate on the campaigning of the UDF. However, the final decision in his case will be taken by the high command.

Many veteran leaders including P.J. Kurien, P.C. Thomas, V.M. Sudheeran have requested the leadership to give tickets to young leaders.

The BJP is conducting its seat sharing and candidate level discussions on the sidelines of the Vijaya Yatra of party state president K. Surendran. The BJP and its allies in the NDA are likely to finalise the candidates by next week. The bulk of seats will be contested by BJP. All top leaders of the party are likely to be in the fray this time.

Union minister V. Muraleedharan has said he would contest if there is any direction from the central. "Metroman" E. Sreedharan will be fielded from Thrissurpura or Palakkad.

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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (LA) Department FORM - C NOTIFICATION																																																					
(Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given) (See rule 6(12))																																																					
Gazette No. GHMC-22 Dated- 10-02-2021 NoB/13/2021 Dated- 06-02-2021 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, that a total of 1841.51 Sq. Yds land is required in the Golconda, Hyderabad District for public purpose namely Proposed 100'-0" Wide Road from Andhra Floor Main to Nizamabad Road.																																																					
Thereupon it is notified that for the above said project in the Golconda, Hyderabad District land measuring more or less 1841.51 Sq. Yds of Standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:																																																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No</th><th>Premises No.</th><th>Type of Title</th><th>Extent in Sq. Yds</th><th>Name &amp; Address of Person Interested</th><th>Boundaries</th><th>Trees</th><th>Structures</th><th>North</th><th>South</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Hanuman Temple</td><td>-</td><td>341.96</td><td>Endowment Land</td><td>As per sketch</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>9-4-84/1</td><td>-</td><td>34.63</td><td>H.V.Subba Rao</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>9-4-84/2</td><td>-</td><td>43.75</td><td>Rama Shesha Enclave</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>9-4-84/3</td><td>-</td><td>47.51</td><td>Endowment Land</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>9-4-84/4</td><td>-</td>&lt;td</tr></tbody></table>	Sl. No	Premises No.	Type of Title	Extent in Sq. Yds	Name & Address of Person Interested	Boundaries	Trees	Structures	North	South	1	Hanuman Temple	-	341.96	Endowment Land	As per sketch	-	-	-	-	2	9-4-84/1	-	34.63	H.V.Subba Rao	-	-	-	-	-	3	9-4-84/2	-	43.75	Rama Shesha Enclave	-	-	-	-	-	4	9-4-84/3	-	47.51	Endowment Land	-	-	-	-	-	5	9-4-84/4	-
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4	9-4-84/3	-	47.51	Endowment Land	-	-	-	-	-																																												
5	9-4-84/4	-																																																			

## RELEASING TOMORROW

**SANDHYA 35MM**  
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)  
**9.15PM(ONE SHOW)****TARAKARAMA 70-KACHIGUDA**  
**2.15, 9.00PM****SANTOSH 70MM-ABIDS**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM**SREEPREM 70MM-11.00, 6.00PM****KUMAR 70-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30****METRO 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****SENSATIONCOMPLEX-KAIRATBAD**  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM****LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE****BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S****ASIAN CINEMAS Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally  
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga  
Cinesquare-Uppal****OAMB AMB CINEMAS-Kukatpally****Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex****Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston****Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh****Next galleria****INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL****Cinépolis CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA****MIRAJ CHANANAGAR | BALANAGAR****COLORS & CLAPS ENTERTAINMENTS-9949757589 & 8121666662****SAPTHAGIRI 70-RTC X ROADS**  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM****TARAKARAMA 70MM-2.15, 9.00PM****INDRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
6.00PM(ONE SHOW)**TALLURI 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM****LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE-11.30AM****BIG CINEMAS-10.40, 1.45PM****ASIAN CINEMAS Radhika-1.45PM | GPR-4.30PM****MCUBE-10.20PM | Cinesquare-4.50PM****OAMB AMB CINEMAS-1.55PM****PVR GVK-4.35, 10.00PM | RK-8.30PM****Inorbit-8.10PM | Central-8.20PM****Hitech-7.40PM | Preston-10.15PM****Irrummanzil-10.00PM****Moosarambagh-4.20PM | L&T-7.20PM****INOX GV-4.35PM | GSM-4.15PM****MP MALL-4.05PM****Cinépolis CCPL-1.20PM | DSL-4.50PM****MANTRA-4.30PM | SUDHA-4.30PM****MIRAJ SHALINI/SHIVANI-8.10PM****CHANANAGAR-3.30PM****BALANAGAR-8.10PM****1.50 PM | 1.45 PM | 10.45 PM | 2.20 PM****GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE****11.15, 7.20**

## GRAND 3rd WEEK

**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)  
**11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM****EESHWAR-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
MAHALAXMI-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM****RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR**  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM****VISWANATH 70-KUKATPALLY**  
**11.45, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45PM****SRI SAIRAM 70-MALKAJGIRI**  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM****AARADHANA**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**ANJALI 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**GOKUL 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**RANGA 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**SRILAXMI 70MM**  
12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00PM**SRIDEVI R.C.PURAM**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**SUSHMA 70MM**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**SRIKRISHNA 70**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**TALLURI CINEMA**  
2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**NARTHAKI 70**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**GANESH 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15PM**KRISHNA ALIYABAD**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**OAMB AMB-10.50, 1.20, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30PM****RADHIKA-1.30, 7.30, 10.35PM****SHA COMPLEX-9.30PM****GPR-10.40, 7.25, 10.20PM****CINESQUARE-10.25, 1.15, 4.10, 7.05, 10.00PM****MCUBE-10.55, 4.40, 10.30PM****9.00, 11.45, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45****11.00, 1.45, 7.30, 10.30PM****FORUM-10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM****MUSARAMBAGH-12.00, 3.00, 6.10, 9.20, 9.30PM****GALLERIA-10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM****ICON-12.10, 3.20, 6.30, 9.40PM****CENTRAL-10.50, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50PM****INORBIT-11.00, 3.35, 6.35, 9.45PM****IRRUMMANZIL-12.30, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00PM****PRESTON PRIME-12.15, 3.25, 6.35PM****RK-1.35, 7.40, 10.50PM****10.55, 4.35, 7.25, 10.35PM****1.50, 4.20, 7.40, 10.05PM****INOX GV-10.20, 1.40, 6.55, 10.20PM****GSM-12.00, 3.30, 7.00, 10.30PM****MP-10.40, 12.40, 6.50, 10.40PM****1.50, 4.40, 7.50, 10.40PM****LAXMIKALA TIVOLI XTREME**  
2.30, 9.30PM**AMEERPET-11.00, 1.15, 4.30, 5.45, 7.10, 10.00PM****CCPL-10.30, 4.25, 10.35PM****MANTRA-10.10, 1.20, 7.05, 10.15PM****SUDHA-10.10, 1.20, 7.05, 10.15PM****DSL-11.45, 3.10, 6.30, 10.20PM****CHANDANAGAR-12.15, 9.30PM****SHALINI/SHIVANI-11.40, 1.10, 7.30PM****BALANAGAR-1.10, 7.30PM****1.50 PM | 1.45 PM | 10.45 PM | 2.20 PM****11.15, 7.20****GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE****8.10 PM****Prasad's Multiplex****PLATINUM****Sivaganga | mcube mall****| Cinesquare-Uppal | Gpr mall | Radhika****4.40PM****Cinépolis | Cpl | Dsl | Sudha | Mantra-2.30PM****Chandanagar | Geetha | Dilshuknagar****BIG Cinemas | you matter! |****PVR PICTURES RELEASE-9963883444****AVANTHIKA PRODUCTIONS****"SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"****RELEASING****TOMORROW****DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS****(ENJOY 4K LASER & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)****11.00 & 6.00PM****TALLURI 70MM-9.15PM(ONE SHOW)****PVR FORUM MALL-12.25PM****CINESQAURE UPPAL-7.00PM****ADITYA MUSIC****SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 3****Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday directly attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah.****Thackeray had so far refrained from speaking negatively about Modi and Shah and had left that task to his deputies in Shiv Sena.****However, while speaking in the state Assembly on the Governor's speech, the Chief Minister raised questions about the PM fund and alleged that anyone questioning it is labelled as a "traitor".****He also accused Shah of lying about the assurance given to him about the chief minister's post and said that the BJP leader is "shameless".****Reacting to Thackeray's speech, the leader of opposition in****the state assembly said that Aurangabad will definitely be renamed.**Mirwaiz Umar Farooq freed after 19 months  
Cleric to address weekly congregation at Grand Mosque

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, MARCH 3

● **THE MIRWAIZ** refused to speak on his prolonged detention, the prevailing political situation in J&K or the recent developments in the South Asian region, the subjects he would frequently talk louder on before his house detention.

When contacted over the phone around 4 pm, the Mirwaiz said that a contingent of the police continued to be deployed outside his residence in Srinagar's Nigeen area but it appeared the siege around the premises was being lifted.

The Mirwaiz who heads a faction of Kashmiri separatist parties' amalgam All Parties Hurriyat Conference was among hundreds of politicians, human rights activists, civil society and trade union leaders and lawyers placed under house arrest or jailed by the authorities ahead of or soon after J&K was stripped of its special status and

priests of J&K's largest religious and spiritual centre — Jama Masjid Srinagar - has fallen silent for the last 82 Fridays, which otherwise reverberated with the call for Dawah, the Islam's message for wisdom and preaching Qur'an and spreading the message of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

A statement issued by the alliance said, "This greatly hurts the sentiments of the Muslims, the masses and religious scholars alike, especially those who have deep religious and emotional attachment with the historic masjid and its pulpit."

Welcoming lifting curbs on Mirwaiz Umar, former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said, "Good

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**SCHEDULE FOR TOMORROW**

<b>A1 EXPRESS</b> TELUGU 2D (U) 10:50 AM, 1:35 PM, 4:15 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:25 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:20 PM	<b>SHADI MUBARAK</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:50 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:45 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:25 PM	<b>UPPENA</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:25 PM, 7:45 PM, 10:20 PM	<b>NAANDHI</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:05 AM, 1:55 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:40 PM	<b>CHECK</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:50 PM, 7:25 PM, 10:00 PM	<b>POWERPLAY</b> 11:10 AM, TELUGU 2D (U/A) 7:25 PM	<b>RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON</b> ENGLISH 3D (U) 1:30 PM, 7:00 PM	<b>RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON</b> ENGLISH 3D (U) 1:30 PM, 7:00 PM	<b>JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH</b> 4:35 PM, 10:20 PM	<b>CHAOX WALKING</b> ENGLISH 2D (U/A) 11:30 AM, 4:55 PM, 10:20 PM	<b>JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH</b> 4:35 PM, 10:20 PM
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SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

FROM  
TOMORROW

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CROSS TIME CONNECTION

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SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

FROM  
TOMORROW

INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON  
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## Rockets hit US airbase in Iraq

Baghdad, March 3: At

least 10 rockets targeted a military base in western Iraq that hosts US-led coalition troops on Wednesday, the coalition and the Iraqi military said. It was not immediately known if there were any casualties.

The rockets struck Ain al-Asad airbase in Anbar province at 7:20 a.m., a coalition spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto said. No one claimed responsibility

for the attack.

The Iraqi military released a statement saying the attack did not cause significant losses and that security forces had found the launch pad used for the rockets a burned out truck. It was found in the al-Baghdadi area of Anbar, about 5 miles (8 kilometres) from the base, an Iraqi military official said on condition of anonymity to discuss the attack with the media. —AP

## Myanmar: Six gunned down

Yangon, March 3: Myanmar security forces shot and killed at least six people on Wednesday, according to accounts on social media and local news reports, as authorities extend their lethal crackdown on protests against last month's coup.

Multiple reports from several cities and towns, difficult to independently confirm, said police used live ammunition as well as tear gas and rubber bullets to violently disperse protesters. In Mingyan in central Myanmar, multiple social media posts reported the shooting death of a 14-year-old boy.

A second death was reported later. At least four other deaths were reported elsewhere. Demonstrators have regularly flooded the streets of cities across the country since the military seized power on Feb. 1 and ousted the elected government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Their numbers have remained high even as security forces have repeatedly fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to disperse the crowds, and arrested protesters en masse.

On Sunday, the UN Human Rights Office said it believed at least 18 people were killed that day. The escalation of violence has led to increased diplomatic efforts to resolve Myanmar's political crisis. The UN Security Council is expected to hold a teleconference meeting of foreign ministers on Tuesday to seek a consensus on helpful measures. The regional group of 10 nations has a tradition of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. A statement issued by the group's chair, rather than as a joint declaration — called for an end to violence and for talks to try to reach a peaceful settlement.

In Magwe, a student was reported seriously injured with a gunshot wound. In the town of Hpakant, four people were reportedly shot with live ammunition.

Myanmar's ethnic Kachin minority has historically had tense relations with the central government and fields a guerrilla force of its own.

One person was reportedly shot in Pyinoolwin, a town in central Myanmar better known to many by its British colonial name, Maymyo. The town is popular with tourists.

social media and from local news outlets, and usually have videos and photos supporting them. It is also likely that many incidents from remote areas go unreported or generally unnoticed. In the central city of Myint, which has turned out huge crowds to protest the military takeover, three people were shot on Wednesday, including one in the head, reported the Democratic Voice of Burma, an independent television and online news service. There were also fatalities in the city on Sunday in Myint, in the same central region, multiple social media posts reported the death of a 14-year-old boy. Photos showed what was said to be his body, with his head and chest soaked with blood, being carried from where he fell by fellow protesters.

In Magwe, a student was seriously injured with a gunshot wound. In the town of Hpakant, four people were reportedly shot with live ammunition.

Snubbing ASEAN's appeal, Myanmar's security forces on Wednesday continued to attack peaceful protesters. Details of the crackdowns and casualties are difficult to independently confirm, especially those occurring outside the bigger cities.

But the accounts of most incidents have been consistent in

—AP

## Nomination for Budget chief: Tanden withdraws

## Commerce secy gets Senate nod

Washington, March 3: In the first major setback to US President Joe Biden, Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden has withdrawn her nomination as his top White House budget official after she faced strong opposition from both Democratic and Republican senators for her past controversial posts on social media.

Tanden, 50, had been facing a tough time for the confirmation of her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) over her past Twitter outbursts against several lawmakers, including those from her own Democratic Party.

Tanden, president of the left-leaning think tank Center for American Progress, would have led a key economic post that oversees the production of the President's proposed budget for his agenda if she had been confirmed.

The OMB is in charge of the budget-drafting process in the White House, as well as having a large role in the issuance of new regulations.

Biden on Tuesday accepted her withdrawal and indicated that Tanden might be brought in to the administration in some other capacity.

Her withdrawal marks the first high-profile defeat of one of Biden's nominees. Eleven of the 23 Cabinet nomine-

School who became a venture capitalist before turning to politics.

Raimondo will be responsible for promoting the nation's economic growth domestically and overseas.

Republican opposition to her confirmation focused on concerns that she would not be forceful enough in confronting the Chinese government's efforts to gain an economic and technological edge through espionage.

## HOUSE READY TO PASS POLL, ETHICS BILL

Washington, March 3: House Democrats are poised to pass a sweeping elections and ethics bill, offering it up as a powerful counterweight to voting rights restrictions advancing in Republican-controlled statehouses across the country.

House Resolution 1, which touches on virtually every aspect of the electoral process, would restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a murky campaign finance system that allows wealthy donors to anonymously bankroll political causes.

"Our purpose was to remove obstacles of participation for Democrats or Republicans. That's what the law requires, that was the right thing to do," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday on the House floor. "That's what this legislation does." To Republicans, though, it would herald a massive expansion of the federal government's role in elections, overruling state laws that limit ballot access in the name of election security.

—AP

## Jan. 6 slips: Security officials to testify

Washington, March 3: Federal national security officials are set to testify in the second Senate hearing about what went wrong on Jan. 6, facing questions about missed intelligence and botched efforts to quickly gather National Guard troops that day as a violent mob laid siege to the US Capitol. Senators are eager to grill the officials from the Pentagon, the National Guard, and the Justice and Homeland Security departments about their preparations as supporters of then-President Donald Trump talked online, in some cases openly, about gathering in Washington and interrupting the electoral count. At a hearing last week, officials who were in charge of security at the Capitol blamed each other as well as federal law enforcement for their own lack of preparation.

—AP

**BLOCKBUSTER JUSTICE**

**2nd WEEK**

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

**RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**MALLIKARJUNA-11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30**

**SREERAMANA-70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**SRI LATHA 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00**

**TALLURI 70MM-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**

**OAMB 10.45, 1.40, 4.10, 7.05, 10.00PM**

**LAXMIKALA 2.45, 6.30, 9.15PM**

**ASIAN CINEMAS**  
RADHIKA-10.40, 4.20, 7.15, 10.10PM  
GPR-10.50, 1.35, 7.35, 10.30PM  
CINESQUARE-10.40, 1.35, 4.40, 7.25, 10.30PM  
MCUBE-10.30, 1.45, 4.20, 7.35, 10.10PM

**INOX LIVE THE MOVIE**  
GVK-10.00, 4.00, 7.20, 10.40PM  
MP-10.35, 3.50, 7.10, 10.30PM  
GSM-12.25, 3.50, 7.15, 9.50, 10.40PM

**Cinepolis**  
CCPL-10.20, 4.30, 10.40PM  
MANTRA-10.30, 4.10, 10.30PM  
DSL-10.20, 4.30, 10.40| SUDHA-10.20, 4.30, 10.40

**VENKATARAMANA**  
12.00, 2.45, 7.45, 10.30PM  
TIVOLI EXTREME 7.45, 10.40PM

**PVR CINEMA**  
FORUM-10.10, 1.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50PM  
INORBIT-10.20, 12.15, 4.40, 10.20PM  
CENTRAL-10.00, 1.10, 7.15, 10.25PM  
RK-10.25, 5.20, 11.00PM| PRESTON-1.00, 7.05PM  
HITECH-12.20, 3.30, 6.40, 9.50PM  
L&T-10.20, 1.15, 4.00, 7.10, 10.20PM  
IRRUMMANZIL-4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM  
MUSARAMBAGH-12.50, 4.00, 7.10, 10.20PM

**MIRAJ CINEMAS**  
CHANDANAGAR-6.30PM  
DILSHUKNAGAR-10.00, 4.20, 10.40PM  
BALANAGAR-10.00, 4.20, 10.40PM

**VENKATESWARA**  
10.30, 4.50, 7.35, 10.25PM  
TIVOLI EXTREME 4.45, 7.45, 10.45PM

**PLATINUM**  
10.00, 3.00, 6.45, 10.45PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS**  
10.30, 1.25, 4.45, 7.35, 10.35  
CHINTHAL 11.15, 6.15PM

**INOX**  
10.15, 1.20, 4.25, 10.20PM  
MALLPUR 10.15, 1.00, 7.10PM

**SENSATION COMPLEX-6.30, 9.30PM**

**SRI LAXMIKALAMANDIR-ALWAL**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**SHARADA 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**

**INDRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
2.30, 9.00PM (ONE SHOW)

**FROM FRIDAY: VENKATESWARA GUMMADIDHALA KRISHNA ALIYABAD SAPNA 35MM-ABIDS**

**FROM TOMORROW**

**POWER PLAY**

**SANDHYA 70MM**  
RTC X ROADS  
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)  
11.15 2.15 6.00 9.15PM

**SHIVAPARVATHI 70-KUKATPALLY**  
11.30 2.30 6.30 9.30PM

**MANJU 70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**

**SRI SAPIOOJA 70**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**SREE RAMANA COMPLEX-11.00, 6.15PM**

**VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
COMPLEX-KACHIGUDA

**SANTOSHIBPATNAM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**SANTOSHABIDS**  
6.00, 9.00PM

**SRLATHA 70MM**  
6.15, 9.15PM

**SV CINESQUARE**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**SENSATION INSO**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**TALLURI COMPLEX**  
11.15, 6.15PM

**SAPNA ABIDS-11.30, 2.30PM**

**LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE-11.30AM**

**BIG CINEMAS**  
12.00, 5.00, 10.00PM

**O ASIAN CINEMAS**  
Cinesquare-1.45, 7.45PM| MCUBE-10.50AM, 10.25PM  
Sivaganga-2.15PM| Radhika-10.55, 4.45PM  
Gpr-11.00, 7.40PM| Sha-2.15PM

**OAMB**  
AMB CINEMAS-11.10, 7.25PM

**MJR Square**-10.40, 7.30PM

**10.55, 4.30PM**

**Forum-Kukatpally/RK Plex**  
Inorbit-Central| Hitech| Preston  
Irrummanzil| Moosarambagh  
Next galleria

**INOX**  
GVK-10.00, 4.50, 10.40PM  
MP MALL-10.30, 4.40, 10.40PM  
GSM-10.40, 7.10, 10.10PM

**Cinepolis**  
CCPL-10.30, 4.25, 10.20PM  
MANTRA-11.00, 4.30, 10.20PM  
DSL-12.10, 6.35, 9.35PM| SUDHA-10.30, 4.25, 10.10PM

**MIRAJ CINEMAS**  
CPL-10.30, 4.25, 10.20PM  
MANTRA-11.00, 4.30, 10.20PM  
DSL-12.10, 6.35, 9.35PM| SUDHA-10.30, 4.25, 10.10PM

**SHALINI SHIVANI**  
CHANDANAGAR| BALANAGAR 3.00, 8.30PM

**BIG CINEMAS**  
12.00, 5.00, 10.00PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS**  
Forum-1.30, 7.45PM| Central-1.15, 7.30PM  
Inorbit-2.10, 7.15PM| Hitech-12.45, 6.00PM  
L&T-4.15, 10.15PM| RK-10.45PM

**PRESTON**-9.00PM| MOOSARAMBAGH-3.45, 9.00PM

**INOX**  
GVK-10.20PM | GSM-3.35PM  
MP-10.10PM

**LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE-MOOSAPET**

**BIG CINEMAS**  
NARAPALLY-4.20PM

**Cinesquare**  
4.10PM

**Mallapur**  
7.30PM

**CCPL-10.20PM**| **DSL-10.00PM**

**MANTRA-10.40PM**| **SUDHA-10.20PM**

**SHALINI SHIVANI**  
2.00, 7.45PM| **BALANAGAR-2.00, 7.45PM**

**CHANDANAGAR-6.45PM**

**KOMPALLY 4.20PM**

**L.B.NAGAR 4.50PM**

**PVR PICTURES RELEASE-9963883444**

**RELEASING TOMORROW**

**75 సంవత్సరాల తెలుగు నీళ్ల పుట్టుకు ఈ తెలుగు బలాల 3D లైట్..**

**శ్రీ వరమానందయ్ శిఖ్యుల కర్డ**

**LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE**

**BIG CINEMAS**  
Radhika-Kapra| GPR-Kukatpally  
MCUBE-Attapur| Sivaganga  
Cinesquare-Uppal

**AMB CINEMAS-KUKATPALLY**

**FORUM-KUKATPALLY|RK PLEX**

**Inorbit| Central| Hitech| Preston**

**Irrummanzil| Moosarambagh**

**Next galleria**

**GVK MALL| GSM**

**MP MALL**

**CCPL| DSL**

**MANTRA| SUDHA**

**ASIAN CINEMAS**  
VIVA LAUGHING

**RELEASING TOMORROW**

**DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS**  
(Enjoy 4k laser projection & dolby atmos)  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**ARJUN 70-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30**

**MEGHA 70MM-DILSHUKNAGAR**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

**LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**OAMB**  
AMB CINEMAS  
10.40, 1.10, 1.35, 4.10, 4.30, 7.00, 7.25, 10.20

**PRASAD MULTIPLEX**  
9.00, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45PM

**O ASIAN CINEMAS**  
SIVAGANGA-2.00, 9.00PM  
RADHIKA-1.30, 7.30, 10.30PM  
MCUBE-10.40, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM  
CINEPLANET-10.45, 1.45, 7.35, 10.20PM

**Forum**-11.00, 12.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM  
Inorbit-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM  
Icon-11.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15, 10.15PM  
Galleria-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM  
Irrummanzil-12.45, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45PM  
Musarambagh-12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15PM  
Prestone-12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
RK-10.30, 1.30, 7.40, 10.40PM

**INOX**  
MP-10.50, 1.20, 4.00, 7.30, 10.50PM  
GSM-11.30, 1.00, 2.50, 4.20, 6.10, 9.30, 11.00PM

**Cinepolis**  
CCPL-10.50, 1.05, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM  
MANTRA-10.50, 1.05, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20PM  
DSL-12.30, 3.50, 7.10, 10.30PM  
SUDHA-11.00, 1.05, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20PM

**BALANAGAR-1.15, 7.15, 10.15PM**

**IDPL-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM**

**SHALINI-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM**

**ASIAN CINEMAS**  
2.00, 9.00PM

**MULTIPLEX**  
11.15, 2.00, 7.45, 10.45PM

**PLATINUM**

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	51,444.65
Nifty 50	15,245.60
S&P 500*	3,858.55
Dollar (₹)	72.71
Pound Sterling (₹)	101.95
Euro (₹)	88.05
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,768.208
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	64.40
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	6.238
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.496
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.081

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Podcast series on Indian entrepreneurs

Singapore-based Melting Pot Podcast has kicked off a series featuring 10 leading Indian entrepreneurs. In 10 episodes, the podcast will feature entrepreneurs who started their ventures at a young age and became an inspiration for people from all over the world. Melting Pot Collection is an inspiring series, presenting stories of culturally diverse and passionate individuals, says Payal Nayar, founder & host of the podcast.

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/0/9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Komparla, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.



RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, MARCH 3

points, or 2.19 per cent, to close at 15,245.

The return of foreign investors after last Friday's heavy selling seems to have stabilised the domestic market. Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 2,088.70 crore on Wednesday after Rs 2,223.16 crore buying on Tuesday. Domestic institutions also turned net buyers on Wednesday by Rs 392.91 crore.

This week's spectrum auction, which fetched the government Rs 77,814 crore, seems to have buoyed market sentiments. Index heavyweight Reliance Industries and rival telecom company Bharti Airtel gained 4.52 per cent and 0.92 per cent, respectively, after they put in majority of the bids in the spectrum sale.

Despite mixed global cues, with the overnight US market closing in the red, the Sensex opened higher and kept the momentum to close with a gain of 1147 points, or 2.28 per cent, at 51,444 points. The Nifty-50 gained 326

## ₹ gains 65p, but rising trend may not last

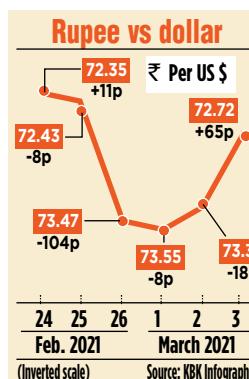
FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, MARCH 3

The rupee on Wednesday closed 65 paise stronger, as investor appetite for emerging market assets improved after the US treasury yields continued to cool off and weakened the dollar globally. However experts said that further appreciation of the rupee will be limited due to the hardening of the US 10-year yields.

Sriram Iyer, senior research analyst, currency and commodities, Reliance Capital, said, "The rupee has been appreciating for the last two-three sessions due to corporate dollar and portfolio inflows in our equity markets, but this appreciation could be limited due to expectation of further hardening of the US treasury yields as the market is factoring good economic outlook supported by the US government stimulus plan and steps taken by the US Federal Reserve to support the economy."

"A stellar rally across BFSI & Metals powered indices higher today by 2.3 per cent with the market breadth improving dramatically in afternoon trade. Investors cherry-picked AMCs, HFCs and the day also witnessed keen interest in sugar

stocks which recorded handsome gains" said S. Ranganathan, head of Research, LKP Securities. Among the sectoral indices BSE Bankex



to 1.8 per cent which will support the US dollar, and if that happens, the rupee would weaken. In the short-term 72.50 will remain a key support for the USD-INR pair while on the upside 73.25 will remain a key resistance point," added Iyer.

The US Fed will be worried if the US yields hardened further as it wants to pump money at lower rates, added Iyer.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 73.26 and after hitting an intra-day high of 72.71 and a low of 73.26, finally settled at 72.72 against the dollar.

gained 2.75 per cent, Metal (3.23 per cent), IT (2.01 per cent) and Realty (1.47 per cent) as all sectoral indices barring the Auto Index closed in the green.

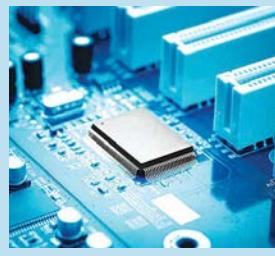
## 'Chip shortages could extend into next year'

DEBBY WU  
MARCH 3

Taiwanese panel supplier Innolux Corporation says the current chip shortages could last beyond this year, becoming the latest manufacturer to warn that competition for semiconductors may persist for some time.

"Supply at foundries is very tight. Capacity in the chip packaging and testing space is also tight."

James Yang, president of the Foxconn affiliate, told analysts at an earnings conference on Wednesday. "The chip supply bottleneck could still remain unresolved in the first half of 2022."



power management chips so the overall supply is getting even tighter," he executive said.

Chip shortages are expected to wipe out \$61 billion of sales for automakers alone and delay the production of a million vehicles in the March quarter, but the fallout now threatens to hit the much larger electronics industry. Possibly a broad spectrum of chip-heavy products from cars to phones and gaming consoles could see shortages or price hikes.

About 3 to 5 per cent of total panel supply could suffer shipment delays, though the impact on

Innolux so far has been slight, Yang said. Panel demand will outpace supply this year, he added.

The first hints of trouble emerged in the spring of 2020. The world was in the early throes of a mysterious pandemic, which first obliterated demand then super-charged internet and mobile computing when economies regained their footing. That about-face — in a span of months — laid the seeds for potentially the most serious shortage in years of the semiconductors that lie at the heart of everything from smartphones to cars and TVs.

"The virus pandemic, social distancing in factories, and soaring competition from tablets, laptops and electric cars are causing some of the toughest conditions for smartphone component supply in many years," said Neil Mawston, an analyst with Strategy Analytics.

—Bloomberg

## Caterpillar celebrates golden jubilee in India



CEO Jim Umpleby. "This year denotes the golden jubilee anniversary as we enter into 50 years of manufacturing in India," said country manager Bansi Phansalkar.

Hyderabad, March 3: Caterpillar, the world's largest manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, enters the 50th year of manufacturing in India. Globally, Caterpillar has more than 95 years of product support expertise. It has a firm footprint with six manufacturing facilities, two research and development centres, five subsidiary entities and eight Caterpillar brands.

"Caterpillar has been part of India's growth story for many decades. We have been a key partner since the 1930s, and it is remarkable to witness the progress in this great nation over the years," said Caterpillar chairman and

Business NOTE

## GAMES

# Simha, Raj roar; Mohit, Devesh, Sai shine

Azhar, Sumit, Srikanth, Ankith, Yathish, Aryaman, Mameeth, Bharath, Sakshit, Koushik, Vineeth, Vamshi also do well



H. K. Simha

Paras Raj

Mohit Soni

Sumit Joshi

Aryaman

Yathish

Vineeth

SN Group's Aryaman (131), Saleemnagar's Shaik Mameeth (120) and B. Bharath Teja (116 n.o.) of Vijay Hanuman were the batsmen who got to coveted triple figure scores in the A-2 Division two-wicket haul on Tuesday.

It was a bowler's day out in the one-day league which threw up four performers — Sakshit (6/20) of Akshit CC, Koushik (6/33) of All Saints, Vineeth (5/22) of Navjeevan Friends and Vamshi (5/43) of Hyderabad District for the third wicket.

Mohit Soni of Sportive CC was the next best on show. He took 6 wickets while conceding only 41 runs against Khalsa, for whom Devesh Damia scored 134.

Sri Chakra's D. Sai Siddharth took 5/30 as Jai Bhagwathi were bowled out for just 188 in reply to 423 for 6.

There were a clutch of performers in the two-day league, Md Azharuddin of Lord's CC being the top-scorer with 170 in just 98 balls which contained 17 boundaries and 12 sixes, against Tirumala CC.

Sumit Joshi (6 for 27) of New Blues, Srikanth Yadav (6 for 34) of Mahabubnagar District and International CC's Ankith Kumar (6 for 46) were the best bowlers on show, followed by Yathish (5 for 58) of Swastik Union.

■ Rohit XI 428/7 in 90 overs bt Mahmood CC 124/7 (all out) in 35 overs (Jasir Reddy 46, Nitin Aliga 4/24) & 87/6 (all out) in 19.5 overs (Nitin Sai Yadav 3/27). Points: Rohit XI 8, Mahmood CC 0.

■ Secunderabad Nawabs 472 in 89.2 overs & 35/0 in 6 overs vs Charminar 225 in 72 overs (Ali Kacchi 95, Aditya Mangat 36, E. Rakesh 20/20).

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■ New Blues 230 in 63.2 overs bt Visaka 137 in 51.4 overs (A. Vigneshwar 54, Sumit Joshi 6/27 — 11.4-4-27-6, Md Nadeem Khan 4/25). Points: New Blues 5, Visaka 0.

■ Mahbubnagar District 386 in 84 overs vs PJLCC 171 in 45.5 overs (Raghavendra 41, Srikanth Yadav 6/34 — 15.5-0-34-6). Points: Mahbubnagar 5, PJLCC 0.

■ Lords CC 267 in 53.1 overs (Md Azharuddin 170 — 98b, 17x4, 12x6, Keshav 45) vs Tirumala CC 67/2 in 34 overs.

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**Sania-Andreja sail into semis**

**Doha:** Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and her Slovenian partner Andreja Klepac sailed into the women's doubles semifinals of the Qatar Open with a straight sets win over their rivals here on Wednesday. Sania and Andreja made short work of fourth seeds Anna Blinkova and Gabriela Dabrowski 6-2, 6-0 to reach the last four round. The Indo-Slovenian pair will next play top seeds Czech Republic's Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova. Krejcikova and Siniakova defeated Dutch duo of Kiki Bertens and Lesley Pattinama Kerkhove 4-6, 6-4, 13-11 in another quarterfinal duel. Elsewhere in Rotterdam Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik mauled champion Alexander Zverev in straight sets 7-5, 6-3 in the Round of 32 at the ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament on Wednesday. — Agencies

**Paddler Sharath off to flying start**

**Doha:** Ace Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal advanced to the second round of the World Table Tennis Contender series with a hard fought 3-2 win over Czech Republic's Pavel Sirucek here on Wednesday.

Sharath toiled hard before defeating Sirucek 17-15, 9-11, 6-8, 11, 11-9 in the first round.

However, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran, who alongside Sharath secured a direct entry into the main draw, made a first round exit after going down to world no 20 Aruna Quadri 7-11, 4-11, 8-11.

World No.32 Sharath struggled initially when he was seen trailing by five points in the first game before recovering well with a strong counter attacking display to take an early 1-0 lead in the match.

Despite losing the next game, the nine-time national champion kept firing attacking shots to bag the third game comfortably. — PTI

**Jesus brace helps City hunt Wolves**

**Manchester:** Manchester City equalled their club record of 28 games unbeaten on Tuesday, hammering Wolverhampton 4-1 to open up a gaping 15-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

Pep Guardiola shuffled his pack at the Etihad against the team who did the league double against them last season as he maintained his club's assault on an unprecedented quadruple.

The champions-elect were made to sweat after Conor Coady cancelled out an early own goal from Leander Dendoncker but two late goals from Gabriel Jesus and a Riyad Mahrez strike sealed the three points.

City's 28-match unbeaten run in all competitions equals their run from April to December 2017 and they are red-hot favourites to wrap up a third Premier League title in four years. — AFP

**Ronaldo digs deep to blank Spezia**

**Milan:** Juventus gave their hopes of a 10th straight Italian league title a timely boost as they beat struggling Spezia 3-0 on Tuesday to move within seven points of league leaders Inter Milan. Juventus were frustrated for long periods, but scored half goals from Alvaro Morata, Federico Chiesa and Cristiano Ronaldo clinched an important win. Juve sit three points behind second-placed AC Milan with Inter Milan four points further clear ahead of their match at Parma on Thursday. The Turin giants have won the last nine Italian league titles. — AFP

**Live on TV**
**CRICKET**

**India vs England:** Fourth Test, Day 1 from 9.30 am on Star Sports 1

**FOOTBALL**

**English Premier League:** Fulham vs Tottenham from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1; West Brom vs Everton from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2

**Italian League:** Parma vs Inter Milan from 1.15 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

**Regd. No. HQ/SD/509/2021-23**

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# THE LAST GAMBIT

## Resurgent India plot final move to trap England

Ahmedabad, March 3: A ruthless India will not take their foot off the pedal while taking England for another "spin ride" in the high-stakes Test series finale starting Thursday, aiming to not just complete another dominant home performance but also realise their World Test Championship dreams.

Virat Kohli's men need at least a draw to maintain the current 2-1 scoreline to qualify for the Lord's final against New Zealand while England at best can heal Tim Paine's January scars by letting Australia a lucky passage to the summit clash with a win.

While a draw always seems a safe option in a game like this but Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri, with their attacking instincts, wouldn't like to play a defensive game which at times can be counter-productive.

India laid a venomous trap on the refurbished Motera and with the pink ball, demolished England inside two days, messing more with their minds than getting any tangible help from the bowlers.

Axar Patel took ramrod straight and England had their heads "spinning" from the start. The ploy has worked well for the hosts.

Both Ajinkya Rahane and Zak Crawley felt that the track for the fourth Test looks "similar" to what they got in the previous two matches but the red ball which skids less off the surface compared to the pink one promises to make it a better contest between the two teams.

This is a Test match where England have little to gain save salvaging a bit of pride in a drawn series while India have everything to lose.

For England, poor team selection has also contributed to their shoddy batting where Joe Root (333 runs) managed to maintain a fair gap (187 runs) between him and the second highest scorer Ben Stokes (146).

Jack Leach (16 wickets) has done his bit but he does have his own set of limitations and with his pace he is unlikely to always trouble the batsman. — PTI

### STEYN SORRY FOR HIS POST CRITICISING IPL

New Delhi, March 3: South Africa pace great Dale Steyn on Wednesday apologised for his criticism of the Indian Premier League, saying he never intended to "degrade or insult" the world's biggest franchise-based T20 tournament.

The 37-year-old veteran fast bowler said his statement that cricket is sometimes forgotten amid all the money talk in the IPL was taken out of context in social media.

"IPL has been nothing short of amazing in my career, as well as other players too. My words were never intended to be degrading, insulting, or comparing of any leagues. Social media and words out of context can often do that. My apologies if this has upset anyone," Steyn tweeted.

Steyn's apology came after he claimed on the sidelines of the Pakistan Super League 6, where he is representing Quetta Gladiators, that money is given more importance than the game in the IPL.

Steyn had said that this was one of the reasons why he had not featured regularly in the event.

"I think when you go to the IPL, there are such big squads and so many big names and so much emphasis on maybe the amount of money players earn and everything like that, so sometimes, somewhere down the line, cricket gets forgotten," he had stated. — PTI

## Kapil, Pele receive first dose of Covid-19 vaccine

New Delhi, March 3: Indian cricket legend Kapil Dev on Wednesday received his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at a renowned city hospital here.

The 62-year-old World Cup-winning captain got vaccinated at the capital's Fortis hospital.

Kapil Dev, thus, became the second former India cricketer to receive the vaccine after India head coach Ravi Shastri, who got vaccinated on Tuesday at Ahmedabad.

Both the cricket legends received the vaccine after India's inoculation drive entered its second phase on Monday in which the coverage was expanded to



India's Shubman Gill (left) prepares to catch the ball during a training session ahead of the fourth Test against England at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. — AP



Virat Kohli

Kohli said at the pre-match press conference,

"I am sure if our media is in a space to contradict those views or present views which say that it is unfair to criticise only spin tracks, then it will be a balanced conversation," he added.

"We've got all the ingredients, all the pieces and all the skills to exploit and succeed in these conditions," he said. — PTI

"But the unfortunate bit is everyone plays along with that narrative (spinning tracks) and keeps making it news till the time it is relevant. And then a Test match happens, if you win on day 4 or 5, no one says anything but if it finishes in two days, everyone pounces on the same issue," he said.

When asked what he thought were the skills required to survive on such challenging spin tracks, Kohli emphasised on having a solid defence, which, he believes, is not the strongest anymore thanks to shorter formats.

Meanwhile, Joe Root has urged his England team to be "braver" and to free themselves from fear in the fourth and final Test.

"We've got all the ingredients, all the pieces and all the skills to exploit and succeed in these conditions," he said. — PTI

### NUMBERS GAME

#### TESTS AT NARENDRA MODI STADIUM:

- The only day/night/match played here ended in just two days.

- England have won three and India two in last five Tests between the two sides.

- Axar Patel took 18 wickets in their first two Tests. The number for Axar Patel to shoot at in the final Test is 31, by Narinder Hirwani, so he needs the little matter of 14 wickets to beat that. Charles "Terror" Turner of Australia had 29 wickets after three Tests.

- Ravichandran Ashwin who scored 957 runs in 30 innings of 18 Tests, needs 43 runs to become 14th Indian batsman to make over 1000 runs against England. Ravichandran Ashwin who scored 957 runs in 30 innings of 18 Tests, needs 43 runs to become 14th Indian batsman to make over 1000 runs against England.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER

## Kohli bats for rotation policy in bubble times

Ahmedabad, March 3: India skipper Virat Kohli feels rotation policy is the way forward in the age of bio-bubbles as mental fatigue caused by restrictive quarantines will make it extremely difficult for players to stay hungry.

England have been following a rotation policy in their ongoing tour of India, something that has drawn criticism from legends such as Kevin Pietersen.

Steyn's apology came after he claimed on the sidelines of the Pakistan Super League 6, where he is representing Quetta Gladiators, that money is given more importance than the game in the IPL.

Steyn had said that this was one of the reasons why he had not featured regularly in the event.

"I think when you go to the IPL, there are such big squads and so many big names and so much emphasis on maybe the amount of money players earn and everything like that, so sometimes, somewhere down the line, cricket gets forgotten," he had stated. — PTI

"The kind of systems

I feel any format of the game is right place for rotation. No human being can possibly go on for that many number of games throughout the year. Everyone needs to find windows of having some time off.

— VIRAT KOHLI

India cricket captain

you have to follow in the bubble, it can get very monotonous and it is very difficult to keep yourself excited about small things," Kohli said.

Bio-bubbles became imperative for resumption of sporting action

— PTI

These are the things that need to be considered for as long as you play in the bubble, outside of that it depends on where you stand physically more than mentally. But till the bubble exists, we need to keep the mental factor in the picture as well, because mental fatigue would be a huge, huge factor," he said. — PTI

after COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc in 2020.

"I feel any format of the game is right place for rotation. No human being can possibly go on for that many number of games throughout the year. Everyone needs to find windows of having some time off.

Everyone needs to find windows of having some time off.

These are the things that need to be considered for as long as you play in the bubble, outside of that it depends on where you stand physically more than mentally. But till the bubble exists, we need to keep the mental factor in the picture as well, because mental fatigue would be a huge, huge factor," he said. — PTI

On top of the list is the Annual General Meeting.

## Sindhu, Srikanth start off in style

Basel, March 3: Top Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth staved off a spirited challenge from compatriot Sameer Verma to make a winning start to his campaign at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, world champion Sindhu beat Yigit Neslihan of Turkey 21-16, 21-19 in her first round match that lasted just 42 minutes.

The fourth seeded Kidambi, who had claimed the title in 2015, took little over an hour to see off 2018 winner Sameer 18-21, 21-18, 21-11 in a hard-fought men's singles opening round match.

He will be up against France's Thomas Rouxel in the Round of 16. Rouxel beat Canada's Xiaodong Sheng 21-18, 21-14 in another first round match while the second seeded Sindhu will next face Iris Wang of USA in her Round of 16 match on Thursday.

Sourabh Verma also won his first round match against Switzerland's Christian Kirchmayr 21-19, 21-18.

Sourabh will next face eight seed Kunlavut

Vitidsarn of Thailand in the Round of 16.

### PRANNOY CRASHES

However, H. S. Prannoy made an early exit after losing to France's Mark Calijouw 19-21, 21-9, 17-21 in a men's singles first round match.

Last night, Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa notched up an upset 21-18, 21-10 win over the world No. 8 and second-seeded Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja in the opening round.

The second seeded Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also won their first round men's doubles match against Christopher Grimeley and Matthew Grimley of Scotland 21-18, 19-21, 21-16.

Another Indian shuttler, Pranaav Jerry Chopra didn't have a good outing as he along with his mixed doubles partner N. Sikki Reddy lost 18-21, 15-21 to the third-seeded English pair of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith in 39 minutes. — PTI

## STAR MARY CRUISES INTO SPANISH TOURNEY SEMIS

New Delhi, March 3: Six-time world champion M. C. Mary Kom (51kg) was assured of a medal in her first competitive outing since qualifying for the Olympics last year when she entered the semifinal of the Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain, on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old defeated Italian Giordana Sorrentino with a split verdict in the quarterfinal stage of the event.

Next up for her is American Virginia Fuchs as she builds up to her second Olympic appearance in Tokyo later this year.

It was a watchful start by the experienced Indian as she took her time to get a measure of her aggressive opponent. Both the boxers preferred to counter-attack in the opening round, adopting a cautious approach for most part.

The proceedings picked up pace in the second round but in the final three minutes, it was Mary Kom who launched into attacks, dropping her guard completely and using her right hooks to good effect. — PTI

## On a high, HFC set bigger goals

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

Hyderabad Football Club just about slipped out of semifinal contention to finish a creditable fifth in the Indian Super League and coach Manuel Marquez is understandably satisfied.

That was a big leap, considering they finished at the bottom of the table in the previous season. The odds were against HFC with matches being played away from home and injuries to players but the team logged 29 points from 20 games winning six, losing three and drawing 11 to be nudged out by Goa (31 points) for a semi's place.

"We are very satisfied about the season. We could not make it to the semifinals but it is very difficult to look for something to criticise the players in this situation. This group is amazing, one of the best that I have trained in my life," Marquez said during a media interaction here on Wednesday.

The rewards were overwhelming as six players from the side were picked for the Indian camp by national coach Igor Stimac.

"That's the most any ISL club has in the list and makes all of us really proud. They are quality players and deserve greater exposure