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ADANI GOES ON A BUYING SPREE IN TELUGU STATES

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

The Adani group is on an acquisition spree in the Telugu states and the latest target is a stake in the city-based electric bus manufacturer Olectra.

The Adani group, which made a foray into the fast-growing segment of electric vehicles a few years ago, has set its eyes on Olectra Greentech, in which a majority stake is held by the Megha group.

Sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the Adani group will take 10 per cent equity in Olectra but the deal value is yet to be known.

Olectra was launched by Goldstone Infratech with technical collaboration from the BYD group of China. The name of the company was changed to Olectra Greentech and its share price closed at ₹177.90 on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Adani group announced the purchase of 31.5 per cent stake in Gangavaram port. Though the Adani group made repeated attempts to get into the most valuable project, it did not materialise as the promoters, D.V.S. Raju and family, were said to have fixed a higher value, ₹10,000 crore.

The Adanis realised its dream, however, by buying 31.5 per cent stake from global venture capitalist Warb-urg Pincus for ₹1,954 crore, bringing down the value of the company to about ₹5,000 crore.

■ Page 6: Adanis keen on Gangavaram port

■ Full report on Page 11

TS draws blank in top 15 city list

STATE QUESTIONS CENTRE'S SURVEY METRICS ON HYD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Reacting to the survey of a department of the Centre, in which Hyderabad does not find a place in the top rankings, a high ranking official in the state government said, "(We are) totally baffled. We have been ranked number one in Mercer's Quality of Living Index in India since 2015 till date for five years in a row. For us, not to find Hyderabad even in the top 10 feels weird. We could have understood if we were ranked as one of the top three, or even top five."

■ Full report on Page 6

rankings. Bengaluru was the top performer in the million+ category.

■ Page 6: Indore tops list of smaller cities

KCR DATA: TS TOPPED HIRING ACROSS INDIA

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekar Rao has gathered data from various states on government job creation between 2014 and 2020 which shows that the TS Public Service Commission (TSPSC) tops in filling up vacancies during the period.

Rao secured the data to nail criticism that the TRS government had failed to recruit staff in the past six years.

The data obtained from West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka shows that they all lag behind TS in providing government jobs.

The data will be used during the ongoing MLC election campaign where the entire pitch is revolving around job creation.

Rao directed his party leaders to publicise the data among all graduate voters during door-to-door canvassing.

■ Page 6: TS filled 1.26 lakh jobs in six years

EPFO RETAINS 8.5% FOR PROVIDENT FUND DEPOSITS

Chennai: EPFO has retained 8.5 per cent interest rates for EPF deposits for FY20-21 despite the economic downturn. The Central Board of EPFO in its meeting in Srinagar has recommended 8.50 per cent annual rate of interest to be credited on deposit accounts of more than five crore members for the financial year 2020-21.

TAJ MAHAL VACATED AFTER HOAX BOMB CALL, ONE HELD

New Delhi/Agra: The Taj Mahal complex in Agra was vacated on Thursday morning following a hoax bomb call. The caller, identified as Vimal Kumar Singh, has been detained for questioning. The police said Singh called the emergency response number and claimed that a bomb was kept inside the monument.

■ Full report on Page 7

HC blames field staff for illegal buildings in city

Orders top GHMC officials to act against recalcitrant officials

KOMATIREDDY PETITIONS CJ OVER SILENCE ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Taking note of the role of junior level officials of the GHMC's town planning section for the first time for the rampant illegal constructions in the city, the Telangana High Court warned that heads will roll at the higher echelons down to the field staff if any delinquency is noticed among in curbing illegal constructions.

A division bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijay Sen Reddy said that the court will monitor all the recalcitrant officers who are turning a blind eye to the rampant illegal and unauthorised constructions taking place right under their nose.

CJ Kohli told GHMC staff that bells were ringing aloud, and errant officials must get ready to be axed if they continued with the same working style. "If they do not pick up the

thread even now, they will face the consequences."

The bench opined that the town planning officers were in connivance with builders of such buildings.

Justice Vijay Sen Reddy, during the course of arguments, apprised Chief Justice Kohli of the facts:

"The officials on the one

hand threaten persons resorting to illegal constructions that their constructions will be demolished; and on the other hand, they show them the way to approach the lower courts and obtain a stay."

■ Page 6: Give data of illegal construction, says HC

BELLS ARE ringing, errant officials must get ready to be axed if they continue with the same working style. If they do not pick up the thread even now, they will face the consequences."

Chief Justice HIMA KOHLI

THE OFFICIALS threaten persons resorting to illegal constructions that their constructions will be demolished; and on the other hand, they show them the way to approach the lower courts and obtain a stay."

Justice VIJAYSEN REDDY

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Min: 19°C
RH: 31%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky.
Maximum/Minimum temp. 36/19°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Bahula Saptami till 7.57 pm

Star: Anuradha till 10.39 pm
Varijam: 4.01 to 5.33 (Saturday)

Durmuhurtam: 8.56 am to 9.43 am;

12.51 pm to 1.38 pm

RahuKalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 20, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.32 am

Zohar: 12.38 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrub: 6.30 pm

Isha: 7.36 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.23 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.30 AM

MOONRISE TODAY NA

MOONSET TODAY 11.05 AM

COUNTER POINT



Sex for jobs? Very bad!
In our days, we only indulged in cash for jobs!

IN BRIEF

State records 152 new Covid cases

Hyderabad: The state recorded 152 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths from the disease on Wednesday, a health department bulletin said on Thursday. The total number of cases stands at 2,99,406 and the toll at 1,637. The GHMC limits registered 25 new cases, Medchal-Malkajgiri 11 and Ranga Reddy district 10. The total active cases stood at 1,948. The bulletin said 41,201 samples tested in the state.

21,207 GET JAB IN 333 GOVT, PVT FACILITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

A total of 21,207 beneficiaries were vaccinated in 333 government and private healthcare facilities on Thursday, the health department said.

In the government sector, 8,986 beneficiaries of the 9,378 who had enlisted for the shots received the vaccine. In the private sector, 12,221 of the 13,274 applicants took the vaccine.

Besides, 917 healthcare workers took their first shot during the day, 3,452 got their second vaccination. For frontline workers, the figures stood at 536 and nine respectively.

So far, 5,05,542 have been vaccinated in the state of whom 49,762 are above 60 years age and also those who are 45 years old and suffering from co-morbid conditions.

PGEET TO BE HELD FROM JUNE 19 TO 22

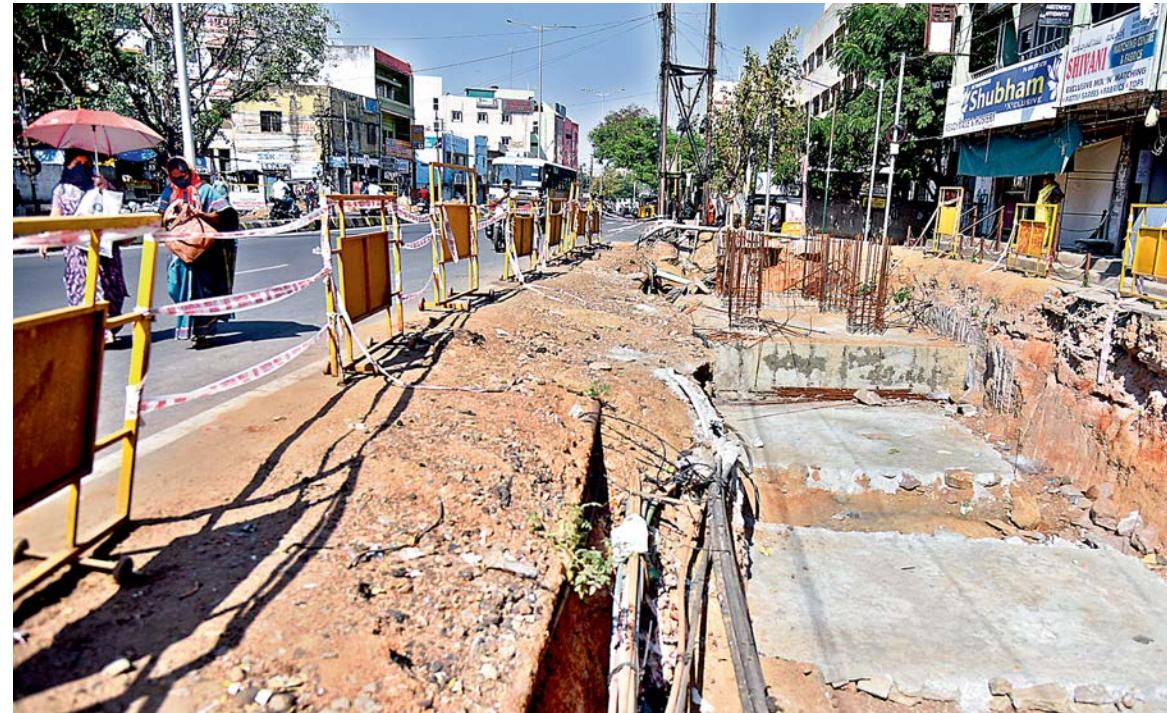
DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

The TS Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) on Thursday said that the PGEET will be held from June 19 to 22. The Post Graduate Engineering Common Entrance Test will be conducted in two sessions, from 10 am to 12 noon, and 2 pm to 4 pm, at Hyderabad and Warangal.

The online application registration process will begin on March 12, and the last date for submission without late fee is April 30, whereas applications with late fee are allowed up to June 15. The registration fee for application is set at ₹1,000, and ₹500 for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes groups and persons with disabilities.

The official notification added that the candidates will be required to answer 120 questions in two hours. Hall tickets will be available to download from June 10 to June 18. For further details, candidates can visit pgeet.tsche.ac.in or tsche.ac.in.

Delay hits pedestrians



Incomplete work of foot over bridge in Tarnaka causes inconvenience to passersby and shoppers, in Hyderabad on Thursday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Lab animals true heroes of Covid vaccine battle

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

First there were the mice, and some rats. Then came Syrian hamsters and the rabbits. And finally there were the rhesus macaque monkeys. The lakhs of people receiving Covaxin to keep themselves safe from Covid-19, and to help stop the spread of the disease in India and elsewhere in the world, have much to thank these animals for.

Not just because these animals were the first ones to receive the jabs of the three vaccine candidates developed by scientists at the Bharat Biotech, along with Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

Not just because the animals were deliberately injected with the SARS-CoV-2 to test the efficacy of the candidate vaccines while in their cages in a high security Level 4 biosafety hazard lab at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune.

But because at the end of the study periods, each of them was put to sleep forever before necropsies were performed on their bodies by the scientists who studied what the virus did to the animals and their organs, and how the vaccine candidates worked in controlling the virus in their bodies.

All these animals, unknown to anyone outside of the NIV lab or the scientists involved in the vaccine development — in human terms — made the ultimate sacrifice of giving up their lives so the very humans who put

them through the trials, could keep themselves safe from the virus that probably racked their fragile bodies as the vaccines and the virus battled it out in their organs. In three studies, scientists from Bharat Biotech, NIV and ICMR provide great detail about how the trial were conducted, and how the immune response for the candidate vaccines — three versions of the then under-development (during the peak of the lockdown in 2020) Bharat Biotech's vaccine — was in these animals.

There is a reason why lab-grown rats, mice, Syrian hamsters, and rabbits are chosen for the studies. As is also the case with the rhesus macaques. The manner in which the immune responses to a virus in these animals develop, is very close to how a human body responds to a virus. And therein lies the value of testing vaccine candidates on these animals even if it means injecting them with the virus to study how their bodies respond and how the vaccines work in controlling the virus in them.

Once the trial is over, even if it is possible to extract tissue samples from various organs without actually killing the animals, their subsequent

No Karachi biscuits for Mumbaikars, shop shut

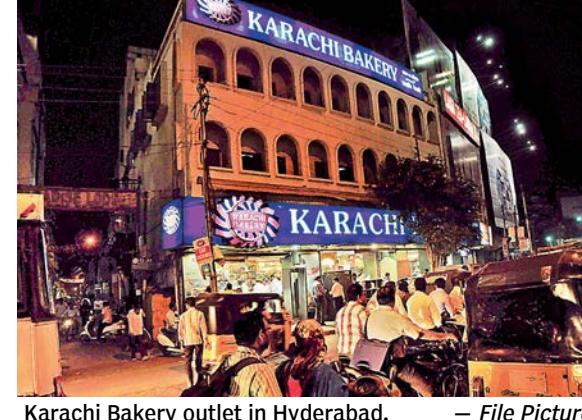
Management rules out politics, says lease period was over

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Karachi Bakery, the city's iconic biscuit-maker, has shut its store in Mumbai.

Though it brought the shutters down in the country's financial capital, the management's Rajesh Ramnani points out they would reopen in Mumbai if suitable premises can be found, in place of the one in Bandra that has been closed.

It may be recalled that Karachi Bakery in Mumbai was in the eye of a nationalistic storm after Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) protested against the name of the bakery demanding that it be changed as it had a Pakistani ring to it. The Ramnani family, which migrated to India during



— File Picture

partition, and set up the bakery, originally belonged to Karachi.

However, the MNS would not hear anything of the emotional ties the family had with a city it left behind even as later generations of the Ramnans

began running the business. And the claims that it was 'successful' in its campaign against Karachi Bakery, soon followed with MNS leader Haji Saif Shaikh, who led the stir, taking credit on Twitter for the closure of the bakery.

ery in Mumbai. "Nothing could be farther from the truth," Rajesh Ramnani told Deccan Chronicle here on Thursday. "The lease period was over and it could not be renewed due to cost factors. There is no other reason for Karachi Bakery closing its operations in Mumbai. We will continue looking for appropriate premises, and when it is found, we are willing to reopen there," Ramnani said.

Though the MNS leader tweeted about Karachi Bakery's closure in Mumbai, there were several others from that city who mourned the shutting down. Several Mumbaikars took to Twitter to express their 'grief' at its closure and recalled how the outlet in Bandra remained an important part of their lives.

TALKS HELD OVER 29 NATIONAL, STATE HIGHWAYS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Senior officials of the forest department discussed the construction of 29 national and state highways passing through forests, at a review meeting held at Aranya Bhavan on Thursday.

A.K. Jain, adviser to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), who was a part of the meeting, said that the work needed to be expedited, with minimal damage to flora and fauna.

"There were also discussions pertaining to greenery enhancement along the highways. It was decided to select stretches of a few kilometers along some roads and undertake multi-level avenue plantation as part of the pilot project," said an official.

ed that the country was facing a complex and challenging security environment, which dictates enhancement of military capabilities and requires addressing voids in war-fighting abilities. He also stressed the significance of evolving doctrine, force structures, technology and sustenance to create a future-ready military.

The webinar's inaugural day had two major sessions on 'organisational imperatives' and 'structural imperatives', which were dealt with by senior serving and veteran officers from the three services.

As part of 'organisational imperatives' for transformation, several speakers laid stress on the changes being sought in the armed forces, through

the promotion of combined approach in training, staffing and procurement. The importance of restructuring military commands into joint theatre commands to achieve the desired level of joint operations was also highlighted. Also discussed at length were various models of transformation to derive key concepts as applicable in the Indian context.

The afternoon session covered issues pertaining to 'structural imperatives' highlighting a conceptual framework on theaterisation for building future-ready force.

The final session concluded with deliberations on a suggested model for

Oceanic Theatre Command (OTC), followed by an interactive session.

Khammam traders offer cotton for ₹6,300/quintal

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, MARCH 4

Cotton farmers of Khammam are happy over the crossing the prices of cotton more than its minimum support price of ₹5,820 per quintal.

The traders offered ₹6,300 per quintal cotton in the Khammam market on Thursday. With this, the farmers showed interest to sell their produce in the market instead of cotton lifting centres being run by the Cotton Corporation of India. Nearly 1500 bags of cotton have arrived on the market.

Gudavarti Srinivasa Rao, a trader in the Khammam market, said that cotton production is lessened by 25 per cent in India, which caused the increase in cotton prices. The sudden jump of 356-kilo cotton bales jumped to ₹43,000 from ₹40,000 in the international market,



forcing the local traders to lift cotton at more price. The traders of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam and China are buying cotton from India. The cloth-making companies used to lift cotton every year.

N. Nagaswara Rao, a farmer from Mudigonda, said that the price would fetch their input costs.

"We will come out from our debts at this price," he said.

On the other hand, the chilli price touched ₹15,000 in the market, and the traders offered ₹15,075 initial price per quintal cotton. About 1900 bags of chilli were sold in Khammam market on Thursday. The farmers unions demanded the government maintain the price to bail out the chilli farmers who made cotton farming debts.

Senior officials of the forest department discussed the construction of 29 national and state highways passing through forests, at a review meeting held at Aranya Bhavan on Thursday.

A.K. Jain, adviser to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), who was a part of the meeting, said that the work needed to be expedited, with minimal damage to flora and fauna.

"There were also discussions pertaining to greenery enhancement along the highways. It was decided to select stretches of a few kilometers along some roads and undertake multi-level avenue plantation as part of the pilot project," said an official.

He was delivering the keynote address at the commencement of the two-day national webinar on 'Transformation: Imperatives for the Indian Armed Forces', under the aegis of College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad here on Thursday. He stat-

ed that the country was

facing a complex and challenging security environment, which dictates enhancement of military capabilities and requires addressing voids in war-fighting abilities. He also stressed the significance of evolving doctrine, force structures, technology and sustenance to create a future-ready military.

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UoH features in QS world varsity rankings

DC CORRESPONDENT
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belonging to the Scheduled

Caste and Scheduled

Tribes groups and persons

with disabilities.

The official notification

IN BRIEF
SCB asked for nominations

Hyderabad: The Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE) on Wednesday wrote to the heads of 56 Cantonment boards asking them to nominate one member for those boards which do not have an elected body or whose term has lapsed. This should be completed by March 19. It might be recalled that the term of the elected representatives of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board had ended on February 10.

KCR FOR 7-DAY BUDGET SESSION FROM MARCH 18

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

The budget session of the Telangana Legislature is likely to be held in the third week of this month on the conclusion of the MLC elections.

It is believed that the government plans to cut short the session to six or seven days due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The original plan was to hold the session in the second week of March.

Official sources said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao changed his decision in view of the MLC polls on March 14 as he is occupied with meetings to discuss poll strategies. Moreover, he has deputed all the ministers as election-in-charges to work for the victory of the party candidates and they would not be available for the session.

In this backdrop, it was decided to hold the budget session after the MLC elections, the results of which will be declared on March 17. Sources say that Rao is in favour of starting the budget session from the very next day.

Last year, it was decided to have a two-week budget session in March. However, it was eventually cut to nine days due to Covid-19.

DASOJU ISSUES NEW CHALLENGE TO KCR, KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

AICC national spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju on Thursday challenged Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao to come up with concrete announcements on ITIR project, job notification and regularisation of contract employees. He said that the Congress party candidates will withdraw from MLC elections, if the announcements are made in the form of Government Orders (GOs).

Putting the ball in their court, Sravan demanded them to quit, if they failed to accept his challenge.

He also said that the challenge is also applicable to BJP, which is supposed to have given funds for the ITIR project. He wondered why neither of the two had raised the ITIR issue in Parliament. He demanded leaders from TRS and BJP to persuade the matter with Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad demanding its restoration or stage a protest in front of the minister's residence in Delhi to prove their sincerity.

"I ask Chandrashekhar Rao and Rama Rao to immediately make an announcement and issue GOs on implementing ITIR project with state funds irrespective of its estimated budget. They must issue a notification to fill up 1.93 lakh government jobs and initiate the process to regularise 1.20 lakh contract employees," Sravan said.

Where's Kazipet coach factory, KTR asks BJP

Slams Centre for U-turn on setting up rly factory

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday came down heavily against the Centre for its failure to set up a rail coach factory in Kazipet despite an assurance made in Parliament during the passage of AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. Citing an RTI reply, Rama Rao slammed the Centre's U-turn on the issue.

A rail coach factory is the constitutional right of Telangana. BJP does not have any right to reject or make a U-turn on the promise made in Parliament," the minister said, adding that his

party MPs would fight for it in the upcoming Parliament sessions. The BJP government at the Centre has been taking Telangana for a ride. It has exhibited its anti-Telangana stance by failing to fulfill its promise to set up a railway coach factory," he said.

He vehemently criticised the response given by the Railway Minister, who, responding to a RTI petition, said that there was no need for a rail coach factory in Telangana.

Rama Rao said that the Union Government, which had already canceled the ITIR project and curbed IT development in Hyderabad, had made it clear that there

was no need for the rail coach factory.

The minister demanded that the Centre should immediately change its decision and come clear on the coach factory in Kazipet. He recalled that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had personally appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this issue.

He said that the state government was making efforts to realise this dream.

As part of this, they had already procured space for the railway coach factory. He said that 150 acres of land had been specially acquired and handed over to the Railways for

setting up the coach factory.

Rama Rao said that despite repeated consultations on projects pertaining to Telangana, nothing worthwhile was coming in from the Centre.

There is no response on the State's demands for eight pending railway lines, two new lines, Kazipet wagon factory, Kazipet railway division, and setting up of a railway university.

The minister lamented that there was a big zero for Telangana in the Union budget. He said that even in the latest budget, not a single rupee has been allocated for railway projects in Telangana.

MLC meet



TRS Hyd-RR-Mbnr MLC graduates constituency candidate Surabhi Vani Devi along with home minister Mehmood Ali and minister, T. Srinivas Yadav at a meeting at Jalavihar in Hyderabad on Thursday. —P. SURENDRA

KAVITHA: KURUMA COMMUNITY WAS GIVEN PRIORITY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday said that TRS had given more priority to the Kuruma community and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had implemented the sheep distribution scheme for them.

Kavitha said the CM was implementing welfare programmes for the Golla Kuruma community, which had not been done by any government in the past.

Kavitha was speaking to community leaders from Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts here. She said sheep distribution, which was stopped due to the pandemic, will be restarted soon.

"...and the dead in Christ will rise first."

1 Thessalonians 4:16

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



EDWARD P.Y.S. VINAYASAGAR
D.O.B: 06-06-1938 DOD: 05-03-2020
Unwavering grit and astute morality made you untouchable. Peerless skill and drive for excellence made you irreplaceable. Your departure leaves us with an incomparable void. Cherishing sweet memories we bide time and tide. Till we meet again...
Inserted by: Wife, Children & Grand Children.
(S/2021/D01306)

UTHAVANA



Shri. Anil Kumar Agarwal
S/o Late Ram Kumar Agarwal
Friday 5th March, 2021
Time 12.00 - 01:00 PM
Venue:
Khaja Mansion, Road No. 1, Banjara Hills
In Grief:
Smt. Vinodini Agarwal (Wife)
Rakesh - Anila Agarwal (Brother - Sister in Law)
Ajay - Vibha Agarwal (Brother - Sister in Law)
Nitesh - Anita Gupta (Son - Daughter in Law)
Ambuj Agarwal (Son)
Vaishali - Shishir Agarwal (Daughter - Son in law)
Ankur, Piyush, Manan (Nephews)
Sandhya, Krishna, Arjun, Charuvi (Grand children)
Hyderabad Traders & SKG Refractories
Expired on 3rd March 2021

51st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



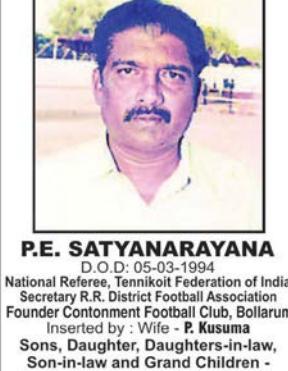
Late Shri THODUPUNURI SAMBIAH GOUD GARU
Expired on 5th March, 1970
In our Hearts Forever
Vidya Lakshman Goud
Kadambari Ashok Goud
T. Shivkumar Goud - Parvathi
T. Anjaiah Goud - Arpitha
Sudha Krishna Goud
& Thodupunuri Family

SHRADHANJALI



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Meon Organics - Shamshabd

SHRADHANJALI

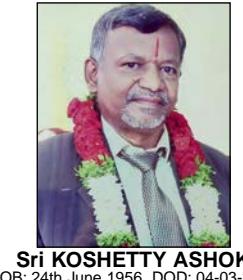


P.E. SATYANARAYANA
D.O.B: 05-03-1994
National Referee, Tennikoll Federation of India
Secretary, District Football Association
Founder, Continent Football Club, Bolarum
Inserted by: Wife - P. Kusuma



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 24 June 1956 DOD: 04-03-2021
Your sweet memories are forever in our hearts...
Inserted by: Ganga Vijay Kumar, Kusuma & Sons, G. Rakesh, G. Nagaraju & Daughters: N. Manjula & B. Laxmi & Grand Children Ph. No. 9849668526

OBITUARY



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
You are always in our hearts!
- Mr. & Mrs. Shiva - Parvathi Goud And All Family Members



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 05-03-1970 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Meon Natural & Healthy Products

REMEMBRANCE



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Varasilia Estates - Shamshabd

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Late PAMELA TULLY
W/o Late Gregory Tully
DOB: 29-07-1954 DOD: 05-03-2020
Miss You Mummys!!!
From: Leonard, Amber, Gregory Keau & Tamara
Cell: 8978553581, 7032736855,
7396393887
(S/2021/D01301)

1st ANNIVERSARY



CANJEEVARAM ARUNAKALAM MUDILAR
DOB: 17-09-1921 DOD: 12-02-2020
Your life is an inspiration to all of us. Your memories will always be in our hearts.
Inserted by: Great Grand Children, Grand Sons & Daughters-in-Law, Grand Daughters, Grand Sons & Rao Saheb Families.

51st ANNIVERSARY



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Venkateswara Filling Stations Kusalguda

REMEMBRANCE



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Tripura Vijay Constructions Sec'bad

23rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



M. BHEESHA DEV (Ex.M.P.)
S/o. M. Sarvaiah
Date of Death : 05-03-1998
From: M. Gayatri Devi (Wife) & Sons
Phone: 9246520669

10th ANNIVERSARY



B. DEBORAH ELIAS
I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one believes in me will live, even though they die. John 14:27.
Inserted by: Husband: B. Elias
Sons: Mintu & Rinku,
Father: V.A. Levi, Sisters & Brothers

IN LOVING MEMORY



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Sai Pushpa Restaurant & Bar Boiguda, Tadi Society

U.S. | AWARD

Tamilisai to accept honour through virtual mode

Gov. global woman of excellence

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

THE AWARD will be presented during the 9th Congressional International Women's Day Gala at Naperville, Illinois, on March 7.

parity and women's equality and your outstanding contribution to the society."

The award jury appreciated the efforts of Dr Soundararajan in making a difference to society through her efforts in fighting for the women's rights and gender-equality

and empowerment.

The award will be presented during the 9th Congressional International Women's Day Gala at Naperville, Illinois, on March 7.

Dr Soundararajan, who is currently holding additional charge as Lt. Governor of Puducherry, will accept the honour through a virtual mode from Puducherry.

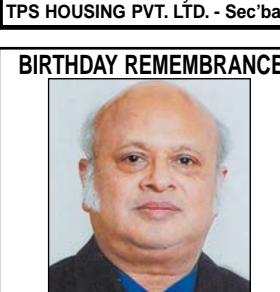
Among the 19 other awardees of this year's awards included US Vice-President Kamala Harris. The other 18 awardees are from different countries across the globe. The

awardees were selected from a host of nominations all over the world.

The annual Congressional International Women's Day celebrations are aimed at celebrating the social, economic, political, and cultural achievements of women.

Dr Soundararajan has been in public service for the past four decades. She started fighting for the women rights and gender equality since her medical college days. Women empowerment, besides the tribal welfare, health and education, is her subject of special interest.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



FREDERICK D'SOUZA
We miss you
By: Evelyn
Brother: Mario, Synora & Family
Children: John & Victoria
Melisa & Leonard Marilyn
Grand Children: Mikyle Frederick, Rafael & Rudolph

REMEMBRANCE



Late Shri T. SAMBIAH GOUD'S 51st ANNIVERSARY
DOB: 1928 DOD: 05-03-1970
Inserted by: Uma Maheswara Talkies Srisailam

(S/2021/D01303)

SHORT TAKES

STATE PERMITS
MEET FOR REDDY
COMMUNITYDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

The state government on Thursday informed the Telangana High Court that the police had given permission to some associations belonging to the Reddy community to hold their meeting at Pet Basheerbad of Medchal district on March 7.

In a petition, the Reddy Sanghala Ikya Vedika complained of a delay in the police sanctioning permission and sought the court's intervention. Government pleader for the home department informed the court that permission had been accorded.

COPS RECOVER 58
LOST, MISPLACED
MOBILE PHONESDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

The crime team of the Amberpet police recovered 58 mobile phones that were lost or misplaced at various places. The value of the phones was placed at ₹9.5 lakh. Among the 58 complainants who had lost their cell phones, 10 came forward to claim property on Thursday in the presence of city police commissioner Anjanu Kumar. The remaining phones would be handed over to the Amberpet police station for their owners to claim them. Under the supervision of Amberpet inspector B. Mohan Kumar, the team was led by additional inspector D. Bikshapathi and G. Shivanandam, deputy sub-inspector.

GOVT CHILDREN'S
HOME GOES OUT
OF REACHANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, MARCH 4

The Government Children's Home for Boys located in Autonagar in Warangal has been shifted to Mahbubabad district after three inmates escaped. It had been pointed out that the children's home was located in the same building as the juvenile home linked to the Warangal Central Prison.

As a result, the department for women, children shifted the inmates of the children's home to Hyderabad and recently took a decision to place them temporarily in the government children's home in Mahbubabad until a permanent building is constructed for the juvenile home.

The government observation home building meant for children in conflict with the law is in a dilapidated condition. The government children's home was temporarily shifted out five years ago. Since then, both sets of children have been sharing the building.

Citing information that only 212 public prosecutors (PPs) were appointed to the 570 criminal courts in the state, the court asked how speedy justice was possible. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayeswari expressed surprise that six months were "not enough" for the government to complete the process of appointment of PPs. Prasad had held elaborate discussions with the home secretary and other officials, due to which the appointments have materialised and efforts are being made to fill up the remaining vacancies," Srikanth Reddy had said.

Reacting to this, Chief Justice Hima Kohli expressed surprise that six months were "not enough" for the government to complete the process of appointment of PPs. The last such order was issued in September 2020 and now the government came before the court and sought more time for making fresh appointments.

"Such undue delay will deprive the needy of justice as public prosecutors are to how prosecution is done and the investigation process taken forward when they are appointed."

The bench also asked the government to make sure that the post of director of prosecutions is filled by the government and a compliance report to that effect is filed before the court by April 1.

The bench said it was not impressed by the submissions made by the government pleader

THE CM said that the compound wall of the temple should look appealing and be dotted with paintings from ancient scriptures.

streets, way to queue, mandapam, exhibition complexes, Brahmotsavam mandapam, queue line facilities, Rajagopuram, construction progress of Shivalayam, Swami Pushkarini, construction of bathing ghats and construction of staircases, among other areas.

The Chief Minister said that the compound wall of the temple should look appealing and be

dotted with paintings from ancient scriptures. He suggested the use of bras. He wanted sculptures at the temple complex depicting Prahlada Charitham and Narasimha Charitham and the queue line complex moved closer to the compound wall. He directed that roads leading to the queue lines should be wide and on a higher elevation.

Rao said that there should not be any obstructions at the main entrance so that devotees can view the abhishekam and other pujas in the sanctum sanctorum even from a distance. He examined the dwaja

stamba, idol of Lord Hanuman and Tanjore paintings displayed there, Andal Alwar temple, and Parakamani.

He said after a darshan of the main deity, darshan of Kshetra Palaka should be done as per the traditional practices.

The Chief Minister inspected the completed office of the executive officer, deities' palanquin and mirror mandapam, and was very impressed with the railing work.

Rao said that if a need arises, officials under the leadership of CM's special secretary Bhupal Reddy should visit the special mall constructed with lights.



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao takes stock of the works at the Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple in Yadadri on Thursday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

KCR hints at Yadadri
temple opening in May

CM says temple renovation works nearing completion

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Thursday hinted at the possibility of reopening the renovated Yadadri temple complex in May.

He said that the renovation works have almost come to an end and steps should be taken to complete them before May so that temple could be inaugurated.

Rao was speaking after inspecting the works at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Yadadri hill for close to six hours.

He went around the main complex, mada

stamba, idol of Lord Hanuman and Tanjore paintings displayed there, Andal Alwar temple, and Parakamani.

He said after a darshan of the main deity, darshan of Kshetra Palaka should be done as per the traditional practices.

The Chief Minister inspected the completed office of the executive officer, deities' palanquin and mirror mandapam, and was very impressed with the railing work.

Rao said that if a need arises, officials under the leadership of CM's special secretary Bhupal Reddy should visit the special mall constructed with lights.

HC pulls up state for
delay in PPs postings

Says, govt responsible for delay in justice

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

for home department, Srikanth Reddy, on the appointment of PPs. He had informed the court that the government has taken the initiative in appointing 212 public prosecutors against 414 vacancies.

"Advocate General B.S. Prasad had held elaborate discussions with the home secretary and other officials, due to which the appointments have materialised and efforts are being made to fill up the remaining vacancies," Srikanth Reddy had said.

Reacting to this, Chief Justice Hima Kohli expressed surprise that six months were "not enough" for the government to complete the process of appointment of PPs. The last such order was issued in September 2020 and now the government came before the court and sought more time for making fresh appointments.

"Such undue delay will deprive the needy of justice as public prosecutors are to how prosecution is done and the investigation process taken forward when they are appointed."

entire trial of criminal cases depended on the assistance rendered by the PPs to the court. Non-appointment of PPs delays justice. How long will deliberations go on? We want results, not the meetings," CJ made it clear.

Not satisfied with the contention of the government pleader that only 212 public prosecutors (PPs) were appointed to the 570 criminal courts in the state, the court asked how speedy justice was possible. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayeswari expressed surprise that six months were "not enough" for the government to complete the process of appointment of PPs. The last such order was issued in September 2020 and now the government came before the court and sought more time for making fresh appointments.

The court directed the government to provide the infrastructure like laptop and proper training to public prosecutors as to how prosecution is done and the investigation process taken forward when they are appointed.

Coming to know about that a students tested positive, health officials rushed to the schools and conducted a temporary health camp and tested all the students and school staff. The results were yet to be announced.

Elsewhere, officials of the education department closed the government school in Ailapur village of Jagtial district when a Class 9 student, the head master and a teacher tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday.

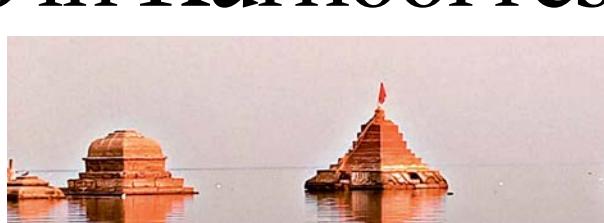
One of the teachers working in a government school told Deccan Chronicle that the management of the schools were following Covid-19 guidelines, allowing 20 students in a classroom, sanitising the rooms, insisting that students wear face masks and maintain physical distancing.

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNool, MARCH 4

The Sangameswara temple at the confluence of seven rivers in Kurnool district is becoming visible as the water in the Krishna river and Sriram Sagar dam recedes.

The temple remains under water for about 222 days every year when the Krishna river is in full flow. Devotees can enter the temple and offer prayers to the Shivalinga only for about four months in a year.

Temple priest Telakapalli Raghunatha Sarma said



Sangameswara temple at the confluence of seven rivers in Kurnool district.

that water needs to recede by another eight feet before people can enter the temple. "I am hopeful we can enter the temple in the 10 days. The sludge will have to be cleaned up," he said.

Right now, only the gopuram of the temple is visible. The temple began getting submerged after the construction of the Sriram Sagar dam in 1980. It was not relocated like many other temples in the area. It remained hidden under water for more than 20 years and resurfaced in 2003.

The temple priest said that the Linga, made of neem wood, was installed by the Pandavas after they visited the Sriram Sagar Mallikarjuna temple. The Shivalinga is said to have been brought from Kashi and consecrated at the confluence of the Krishna and Tungabhadra and other five tributaries. The idol was named Sangameswaram after the Sangama or confluence of rivers.

Study: Over half
of city residents
are asymptomaticKANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Around 54 per cent of people living in the GHMC limits have developed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, and a majority of them are asymptomatic carriers.

Nearly 9,000 samples were collected in the first two weeks of January in 30 wards of the GHMC before the launch of the vaccine to estimate the prevalence of antibodies.

With another lockdown not affordable for people and the economy, scientists urge that the levels of antibodies are showing a positive trend in fighting the pandemic, which has to be scaled further.

Nearly 9,000 samples were collected in the first two weeks of January in 30 wards of the GHMC before the launch of the vaccine to estimate the prevalence of antibodies.

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GHMC REMOVES
HIMMATPURA
ENCROACHMENTDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

GHMC officials removed an encroachment at Himmatpura following the intervention of Charminar MLA Mumtaz Ahmed Khan. The civic body had acquired the land for widening of toad on the Shalibanda-Chandul Baradari stretch. However, some landowners tried to grab the acquired land even after receiving the compensation amount.

About 165 properties on the stretch were fully or partially razed to widen the stretch to 80 feet. The demolition had started in 2018 and almost all properties that were affected had been acquired except for two or three.

With another lockdown not affordable for people and the economy, scientists urge that the levels of antibodies are showing a positive trend in fighting the pandemic, which has to be scaled further.

Dr. Laxmaiah, a scientist at National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), points out "We carried out surveys for antibodies in 2020 and it started with 0.3 per cent and was scaled to 25 per cent. This is the first city in the country whose antibody levels have been sampled and studied. If we continue in this manner we will be close to achieving herd immunity for Hyderabad."

Households with Covid-19 positive cases were also sampled and it was found that they had the maximum antibodies at 78 per cent. Testing of samples was also carried out in sewage treatment plants. It showed that virus presence had declined.

Meanwhile, the MLA instructed officials to start laying CC road to check further encroachments.

THE DEMOLITION had started in 2018 and almost all properties that were affected had been acquired except for two or three.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum No. 01 to
Open Tender NIT No. 13/2020-21
Open Tender invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Incharge of Ambala Cantt. for & on behalf of the President of India against NIT No. SW-Sub/JMBR/E-Tender/NIT-13/2020-21 (Open Tender), i.e., OT-34/2020-21 & OT-35/2020-21 which were scheduled

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

PREMIUM COMMERCIAL Property with Tenant for Sale in Banjara Hills, Road No.7, Built-up area 3200sq.ft., with 2car parkings. Brokers Excluded. Contact: +919550242255/+919668998973. (HYMM/2021/C07678)

FOR SALE Commercial, Chikkadapla Main Road, Ground Floor Multi-Lift, Staircase Small Room, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor Terrace Rights, Total 3000Sft, 5Toilets. Recently Renovated. Next To New Metro Station. Opposite: Allahabad Bank, Ideal for Clinics/Offices/Hostels. 2Cores. Brokers Welcome. Call: 8464922937/ 7799333442. WhatsApp Only Ph:9948350002 (HYMM/2021/C07698)

STANDALONE COMMERCIAL Building for Sale @ Hitechcity, Madhapur, Plot Size: 8050sq.Ft, Bulidup area: 24000sq.Feet, Stilt Parking +5 Floors +Terrace, Possession in 1month, Suitable for Offices, Colleges, Etc., Expecting Reasonable Price, &Excellent option for investment &Future Returns, Cost to Cost giving, Call for More Details @Mobile Nos.9000004874/ 933108669. (HYMM/2021/C07676)

COMMERCIAL SPACE: hot property in Nanakramguda (financial district) waverock Rd total 15frs min 500sqft- 12000sqft each floor, High returns hurryup @7995675552, 7989520977 (HYMM/2021/C07699)

3000 SFT Prime Office space on 2nd floor with Car parking & Running 3D, Animation Educational Business for sale, Call: 8142711110. (L/2021/C00014)

FOUR STORED building plinth area 9000sqft 3 sides road 220 sqyds. Commercial use for sale - Srinagar colony Reddipediguda Hyderabad Contact: 9848014329 - 9.00am to 6.30pm (W/2021/A01183)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

TWO 2BHK Flats E/f on the 5th Floor G-Community in Rajendranagar @Pillar-295, with all amenities area 1007& 1000sqft. Ph:9347514124, 9986365067. (HYMM/2021/C07679)

THREE & MORE

BANJARAHILLS- ROAD No.3, 3BHK, 1775sqft, Semi furnished, 2Cars Parkings, Servant Room, BRS Cleared @Aroa Colony, Ph:9819311494/ 9885028296. (HYMM/2021/C07697)

EAST MARREDAPALLY Luxurious 4 BHK Flat 2100 sqft recently renovated, fully furnished with parking at prime location. Genuine buyers. Contact: 939806188. (S/2021/C02537)

3BHk SEMI Furnished 1436sqft apartment with one car park for sale besides SD Eye Hospital, Mehdipatnam, Call: 9347514124, 9986365067. (HYMM/2021/C07680)

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

QUIET, PEACEFUL, green & pollution free location on edge of Yaprall Secunderabad, 3 BHk flats in gated community. Just Rs.4.149/- per sqft. Call now 9502155544. (S/2021/C02519)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

THREE & MORE

INDEPENDENT DUPLEX House, G+2, 6 bedroom, 200 sq.yds, 4000 sqft @ CIEFL Colony, East Anandbagh, Malakajiri. Brokers Excuse: Ph:9849034668/ 9880730577. (S/2021/C02530)

PREMIUM VILLAS in Gated community for Sale at Mokila @ 1.70 crs (Special Offer available). Contact: 735358358 (HYMM/2021/C07395)

3 BHK, 2 Bathrooms, 200 Sq.yds for Sale, Survey of India, Uppal, near Little Flower College and Uppal Metro Station. Only Cash parties. Contact: 9963784150 (S/2021/C00197)

LAND

ORGANIC FARM Land @Rs.2499/- Per Sq.yd With 1Life Time Free Membership To Common Farm House 2)Two years Free Maintenance Of Organic Fruit Plantation 3)Free Organic Agriculture Education To Students. Ph:6309713666, 6309714666 (HYMM/2021/C07486)

2ACRES LAND for sale @7krs from Shankarpally highway, plot with commercial specifications Contact @8074397504, 8187807045. Only serious buyers (HYMM/2021/C07659)

PLOTS

OPEN PLOTS for sale (size 1675sq.yards 2nos @283sq.yards, 2no's 3side road corner plots east facing &west facing) total 900sqft situated at appon court, Chhatnay village, Shadnagar Municipality, Faroognagar Mandal Ranga Reddy district HMDA Hyd approved layout no brokers contact: 9912514937 (HYMM/2021/C07696)

JUBILEEHILLS NORTH 1250 Yards, Kavurills N/E. Corner 1100 Yards, Mezzanine showroom 5400 Sft, JubileeHills 45.000 sft commercial building. Genuine buyers only contact: S.V.B.Raju: 9840371373. (A/2021/C00294)

ORR KEESARA town ready to construction HMDA plots for sale with all developments very close to MRO, MDO Offices call:7989139369 (HYMM/2021/C0294)

PLOT FOR sale, 5581sq.yards with 350' frontage in kopalpet. It is suitable for hi rise commercial & residential purpose!! 902286494, 9000025199. (HYMM/2021/C07673)

KOMPALLY HUDA approved Plots 500 to 1000 Yards. 1 Acre to 2 Acres, near Cine Planet, Mokila Gated Community Villas 270 Yards, 3400 sqft. Genuine buyers only Contact: S.V.B.Raju: 98480371373. (A/2021/C00615)

MAHINDRA ESTATE'S, Dtp Layout, 1600sqyds, Commercial Plot For Sale Rs.7500, At Maheshwaram, (Gangaram). Ph:930672991, 9848872991. (HYMM/2021/C07686)

MANIKONDA ALKAPOORTI town ship 36sqysd South/West corner with Bore open plot for sale Ph:9177844918/ 9878826226 (HYMM/2021/C07688)

MEHDIPATNAM E/F Open Plot 36x60' Size: 240sq.yds, Maruthi Nagar, Near PVNR Express Flyover Pillar No-86, Per sq.yd @ 8500/- Fixed Clear Title. Broker Excuse: 9848015799/ 8125325678. (HYCL/2021/C03145)

JUST 17KMS from Nagole 'X'roads, HMDS approved plots with all Developments, 100'ft road facing, ORR Surroundings and Adibata prime location, bank loan, spot register. Ph:9888566507 (HYMM/2021/C07413)

45 SQ.YDS. East facing Plot for sale with approved Cantonment building sanction plan, near Asha Officers colony, Ramakrishna Puram, Contact: 9346831044. (L/2021/C00041)

PRE LAUNCHING @Polapeley Sez @499/- p.s.yd Close to Bangalore Highway Shadnagar, 120Acres, DTCP Gated Community Club House, Contact: 7799671015. (HYMM/2021/C0289)

WARANGAL HIGHWAY facing DTCP Plots for sale ready to construction @ Aleru bypass road call: 9676681444 (HYMM/2021/C0296)

WARANGAL HIGHWAY facing @ Raigar opp Vivera Hotel YTDA approved Commerical Plots for sale with all developments Rs.50000/- sq.yard call:9912101388 (HYMM/2021/C0293)

YADADRI 7MARCH DTCP 6699/- psqd Free launching Offer 5999/- Only, 60, 40, 33 Feet Roads & With 9 Years Mango Trees. 9959711500 (HYMM/2021/C07677)

YADAGIRIGUTTA TEMPLE Dattapalle 100 feet road facing LRS approved Plots for Sale will all developments call: 9676529111 (HYMM/2021/C0297)

YADAGIRIGUTTA RAIGIR -Koonor 4 track road facing Plots for Sale @ Vanamali Township, Call: 8008280279 (HYMM/2021/C0298)

TEMPLE CITY Yadagirigutta YTDA approved plots for sale near Dattapalle Basavapur reservoir Cell: 9676529111 (HYMM/2021/C0295)

REAL ESTATE Graduates minimum 3-5 years work experience in Tally and MS Office. Age below 35 years. Contact: No.8886666510/ 8886666505. Between 10am to 6pm (S/2021/C02483)

TAX ASSISTANT (Lady) required for a firm of Chartered Accountants, B.Com Graduates with knowledge of Computers, Tally Software & Previous experience may apply to Sanjay Muttha & Co., 905, Babukhan Estate, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad. (B/2021/C01095)

ADVT. SALES & MKTG. Managers For Mobile & Computer accessories across Hyderabad &Secunderabad. Attractive salary +Fuel +incentives. Contact: 6385122167. (HYMM/2021/C0292)

PAYING GUEST Graduates minimum 3-5 years work experience in Tally and MS Office. Age below 35 years. Contact: No.8886666510/ 8886666505. Between 10am to 6pm (S/2021/C02483)

ENGINEERS 2Nos B.E/ B tech Civil Engineer 10year experience. Interview on 07/03/2021: 11:00 am to 2.00pm at Sri Balaji Complex, Gachi Bawali, beside Pakwaan Hotel, Hyderabad, cell. 900515568/ 7013270302 (HYMM/2021/C07667)

RENTALS 11000 sqft independent building 11,000 sqft 140 seating capacity Banjara Hills Sagar Society, contact: 9000092222 (HYMM/2021/C07641)

COMMERCIAL Space for rent at alkapur road beside KGN Building with Office space +2lbour rooms. Call: 8309331420. (HYMM/2021/C07685)

75SQFT SPACE for office/ godown situated in first floor on Balkampet Road, opp JSPL Honda, 7-1/215/4 & 15. Contact: 9849018054. (HYMM/2021/C07690)

PLUG AND play independent building 11,000 sqft 140 seating capacity Banjara Hills Sagar Society, contact: 9000092222 (HYMM/2021/C07641)

BANJARAHILLS ROAD :12 building 1st & 2nd (Each floor 2500sqft) office space for lease with 4car parking &Ashoknagar Ground floor 900sqft shops &Himayathnagar (each floor 2000sqft) 4 floors 3000sqft car parking. Contact ph:9246254544 (HYMM/2021/C07544)

LECTURERS experienced Zoology Faculty for a reputed NEET Academy @ Mehdipatnam, Contact: 8374287245 (W/2021/A01221)

MULTIPLE VACANCIES Female Recipentians, Male/ Female marketing executives, Graphic designer and Vedio Editor, office at Attapur Ring Road, W/A: 9177570510 (HYMM/2021/C07651)

WANTED CUSTOMER service executives(F)Relationship Manager (MF) for a reputed Company With Good Skill and Communication Cont: 8500877025/ 8500876870, (HYMM/2021/C07644)

COMMERCIAL SPACE available for rental Penthouse, 4th floor, 1000 sqft, A.N.Complex, 10 Hyderbasthi, Secunderabad. Ph:9840012924, 6300235628. (S/2021/C02517)

STAR HOMEOPATHY, Corporate Clinic Requires, Call Center Executives No-20, Telecallers, No-20 for Telugu &Kannada Process. And Digital Marketing No-5, Age upto 35rs. Walk-in Interviews Daily at Secunderabad Corporate Office. Timings: 10am-04pm. Call: 760821188. Send Resume to: gmoperations.starhomeopathy@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C03142)

REQUIRED ASSISTANT Creative Designer for Mirrors Luxury Salons at Madhapur, Hyderabad. Skills Required: Adobe (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro), Full Time Job, A Person Who Can Work in Collaboration with the Digital Team and Create Content to Run Online Marketing Campaigns. Mail your Resume to mirrorsluxurysalons@gmail.comPh: 040-40111718, 40211718. (HYMM/2021/C07692)

AN ISO-9001 Company Manufacture of Railway Components looking for following posts. 1)Sr.Accountant 2 posts, experience in GST and IT Returns 2)MIG Welder 2 posts, experience in Stainless Steel. 3)Office Assistant 2 Post. 3 to 5 years experience for above posts. M/s Vishal Gas Services, 208, Kabra Complex, MG Road, Secunderabad-500003. (S/2021/C02460)

KONDAPUR NEAR Hitec well ventilated, spacious 2 BHK flat in good condition with good facilities at prime location. Rent 20k. Ph:8790387265, 8520957026. (B/2021/C01105)

THREE & MORE town ready to construction HMDA plots for sale with all developments very close to MRO, MDO Offices call:7989139369 (HYMM/2021/C0294)

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BEGUMPET: 3BHK, 1650sqft at Mayuri Marg, Near HPS & Gitanjali Schools is for Rent. Ph:9849091342. (HYCL/2021/C03087)

MEHDIPATNAM, BEHIND ST.Ans college, 3 Bedroom Flat available for rent for Bachelor or students. Contact: 7993380624. (HYCL/2021/C03137)

MACHA BOLLARAM luxurious 3 BHK, 3 flats, 2100 sqft each newly constructed, with parking looking for company guest house, training institutes, international school, nursing school or individual tenants. Contact: 9394806188. (S/2021/C02536)

INDUSTRIAL SHEDS 36x60' Size: 240sq.yds, Maruthi Nagar, Near PVNR Express Flyover Pillar No-86, Per sq.yd @ 8500/- Fixed Clear Title. Broker Excuse: 9848015799/ 8125325678. (HYCL/2021/C03145)

ADMIN OFFICER with good oral and written communication skills, Store Executive, Tender Executive, IT/Elec diploma holders for Lighting Manufacturing company in

SHORT TAKES

SINHA'S APPOINTMENT CHALLENGED

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

The NGO Common Cause on Thursday moved the Supreme Court challenging the appointment of Praveen Sinha, a Gujarat cadre IPS officer, as an interim Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Sinha is already working in the investigating agency as Additional Director – a number two position in the organizational hierarchy.

The office of the CBI Director fell vacant upon the retirement of Rishi Kumar Shukla on February 2.

Seeking an urgent direction to the Centre to complete the process of selection of a regular CBI Director, the NGO Common Cause has contended that the appointment of interim Director was contrary to the provision of bypassing the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act under which the CBI functions.

The NGO has challenged the government's February 3 decision to appoint Praveen Sinha as interim Director till the appointment of a new Director or until further orders.

In its petition, the NGO says that the unwillingness of the government to institute a transparent and accountable system impairs the right of the people since the CBI is currently probing cases involving rampant corruption in high places in the country.

BOMB SCARE AT TAJ MAHAL; CALLER DETAINED

New Delhi/Agra, Mar 4: The Taj Mahal complex in Agra was vacated on Thursday morning following a hoax bomb call, police said.

The caller, identified as Vimal Kumar Singh, has been detained for questioning in Firozabad, Additional Director General (ADG) of Police, Agra zone, A Satish Ganesh said.

Singh called the 112 emergency response number of the Uttar Pradesh police at around 9 am and claimed that a bomb was kept inside the monument that is conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and protected by armed personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

The police immediately informed the CISF personnel, who asked the visitors to vacate the premises of the iconic 17th-century monument and launched anti-sabotage checks around 9:15 am.

Nothing suspicious was found during the checks at the monument, a CISF officer said in Delhi.

An initial probe revealed that Singh is a resident of Patiyali in Kasganj and was presently staying in his maternal grandmother's house in Okhra village in the Narkhi area of Firozabad, the ADG said. "Prima facie it seems that he (Singh) is mentally unstable and is probably under treatment. We are probing why he made such a call. The Taj Mahal was reopened for visitors after about an hour and 45 minutes," he added.

VIRTUAL SUMMIT WITH SWEDEN TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a virtual summit with his Swedish counterpart Stefan Lofven on Friday during which the two leaders "will hold comprehensive discussions on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and global issues including further strengthening of cooperation in the post-Covid era".

Around 250 Swedish companies are "actively operating in India in various sectors such as defence, health and life sciences, auto industry, clean technology, heavy machinery and equipment".

In a statement, the MEA said, "This will be the fifth interaction between the two leaders since 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had visited Stockholm in April 2018 for the First India Nordic Summit. (Swedish) Prime Minister Stefan Lofven had visited India in February 2016 for the special Make in India week. Earlier, the two leaders had met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2015. In April 2020, the two Prime Ministers had a telephonic conversation to discuss the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic."



Metroman E. Sreedharan visits Palarivattom Bridge in Kochi on Thursday.

DMK signs deal with VCK, waits for Congress

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 4

The VCK agreed to contest in six seats, four in the reserved category and two general constituencies, in the April 6 elections to the State Assembly on Thursday even as the DMK was waiting for the rest of its allies, particularly the Congress, to return to the negotiating table and sign pacts in the next two or three days.

After signing the poll agreement with DMK President MK Stalin, VCK general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan said their priority was to thwart the BJP's plan to capture the State and hence they did not want to haggle over the number of seats.

In a letter to the Election Commission, State President L Murugan and V Balachandran, who is state in-charge for election liaison committee, also demanded the filing of an FIR under Section 124 A of the IPC.

They alleged that Rahul Gandhi was inciting and abetting the youth for another freedom struggle and that it was done with an intent to cause hatred, contempt and excite dissatisfaction towards the government established by law.

It is in the same spirit, other allies – the Congress, CPM, CPI and MDMK – would agree for the seats offered to them, sources in the DMK said. However, the mood in the other party offices was different.

While Congress sources said that talks with the DMK were deadlocked as the final offer they had been given was 20 seats against their demand of 35 but hoped that everything would be solved amicably in a day or two.

AICC's Tamil Nadu in-charge Dinesh Gunda Rao, who is in Chennai to handle the negotiations for seats, had a meeting with the TNCC functionaries and the general perception was that the party should not accept the low offer.

While the cadres, in general, felt the need for an alliance with the DMK was intact, at the local level the party was demanding more than the eight seats it had been offered. The CPM's State executive meeting, scheduled for March 6, would take a final call on the alliance, sources said.

The TNCC is also holding its extended executive meeting on Friday when the seat-sharing imbroglio may again figure and the leaders may be able to take a final decision on it.

TN BJP SEEKS BAN ON RAHUL'S CAMPAIGN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 4

The State BJP has urged the Election Commission to restrain Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from campaigning in the State as he has reportedly compared the situation in the country to that which prevailed under imperial rule before independence.

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Metroman Sreedharan made BJP CM face for Kerala polls

Syro Malabar Church mouthpiece snubs BJP, asks tough questions

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MAR. 4

The state unit of BJP on Thursday announced that Metroman E. Sreedharan would be the party's chief ministerial face in the forthcoming assembly elections in the state to be held on April 6.

BJP state president Mr K Surendran made the announcement while addressing a public meeting in Pathanamthitta district on Thursday in connection with his Vijay Yatra.

"If given a chance, under Metroman, Kerala will see a development culture like never before," he said.

He said that a sizable section of people in Kerala want a personality like E Sreedharan to become the chief minister of the state.

Church mouthpiece snubs BJP: In another development, the BJP which was trying to woo the Christian community in Kerala received a snub from Syro Malabar Church.

The mouthpiece of the Church, *Sathy Deepam*, unleashed a scathing attack on the BJP government at the Centre for the hike in LPG Petrol prices.

In an article, the Church said questions need to be asked to the BJP on various issues. It took a dig at the BJP's "Vijay Yatra". Are they celebrating the 100 scored by petrol prices or ₹225 increased in LPG prices during the last three months?

The Church mouthpiece sought to know as to why Stan Swami was in the jail and why justice was being delayed to Kandhamal victims.

The BJP leaders including state president K Surendran, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Ashwath Narayan had called on Syro Malabar Church archbishop Mar George Alanchery in Kochi recently to seek his support for the party.

Though the flyover was to be completed within 16

months, Sreedharan got the work finished within six months. The Palarivattom flyover had triggered a major political storm in Kerala last year with a former PWD minister and Muslim League leader being arrested in connection with the corruption in construction of flyover. It is alleged that low quality material was used for the construction which led to major defects.

"Yes the flyover is ready for being handed over to the state government in a day or two. It is for the government to reopen it for traffic," Sreedharan said after inspecting the flyover.

Earlier, even the metro man had very clearly expressed his desire to lead the state if given a chance as a chief minister.

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DECCAN Chronicle

5 MARCH 2021

Dissent not sedition: SC sends govt clear signal

In a ringing endorsement of a universal democratic view that voicing anti-government views is not sedition, the Supreme Court shot down a so-called public interest litigation by a couple of individuals against Farooq Abdullah, the senior Kashmiri leader and former chief minister of J&K. Regardless of whether the litigation was inspired or not by the forces that be, the truth is freedom of speech in a democracy is being challenged every day. There is a clear pattern to be seen behind offence being taken at every turn at any view expressed that runs contrary to the rigid opinions of the majoritarians who are quite willing to be at odds with India's tradition of tolerance and pluralism.

The criminalising of dissent is the clearest sign of an authoritarian government. There was a stinging lesson for the authorities in the Disha Ravi case when a learned judge, quoting the Rig Veda, said — "Let noble thoughts come to me from all directions" — to uphold the right of the activist to internationalise the farmers' stir issue. The cause of action was described as intent "to wage economic, social, culture and regional war against India".

There is little reason to suspect that the income tax raids on certain Bollywood personalities this week were not inspired by people in power who are trying to throttle celebrities expressing views not in consonance with the inflexible opinion of the leaders of the majoritarians

How conveniently the political is covered into an issue for patriotism is revealing of how any deviation from the State's view on an issue as humongous as the farmers' agitation involving a very sizeable section of the population was viewed as that of a heretic who had to be punished.

There is little reason to suspect that the income tax raids on certain Bollywood personalities this week were not inspired by people in power who are trying to throttle celebrities expressing views that are not in consonance with the inflexible opinion of the leaders of the majoritarians. Glib explanations of there being a logical cause for action against tax avoidance do not cut ice. The action, in fact, is suggestive of intimidating tactics against dissent that has been occurring in a pattern of retribution in keeping with a larger modulus operandi of making criminals of dis-

senters through persecution using official India machinery like I-T, ED and the police to register FIRs and foist cases.

Events are all too suggestive of a democracy in decay. Our worst fears were confirmed when India was downgraded to "partly free" for the first time since 1997 in the annual ranking of democracies by the US-government funded research group Freedom House, which cited worsening civil rights under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As the world's largest democracy, in which a variety of opinions including dissenting ones must coexist in diverse people who are thought of as conscience keepers of the nation, India can ill afford to drop the safeguards against making criminals out of dissenters.

Mercifully, the courts have not shied away from not only enlarging those accused of high crimes like sedition by using arcane laws out of the British colonial era but rapping the State agencies in presenting instruments of oppression as legitimate criminal and civil charges. Everyone holding an opinion different from the views of official India or the central ruling party is not an inducer of violence or intent on waging a war against the State. It is a blessing that courts are alive to the rule of law and is dismissive of "rule by law" as a wise judge put it while granting bail in one case.

Damp squib Sasikala

For all those who were expecting political fireworks in Tamil Nadu when V.K. Sasikala, the erstwhile confidante of late J. Jayalalithaa, drove down to Chennai on February 8, it was a damp squib when she suddenly called it quits on Wednesday night. There was speculation that she would make a political impact. She, too, was trying to live up to that image by making statements, addressing cadre and even celebrating Jayalalithaa's birth anniversary with pomp and fanfare.

So, coming like a bolt from the blue, her decision triggered a whole range of conjectures since people saw in it a conjuncture of two political events. One, the BJP desperately trying to force the AIADMK to patch up with Ms Sasikala, and AIADMK leaders digging in their heels refusing to let her or her nephew T.T.V. Dinakaran into their fold. Since the BJP's intelligence was that Ms Sasikala and Mr Dinakaran could take away some votes that would otherwise come to its coalition, it first put pressure on AIADMK and then on Ms Sasikala, asking her to scoot. Why this supposition found more takers in the state was because the people know Ms Sasikala as a power-hungry, diabolic operator who would not easily let go any opportunity to rule.

Also, when it is known that she cannot stand for election for another six years, what was the need to announce that she was leaving the turf? Besides, since her landing in Chennai, she had not made any significant breakthrough politically, other than having a few guests like actor Seeman, actor Sarathkumar and his wife Radhika and film director Bharathiraja. So, why should she say that she will pray and not play politics? Because the powers that be want her to not even be seen in the reckoning. It's a different matter that Bharathiraja spotted in her a "brave Tamil woman" not ashamed of going to jail and facing party cadre with fortitude.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

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K. SUDHAKAR
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that except for Devesh Uttam who is posted in the country, the remaining seven IFS officers are posted abroad.

It is a known fact that India's foreign service is woefully understaffed, with most Indian missions abroad having too few diplomats. This could be a small step towards addressing this grievance.

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) has been quite keen to add more joint secretaries to the diplomatic pool to staff new embassies and consulates being set up in various countries. Now, after some wait, headway has been made in this direction with the government planning to empanel eight IFS officers of the 2003 batch as joint secretaries.

According to sources, the cadre controlling authority of the IFS was ready with its list in December last year but was asked to wait since the government was about to empanel 41 IAS officers from the 2003 batch. The department of personnel and training (DoPT) reportedly informed MEA that there should be a gap of one month in the empanelment process between the IAS and IFS. It is further learnt

that, except for Devesh Uttam who is posted in the country, the remaining seven IFS officers are posted abroad.

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SREEDHARAN PADS UP FOR ANOTHER INNINGS

The BJP wants to be a serious contender in Kerala and is hoping that "Metro Man" E. Sreedharan's induction in the party will help it make inroads in the impending Assembly elections. Will the gamble pay off?

Mr Sreedharan has enjoyed a full innings in his illustrious career,

immense credibility with the *aam aadmi* as an honest and efficient

technocrat as well as respect among politicians across party lines, and picked up a Padma Shri, Padma Vibhushan and a host of other national and international honours.

Why would the man who shot to fame with the Delhi Metro project and who advised the Kerala government on Metro projects in the state and who is also involved in the other Metro projects in Jaipur and Lucknow want a stab at politics (and chief ministership, no less!) at the ripe age of 88 years?

Clearly, he enjoys wearing many hats. And a politician's *topi* would be the crowning glory of his career if he can manage the challenge of transforming from technocrat into a neta. His future progress will be watched closely by not just politicians but also bureaucrats who may be nurturing similar

ambitions themselves.

MP CHIEF MINISTER FINDS HIS MOJO

The usually affable and soft-spoken Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is a different man in his fourth term, according to the babus in the state. By some accounts, he seems to have set the proverbial cat among the pigeons! Mr Chouhan, it appears, is attempting an image makeover. The soft-spoken veneer has been replaced by a hard-nosed leader in "full action" mode.

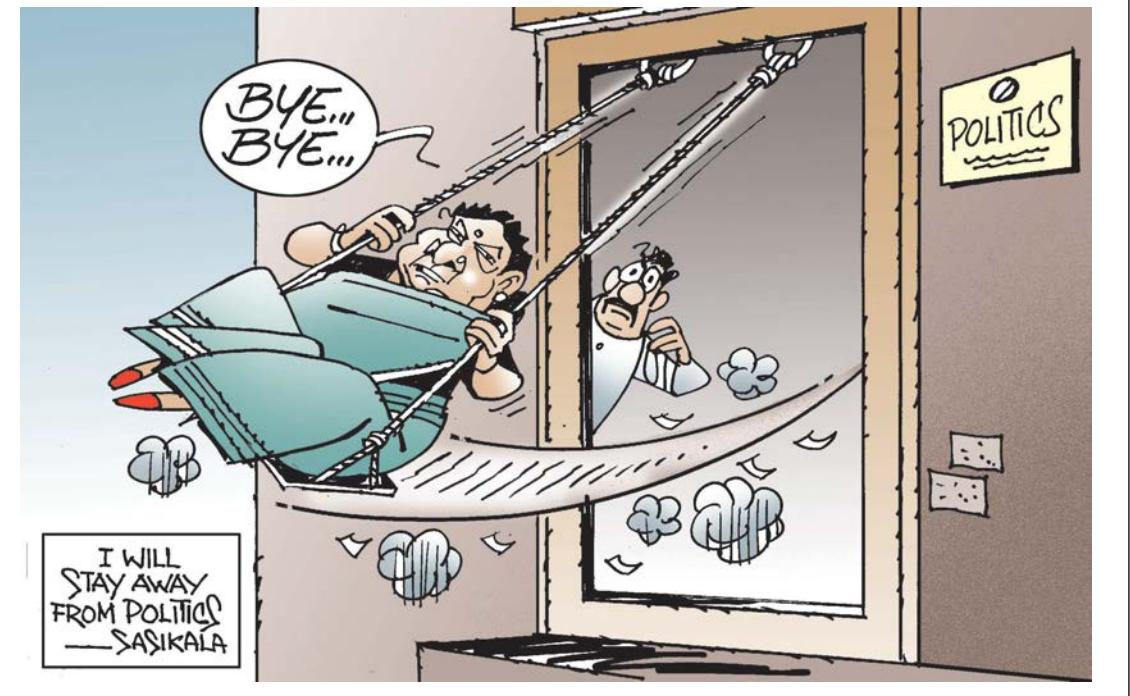
The result of this transformation has been directed at the babus who, sources say, have begun to dread the CM's new-found penchant to order the transfer of officers, sometimes during a meeting itself. According to sources, Mr Chouhan has unceremoniously transferred

more than six district magistrates and SPs so far and seems to be in an unrelenting mood. One IPS officer, Vahini Singh, the SP of Niwari district, was transferred during a meeting by Mr Chouhan, who also told the gathered officials in as many words that he was keeping a close tab on them. Other officers transferred in this period are the SP of Guna Rajesh Singh, and the DMs of Neemuch and Betul, J.S. Raje and Rakesh Singh.

Those in the know say that the chief minister is using the monthly meetings with state officials to scare them into submission through these tactics. Mr Chouhan means business is the unmistakable message and it seems to be hitting its mark quite effectively!

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's

Subhani



The tragedy of Suu Kyi: Almost Shakespearean



Karan Thapar

As I See It

Shakespeare's tragedies have heroes, but they are not heroic. As the plays unfold you witness their crumbling. In fact, they destroy themselves because the flaw is embedded deep in their character. It's an inevitable and irresistible process. It's an outcome that cannot be prevented. That's why it's tragic.

I think that could also be true of Aung San Suu Kyi. I've known her since I was five. At the time, her mother was the Burmese ambassador in India, and Suu, as I have always called her, was an undergraduate at New Delhi's Lady Shri Ram College. Our parents became friends and Suu and my sister Kiran would often drive together to college.

Even as a teenager, Suu was drawn to politics. She sensed her future would ultimately lie in ruling Burma (the name she prefers for Myanmar) and didn't hide it even if she only spoke jocularly. A pencil-drawn portrait that she made of my sister Kiran, dated October 11, 1962, has inscribed at the bottom: "Kirin Thapar may be allowed entry into Burma at any time". Suu was only 17 at the time.

Years later her husband Michael told me at Oxford that when they married — and Suu was 27 at the time — she forewarned him that if Burma calls it would always be her priority.

In fact, he sensed when she returned home in 1988 it was unlikely that she would come back. She didn't. They lived separately till he died. She was also cut off from her two young sons. Of the next 21 years, she spent 15 either in jail or under house arrest.

No doubt this hurt, and she suffered, but politics and the determination to come to power in Burma was more than a mission. It was a calling. It

defined Suu. Perhaps it was also her way of fulfilling her father's dream, which was cruelly aborted when he was assassinated months before Burma's independence.

When I last interviewed her, in September 2015, just before the election that brought her to power, the Rohingya issue was already a challenge she knew she would have to face if she won. At the time she was unable or unwilling to express concern and sympathy. I questioned her silence. Her explanation was that this was the only way of ensuring she would be seen as impartial by both sides.

Silence would give her the opportunity and credibility to act impartially when she came to power. Her aim was to reconcile, and condemnation would get in the way. It would fan the flames, not douse them. I had no reason to doubt her. It was also already clear she would never be President and internal security would lie with the Army, which had successfully thwarted her claim to the top job. Criticising them could endanger the limited power that she hoped to exercise. She had to tread carefully and speak cautiously. She had to compromise to survive. All of that was understandable.

Was her silence on the Rohingya before elections impartial, as she had claimed, or seeking favour with the Burmese majority? Today I feel it was her instinctive response to an unforeseen hurdle that could have obstructed the fulfilment of her ambition

Rohingyas as a demeaning compromise. Her earlier reputation for valiant sacrifice was forgotten. That placed her on a high pedestal. This threw her down.

At home it was very different. Reverently called "The Lady" and "Mother Suu", the majority she won in the 2020 elections was even greater than the landslide five years ago. And after the military threw out her government and put her under arrest, the admiration her people have for her seems to know no limits. But, alas, it's also likely to ensure that the generals do not change their mind and restore her to power.

So, like Shakespeare's tragic heroes, she may well ask if the price she paid for achieving her ambition was worth it? If it turns out to be only five years in power, with no credible possibility of restoration, did she compromise her principles and her international reputation for an office that was so easily snatched away and for authority that was never complete, often checked and so easily revoked?

Shakespeare's tragic heroes face similar dilemmas. But rarely do they live to address or answer them. With their denouement there is also usually death. Suu, however, is alive to face hers, even if in incarceration. She will have all the time she needs to reflect, and it won't be easy.

In that interview in 2015 she described herself as "a pragmatic leader". At the time, the adjective conveyed a sense of careful balance. Today it suggests a cover for unbecoming compromise. When I asked if she was ready for the challenge of ruling Burma, she answered: "It's a daunting challenge... I hope it brings out the best in me". Sadly, it did not. But as Shakespeare might add, that was inevitable. Suu would not be Suu if it could have been otherwise.

The reaction happened internationally, not at home. The world viewed her attitude to the

reaction on the Rohingya issue before the elections, as she had claimed, or seeking favour with the Burmese majority whose support she would need? Was it pragmatism or opportunism? Initially I thought it was both. Today I feel it was her instinctive response to an unforeseen hurdle that could have obstructed the fulfilment of her ambition to rule Burma. Just as separation from her husband and children and a decade and a half in detention did not deter her, nor would this.

This raised a disturbing question — was her silence on the Rohingya issue before the elections impartial, as she had claimed, or seeking favour with the Burmese majority? Today I feel it was her instinctive response to an unforeseen hurdle that could have obstructed the fulfilment of her ambition to rule Burma. Just as separation from her husband and children and a decade and a half in detention did not deter her, nor would this. The reaction happened internationally, not at home. The world viewed her attitude to the

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The writer is a television commentator and anchor

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Stalls that stall your puff

HYDERABAD, March. 4 Whether we have budget or not it is the annual feature to experience shortage of essentials and then as we stampede for them we could somehow acquire them at a heavy price.

As was won't, cigarettes were the first that went underground a trend known as "common man's cigarette", has suddenly become a scarce commodity. As was put out by the manufacturers there seemed to be low production of these cigarettes for want of certain materials. But why these cigarettes should be made available at stalls at 45 paise instead of the fixed rate of 33 paise nobody understands.

If the slave for the Dame Nicotine tries to bargain he knows he would have to suffer from starvation of his blissful smoke. While man suffers from this, his mate at home is not spared.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's



Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

Diplomatic pool to get eight new joint secys soon

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) has been quite keen to add more joint secretaries to the diplomatic pool to staff new embassies and consulates being set up in various countries. Now, after some wait, headway has been made in this direction with the government planning to empanel eight IFS officers of the 2003 batch as joint secretaries.

According to sources, the cadre controlling authority of the IFS was ready with its list in December last year but was asked to wait since the government was about to wait for the empanelment of 41 IAS officers from the 2003 batch. This could be a small step towards addressing this grievance.

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The BJP wants to be a serious contender in Kerala and is hoping that "Metro Man" E. Sreedharan's induction in the party will help it make inroads in the impending Assembly elections. Will the gamble

IN BRIEF
POLICE SUBMIT REPORT IN KANGANA CASE

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

Mumbai Police on Thursday submitted their report on inquiry against actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister before a magistrate court.

The police are investigating allegations of posting hateful messages on social media. After receiving the police report on Thursday, the magistrate heard arguments from the parties and posted the matter for passing order on April 5.

The magistrate in October last had ordered police to conduct an inquiry into the private complaint filed by advocate Ali Kashif Khan Deshmukh who alleged that Ranaut's sister Rangoli Chandel had posted an objectionable message on Twitter in April last year, targeting a particular community, following which her Twitter account was suspended.

According to the complaint, later Ranaut posted a video in support of her sister.

'555' AIRLIFTED FOR NEHRU, SAYS MP MANTRI

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
Bhopal, Mar 4

A packet of '555' was flown by state plane from Bhopal to Indore to ensure that former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru enjoyed a few puffs of his favourite cigarette brand after his meals.

The anecdote, recorded in the archives of Raj Bhavan here, throws light on the sophisticated lifestyle of the first prime minister of the country. MP higher education minister Viswas Sarang said on Thursday.

"We had only heard about Nehru's dresses used to be sent to France for dry cleaning. But, the reference to air-lifting of a cigarette packet by state plane for Nehru in the Raj Bhavan archive is a revelation on his extravagant lifestyle," Mr Sarang said.

The official website of Raj Bhavan mentions how the state plane was sent to Indore to get his favorite pack of cigarettes when H. Vinayak Pataskar was the governor of Madhya Pradesh. Mr Pataskar had served as governor of Madhya Pradesh from June 14, 1957 to February 10, 1965.

"On a visit of Jawaharlal Nehru to Bhopal, the Raj Bhavan staff realized that the favourite cigarette brand of Nehruji '555' was not available at Raj Bhavan. Nehru used to have a cigarette after his meals. The staff immediately sent a plane to Indore for air-lifting the cigarette pack that was kept ready at Indore airport", the anecdote mentioned in the Raj Bhavan website reads.

"This is a reflection of the autocratic mindset of Nehru", Mr Sarang said.

Congress has slammed Mr Sarang for trying to portray the first prime minister of the country poorly by making reference to an anecdote 'which is not trustworthy'. "The source of the anecdote is not mentioned in the website which raises questions on its authenticity. Besides, the anecdote did not mention that Nehru had ordered the state plane to be sent to get cigarettes", Congress spokesman here Bhupendra Gupta said.

DIPLOMATIC POWER

After one month, daily Covid cases cross 17,000

After Oct. 18, Maha records highest daily new cases at 9,855

DC CORRESPONDENTS with agencies input
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka continue to report a surge in the Covid-19 daily new cases and they cumulatively account for 85.51 per cent of the new cases reported in the past 24 hours.

The daily new cases of India were recorded above 17,000 after over a month.

On Thursday, 17,407 new infections were reported in a day with 89 daily new fatalities.

The active caseload has increased to 1,73,413 which comprises 1.55 per cent of the total infections, as per Union Health Ministry data.

At the same time, the total number of cases with UK, South Africa and Brazil variants of the Covid virus in India has now reached 224.

Maharashtra has reported the highest daily new cases at 9,855. This is the highest number recorded in Maharashtra since October 18 when 10,259 new cases were reported.

It is followed by Kerala with 2,765 while Punjab reported 772 new cases.

On the other hand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Assam have shown a reduction in the active cases in the last 24 hours.

As many as 23 States/UTs have not reported any Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, a study from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has identified multiple mutations and unique proteins in isolates of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

The study, published in the *Journal of Proteome Research*, has also shown that the host produces several proteins of their own as their body launches an immunological defence in response to the



A medic administers the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in New Delhi on Thursday. - PTI

Elderly facing difficulty in getting vaccinated

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAR. 4

and time. Since the vaccination of over 3.5 lakh government staff which has been deputed for election duty has to be completed by March 6, there is additional burden on the hospitals.

In this round, the health authorities have also taken up the task of vaccinating health workers who could not register earlier besides the frontline workers waiting for the second dose. With the number of people awaiting vaccination increasing, there is additional burden on the portal and since the elderly and people with chronic ailments have to register along with them, they are the

worst affected.

The health authorities said that steps are being taken to sort out the problem. More vaccination centres would be opened in the government and private hospital soon as per the direction of the central government.

Meanwhile, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said that the Covid cases in the state had dropped significantly.

Over the last one week, the number of cases have come down by 13 per cent. On Thursday, Kerala recorded 2,616 new cases of Covid while 4,156 people recovered from the infection.

Meanwhile, Home Ministry has once again reiterated to all States and Union Territories

that it was willing to provide "all possible assistance and help" to ensure a smooth rollout of Phase-II of Corona vacci-

nation which started on March 1 in the country. The Ministry on Thursday asked the States that they can seek

viral attack.

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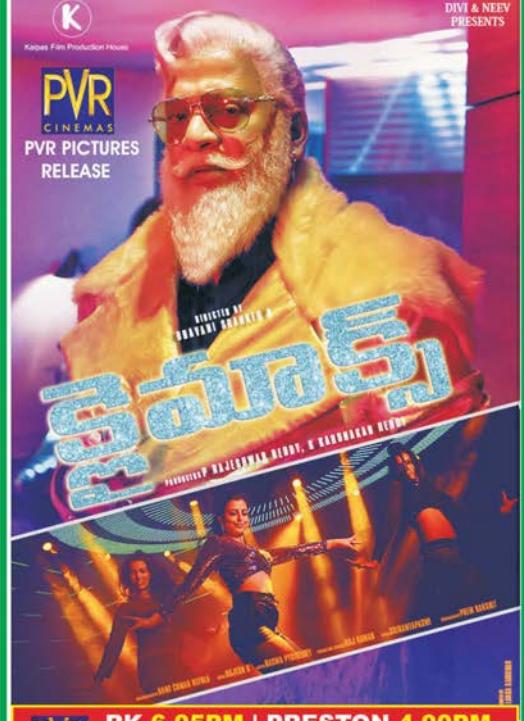
reiterated to all States and

Union Territories

SHORT TAKES
ARMY HELICOPTER CRASH IN TURKEY KILLS NINE

Ankara, March 4: A military helicopter crashed in eastern Turkey on Thursday, killing nine soldiers on board and injuring four others, the Defence Ministry said. The helicopter crashed in the town of Tatvan, in the Kurdish-populated Bitlis province. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash. The Cougar type helicopter was on its way to Tatvan from the nearby province of Bingol.

GRAND RELEASING TODAY



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PVR CINEMAS
PVR PICTURES RELEASE

RK-6.05PM | PRESTON-4.00PM
IRRUMMANZIL-4.30PM
CENTRAL-2.30, 10.25PM
ICON-4.00PM | GALLERIA-12, 10, 7.50PM
MUSARAMBAGH-1.45, 7.00PM
INORBIT-12.00, 5.15PM
FORUM MALL-11.30, 5.50PM

GSM-10.40PM | MP-4.45PM
GVK-1.55PM

MJR SQUARE 4.40PM | NOMA TALKIES 10.30PM

Cinépolis SUDHA-2.30PM | CCP-2.45PM
MANTRA-2.30PM

MIRAJ CINEMAS DILSHUKNAGAR-10.30PM
CHANDANAGAR-3.30PM
BALANAGAR-10.35PM

PVR PICTURES RELEASE-9963883444

SAPNA35MM-ABIDS
6.00, 9.15PM

KRISHNA70MM-ALIYABAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

VENKATESWARA GUMMADIDHALA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
11.30, 6.15PM

OAMB 11.05, 1.55, 7.35, 10.40PM

INRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI 9.15PM(ONE SHOW)



RADHIKA-10.50, 1.40, 7.40PM
GPR-1.30, 4.45PM
CINESQUARE-4.00, 10.10PM
MCUBE-1.45, 7.05PM

INOX GVK-10.35, 4.10PM
MP-11.30, 6.25PM
GSM-12.20, 3.35, 6.45, 10.00PM

Cinépolis CCP-10.20, 4.00, 10.10PM
MANTRA-10.40, 1.50, 7.20, 10.35PM
DSL-12.40, 4.00, 7.10PM | SUDHA-1.15, 7.05PM

PRASAD'S RADHIKA-1.55, 7.20PM
2.15, 7.15PM SEC BAD

FORUM-4.25, 7.45, 10.55PM
INORBIT-10.55, 4.30, 7.10PM
CENTRAL-10.25, 1.15, 4.30PM
RK-11.55, 4.30PM | PRESTON-4.00PM
HITECH-4.05, 10.15PM
L&T-10.00, 2.05, 4.10, 10.20PM
IRRUMMANZIL-2.55, 10.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-1.10, 3.25, 7.30PM

CHANDANAGAR-3.15PM
DILSHUKNAGAR-10.30, 4.15PM
BALANAGAR-10.25, 4.40PM

KOMPALLY 1.25, 10.00PM
NARAPALLY 4.30PM
AMERPET 1.15, 7.15PM
MALLAPUR 10.00, 1.10, 4.30PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

Imran lashes out at Opposition

Islamabad, March 4: Under mounting pressure to resign, Pakistan PM Imran Khan on Thursday lashed out at the grand Opposition alliance for "making a mockery of democracy" and said that he will never let the corrupt off the hook. Khan made the remarks during an address to the nation ahead of seeking a vote of confidence in a bid to restore the legitimacy of his government in the wake of the defeat of finance minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh in hotly-contested Senate elections on Wednesday.

Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) candidate and

former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani defeated Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Shaikh, giving a major blow to Prime Minister Khan who had personally campaigned for his Cabinet colleague. The PDM is an 11-party alliance set up in September last year to topple the government of Khan which it alleged came after rigging of elections in 2018. "I will take a vote of confidence the day after tomorrow (Saturday). I will ask my members to show if they have confidence in me. If they say they have no confidence, I will sit on Opposition benches," the 68-year-old cric-

keter-turned politician said.

"If I am out of the government, I will go to the people and bring them out to continue my struggle for the country. I will not let these traitors (who plundered the country) sit in peace. I call them traitors because they are looters," Khan said. Khan's party has 157 members in the 342-member National Assembly. Opposition PML-N and PPP have 84 and 54 members, respectively. Khan said that the problems in Pakistan can be understood through the kind of election that happened. The country's leadership comes from within the

members of parliament "and here you have people becoming Senators after bribing others," he said.

"The one who becomes a senator and wants to become one uses money and who do they buy? Members of Parliament... What joke is happening with our democracy? What kind of democracy is this?" a visibly upset Khan said. Khan recalled that in the 2018 Senate elections, his party's 20 lawmakers had sold their votes after accepting money.

"We expelled them but then I saw that it wasn't just me saying this, but the two main

BANGLA GOVT TO DECIDE ON WAIVING ZIA'S SENTENCES

Dhaka, March 4: Bangladesh will decide on relaxing the bail conditions and waiving the 17-year sentence of former prime minister Khaleda Zia due to her failing health after discussion with the Law Ministry, media reports quoted the country's home minister as saying.

The government in March, 2020 released the 74-year-old leader for six months on condition that she would stay at home amid the Coronavirus outbreak in the country, receive treatment and not travel abroad. Her release was later extended by another six months last September.

The Bangladeshi Nationalist Party (BNP) chief is serving a 17-year prison term in two graft cases since February 8, 2018. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on Wednesday said that the decision of releasing BNP chairperson Zia by suspending her sentence would be taken after discussions with the Law Ministry, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

— PTI

ISLET RESIDENTS PROTEST PLAN TO BURY MUSLIM COVID VICTIMS

Colombo, March 4: Residents of a remote islet, dominated by the Tamil community, in north eastern Sri Lanka are protesting against the government's decision to bury the Muslim Covid-19 victims there.

The government on Tuesday said that the Covid-19 fatalities from the Muslim minority community would be transported at government cost to be buried at the Mannarivu island in the Mannar region.

Residents of the island, which is dominated by the country's Tamil minority, protested on Wednesday against the government's decision. They claim that their island would be destroyed if the Covid-19 victims are buried there.

They said that it takes nearly 90 minutes by boat from the mainland to reach Iranathivu and when the sea is rough in unfavourable weather, the travel becomes impossible. Therefore, it is not practicable to transport a virus infected body safely by boat and cross 20 kms distance in the sea, they said.

— PTI

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD ALABAMA GIRL HELPS FUND OWN BRAIN SURGERY

Homewood (Alabama), March 4: Liza Scott, 7, started a lemonade stand at her mom's bakery last summer so she could buy some frills like toys and sequined high-heel shoes. The bouncy little girl is still in business months later, yet the money is going toward something entirely different: Surgery on her brain.

Last month, doctors determined a series of seizures that Liza began suffering were caused by cerebral malformations that needed repair, said her mother, Elizabeth Scott. Always eager to help out and with an eye toward entrepreneurship after childhood spent around a small business, the little girl volunteered to help raise money for her upcoming operation. Located near the cash register of Savage's Bakery in suburban Birmingham, her stand of bright pink and yellow wooden crates offers lemonade for a quarter, plus other treats. But people are putting in a lot more as word spreads of her medical condition. "I've got a \$20 bill, a \$50 bill and a \$10 bill and a \$5 bill and a \$100 bill," Liza said.

— AP

5TH Sukumar's
5 WEEK

SUDARSHAN35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

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

VISWANATH70-KUKATPALLY
11.45, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45PM

SRISAIRAM70-MALKAJGIRI
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

RANGA 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SRILAXMI 70MM
12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00PM

SUSHMA70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

TALLURI CINEMA
2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

PRASAD'S-12.00, 2.45, 8.15, 11.00PM

OAMB AMB-10.30, 1.30, 4.25, 7.45, 10.20PM

ASIAN CINEMAS RADHIKA-1.20, 7.20PM
GPR-10.10PM
MCUBE-4.20, 10.35PM
CINESQUARE-1.25, 7.15, 10.30PM

PLATINUM 10.30, 11.40, 4.15, 5.00, 8.00, 10.00PM

FORUM-11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA-10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON-12.55, 9.40PM | **RK**-11.00PM

CENTRAL-10.05, 1.30, 10.35PM

INORBIT-10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL-4.20, 7.20, 10.00PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

1.35, 7.25PM
4.10, 10.00PM
GVK-1.15, 7.30PM
MP-10.05, 2.55, 7.15, 9.50PM
GSM-12.30, 1.35, 3.50, 7.10, 10.30

LAXMILA-KOOSAPET
2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

CCPL-10.30, 4.30, 7.05, 10.35PM

MANTRA-10.50, 2.10, 4.35, 7.50, 10.50

SUDHA-10.10, 4.25, 10.40PM

DSL-11.40, 3.10, 6.20, 10.20PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI-10.45PM
BALANAGAR-10.45PM

RELEASING TODAY

FORUM MALL-KUKATPALLY
11.25, 2.30PM

BIG CINEMAS GPR Mall | Radhika Mall
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga
Cinesquare-Uppal

AMB CINEMAS-Kukatpally

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

INOX GVK MALL/GSM
MP MALL

CCPL/DSL MANTRA | SUDHA

MULTIPLEX VYANTHARU

GAM 3D

PRASAD'S 3D

PLATINUM 3D

ALANKAR70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

AMBAA70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

BR HITECH70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SAIRANGA70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SUPER70MM
2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

JYOTHI C.PURAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SAMPOORNA70MM
2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SV CINESQUARE
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SENSATION SUNSHIN
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TALLURI COMPLEX
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

RAMAKRISHNA35MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ANJALI70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SIVARANJANI70
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREEPREMA70
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

GANESH SHAMSHABAD-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM

GRAND RELEASING TODAY

SUNDEEP KISHAN AI
DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS
DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
AMB CINEMAS
PRASAD MULTIPLEX
ASIAN CINEMAS RADHIKA-2.00, 7.20PM
GPR-10.45, 4.25, 7.20, 10.15PM
RADHIKA-1.30, 7.30, 10.30PM
MCUBE-10.40, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM
CINESQUARE-10.40, 1.35, 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-12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15, 10.15PM
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

GVK-10.50, 1.20, 4.00, 7.30, 10.50PM
MP-10.50, 1.00, 4.00, 7.15, 10.30PM
GSM-11.30, 1.00, 2.50, 4.20, 6.10, 9.30, 11.00PM

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

2.00, 9.00PM
11.15, 2.00, 7.45, 10.45PM
10.40, 1.30, 4.25, 7.25, 10.20PM

ALANKAR70MM
VYJAYANTHI70MM
AMBAA70MM
SREERAMANA COMPLEX
VJETHA70MM
SAIRANGA70MM
SUPER70MM
RAJYALAXMI70MM
SIVASAKTHI70MM
GOKUL70MM
RAJYALAXMI70MM
LAXMIKALAMANDIR
ASIAN MUKUND
BHUJANGA70
VENKATASAII70
JYOTHI DA BOLLARAM
GANESH SHAMSHABAD-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM

TARAKARAMA 70MM
Daily 2 Shows : 11.15am & 6.00pm

VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATHI
Daily : 2.00pm

SENSATION INSOMNIA
Daily : 9.00pm

PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 6.00pm

AMB CINEMAS - 4.35pm

TIVOLI CINEMAS - 4.30pm

FORUM - 2.25, 11.00pm | **ICON** - 9.15pm

GALLERIA - 11.30, 7.30pm | **RK** - 2.45pm

CENTRAL - 10.45am | **INORBIT** - 7.35pm

MOOSARAMBAGH - 7.45pm | **IRRUM MANZIL** - 4.30pm | **I**

MJR - 10.20pm | **I M CUBE** - 4.35pm

CINESQUARE - 10.50pm | **I**

GVK - 7.30pm | **GSM** - 3.40pm

MP MALL - 4.25pm

SUDHA - 1.45pm | **MANTRA** - 4.35pm

CCPL - 4.35pm

Balangar - 4.45 | **Chandanagar** - 4.45

S2 CINEMAS - 4.45pm

GRAND RELEASING TODAY

SRINIVAS & SALLA KUMAR YADAV PRESENTS
SRI NEERUGANDHA MOVIES COLLEGE OF ENTERTAINMENTS

SANDHYA35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
9.00PM|FROM 6th:11.00, 2.00PM

TARAKARAMA70-KACHIGUDA
2.00, 9.00PM(

AMB CINEMAS
WELCOME TO AMB'S GOLD CLASS MOVIE EXPERIENCE!

GOLDEN AMBIANCE
GOLDEN STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND HYGIENE
GOLDEN RULES FOR SANITIZATION AND SOCIAL DISTANCING
HIGHLY SAFE FOOD SERVED

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

A1 EXPRESS TELUGU 2D (U) 10:50 AM, 1:35 PM, 4:15 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:25 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:20 PM	UPPENA TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:25 PM, 7:45 PM, 10:20 PM
SHADI MUBARAK TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:50 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:45 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:25 PM	PLAY BACK A GIRL FROM 1993 CALLS A GUY IN 2019. SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
NAANDHI TELUGU 2D (U/A) 11:05 AM, 1:55 PM, 7:35 PM, 10:40 PM	CHECK TELUGU 2D (U/A) 10:30 AM, 1:50 PM, 7:25 PM, 10:00 PM
POWER PLAY 11:10 AM, TELUGU 2D (U/A) 7:25 PM	RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON ENGLISH 3D (U) 1:30 PM, 7:00 PM
CHAOS WALKING ENGLISH 2D (U/A) 11:30 AM, 4:55 PM, 10:20 PM	JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH ENGLISH 2D (A) 4:35 PM, 10:20 PM

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INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON CROSS TIME CONNECTION
RELEASING TODAY

INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON CROSS TIME CONNECTION

A GIRL FROM 1993 CALLS A GUY IN 2019.
SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

PLAY BACK

"SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"
RELEASING TODAY

RP PICTURES RELEASE AVANTHIKA PRODUCTIONS "SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"

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

PVR INORBIT-4.50PM | R.K. 12.05PM
PRESTON PRIME-1.00, 6.00PM
CENTRAL-7.25PM | **GALLERIA-7.15PM**

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

CCPL(MALKAJGIRI)-10.30PM
SUDHA-10.30PM

CINESQUARE 4.20PM
10.15AM | **10.25PM**

MIRAJ CINEMAS SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00PM
BALANAGAR-1.45PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

"SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"
RELEASING TODAY

RP PICTURES RELEASE AVANTHIKA PRODUCTIONS "SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"

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 | **R.K-10.45PM**
Preston prime-9.00PM
Moosarambagh-3.45, 9.00PM
Irrmmanzi-1.15, 6.30PM

PRASAD'S 9.00, 3.00PM
MALLAPUR 10.30, 7.30PM

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

CCPL-10.20PM | **DSL-10.00PM**
MANTRA-10.40PM | **SUDHA-10.20PM**

MIRAJ CINEMAS SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00, 7.45PM
BALANAGAR-2.00, 7.45PM
CHANDANAGAR-6.45PM

KOMPALLY 4.20PM
MULTIPLEX 4.50PM
ASIAN CINEMAS 4.20PM
PVR PICTURES RELEASE 9963883444

GRAND RELEASE TODAY

SUNDEEP KISHAN IN A1

VENKATADRI
people media
FACTORY

ABHISHEK AGARWAL ARTS

DENNIS JEEVAN KANUKOLAMU & HIPHOP TAMIZHA
MUSICAL
CREATIVE HEAD ASWIN RAAM
PRODUCERS T.G.VISHWA PRASAD, ABHISHEK AGARWAL
DATA PANDEM, SUNDEEP KISHAN
CO-PRODUCER VIVEK KUCHIBHUTLA
CINEMATOGRAPHY KAVIN RAJ, EDITING CHINNU RAJ
COSTUME DESIGNERS MAYANK SINGHARAJA, DIVYA VIJAY,
GIVA CHEERY, SEETARAM, P.R. YASHI SHEKAR
INEX

SK 25 U

C
I
N
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TIVOLI
catch the stars

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

A1 EXPRESS TELUGU U/A 148 MIN 11:00 AM, 1:50 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:30 PM, 10:20 PM
SHAADI MUBARAK TELUGU U/A 136 MIN 11:15 AM, 4:50 PM, 10:30 PM
POWERPLAY TELUGU U/A 117 MIN 11:20 AM, 4:45 PM
UPPENA TELUGU U/A 148 MIN 2:00 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:10 PM
NANDI TELUGU U/A 141 MIN 1:55 PM, 7:20 PM
CHECK TELUGU U/A 148 MIN 1:45 PM, 10:15 PM
DEVNENI TELUGU U/A 122MIN 4:30 PM
ZOMBIE REDDY TELUGU U/A 125 MIN 11:10 AM, 7:15 PM

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TIMINGS SHOWN IN BOX ARE PLAYING AT

EXTREME

bookmyshow

BLOCKBUSTERS 2nd WEEK

35

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

BRAMARAMBA 70MM 11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

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

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE 2.30 & 9.30PM

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

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

SIVAGANGA-11.00, 6.00PM

SHA COMPLEX-11.30, 6.30PM

RADHIKA-4.40, 10.40PM

GPR-11.00, 1.50, 10.35PM

MCUBE-1.25, 7.35PM

CINESQUARE-10.45, 4.40, 10.40PM

NARAPALLY-1.35, 10.10PM

OAMB 10.30, 1.50, 7.25, 10.10PM

BVK 10.35PM

PRASAD'S 5.15PM

CINEPLANET 10.10, 10.10PM

DSL-12.20, 3.00, 9.40PM

SUDHA-1.20, 7.35PM

CCPL-1.30, 4.20, 7.35PM

MANTRA-11.05, 4.35, 7.15PM

INOX 10.05, 7.05PM | **MP-1.30, 10.20PM**

GSM-11.40, 6.20, 9.30PM

1.45, 10.45PM

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

IRRUMMANZIL-1.25, 10.00PM

ICON-4.25, 10.30PM

GALLERIA-1.10, 7.20PM

MUSARAMBAGH-4.45, 10.30PM

INORBIT-1.15, 10.20PM

CENTRAL-4.25, 10.20PM

FORUM-11.25, 5.10, 10.40PM

BALANAGAR-10.45, 1.45, 7.30

GEETHA-12.30, 9.30PM

SHALINI-11.00, 7.30PM

POWER PLAY

SANDHYA70MM
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

SRISAPOOJA 70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREERAMANA COMPLEX-11.00, 6.15PM

PADMAVATHI COMPLEX-KACHIGUDA 9.00PM(ONE SHOW ONLY)

SANTOSHIBPATNAM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SUPER70MM 11.15AM

SRILATHA 70MM 6.15, 9.15PM

SENSATION INSO 9.00PM(ONE SHOW)

SAPNA ABIDS-11.30, 2.30PM

SAMPOORNA 70MM-11.15AM

LAXMI SHAMSHABAD-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE-11.30AM

Cinesquare-1.45, 7.45PM | **MCUBE**-10.50AM, 10.25PM

Sivaganga-2.15PM | **Radhika**-10.55, 4.50

Gpr-11.00, 7.40PM | **Sha**-2.15PM

OAMB AMB CINEMAS-11.10, 7.25PM

MJR Square-10.40, 7.30PM

INOX GVK-10:00, 4:50, 10:40PM
MP MALL-10:30, 4:40, 10:40PM
GSM-1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10, 10:10PM

CCPL-10.30, 4.25, 10.20PM

MANTRA-11.00, 4.30, 10.20PM

DSL-12.10, 6.35, 9.35PM | **SUDHA**-10.30, 4.25, 10.10PM

12.00, 5.00, 10.00PM

10.55, 4.30PM

11.00, 4.45, 10.45PM

PLATINUM 8.40PM

DILSHUKNAGAR-10.45, 7.15

BALANAGAR-10.40, 8.00PM

CHANDANAGAR-12.00, 6.30PM

TIVOLI 11.20, 4.45PM

RK-8.05PM | **PRESTON**-7.50PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.15, 6.05, 8.45PM

CENTRAL-10.50, 4.40, 10.20PM

ICON-1.55, 7.35PM

FORUM-11.00, 1.40, 4.45, 7.30, 10, 10.10PM

INORBIT-11.00, 7.50, 10, 10.30PM

MUSARAMBAGH-2.05, 7.20, 10.00PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

ASIAN CINEMAS its showtime!

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

WEAR MASK STAF SAFE

POWER PLAY

SHADI MUBARAK (U/A) 10.30, 7.30, 10.30PM

NAANDHI (U/A) 1.20, 7.20PM

NAANDHI (U/A) 1.40, 7.40PM

POWERPLAY (U/A) 10.40, 4.45PM

CHECK (U/A) 4.40, 10.40PM

ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY

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

UPPENA (U/A) 10.55, 7.05PM

NAANDHI (U/A) 1.20, 5.45PM

SHADI MUBARAK (U/A) 1.40, 4.45, 7.45PM

POWERPLAY (U/A) 10.55, 7.40PM

CHECK (U/A) 1.30, 10.30PM

ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR (FULLY RENOVATED)

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

NAANDHI (U/A) 1.45, 7.05PM

POWER PLAY (U/A) 10.50AM, 10.25PM

CLIMAX (U/A) 1.50PM | **DEVINENI** (U/A) 4.35PM

CHECK (U/A) 1.25, 7.35PM | **UPPENA** (U/A) 4.20, 10.35PM

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

ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL

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

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

CHECK (U/A) 11.15, 6.15PM

ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR

CHECK (U/A) 11.15, 6.15PM

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

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

ASIAN CINESQUARE (FULLY RENOVATED)

SHADI MUBARAK (U/A) 10.30, 1.10, 7.05, 10.00PM

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

NAANDHI (U/A) 1.40, 7.40PM

POWERPLAY (U/A) 10.40, 4.45PM

CHECK (U/A) 1.45, 4.40, 10.40PM

UPPENA (U/A) 1.25, 7.15PM | **POWERPLAY** (U/A) 1.45, 7.45PM

A(U/A) 1.40PM | **DEVINENI** (U/A) 1.35AM

PLAY BACK (U/A) 4.20PM

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

ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET

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

UPPENA (U/A) 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

NAANDHI (U/A) 11.15, 6.30PM

POWERPLAY (U/A) 11.30AM

CHECK (U/A) 2.15, 6.15PM

ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY

SHADI MUBARAK (U/A) 10.35, 4.40, 10.30PM

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

POWERPLAY (U/A) 10.50, 4.30PM

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

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

NAANDHI (U/A) 1.25, 7.15PM

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

ASIAN MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY

A1 EXPRESS (U/A) 10.50, 1.45, 7.40, 10.35PM

SHADI MUBARAK (U/A) 10.30, 1.15, 7.25, 10.20PM

CLIMAX (U/A) 4.40PM | **DEVINENI** (U/A) 4.20PM

UPPENA (U/A) 4.10, 10.00PM | **DEVINENI** (U/A) 10.20PM

POWERPLAY (U/A) 4.10, 7.30PM

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (3D) 1.55, 7.30PM

PROGRAMMING SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
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RELEASING TODAY

RAJDHANI COMPLEX 11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

MALLIKARJUNA 70MM 11.15am, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30pm

MUKTA A2 RAMAKRISHNA Daily 2 Shows : 11.30am & 6.00pm

INDRA VENKATARAMNA Daily 2 Shows : 11.30am, 6.00pm

SREERAMANA COMPLEX 11.15, 2.15, 9.15

AMBA 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

SENSATION SUNSHINE 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SRIKRISHNA 70MM 1

SHORT TAKES

GUNMEN KILL 7 WORKERS, BOMB KILLS DOC

Kabul, March 4: At least seven Afghan civilians were shot and killed by a group of gunmen in the country's east and a physician died when a bomb attached to her rickshaw exploded on Thursday.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying its fighters had detonated a so-called sticky bomb placed on the vehicle of a woman. They claimed she worked for the Afghan intelligence service in Jalalabad. Gen. Juma Gul Hemat, provincial police chief in Nangarhar, said the attack victims were workers at a plaster factory in the Sorkh Rod district. Police arrested four suspects.

HK COURT KEEPS 47 ACTIVISTS IN CUSTODY

Hong Kong, March 4: A Hong Kong court on Thursday ordered all 47 pro-democracy activists charged under a Beijing-imposed national security law to be kept in custody after the Department of Justice appealed an initial decision to grant bail to 15 of them. Thirty-two of the activists were denied bail outright. The next court hearing is on May 31.

The activists were charged with conspiracy to commit subversion under the security law and detained over their involvement in an unofficial primary election last year that authorities said was a plot to paralyze Hong Kong's government. The charges against the activists were the most sweeping action taken against the city's pro-democracy camp.

INDIAN IN UAE WINS ₹24 CR IN LUCKY DRAW

Dubai, March 4: An Indian man, living in the UAE for the last 15 years, has won a whopping 12 million dirhams (₹24 crore) in a raffle, the latest addition to the long list of lucky winners from India, a media report said on Thursday.

Shivamurthy Krishnappa, who is a mechanical engineer and hails from Shimoga district of Karnataka, has been living in the UAE for the last 15 years. He bought the winning ticket number 202511 on February 17 this year, the Gulf News reported. Krishnappa was excited as he watched the draw live from home. When the host Richard called him on his mobile, Krishnappa said: "I am watching the live draw. Thank you so much. I cannot believe I have won."

TOSSED INTO SEA OFF YEMEN, 20 MIGRANTS DIE

Nairobi, March 4: The International Organisation for Migration says at least 20 migrants are dead after smugglers threw 80 overboard during a voyage from Djibouti in East Africa to Yemen.

A statement says "smugglers started shouting there were too many on board" after the boat with 200 migrants, including children under 18, set off on Wednesday. The IOM says five bodies have been recovered, and survivors are being treated in Djibouti. This has happened before as thousands of migrants continue to try to make their way from the Horn of Africa to Yemen and then on to rich Gulf countries.

The Coronavirus pandemic and the resulting closed borders have slowed but not stopped the flow of migrants.

SHEIKH HASINA'S POLITICAL ADVISER DIES

Dhaka, March 4: HT Imam, the political adviser to Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, died on Thursday at a military hospital here.

Imam, 81, breathed his last at 1.15 am. He was undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka, Awami League Office Secretary General Biplab Barua said in a social media post. Imam, who was the cabinet secretary to the 1971 wartime government, was hospitalised with various age-related problems, *Dhaka Tribune* reported. After the Awami League headed by Hasina formed the government following the 2008 election, Imam was appointed as the public administration affairs adviser to the prime minister. Following the 2014 elections, he was made the political affairs adviser.

Law on H-1B visas in US Congress

Legislation to end allure of cheap foreign labour

China may disrupt 5G network: US

Washington, March 4: Observing that the Biden administration views 5G as a high priority, the US on Wednesday expressed concern about the dangers of installing networks with equipment that can be manipulated, disrupted, or even controlled by China which it alleged has no regard for human rights or privacy.

"The Biden administration views 5G as a high priority, of course. We advocate for a vibrant digital economy that enables all citizens to benefit from the promise of 5G wireless networks. We also know that the stakes for securing these networks

could not be any higher," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said.

He said 5G, of course, is transformative and will touch every aspect of lives, and this is critical for infrastructure sectors: transportation, electrical distribution, healthcare, public health, and many more. "And so that is why we are concerned about the dangers of installing networks with equipment that can be manipulated, disrupted, or even controlled by the People's Republic of China, which as we know, of course, has no regard for human rights or privacy," Price said.

— PTI

tion; or \$110.

The petitioner employer also needs to file with the Secretary of Labour an application stating the employer will not require an H-1B non-immigrant to pay a penalty for ceasing employment with the petitioner employer before the date agreed to by the H-1B non-immigrant and the petitioner employer.

The bill referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labour among other things suspends the F-1 Optional Practical Training programme, which grants all foreign students extendable work permits and exacerbates job market competition among American graduates.

It ends the diversity visa lottery programme, which the lawmakers alleged fails to serve US interests by issuing 50,000 green cards to foreigners from around the world regardless of their qualifications. Given that the Democrats have a majority in the House of Representatives, the bill has little chance to be passed. "My American Jobs First Act will bring much needed reform and oversight to the H-1B visa programme to ensure that US workers are no longer disadvantaged in their own country. To end the allure of cheap foreign labour, the bill will require employers to pay any H-1B workers a minimum amount of \$110,000," Congressman Brooks said.

— PTI

Sweden axe attack: 3 grievously injured

Stockholm, March 4: Hospital officials say three people wounded in an assault by a man using an axe in southern Sweden are in life-threatening condition and police have reduced the overall number of victims to seven.

The suspected assailant, a man in his 20s, was shot, arrested and is being treated in a hospital, police said.

• **THE SUSPECTED** assailant, a man in his 20s, was shot, arrested and is being treated in a hospital.

• **THE MAN'S motive** was not immediately known. Police said the man, who they would not identify in line with Swedish policy, is known to them for petty crimes.

year-old man from Afghanistan.

Sweden's Home Affairs Minister Mikael Damberg told broadcaster SVT on Thursday that the case was being investigated as attempted murder but all aspects would be considered, including whether it was a terror attack.

"It is obvious that you look at whether there are terrorist motives behind it, you have to get to the bottom of it," he said. Regional police chief Malena Grann said police were investigating whether there were any terrorist motives in the case.

The *Expressen* tabloid said the suspect was a 22-

PROTESTERS MARCH AGAIN IN MYANMAR

Nay Pyi Taw, March 4: Demonstrators in Myanmar protesting last month's military coup returned to the streets Thursday, undaunted by the killing of at least 38 people the previous day by security forces.

New protests were held in at least three areas of Yangon, the country's largest city, that have been scenes of violence for the past few days. Police again used force to try to disperse the crowds, according to social media accounts.

Protests also continued in Mandalay, the second-biggest city. A formation of five fighter planes flew over the city on Thursday morning in what appeared to be a threatening show of force. The UN special envoy for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burcin, said 38 people were killed Wednesday, a figure consistent with other reports.

The death toll was the highest since the Feb. 1 takeover, when the military ousted the elected government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 50 civilians, mostly peaceful protesters, are confirmed to have been killed by police and soldiers since then.

— AP

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highest since the Feb. 1 takeover, when the military ousted the elected government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 50 civilians, mostly peaceful protesters, are confirmed to have been killed by police and soldiers since then.

— AP

Farmers demonstrate in France



French farmers stand behind a banner reading "Our job: feed you well. No more denigration and misinformation" as they take part in a demonstration to alert about their financial situation and a large number of suicides in their profession, in Paris, on Thursday.

— AFP

Did Markle bully staff as a royal Palace to investigate

Palace perpetuating falsehoods: Meghan

PRINCE PHILIP HAD SUCCESSFUL HEART PROCEDURE

London, March 4: Buckingham Palace has launched an investigation into allegations that Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, bullied staff during her time as a frontline royal with Prince Harry in Britain. Markle, 39, lived at Kensington Palace for nearly a year after her marriage to Prince Harry, 36, the Duke of Sussex, in May 2018.

The probe comes as *The Times* published a leaked email on Wednesday from a staff member alleging that the former American actress drove two personal assistants out of the household and undermined the confidence of a third member of staff.

"We are clearly very concerned about allegations in the *Times* following claims made by former staff of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex," Buckingham Palace, which is responsible for all Royal Household staff, said in a statement.

"Accordingly, our HR team will look into the circumstances outlined in the article. Members of staff involved at the time, including those who have

left the Household, will be invited to participate to see if lessons can be learned," it said. "The Royal Household has had a Dignity at Work policy in place for a number of years and does not and will not tolerate bullying or harassment in the workplace," it said.

Past and present royal employees are to be invit-

ed to speak in confidence about their experiences of working for the Duchess as part of the investigation. Lawyers for the couple, who stepped back as frontline royals last year, have said they are the victims of a calculated smear campaign based on "misleading and harmful misinformation".

— PTI

London, March 4: Britain's Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, has had a "successful procedure" for a pre-existing heart condition at a London hospital where he was moved earlier this week, Buckingham Palace said on Thursday.

The 99-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth II has now spent 16 nights in hospital first at the private King Edward VII's Hospital and now at St. Bartholomew's Hospital where he was transferred for further tests and observation for a pre-existing heart condition.

"The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday [Wednesday] underwent a successful procedure for a pre-existing heart condition at St. Bartholomew's Hospital," Buckingham Palace said in a statement about Prince Philip.

— AP

Houthi rebels: Missile hits Saudi oil facility in Jiddah

Dubai, March 4: Yemen's Houthi rebels said they struck a Saudi oil facility in the port city of Jiddah on Thursday, the latest in a series of cross-border attacks the group has claimed against the kingdom amid the grinding war in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia's state-owned media did not immediately acknowledge any incident in Jiddah. Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarie, a Houthi military spokesman, tweeted that the rebels fired a new Quds-2 cruise missile at the facility. He posted a satellite image online that matched Aramco's North Jiddah Bulk Plant, where oil products are stored in tanks.

The rebels claimed they

ing to tracking data from website FlightRadar24.com. Since 2015, the Houthi rebels have targeted international airports, along with military installations and critical oil infrastructure, within Saudi Arabia. In recent weeks the group has stepped up its attacks, repeatedly crashing drones and missiles into the kingdom's Patriot missile batteries.

The government agreed to lift a ban on the group, release all their members and supporters in jail and drop all legal cases against them, while the group agreed to give up all violence and resolve any issues through peaceful dialogue. Details of the agreement would be made public at a joint ceremony Friday with PM K.P. Oli and the leader of the rebel group Netra Bikram Chand.

— AP

NEPAL SIGNS PEACE DEAL WITH REBELS

Kathmandu, March 4: Nepal's government signed a peace agreement Thursday with a small communist rebel group widely feared because they were known for violent attacks, extortion and bombings.

The government agreed to lift a ban on the group, release all their members and supporters in jail and drop all legal cases against them, while the group agreed to give up all violence and resolve any issues through peaceful dialogue. Details of the agreement would be made public at a joint ceremony Friday with PM K.P. Oli and the leader of the rebel group Netra Bikram Chand.

— AP

Radu Jude's 'Loony Porn' lays bare a country that has revised its history to legitimise its past

A teacher, a porn clip and the hypocrisy of a nation

FILM FEST

Romanian writer-director Radu Jude's *Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn* opens with a naughty, kinky pornographic scene. Emi (Katica Pascariu), a school teacher, is having sex with her husband and they are recording the proceedings for a bit of extra thrill.

But somehow the sex tape leaks and is soon making the rounds of giddy WhatsApp groups of her students and their parents. Some download it, purportedly as evidence to beat Emi with. The fact

that the sex is consensual, between a husband and wife is irrelevant. There is outrage, and it's mostly about how could a middle-aged, married woman be so raunchy.

Radu Jude's film, which premiered in the main Competition section at the 71st International Film Festival of Berlin, uses this porn clip and the subsequent "trial" of Emi in the school's yard to draw circles around a society's hypocrisy.

ing the Coronavirus pandemic, this segment has visuals of a city all masked up and wary of social interactions. But it's also a city busy consuming, enlarging, eradicating the past. We watch arguments and fights in a supermarket, with owners of big

cars who block the sidewalk as a matter of their right. Each clash is an assertion of the entitlement of the rich and marginalisation of others.

The film's second part is polyphonic and here, through commentary, archival footage, statistics, words, nudes in newspapers, building rising and in ruins, *Loony Porn* tells the story of Romania — about its role in the Holocaust, its attitude to Jews, Romanians, love for dictators, attitude to sex and children. It also tells us that in Romania, 6 out of 10 kids are subject to family violence.

This fact hovers over the film's last segment — the

meeting called by the school principal and parents to interrogate and then vote on Emi's future. It is kicked off by a parent who insists on playing the sex clip for the benefit of all those gathered.

This scene, framed like an inquisition — the "accused" is in the middle, flanked by a judge who will rule based on the mood of the people and the enforcer of morality — is both dark and funny. Though allegations, tangential discussions, innuendos, inappropriate remarks, shrill sanctimony and, finally, the judgment, *Loony Porn* lays bare a nation that has revised its history to legitimise its past and current criminal acts and feels emboldened to air its prejudice, bigotry and misplaced rage. Because many speak in the same tongue, collective hypocrisy gets elevated to a

sanctimonious, narcissistic chorus.

What's striking is how familiar it all feels. This searing portrait of a nation and its people could well be a day in the life of India.

— AP



— AP

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	50,846.08	1.16
Nifty 50	15,080.80	1.08
S&P 500*	3,827.09	0.19
Dollar (\$)	72.83	-0.15
Pound Sterling (\$)	101.45	0.22
Euro (₹)	87.63	0.41
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,372 ▾217	0.48
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	65.79	2.68
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.212	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.481	0.011

* As of 8:30 PM IST

FDI equity flow rises 40% in April-Dec: Govt

Foreign direct investment grew 40 per cent to \$51.47 billion during April-Dec. 2020-21. India has attracted 22 per cent higher FDI inflow (including re-invested earnings) of \$67.54 billion during the first nine months of FY21 against \$55.14 billion in the same period of FY20. "FDI equity inflow grew by 40 per cent in the first nine months of 2020-21 (\$51.47 billion) compared to the year ago period (\$36.77 billion)," the govt said.

Arcelor Nippon inks pact for ₹50K cr plant



ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) inked an MoU with the Odisha government for setting up a 12 mtpa integrated steel plant in Kendrapada district with an investment of Rs 50,000 crore, officials said. Steel tycoon Lakshmi N. Mittal met chief minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence Naveen Niwas earlier in the day and discussed ArcelorMittal's projects in the state, an official said.

Companies garner ₹9,100 cr via NCD issues

As many as eight companies raised over Rs 9,118 crore through retail issuance of non-convertible debentures in the first ten months of the ongoing fiscal. In comparison, firms had garnered Rs 14,161 crore through this route in the April-January period of 2019-20. Most of the funds have been mobilised to support lending activities, working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes.

Kabira electric bikes sells 6,100 units in 96 hours

Kabira Mobility, the Goa-based EV startup and manufacturer of two electric model bikes, said it had reached a total bookings of 6,100 electric bikes on February 28 with a down payment of Rs 3,000. Delivery of the bikes will start from the first week of May. The company had launched India's fastest electric bikes called KM3000 and KM4000 on February 25 priced at Rs 1.27 lakh and Rs 1.37 lakh, respectively.

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■ May seek \$35 bn valuation in blank-cheque deal Flipkart weighs US listing by merging with a Spac

BAIJU KALESHER & ANTO ANTONY
MARCH 4

Walmart Inc's Flipkart is exploring going public in the US through a merger with a blank-cheque company as it seeks to quicken its listing process, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Bengaluru-based online retailer has been weighing a US initial public offering and it's now also looking at other options, the people said. Flipkart's advisers have approached several Spacs, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is not public. Flipkart could seek a valuation of at least \$3 billion in a blank-cheque transaction, the people said.

Deliberations are at an early stage and Flipkart could still explore other options, the people said. A representative for Flipkart had no immediate comment.

The e-commerce firm is joining other Indian firms like online grocer Grofers in exploring a US listing through Spac deals. ReNew Power last week agreed to merge with a US-listed special purpose acquisition company (Spac) in a deal that will give India's biggest renewable power producer an enterprise value of \$8 billion.

Merging with Spacs will allow Walmart to take its India unit to market at a faster pace than the usual IPO route. As many as 10

Spacs look to India for next wave of targets: Nomura

BAIJU KALESHER
MARCH 4

Blank-cheque companies are increasingly looking to India for acquisition targets, which will keep the country's recent deal-making streak going, according to Nomura Holdings Inc.

"Spac-led transactions are expected to increase in the coming years in India," Utpal Oza, head of investment banking for India at Nomura, said in a phone interview. "Wherever you've got businesses which have caught the fancy of international investors especially in sectors such as renewables, tech or e-commerce, where the corporate structure enables it to be merged quite easily, you will see Spac activity."

A blank-cheque company is a shell company that raises money from public investors with the goal of acquiring a business within two years. These deals—some sponsored by the

rich and famous including Hong Kong billionaire Richard Li and ex-Credit Suisse chief Tidjane Thiam—have raised more than \$66 billion in the US alone just this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Singapore could join the bandwagon soon. The country's exchange is consulting the market on allowing Spacs to go public, and could see its first such listing this year if it gets enough support. As many as 10 Indian companies could go public through Spac deals before the end of the year and the trend could accelerate if Singapore's blank-cheque firm listings are permitted, Oza said.

In India, Nomura expects equal revenue contributions from equity capital markets, mergers & acquisitions as well as financing, Oza added. In a further boost to its business, the Japanese bank plans to hire four bankers across debt origination,

corporate finance and sector coverage, he said.

Nomura also expects more initial public offerings in India this year, with sentiment buoyed by the post-debut performance of recently listed companies, said Mangesh Ghogre, its head of equity capital markets for India.

In 2020, companies raised about \$4.5 billion through first-time share sales in the South Asian nation and their shares are now trading more than 50 per cent above their IPO prices on average, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Nomura ranked second as IPO arranger in India last year, just behind Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, according to the Bloomberg league table.

About \$1.7 billion has been raised so far this year, while State Bank of India is preparing its mutual fund joint venture for an offering that could raise \$1 billion.

—Bloomberg

Indian companies could go public through Spac deals before the end of the year, according to Nomura Holdings Inc.

Flipkart, which is bat-

tling with e-commerce arch-rival Amazon.com Inc and Mukesh Ambani's retail venture for market share in India, started operations in 2007 and now

sells 80 million products on its platforms. Walmart acquired a majority stake in Flipkart in a \$16 billion deal in 2018.

—Bloomberg

Wipro to buy UK's Capco for \$1.45 bn



Capco works with more than 100 clients. It has over 5,000 consultants based in 30 global locations in 16 countries

site regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions.

Founded in 1998, Capco works with more than 100 clients and has many long-standing relationships with the world's leading financial institutions. It has over 5,000 consultants based in more than 30 global locations across 16 countries. The company's consolidated revenues for the year ended December 2020 was \$720 million.

"We are very excited to welcome Capco's admirable leadership team and employees, and

global clients, to Wipro. Together, we can deliver high-end consulting and technology transformations, and operations offerings to our clients.

"Wipro and Capco share complementary business models and core guiding values, and I am certain that our new Capco colleagues will be proud to call Wipro home," Wipro CEO and managing director Thierry Delaporte said.

Capco CEO Lance Levy said the companies will together offer bespoke transformational end-to-end solutions, now powered by innovative technology at scale, to create a new leading partner to the financial services industry.

"We look forward to leveraging the complementary capabilities and similar cultures of both companies to drive industry change and offer exciting opportunities for both our clients, and our people," Levy said.

The deal will require anti-trust approvals under the competition laws of the US, Germany, Canada, Brazil and Austria along with other regulatory approvals, the filing said.

—PTI

WHATSSAPP LETS VIDEO CALLING VIA DESKTOP

New Delhi, March 4: WhatsApp on Thursday said it has rolled out one-to-one video and video calls on its desktop app, a move that will now allow users to make calls through their laptops or desktop PCs.

The Facebook-owned firm said voice and video calls on the platform are end-to-end encrypted, and so WhatsApp can't hear or see them whether the call is made from phones or computers.

"We're starting with one-to-one calls on the WhatsApp desktop app so we make sure we can give you a reliable and high-quality experience. We will be expanding this feature," it added.

—PTI

PVT BANKS TO SELL ₹1.2 L CR EQUITIES IF RBI CAPS INSURANCE ARMS STAKE

Mumbai, March 4: Just State Bank of India, HDFC and ICICI Bank will have to offload equity worth Rs 1.21 lakh crore if the central bank goes ahead with its reported plan to restrict banks' stake in insurance arms at 20 per cent, says a report.

Quoting unnamed RBI officials, a media report earlier this week said the monetary authority is not comfortable with banks owning controlling stake in non-core businesses like insurance ventures, which are capital guzzlers and wants banks to cap ownership in insurance arms/companies at a maximum of 20 per cent.

HDFC owns 50 per cent in HDFC Life while ICICI Bank owns 51 per cent of ICICI Prudential Life. SBI owns 55 per cent in SBI Life.

FC BUREAU

MUMBAI, MARCH 4

NSE's technical glitch on February 24 could have been due to a cyber attack and not telecom service provider's failure, given the way the system came to a halt slowly, according to a report published by Moneylife Foundation, an NGO, engaged in spreading financial literacy and consumer awareness.

The manner in which NSE's operations shut down have all signs of a cyber attack, rather than a telecom failure, according to the report.

The problem on February 24 began around 9:54 am when traders couldn't place orders or exit and the trades seemed to have frozen. By 10:06 pm the problem had affected

EPF rate retained at 8.5%

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 4

Giving a much-needed relief to the employed class worried about the falling interest regime, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has retained the interest rate on EPF deposits at 8.5 per cent for the current fiscal (FY20-21).

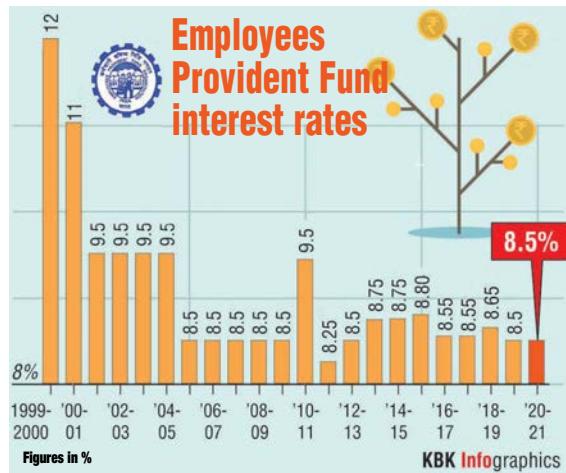
The EPFO had to liquidate investment in equities to maintain the rate at the current level, but it would still be making a profit this year. Though the EPFO's Central Board has recommended 8.50 per cent rate, the final call on the rate is taken by the finance ministry.

At 8.5 per cent, the EPF rate is better than most government small savings scheme rates, ranging from 6.9 per cent to 8.4 per cent, and bank fixed deposit rates of 5.5 to 6.3 per cent.

A government release on Thursday said the Central Board of the EPFO has recommended an annual interest rate of 8.5 per cent to be credited on deposit accounts of more than five crore members for the financial year 2020-21. The decision on interest rate would be sent to the finance ministry for concurrence and later notified in the gazette, after which interest will be credited into the subscribers' accounts.

For FY21, EPFO decided to liquidate investment in equity and the interest rate recommended is a result of combined income from interest received from debt investment as well as income realised from equity investment.

As per reports, EPFO had an income of Rs 70,500 crore for distribution



The interest rate offered by EPF is better than most of the small savings schemes. So, even if you have 8.5 per cent with tax exemption till a contribution of Rs 2.5 lakh and 8.5 per cent for the remaining portion with tax, it remains a good option.

The EPFO's decision comes amidst speculations that the interest rates would be lowered for FY21 due to the pandemic impact. In FY20, the EPFO had cut the interest rate on PF deposits to a seven-year low of 8.5 per cent. The rate of interest was 8.8 per cent in 2015-16, which came down to 8.65 per cent in FY19.

In the last budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that the depositors investing more than Rs 2.5 lakh in EPF in a year would not enjoy tax exemption. This restriction is applicable for contribution made on or after April 1, 2021.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RETURNS TO PRE-LOCKDOWN LEVELS IN FEB.



SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 4

At 6.9 per cent, the unemployment rate has recovered to its pre-lockdown levels. However, the labour participation rate (LPR) and employment rate continue to be weak.

In February 2021, the unemployment rate stood at 6.9 per cent, lower than the February 2020 unemployment rate of 7.8 per cent. The unemployment rate had ranged from 6.5 per cent to 9 per cent in the post-lockdown period since July 2021, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

"The return of the unemployment rate to pre-lockdown times is not worth celebrating because it is more a reflection of a shrinking labour force than a decline in the count of the unemployed," said Mahesh Vyas, CEO and MD of CMIE.

Meanwhile, the Naukri JobSpeak Index shows hiring in the IT-software/software services industry registered a record growth of over 33 per cent in February compared to January because of the increased adoption of digital technologies in India.

The index witnessed an uptick of over 22 per cent in hiring activity in February at 2,356 job listings compared to 1,925 in January.

It said most industries saw a positive sequential uptick in recruitment activities after a long gap.

Cyber attack behind NSE glitch?



NSE

CHENNAI, MARCH 4

other parts of the system and indices were not getting updated. But there was no announcement nor a closure by the NSE till 11:11 am. The exchange closed the derivatives market at 11:40 am and the cash market at 11:43 am. This slow shutdown may be due to hacking rather than a telecom issue, the report said.

The NSE is yet to name which telecom service-provider failed

SHORT TAKES
Goa gear up for Mumbai in semis

Margao: One of the most consistent teams in the history of the tournament, FC Goa will look to take a step closer to their maiden ISL title when they face table-toppers Mumbai City in the first leg of their semifinal fixture here on Friday. Goa have secured playoff qualification a record six times but they could never manage to lift the ISL trophy, having lost the finals on two occasions. Come Friday, the Gaus will look to put it past League Shield winners Mumbai City FC to inch closer to the dream of lifting their first-ever trophy. Having qualified for the playoffs for the fourth-straight time, Goa are only behind Mumbai in terms of goals scored, alongside NorthEast United. They have form backing them too, having been unbeaten in 13 games now — a feat no other side has managed in Hero ISL history. — PTI

Man United fire blanks at Palace

London: Manchester United were left a huge 14 points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City as Crystal Palace held them to yet another goalless draw on Wednesday. The stalemate at a foggy Selhurst Park was United's third successive goalless draw in all competitions ahead of Sunday's Manchester derby against City, who are on a record-breaking 21-game winning streak. Elsewhere, third-placed Leicester had captain Kasper Schmeichel to thank for a point in a 1-1 draw at Burnley. Aston Villa missed the chance to move to within two points of the top four as they suffered a shock 1-0 loss to bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United, who held on for the final half an hour with 10 men. A point in south London left second-placed Man United just one ahead of Leicester. — AFP

Milan salvage a draw at Udinese

Milan: Franck Kessie scored a 97th-minute penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw for AC Milan at home to Udinese on Wednesday, giving Serie 'A' leaders Inter Milan the chance to pull six points clear at the top. Rodrigo Bocao's second-half header at the San Siro completely deceived Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and Stefano Pioli's faltering side looked destined for a third defeat in four games. But a needless handball from Udinese substitute Jens Stryger Larsen offered Milan a lifeline, with Ivorian international Kessie converting the penalty with the final kick of the match. "Penalties are not easy," Kessie told broadcaster DAZN. "When you get there, you have two choices: you mustn't feel fear or uncertainty, otherwise you will get it wrong," he added. Milan struggled to create many genuine chances in the absence of top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the Swede sidelined by a groin injury picked up in last weekend's victory over Roma. — AFP

RR teams for throwball tourney

Hyderabad: Hemanth and Vaishnavi will lead the Ranga Reddy district men's and women's throwball teams respectively in the 7th Telangana State Sub-Junior Inter-District Throwball Championship to be held at Sanghamitra School in Nizamabad on March 6 and 7.

THE TEAMS

- Boys: Hemanth (captain), Sai Ram, Chaitanya, Sai Harish, Revanth, Dhoneshwar, Akhil, Raghu, Lokesha, Narsing, Nidith, Sushanth, Kaushik, Tagore, Manish Charith. **Coach:** Ganga Sagar. **Manager:** Sai Teja.
- Girls: Vaishnavi (captain), Sri Sri, Nandini, Dhamanika, Vishrutha, Pradeepa, Rajashri, Tanvi, Geethesh, Yashaswini, Shreshtha, Srinuva, Varshini, Sai Esha, Nethra Sri. **Coach:** Spoorthy. **Manager:** Srivalli.

Shamith to lead TS dueball side

Hyderabad: Shamith Goud will lead the Telangana men's dueball team in the 1st South Zone Dueball National Championship to be held at Madurai in Tamil Nadu on March 6 and 7. **The team:** Shamith Goud (captain), Reeshank Reddy, Dhara Kunal, Goverdan Srinivas, P. B. Dhananjay, A. B. Vinay Kumar, K. Mukti Ram, Akash Kandi, Varun Raj, Anand Kumar. **Coach:** Praveen Tony. **Manager:** Sharath Kumar Reddy.

Barca barge into final

Extra time goal takes big guns to Spanish Cup title round

Madrid, March 4: Barcelona needed extra-time to reach the Copa del Rey final on Wednesday, with a 3-2 aggregate win over Sevilla coming just two days after a police raid on the club and the arrest of their former president.

Having trailed 0-2 from the first leg, Danish international Martin Braithwaite hit the crucial goal in the fifth minute of extra-time with a diving header off a Jordi Alba cross.

Gerard Pique had equalised in the fourth minute of stoppage time with virtually the last play of the game to save Barca.

The veteran international headed in at the near post after a fine cross from the astute Antoine Griezmann.

That was after Ousmane Dembele, who scored in the 2-0 win at Sevilla in La Liga at the weekend, had given the 30-time Spanish Cup winners a 12th-minute lead in the second leg with a right-foot drive from outside the area.

Sevilla could have killed the game off in the 73rd minute to deny Barca their place in the final for a 42nd time.

They were awarded a penalty when Lucas Ocampos was brought down by Oscar Mingueza.

However, Ocampos saw his tame right-foot effort from the spot saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.



Barcelona's Martin Braithwaite (center) celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the the Copa del Rey semifinal, second leg, against Sevilla at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on Wednesday. — AP

Flagging Sevilla were then reduced to 10 men in injury time when Brazilian Fernando was red-carded for a foul on Francisco Trincao.

"The team deserved to qualify," said Barca coach Ronald Koeman.

"For their work and honesty. We are more aggressive, we've always created chances, the team has improved enormously," he added.

It was a much-needed win for Barcelona after former president Josep Maria Bartomeu, current chief executive Oscar Grau, head of legal services Roma Gomez Ponti and Bartomeu's advisor Jaume Masferrer were arrested by Catalan police, who searched the club's offices on Monday

morning. They were all questioned in relation to last year's "Bartagame" scandal. The club holds its presidential elections later this week.

The search of Barcelona's stadium was part of a probe into allegations the club carried out a defamation campaign against current and former players who were critical of Bartomeu.

Spanish radio station Cadena Ser claimed in February 2020 that Barca covered up inflated payments to a company called I3 Ventures which it had hired to boost the image of the club on the social media.

Part of the social media campaign included criticising current and former players like Lionel Messi and Xavi Hernandez, and iconic coach Pep Guardiola.

Barcelona will face either Athletic Bilbao or Levante, who are 1-1 in their semifinal, in the final on April 17 in Seville.

Before that, however, Barcelona will attempt another comeback effort when they take on Paris Saint-Germain in the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie next week.

Barca trail 4-1 from the first leg.

Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui admitted Wednesday's defeat was a "bitter pill to swallow". — AFP

Drop shot



Former Davis Cup player, captain and selector S. P. Misra took the Covishield vaccine at the Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad on Thursday. "Proper vaccination is the best way to fight with Covid-19," the 79-year-old Hyderabad tennis great said after getting his shot.

HCA's 2nd level fitness test

Hyderabad, March 4: The Hyderabad Cricket Association is conducting the second phase of the Fitness Test for those who cleared the first, on Saturday at 7.30 am at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal.

Players should bring along a copy of the birth certificate as well as carry a digital version. The list of players who cleared the first test held on February 28 and March 1 will be displayed at the notice boards of RGICS as well as Gymkhana Grounds, a release read.

Chaitra topples top seed; it's Laxmi vs Manognya

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Laxmi Siri Dandu will clash with M. Manognya in the girls singles finals of the Under-16 AITA Championship series being played at Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Murtazaguda.

In the semifinals on Thursday, sixth seed Laxmi defeated Kavya Sakineni in straight sets at 6-1, 6-2 while Manognya was too good for Hansika Reddy as she beat her 6-1, 6-0.

In the boys section, unseeded G. Chaitra Reddy toppled top seed Naishik Reddy in the semifinals, with a dominant 6-0, 6-1 scoreline to set up the final with sixth seed Chandan Shivraj who tamed No.7 seed Trishant Reddy 6-2, 6-0.

Meanwhile, P. Riddhi Chowdary & Sama Chevika and Soma Suhas & Chandan Shivraj won the girls and boys doubles titles respectively.



RESULTS

- Girls singles semifinals: Laxmi Siri Dandu (6) bt Kavya Sakineni 6-1, 6-2; M. Manognya bt Hansika Reddy 6-1, 6-0.
- Boys singles semifinals: G. Chaitra Reddy bt Naishik Reddy (1) 6-0, 6-1; Chandan Shivraj (6) bt Trishant Reddy 6-1, 6-2.
- Girls doubles final: P. Riddhi Chowdary/ Sama Chevika (1) bt Diya Malik/Apara Khandare 3-6, 6-1, 12-10.
- Boys doubles final: Soma Suhas/ Chandan Shivraj bt Trishant Reddy D/ V Sahan Reddy (4) 6-1, 6-2.

Nazeer, Brandon, Bharath advance

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

Mohammed Nazeeruddin, Brandon, Bharath and Syed Ahmed sailed into the quarterfinals of the senior snooker category at the Telangana State Ranking Snooker & Billiards Championship being played at the Telangana Cue Sports Association premises at Khajaguda on Thursday.

Nazeeruddin was too good for Clinton as he clipped him 4-0 — 88-

12, 59-20, 59-47, 87-1 while Brandon prevailed over D. Aravind, taking him out at 4-1 — 74-68, 62-35, 42-65, 59-14, 65-60.

Bharath had a bit of a struggle before overcoming Ranjit 4-3 — 68-43, 37-45, 50-45, 51-62, 48-61, 37-25, 75-49 while Syed Ahmed was a little better as he rallied past Rizwan 4-2 — 77-48, 73-43, 38-58, 76-56, 38-78, 63-45.

THE RESULTS

■ Senior Snooker pre-quarterfinals: Himanshu bt John Bosco 4-1 (23-76,

80-8, 69-0, 52-26, 64-46); Md Nazeeruddin bt Clinton 4-0 (88-12, 59-20, 59-47, 87-1); Ajay Bhushan bt Faizan Khan 4-1 (50-26, 69-31, 50-60, 59-48, 81-7); Brandon bt D. Aravind 4-1 (74-68, 62-35, 42-65, 59-14, 65-60); Mushtaq bt Nabir 4-1 (49-25, 60-49, 54-35, 30-64, 55-48); Bharath bt Ranjit 4-3 (68-43, 37-45, 50-45, 51-62, 48-61, 37-25, 75-49); Syed Ahmed bt Rizwan 4-2 (77-48, 73-43, 38-58, 76-56, 38-78, 63-45); P. Arvind Goud bt Vishwanath Reddy 4-3 (14-66, 19-73, 54-41, 71-10, 63-18, 29-60, 70-34).

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SHORT TAKES
Sania bows out of Qatar semis

Doha: Sania Mirza's first tournament in more than a year ended with a semifinal defeat as she was ousted from the Qatar Total Open along with her partner Andreja Klepac, here on Thursday. Sania and her Slovenian partner lost 5-7, 6-2, 5-10 to America's Nicole Melichar and Dutch player Demi Schuurts in one hour and 28 minutes.

Playing against players, who are ranked 11 and 12 in the world was tough but it was a decent outing for Sania, who recovered from Covid-19 recently, and her partner. It was first tournament for the Indian since last February. Sania and Klepac split \$10000 and earned 185 ranking points each. Since Sania was not defending much points, it will help her improve her ranking. Sania will break back into top-200 and is expected to climb to the 177th spot from the current 254. — PTI

Nagal posts best win of ATP career

Buenos Aires: India's Sumit Nagal registered the biggest win of his career when he stunned second seed Cristian Garin of Chile in straight sets to enter the quarterfinals of the Argentina Open ATP 250 tournament here.

Nagal, ranked 150, produced high-class tennis on Wednesday to register an impressive 6-4, 6-3 second round win over his Chilean rival, who is ranked way above at the 22nd spot in the ATP chart.

Nagal will play Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas, in what will be the Indian's maiden quarterfinal appearance at the ATP Tour level.

Ramos-Vinolas had defeated Dominik Koepfer of Germany 7-5 6-4. — PTI

Rani rules in semis, Lovlina out

New Delhi: Asian champion Pooja Rani (75kg) entered the semifinals to secure a medal but two-time world bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) bowed out after a quarterfinal loss at the 35th Boxam International Boxing Tournament in Castellon, Spain.

In late night bouts on Wednesday, Olympic-bound Rani defeated Italian Assunta Canfora to join the seasoned M.C. Mary Kom (51kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and debutant Jasmine (57kg) in the last-four stage. The three had won their quarterfinals earlier in the day.

Rani is a three-time Asian medalist and also a 2014 Asian Games bronze-winner.

However, Borgohain, who has also qualified for the Tokyo Games, lost 0-5 to Russia's Saadat Dalgatova to make a surprisingly early exit from the tournament. Asian bronze-winner Manisha Moun (57kg) was another Indian to be ousted from contention when she was defeated 0-5 by Italian Irma Testa in the quarterfinals. — PTI

Sharath loses in pre-quarters

Doha: Indian challenge at the World Table Tennis Contender series ended after veteran Sharath Kamal suffered a loss to world no 7 Lin Yun-Ju of Chinese Taipei in the men's singles pre-quarterfinals here on Thursday. The 38-year-old Indian suffered a 6-11, 4-11, 8-11 defeat against Lin.

The World No. 32 Sharath, who was playing his first international tournament after a year's break due to the pandemic, couldn't gain momentum despite showing good resistance in the latter part of the match against the higher-ranked Yun-Ju.

Earlier, Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula also lost their respective final qualifying round matches in the women's singles category. While Batra lost to World No. 69 Ganna Gaponova 5-11, 6-11, 14-12, 5-11, Akula went down fighting 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 6-11, 5-11 to Russia's Maria Taitkova.

Live on TV

CRICKET
India vs England: Fourth Test, Day 2 from 9.30 am on Star Sports 1

FOOTBALL
Indian Super League: First Semifinal, 1st leg — Goa vs Mumbai from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 2, HD

WWE
SmackDown: Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

POLLARD 6x6 PACK

Kieron hits 6 sixes in an over off hat-trick man Dananjaya

St. John's (Antigua and Barbuda), March 4: West Indies captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday became only the third man to hit six sixes in an international over in his team's four-wicket Twenty20 victory over Sri Lanka.

The feat came in the sixth over of a bizarre West Indies innings, bowled by off-spinner Akila Dananjaya who moments earlier in his previous over had been celebrating taking a hat-trick. Pollard followed in the footsteps of South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs against the Netherlands in the 2007 World Cup and India's Yuvraj Singh, who also achieved the feat in the 2007 Twenty20 World Cup against England.

Pollard was eventually out for 38 off 11 balls as the West Indies chased 132 to win at the Coolidge Cricket Ground, reaching their target in the 14th over when Jason Holder clobbered his side's 13th six. "I felt I could hit six sixes after the third one," said 33-year-old Pollard.

"Once I had five sixes I knew I had the bowler on the back foot. He was going around the wicket and it was difficult for him. I just told myself: 'Go for it.'

Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews hailed his opposite number.

"Pollard as we know is very destructive," Mathews told the post-match presentation.

"What I told Akila was to go for his wicket even if he gets hit for six sixes. If he misued one we could have got him out."



I felt I could hit six sixes after the third one. Once I had five sixes I knew I had the bowler on the back foot. He was going around the wicket and it was difficult for him. I just told myself: 'Go for it.'

— KIERON POLLARD
West Indies captain after hitting 6 sixes

Kieron Pollard celebrates hitting 6 sixes off Akila Dananjaya of Sri Lanka during a T20 match at Coolidge Cricket Ground in Osbourne, Antigua and Barbuda, on Wednesday. — AFP

Unfortunately it didn't happen."

Only eight men have hit six sixes in an over in all forms of cricket with fellow West Indian Garfield Sobers the first to do so in an English county game in 1968.

West Indies' openers

Evin Lewis and Lendl Simmons bludgeoned 52 off the first 20 balls as the two-time T20 World Cup winners looked comfortably on course.

However, having hit three sixes off three balls off Mathews' opening over, Lewis was caught by

Danushka Gunathilaka in the deep off Dananjaya for a brisk 28. That brought 41-year-old Chris Gayle to the crease for his first international appearance in two years. But he lasted just one ball when he was plumb lbw to Dananjaya who then completed his

hat-trick by having Nicholas Pooran caught behind by Niroshan Dickwella. — AFP

Score: Sri Lanka 131/9 in 20 overs (Nissanka 39, Dickwella 33, McCoy 2/25) lost to West Indies 134/6 in 13.1 overs (Pollard 38, Holder 29 n.o., Hasaranga 3/12, Dananjaya 3/62)

Axar, Ashwin put Eng in spin



Axar Patel (right) celebrates the dismissal of England's Dom Bess with Virat Kohli on the first day of the fourth Test in Ahmedabad on Thursday. — BCCI

NUMBERS GAME

FIVE LEG BEFORE IN ENGLAND'S 1ST INNINGS

● Five batsmen were dismissed leg before wicket in England's first innings on the opening day of the fourth and final Test match against India at Ahmedabad on Thursday (March 4).

● It was fifth instance in India and seventh overall when five England batsmen were dismissed in this manner in an innings against India.

● Shubman Gill's duck was his second in 13th innings of seventh Test match.

● England scored 205 runs in 75.5 overs without a duck in their first innings. They managed to creep past 200 for the first time in six innings.

● The highest partnership of the innings was 48 runs for the fourth wicket between Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow. Since piling up 578 in benign conditions at the outset of the series in Chennai, England's batsmen have yet to produce another fifty stand.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Ahmedabad, March 4: India pacer Mohammad Siraj on Thursday said England all-rounder Ben Stokes swore at him on the opening day of the fourth and final Test here, an incident "handled well" by skipper Virat Kohli during an on-field showdown with the visiting player.

Kohli was seen having an animated discussion with Stokes after the all-rounder allegedly swore at Siraj. Umpire Nitin Menon had to intervene for play to resume after England were reeling at 32 for three.

"He was swearing at me,

so Virat bhai intervened and handled that well. These things happen at ground," Siraj said at the post-match press conference.

Stokes, on his part, played down the incident.

"Pretty animated was that (the conversation)? ... Look at it from a different way, you know, two-three guys who care about what they are doing, care about representing and played against each other and you know, why would they not be competitive?" he added.

"So we are not going to back down to anyone... For me that is what it was competitive guys trying to get over each other," he added.

Siraj was also at the centre of the controversy during the Test series in Australia where he was racially abused by a section of the crowd. — PTI

SCORECARD

England 1st Innings: Zak Crawley c M. Siraj b A. Patel 9, Dom Sibley b A Patel 2, Jonny Bairstow lbw b M. Siraj 28, Joe Root lbw b M. Siraj 5, Ben Stokes lbw b W Sundar 55, Ollie Pope c S. Gill b R. Ashwin 29, Dan Lawrence st R Pant b A Patel 45, Ben Foakes c A. Rahane b R. Ashwin 1, Dom Bess lbw b A Patel 3, Jack Leach lbw b R. Ashwin 7, James Anderson not out 10. Extras (b-3, lb-5, nb-1, wd-1) 10. **Total:** (all out in 75.5 overs) 205.

Follow: 1-10, 2-15, 3-30, 4-78, 5-121, 6-166, 7-170, 8-188, 9-189.

Bowling: Ishant Sharma 9-2-23-0, Mohammed Siraj 14-2-

45-2, Axar Patel 26-7-68-4, Ravichandran Ashwin 19.5-4-

47-3, Washington Sundar 7-14-1.

India 1st Innings: Shubman Gill b J. Anderson 0, Rohit Sharma (batting) 8, Cheteshwar Pujara (batting) 15. Extras (nb-1) 1. **Total (for one wicket in 12 overs) 24.**

Follow: 1-0.

Bowling: James Anderson 5-5-0-1, Ben Stokes 2-1-4-0, Jack Leach 4-0-16-0, Dom Bess 1-0-4-0.

Pak league put off after Covid outbreak

immediate effect," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement. "The decision was made after seven cases were reported in the competition, which had started on 20 February."

PCB CEO Wasim Khan said an inquiry will be conducted to understand what went wrong.

"It is a great disappointment for us and we find ourselves in a situation where we question whether we can provide full protection for players as their health and well-being comes above everything else," Wasim Khan told a press conference here.

"Collectively we could have done a lot of things better and this is not a

blame game but we have to look with a microscope at what went wrong and we have to provide confidence and assurance in the future to touring teams and players," he added.

Khan said the priority of the board right now is to ensure that players are able to safely travel back to their respective destinations.

"...We all had a responsibility for self-policing and unfortunately we were not able to do that."

The three players, who have tested positive most recently, were not part of the sides that featured in Wednesday's double-header, and had been tested in

the afternoon after showing symptoms.

Only 14 games could be completed in the 34-match tournament.

The PCB said it "will focus on the safe and secure passage of all participants, and arrange repeat PCR tests, vaccines and isolation facilities to the six participating sides."

The board was apparently forced to take the decision after some of the foreign players and few local team officials expressed their concern over the situation and Australian all-rounder, Dan Christian decided to fly home immediately. — PTI

Sindhu, Srikanth shuttle into last 8

Basel, March 4: Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth and Ajay Jayaram had a good day in office as they advanced to the quarterfinals of singles competition at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa also progressed to the quarterfinals, continuing their recent good run in international badminton.

World champion Sindhu hardly broke any sweat, beating USA's Iris Wang 21-13, 21-14 in the women's singles competition, while former world no. 1 Srikanth notched up a 21-10, 14-21, 21-14 victory over world no. 50 Thomas Rouxel of France and Jayaram eked out a hard-fought 21-18, 17-21, 21-13 against third seeded Dane Rasmus Gemke in their respective men's singles second round matches.

Satwik and Ashwini, who reached the semifinals at Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 in January, defeated the Indonesian combination of Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari 21-18, 21-16 in a mixed doubles second-round match.

Earlier, two-time former champion Saina Nehwal bowed out of the tournament after a hard-fought first-round loss in the women's singles opening round of the Swiss Open.

while fourth seed Srikanth, who had won the title in 2015, will face sixth seeded Thai Kantaphon Wangcharoen and Jayaram will be up against another Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn, seeded eighth, in the last-eight stage.

However, Sourabh Verma lost 17-21, 14-21 to eighth seeded Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn to crash out of the men's singles event.

Earlier, two-time former champion Saina Nehwal bowed out of the tournament after a hard-fought first-round loss in the women's singles round on Wednesday night.

The London Olympic bronze-medallist battled for 58 minutes before going down 16-21, 21-17, 21-23 to Phittayaporn Chaiwan of Thailand.

Saina's husband and fellow shuttler Parupalli Kashyap too went down 15-21, 10-21 to Spain's Pablo Abian, while young Lakshya Sen lost 16-21, 12-21 to Victor Svendsen in the men's singles first round.

— PTI

HARDEN SOARS HIGH TO SINK EX-TEAM ROCKETS

Los Angeles, March 4: James Harden returned to Houston for the first time since his tumultuous departure from the Rockets on Wednesday, posting a triple-double to lead the Brooklyn Nets to a 132-114 victory over his former NBA team.

Harden, greeted by a first-quarter video tribute, cheers and a smattering of boos, delivered 29 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists to fuel Brooklyn, where he finally landed in January after demanding a trade.

Harden was grateful for the tribute video that showcased his accomplishments in Houston, including the 2018 NBA Most Valuable Player award and the league scoring title the past three seasons.

He became just the sixth player in NBA history to record a triple-double in his first game against his

former team, ably helping the Nets overcome the continued absence of Kevin Durant.

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 40 points and pulled down 19 rebounds to lead the 76ers to a 131-123 overtime victory over the Utah Jazz in a clash of the top teams in the East and West.

The Cameroonian center drained a three-pointer to knot the score at 118-118 with 6.5 seconds left in regulation and Tobias Harris scored 11 of his 22 points in overtime to lift the Sixers to victory over the league-leading Jazz.

Utah star Donovan Mitchell finished with 33 points.

Two West Coast games came down to the wire, as the Portland Trail Blazers edged the Golden State Warriors 108-106 and the Sacramento Kings beat Los Angeles Lakers 123-120. — AFP

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