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HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 8 MARCH 2021

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Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Maximum/Minimum temp. 37/19°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarakaya

Tithi: Magha Bahula Dashami till 3.47 pm

Star: Purvashada till 8.42 pm

Variyam: Sunrise to 8.04 am;

4.42 am to 6.18 am (Tuesday)

Durmuhuram: 12.50 pm to

1.37 pm; 3.11 pm to 3.59 pm

Rahukalami: 7.30 am to 9 pm

Hijri Calendar

Rajab 23,1441 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.30 am

Zohar: 12.37 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrib: 6.30 pm

Isha: 7.37 pm

Sunset Today 6.24 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow 6.28 AM

Moonrise Today 2.34 AM

Moonset Today 1.52 PM

COUNTER POINT



What can we do now, sir? They have happily agreed to give whatever number of seats you want!

Women staff get holiday today

Hyderabad: In view of Women's Day, the state government has declared a government holiday on March 8, Monday. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar informed that government had declared special causal leave on March 8 to all women employees.

CURFEW IMPOSED IN BHAINSA

PILLALAMARI SRINIVAS
I DC
ADILABAD, MARCH 7

Police imposed curfew in Bhainsa after clashes broke out between two groups in the communally sensitive colonies at about 9 pm on Sunday. Miscreants set the fire to autorickshaws and two-wheelers. A large police force was deployed there.

Adilabad SP Vishnu S. Warrier, who is Nirmal incharge SP, and Ramagundam police commissioner Satyanarayana rushed to Bhainsa. Some journalists covering the clashes were injured.

ICONIC STRUCTURE

Centre to beautify fort, provide better facilities

Golconda turns Swachh for tourists

MADDY DEEKSHIT | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

The Central government has identified Golconda fort as a Swachh Iconic Place (SIP) in its fourth list. The listing means enhanced beautification, sanitation and cleanliness for both domestic and foreign visitors at the fort, its peripheries and approach areas.

The SIP project is being coordinated by Union ministries of Jal Shakti, urban affairs, tourism and culture, and the respective state government. The ini-

tiative means Golconda will now develop into a true iconic structure. The city's iconic Charminar had figured in the second list.

In the list of 2018, not a single historic, heritage monument or unique place in Telangana was recognised among Swachh Iconic

Places (SIP). The sole entry from Telugu-speaking states in the third shortlist was Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt at Manralayam in Kurnool district of AP.

Swachh Iconic Places are selected primarily based on criteria like uniqueness, footfalls and historical importance. The places need not have to be necessarily monuments.

Golconda will have improved sewage infrastructure, including a sewage treatment plant, solid and liquid waste management set-up, drainage facility, beautified parks, besides better roads and transport facilities.

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A senior official of the Central government said the Centre designs special logos for iconic places. "Logos are designed according to the historical, reli-

gious and cultural importance of every iconic city," he underlined.

A senior official from state municipal administration and urban development department forecast that within a short span,

Golconda will have improved sewage infrastructure, including a sewage treatment plant, solid and liquid waste management set-up, drainage facility, beautified parks, besides better roads and transport facilities.

Page 5: Centre selects 12 sites as Swachh icons



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Shah: BJP will share TN power

ARULOLI M | DC
NAGERCOIL, MARCH 7

Union home minister Amit Shah said he recognised the hurdles the BJP was facing in Tamil Nadu to form government.

HE HOPED that the coming elections would be a game-changer and criticised the DMK and the Congress for the dynastic rule.

ment at the Centre, Tamil Nadu was allotted ₹545 crore for fisheries development schemes.

Appreciating Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam for their good work during the pandemic, Shah came down heavily upon the DMK and the Congress for trying to bring in their dynasty rule in the state.

"Stalin has no concern for the people of TN," the former BJP president said adding, Stalin's prime objective was to make his son Udayanithi Stalin Chief Minister.

Modi woos WB with industry

Predicts Mamata's fall would usher in investment and jobs to Bengal

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, MARCH 7

Mocking West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's recent "scooty ride" from her Kalighat residence in south Kolkata to Nabanna, the state secretariat in Howrah, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that the Trinamul Congress supremo's two-wheeler is destined to fall along with her as she is defeated in Nandigram, the hot seat of the West Bengal Assembly election where she has chosen to contest from after fleeing her winning seat of two terms, Bhowanipore, fearing a loss on her home turf.

"Didi, a few days ago you were managing to handle the scooter. All then were praying for your well-being so that you would not get injured. It was good that you did not fall down, otherwise, you would have made the state, where the scooter was built, your enemy. Had the scooter been made in the South, you would have treated it as your enemy. If it was built in the North, you



Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks to yesteryear actor Mithun Chakraborty, who joined the BJP in Kolkata on Sunday.

would have turned it into your enemy," Mr Modi told Ms Banerjee while addressing a massive BJP rally with Bollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty on the dais at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata.

Emboldened by Mithun's induction into the saffron

party at the mega poll campaign event, Mr Modi taunted Ms Banerjee, saying: "It is good that you are fine. But your scooter is headed towards Nandigram instead of moving to Bhowanipore. We are well-wishers of all always. We do not want anyone to be

injured. But what can we do if her scooter itself has decided to fall in Nandigram?" His jibe directed at Ms Banerjee with full confidence assumes significance as the BJP has fielded her former Cabinet colleague and ex-TMC heavyweight Suvenu Adhikari against her at Nandigram at his wish since it is his home turf. Impressed by the huge turnout at the rally, Mr Modi quipped: "It looks like of May 2 (the date of the poll results)."

Calling the TMC's huge graft as the "Olympics of Corruption" in a speech over an hour, Mr Modi also played the industry card, the BJP's second prime weapon after Hindutva, saying that it would usher in investment and jobs which would bring *Asol Porib-ortor* (real change).

To allay the fears among Bengalis about the saffron party's religious fanaticism, the Prime Minister pledged that that the local culture and sentiments, including the lifestyle and food habits of Bengalis such as Machh-Bhaat (fish and rice) would be "protected".

MAMATA SLAMS MODI FOR RISE IN FUEL PRICES

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, MARCH 7

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reveal his worth in terms of "price" while branding him the "biggest extortionist", in her vitriolic retaliation to his blistering attack on her on Sunday. The angry Trinamul Congress supremo also accused the PM and his deputy, home minister Amit Shah, of being the "only syndicate" in the country. Ms Banerjee said: "You first have to explain why there has been fuel and LPG price hikes daily. LPG cylinders need to be provided free of cost. Five states are going to the polls in the coming days. You will face defeat everywhere."

Report on Page 7

BJP leaders blame KCR for PM's omission: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

TRS working president and state minister K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday said his party's bond with students, employees, advocates and journalists remains strong.

Taking hundreds of journalists affiliated to the Telangana Union of Working Journalists down the memory lane at an interactive session here, Rama Rao said: "All of us had jointly struggled for separate statehood and achieved it at a time when other political par-

ties dismissed Telangana as a dream." The TRS leader said, "*Manandaridi pegu bandham*" (tied with an umbilical cord), amidst loud cheering and clapping by the participants while recollecting the setting up of the Telangana Journalists Forum by a group led by Press Academy chairman Allam Narayana and journalist-turned-MLA Ch. Kranti Kiran, a month after the launching of TRS. Both were present at Sunday's event. The TJF later became TUWJ.

Rao reminded journal-

Page 5: Raise voice for TS' benefit: KTR to BJP MPs

Parliament resumes today, session may get curtailed

ties dismissed Telangana as a dream."

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government in the second part of the session is to get the various demands for grants for the year 2021-22 passed along with the Finance Bill which carries various tax proposals.

The irony, he said, was that the BJP leaders were questioning the state government over the Modified Centre "ditching" the state by not giving its nod for setting up the ITIR.

The main focus of the

government in the second part of the session is to get the various demands for grants for the year 2021-22 passed along with the Finance Bill which carries various tax proposals.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has made arrangements for the vaccination of parliamentarians in the Parliament premises. —PTI

The irony, he said, was that the BJP leaders were questioning the state government over the Modified Centre "ditching" the state by not giving its nod for setting up the ITIR.

The main focus of the

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DRIVING

DRIVING

DRIVING

DRIVING

IN BRIEF

Women excelling in all fields: CM

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao conveyed his greetings to women on the occasion of International Women's Day. In his message, the Chief Minister said women play a key role in development. Women are competing with men in all the fields and are excelling, he said. Women, who constitute 50 per cent of the population, would do wonders if they were given a chance, he added. He said the government was taking a slew of measures to take women on the path of development and progress.

KISHAN: ALL PS TO HAVE WOMEN RECEPTIONISTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy has stated that women receptionists are being appointed at all police stations across the country. This is to encourage women not to hesitate in approaching police stations with their problems.

Kishan Reddy made this announcement while inaugurating Business Women Expo-2021 at Hitex in Madhapur on Sunday in the run-up to the International Women's Day on Monday. He presented the COWE Excellence Awards 2020-21 to women who excelled in various fields.

The minister maintained that the tradition of respecting and worshipping women exists only in India. He recalled Upanishads which, he said, say that Gods are found where women are worshipped.

Stating that women are a cosmic force, Kishan Reddy reminded the audience that we pray to women in the form of Go Maata, Bhu Maata and Nadi Maata. He pointed out that before Gods come the name of their spouses, like Sita Rama and Parvati Parameswara. He praised women soldiers who, he pointed out, fought on India's borders even in freezing cold.

The minister said women constitute 50 per cent of the population in society. They are now standing on an equal footing with men in all walks of life. "God has given all powers to women. So, there is a need to encourage women in business sector too," he stated.

INTERVIEW

Girls must be taught to be mentally strong: Seethakka

Known among the poor as the 'Iron Lady of Telangana'

Anasuya has created a special image for herself in state politics too. A Naxalite for 11 years before she took to politics.

ANUDEEP CERIMILLA | DC WARANGAL, MARCH 7

She courses through difficult paths, darkness around her, but brightens the lives of many around her. The deepest of forests, the harshest of weathers, the sharpest of thrones fail to stop her from reaching out to the people in need.

Congress MLA from Mulugu, Danasari Anasuya alias Seethakka, known among the poor as the 'Iron Lady of Telangana' has created a special image for herself in state politics too. A Naxalite for 11 years before she took to politics, Seethakka spent over 100 days during the Covid-19 lockdown season supplying essentials to remote Adivasi hamlets. On International Women's Day, Seethakka shares some of her views on the present-day woman in a conversation with Deccan Chronicle.

Q How do you assess the level of empowerment of women in Indian Society?

Women started fighting for their rights in 1909 but the level of empowerment envisioned at that time has not been attained even after 100 years. Women are coming out of their homes and working on par with men, but they are facing new troubles. Previously, it was women labour but today's educated women too are facing gender bias at the workplace. The way today's children are brought up is the main cause.

Q What about the negative stereotypes of feminism at workplaces?

Girls should be taught to remain mentally strong and boys must learn that the opposite gender is equally competent. Women can aim for the skies. But such an environment should be created for them from the very start by parents.

Q Why haven't women achieved equality despite legislation in place on gender pay parity?

There were the days of landlords and slaves. Today, despite so much development and legislation, the woman is still seen as the one meant for household work even as she earns income on par with her husband.

Q What change have you seen on gender equality in your life and work?

Being an Adivasi child, I have not experienced gender bias. Such feelings are seldom present in Adivasi households as both women and men go out to earn the daily bread.

Though my parents are illiterate, they sent me to school and my elder brother went to work. We see more of gender bias in educated families. Young minds should not be suppressed and must be let to fly.

Q What challenges did you face as a woman leader?

I did not face any bias as a woman leader. I worked to my capacity without citing excuses to run away from responsibilities. If we work hard, there is no scope for anyone to criticise. Even if they do, I can retort strongly. If you take a step forward, the society recognises you. But if you take a step backward, you will raise a question mark on yourself.

Q Isn't there a need for more women in leadership?

Women must learn to stop thinking that their lives are restricted. Tradition and culture must be restricted to festivals. Our talents should be of help to society. A 'strong woman' image is emerging as a single woman is managing her household and bringing up children all alone. They are holding on to the opportunities and working hard, putting their talents to best use and tasting success in various fields.

Q How would women go about succeeding in a male-dominated environment?

We must work hard to succeed in any field. There are many who discourage us but the family must be supportive. One must always think of taking two steps forward.

Q What are your thoughts on the laws on women and of courts asking a rapist if he's willing to marry the victim?

This is a wrong perception. Today he marries the girl he raped. Tomorrow if he rapes another woman, will the court ask him to marry her too?

Q Inspirations in life?

I used to read biographies including those of Indira Gandhi and Chaganti Nirmala. I read about Phoolan Devi when I was studying in Class V. The way she faced society despite all the hardships moved me.



DANASARI ANASUYA
Congress MLA from Mulugu

'I am asked why I study when I already have job'

PALLAVI MAJUMDAR | DC

them from discharging their duties in trying times.

Every year, the International Women's Day gives me an opportunity to reflect on the positive changes taking place in women's rights.

On March 8, we get to hear about the stories of women who fought for us in the past, and this is time for us to spread awareness about our rights and on feminism on various platforms that will help us achieve our full potential.

For me, IWD is a day when we also speak of the several barriers we as women face in our world."

Over the last one year, we have witnessed how the pandemic has turned everyone's lives, especially of women, upside down. Female frontline warriors battled their personal and professional lives simultaneously. They took to the social media to explain the struggle of wearing PPE kits for long periods even when they were menstruating, but this did not deter

Every IWD helps me work harder to realise my ambitions and goals in life. On a personal note, I have been posed with absurd questions regarding my academics, professional life and future plans, the most common being, why do I wish to study any further when I already have a job with a national daily?

Being brought up in a patriarchal society, we tend to ignore such

questions but I prefer to react. It was in my middle school when I became aware of the IWD and read about the continued struggles of women despite facing abuse from their male counterparts.

They succeeded in competing against their male contemporaries and bringing out the injustices against women in society. International Women's Day is a day for protest too. It's a day to protest against unequal pay, undervalued labour; rejection of basic human rights, and lack of security. These matters cannot be spoken of only on a particular day and be forgotten the next one.

We should speak of it more often in order to increase awareness. The stories of women empowerment should become a part and parcel of our life and the notions of patriarchy should be challenged every day to bring gender equality in society.

(The writer is a journalist with Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad)

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Gender equality improving, but miles to go: Mayor

KASTURI SHIVA KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

to move forward. Social mindset has remained the same. There is a ray of hope but women are still seen as being weak and are subjected to indignities. Politics is patriarchal, men feel suppressed

GADWAL R. VIJAYALAKSHMI
Mayor

when women are in power

Q What progress have you seen on gender equality in your life and work? What challenges did you face as a leader?

As I said, things are changing. We are seeing gender equality occupying its rightful space thanks to the expansion of education and the economic role of women. Yet we have miles to go. When I got this position, some said it was because of my background.

But I have never felt being inferior to anyone. Although I have my social and biological disadvantages, truth and honesty besides hard work helped me in seeking and getting an equal place

with men.

Q Is there any significant difference in the leadership of men and women? Why do we need more women leaders?

Women have greater patience and perseverance, capacity to carry on despite adversities, and balance things. That makes them good leaders. Take the example of our mothers. Women leaders mean less corruption, less of groupism, fewer internal quarrels. What we need is a strong political and social movement. Unfortunately, the Women Reservation Bill has not been passed by Parliament.

Q How can we get rid of negative stereotypes of women in workplaces?

Women must come together along with their supporters. This is the best way to counter harassment at work place. Laws are in place to check this menace. Such incidents must

be strictly dealt with by law, the society and women themselves. Women of India must unite. This must happen in our state.

Q Why haven't women achieved equality, despite legislation in place on gender pay parity?

This is mostly because of the mean mindset of men. Besides the greed for power - political, economic, social - it put us in competition with the stronger sex; and, true, we have some disadvantages too.

Q How can women succeed in a male-dominated environment?

Education is a must. If you have good education, you can beat any beast on the way. We are stronger and confident when we get good education and then we can fight for ourselves with awareness of all the laws and legislation for women.

Q Your inspirations in life?

I am inspired by the prohibition movement organised by women in Nellore and Chittoor against liquor shops, and I specially remember Dubagunta Rosamma, the leader of the movement.



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BIG DAY

GSI scientist has learnt to raise her voice and concerns whenever necessary

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

Geology is no more a male preserve. Women these days aren't scared of getting their hands dirty to study the earth.

Unlike other scientists who are tethered to their office, geologists have a lot of outdoor work to do. Hence, there is hesitation among many to enter this field, and women in the past showed little interest in this. Today, many are venturing in.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, geologist D'silva

Danira from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) says the experience of working as a geologist has made her a stronger and independent woman. "For me, geology became my career as an accident. I have been associated with exploration projects for seven years, including two years in the private sector. I am currently assigned with a project in Machanur Block, Karnataka, and have been working on this exploration process since 2017."

Adds she, "Working on a

drilling project brings a whole different set of challenges. I constantly find myself to be the only woman in a group of 10-15 people. I have learned to raise my voice and concerns whenever necessary. The experience of working as a geologist has made me a stronger and independent woman. There were times I had to take extra efforts to prove myself as compared to my male counterparts. Yet, I have learnt that this is an uphill climb, one that's enjoyable."

In her most recent find, she and her partner have completed 4,828m of drilling and have estimated 16.2 MT resource of copper (Cu) at 0.6per cent Cu grade in the Machanur block.

"It's not like a regular job where you are behind a desk. Here, a lot of field work is involved. We have to travel, climb mountains and sometimes come face-to-face with wild animals," says D'silva Damia.

Suchismita Swain, another geologist, says: "Working as a geoscientist, day by day, I am becoming an independent, confident woman who has learnt the time-management skill which improves my technical and administrative spheres."

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SHORT TAKES

SCCL'S SOLAR POWER OUTPUT LINKED TO GRIDDC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, MARCH 7

S. Chandrasekhar, Singareni Collieries Company Limited director for operations, said that the construction of solar projects was going on at a fast pace, 39 MW power production from solar projects at Yellandu was synchronised with the power grid of the state.

He said that SCCL will use the solar power that is being produced at low cost for the company's needs. He said that the solar projects in three areas in Ramagundam area will be completed soon. It is planned to make available 129 MW solar power by the end of March.

TS GIVES UTMOST PRIORITY TO WOMEN: GANGULADC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

Civil supplies minister Gangula Kamalakar reiterated that Telangana government gives utmost priority to women, as it firmly believes that society's progress is possible only through women's empowerment. All necessary steps are being taken in this regard, he declared.

The minister assured women that his BC Welfare and Civil Supplies departments will stand by women entrepreneurs struggling to market their products. He felt a woman's nature of naturally saving and taking leadership at family level will make them stronger in taking up bigger roles in days to come.

Kamalakar lauded services of COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations), which are exclusively for women entrepreneurs. In this regard, he asked COVA to ask encourage its women entrepreneurs to take advantage of TRS government's exclusive automotive park in Kallakal industrial area.

"Today's students are tomorrow's entrepreneurs. I congratulate all students who participated in competitions organised by COVA," the minister said. He asked women to use marketing, mentoring and legal services provided by the confederation to become good entrepreneurs.

IT principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan also participated in the function.

MAN BOOKED FOR HARASSING FIRST WIFEDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

A man was booked for harassment by the Chaderghat police as he was forcing his first wife to go back to her place in Prayag Raj, Uttar Pradesh, after his second marriage.

Police identified the accused as Mohjam Ali Khan, a resident of Chaderghat. Following his harassment asking her to go home, his wife had tried to end her life twice in the past. She was stopped by the police staff who also counselled the couple, police said.

"Ali asked us to help him in sending her away, following which we explained that he cannot do that and offered him counselling with the help of our women police staff," said Chaderghat police inspector P. Sateesh.

Meanwhile, Ali had recorded a video of him holding different pills in his palm and alleged that the cops are harassing him, which went viral on social media platforms.

"A police team was sent to his residence and found him in a conscious state as he has not consumed any pills. The police shifted him for a medical check-up at Osmania Hospital. Following a complaint from his first wife, we booked a case against him and started an investigation," added the inspector.

Gearing up for MLC polls

Minister K.T. Rama Rao speaks for Surabhi Vani Devi, TRS candidate for the Legislative Council elections, at a programme organised by members of the Brahmin community, at Lower Tank Bund in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

TRS pitches BJP as main rival**TRS strategy towards BJP is being keenly watched in political circles**L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao going all out against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for the past few days is said to be part of the party's strategy of treating BJP as its main rival in the MLC polls rather than the Congress, besides putting an end to political speculation that the TRS is going soft on the soft-front party after Chief

ON THE other hand, Rama Rao is leaving no occasion to target Modi and BJP. He has been doing so in party meetings, election campaign meetings and even business meetings, like the one organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is maintaining complete silence on BJP; Rama Rao has been going hammer and tongs at Modi and his party

different strategy for the Nagarjunasagar by-election, whereupon it treated Congress as the main opponent since BJP is traditionally weak there.

The TRS strategy towards BJP is being keenly watched in political circles and it has also become a subject of hot debate within TRS.

While Chandrasekhar Rao is maintaining complete silence on BJP, Rama Rao has been going hammer and tongs at Modi and his party

charging that the Centre was meting out grave injustice to Telangana across sectors since its inception.

Even when the Chief Minister addressed a public meeting at Halia in Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency last month, he did not utter a single word against Modi or BJP but targeted Congress.

On the other hand,

Rama Rao is leaving no occasion to target Modi and BJP. He has been doing so in party meetings, election campaign

meetings and even business meetings, like the one organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Rama Rao is mocking at the ₹20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme that assures crediting ₹15 lakh into Jan Dhan accounts and providing two crore jobs every year. He even went

to the extent of warning BJP that TRS will not spare Modi and chase away BJP leaders if they act against the interests of Telangana state.

Power staffer ends life over pay hikeDC CORRESPONDENT
JAGTIAL, MARCH 7

Protesting over the State Electricity Board not increasing salaries for artisans, a duty operator died by suicide at a tree near the electricity substation of Polasa village in Jagtial district.

Ankkam Chinnabuham Raju was depressed after contract labour union leader Nagaraju was suspended by the board for continuing to organise dharnas since past 15 days.

The dharnas are being held to demand that the government enhance salaries of artisans in addition to regularising their services.

E. Sridhar, state general secretary of the contract labour union, after attending the final rites of Raju, maintained that service rule for all employees working in electricity department should be the same. Instead artisans are being paid poorly compared to other staff.

A note was found with Raju stating that he was taking his life as he was upset with the stubborn behaviour of the state government in not conceding their genuine demands.

The union leader demanded the state government pay ex gratia of ₹1 crore to the family members of Raju and a job for one of his family members. At least now, the electricity board should implement rules uniformly for all employees, Sridhar stated at the protest.

CONG. DEMANDS ₹50L EX GRATIA FOR VICTIMDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

AICC spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju on Sunday criticised Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and minister K.T. Rama Rao for their "outright failure" in providing jobs to unemployed youth and inducing suicides.

Dr Dasoju blamed the suicide of an electricity department artisan, Ankkam Chinnabuham, in Karimnagar on Rama Rao who he said had betrayed the youth with fabricated recruitment numbers for the sake of winning the MLC elections.

"How many more such youth have to commit suicide? Remember that you are sitting on blood and flesh of great sacrificial youth. Your fall has started now and a new fight will begin just like when Srikantha Charly's suicide glorified the Telangana agitation," Dr Dasoju said.

He demanded an ex gratia of ₹50 lakh to Buchiraju and a job in the electricity department to his wife.

"The Congress has already pointed out this matter (of unemployment) many times and recently invited KTR for an open debate. Despite these facts in the public domain," Dr Dasoju said in a statement.

Why didn't KCR send Vani to RS, asks KishanDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy asked why Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had not nominated Surabhi Vani, daughter for former prime minister PV. Narasimha Rao, to the Rajya Sabha and had instead fielded her for the Legislative Council elections.

He alleged the TRS chief doesn't have respect for Narasimha Rao and was using the former PM's family for his political survival.

Kishan Reddy was speaking at campaign meetings at Boduppal and Vikarabad for the Legislative Council

Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar graduates constituency election with candidate N. Ramchander Rao.

He stated that the TRS government spends ₹2 per kg on ration rice but the Narendra Modi government at the Centre pays ₹28. He said that the Centre had credited ₹6,000 into farmers' accounts and had given ₹20 lakh to women's welfare organisations.

The minister said that all districts in the state except Peddapalli were connected to national highways and the Centre had approved the regional ring road for the development of the state. Therefore, he said, the TRS had no moral right to criticise the Prime Minister and his government.

Kishan Reddy alleged that the Chief Minister had failed to build superspecialty hospitals for each district as promised. Instead, he had locked up the two

historical hospitals in Hyderabad, Kishan Reddy said.

He said Modi had not taken a single holiday as Prime Minister but Rao had attended the Secretariat only 28 days in his seven-year tenure.

He appealed to the intellectuals and the educated people would vote for the BJP in both the Legislative Council seats going to the polls.

Elsewhere, BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna campaigned in Quthubullapur constituency and alleged that the CM had cheated the employees of a wage hike and the unemployed of jobs and unemploymen dole.

Aruna appealed that the voters did not believe the TRS leaders' promises and said that employees had been cheated several times by the CM.

BJP, TRS have taken TS back by 40 years: BhattiDC CORRESPONDENT
BHADRACHALAM, MARCH 7

CLP Malli Bhatti Vikramarka said that the development of state and country had gone back 40 years by the BJP government at the Centre and TRS government in state by increasing petrol and

gas prices.

"The time has come for people like it was 40 years ago, to use cycles instead of two-wheelers and cars due to skyrocketing petrol and diesel prices. Every person is feeling the heat of prices and the Budget of crores of families has been affected," he said.

Bhatti, MLC Jeevan Reddy and Union former minister Balaram Naik went on a cycle yatra to protest increasing fuel prices.

He said that Bharat Heavy Water Plant and SCCL were established by Congress governments but the Modi government was divesting them.

Do you have 'rosham' or not, asks NaiduDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 7

Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu lost his cool with the people, they were not cooperating with him in his fight against the YSRC. "Do you have rosham (anger) or not," he asked while campaigning in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) areas in support of TD candidates.

Bursting out in anger, the Leader of Opposition said, "You are ready for going to Chennai and Bangalore in neighbouring states to do Pachipannu (disrespectful) works, but not prepared to save Amaravati, which can create respectful employment. They (YSRC) will give ₹2,000 per vote. Take them and cast your votes. But later you may have to carry a begging bowl for

livelihood (in case you vote for the ruling party)," he remarked.

Addressing a road show, he asked, "Meeku ekkadundaya pattudala (do you have perseverance)" and went on: "Time has now come to strongly question people of this area (Vijayawada). Did I bring the Pattiseema project for myself? People who are drinking water do not even know about the proj-

ect. Did I construct Amaravati for myself? It was for this state and people of this area. But you (people) are behaving thoughtlessly, which is strange. One minister is an illegal coconut seller (indirectly referring to minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao). Corruption is surging in Durga's abode but there is no rosham (anger) in people. You need not favour me,

but you should protect Durga. Will you not protect Durga even when her silver ornaments have gone missing? You better open your eyes before Goddess Durga opens her eyes (in anger)," he said.

He referred to civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao alias Nani as boothula mantri (vulgar minister), who opens his mouth only to abuse.

Revanth tells KTR start hunger strikeDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

TAKING A dig at Rama Rao, Revanth Reddy said that seeking a package on the lines of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) is senseless. He alleged that the ITIR project was cancelled due to the negligence of the TRS government.

the Act.

Revanth Reddy asked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao why he did not corner Modi on the issue of the cancellation of the Railway Coach Factory at Warangal and the ITIR project.

In this context, he dared addressing an election campaign for G. Chinna Reddy, party candidate from the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar graduate MLC seat. Revanth Reddy said that the BJP and TRS were like two bodies with one soul.

Taking a dig at Rama Rao, Revanth Reddy said that seeking a package on the lines of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) is senseless. He alleged that the TRS government was cancelling the prom-

ises made in the Reorganization Act. He wondered whether Rama Rao would join him to declare war on Modi to secure all the demands of the state. Revanth Reddy alleged that the TRS and BJP were enemies in the state but friends in Delhi. Chandrashekhar Rao and Modi were cheating the people of the state, Revanth Reddy said, referring to the promises made by Chandrashekhar Rao and Modi on provision of jobs.

Om Namaha Sivaya



Sri Kasinadhuni Sambasiva Rao

M.A. (Litt.),

Retired Class I Officer, LIC of India

29 June, 1934 - 8 March, 2014

"I DO NOT CHOOSE THE BEST, THE BEST CHOOSES ME"

With undying love and respect,

Kasinadhuni Kamala - Wife

Daughter & Family Son & Family

Contact: +91-91600 03037; kpromod@gmail.com



10th DAY CEREMONY

POTHU GOPAL SWAMY

Retd. Dy. Executive Engineer

Mkt Dept. (TS Govt.)

We miss you

You always remain in our hearts.

Inserted by:

Pothu Shyam Sunder (Brother)

P. Naveen Kumar, P. Kusheer Kumar,

P. Rakesh Kumar

Ph: 9966181535.

(S/2021/D01316)



13th DAY CEREMONY

Late ADI NARESH KUMAR

D.O.B.: 05-03-1958 D.O.D.: 24-02-2021

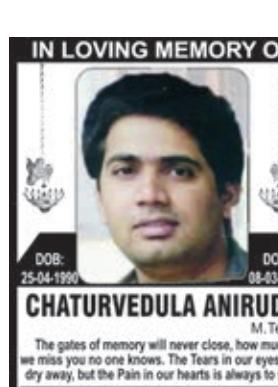
"Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts"

We are consoled, knowing that you are with our God, enjoying his glorious, holy presence.

Inserted by: Adi Rukmini, Adi Varun, Adi Nitin, Adi Vishnu Priya & Family Members.

Ph: 9177225266, 9885598896

(S/2021/D01308)



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

SRI L. ANTHONY

DECCAN Chronicle

8 MARCH 2021

As BJP raises anti-Didi pitch, Bengal is the battle to watch

The BJP of Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath is making a bid to emerge as the hegemonic power across all the territories of India. The looming Assembly elections in Assam and West Bengal in the east/north-east, and Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the south, will be a test of that resolve, which depends not only on highlighting the political weaknesses of opponents and their governance deficits (West Bengal), the normal way to do things.

More crucially, the effort mounted by the saffron party relies on a polarising community-based campaign that seeks to exploit the religious divide and — no less pertinently — on the use of state agencies, such as CBI, Income Tax, Customs, and the NIA, controlled by the Union government. Gone is the era when Mr Modi's campaign depended on recounting the virtues of the so-called "Gujarat model" of development from his days as chief minister. This was a fraudulent rhetoric that was milked in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. Regrettably, the media failed to analyse it when it mattered.

Since then, leading planks of government policy such as demonetisation, faulty GST implementation, response to the coronavirus pandemic that set off the biggest mass migration of the working class in history in pathetic circumstances, the worst unemployment in nearly half a century, the farmers' agitation, and the impression of political caving in before the Chinese army in eastern Ladakh, have caused much anguish among wide swathes of the populace. And yet, the broad impression is that the Prime Minister and his chief lieutenants are sitting pretty and continue to command the affections of the country on account of the weaponised Hindutva factor.

One way or the other, the upcoming state polls, whose results will be known on May 2 (with polling to commence in about three weeks), are likely to either confirm the enormous value of overtly religiosity-centric electoral politics in the BJP's scheme of things — or the repudiation of this principle. If the pull of religiosity is confirmed, Mr Modi's — and Mr Shah's — the BJP is likely to get even more gung-ho than it is in its preparation for the next Lok Sabha election in 2024.

Interestingly, the BJP's political opponents appear not to fully grasp the meaning of the upcoming state polls. They continue to parse till infinity the inner meaning of secularism in India in order to retain power or influence, and in this process attempt to exclude or restrict the influence of other so-called "secular" parties. Kerala and West Bengal are good examples of this.

In Assam, the BJP took power from the Congress. It is the only state where it will be challenged by the Congress-led front. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the BJP appears to have made some impression among the middle classes, the upwardly mobile groups, and sections of the upper castes and the propertied classes. Even so, the best it may hope to do is to improve its vote-share and win just a few seats (along with ally AIADMK in TN) and register improvements in Kerala in the company of some caste outliers.

It is in West Bengal that the saffron party hopes to eject two-time CM Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress from power, much as Ms Banerjee had torpedoed Left Front rule in 2011. This really is the poll to watch along with Assam where the BJP could face a battle of rough parity with the Congress and its allies.

Team India worthy winners

Team India are in the final of the Word Test championship and that is just the icing on the cake. A comprehensive 3-1 rout of England was completed on a clutch of astounding performances from young members of the team like Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel and Mohammed Siraj. As Serena Williams said famously, "Champions are defined not by wins but by how they can recover when they fall." Team India did it twice in the space of two series, first recovering from the lows of 36 all out in the first Test in Australia and then from heavy defeat at the hands of England in the first Test in Chennai.

Remarkable resilience is only one part of the story. Cricketers who were on the fringes of the national team not only stepped into the Test arena with confidence but also shone like seasoned stalwarts. The quality of pitches prepared after losing the first Test may have left a lot to be desired but before the series ended in Ahmedabad, Team India had proved that the playing surface can be made incidental to the plot by professional performances. The players also defied the deleterious effects of seven long months spent in a bio-bubble. There is no doubt Team India will start favourites in the WTC final at Lord's this summer.

The prowess of the younger Indian players was stressed even more as the senior batsmen — Virat Kohli (172), Cheteshwar Pujara (133) and Ajinkya Rahane (112) — had very modest series like most of the England batsmen save Joe Root who made a double hundred in Chennai. The match winners with the bat for India were Rohit Sharma, whose phenomenal home record at an average of 79.52 runs per innings is nearly Bradman-esque, Pant who is fast becoming the world's best wicket-keeper batsman whose willow does all the talking and Washington Sundar. India's spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin (32 wickets at 14.71) and Patel (27 wickets at 10.59) proved irresistible as they spun a web around the visiting batsmen.

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Shikha Mukerjee



Mamata's long game: Women's status in Bengal is transformed

It would be easy to list the fights Mamata Banerjee has won; it would be easy to trace her years of grind in the Congress' ranks and then her meteoric rise up the ladder from her 1984 success in defeating Somnath Chatterjee, later Lok Sabha Speaker in the UPA-1 years, and becoming one of the Lok Sabha's youngest parliamentarians up until now, when she is fighting off a challenge from the BJP, this is determined to snatch West Bengal away from her.

As the challenger, the BJP is insistent that Ms Banerjee failed to serve West Bengal's people, regardless of how her rule has been evaluated by some of the Centre's own ministries.

Perception, not data, is how Ms Banerjee is usually rated. In many ways she presents a soft target to patriarchs who arrive at judgments that are contradicted by facts. The reason: she is now India's only woman chief minister and woman of substance. It is axiomatic that patriarchy would consciously and unconsciously react to the idea of power and formidable popularity of this one woman, whose presence prevents the Indian State from being overrun by men.

If Narendra Modi and his 56-inch chest is the epitome of male power, the barely 60-inch frame of Ms Banerjee is the epitome of woman power. It's unlikely that even the least exposed voters in far-flung corners of any part of India would not recognise the names of Mr Modi and Mamata Banerjee. This puts her at par with Indira Gandhi, a name and face that almost everyone in any part of India instantly recognises.

By the time Ms Banerjee became chief minister in 2011, development theory and strategy for guiding decision and policymaking had evolved about why women were systematically left behind and struggled to fulfil their potential. There was also a large and constantly growing body of work that was taking apart the structures, institutions and systems that supported the control exercised by patriarchy. There was a growing body of expert opinion, social choice theory, for which Amartya Sen won the Nobel in Economics, that indicated merely prescribing education as the best way to bring about change and development was not enough to aid the poor or help the girl child escape the systematic incarceration by patriarchy.

In a textbook development strategy to keep the girl child in education and give her the means to negotiate her choices and decisions about her own future, that is a limited autonomy, the Mamata government began the "Kanyashree" programme in 2013. Contrary to the dismissive assessment of the programme as a scholarship, it is really an incentive for families and the girl child to remain in education and complete the process of acquiring a secondary school certificate that would enable her to access undergraduate college education. In other words, "Kanyashree" has created access by arming the girl child-young woman with resources to give her an entry into tertiary level education by giving her a measure of financial autonomy in making decisions and choices.

The idea of a programme for the secondary level girl child was Mamata Banerjee's. Instead of taking the usual route of asking her bureaucrats to design the programme, she got Unicef to develop the design. It makes "Kanyashree" a textbook strategy for empowerment of the girl child and a long game that will effectively transform how gender and women negotiate for their

rights, power and status in the near future, but not the immediate one. The ₹25,000 deposited in her name in a bank is seed capital she can leverage to create her own future.

In a slew of programmes that empower women to make their decisions count, the West Bengal government has initiated a quiet revolution. The Rupashree Prakalpa — a ₹25,000 one-time grant "for economically stressed families at the time of their adult daughters' marriage" — is far more than a dowry. It ensures the daughter is an adult and not a child when she is married off; it ensures the young woman has a voice in decision-making about her marriage, because she has the means, and it ensures she doesn't become Rasika Agarwal, a woman who died as her parents persuaded her to return to her in-laws though she was brutalised by her husband.

With the elder woman named as head of the household under Swasthya Sathi, a universal access to health services scheme of the Mamata Banerjee government, and the elder woman named as head of the household on ration cards, the change is even deeper. Women's access to medical care is neglected

in India; as head of the household, the woman in West Bengal can access the care, worth ₹5 lakhs a year, without asking her family. The same is true of her entitlement to food; as the head of the household, her access to food in terms of quantity and quality is embedded in the ration card.

Between Kanyashree and Swasthya Sathi, the widows' pension available to any woman who is over 18, Ms Banerjee has done what advocates of women's development lobby for when women take control after acquiring power in government. As a role model for how women in power can transform the future, in their own lives, for their families, for the state and the country, Mamata Banerjee is taking up where Jayalalithaa was stopped by her untimely death. The programmes are not original, as the Jayalalithaa government set up the prototype. But by building on example, Mamata Banerjee will go down as a transformer.

Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata

Today is International Women's Day

Subhani



Competitive politics & competitive economy

Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

rate of growth of national income was 5.5 per cent during 1980 to 2000. Granted that correlation does not imply causation, but the evidence of the first two decades of the 21st century is convincing. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh led a minority government that had the support of a fractious coalition and yet he delivered historically high rates of economic growth. Between 2003 and 2011 the Indian economy grew at an annual average of close to 8.0 per cent. It slipped a bit below that during the last three years of the Manmohan Singh government, but the average was still around 7.5 per cent.

The last data point seals the argument. After having established a single party government in New Delhi for the first time in three decades and asserting BJP dominance at the national level, Prime Minister Modi has not been able to push through the agenda of building an "Atma Nirbhar Bharat", restoring momentum to a sagging economy.

Statistical evidence, however, does not seem to bear this hypothesis out. In India's seven-decade experience with democracy, the interesting fact is that the era of single party dominance has been correlated with a lower rate of economic growth than what former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh famously called the "era of coalitions", with its multi-party governments. Consider the numbers.

Between 1947 and 1977, the era of the Congress Party's dominance, the average annual rate of growth of the economy was around 3.5 per cent. Though the 1980s also saw single party government in New Delhi, it was the decade in which state governments run by regional political parties proliferated. The Indira Congress of the 1980s was no longer as powerful across the country as the Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru was during the 1950s.

Despite the weakening of Congress dominance and the rise of minority and coalition governments in the last two decades of the last century, the rate of economic growth picked up and the average annual

rate of growth of national income was 5.5 per cent during 1980 to 2000. Granted that correlation does not imply causation, but the evidence of the first two decades of the 21st century is convincing. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh led a minority government that had the support of a fractious coalition and yet he delivered historically high rates of economic growth. Between 2003 and 2011 the Indian economy grew at an annual average of close to 8.0 per cent. It slipped a bit below that during the last three years of the Manmohan Singh government, but the average was still around 7.5 per cent.

Well, the fact is that the elections did produce a decisive mandate in favour of Prime Minister Modi but he has not been able to pull the rate of economic growth back to the Manmohan Singh average of 8.0 per cent. This has not been for want of trying. So the assumption that a strong, stable single party government would deliver economic performance superior to a weak, unstable, multi-party coalition was yet again disproved.

What this means is that encouraging political competition and ensuring that political parties in government are under the constant pressure of a critical and assertive Opposition is in fact good for governance and the economy. One party dominance delivers sub-optimal performance at least in part because the absence of the pressure of competition ends up in not ensuring performance.

To cut a longer story short, an outright victory for the BJP in the coming state Assembly elections may not be the best thing that could happen to the economy. Rather, the emergence of a viable and assertive Opposition that exerts competitive pressure on the dominant party, at the centre and in the states, may yield better economic results. Many of the policy mistakes of the Modi government during its second term in office are clearly a consequence of the arrogance of power.

A new lease of life for non-BJP parties may be good for the polity and the economy.

In India's seven-decade experience with democracy, the interesting fact is that the era of single party dominance has been correlated with a lower rate of economic growth than what former PM V.P. Singh famously called the 'era of coalitions'

The writer is an economist, a former newspaper editor, a best-selling author and former adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

LETTERS

ILLEGAL BUILDINGS

Regularising illegal buildings emboldens builders to go illegal and then pay up. Errant GHMC officials should be brought to book. The initiative taken by the Telangana High Court is the need of the day. A committee of honest retired officials should be given charge to monitor the process of sanctioning building permits.

Sukrutha M.
Hyderabad

WELFARE SOPS

Many states spend huge amounts on welfare. Telangana state also claims it spends the highest in the country. In AP, schools, colleges, hospitals, village clinics etc., are being given top priority. Irrigation projects like Polavaram and others are also given importance. All states borrow heavily. While borrowing is a norm it should be used to create assets and develop human capital.

A.R.R. Datta
Hyderabad

PITCH WISE

While congratulating Team India for clinching the just-concluded Test series 3-1 against England, we should not forget the role of groundsman Ashish Bhowmick who tailor-made the pitches for the last two Tests for Indian spinners. The Indian fans could not fully savour the victory as it was one-sided. Now the team should prepare to face pace bowlers like Tim Southee and Trent Boult of New Zealand in the inaugural World Test Championship final at Lord's.

A. Nageswara Rao
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Martial Law must go, says Rehman

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

Awami League Leader Sheikh Mujibar Rehman today asked President Yahya Khan to accept four demands, including lifting of Martial Law, before his party would consider attending the National assembly session called for March 25.

The three other demands made by him were — return of troops to the barracks, — transfer of power to the elected representatives, and — an inquiry into the recent killings in East Pakistan.



SHORT TAKES
MURDER CASE BOOKED INTO SUV OWNER'S DEATH

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, MARCH 7

Maharashtra ATS has registered a murder case into the mysterious death of Mansukh Hiren, whose SUV laden with gelatin sticks was found abandoned near the house of industrialist Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai.

Earlier, the case was being probed as "accidental death" but has now been converted to one of murder following a complaint by the deceased's wife. The complaint has been lodged against "unidentified persons". The investigation into the abandoned SUV found outside Ambani's house last week was handed over to the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad. Accordingly, all the documents related to the case have been given to the ATS from the Mumbai police station.

On March 5, Mansukh, whom the Mumbai Police had mentioned to be the owner of the vehicle with explosives was found dead in a creek.

ACTIVIST TO TAKE BACK COMPLAINT AGAINST BJP MLA

Bengaluru, March 7: In a twist to the alleged sex-for-job scandal in Karnataka, social activist Dinesh Kallalhalli on Sunday said he would withdraw his police complaint against BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi, which had led to his resignation as Minister.

Dinesh Kallalhalli said he will withdraw the complaint as he was hurt by allegations of a ₹5 crore deal, levelled by JDS leader H.D. Kumaraswamy. However, the activist's lawyer said there were some technical problems due to which the decision was taken.

Meanwhile, Balachandra Jarkiholi, brother of Ramesh Jarkiholi, alleged that there was a big conspiracy in the state in which four teams have been working to "malign" Jarkiholi and target the BJP ahead of Assembly elections in five states. He sought a CBI probe into the episode. —PTI

CARCASS OF GIANT SHARK FOUND IN CANAL

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 7

Locals of Kantiachera village in Odisha's Balasore district were on Sunday left bewildered after a giant shark weighing about 500 kg was found dead in a newly-dug canal. The carcass was found in the canal which is connected to a nearby sea.

The state forest department personnel suspected that the carcass came floating in the canal from the sea. Soon after the news of the dead shark broke, people in large numbers gathered at the spot to catch a glimpse of the giant fish. The exact cause of death of the shark is yet to be ascertained. Sources said the giant shark was caught in the net of marine fishermen on Friday. They brought it ashore and later released it in the sea.

Didi: Why hike fuel prices?

Says people want to know answers before they cast their vote in polls

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, MARCH 7

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reveal his worth in terms of "price" while branding him the "biggest extortions", in her vitriolic retaliation to his blistering attack on her on Sunday.

The angry Trinamul supremo also accused the Prime Minister and his deputy, Union home minister Amit Shah, of being the "only syndicate" in the country before daring Mr Modi to face her in a "one-to-one" on the eve of the Assembly election in the state.

Spewing venom at the Prime Minister at Siliguri, in North Bengal, after leading a protest rally there against the steep hike in fuel prices, Mamata said: "You first have to explain why there has been fuel and LPG price hikes daily. LPG cylinders need to be provided free of cost. People of the state want to know that before they cast their vote.

syndicate." Throwning a challenge to the Prime Minister, Mamata added: "When you address an empty Brigade, I, being a street-fighter forever, stay on the road which shows me the way. I want to continue as a commoner. Face me in a one-to-one if you have the guts."

In an oblique reference to Modi, she claimed: "Whenever he visits Bengal, he levels allegations of extortion. You are the biggest extortions. If a poor man indulges in extortion, it is merely ₹10. What is the amount when you and your cronies do it? What is the amount of extortion in the sale of the Railways, SAIL, Coal India and Air India? What syndicate you talked about? India knows only one syndicate is working — Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. There is no other

A day before the International Women's Day celebrations, the Trinamul chief further targeted the Prime Minister over his criticism of her government over the violence against women in the state, pointing out the incidents of rape in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh. She also ridiculed the Prime Minister for being publicly hungry over the display of his photo on everything — from the Covid-19 vaccine certificates to space programmes.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a protest rally against the hike in fuel and LPG prices, in Siliguri, on Sunday. — PTI

Mithun in BJP, says he's a cobra with deadly bite

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, MARCH 7

Emerging as a Bengal *bhadralok* in white *dhoti-punjabi*, to suit the BJP's dream of a *bhumiputra* CM candidate, Bollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty joined the BJP at its mega-rally on Sunday.

In film style, he claimed he was a "true cobra", able to kill anyone with just "one bite", before sharing the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who hailed his "journey as an example to all". Mithun

said his joining the Trinamul earlier was a "bad decision".

Sharing of his "dream coming true to be on the stage with the PM", he described himself as a "pure and proud Bengali" before the crowd. Mithun said, "For me anyone lives in Bengal is a Bengali. If anyone tries to take your rights away, people like me will stand in between. I know you are waiting to listen to my movie dialogue which says: Hit you here, and you will end up in your grave."

Urging people to support

the BJP he added, "Here is a new dialogue for you before I start my campaign. Remember this. My name is Mithun Chakraborty. I Do what I say and the dialogue goes: Neither I am a Keeback, nor I am a Krait. I am a true Cobra! One Bite and you are gone. That is what it will be from now. Keep faith in me, trust my words. I never shunned you in tough times, I am going to be there always with you." Mithun is going to start campaigning for the BJP in the state from March 12.

Dravidian parties finalise alliances

R. MOHAN | DC
CHENNAI, MARCH 7

The battle lines are almost fully drawn.

The two top alliances led by Dravidian majors are ready, with only minor agreements to be sewn. On Sunday, the Congress shook hands with the DMK on a deal that gives the national party 25 Assembly seats — as opposed to 41 (winning eight) in the 2016 elections — and also keeps the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat which the late H. Vasanthakumar had won for it in the 2019 Parliament elections.

The DMK needs to wrap up the issue with the CPM to make the DMK+ alliance complete. Similarly, the AIADMK alliance has to wrap up a deal with DMDK and G.K. Vasan's TMC to complete its line-up for the poll. Both Dravidian majors



Union home minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah greets supporters during his election campaign roadshow at Nagercoil, Kanyakumari, on Sunday. — PTI

have largely stuck to their plan of fighting 170 to 180 seats of 234 and giving their allies a lesser number to fight from but the numbers will keep the alliances going into a crucial election on April 6.

Dinesh Gundu Rao, Congress leader in charge of Tamil Nadu, said on Sunday morning at the

DMK headquarters in Chennai that more than one alliance was a secular partnership that will oppose the BJP and its "dictatorial ways" and "One Nation, One Leader" idea. "BJP by entering into an alliance with AIADMK, its intention is to finish off AIADMK. They want to

kill all Opposition parties in the country," he declared. The alliance against the saffron party was not confined to ideology alone, but extended to "saving democracy" from its clutches, he pointed out.

The Congress was a shade late in clinching the Tamil Nadu deal but since it had few options it had to depend on word from Delhi to DMK president M.K. Stalin to open up final negotiations for what is a long standing alliance in the State. The local Congress chief K.S. Alagiri found the progress of the alliance talks so painful at one stage as to burst into tears at a media conference. After the agreement was signed on Sunday he said he was "fully satisfied".

Rao said the only aim was to ensure the victory of the secular front led by DMK. "Once we sign an

agreement, we have to be satisfied because this has been done after a lot of deliberations. Our only aim is now to see that the secular front wins. The time for being satisfied or dissatisfied is over. Now we are in the battlefield. We have to take on our opponents," Rao said.

Rao also hinted that the alliance would also be in place for Puducherry soon though the political picture in the Union Territory is not yet clear with the NR Congress of N Rangasamy dominating the scene but is looking for allies to strengthen its hands.

The second major Tamil

Nadu alliance fell in place a day after the ruling AIADMK had sealed a seat deal by allotting 20 seats to the BJP besides the Kanyakumari LS seat to

the Kanyakumari LS seat to

which it has already nominated former Union minister Pon Radhakrishnan.

INTERNATIONAL | WOMEN'S DAY

Atrocities against women are a stigma on society, injustice towards them cannot be tolerated

Empowering women key to nation building

BANDHU DATTA TREYA

Yatra pujyante ramante tatra Devata (where women are honoured, divinity blossoms). The sloka from *Manu Smruthi* further states where women are dishonoured, all actions, no matter how noble they may be, remain unfruitful.

International Women's Day commemorates the economic, political, social and cultural achievements of women through reiteration of respect, admiration and love for women. On March 8, 1908, over 15,000 women demonstrated on the streets of New York for their rights, demanding better pay and a right to vote. The first International Women's Day event was held in 1911.

After decades of struggle across the world, women are turning patriarchal and other outdated modes of thinking within society on its heads. History is a witness that women have always made a significant contribution in building

society and shaping nations. The role of educated women is crucial in the progress and social freedom of any nation.

Respecting women has been a virtue in Indian civilisation and culture. Ancient texts make it clear that women had more freedom in ancient India. Arundhati (wife of Maharsi Vashishtha), Lopamudra (wife of Maharsi Agastya), Anusuya (wife of Maharsi Atri), were worshipped as divine entities.

Ancient Indian grammarians like Patanjali and Katyayani say that women were educated in the early Vedic period. Rig Vedic hymns chronicle that women were married after the age of maturation and had the freedom to choose their husband.

Texts like the *Rig Veda* and *Upanishads* mention several female sages, among whom Gargi and Maitreyi's names are notable. Sita in Ramayana and Draupadi in Mahabharata are a symbol of female empowerment. In

ancient traditions, all deities worshipped Durga.

According to research, situation of women began to decline in the medieval period. Women freedoms got reduced and rights of women denied increasingly during the Mughal and British rule. The practice of child marriage is believed to have started around sixth century. Things became worse once the invader's reigns began. During those days, abhorrent practices like *pardah pratha*, child-marriage, *sati-pratha*, *jauhar* and *devadasi* came into vogue.

Though the British did not make any efforts to improve status of women, in the middle of the 19th century, many reformist movements such as Brahmo Samaj (Raja Ram Mohan Roy), Arya Samaj (Swami Dayanand Saraswati), Theosophical Society, Ramakrishna Mission (Swami Vivekananda), Female Education (Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar), Education of Dalit Women (Mahatma

Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule etc.), worked for the emancipation of women.

Our times have truly evolved. Old traditions, conservatism and ignorance have come to an end or are in their last days. Outside household work, women are making impact in all walks of life. Space travel to administrative services, education, politics, sports, business, literature, army, media and others have seen women become leaders and make changes for the better.

Today, there is a need to understand that women are central to development. In

the absence of a well-organised and dignified life of a woman, a good society can't be created.

The achievements of Hyderabad based International badminton player P.V. Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and tennis player Sania Mirza in the sporting world are in front of us. International women boxer Mary Kom and international women cricketer Mithali Raj are examples for society.

In the last six years, there has been an almost three-fold increase in women in the Army and more avenues are being opened at a steady pace. There are currently 9,118 women serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force, giving them more opportunities to march ahead. Excluding the medical wing, the Army has 6,807 women officers, Air Force 1,607 and Navy 704 women officers.

We have not forgotten that a Navika Sagar Parikrama was a circumnavigation of the globe by female officers of Indian Navy. The six

member all-woman team circumnavigated and managed the entire operation in their first ever global journey, on *INSV Tarini*. The voyage lasted 254 days, from 10 September 2017 to 21 May 2018. The team also included Himachal's daughter Commander Pratibha Jamwal.

Known as the "missile woman" of India, Tessy Thomas is a scientist at Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). She served as project director for Agni IV and V-missiles, making her the first woman to lead missile teams in India.

But there are areas of darkness. Crimes against women are still high. According to a report by National Crime Report Bureau (NCRB), India recorded an average of 87 rape cases per day in 2019 and a total of 4,05,861 cases of crime against women.

There are 17.9 per cent cases related to abduction of women. This data worries. However, according to the

2011 census, the sex ratio in the country is 943, compared to 974 in Himachal Pradesh. Atrocities against women are a stigma on society. When such atrocities on women escalate, society degenerates.

Injustice towards women can't be tolerated. Strong decisions should be taken by the Central and state governments to protect women. Women empowerment is critical to nation building. And education is the key to empowering women.

The Central government is implementing several schemes for women empowerment. Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Scheme and now Beti Badao, Ujjwala Scheme, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (Step), Mahila Shakti Kendra, Mahila Helpline Scheme and reservation for women in Panchayati Raj etc.

In 2019, we witnessed independence of Muslim women. India's Parliament approved a Bill that makes

Muslim practice of "instant divorce" a criminal offence. This is a victory of gender justice and will further equality in society.

Serving as minister of labour under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, my ministry gave right of equal pay to women. The benefit of maternity leave, which was legally 12 weeks, was increased to 26 weeks. This was much higher than international standards.

The Modi government legally implemented the protection and transport facility for working women in night shifts. Separate funds were made for Kasturba girls' schools and upgrade the standard to 10 plus 2, for which a provision of separate funds was made.

By making educational available to all and ensuring laws are followed, India can be made free of crime against women. And that dream should unite us.

The author is the Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Rising daily cases in Delhi a worry; 6 states on watch

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

According to health ministry data, there are over 90,000 active Coronavirus cases in Maharashtra.

According to a report submitted by a Central team, the laxity in following Covid-19 protocols and restrictions, the lack of fear over the disease, the pandemic fatigue, miss-outs during screening, enhanced aggregations due to the recent gram panchayat elections, the marriage season and the reopening of schools, crowded public transport are some of the reasons for the resurgence in cases in Maharashtra.

This rise in cases is now spreading to Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana as well. In Delhi, the daily fresh cases had at one point come down to two-digit figures, but were again over 300 on Saturday, after nearly six weeks, and were 286 on Sunday.

However, in a possible indication of the low virulence of Covid-19 during this wave, despite the surge in cases, the fatality figures continue to remain low and there were 100 deaths reported from all over India in the last 24 hours. In the past two weeks, 10 states didn't report any Covid-19 deaths and 12 reported 1,159.

Concerned with the surge, the Aurangabad district administration is considering a lockdown in the area to check the rise in cases.

Thrash babus, says Giriraj, sparks row

NAYEER AZAD | DC
PATNA, MARCH 7

Chief Minister against a senior BJP leader has aroused political temperance in the state.

Apart from Kumar, opposition parties have also strongly condemned Singh's remark. In his tweet, Bihar opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "Union Minister Giriraj says that there is anarchy in Bihar. Officers do not listen to anyone. The Chief Minister is weak, so pick up bamboo sticks and beat officers. Nitish government has been rewarding ministers who promote violence but files FIRs against journalists who expose the truth".

While addressing a gathering in his Lok Sabha constituency Begusarai, Singh said, "Don't hesitate to reach out to government officials with your concerns and if they don't listen to your grievances beat them up with bamboo sticks. MP, MLA, DDC, SDO, DDC are there for you so go to them and if your rights are violated then you will find Giriraj Singh standing there for you."

His comment has triggered sharp reactions from across the political spectrum in Bihar. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar when asked about the issue said, "You should ask him. Is it appropriate to use words like *piti* (

**INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON
CROSS TIME CONNECTION
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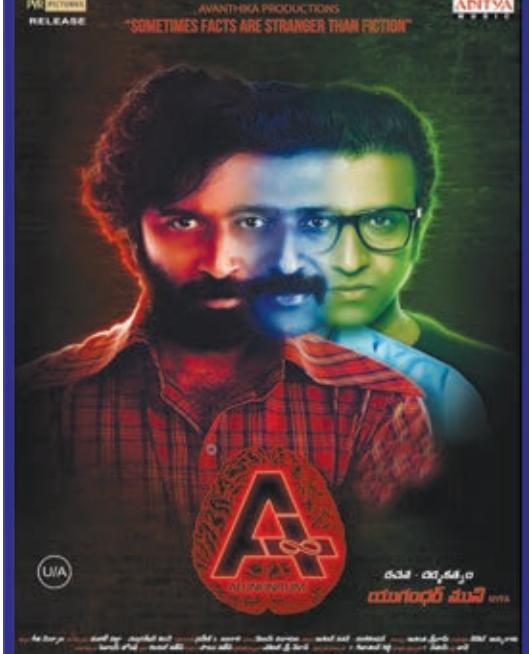
INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON
CROSS TIME CONNECTION

A GIRL FROM 1993 CALLS A GUY IN 2019.
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11.00, 2.00, 6.00PM
PVR INORBIT-4.50PM|RK-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
ASIAN CINEMAS 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"**
FANTASTIC HIT



PVR
Forum-1.30,7.45PM|Central-1.15,7.30PM
Inorbit-2.10,7.15PM|Hitech-12.45,6.00PM
L&T-4.15,10.15PM|RK-10.45PM
Preston prime-9.00PM|
Moosarambagh-3.45,9.00PM
Irrummanzil-1.15,6.30PM
PRASAD'S 9.00,3.00PM
MALLAPUR 10.30,7.30PM
INOX GVK-10.20PM | GSM-3.35PM
MP MALL-10.10PM
CCPL-10.20PM|DSL-10.00PM
MANTRA-10.40PM|SUDHA-10.20PM
MIRAJ SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00,7.45PM
BALANAGAR-2.00,7.45PM
CHANDANAGAR-6.45PM
KOMPALLY 4.20PM
MULTIPLEX 4.50 PM
ASIAN PLANET 4.20 PM
UPPAL 4.10PM
PVR PICTURES RELEASE 9963883444

FROM THE MAKERS OF "STREE"
COMES ANOTHER HORROR COMEDY
IN CINEMAS THU 11th MARCH 2021



PRASADS MULTIPLEX AMB CINEMAS - GACHIBOWLI
CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA | ICON - HITECH
INORBIT MALL - MADHAPUR | RK COMPLEX -
BANJARAHILLS | FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY |
HYD - BAD NEXT GALLERIA - PANJAGUTTA | IRRUM-
MANZIL - KHAIATABAD | HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA -
MOOSARAMBAGH | PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI
INOX GVK MALL - BANJARAHILLS | MP MALL -
KACHIGUDA | GSM MALL - MADEENAGUDA
SHALINI SHIVANI - DILSUKHNAGAR | MIRAJ CINEMAS -
BALANAGAR | MIRAJ GEETHA - CHANDANAGAR
ASIAN M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR | CINESQUARE -
UPPAL | MUKTHA 2 MJR SQUARE - NARAPALLY |
RADHIKA - KAPRA | GPR - KUKATPALLY | SHIVA
GANGA - DILSUKHNAGAR | LAXMI KALA CINEPRIDE
- MOOSAPET | SHASHENSHA - H.M.T ROAD CHINTAL |
CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY | TALLURI - ECIL X ROADS
S2 NOMA - MALLAPUR
MOVIE TIME - GACHIBOWLI
★ TIVOLI TIVOLI - SEC'BAD

WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD |
MONDAY | 8 MARCH 2021

pg | 8

Biden's Covid-19 bill clears Senate hurdle

Washington, March 7: The US Senate on Saturday voted to approve a \$1.9 trillion relief package in what President Joe Biden called a "giant step" towards reviving the pandemic-stricken American economy, capping frenzied negotiations and a marathon overnight voting session.

"I promised the American people help was on the way," said Biden in an address from the White House after the plan was approved along strict party lines. "Today, I can say we've taken one more giant step forward in delivering on that promise," he

said. "It obviously wasn't easy. It wasn't always pretty. But it was so desperately needed." Even without the progressive priority of a minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour, the stimulus bill marks a victory for Biden's Democrats as they put their stamp on the recovery from a pandemic that has killed more than 5,00,000 people in the United States and hobbled its economy.

— AFP

NEPAL QUASHES UNIFICATION OF PRACHANDA AND OLI PARTIES

Kathmandu, March 7: Nepal's Supreme Court on Sunday quashed the unification of the erstwhile Communist Party of Nepal (Unified MarxistLeninist) led by Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', in a huge blow to the two warring leaders amidst a tussle for power.

The CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Centre) merged in May 2018 to form a unified Nepal Communist Party following the victory of their alliance in the 2017 general elections.

On Sunday, an apex court bench of justices Kumar Regmi and Bam Kumar Shrestha issued the verdict giving authenticity of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to Rishiram Kattel, who had registered the party at the Election Commission (EC) in his name prior to the formation of Nepal Communist Party (NCP) led by Oli and Prachanda. The *Kathmandu Post* newspaper reported.

Kattel had challenged the Election Commission's decision to register Nepal Communist Party (NCP) under Oli and Prachanda in May 2018.

The bench said that a new party cannot be registered with the Election Commission when it already has a party registered with a similar name.

"The Supreme Court has passed a verdict in our favour," Kattel's lawyer Dandapani Poudel was quoted as saying by the paper. "We have won the case."

The court said then CPN-UML and then CPN (Maoist Centre) would return to the pre-merger stage and if they were to merge, they should apply at the Election Commission as per the Political Parties Act, according to the paper.

With the apex court's verdict, the NCP's 174 seats in parliament will now be divided based on the number of seats won by the UML and Maoist Centre prior to their merger into the NCP after the parliamentary election in 2017.

The two parties had forged an electoral alliance with an agreement to unify the two parties after the election.

In the 2017 elections, the UML had won 121 seats and the Maoist Centre 53.

Oli, known for his pro-China leanings, in a surprise move dissolved Parliament in December last year, amidst a tussle for power with Prachanda.

The ruling NCP split over Oli's move to dissolve the 275-member House.

Both Oli and the rival group claim to control the Nepal Communist Party and the issue is being disputed by the Election Commission.

Advocate Poudel had filed a writ petition at the Supreme Court on behalf of Kattel on December 7, 2018, demanding that the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) led by Oli and Prachanda be scrapped as its registration violated Clause 6(e) of the Political Parties Act 2017.

— PTI



DEVI 70MM
(4K & Dolby Atmos) R.T.C X Road

MALLIKARJUNA 70
Kukatpally

KONARK 70MM
Dilsukhnagar

VENKATARAMANA 70
Kachiguda

MAHALAXMI 70
Kothapet

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairatabad

AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli

TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad

FORUM - Kukatpally | ICON - HITECH

PVR - MOOSARAMBAGH | IRRUM MANZIL

GPR - GACHIBOWLI | CENTRAL - Panjagutta

RADHIKA - Kukatpally | INORBIT - Cyberbad

CINEPLANET - Kompally

CINESQUARE - Uppal

SHIVAGANGA - Dilsukhnagar

LAXMIKALA - Moosapet

GVK - Banjara Hills | Miyapur

MP MALL - Kachiguda

DSL - Uppal | MANTRA - Attapur

CCPL - Malkajgiri

MIRAJ - Balangar | Chandanagar

S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur

TALLURI THEATRES - Ecil X Road

GOKUL 70MM • **SREERAMANA**
Erragada Amberpet

SAI RANGA 70 • **ALANKAR 70**
Miyapur LangerHouz

JYOTHI 70MM • **SAI POOJA 70**
R.C Puram Suraram

SRI KRISHNA 70 • **LAXMIKALA MANDIR**
Uppal Alwal

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SANDHYA70MM
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11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
SHIVAPARVATHI70-11.30,2.30PM
SREERAMANA SIVASAKTHI70MM
COMPLEX-11.00,6.15PM
PADMAVATHICOMPLEX-KACHIGUDA
9.00PM(ONE SHOW ONLY)

SANTOSHIBPATNAM SAMPOORNA70
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM
SRILATHA70MM SV CINESQUARE
6.15,9.15PM
SENSATIONINSO TALLURICOMPLEX
9.00PM(ONE SHOW)
SAPNAABIDS-11.30,2.30PM
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-1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10PM
Cinépolis CCPL-10.30,4.25,10.20PM
MANTRA-11.00,4.30,10.20PM
DSL-12.10,6.35,9.35PM|
SUDHA-10.30,4.25,10.10PM
12.00,5.00, 10.00PM
10.55 4.30PM
10.55 7.40
11.00,4.45, 10.45PM
PLATINUM 8.40PM
DILSHUKNAGAR-10.45,7.15
BALANAGAR-10.40,8.00PM
CHANDANAGAR-12.00,6.30PM
11.00, 7.50PM
TIVOLI 11.20,4.45PM
RK-8.05PM|PRESTON-7.50PM
IRRUMMANZIL-12.15,6.05,8.45PM
CENTRAL-10.50,4.40,10.20PM
ICON-1.55,7.35PM
FORUM-11.00,1.40,4.45,7.30,10.10PM
INORBIT-11.00,7.50,10.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-2.05,7.20,10.00PM
KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE



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

EESHWAR70-11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
MAHALAXMI-11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM
SANGEETH70-11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

RAJADHANICOMPX-DSNR
11.15,2.15,15.6,15.9,15PM

VISWANATH70-KUKATPALLY
11.45,2.45,6.45,9.45PM

SRISAIRAM70-MALKAJGIRI
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

SRIRAMULU70-MOOSAPET
11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

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

SRILAXMI 70MM SRIDEVI R.C.PURAM
12.00,3.00,7.00,10.00PM

SUSHMA70MM VIMAL70MM
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM

TALLURICINEMA-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

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

10.30,11.40,4.15, 5.00,8.00,10.00PM
BIG SCREEN 6.00PM

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-10.05,1.10,7.30,10.40PM
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, 4.10, 7.25PM
4.10, 10.00PM
TIVOLI 2.00,7.40,10.10PM

INOX 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

LAXMIKALA-MOOSAPET
AMEREPET 2.30,6.15,9.30PM

CCPL-10.30,4.20,7.30,10.35PM
MANTRA-10.50,2.10,4.35,7.50,10.50
SUDHA-10.10,4.25,7.40,10.40PM
DSL-11.40,3.10,6.20,10.20PM

PLATINUM 10.30,4.20,7.30,10.35PM
SHALINI/SHIVANI-10.45PM
BALANAGAR-10.45PM

FORUM-11.00,1.40,4.45,7.30,10.10PM
INORBIT-11.00,7.50,10.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-2.05,7.20,10.00PM

1.35, 4.10, 7.25PM
4.10, 10.00PM
TIVOLI 2.00,7.40,10.10PM

INOX 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

LAXMIKALA-MOOSAPET
AMEREPET 2.30,6.15,9.30PM

CCPL-10.30,4.20,7.30,10.35PM
MANTRA-10.50,2.10,4.35,7.50,10.50
SUDHA-10.10,4.25,7.40,10.40PM
DSL-11.40,3.10,6.20,10.20PM

PLATINUM 10.30,4.20,7.30,10.35PM
SHALINI/SHIVANI-10.45PM
BALANAGAR-10.45PM

FORUM-11.00,1.40,4.45,7.30,10.10PM
INORBIT-11.00,7.50,10.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-2.05,7.20,10.00PM

1.35, 4.10, 7.25PM
4.10, 10.00PM
TIVOLI 2.00,7.40,10.10PM

INOX 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

LAXMIKALA-MOOSAPET
AMEREPET 2.30,6.15,9.30PM

CCPL-10.30,4.20,7.30,10.35PM
MANTRA-10.50,2.10,4.35,7.50,10.50
SUD



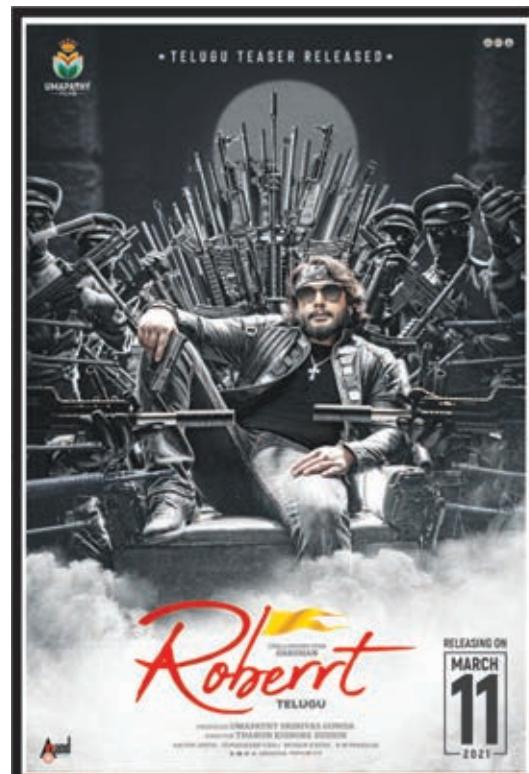
ASIAN CINEMAS

Mahanati

Women's Day Special Screening "Mahanati"

ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA:7.30PM
ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY:7.30PM
ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY:4.30PM
ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR:4.30PM
ASIAN CINESQUARE-UPPAL:7.30PM

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Iran up for talks if US lifts sanctions

Prez Rouhani criticises the European signatories of the historic nuclear deal

Tehran, March 7: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday his country was prepared to take steps to live up to measures in the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as soon as the United States lifts economic sanctions on Iran.

In a meeting with Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, Rouhani said: "Iran is ready to immediately take compensatory measures based on the nuclear deal and fulfill its commitments just after the US illegal sanctions are lifted and it abandons its policy of threats and pressure."

their commitments to the agreement. He said Iran is the only country that kept its side of the bargain.

Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew the US from the Iranian nuclear accord, in which Tehran had agreed to limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting

of economic sanctions.

When the US then reimposed some sanctions and added others, Iran gradually and publicly abandoned the deal's limits on its nuclear development. The Republic of Ireland has the role of facilitator in the implementation of the nuclear deal.

Coveney said the withdrawal of former President Donald Trump was a mistake and noted that the new US administration is determined to return to the deal. In December, Iran's parliament approved a bill that calls for the suspension of part of UN inspections of its nuclear facilities if European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal do not provide relief from oil and banking sanctions.

—AP

Pope Francis prays for 'victims of war' in Iraq

Mosul, Iraq, March 7: Pope Francis prayed on Sunday for "victims of war" outside a centuries-old church in Iraq's Mosul, where the Islamic State group ravaged one of the world's oldest Christian communities until the jihadists' defeat three years ago.

The IS onslaught forced hundreds of thousands of Christians in northern Iraq's Mosul, said the pope's visit could change the way people think about his city, the ancient centre of which still lies in ruins.

—AFP

sion of 2003.

The faithful had gathered on Sunday in the courtyard of the Al-Tahera Church, whose roof collapsed during fighting against IS in 2017.

It is one of the oldest of at least 14 churches in Nineveh province that were destroyed by IS.

Boutros Chito, a Catholic priest in Mosul, said the pope's visit could change the way people think about his city, the ancient centre of which still lies in ruins.

—AFP

WORLD'S FIRST EVER TWEET DRAWS \$2M BID

San Francisco, March 7: Twitter boss Jack Dorsey is selling his first tweet at auction, with bidding Saturday reaching \$2 million in a sign of the appetite for virtual objects authenticated through blockchain technology.

"just setting up my twtr," Dorsey tweeted on March 21, 2006.

On Friday he posted a link to "Valuables @Cent," an online marketplace for tweets where, the site says, investors or collectors can "buy and sell tweets autographed by their creators."

The top bid on Saturday for Dorsey's tweet — \$2 million — came from Justin Sun, the founder of TRON, a platform for blockchain, the technology underlying cryptocurrencies. He also heads the BitTorrent streaming platform.

"The creator of a tweet decides if they would like to mint it on the blockchain, creating a 1-of-1 autographed version," Valuables explains. Buying a tweet means purchasing "a digital certificate of the tweet, unique because it has been signed and verified by the creator," according to Valuables.

In Dorsey's case, the tweet itself remains visible to all, so long as he and Twitter leave it online. The approach is much like the online sales of dramatic digital "moments" from National Basketball Association games; the short video sequences remain visible for free on the internet but a block chain-backed "Non-Fungible Token" (NFT) is generated to guarantee the identity, authenticity and traceability of the video, confirming its value.

Thus, a 10-second clip showing a spectacular sequence by basketball superstar LeBron James fetched \$208,000 on the NBA Top Shot site late last month. Top Shot has generated more than \$200 million in transactions this year. — AFP



quick BITES

INDICATORS %

		%
Sensex	50405.32	-0.87
Nifty 50	14938.10	-0.95
S&P 500*	3,841.94	1.95
Dollar (\$)	73.02	-0.24
Pound Sterling (\$)	101.00	0.44
Euro (\$)	87.00	0.71
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	43,887▲522	1.18
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	68.79	3.07
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.232	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.608	0.058

* As of Friday/Saturday

FDI in software, hardware jumps 4-fold to \$24.4 bn

Foreign direct investments in the computer software and hardware sector jumped nearly four-times to \$24.4 billion during April–December, according to the DPIIT against \$6.4 billion in the year-ago period and \$7.7 billion in FY20. The other sectors which recorded significant growth in foreign inflows during the nine-month period include construction (infrastructure) activities (\$7.2 billion), and pharmaceuticals (\$1.24 billion).

DoT to issue demand notes to telcos this week



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will issue demand notes to telcos next week on an upfront payment for spectrum acquired in the just-concluded auctions, which raked in over Rs 77,800 crore, for 855.6 MHz of spectrum, for the government. Reliance Jio spent the most in the auction, picking up 488.35 MHz spectrum in bands such as 800 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz for Rs 57,122.65 crore.

Ranganathan is head of CII-SR, Ella deputy

C. K. Ranganathan, chairman of Chennai-based CavinKare Ltd has been elected chairman of the CII, Southern Region, for 2021-22. Bharat Biotech International co-founder Suchitra K. Ella was elected as deputy chairperson. Ranganathan has been associated with the CII in various capacities. Ella was the past chairperson of CII Andhra Pradesh and also the national council member and the past national chairwoman of CII IWN.

FPIs pull out ₹5,156 cr in first week of March

Reversing the two-month buying streak, foreign portfolio investors pulled out Rs 5,156 crore from Indian markets in the first week of March amid profit booking and rising bond yields in the US. According to depositories data, overseas investors pulled out a net Rs 881 crore from equities and Rs 4,275 crore from the debt segment between March 1-5, taking the total net withdrawals to Rs 5,156 crore.

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■ Covid drives up domestic, export demand Home textile firms raising capacities

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 7

Buoyed by increased demand in both export and domestic markets, home textile companies are expanding their capacities.

The home textile segment is witnessing a strong demand revival. Increased consumption due to hygiene consciousness has improved the demand in both international and domestic markets, said Siddharth Rajagopal, executive director of Texprocil. There is also a surge in demand in the developed markets, including the US.

The Rs 55,000-crore Indian home textile sector, comprising products such as terry towels, bed sheets and spreads, pillow cases, curtains, and rugs and carpets, derives as much as 60-70 per cent of its revenue from exports. The US and the European Union account for over 80 per cent of these exports and large retailers and departmental stores are the major customers.

"Home textiles have taken a centre-stage in our lifestyle as work-from-home makes people spend more time inside their houses. There has been a pent-up demand in the June quarter but in the September and December quarters the momentum is continuing," said Kailash Lalpuria, executive director and CEO of Indo Count.

Most of the major home textile companies reported a cumulative revenue



growth of 22 per cent in the December quarter.

Supported by this positive outlook on demand, many of them are expanding their manufacturing capacities, according to Motilal Oswal Institutional Equities.

Welspun India is expanding its capacity for home textile business through bottlenecks facilities at Vapi and Anjar in order to increase capacity of towels, bed linens, rugs and carpets. Its flooring business grew over three-fold in the December quarter.

Capacity of its hard flooring plant is being doubled in January. It is being further doubled by Q2 FY22 to cater to growing demand. Soft Flooring has also started gaining traction, with strong inquiries from US, Canada, and other markets.

Himatsingka Seide had recently announced its new licensing agreement with The Walt Disney Company for the European

region. The licence will give it the right to design, develop, manufacture, and distribute a broad range of home textile products inspired by Disney's vast archives and characters from all its franchises including Disney, Marvel, Pixar and Lucas.

Trident has announced its Vision 2025, which includes expansion of existing businesses, diversification into new businesses through organic and inorganic growth.

"The industry is debottlenecking and increasing capacity as well as moving into other product categories within home textiles. We are also drawing plans on increasing capex and capacities. We expect the home textile export market to grow at a CAGR of 15 per cent in the coming years," said Lalpuria.

VTex, another major player, is operating at almost full capacity for woven fabric, gray fabric and processed fabric.

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BIZ CONFIDENCE HIGHEST IN A DECADE: FICCI

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, MARCH 7

Corporate India's business confidence was at a decadal high in the December quarter, according to industry body Ficci.

Ficci's Overall Business Confidence Index reached 74.2 in the current round (Q3) on account of improvement in present conditions as well as expectations, the chamber said on Sunday.

The index had stood at 70.9 in the previous survey and at 59 a year ago, noted the survey, based on responses from about 190 companies, with their turnover ranging from Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.37 lakh crore.

The survey revealed recovery of demand conditions, improved capacity utilisation and a promising outlook on various operational parameters.

However, rising raw material costs is emerging as a bothersome factor for members of India Inc. The rise in fuel and other commodity prices is beginning to exert pressure on the input costs of companies.

— PTI

Mines ministry seeks provision to auction blocks if states fail

New Delhi, March 7: The mines ministry has proposed a clause to enable the central government to auction mineral blocks in case the states face difficulties in sale of such mines.

The move aims at ensuring continuous supply of minerals in the country with the auction of more number of mineral blocks on a regular basis.

Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, the states conduct auction of mineral concessions.

"To ensure continuous supply of minerals in the country, more number of mineral blocks are required to be brought into auction on regular basis. Any delay in the conduct of auction has substantial impact on the availability as well as prices of minerals.

"Hence, it is proposed to provide the power to

central government to conduct auction in cases where the state governments face challenges in conducting the auction or fail to conduct auction," the mines ministry has said.

In cases, where the Centre would auction the blocks, the revenue from such mines will accrue to state governments only, the ministry said.

Since 2015, central exploration agencies have handed over geological reports of 143 mineral blocks to various state governments which are ready for auction. Out of these, only seven blocks have been auctioned by the states. Further, mining leases of 334 blocks expired on March 31, 2020, out of which 46 were working mines.

The ministry is pursuing with the states since early 2019 for early auction of these blocks.

— PTI

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The ministry is pursuing with the states since early 2019 for early auction of these blocks.

— PTI



happiness without having to worry about money. Your goal can be to send your kids abroad for higher education, upgrading the house or car; retiring in a certain location or getting kids married or a family vacation. Here is a broad road map to help you secure your and your family's future:

■ The first step is to identify and finalise your financial goals, decide the timeframe for achieving the goals and arriving at an estimated cost to achieve each goal. Then comes budgeting, saving, investing and growing the money.

Says Pankaj Maalde, a certified financial planner, "You should know what is your income and how much is the outflow due to expenses. Your

Old cars to get 5% rebate in scrappage policy: Gadkari

New Delhi, March 7: There is good news for consumers who are going to junk their old vehicles



Nitin Gadkari

and buy a new one under the Vehicle Scrapping Policy as automakers will give about 5 per cent rebate on the new purchase, Union minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

Currently, the paid-up capital of the life insurance company with over 29 crore policies is Rs 100 crore.

LIC, which started with an initial capital of Rs 5 crore in 1956, has an asset base of close to Rs 32 lakh crore at Rs 31,96,214.81 crore.

The voluntary vehicle scrapping policy announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22 provides for fitness test after 20 years for personal vehicles while commercial vehicles would require it after the completion of 15 years.

"Automobile manufacturers will provide about 5 per cent rebate on new car purchases" to the consumers in lieu of scrapping of the old, road transport, highways and MSMEs minister Gakdari told PTI.

The minister said the policy would lead to a 30 per cent boost to the Indian automobile industry turnover to Rs 10 lakh crore in the years to come from the present about Rs 4.5 lakh crore.

Gadkari said: "Automobile industry turnover which is Rs 4.5 lakh crore at present is likely to swell to Rs 10 lakh crore in years to come with India becoming an automobile hub."

Of this, the export component will go up to Rs 3 lakh crore from Rs 1.45 lakh crore now, he added.

— PTI

Ikea rushes to make up lost time on expansion

CHRIS KAY
MARCH 7

Furniture giant Ikea is accelerating its India expansion after a nationwide pandemic lockdown last year delayed the construction and opening of new stores in one of its fastest-growing markets.

"If you have a lockdown you can't continue to construct," Peter Betzel, Ikea's chief executive officer for India said in an interview. "But now we are back in full speed."

The company opened its second India store on the outskirts of Mumbai in December and another in Bengaluru is now on course to be completed in 12 months, Betzel said, adding that he was hopeful of meeting the target of rolling out shops in 30 cities within seven years.

Ikea, which opened its first store in Hyderabad in 2018, also has just two years left to raise the ratio of goods and materials sourced from India -- currently at 22 per cent-- to at least 30 per cent to meet local regulations, Betzel

get around Rs 1,000 crore as the market price of land is around Rs 1 lakh per square yard. The amount raised would be used to pay back a portion of the company's debt, a company source told PTI.

According to RINL's website, the company had a net debt of Rs 19,592 crore in financial year 2018-19.

The company, without any captive iron ore mine, produces over 19,000 tonne of hot metal per day from its three fully operational

blast furnaces at the plant. The source said RINL's land at Maddilapalem is a prime location, situated about 4 km from the beach and 2 km from NH-16 that connects Howrah in to Chennai.

The value of the project

would be ascertained after the preparation and finalisation of a detailed project report.

NBCC

for redevelopment and monetisation of its 22.19 acres of land in the city of Visakhapatnam.

The company expects to

get around Rs 1,000 crore as the market price of land is around Rs 1 lakh per square yard. The amount raised would be used to pay back a portion of the company's debt, a company source told PTI.

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AIRASIA PLANS FLYING-TAXI SERVICE NEXT YR

YANTOULTRA NGUI
MARCH 7

Malaysian budget airline AirAsia Group Bhd said it is seeking to launch a flying-taxi business as soon as next year.

"We are working on that right now," Tony Fernandes, the company's CEO and co-founder, said. "I think we are about a year-and-a-half away from launching."

AirAsia expects to start its own e-hailing services in April, Fernandes said. The flying taxis it hopes to begin providing next year will come with as many as four seats and will be powered by a quadcopter.

Separately on Saturday, the company announced that it's partnering with a state agency called the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre to develop an urban drone delivery service.

Fernandes is optimistic that air travel will soon rebound with the rollout of vaccination programmes. The group offers low-cost flights linking 22 countries, mostly in the Asia-Pacific.

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES
Vinesh bags gold, reclaims top spot

Rome: Living up to the expectations, star Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her second gold medal in as many weeks with a dominant win in the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event and reclaimed the top rank in her category here. The 26-year-old world bronze medallist and the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games, Vinesh blanked Canada's Diana Mary Helen Weicker 4-0 in the 53kg title clash.

Vinesh scored all her points in the first period and held on to her lead in the second to ensure a top-of-the-podium finish.

Vinesh had won a gold medal in Kiev last week and this performance would give her the belief that her preparations for the biggest sporting event are on the right track.

The Indian had entered the event as world number three but is back to world number one by jumping 14 points. — PTI

Guptill leads NZ to T20 series win

Wellington: A century opening stand by Martin Guptill and Devon Conway saw New Zealand clinch their Twenty20 series against Australia in Wellington on Sunday after the tourists faltered in the face of an experimental spin attack. Set a target of 143 for victory in the fifth and final match, New Zealand claimed victory by seven wickets and took the series 3-2 with an emphatic 27 balls to spare.

After being comprehensively outplayed in games three and four when batting second, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson knew he had to be innovative to win the series after he lost the toss and was told to bowl first. — AFP

Brief Scores: Australia 142/8 (Wade 44, Finch 36, Sodhi 3-24, Boult 2-26) lost to New Zealand 143/3 (Guptill 71, Conway 36, Phillips 34*, Meredith 2-39) by 7 wickets.

Covid hits Indian boxers in Spain

New Delhi: The Indian men's boxing team's final campaign at the 35th Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain was derailed by a positive Covid-19 case in the side, resulting in three withdrawals from the summit clashes. Olympic-bound Ashish Kumar (75kg) tested positive for the virus and as a result of being his roommates, Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) and Sumit Sangwan (81kg) were forced to withdraw from the finals on Saturday night.

All three of them ended with silver medals which could have been gold but for the unforeseen circumstances. Hussamuddin and Sumit have tested negative and are travelling back with the team which will land in Mumbai on Monday.

Among the women, Simranjit Kaur (60kg), who is also bound for the Olympics, was forced out of her final after her semifinal opponent — Kiria Tapia of Puerto Rico — tested positive for the virus. — PTI

Hyd girls, RR boys champs

Hyderabad: Hyderabad girls and Ranga Reddy boys emerged winners in the 7th Telangana State Sub-Junior Inter-District Throwball Championship on Sunday. Hyderabad defeated Ranga Reddy 15-10, 15-12 in the girls final while Ranga Reddy beat Nizamabad 15-13, 12-15 for the boys title.

Medchal girls took the third place with a 15-8, 15-10 win over Vikarabad while the Hyderabad boys outplayed Medchal 15-11, 15-9 to finish third.

Live on TV

CRICKET
Vijay Hazare Trophy: Quarterfinal from 9 am on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

FOOTBALL
Indian Super League: First Semifinal, 2nd leg — Mumbai vs Goa from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, HD

English Premier League: Chelsea vs Everton from 11.30 pm; West Ham vs Leeds United from 1.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 1

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BREEZY MARIN DRIVE

Carolina cruises past Sindhu to win Swiss Open title

Basel, March 7: World Champion P.V. Sindhu finished a distant second best in the Swiss Open final after being completely routed by Olympic gold medallist Carolina Marin of Spain in a lop-sided women's singles title clash here on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Indian, who had won the coveted World Championship gold medal here in 2019, couldn't match the speed and accuracy of Marin during her 12-21, 5-21 defeat in the final that lasted only 35 minutes.

It was Sindhu's third successive loss to Marin, who had won both the Super 1000 events in Thailand in January before finishing runners-up at the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals.

Playing her first final in 18 months, Sindhu entered the match with a 5-8 head-to-head record against Marin, having lost her last two matches against the former world no.1.

The world No. 7 Indian, who didn't drop a game in the last four matches this week, however, failed to summon her 'A' game under pressure as Marin came up trumps to claim her third title of the year.

Marin, the current world No. 3, had also defeated Sindhu in the final of the Rio Olympics in 2016.



Carolina Marin poses with the Swiss Open trophy after beating P.V. Sindhu in the final. — Twitter

Sindhu seemed completely clueless against a rampaging Marin, who outclassed the Indian with her pace, power and precision during the summit

clash. In the opening game, Marin opened up a 2-0 lead early on, which was quickly erased by Sindhu as she looked to step up the pace.

The Indian moved ahead 6-4 — the only time she had a lead in the match — but Marin again clawed back with Sindhu finding the net more often than

Shastri takes dig at ICC for 'shifting goalposts'



India head coach Ravi Shastri (left) and captain Virat Kohli in this file photo. — AFP

Known for not mincing words, India head coach Ravi Shastri on Sunday criticised the ICC for changing the qualification criteria for the World Test Championship final, saying the world governing body needs to stop "shifting goalposts".

India beat England 3-1 in the just concluded four-Test series to set up World Test Championship title date with New Zealand but the Indian coach wasn't happy that midway through the tournament, global body changed the criteria from maximum points earned to maximum percentage points earned.

"If you ask me about first cycle, please don't shift the goalposts," Shastri took a direct dig at the ICC when asked about what changes he would like when WTC is held during next cycle of events.

"I am sitting at home because of Covid-19 in the month of October with more points than any other team, 360 apparently (having won three series and lost one). A week later without knowing some rule comes that we are going to go (move) into the percentage system and we go (slip) from number one to three (in points table)," the coach said.

He continues, "Fine that's because of countries not wanting to travel, countries that are in the red zone. All acceptable and fine. I want to

understand the logic because now it's like 'What's the way forward for me?' Sitting 60 to 70 points ahead, I am told, now you have to go to Australia and what you have to do? You have to beat Australia," he had a lot of sting in his voice.

"If you don't beat Australia, you come back home and you have to then beat England 4-0 and get close to 500 points and you still don't qualify? So we have had to dig deep and go down every hole and we have earned our stripes to be in the biggest of the them all — the World Test Championship final," he said.

SHASTRI SEES GLIMPSE OF HIM IN SUNDAR

Shastri was both Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev's 'go to man' with his all-round abilities

during the '80s and head coach firmly believes that young Washington Sundar could play a similar role in the current Test team.

The left-handed specialist batsman, who also bowls mean off-breaks, scored three half centuries in his four Tests along with six wickets which includes prized scalps of Steve Smith and Joe Root.

Do you see glimpses of you in him?

"I think Washy has far more natural ability than I had," said the veteran of 80 Tests who had close to 4000 runs and 150 plus wickets.

"He has the ability and he belongs at this level and he can go a long way.

If he could focus on his bowling (in Tests), India could have a very good number six for overseas conditions." — PTI

STATE | SNOOKER

Himanshu pots a hat-trick of titles

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

Himanshu Jain stamped his authority over cue sports in Hyderabad by bagging a hat-trick of titles at the Telangana State Ranking Snooker & Billiards Championship played at the Telangana Cue Sports Association premises at Khajaguda on Sunday.

Himanshu won the senior snooker final with a dominant 5-2 verdict — 70-9, 21-77, 83-16, 89-15, 87-48, 56-96, 63-19 — against Mushtaq Hussain. On top of his game, Himanshu engineered breaks of 69 and 45 in the first and third

frames. Mushtaq got a break of 56 in the second frame but that was not enough.

Himanshu was off the blocks in a flash, racing to take the first frame at 70-9. However, a rattled Mushtaq reorganised himself to draw level by taking the second at 77-21, only for Himanshu to hit back with 83-16, 89-15 and 87-48 in the third, fourth and fifth to gain control of the match.

With this, Himanshu got a grand double, having won the billiards event too. Last year too he had won both the snooker as well as billiards titles while taking the snooker title the year before that.



Himanshu Jain (centre) receives the senior snooker winner's trophy from Income Tax Commissioner Peeyush Sonkar at Telangana Cue Sports Association joint secretary K. Appa Rao (left) looks on at the TCSA premises at Khajaguda in Hyderabad on Sunday.

It was Sindhu's third successive loss to Marin, who had won both the Super 1000 events in Thailand in January before finishing runners-up at the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals.

not.

Sindhu missed a shot at the backline and committed a couple of unforced errors as Marin lead 9-6.

The Spaniard erred twice before winning a video referral. She then entered the mid-game interval with a healthy 11-8 advantage.

It was a one way traffic after the break as Marin continued the momentum, grabbing four straight points to move to 15-8.

Marin didn't take the foot off the pedal and continued to dominate the proceedings, zooming to a 5-0 lead in the second game. A net error gave Sindhu the serve but the Indian just couldn't get going as she again faltered at the net and then miscued a forehand return. Marin soon moved to 8-2.

Sindhu will next compete at the All England Championships, a Super 1000 event to be held from March 17 to 21. — PTI

WOMEN'S | CRICKET

Toothless India fall flat on return

Lucknow, March 7: Known for not mincing words, India head coach Ravi Shastri on Sunday criticised the ICC for changing the qualification criteria for the World Test Championship final, saying the world governing body needs to stop "shifting goalposts".

Asked to bat, India never got the momentum it needed and could only manage 177 for nine despite sedate fifty from skipper Mithali Raj (50 off 85) and a quick fire 40 off 41 balls from her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur.

Lee (83 not out off 122) and Wolvaardt (80 off 110) helped South Africa chased down the target in 40.1 overs with a record 169-run stand.

India would quickly like to forget their first outing in 12 months and come back much stronger in the next game against a side

which has come into the series with substantial game time.

The South African opening duo did not look any sort of trouble against the India pacers as well as their highly rated spinners. Lee smashed 11 fours and a six while Wolvaardt collected 12 boundaries.

Veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami (2/38), playing her first game since November 2019, was the most impressive in an otherwise disappointing bowling effort. Debutant pacer Monica Patel got only four overs in which she conceded 20 runs.

— PTI

Brief Scores: India 177/9 in 50 overs (Mithali Raj 50, Harmanpreet Kaur 40, Deepa Sharma 27, Shabnim Ismail 3/28, N. Mlaib 2/41) lost to South Africa 178/2 in 40.1 overs (Lizelle Lee 83 not out, Laura Wolvaardt 80; Jhulan Goswami 2/38).

HARMANPREET SAYS INDIA LACKED MATCH PRACTICE

Lucknow, March 7: Indian women's ODI vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Saturday said the team was lacking match practice and will need time to get back into rhythm after being away from international cricket for a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We didn't get any international cricket for a year. Apart from three IPL games we didn't get much time to work as a unit. As a team you need to spend time and get ready for any series," Kaur said at the post-match press conference.

"Nowadays everybody is looking for a big total, every game we want to score more than 250 but for that we need some time and matches. In the past few years we had built a rhythm but we will need time to create that rhythm and next game we will try to do that as a unit," added Kaur, who was playing her 100th ODI. — PTI

No home games, no fans this IPL

New Delhi, March 7: The IPL 2021 will run from April 9 to May 30 across six venues with no team getting to play at home, its Governing Council announced on Sunday.

Despite Covid-19 surge, Mumbai has been named as one of the host cities and the tournament will be held behind closed doors at least in the initial phase of the tournament. The other venues are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata.

There will be a total of 11 double headers where six teams will play three afternoon matches and two teams will play two afternoon matches. The afternoon games are slated for a 3:30pm start while the evening games will have a 7:30pm start. — PTI

IPL SCHEDULE

M	Date	Time	Teams	Venue
1	9-April	7.30 pm	MI vs RCB	Chennai
2	10-April	7.30 pm	CSK vs DC	Mumbai
3	11-April	7.30 pm	SRH vs KKR	Chennai
4	12-April	7.30 pm	RR vs PK	Mumbai
5	13-April	7.30pm	KKR vs MI	Chennai
6	14-April	7.30 pm	SRH vs RCB	Chennai
7	15-April	7.30 pm	RR vs DC	Mumbai
8	16-April	7.30 pm	PK vs CSK	Mumbai
9	17-April	7.30 pm	MI vs SRH	Chennai
10	18-April	3.30 pm	RCB vs KKR	Chennai
11	19-April	7.30 pm	DC vs PK	Mumbai
12	20-April	7.30 pm	CSK vs RR	Mumbai
13	21-April	7.30 pm	DC vs MI	Chennai
14	22-April	7.30 pm	PK vs SRH	Chennai
15	23-April	7.30 pm	KKR vs CSK	Mumbai
16	24-April	7.30 pm		



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- Complete Urine Examination
- Fasting Blood Sugar
- Lipid Profile
- PAP Smear
- Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)
- Ultrasound of Abdomen & Pelvis
- Vitamin D
- Vitamin B12
- Physician Consultation

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Offer Price
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- ECG
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- PAP Smear
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- Ultrasound of Abdomen & Pelvis
- Physician Consultation

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