

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 31.2°C
Min: 16.9°C
RH: 32%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist or haze likely. Max/Min temperature 31/17 QC

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+7,259)	(+86)
1,08,98,721	1,55,655

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+144)	(+0)
TS: 2,96,421	1,614
(+54)	(+0)
AP: 8,88,814	7,162

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

10,88,83,496
DEATHS
23,97,990
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Shuddha Tadiya till 2 am (Monday)
Star: Purvabhadra till 4.35 pm
Varjyam: 2.58 am to 4.41 am (Monday)
Durmuhratam: 4.42 pm to 5.27 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 1,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.42 am

Zohar: 12.40 pm

Asar: 4.41 pm

Maghrib: 6.23 pm

Isha: 7.31 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.42 AM
SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM
MOONSET 8.36 PM
MOONRISE 8.31 AM

COUNTER POINT



He got a job at last. His work is 1,000 tweets per day for the party and its leaders!

SHORT TAKES

Probe R-Day riots, urge farm unions

New Delhi: Farmer unions on Saturday demanded a high-level judicial inquiry into violence during the tractor rally in Delhi on January 26 and the alleged 'false' cases slapped on peasants. Samyukt Kisan Morcha leaders told farmers getting police notices not to appear before the force directly.



WORLD | 15

PIO working at UN in Secy Gen race



SPORTS | 16

Rohit stars for India with a ton



TABLOID

Love in the times of Covid

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'KCR cup' of joy for TRS to rope in youth Party leaders plan sports events till district level



K. Chandrashekhar Rao

The districts are abuzz with 'KCR Cup' sporting events, thanks to the 15-day deadline set by TRS supremo and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for party MLAs and other leaders to enrol 50,000 members in each Assembly constituency, half of them from among the youth.

To attract youngsters, TRS MLAs and party leaders have come up with the idea of conducting sporting events for the 'KCR Cup'. The CM's birthday falls on February 17, in the middle of the membership drive, and party leaders expect to put up a big show

The CM's daughter and

Nizamabad MLC K. Kavitha's Telangana Jagruti is extending cooperation to organise the events.

The focus on younger members is because the party wants to show that the BJP's claim that the youth are angry with the TRS and joining the BJP is false. The membership drive started on February 12 and ends on February 26. During the previous membership drives, Chandrashekhar Rao used to give nearly three months for leaders to complete the exercise. Now, they have just 15 days with an insistence on more youth members.

Relying to a discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, he also slammed some Opposition members for their claim that the proposed law negates the hopes of the region getting back its erstwhile statehood.

The Bill to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of all-India services officers with the

Statehood for J&K at appropriate time: Shah

Q NOW, people chosen by the masses will rule Jammu and Kashmir, not those born to 'kings and queens'

AMIT SHAH,
Home minister,
attacking dynastic
parties in the region

but they continued with it for over 70 years before the Modi government annulled it.

Jammu and Kashmir has been a top priority for the current government since it took power in 2014, he said. Responding to Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Shah said Opposition parties were free to visit the region.

Chowdhury had claimed that foreign delegations were being taken to the region, no all-party delegation was sent.

The home minister also gave the assurance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that "no one will lose their land". The government has sufficient land for development works, Shah said.

— PTI

Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre was later passed by Lok Sabha by a voice vote.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has already been passed by Rajya Sabha. It replaces an ordinance issued last month.

This legislation has nothing

No right to protest everywhere: SC

New Delhi, Feb. 13: The right to protest cannot be anytime and everywhere, the Supreme Court said as it dismissed a plea seeking review of its verdict passed last year in which it had held the occupation of public ways during the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh here was not acceptable.

The top court said there may be some spontaneous protests but in case of prolonged dissent or protest, there cannot be continued occupation of public place affecting the rights of others. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari said, "We have perused the review petition and record of the civil appeal and are convinced that the order of which review has been sought, does not suffer from any error apparent warranting its reconsideration."

— PTI

Onions to become expensive in state

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Onions are all set to leave consumers teary-eyed once again as the prices are soaring in states on which Telangana is heavily dependent for supplies. Telangana lacks adequate onion production and imports the bulb from

Report on Page 2

*Love
is in the
air*

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FINANCE | TALK Calls Rahul 'doomsday man of India'

FM slams critics who saw Budget tilting to 'cronies'

DC CORRESPONDENT
with input from agencies
NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Saturday came back strongly on the critics and Opposition who have been accusing the Narendra Modi government of 'crony capitalism', ignoring the poor and mishandling the farmers' protest.

Responding to the points made by Opposition MPs during the discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, the finance minister singled out the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi who has been regularly hitting out at the government. Mrs Sitharaman said Mr Gandhi is probably becoming "Doomsday Man for India".



Responding to the allegations, the FM said, "In spite of what we are doing for the poor and the steps taken for helping the poor and needy of this country...a false narrative is created...Who are our cronies? Our cronies are the common 'janta' (people) of this country. We don't do work for any cronies, we work for the common citizen who believes in the Prime Minister. Where are the cronies? They are hiding probably in the shadow of that party which has been rejected by the people... The shadows, who were invited to even develop a port. No open tenders, no global tenders. These tendencies of the Congress makes it clear their belief in a democratic system is finished."



SHORT TAKES
TRS LEADERS PAY FEE FOR NEW MEMBERS

From Page 1

Youth are being asked to enrol for these tournaments along with party membership at respective party offices at mandal, Assembly constituency and district level. Party leaders are paying the membership fees as well.

The TRS has two types of memberships: To become an active member the fee is ₹100 and to become a primary member, ₹30. The party has given a target to incharges to make sure that 35 per cent of the members are active members.

The TRS also provides free accident insurance cover of ₹2 lakh to members, for which the premium is paid by the party. TRS leaders are highlighting this aspect while asking youth to join in.

The scheme began in 2015 and the party has so far paid premium ₹47.65 crore. Claims of ₹46.84 crore have been made till date. The total sanctioned claims were 79 per cent; the money was given to family members of 2,342 deceased workers of the party.

TSBIE ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR INTER CLASSES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) on Saturday announced the schedule for online and offline classes for first and second year intermediate to accommodate a blended form of learning.

According to the notification, from February 14, classes at college for the first year will be conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Telecasts of lessons or online classes will take place on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For second year students, offline classes will be held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and online classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

TWO STUDENTS SUCCUMB TO BIKE MISHAP INJURIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Two engineering students succumbed to injuries they sustained when their bike crashed into a road divider while they were attempting to overtake a car at Madhupur on Thursday.

According to the police, the deceased, Vijay Kumar Reddy, 23, and Sunny Rami Reddy, 21, were students of Sree Datttha Engineering college and Guru Nanak Institute of Technology respectively. They were returning home when the accident occurred at Kothaguda road.

"Both students sustained serious injuries as they were not wearing helmets. Police rushed them to hospital for medical attention, where they succumbed while undergoing treatment on Friday night," said the police. A case was booked and the bodies were shifted for postmortem examination to Osmania General Hospital.

ACCORDING TO the police, the deceased, Vijay Kumar Reddy, 23, and Sunny Rami Reddy, 21, were students of Sree Datttha Engineering college and Guru Nanak Institute of Technology respectively. They were returning home when the accident occurred at Kothaguda road.

TEARS & FEARS

State produces less onions, depends mostly on import of bulb

TS stares at higher prices of onion

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Onions are all set to leave consumers teary-eyed once again as the prices are soaring in states on which Telangana is heavily dependent for supplies. Telangana lacks adequate onion production and imports the bulb from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Onion prices in the state have increased from ₹25 per kg to ₹35 per kg in a week in the retail market and is set to touch price range of ₹50-₹70 per kg by March.

In the ongoing Rabi (Yasangi) season, farmers in TS have opted for paddy, groundnut, maize and wheat but not onions.

As per statistics available with the marketing department, Telangana state consumes 5.08 lakh metric tonnes of onions every year or 42,400 metric tonnes per month. Of this, the state grows less than 2.5 lakh metric tonnes, that too in the Kharif season. It procures the rest of the onions from other states, and any fluctuation in prices in those states immediately impacts

marketing facilities. Besides productivity is low when compared with other crops which is also discouraging farmers.

Farmers are forced to pay more for purchasing quality onion seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to protect crops as they are more prone to pest attacks. Onion prices are also under the control of a traders' cartel. All these factors make farmers to shy away from onion cultivation.

Farmers have not sown onion in even 100 acres in the ongoing crop season.

The normal sown area in Yasangi is 21,869 acres. Last year, it was sown in 9,536

acres by this time of the year. This year, it was sown in just 92 acres against 9,405 acres which is the normal sown area by now.

Mahbubnagar district alone accounts for 80 per cent of onion production of state, but this time there are no takers even there.

The biggest onion market in state is Malakpet market where 10,000 quintals of onions land every day from other states. This has come down to less than 5,000 quintals and could go down further.

This is feared to lead to severe shortage of onion stocks and escalation of prices by March.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

SHORT TAKES

22-YEAR-OLD ARRESTED FOR HARASSING MINOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

A 22-year-old from Mumbai was arrested by the Hyderabad cybercrime police on Saturday for harassing a minor girl from the city on social media.

The accused, Amir Ahmed Khan, who works for a footwear manufacturing company, befriended the 15-year-old girl on a dating app.

"After exchanging phone numbers, they chatted on WhatsApp for some days. The accused managed to collect the private pictures and videos of the girl, using which he started to threaten and harass her," said the police.

Khan allegedly forced her to meet him in person in Mumbai, failing which he threatened her that he would make her private pictures and videos public, police said. The girl got scared and informed her parents, who approached the cybercrime police. Following an investigation, Khan was traced and arrested from Mumbai.

COVID FEAR EBBS, TRAIN TRAVELLERS IGNORE SAFETY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

A sense of boldness is now evident in the way the people look at Covid-19 as life is steadily returning to the pre-Covid normal. Railway stations are seeing sizeable turnout of passengers and many trains have resumed the run.

South Central Railway officials say they are strictly following the safety protocols and the standard operating procedures(SOPs), but this does not seem to be so. A travelling ticket inspector said: "Travellers, in spite of constantly being told to wear their masks, do not do it. There is no social distancing either."

Railway officials say only 60 per cent of the express trains from the full schedule are running now, that too only when sufficient number of tickets are either confirmed. Only those who intend to travel are allowed on to the platforms, not visitors.

A passenger who travelled to Mumbai on the Hussainsagar Express and returned by the same train after a day this past week, said: "It's nice to see less crowded stations. But all the 72 seats of the sleeper coach were filled. If this is so, where is the social distancing?"

He said there still were the unauthorised vendors boarding the trains to peddle their wares. There were also those begging for alms on running trains.

Ch. Rakesh, SCR chief public relations officer, said, "The SCR has taken outmost care to ensure health safety for travellers as also the staff. Trains in operation are at 60 per cent of the normal number and only passengers whose tickets are either confirmed or those on the Reservation Against Cancellation category can board trains. There is no sale of platform tickets."

He said unauthorised vendors and salesmen on the trains will be penalised and passengers can avail the onboard pantries and e-catering services. South Central Railway, he said, is following all Covid-19 protocols strictly.

The overall footfall of passengers, according to Ch Jayaram, Secunderabad station director, has fallen from around two lakh in the pre-Covid days to around 70,000 now. "Our staff continuously keep a watch and are counselling passengers who fail to wear mask," he said.

Newly elected Mayor to face tough time with fund crunch

GHMC denies Mayor, deputy new cars, proposes to hike property tax

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Less than 48 hours after assuming office, Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi and her deputy Mothe Srilatha Reddy have been dealt a blow by the GHMC.

The cash-strapped corporation has decided that it cannot provide them new vehicles and they have to use the vehicles that were used by their predecessors, Bonthu Rammohan and Baba Fasiuddin.

The civic body has made it clear that their chambers cannot be renovated.

That apart, the civic body has informally advised junior officials to go about collections pertaining to property tax, trade licence, town planning fee and other revenue sources in order to get their salaries deposited at least by the tenth of every month. With less than ₹50 lakh in the kitty, the GHMC is compelling officials to increase revenues so that salaries and pensions could be paid on time.

A senior official told *Deccan Chronicle* that the financial situation will get worse from here on. He said that apart from regular maintenance works, the corporation has to pay the principal with interest pertaining to ₹1,000 crore municipal bonds and ₹2,500 crore rupee term loans (about ₹750 crore has been raised currently) apart from about ₹180 crore towards salaries. Officials said that apart from low collections, unnecessary and unwanted expenditure has led to the financial crisis.

In a span of three years, the civic body has spent over ₹20 crore for renovating chambers of officials, paying mobile phone bills varying from ₹5,000 to ₹50,000, even though unlimited packages were available for ₹500 and purchasing swanky gadgets by escalating the price.

"Too many power centres have destabilised financial discipline. Permission and sanctions were given according to their whims without knowing the financial status of the corporation.

The last payment was on October 10 for bills raised for developmental works. Since then, over ₹800 crore worth bills remain unpaid. Once a self-sustainable entity, GHMC is struggling to pay salaries," the offi-



— DC

Major supporters fined ₹2L for flexis MRO in quarrel with mayor shifted

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

GHMC's Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management removed flexis installed to congratulate Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi and fined her supporter ₹1 lakh for putting up illegal banners in Jubilee Hills and Himayatnagar.

Varying fines were imposed on a few other supporters for putting up banners and hoardings in different parts of the city.

The issue came to light when a city resident through his Twitter handle posted: "Can you please convey Mr. Atish Agarwal 'special thanks' on behalf of the first citizen for dirtying the city! (sic)"

BJP leaders and activists criticised Vijayalakshmi for letting her supporters put up banners in clear violation of the rules. There were several banners of the mayor seen along TRS office road and

Banjara Hills, from where she was elected.

A supporter, Atish Agarwal, apart from other TRS cadre, had put up the banners at various points. Several citizens posted pictures of these banners on social media pointing out that they were illegal, asking whether the EVDM was clearing the banners, besides levying penalties.

As per GO 68, advertising structures like banners, hoardings and uni-poles are not allowed. "Ads that have no utility for citizens will be razed or removed and advertisers fined," said EVDM director Viswajit Kampati who heads the GHMC's advertising department.

Putting up unauthorised hoardings constitutes an offence under the GHMC Act, inviting a fine of ₹15,000, the EVDM said in a notice to Atish Agarwal. In another notice, it levied a fine of ₹1 lakh on Agarwal for erecting ads thanking the Mayor.

cial said, requesting anonymity. The official said the corporation has embarked on numerous developmental programmes without considering its financial strength.

For instance, major rev-

enues were put into infrastructure projects through price escalation. Officials succumbing to political pressure agreed to all proposals.

"The corporation lacked a revenue management

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

In a surprise move, Shaikpet mandal revenue officer N. Srinivas Reddy was transferred on administrative grounds and asked to report immediately to the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA).

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar asked Hyderabad collector Sweta Mohanty to take action and report compliance immediately.

The transfer took place within 72 hours of Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi being sworn in as Mayor. Vijayalakshmi and the MRO had got into a confrontation over delay in issuing caste and income certificates.

Srinivas Reddy had on

January 20 lodged a complaint with the Banjara Hills police alleging that

Vijayalakshmi, then a corporator, had abused him and prevented him from performing his duties. He

alleged that over a previous emmity, Vijayalakshmi along with her supporters had barged into his office at Shaikpet and abused him, even as he was getting ready to go to the High Court for a hearing in a case.

Responding to his case, Vijayalakshmi lodged a counter complaint alleging that the MRO had abused and assaulted them.

Asked about his transfer, Srinivas Reddy told *Deccan Chronicle* that he was in Visakhapatnam participating in the rescue operation following the accident involving tourists from Hyderabad, and the transfer was too small an issue right now.

"I did not hold a grudge against anybody and it's okay that I have been transferred. Right now, I am participating in the rescue operations and do not have the time to think about it," he added.

wing. Within three years, the salaries of outsourcing employees were enhanced from ₹6,700 to ₹18,000 without developing an alternative revenue model for the additional monthly burden of about ₹100 crore. The corporation now has no choice but to enhance property tax since rates for residential properties were last revised in 2002 and for commercial ones in 2008," the official added.

TWO MINORS DROWN IN RIVULET

Hyderabad, Feb 13: Two children drowned in the Manair rivulet on the outskirts of Neerukulla village in Sultanabad mandal on Friday. Their bodies were retrieved later by the police with the help of expert swimmers.

Police said the victims, Kothapalli Anil (13) and Kothapalli Ramcharan (8), went entered the water when their parents were busy with the last rites of their relative.

Their parents Lachaiah and Kanukamma of Karimnagar noticed them missing and searched for the children, only to find their clothes near a rock. The parents called the police. A Sultanabad police team, headed by sub-inspector Upender Rao, helped retrieve the bodies.

— INN

Sheer negligence



— R. PAVAN

A person seen urinating in the ladies toilet which is set up by GHMC at Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad, on Saturday. The toilets are not properly maintained and there is no one to keep watch over them.

Businesses miss out on Valentine's Day jackpot

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Western fairy-tale festival of love and affection, Valentine's Day, that gained in popularity across the country, especially among teens and youth, is likely to see a muted celebration this year.

Celebrated every February 14, it is going to be a low-key affair this time around, according to businesses that usually report brisk Valentine's Day sales. Because of the pandemic, fewer events have been planned and sales of greeting cards and soft toys too have fallen. And instead of

meeting, couples say that they may just have to make do with expressing their love over phones.

Sita and Sanju, (names changed) have been in a relationship for over a year but they cannot afford to meet up this year.

"We are working from home and if this routine is broken it might raise suspicions. Our meetings in any case have been very few because of the pandemic and they are now virtual. We do not even feel like celebrating the day anymore because of how it is all around us," Sanju said.

Clubs, pubs and hotels, which usually host special

events to mark the day, also have taken a back-seat as there are worries that the investment that goes into organising may not be recovered.

Radhika Masrani, a noted Zumba instructor, who organised a pre-Valentine Day dance event in her institution at Hyderguda, said "The idea was to create normalcy in the group. This is the first event we conducted for our trainees. The men were in black and women in red and romantic tunes from Bollywood films were played."

Novelty and gift shops have reported a drastic drop in the sales of popular Valentine's Day merchandise.

Prakash Jaisingh of Synthesis, Cards & Gifts at West Marredpally, who has been in this business for 31 years, said, "The business on Valentine's Day has slowly developed and touched its peak in the previous years. It is usually college students and youth who spend more money on cards and gifts.

This year, with colleges and offices closed and with most studying or working from home, the business has practically been killed."

He said "the greeting cards business was destroyed by e-cards and WhatsApp messages. Now no one gives a greeting card to their loved ones."



Very few customers turn up to buy gifts and cards on Valentine's Day.

— P. SURENDRA

Girl's complaint on rape by auto driver found fake

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Annojiguda service road, she was visibly under trauma. Police teams along with her relatives shifted her to nearby private hospital and based on the complaint, a case under Section 365 IPC was registered and an investigation was taken up.

The girl, who wanted to run away from her house, made up the episode and named the autorickshaw driver as an accused to settle scores from a previous enmity.

"With the help of auto unions, we launched a hunt for the autorickshaw that the girl boarded and the vehicle was traced. All the CCTV footage from Rampally crossroads to Annojiguda service road were scanned and around 100 tapes were collected. The call data records of the victim as well as suspects were collected and the investigation teams gathered scientific evidence," added the official.

However, a lot of discrepancies were noticed in the victim's statement during questioning. She then confessed that due to family issues, she wanted to leave her house and therefore pretended that she was being kidnapped. "Later, due to police involvement, she panicked and out of fear weaved a story," police explained.

From the scientific investigation, it was revealed that the victim got down from the auto at the next stop. "She started walking within Ghatkesar police station limits. She took another autorickshaw and got down at Annojiguda and walked for some distance. The police team traced the cell tower location of the girl's mobile number and called her. She was asked to share her location. Due to some previous grudges against the autorickshaw driver, she wrongly implicated him," police concluded.

Action to be taken on girl for filing false complaint

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The investigations that were launched and conducted at breakneck pace by the police that finally showed that the girl was lying about her ordeal did not come easy for the Rachakonda police.

The very nature of the alleged crime meant that the police plunged into investigating it by deploying vast resources and time. That it turned out to be a false complaint was enough for the police to decide that the student will face appropriate action and punishment.

It took 150 police personnel to find and arrest the men, all autorickshaw drivers, who the student had alleged were behind the purported kidnap and rape. Of these police personnel, 102, starting from the rank of a DCP down to home guards, were directly involved with the investigation. The rest were coordinating from the IT cell, providing technical support.

false evidence for the purpose of being used in any other stage of a judicial proceeding, shall be punished with imprisonment of either de-scription for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine," explained the lawyer.

"Whoever intentionally gives or fabricates false evidence in any other case shall be punished with imprisonment of either de-scription for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine," the lawyer said.

"The Rachakonda police will be submitting a final report in the court and the judge will decide what action to take. The punishment varies from case to case and also on what charges were filed as part of the falsification in the complaint," he explained.

The teenager will be booked under Section 194 (punishment for false evidence) of the Indian Penal Code.

"Under this section, whoever intentionally gives false evidence at any stage of a judicial proceeding, or fabricates

or destroys evidence, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, and shall also be liable to fine," Goud said.

SHORT TAKES
HC IMPOSES COSTS ON PROHIBITION DEPT OFFICIAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana High Court has imposed ₹1,000 costs on Syed Yasin Qureshi, Prohibition and Excise department deputy commissioner of Mahbubnagar for delaying the implementation of High Court orders.

Following the seizure of a vehicle carrying jaggery, the High Court had issued directions on August 24, 2020, to the officer to release the vehicle following the contention that the jaggery would be damaged if the vehicle was exposed to the weather.

The officer refused to release the vehicle even after the court directions were produced. After the contempt case was filed before the High Court, the Excise department rushed to file an appeal against the orders issued on August 24.

After notices were served in the contempt case, the official released the vehicle on January 15, 2021. The court noted the four-and-a-half month delay in the implementation of its order; and that the orders were implemented only after the contempt notices were issued.

Imposing costs on the officer, the court directed that the money be collected from the salary of the officer and be paid to the state.

579 SARPANCHS GET ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 13

As many as 579 sarpanches have been elected unanimously ahead of the Phase III of gram panchayat polls on February 17.

The State Election Commission issued a statement here on Saturday stating that out of 3,221 offices of sarpanch going to the polls in 160 mandals in 13, polling would be held for 2,640 positions polls with the remaining positions getting elected unanimously. There are 7,756 contestants in fray.

The SEC said 11,732 ward members were elected unanimously, out of 31,516 positions notified to go for polls in 160 mandals. Polling would be held to elect 19,607 ward members as the others were elected unanimously.

There are 43,232 contestants in fray. For the Phase IV polls on February 21, 20,156 nominations were filed for sarpanch elections and 88,285 for the positions of ward members by Saturday.

81.67% VOTE IN PHASE-2 OF GRAM PANCHAYAT POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 13

The Phase II gram panchayat polls on Saturday passed off peacefully with just a few stray incidents.

A large number of voters turned out to exercise their franchise, with the average poll percentage recorded being of 81.67.

Polling began sluggishly at 6.30 am but picked up momentum from 10.30 am onwards.

Serpentine queues could be seen at some polling stations in the state. Police personnel were seen helping aged and the differently abled persons in casting their votes.

According to State Election Commission authorities, polling was held for 2,786 sarpanch and 20,817 ward members' posts against total 3,328 sarpanch and 33,570 ward member seats, as some of them were either elected unanimously or no nominations were filed at certain places.

The state's average poll percentage registered was 10.48 at 8.30 a.m., 37.67 at 10.30 a.m., 64.89 at 12.30 pm, 76.11 at 2.30 pm and 81.67 on completion of voting at 3.30 pm.

Prakasam district registered the highest poll percentage of 86.60 while Srikakulam district the lowest 72.87 per cent.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All the General Public are hereby informed that my client Dr. Kavitha, R/o Hyderabad, intends to purchase part of plot no. 1 having sft +3 floor of constructed area having 270 sq. yds of undivided share out of 420 sq. yds in the premises no. 6-3-680/83, in sy. no. 1661, situated at Somajiguda, Hyderabad from Vikes V Shashank, S/o Late Sri Vishnu Wadham Shahani, R/o Hyderabad.

If anybody has any person has right, interest in the above mentioned property, objecting to the sale the said transaction may please contact me with all relevant documents at my office within 7 days from the date of this publication together with original documents, otherwise, my client will proceed with the transaction and any objection thereafter will not be entertained.

M. RAJENDER REDDY
 CH. SHANTHA
 Advocate

H.No.3-6-10/B, Govt. Apartments,
 Urdu Hall Lane, Hite Nagar, Hyderabad-029
 9848052182

A/2021/D00038

Revanth urges parties to support farmers

Says new laws will turn farmers into corporate slaves

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

State Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy appealed to political parties to put aside their agenda and join the public meeting at Ravirala to express solidarity with farmers and to protest against the new farm laws. He asked them to hold their respective party flag on one side and that of the farmers on the other side during the rally.

Speaking at a public meeting in Amangal, Revanth Reddy, the Lok Sabha member from Malkajgiri, from said the three black farm laws would turn farmers into corporate slaves. He said that once these laws are implemented there will be no purchase centres, market yards and no minimum support price. The farmers would even be deprived of an opportunity to



State Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy on the 7th day of Rythu Bharosa padayatra on Saturday.

appeal in court if they suffer losses.

The Congress leader said that irrespective of loss or gain, farmers will stick to agriculture. He reminded that it was Congress which gave land to the landless farmers. He also said that it was Congress that

brought laws favouring minimum support prices to farmers.

"It was Congress which encouraged agriculture and supported farmers through loan waivers, free electricity, subsidised seeds and farming tools and also provided 100 days

employment. And now two middlemen from Gujarat have mortgaged the country with Ambani and Adani", he said.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, Revanth Reddy said that the TRS chief took a U-turn on farm laws after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. He has remained in his farm house after that, he said.

The Malkajgiri MP said following the direction of AICC, he had started the padayatra on February 7, which would culminate with the rally at Ravirala on February 16. He said that the tractor rally would also reach the same day. Revanth Reddy appealed to all those who depend on agriculture for their livelihood to participate in the meeting to express solidarity with the farmers in Delhi.

Remembering martyr



In memory of the birthday of late Colonel Santosh Babu who was martyred at the LAC, younger brother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prahlad Modi and his daughter Sonal Modi, pray at the Bhagyalakshmi temple at Charminar in Hyderabad on Saturday.

WATER SUPPLY RESTORED IN ANUMALA: MIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Panchayati raj minister E. Dayakar Rao on Saturday said water supply through Mission Bhagiratha was unavailable in Anumala village of Nalgonda district as there had been a breakdown in the pipeline along the national highway. The pipeline has now been repaired and water supply restored, he maintained. Dayakar Rao was explaining the situation after senior Congress leader K. Jana Reddy complained that water was not being made available to Anumala.

9th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

VINU. S V

You left us on 14 Feb 2012 but your memories still alive with us today & forever.

Inserted by: Mom, Dad, Veena, Raghu, Anju, Ashwin, All our relatives & your loving Friends.

Cell: 9391030924

(L/2021/D00026)

Smt. BERI GIRIJA

DOB:23-09-1945 DOD:14-02-2018

W/o: Beri Chandra Mohan Yadav

Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered everyday. No longer in our life to Share, but in our hearts, you are always there for ever till the last respiration.

Remembered by Family Members.

Contact No. 040-2423586

(S/2021/D01226)

Dr. PALLERLA MOHAN RAO

Retired (CTO)

D.O.B: 10-07-1941 D.O.D: 10-02-2021

Inserted by: PALLERLA Family Members

You will always remain in our hearts

(S/2021/D01229)

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Sri B.Srinivas Rao

S/o. Late Sri B. Babu Shankar

1982 - 2021

B. Hanumanth Rao, B. Babitha, B. Tejaswini, B. Sai Praneeth

VARINA

Sardar Jasvir Singh Chadha

(S/o. Late Sewa Singh Chadha)

Bhog and Kirtan will be held on Sunday : 14/02/2021, 10:00 AM at Sri Gurudwara Sahib Guru Singh Sabha Atzal Gunj, Hyderabad.

Followed by: Smt. Jasbir Kaur Chadha (Wife), Son, Daughter & Chadha Parivar

SRI SAIBABA AUTOMOBILES

RAMKOTE, HYDERABAD

Survived by: Wife & only one Son

Mir Sadath Ali

Cell: 9701030048

10th Day Ceremony

A Good heart has stopped beating,

A Good soul has ascended to heaven.

We will never forget your kindness. Your memories will forever remain in our hearts.

The 10th Day Ceremony will be held on

14 Feb, 2021 at 1:00 PM at our Residence

Vittalwadi 'X' Road, Narayanaguda, Hyd.

Mother : B. Andalamma - Wife: B. Anitha

Sons: B. Nipun, B. Nitin

B. Padma, B. Abhilash, B. Ashwin.

B. Hanumanth Rao, B. Babitha, B. Tejaswini, B. Sai Praneeth

BEEMARTHI GOUTHAM

Ex. President, Gangaputra Sangam,

Gangaputra CHS & Friends Colony Association

DOB: 19-08-1940 DOD : 02-02-2021

Inserted by: Pervin Naval

Gandeeva (Wife) and Shahnaz Naval Gandeeva (Son)

Mobile: 98490 31210

(B/2021/D01218)

10th DAY CEREMONY

NAVAL JAMSHEDI GANDEVIA

Ex. Employee of Bank of India

DOB: 14-11-1945 DOD : 6.2.2021

Inserted by: Pervin Naval

Gandeeva (Son)

Mobile: 98490 31210

(B/2021/D01219)

Smt. KANYA KUMARI

W/o Late M.M. Keshava Rao

Expired on: 09-02-2021

Nadapur: 6:00 PM, 17-02-2021 (Wed.)

Karmandaram: 7:30 AM, 18-02-2021 (Thurs.)

Beside: Dhandewaram Temple, Velachery, Chennai.

Inserted by: ARATHI, RAGHAVAN

and Family Members.

Ph: 8939201994 9967057495

(S/2021/D01227)

17th ANNIVERSARY

M. RUKMINAMMA

Wife of M. C. Madhu Loli Redi Joint Secretary Govt of AP

You shall always be treasured in our hearts

Love From: Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand Sons, Daughters, Great Grand Son & Daughter

(S/2021/D01228)

18th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DR. SAKETI DEVASAHAYAM

DOB : 03-02-1984

DOD : 14-02-2003

With tearful eyes we watched you,

and saw you pass away.

Although we loved you dearly

We could not make you stay

"May her soul rest in peace"

SHORT TAKES

TTD TO RESUME
KALYANAMASTU
NATIONWIDEDC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, FEB. 13

Following the directive of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will soon re-launch Sri Kalyanamastu – mass marriages for poor – in a big way across the country, announced TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy on Saturday.

Speaking to media persons after performing the foundation-laying ceremony for the Sri Padmavathi Ammavaru temple in Chennai, he said mass weddings are being revived by TTD to help the poor with the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The Devasthanams will soon select a Muhurat and conduct weddings under the Sri Kalyanamastu programme, wherein TTD will provide free mangalsutras and pattu vasrams to bride and groom, besides the lunch, Subba Reddy explained.

He said the Sri Padmavati temple in Chennai will be built at a cost of ₹6.85 crore. TTD will bear ₹5.85 crore and Devasthanams' Chennai advisory committee president Sekhar Reddy is contributing ₹1 crore. Construction of the temple will be completed within one-and-a-half years, he stated.

The TTD chairman said Gudiko Gomata campaign launched in Karthika Masam has already begun in AP, Karnataka, Delhi, and Telangana states. It will now be launched in Tamil Nadu on Saturday by Kanchi Pontiff Sri Vijayendra Saraswati Swamy Shankaracharya. TTD board special invitees and Chennai advisory committee president Sekhar Reddy were among those present at the function.

GOVT TO ESTABLISH
PALLE PRAKRUTHI
VANAMS IN VILLAGESDC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, FEB. 13

The state government is establishing Palle Prakruthi Vanams in all villages across the state, said Officer on Special Duty (OSD) - Haritha Haram in Chief Minister's Office, Priyanka Varghese on Saturday.

Accompanied by district collector K. Shashanka, she inspected the Palle Prakruthi Vanams established in Thimmapur mandal and Mahatma Nagar at LMD colony, as part of her visit to Karimnagar district. She also planted saplings on the occasion.

After inspecting the prakruthi vanam in Thimmapur mandal, the OSD appreciated village sarpanch Dandru Neelamma for growing a wide variety of plants and maintaining them. She advised officials to plant fruit-yielding trees, such as lime, pomegranate, amla and drumsticks in the prakruthi vanams. She pointed out that such vanams will also increase the value of lands in surrounding areas.

Visits mini-forest in CPTC: Later, Priyanka visited the City Police Training Centre (CPTC), where a mini forest has been grown using the Miyawaki method of plantation.

Speaking on the occasion, she appreciated that Karimnagar Police Commissionerate has become a role model in the state by growing a mini forest in an urban area. By implementing the Yadadri model of Miyawaki plantation through scientific approach, the commissionerate has transformed the CPTC into a study centre for officials of forest and horticulture departments, she stated.

Police commissioner V.B. Kamalasan Reddy, municipal commissioner V. Kranthi, trainee collector Ankit, additional collector A. Narasimha Reddy, rural development officer Venkateshwar Rao, DCPS Srinivas and Chandra Mohan, ACP Shiva Bhaskar, MPP K. Vanitha, MPDO Ravinder Reddy and tahsildar Raj Kumar were among those present.

ACCOMPANIED BY district collector K. Shashanka, she inspected the Palle Prakruthi Vanams established in Thimmapur mandal and Mahatma Nagar at LMD colony, as part of her visit to Karimnagar district. She also planted saplings on the occasion.

Dams in south India stare at gradual death

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Live storage capacity in dams across the country, including in Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh, has taken a major hit, according to the Union government's report titled 'Sedimentation of Reservoirs in India 2020'.

It stated that major reservoirs in these states were in the list of reservoirs that have lost more than 50 per cent of gross water-holding capacity, dead

storage and live capacity. According to a 1992 survey, Nizamsagar dam in Telangana state reported a 60.47 per cent loss in its gross capacity. Nagarjunasagar that was last surveyed in 2009 recorded a 40.73 per cent loss of dead storage whereas the Vamsadhara dam in Andhra Pradesh had a 60.43 per cent loss of live storage capacity, up to 2004.

As a result, experts said, storage in these reservoirs was receding at a far faster

rate than anticipated, and this had serious ramifications for the future. Several reservoirs may already be choked, given that the data was from surveys conducted decades ago, the report said. The Union ministry of Jal Shakti in its report last August had said that India can store 257 billion cubic metres (BCM) of surface water in reservoirs, and that the quantity of water held in them or live storage could be extended to a maximum of

385 BCM in the near future.

The report pointed out that the southern region, comprising Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu with 36 reservoirs that are monitored by the Central Water Commission have a total live storage capacity of 52.81 BCM. As per the ministry's Reservoir Storage Bulletin, issued on August 8, 2020, the total live storage available in these reservoirs was 32.08 BCM, which

represents 61 per cent of their total live storage capacity. The average rate of siltation in these reservoirs, like the Nagarjunasagar, has been observed to be more than what was designated as an acceptable rate. While the designed rate of siltation of 1,000 cubic metres per square km per year in Nagarjunasagar reservoir was 0.22, the average observed rate of siltation came out to be 0.30.

Dead storage loss in Nagarjunasagar was also

a cause of concern. Dead storage is the total storage below the lowest discharge outlet from the reservoir. It may be available to contain sedimentation, provided the sediment does not affect the lowest discharge.

Telangana state is now planning to create vegetative cover along the catchment area, and is also exploring the option of artificial reservoirs, construction of check dams on small streams to arrest sedimentation as much as

possible, said Sridhar Rao Deshpande, OSD to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

"It is a big task to desilt huge reservoirs. This issue is not just limited to India, but is a global problem. However, southern states are more affected because the north has Himalayan rivers," he said. The way ahead to prevent these reservoirs from dying is to work towards preventing further damage through sedimentation, he said.

Sanjay appointed
CJ of Manipur HCDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Justice Puligoru Venka Sanjay Kumar

Justice Puligoru Venka Sanjay Kumar of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has been appointed Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court by a notification issued by the Centre. Telangana High Court is the parent High Court of Justice Kumar.

Born on August 14, 1963, at Hyderabad, Justice Sanjay Kumar did his schooling in St Paul's School at Himayatnagar and graduation in commerce from Nizam College, Hyderabad. Thereafter, he secured his law degree from Delhi University in 1988 and enrolled as a member on the rolls of the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh in August 1988.

Justice Kumar served as government pleader in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court from 2000 to 2003 and was elevated as judge of the AP High Court in 2008. He was made a permanent High Court judge in 2010.

Following bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Justice Kumar served as a judge of the Telangana High Court.

His father, the late P. Ramachandra Reddy, was a former advocate-general of undivided Andhra Pradesh from 1969 to 1982.

Driver claims brake failure, low visibility led to mishap; police to probe

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 13

AP health minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas along with tourism minister Muttamsetti Srinivas interact with survivors of Friday's Anantagiri bus accident at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. The assured the survivors of all help and good medical treatment.

— K. MURALI KRISHNA

Officials blame drivers but
highway stretch dangerousDC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 13

The death of four tourists from Hyderabad and injuries to 23 others on Friday evening has once again compelled road transport authorities to focus on the condition of roads and vehicles and the experience of drivers used to the tragedy.

RTA officials said the driver of the ill-fated bus did not take adequate rest, and had long spells of driving from Hyderabad to Vijayawada, Simhachalam and various places in Visakhapatnam agency, before starting off to

Hyderabad.

Like the 2018 mishap at Chinthur in East Godavari district, which killed eight pilgrims from Karnataka, officials squarely blamed the driver for the ghastly incident.

But road engineering experts pointed out that authorities always blame drivers either for drunken driving or working without rest but never point an accusing finger at agencies responsible for maintaining the quality of roads.

A senior police officer said that the roads connecting Paderu, Chintapalle and Anantagiri in Vizag dis-

trict and Mareduilli, Chinturu, Rampa-chodavaram and other areas in East Godavari district have been identified as the most dangerous stretches.

Former deputy commissioner S. Venkateswar Rao, who obtained PhD in road engineering and public transport, said that there were number of hairpin bends and the visibility at these curves was very low in monsoon and winter. The drivers need a lot of experience to negotiate at the steep bends.

In most cases, they lose control over the vehicles while negotiating curves and fail to notice the incoming vehicles leading to mishaps and head-on collisions, he added.

ITDA project officer Dr S. Venkateswar said that the Araku ghat road was technically perfect and the latest incident was the result of human folly.

"National Highway 516E

which passes from Rizahamundry to Vizianagaram will be widened and that will make the roads ghat roads more motorable for bigger vehicles," the project officer said.

He also suggested that night-driving restrictions should be imposed for bigger vehicles.

Bodies of Araku victims to arrive today

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The bodies of the four city residents who killed on Friday when their tourist bus fell into a gorge on the Araku ghat road, are expected to arrive here around 11 am on Sunday. All the deceased, including an infant, were members of a single extended family.

Swetha, a relative of the victims, said the group of 26, comprising cousins, uncles and aunts, had gone on a pilgrimage to the Sita Ramachandraswamy temple, Bhadrachalam and Sri Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Swamy Vari Devasthanam, Annavaram on Wednesday and were scheduled to return on Sunday.

She said six members of the family from the city had rushed to Visakhapatnam to receive the bodies and meet the injured relatives. She said the bus plunged into the gorge at 6.40 pm. She said no one from the tour operator company, Dinesh Travels, had contacted the family so far.

"Instead of two drivers,

there was just one depoted by the tour operator and the driver is also injured," Swetha said.

Neighbours of Kottha Savithri (63), one of the passengers in the bus, said they received information that she had passed away. Her son and husband rushed to Visakhapatnam to receive the body.

According to the neigh-

bours, Savithri, mother of a son and daughter, used to run a bangles store.

The office of Dinesh Travels in Shaikpet was locked on Saturday. On enquiry, neighbours stated that they rushed to the accident spot on Friday night. Of the 26 passengers on the ill-fated bus, seven were children under the age of 10 years.

Apex court found inaccuracies in state claim over 5 acres of private land at Kandi

SC refuses to stay HC order against TS

VUJJINI
VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Supreme Court has refused to intervene in the directions of Telangana High Court, which faulted the TS revenue department for claiming land held by private parties as those belonging to the state government.

The apex court found too many inaccuracies in the state's version claiming the five acres of land at Kandi Chimnapur village in Sangareddy dis-

trict. It was inclined to dismiss the state government's appeal at the stage of admission itself. However, the government withdrew the appeal when the court gave it the liberty to do so.

The state government had filed a special leave petition challenging directions of Telangana High Court judgment in which Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao convicted additional collector of Sangareddy, RDO, and tahsildar of Kandi mandal for their failure in implementing the High

Court's order asking them to give e-pattadar passbooks to J. David, who purchased five acres of land in survey number 990 some eight years ago in Chimnapur.

The vendors from whom David bought this land had the title along with pattadar passbooks. But when David sought the passbook from the authorities, the revenue officials said one Panduranga Rao had sold 63 acres of land to several people and this five-acre plot was part of that land.

Officials also said Panduranga Rao had no title. The High Court judge went through the revenue records and found that Panduranga Rao's name had been recorded in pahanis since 1967. But authorities maintained that the land was described as 'billa dakhala', so it was government land.

Justice Ramachandra Rao found fault with revenue officials for denying the passbook to David. He underlined that the title is in dispute between a citizen and the state, state officials cannot decide on the title. State servants cannot decide the title in favour of the government when the title itself is in dispute, the judge said. He slapped a jail term of two months and penalty of ₹2,000 each on Sangareddy additional collector, RDO, and tahsildar for declaring private land as government land unilaterally and for denying title deed to David.

The judge also imposed costs of ₹25,000 on the officials, asking them to

pay the amount to the petitioner. The judge directed Sangareddy revenue officials to forthwith issue an e-pattadar passbook to David for his five-acre land in Kandi Chimnapur in the district. The bench brushed aside claims of the government, which tried to brand the land in question as 'billa dakhala'.

The government went to Supreme Court challenging these directions of the High Court. The apex court, however, declined to interfere with these orders.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the work : Upkeep of Railway Yard inside Harbour area (from ATBK Level Crossing to ATBK-II Level Crossing) for the year 2021-22. Estimated cost : Rs. 83,02,482.35/- Last date & time of Submission : 05.03.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details : eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Executive Engineer, PRD, PPT
PPT/PR/411/20-21 Date : 13.02.2021

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the work Upkeep of ADB Railway yard (from PPL Level Crossing to ATBK Level Crossing) for the year 2021-22. Estimated cost Rs.78,47,618.82. Last date & time of submission 03.03.2021 upto 17.00Hrs. Refer our website for details. https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Executive Engineer, PRD
PPT/PR/405/20-21 Dt.13.02.2021

CLASSIFIEDS

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2021

pg 7

INDUSTRIAL LAND

BALANAGAR, UDITYAL Village, 14Acre 6cores including structures and machines. IDA Jeedimitta 5Acres each Acre. 12cores Ph:9944060686 (HYMM/2021/C0654)

INDUSTRIAL LAND for sale, Near Bontapally, Gudmidata with Borewell, 50HP. Current, Shed, Labour rooms. Interested people contact: 7207609683/9133726207 (HYMM/2021/C06871)

MALLAPUR IDA - Available for Sale 30.30 Sq.Yds Land with G + 1 Built up 18000 Sq.Ft in Mallapur IDA. Contact 7893460684 - from 8 am to 6 pm (W/2021/AT001026)

✓ INDUSTRIAL LANDS - Medchal/ Rejiballaram/ Kistupur/ Bandymalayaram (Near Seed Park/ Kokonda/ Kucharam/ IDA-Bollaram/ IDA-Pancheru/ Shamshabad & Other Areas For sale, call: 933310063 / 99652900045. (HYMM/2021/C07023)

FOR SALE 800 Sq.Yds TSII Approved Industrial Land in IDA Nacharamm, Bunk finance, call: 9246350561. (HYMM/2021/C06512)

✓ 1200SQYS (WITH 800SQFT Kirby Stru Shed) North Facing Industrial Property for Sale IDA Pashmalaram, Near To The Main Road With all Facilities and Good Road Visibility will Established industrial area. 988593666. (HYMM/2021/C06694)

INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

BALANAGAR APIIC Gatedno, B-33 in 300sqys plots 45,000sqft RC 10'Height with 250HP, Electricity, Manjira with separate 7buildings, Lease Rs.25/- sqft sale Rs.30cr. 9848012369 (HYMM/2021/C06463)

INDUSTRIAL SHED for sale at IDA Nacharam Road,No.15, B23sqys with 4000sqft, RCC building and with 40hp Power. Contact: 9866360547/984022186 (HYMM/2021/C06547)

LAND FOR sale at Bombay Highway, Budera main road, 4 Acres land, clear title, immediate sale. Owner Contact: 9493818415/ 8019470515. (S/2021/C02276)

CHEEP & BEST @6 per Acre 5-1000 acres Land for sale at NH-44, Cheguntla Ramayaram, Kandireddy, Bhairam Nirmal, Adilabad. Contact only genuine persons. Clear title with possession. Ph:9943148080. (HYMM/2021/C02080)

CLEAR TITLE with cement tiles fencing 4.18 Acres, East facing Land for sale on Shadnagar - Chevella (Proposed Regional Ring Road) Opposite Mission Bhagiratha Tank. Contact: 779322476. (S/2021/C02232)

CHEVELLA BEHIND Model Colony, 3 Acres Land, Rs.1.20 Crs per Acre, suitable for Farm Land& Plotting. Chevelia to Vikarabad 12kms away from Chevelia Main Road, 7kms Sub-road, 10 Acres Agriculture Land, suitable for Farm Land& Farm House. Rs.55 Lakhs per Acre. Ph:8520815705 (HYCL/2021/C02835)

CHOUTUPPLA 3.5 Acres land for sale on Vijayawada highway near Pantangi toll Plaza. Contact: 9246212950, 9910328699 (HYMM/2021/C06302)

GACHIBOWLI 6ACRES 14acres Tellapur 12acres kucatpally 3acres Mokila 7acres Shamshabad 23acres kadial 35acres sanganerry 55acres shadnagar 25acres. Buy/Sale/Development hyd Ph:7890540209 (W/2021/AT001096)

LAND 2ACRES for sale at Kukatpally village, near Gajwel 1.5km from Rajiv Ranjani Reservoir from kondapocharama reservoir, 200mtrs from BT road, all weather road. Brokers excuse. Contact no. 9892609481 (HYMM/2021/C06827)

5000 SQ.YDS of land on Mumbai Highway 65 @ Doyen County, Inspur, DTCP approved layout with boundary wall, black top roads, street lights, club house etc. For Sale. Price Rs.12,500/- per Sq.Yard. Contact: 9643052513/9848059037. (S/2021/C02225)

5 & Half Acres For Sale in Bhulkupur Village (Mokila) Backside of BDL Bhanor 111Gc Ph:9849674708. (HYMM/2021/C06822)

MOMINPET TANDUR, Marpally 2Acres, 5Acres, 10 Acres agricultural lands for sale, clear title. Contact: 994084448. (HYMM/2021/C07007)

PATANCHERU, BHANUR Village, Land Extent Area 3Acres, For outright Sale, Easue Agent. Looking Direct Buyer. Please Contact. Client: 9391156619. (HYMM/2021/C06695)

✓ SHADAVIPATI ADJACENT To Mumbai Highway @Rs.55/- Lakh/Acres Buy Back Offer With All Ammenties By Branded Company Ph: 9002842032. (HYMM/2021/C06866)

AT SHADNAGAR, Konduru to Nawabpet Road 12 Acres Highway Bit at Chowdbari Village, 30 miles from Shadnagar. Call Ph:984868555. (HYCL/2021/C02601)

NH44 2 SHADNAGAR Lands 3.4,11.18,49 acres mango gardens farm near Symbiosis University and Sacres venture land near Kailati Toolgate and 165,11,4,1 acres Agriculture lands& other lands also available. Call:8466808721, 9848143401. (HYMM/2021/C07005)

LAND FOR Sale Shadnagar 1.23, 5, 10Acres price 50Lakhs to 75Lakhs useful for agriculture, farm house and venture. Ph:9948920650/ 9676764567 (HYMM/2021/C0263)

✓ SHAMSABAD- TIMMAPUR - Tupra (V) 3085Sq.yds. (Sy.No: 243/P) Complete wall Boundary with Gate, Watchman Room & Two Shedes (15'21" + 21'8") Ph:897864948 (HYMM/2021/C06415)

OFFICE SPACE 8400 Kundapur. Plots available Manasahills Rajendranagar, 500yards. Shankarpalli, 10Acres Chinnamangalam 111Gc Contact: 9959982022. (HYMM/2021/C06855)

SHANKARPALLY, MOINABAD, chevella, parngi, shamshabad, shadnagar, MBNR, Tandur, 90, 50cr total 95 lands available ph: 9440571029 / 8555038708 venkatrddy. (HYMM/2021/C06378)

8 ACRE Land for sale@ Thimmareddypply, 1 km from Siddipet Highway, 70 km from JBS. Contact 917768818 / 9849061936. (HYMM/2021/C07012)

LAND FOR Sale: 5Acr To 30Acrs Landa Shadnagar, Balnagar, Chevella, Moinabod, Aziznagar Soundings, 830Acres To 300Acres Lands Available in Tandoor, Moinsab, Vikarabad, Narayanguda, Sanganerry & Manjira Form Land. Also Available Ph: 913333554/ 9913273600. (HYMM/2021/C06441)

VIKARABAD TOWN Red Soil, 1.28Acres open land for sale. Good NEAC. Location Ananthagiri Hills. 1139. TMC Surroundings. Tourism Projects. Yadanabai Venkatesh Contact: Ph:9848065117. (HYCL/2021/C02755)

✓ GREAT INVESTMENT Opportunity Dicp Layout Great Price Maheshwaram Dabolchola 300+ Sq.Yards Large Consolidated Area Contact 9177610932 9949665504 (HYMM/2021/C06238)

✓ GANDIMAISAMMA X Roads, Near Orry HMDA Approved Layout 60Feet Road Facing Venture New Layout Plots Available with Bank Loan. Contact: Ashok Kumar Ph:9505787896, 998952669. (HYCL/2021/C02802)

GHATKESAR - AUSHAPUR in Bawrelly Highway Facing Commerce Plot 125x90, 3ides Roads, Full LRS paid, 1050sqyds Plot for sale. Ph:9000334456. 7981157119 (HYMM/2021/C06830)

GHATKESAR HMDA approved layout plots per 19,999/-bank loan available, Facing in GP layout for sale, 10 minutes from ORR Bonguluru Junction. Contact: 9849300919. (B/2021/C00893)

MANIKONDA: ALKAPOOL colony 1200 and 500 commercial, 600 East 189yards, 224, 240 & East beside Alkapool. Contact: 7013712840. (HYCL/2021/C0270)

SHANKARPALLY - ASHAPUR in Bawrelly Highway Facing Commerce Plot 125x90, 3ides Roads, Full LRS paid, 1050sqyds Plot for sale. Ph:9573454126. (Price: 90,00/- per Sq.Yard Negotiable). (HYCL/2021/C0025)

✓ GOPENPALLY JOURNALIST'S Colony Phase-III "Felicity 267 Sq.yds, 60 Feet Road "HUDA Layout" near "Gachibowli Wipro Circle" Plot for sale by direct owner. Ph:9573454126. (Price: 90,00/- per Sq.Yard Negotiable). (HYCL/2021/C02825)

KIMPAKAR, SNEHITHILLS, 600sq.yards (SF), Majidbanda Main Road, Biit, 2000sqyds For Outright Sale. Please Contact Genuine Client 9915166169. (HYMM/2021/C06695)

240 SQ.YARDS, Happy Home Colony, Phase-2, 200 yards from main road, north facing for immediate sale. Pillar No.200, next to Parma Reddy Colony. Ph:9520390294, 9494241028. (HYMM/2021/C06498)

CORNER PLOTS for Sale Near Airport, Bhima City 200 feet Road, facing Ventures. Contact: 9615312345 WhatsApp (HYMM/2021/C06642)

KOHEEDA 200SQURE yard plot 9000 per square yard 2km to ORR vijayawada highway near sanghi, south face. 9955098441 (HYMM/2021/C06826)

HYDERABAD @KOMPALLY Medchal Town Near KLR Ventures 18,000/- Per Sq.yd, HMDA Plots Fully Developed, Gated Community, Bank Loan available. Contact:

8886735050 (HYMM/2021/C06633)

TWO PLOTS 125 sq.yards each for sale at Attepu Pillar No.178, University, Attepu. Contact: Ph:9849332806, 939091621. (B/2021/C0120)

PINEWOODS - PLOTS in gated community with excellent amenities & club house by Modi Builders @ Aushapura near Ghateskar Rs.11,100/- sq.yd. HMDA approved. Call 767712010. (B/2021/C01008)

PRIME PLOT for sale @ Central Excise Colony, Bagh Amberpet, 233 Sq.yards, NW Corner, near Sai Baba Temple. Ph: 9848886867, 917735926. (HYMM/2021/C06787)

JANACHAITANYA HOUSING Old Venture Sri Bhavani, Sri Rajeswari, Saideva & Other Plots Buy & Sell. 1-15 Acres Land Wanted Ph:9246182178. (HYCL/2021/C02856)

3 PLOTS for sale near JNTU Metro, Adityanagar (HUDA Layout) each plot 11,11 Sq.yds. Contact: Ph:9866623348. (HYCL/2021/C02674)

JUBILEEHILLS 1450 Sq.Yds N/F, 500/- Per Sq.yd, Filmmers 6665/NF, 405/NF corner with buildings commercial, Madhuram 365 NF, Konduap 400, 500, 700, Gopanapally 270, 275/NF, Commercial 60ft Roads, Jayabheri 350, 450 W/F, Nallagandala & Telapur 258, 430, 516, 1050 Sq.Yds WEST Facing plot with 500sqft Independent Villa will be built for per Client Requirement For Sale in Srinagar Colony, Contact: 9903600699 (HYMM/2021/C06982)

✓ JUBILEEHILLS 1100 sq.yds Filmmers 1000sqyds gachibowli 4000 sqyds Narsingi 5200sqyds Madhapur 3000 sqyds. Buy/sale/v Hyderabad. Ph:8790540209 (W/2021/AT00195)

JUBILEEHILLS 1100 sq.yds Filmmers 1000sqyds gachibowli 4000 sqyds Narsingi 5200sqyds Madhapur 3000 sqyds. Buy/sale/v Hyderabad. Ph:8790540209 (W/2021/AT00195)

JUBILEEHILLS 720SQYDS N/E, 1050/-, 1100/-, 1200/-, 1300/-, 1400/-, 1500/-, 1600/-, 1700/-, 1800/-, 1900/-, 2000/-, 2100/-, 2200/-, 2300/-, 2400/-, 2500/-, 2600/-, 2700/-, 2800/-, 2900/-, 3000/-, 3100/-, 3200/-, 3300/-, 3400/-, 3500/-, 3600/-, 3700/-, 3800/-, 3900/-, 4000/-, 4100/-, 4200/-, 4300/-, 4400/-, 4500/-, 4600/-, 4700/-, 4800/-, 4900/-, 5000/-, 5100/-, 5200/-, 5300/-, 5400/-, 5500/-, 5600/-, 5700/-, 5800/-, 5900/-, 6000/-, 6100/-, 6200/-, 6300/-, 6400/-, 6500/-, 6600/-, 6700/-, 6800/-, 6900/-, 7000/-, 7100/-, 7200/-, 7300/-, 7400/-, 7500/-, 7600/-, 7700/-, 7800/-, 7900/-, 8000/-, 8100/-, 8200/-, 8300/-, 8400/-, 8500/-, 8600/-, 8700/-, 8800/-, 8900/-, 9000/-, 9100/-, 9200/-, 9300/-, 9400/-, 9500/-, 9600/-, 9700/-, 9800/-, 9900/-, 10000/-, 10100/-, 10200/-, 10300/-, 10400/-, 10500/-, 10600/-, 10700/-, 10800/-, 10900/-, 11000/-, 11100/-, 11200/-, 11300/-, 11400/-, 11500/-, 11600/-, 11700/-, 11800/-, 11900/-, 12000/-, 12100/-, 12200/-, 12300/-, 12400/-, 12500/-, 12600/-, 12700/-, 12800/-, 12900/-, 13000/-, 13100/-, 13200/-, 13300/-, 13400/-, 13500/-, 13600/-, 13700/-, 13800/-, 13900/-, 14000/-, 14100/-, 14200/-, 14300/-, 14400/-, 14500/-, 14600/-, 14700/-, 14800/-, 14900/-, 15000/-, 15100/-, 15200/-, 15300/-, 15400/-, 15500/-, 15600/-, 15700/-, 15800/-, 15900/-, 16000/-, 16100/-, 16200/-, 16300/-, 16400/-, 16500/-, 16600/-, 16700/-, 16800/-, 16900/-, 17000/-, 17100/-, 17200/-, 17300/-, 17400/-, 17500/-, 17600/-, 17700/-, 17800/-, 17900/-, 18000/-, 18100/-, 18200/-, 18300/-, 18400/-, 18500/-, 18600/-, 18700/-, 18800/-, 18900/-, 19000/-, 19100/-, 19200/-, 19300/-, 19400/-, 19500/-, 19600/-, 19700/-, 19800/-, 19900/-, 20000/-, 20100/-, 20200/-, 20300/-, 20400/-, 20500/-, 20600/-, 20700/-, 20800/-, 20900/-, 21000/-, 21100/-, 21200/-, 21300/-, 21400/-, 21500/-, 21600/-, 21700/-, 21800/-, 21900/-, 22000/-, 22100/-, 22200/-, 22300/-, 22400/-, 22500/-, 22600/-, 22700/-, 22800/-, 22900/-, 23000/-, 23100/-, 23200/-, 23300/-, 23400/-, 23500/-, 23600/-, 23700/-, 23800/-, 23900/-, 24000/-, 24100/-, 24200/-, 24300/-, 24400/-, 24500/-, 24600/-, 24700/-, 24800/-, 24900/-

CLASSIFIEDS

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2021

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MEDICAL

MD GENERAL Physician and Diabetologist is available as senior consultant in and around Kukatpally. Contact 966382798 (W/2021/AT01093).

MARKETING EXECUTIVES/ Corporate Marketing Executives & Team, PRO's, Pharmacy & charge Receptionist with Hospital experience persons. Contact Nikhil Khatkar, Srinagar Colony, Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph:7981696142, 9948262231. (A/2021/C00576)

WANTED NURSES, ANM, GNM, Aiyas, for Secunderabad Multi Specialty Nursing Home, Marredpally, Secunderabad. Contact: 812668792/986613245. (S/2021/C02307)

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WANTED YOUNG Dynamic Female Counselors, Tele-callers having good communication skills with Professional personality & lots. Male Office Assistants in and around Dilukshnagar. Ph:939169647, 8125350999. (HYCL/2021/C02734)

MNC IN AS Rao Nagar Needs: (1)Senior Recruiter in US IT Recruiting (2)Jr Accountant with 2years experience. Apply in confidence to: shivacharan.hr5@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C00977)

SOUTHERN PLANTAIDS Pvt Ltd required at Balanagar, Hyderabad. Staying near to Balanagar area only. 1)Coordinator to handle estimate given to client for repair of chain pulley Block-INDEX. 2)Telecaller. Kindly forward your CV. Resume to our Email: soudip@ southernplantalids.com (S/2021/C02316)

REQUIRED FEMALE Receptionist, Civil Engineers, Accountant With 3 To 4 Years Experience @ Dilukshnagar Ph:9900043199. (HYMM/2021/C06413)

REOD BILLING ENGINEER with 2yrs exp, Proj Manager, Site Engg (Civil) Elect 2yrs experience, Supervisor (3yrs exp). Accounts assistant 5yrs exp, Brickwork /plaster Masons. Joining immediate. Site Gachibowli. Salary not constraint. 9818106620. roylemeridian1@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C02702)

FULL TIME Housemaid Nanny Job in Qatar for a Muslim Female cooking & expert in babysitting & child care skills for a Hyderabad family in Qatar. knowledge of household, able to speak understand English & Urdu well & have good previous experience food provider with extra perks & benefits. Ph:919100551860, +91836777861, W/A -8 5 2 6 1 0 3 0 5 7 . (HYCL/2021/C02867)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY GM, AGM, Teamleaders, Managers, Executives, Agents, Rtd. Employees, Accounts/Manager, (MBA finance). (Freshers/ Experienced), Fixed Salary+ Commission, Temple Town Ventures. Ph:9866648066 (HYMM/2021/C0407)

TV11 URGENTLY Required Experience News Readers, Cum Script Writer Voice Over Video Editors System Admin Female Office Incharge Receptionist, Office Boy, Cook and Telephone. Must Be in News Papers Urgently. Requires Experience. Page Layout Designers Sub Editors. Cum Proof Readers. English, Telugu 0812322214, 09032722214. Sr.Nagar tv11live@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C0272)

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT Tally ERP Manufacturing experience. Receptionist command on English, Computer at AOC Secbad. Stores, incharge Engineering Experience SAPB1 Enduser proficiency in SAPB1/MM Purchase experiance preferrd location Gandhinagar. All pos 5yrs experiance is must. Whatsapp resumes on 6303160035. (HYMM/2021/C06774)

WANTED FIELD Executives, Telecallers for Banking Soft Collections. Attractive Salary- Petl & Incentives. Contact: 9177030624/ 7569705184. (HYCL/2021/C02786)

WALK-IN INTERVIEW For Freshers/ Experienced Male/ Female, GM, AGM, Sales & Marketing, Project Leader, Project Advisor, Tele Callers, Site Engineers. Salary (Min.20,000) To 50,000/-pm) +2%Commission. On Sale Value. For Real Estate & Constructions Company. Office At ECIL Ph:9109095553, 9109095559, 9121022275 Interviews On Sat To Sun From 10am To 6pm. (HYMM/2021/C06831)

START YOUR own Business with Pandemic Proof, 0%ero Investment with the Help of Business Experts 24X7. NRI, HW, NBFC, VRS, MLM, Business, Teachers Age: 30yrs- 60yrs. Serious People Call us Now: 8073434579, 7893097761 (HYMM/2021/C06848)

URGENTLY REQUIRED Experienced salespersons for pharmacy and Kirana general store. Should be able to manage independently. Contact 9000057510. (HYMM/2021/C06852)

WANTED BUSINESS Associated (Commission Basis), Telecallers (Salary Basis) for Real Estate company. Ph:955011116, 9553301217 (HYMM/2021/C06994)

WANTED 1BRANCH Incharge (Admin), 2P.R.O. (Admin), 3C.R.O.(Admin) For Well Established and Reputed Organisation QLF. Degree To MBA Call Or Send Resumes What's up. Contact:7075296451/ 7032031484 (HYMM/2021/C0279)

REQUIRED PATIENT Coordinators/(F), Deg /PG Receptionist/(F)Deg Trainee Therapist,Customer Care Executives. M&F) 10+2 above for Ayurvedic, Health Center @Moksha Ph:9493432345 (HYMM/2021/C06958)

WANTED EXPERIENCED Accountant, Civil engineers, Marketing Executives, Receptionist & Store keeper for our residential apartments project at Yaprak, Secunderbad. Send your resume: info@fogkraja2020@gmail.com Ph:9908334567, 9246153141. (HYMM/2021/C06631)

HR MANAGER, JR.CIVL Engineers, Marketing Executives, Accountants having 2-4 years experience with computer knowledge. Required for reputed construction company at Hyderabad. Contact: 9490331263, 891213856. (S/2021/C0207)

WANTED CANDIDATES for the following posts in Orange Transport Group of Units: Call Centre Executives, Marketing Executives, Operations Executives, Office Executives. Applicants are advised to Contact the Management on Ph:9010978693, 9010234697. Email: hr@orangecargo.in (S/2021/C02274)

CHINMAYA VIDYALAYA Begumpet, Hyderabad requires Maintenance in-charge office assistant (both with computer skills), office boy & male brahmin cook (for all posts experienced male candidates below 40 yrs preferred). Apply within 7 days to email id: cvcoffice19@gmail.com Ph:9700470228 (S/2021/C02281)

WANTED REAL Estate Directors, Leaders, Managers, Agents, Life Changing Opportunity (Male/Female) with best position & High commission. Bank people are also welcome. Hotel industry people are also welcome. Ph:9885068221. (L/2021/C00034)

OTHER VACANCIES Assistant for kids fashion designer company @ Banjara hills, Contact 9849017733. (HYMM/2021/C06777)

WANTED OFFICE assistant cum field officer for Reputed real estate company @Financial Dept. Gachibowli with 2 wheeler & familiar with surrounding area will be preferred. Qualification: any Degree, interested contact: 9000004874. (HYMM/2021/C06677)

SPARK ACADEMY: Counsellors for Narayanguda and Mehdipatnam, Come for Interview for Walk-in interview 10K+. Interested Opposite Deepak, Narayanguda. Ph:133380172, 8977523461. (HYCL/2021/C02780)

LOOKING FOR English and Telugu content writers for our news and entertainment website. Both freshers and experienced can apply. Interested candidates can send their resumes to viljay@canord.cs.com (S/2021/C02312)

RECEPTION-CUM-TEL-OPRTRS

WANTED LADY Receptionist for Home Clinic, Graduates; working time: 10am to 7pm Location: E-mail: svanagni@gmail.com Ph:9553476667. (HYCL/2021/C02864)

FRONT OFFICE Executive (Female) required for reputed Engineering Consultancy in Hyderabad. Handles reception, recruitments, business correspondences, phone calls & purchasing; Schedules meetings, travels & interviews. Graduate with minimum 10 years experience, fluent English, excellent writing skills, proficiency in MS-Office& Tally software. Salary Rs.30,000-50,000/- based on skills & experience. Call:7981277509; Email: s.nousheen@eplengineering.com; www.eplengineering.com; (HYMM/2021/C06784)

REQUERED HOME Tutor English With Grammar Telugu & Social for 4th 10th Classes SSC. English Medium. From 2pm. To 5pm. Near Vijaynagar Colony Interest Can Call: Ph:9848014835 (S/2021/C06581)

RACHANA GRAMMAR High School Balaji Nagar Yelagiri requires Trained Teachers for all subjects for Classes Nursery to 10th Transport Facility from Dammajiguda. Ph:9704900666, 994990666 Email: rachanahgs@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C06687)

GITANJALI SCHOOL Primary Begumpet (ICSE/Cambridge) requires for year 2021-22 trained and 2+years experienced excellent English skills for classes1-6 with B.Ed. 1) primary mother teacher, 2)Part-time computer teacher. walk-in interview 9339418425 careers@gitanjalischools.com (W/2021/AT001007)

GITANJALI VEDICA School, Narsingi requires for year 2021-22 trained 2+years experienced 1)Librarian, 2)Art and craft teacher primary classes 9553165316 office@gitanjaliivedha.com (W/2021/AT001009)

GITANJALI DEVSHALA, Balamrai, ICSE requires for year 2021-22 trained B.Ed. 5+years experienced, 1)Senior English with ICSE experience, Math and History for middle school M.A., Librarian, Primary classes1-3 mother teacher walk-in interview 9339418429 office@gitanjaliivedha.com (W/2021/AT001008)

SAI MODEL High School, Old Bowenpeta, Secunderabad Requires High School Teachers for Biology, Maths, Physics, English (part time and full time). Contact: 9948487626. (S/2021/C02219)

CHILDREN HOME and School at Begumpet requires staff under 1.English (Cambridge Reading) Teacher, High School, 2.Academic staff to design, develop and implement State syllabus upto High School. 3.Lady Nurse (Residential). 4.Hospital ayamma (Aysa). Please Contact: 901777734 (HYCL/2021/C02795)

WANTED EXPERIENCED and Qualified Teachers for High School History & Civics, English (B.Ed & ICSE experience mandatory). Contact: Niraj Public School, Saadat Manzil, 6-3846, Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Mail: hrm@nirajpublicschool.com (S/2021/C02273)

WANTED QUALIFIED and Experienced Sports Conditioning Coach. Contact: Niraj Public School, Saadat Manzil, 6-3846, Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Mail: hrm@nirajpublicschool.com (S/2021/C02273)

WANTED PART time Faculty for B.Eds, CMA, IT, Statistics, Computers, English, Maths, Accounting, Teachers who welcome Relocated Officer, Boy and Receptionist also at Sri Narayana College, S.R.D Road, Secunderabad. Contact: Ph:9248051525/ 984551722. (S/2021/C02306)

ACADEMIC HEIGHTS Public School, Shamshergunj, Malakpuri wanted 1)Primary Teacher, 2)Tuition, Science, Social, Hindi, English, PGT, English, Economics, Accountancy, Bus.Studies, Computer Science, B.Tech with knowledge Python, Libra Office SOL. Send resume a pharsimarin@yahoo.com Ph:9246246403, 7086048056. (B/2021/C0105)

REPUDATED SCHOOL in Secunderabad required Teachers very good in English and Hindi pundits for classes from primary to High School. Contact: Ph:9849620247. (S/2021/C02320)

WANTED SEMI Qualified Company Secretaries for Employment. Contact: 0704361630, 9705820093, cadevanna@gmail.com (B/2021/C00990)

SECRETARIES

LADY PERSONAL Secretary (Advisory) working for our clients personality, service, mindness, computer knowledge, Intelligent, own vehicle. Secunderabad residing only need apply. Best salary working lunch provided. Contact: 07039999007. (W/2021/AT001070)

REQUIRED SEMI Qualified Company Secretaries for Employment. Contact: 0704361630, 9705820093, cadevanna@gmail.com (B/2021/C00990)

SECURITY

URGENTLY REQUIRED Experience Fileofficer/ Marketing Manager for Reputed Security Company Good Salary and Other Benefits Mail your CV to sniperfmss@gmail.com or Contact: 7032735999. (HYCL/2021/C06873)

STENOS & TYPISTS Graduate with computer knowledge with proficiency in English and Telugu and Typing to work with Advocate. Contact: 9849012193. (B/2021/C00986)

TEACHERS

WANTED TEACHERS for All Subjects for Classes I to X. Contact: Vikas High School, Santoshnagar, near Edi-Bazar, Watertank, Hyd-23. Ph:9014363343, 9989193806, kumtaikulakaleeta@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C02734)

LHS, ABIDS Wanted Trained Graduate and Experienced Teachers for P.Sci, Maths, Bio.Sc, English, Social Studies, Hindi, Telugu, Comp Sci, Music, Dance, PET, Front Office Accountant Cum Data Entry Interested Candidates May Apply With Handwritten Application along with Necessary Enclosures Specifying Post Applied Contact Number or Email: lfshtech@rediffmail.com Should Reach by 20-02-2021. (HYCL/2021/C02796)

URGENTLY REQUIRED teachers for Maths, Social,&Biology for 6th/7th classes and multimedia analyst for TV channel in Begumpet, Hyd. Ability to prepare PPT essential. Best salary. Contact: 9878094402 (HYMM/2021/C06821)

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OTHER VACANCIES Assistant for kids fashion designer company @ Banjara hills, Contact 9849017733. (HYMM/2021/C06777)

WANTED COUNSELOR And Teachers For Bachpad A Play School Tarnaka, Exp/Qual & PP/Trained Good Communication Skills required. Contact: 9246844150/ 9246884150 (HYMM/2021/C06307)

URGENT REQUIRED Teachers seek to Appoint Fresher/ Experienced Graduates/ PG/B.Ed to teach English, Maths, Science for 10th Classes. Minimum Qualification: any Degree, Result Oriented Professional. Contact: Ph:9848014

DECCAN Chronicle

14 FEBRUARY 2021



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Off the beaten track

A bottom-up view of the annual Budget

Despite the hoopla around the Union government's Budget, for citizens, allocations in their state budgets matter more. Nearly two thirds of total government expenditure is done by states and for capex, this proportion increases to 90 per cent (FY 2020-21 BE data).

Twenty-eight states and eight Union Territories share the enlarged pie at their level. No individual state matches the fiscal power of the Union finance minister's signature releasing budget allocations. But for citizens, at the receiving end of the pipe, what matters most is the efficiency and effectiveness of the last-mile expenditure management by the state governments.

Living in a well-performing state matters and not just for employment. Progressive "states" bend with the breeze blowing from Delhi, to tap the flow of funds, their way. Telangana is a good example. More importantly, enjoying decent levels of basic public services — subsidised food, education, public health, drinking water electricity and public transport, direct income transfers to farmers, women, old age pensioners and support to the specially-abled, subsidised credit — depends crucially on the efficiency of the local administration.

The primary federal fiscal role of the Union is to collect tax and pass through a mandated share (41 per cent XV Finance Commission) to the states. The Union government, however, games how much it passes through. The mandatory sharing applies only to tax not cess (say on petroleum products). Increasing the cess on imported liquor, as done in the Budget, whilst lowering the duty rate, avoids sharing the extra revenue with states. This is in bad faith.

Voluntary adoption of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 enhanced centralisation of fiscal power in the Union. The GST council collectively determines tax rates. But the Union has veto power. Happily, the benefits, despite the convoluted design (multiple rates) of the GST, far exceed the costs from dilution of state tax autonomy. The avoided cost of pancaked sales tax on goods sold across state borders and the ease of movement — most recently via e-tax invoices — will reduce tax leakage and fraud, boost tax revenues and benefit both the Union and the states.

Significant "tax gouging" potential, however, remains with states via punitive tax on the non-virtuous (excise duty on alcohol) and the well-off (exorbitant sales tax on petroleum products and registration fee on purchasing a personal motorised vehicle or property). Less developed states use this mechanism pervasively. The share of "tax gouging" sources was just 46 per cent (2020-21 BE) in well-developed Maharashtra as compared to 63 per cent in Telangana and 57 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. Significantly, Maharashtra and Delhi — both high-income states — recently reduced the registration fee on property purchases, hoping to boost real estate transactions.

Less developed states rely heavily on tax receipts shared by the Union government, per the formula of the quinquennial finance commission, which compensates states with low tax potential to promote "balanced development".

For Maharashtra and Telangana, central tax transfers are only 21 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of own tax revenue. Conversely, in Uttar Pradesh, central tax transfers are 87 per cent of own tax revenue.

Irrespective of the state you live in, if your annual income is more than Rs 1 million you are in the top quintile (20 per cent). Be prepared to finance delivery of common use public services to the bottom 40 per cent for some time. Aspirers (40 per cent) in the middle do not pay income tax either. But they consume more and thereby pull their tax weight by paying GST, sales tax and excise and bear the impact of customs duties (indirect taxes). It rankles that honest taxpayers also subsidise fraud and tax evasion. Their rightful outrage was mellowed by the Union Budget retaining this year's tax regime including the income tax relaxations and rationalised GST rates. But watch out for your state budget levies coming soon!

A "soft tax" regime rides majorly on the government's ability to ramp up tax collections using big data analytics to make tax evaders and their in-government colluders accountable. It does not help when ideologically driven e-privacy paranoia results in data "privacy" being privileged over better tax collection!

The only upward bias in the Budget is in import taxes to protect domestic manufacturing under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat program, possibly to finance the new performance linked financial incentives for 13 industrial sectors. The intent, as also behind the proposal to set up three new textile parks, is to encourage global entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing hubs in India and create good new jobs — on the template of China three decades ago.

The big push is on capital investment, financed by imported capital. Foreign investment in insurance is now liberalised, raising the limit from 49 per cent to 75 per cent. Private Banks (ICICI, HDFC and Axis Bank) already operate under majority foreign ownership. There are also plans for restarting privatisation after a lapse of 15 years creating new opportunities for inward financial flows.

The International Financial Centre at GIFT city got another round of special incentives to ramp up business. Asset reconstruction and management companies are proposed to deal with the swollen non-performing assets (13.5 per cent of assets per RBI), giving public sector banks a clean slate to restart lending. Less convincingly, a Development Finance Institution is to re-engage with long-term project finance to compensate for an absent corporate bond market. Fintech, meanwhile, awaits formalisation through legislation, of the hitherto ambivalent regulatory regime for cryptocurrency.

The revised FY 2020-21 Budget is expansionary with government borrowing a "never before" net ₹18.5 trillion (fiscal deficit 9.5 per cent of GDP). For the moment inflation is moderating as the RBI curtails excess liquidity and the economy heals steadily.

What follows next depends on the course of the pandemic. There is enough fiscal power in the FY 2021-22 Budget (fiscal deficit 6.8 per cent of GDP) for enhancing demand and facilitating growth. This comes at the expense of pandemic-related relief measures, which are skimpy and will be missed by the bottom 40 per cent who are also the least able to deal with inflation and suffer most from the downturn in employment. In the meantime, fingers crossed.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

President Xi Jinping recently affirmed that "time and momentum are on China's side". The Great Helmsman believes in the "great rejuvenation of Chinese nation" led by the soon-100 years old Communist Party of China; he, however, cited challenges, adding: "The world is in a turbulent time that is unprecedented in the past century."

Only the future will ascertain if the "momentum" is indeed on China's side, but there is no doubt that the world is going through uncertain and difficult times. As this is bound to continue in 2021 and probably beyond, India has to find reliable and unwavering support abroad.

Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mr Xi recently asserted, somewhat ironically: "The misguided approach of antagonism and confrontation... will eventually hurt all countries' interests and undermine everyone's well-being."

For over 20 years, France and India have been practising cooperation. Recently, India had supported France when the country was attacked by Islamic fundamentalists: "India stands with Paris at this difficult

Subhani



De-escalation at LAC: Is a real solution in sight?



K.C. Singh

Former Army Chief and now Union minister V.K. Singh's rash comment on the Line of Actual Control having often been breached by both India and China caused an uproar, with Beijing seizing on it as proof that India was the aggressor. But when news emerged of a likely coordinated de-escalation in Ladakh, after the nine-month standoff between Indian and Chinese forces, Gen. Singh's downgrading of the LAC acquired an intent. It was to ensure any withdrawal deal would not draw attention to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion last year that no one had intruded into India.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament on Thursday that a mutual and calibrated withdrawal of forces, north and south of Pangong Tso, was underway, but unwisely refused to share details, pleading their "sensitive and operational" nature. This naturally raised questions whether the likely buffer-zones ceded space historically and traditionally patrolled by Indian soldiers. Some speculated whether China had managed to subterfuge to push the LAC closer to its 1959 claim-line.

The defence ministry decided the next day "misinformed and misleading comments". It reassured India's old claims, including the illegal occupation by China of 43,000 sq km in Aksai Chin, as shown in Indian maps. The LAC passes through Finger 8, north of Pangong. Mutual withdrawal will create a buffer-zone between Fingers 4 and 8. India will retain its Dhan Singh Thapa outpost near Finger 3, while Chinese troops shall stay beyond Finger 8.

The intrusions at Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang Plains will be tackled after current withdrawals are completed. The 255-km Durbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi road runs at places alongside the LAC, giving connectivity to the Karakoram Pass. At Depsang plains, the flat terrain allowed China to make deep intrusions, threatening the highway.

Multiple questions on about the timing and depth of the Chinese intrusions from April-May 2020, in the middle of a global pandemic it caused. Also,

why the flexibility now after months of sabre-rattling.

China may have had

multiple motives for the sudden, heavily armed and wide-fronted intrusion,

under the subterfuge of spring military exercises in Tibet. It had strongly objected in August 2019 to the unilateral revocation of Article 370, affecting the status of a "disputed territory", where China had a stake.

In September, the "Howdy Modi" Houston rally with President Donald Trump signalled a growing India-US proximity.

Meanwhile, the India-China relations mired in trade sanctions. Then came Mr Trump's return visit to India in February 2020, in an US election year, indicating a deeper Trump-Modi connect. Meanwhile,

the Covid-19 epidemic began swirling as Wuhan was locked down. In mid-March 2020, President Trump termed the new pandemic "China Virus".

All these would have heightened Chinese paranoia.

China also saw a chance for strategic gain by repositioning as the world was distracted by the pandemic.

Thus, China also began ratcheting up its aggressive behaviour towards US allies Australia and Japan, that along with the

US and India are part of the "Quad". In May 2020, as the Ladakh LAC heated up, China hit Australian barley and beef exports. In August, Australian wine faced anti-dumping duties. By September, China fully suspended barley imports, ordering stricter controls on wheat. The next month, the squeeze was extended to Australian coal.

Similarly, regarding Senkaku or Diaoyu Islands held by Japan, in the 17-month period from April 2019 to August 2020, Chinese vessels were inside contiguous zone 456 days out of 519, as against half that in the previous period.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's Japan visit, due for early April 2020, was postponed, ostensibly due to the pandemic.

In July, Japan's ruling party

cancelled it over China's imposition of a new national security law on Hong Kong.

Initially surprised, the Indian Army quickly mirrored Chinese deployments, by inducting armour, drones, etc backed by air power and artillery.

It upped the ante by seizing heights overlooking Spanggur Gap,

south of Pangong, stymieing any Chinese thrust towards Chushul, besides dominating Chinese deployments in the sector.

India, despite the financial cost, also dug in for the winter, demonstrating resolve.

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IN BRIEF

**WOMAN'S SUICIDE:
SENA MINISTER
UNDER LENS**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, FEB. 13

Maharashtra forest minister Sanjay Rathod from Shiv Sena has found himself in trouble as the BJP has demanded his arrest in connection with the death of a 22-year old girl in Pune. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has said that a detailed probe will be carried out and those found guilty will be punished.

On February 8, deceased Pooja Chavan, hailing from Beed district, allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a building in the Wanwadi area of the city. Her death has stirred up a political storm in the state, as several audio clips of her purported conservation with two persons have gone viral linking the incident to Mr Rathod.

The opposition party BJP has become aggressive on the issue demanding the arrest of the minister and his sacking from the cabinet. BJP leader Kirit Somaiya said, "Mr Rathod should not only be sacked as a minister but also be arrested immediately. What is Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray waiting for as it clearly shows that the minister has a hand in Pooja Chavan's death."

Mr Rathod has not commented on the issue yet. According to sources, he has sought time to present his case to Mr Thackeray, who has reportedly taken a serious cognizance of the matter. However, Mr Rathod and other party leaders have been advised not to speak to the media on the issue.

**2 MAOISTS
KILLED IN
ENCOUNTER**RABINDRA NATH
CHOURHURY | DC
Bhopal, FEB. 13

Two Maoists including a woman were killed on Saturday morning in an encounter with the police in tribal-dominated district of Mandla.

The encounter took place in the forested village of Lalpur. The slain Naxals, identified as Pramila (25) and Mainu Uike (21), hailed from south Bastar district of Sukma in Chhattisgarh and together carried a bounty of ₹14 lakh, state home minister Narottam Mishra said.

They belonged to platoon number 3 of Vistar dalam of outlawed CPI (Maoist) functioning in south-western Madhya Pradesh districts of Balaghat, Mandla and Dindori.

Acting on a tip off on the presence of a dozen armed Maoists in Sala forest, security forces launched a search operation in the area, police said.

The Maoists opened fire on security forces when the latter zeroed in on the rebel camp, leading to a fierce gun battle between them that lasted 4 hours.

Bodies of the two slain Maoists recovered at the encounter site.

**COVID: NATIONAL
RECOVERY RATE
STANDS AT 97.32%**DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

In a significant development on the Covid-19 front, 17 states and union territories have not reported a single death in the last 24 hours while 13 states and UTs had deaths ranging between 1 and 5. Total fatalities due to coronavirus in the last 24 hours were 103.

The new cases too are on a decline as 12,143 fresh cases were detected in the last 24 hours. India's total active case-load currently stands at 1.36 lakh which consists of just 1.25% of country's total positive cases.

A total of 1.06 crore people have recovered so far out of which 11,395 patients have got discharged in the last 24 hours. The National Recovery Rate at present is 97.32%.

Kerala, with highest number of positive cases (5,397) has also reported the maximum number of single day recoveries (5,332). In Maharashtra, 2,422 people recovered in the past 24 hours followed by 486 in Tamil Nadu. Kerala continues to report the highest daily new cases at 5,397. It is followed by Maharashtra with 3,670, while Tamil Nadu reported 483 new cases.

Meanwhile, India has vaccinated 80.52 lakh healthcare and frontline workers with the first dose and the second dose to complete immunization against Covid-19 has started.



Rescue and restoration work at Raini village after a glacier burst on February 7 in Joshimath triggered a flash flood, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand on Saturday.

AIMPLB opposes uniform grounds of divorce petition

New Delhi, Feb 13: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Supreme Court against a plea seeking "uniform grounds of divorce" for all citizens of the country, keeping with the spirit of the Constitution and international conventions.

The AIMPLB has opposed the plea filed by advocate and BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking uniform grounds of divorce on the basis that personal laws cannot be tested on the anvil of Articles 14, 15, 21 and 44 of the Constitution.

The applicant would like to submit that the expression and 'Custom and Usage' in Article 13 of the Constitution does not include faith of a religious denomination embedded in personal laws," the plea said while seeking impleadment in the petition filed by Upadhyay.

The Constituent Assembly was aware of the distinction between 'personal law' and the 'custom and usage' and chose advisedly to exclude personal law and include custom and usage in Article 13 of the Constitution, it said.

Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains have to seek divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Muslims, Christians and Parsis have their own personal laws. A couple belonging to different religions has to seek divorce under the Special Marriage Act, 1956," it said. If either partner is a foreign national then that person has to seek divorce under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

Hence, the grounds of divorce are neither gender neutral nor religion neutral, the plea said.

remove anomalies in divorce laws and make them uniform for all citizens, without any prejudices on the basis of religion, race, cast, sex or place of birth.

"The court may declare that the discriminatory grounds of divorce are violative of Articles 14, 15, 21 and frame guidelines for 'Uniform Grounds of Divorce' for all citizens," it said.

While Article 13 of the Constitution deals with laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights, Article 14 guarantees equality before law to all citizens. Article 21 pertains to the protection of life and personal liberty whereas Article 44 talks about a uniform civil code for the citizens.

"Alternatively, this court may direct the Law Commission to examine the laws of divorce and suggest 'Uniform Grounds of Divorce' for all citizens in the spirit of Articles 14, 15, 21, 44 within three months, while considering international laws and international conventions," the plea said.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslims, Christians and Parsis have their own personal laws. A couple belonging to different religions has to seek divorce under the Special Marriage Act, 1956," it said. If either partner is a foreign national then that person has to seek divorce under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

Hence, the grounds of divorce are neither gender neutral nor religion neutral, the plea said.

Rescue hole at Tapovan tunnel being widened to reach workers**38 bodies have been recovered from affected areas while 166 are missing**

Joshimath, Feb 13: Rescue teams on Saturday began widening a hole drilled into an approach tunnel on the way to the possible location of over 30 people trapped inside a sludge-choked tunnel of the NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project after a flash flood ravaged the area on Sunday.

through which muck is constantly flowing into the tunnels and restoring the flow of the Dhauliganga to the right which has tilted to the left after the flash flood hampering the sludge clearing operation, he said.

Describing the rescue of people as a priority, he said the NTPC has put more than 100 of its scientists on the job.

When asked whether an attempt could also be made to send rescue personnel to the possible location of those trapped inside the tunnel, the GM said it will need to be widened further for that and will be done if the need arises.

"More than 100 of our scientists are on the job. They are devising strategies and having them implemented," Ahirwal said.

He said all resources and mechanical equipment required for the operations are available at the project site.

● **THE STATE** Emergency Operation Centre said scientists of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing during an aerial survey of the Rishiganga found that the glacial lake formed due to the avalanche over it has begun to release water which reduces chances of its breaching or causing a fresh flash flood.

However, citing the conditions inside the tunnel, he said, "We can operate only with a few machines at a time. Rest of them have to be kept on standby because our strategy is to keep the operations underway round the clock."

If for some reason an equipment stops working, there are alternatives on the standby to ensure that the operations do not stop, he said.

He said many experienced workers of the project went missing in the calamity and those put on

the job are new people but still they are working with total dedication.

Talking about the biggest challenge being faced by the rescue team, the NTPC official said,

"The rescue personnel are going to the tunnel where the men are likely to be trapped via HCC Adit where muck is constantly coming down from the NTPC barrage and its desilting basin to hamper the rescue efforts. The water of Dhauliganga too is coming into our tunnels through the desilting basin as it has tilted to the left after the avalanche."

"Hence, restoring the flow of the Dhauliganga to the right is a big part of our strategy," Ahirwar said. The sludge choked contours and conduits of the barrage's desilting basin can also be removed more effectively only if the flow is restored back to its earlier position.

The work on restoring the flow of Dhauliganga has begun already with the help of heavy machines, he said. So far, 38 bodies have been recovered from the affected areas while 166 are still missing.

DIG Nilesh Anand Bharne said 11 of the dead have been identified. Eighteen body parts had also been recovered from the flood-hit areas, of which 10 have been cremated after taking their DNA samples so far, he said.

The State Emergency Operation Centre here said scientists of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing during an aerial survey of the Rishiganga found that the glacial lake formed due to the avalanche over it has begun to release water which reduces chances of its breaching or causing a fresh flash flood.

The lake which has formed over the Rishiganga after the flash-flood has increased the concern of experts on Friday.

PTI

Parliamentary panel intends to visit Galwan**HC REPRIEVE
FOR FORMER
CONG LEADER**DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, FEB. 13

New Delhi, Feb 13: The parliamentary standing committee on defence intends to visit the Galwan Valley and the Pangong lake in the eastern Ladakh region which has been witness to violent stand off between the troops of India and China, sources said.

However, it may seek the permission of the government before visiting the strategically-located areas, they said.

The 30-member committee, chaired by senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Jual Oram and of which Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a member, intends to visit the eastern Ladakh region in the last week of May or June, the sources said.

The decision to visit these areas was taken in the panel's latest meeting, they said. Gandhi did not attend it.

The panel's visit to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) depends on the approval from the government, the sources added.

After a nine-month standoff, militaries of India and China reached an agreement on disengagement in the north and south banks of Pangong lake that mandates both sides to cease forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner.

On Thursday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a detailed statement in Parliament on the disengagement pact.

According to the agreement, China has to pull back its troops to east of Finger 8 areas in the northern bank while the Indian personnel will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in the region.

**RECALL MAHA
GOVERNOR:
SHIV SENA**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, FEB. 13

The Shiv Sena on Saturday accused the BJP of using Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's shoulders to target the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Accusing the governor of acting like a political puppet for the Centre, the Shiv Sena urged the Centre to recall him.

The Sena said that ever since Mr. Koshyari became the governor, he has been in controversy for several reasons. "He should behave like a mature person," an editorial in *Saamana* said.

A former Congress leader of Kargil who was booked by the local police for sedition, among other charges, has been absolved of the same by the Jammu and Kashmir high court.

The court quashed criminal proceedings against the accused Zakir Hussain, a councilor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil, who was arrested in June last year and charged with sedition and other offences for his audio clip mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Army in the wake of a violent face-off between India and China in Ladakh's Galwan valley.

made a detailed statement in Parliament on the disengagement pact.

The decision to extend Justice Pushpa Ganediwala's fresh tenure by only one year, instead of two years as recommended by the Supreme Court collegium, was taken after the judge faced flak for her interpretation of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

district for some time and was arrested following receiving specific information about it from the Anantnag police.

TRF which the police insist is a front of outlawed Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) surfaced in J&K last year and has claimed responsibility for several violent acts that took place across the Valley over a period of time.

On the night of October 29, 2020, a group of militants had killed Fida Hussain Itoo, general secretary of the J&K unit of BJP Yuva Morcha, and two other party workers

Umar Ramzan Hajam and Umer Rashid Beigh in Kulgam's Yaripora village. Earlier in July last year, a police head constable Abdur Rashid Dar was shot dead from point blank range by gunmen outside his Kulgam's Furrah village.

A statement issued by the police here said that Rather, a resident of Anantnag's Jalkreeri Dooro village, who was involved in these killings was arrested from Teli Basti of Samba's industrial township Bari Brahma during a "covert operation"

launched jointly by Samba police and Anantnag police.

"Besides involved in targeted killings in south Kashmir, he was instrumental in recruiting innocent youth into terrorist ranks and was along with another terrorist Abbas Sheikh running the LeT in the name of TRF," the statement alleged.

The police said that Rather was earlier associated with Kashmir's indigenous militant organization Hizb-ul-Mujahideen but quit it in 2020 to join the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba.

Ganediwala faced flak for interpretation of sexual assault**Reduced term for controversial judge**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
with agency inputs
MUMBAI, FEB. 13

new term. Justice Nitin Jamdar, the seniormost judge at the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, administered the oath of office to her.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended virtually by the Bombay High Court's Chief Justice Dipankar Datta. Additional judges are usually appointed for two years before being elevated as permanent judges. The decision was taken after the judge faced flak for her interpretation of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Justice Ganediwala's fresh term comes into effect from Saturday after her earlier tenure as an additional judge ended on Friday.

Last month, the Supreme Court panel, in a rare instance, withdrew its recommendation to confirm the

permanent status of Justice Ganediwala as a Bombay High Court judge after two controversial orders were passed by her. The collegium headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, at a meeting held on January 20, had okayed the proposal for making Justice Ganediwala a permanent judge.

In a January 19 ruling, Justice Pushpa Ganediwala, 51, ruled that groping a minor's breast without 'skin-to-skin contact' cannot be termed as sexual assault as defined under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Days later, the Supreme

Court put that order on hold, allowing the government's top lawyer to file a petition against it.

The order was "disturbing" and would create a dangerous precedent, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had said.

In another case last month, Justice Ganediwala ruled that "the acts of holding the hands of the prosecutrix (female victim), or 'opened zip of the pant'...does not fit in the definition of 'sexual assault,'" and quashed the conviction of a man under child sexual assault laws. The survivor in this case, was a five-year-old minor.

SHORT TAKES
FED AGENTS
FATALLY SHOOT
MAN IN FLORIDA

Coral Gables (Florida), Feb. 13: Federal agents investigating a financial scheme fatally shot a man in South Florida on Friday, authorities said.

The shooting occurred in Coral Gables and involved agents from the US Department of Homeland Security, the Miami Herald reported. Coral Gables is located just southwest of Miami.

During a large-scale financial investigation, an individual brandished a weapon at special agents with Homeland Security Investigations, as a result agents fired at the suspect, agency spokesman Nestor Yglesias said in a statement.

The agents were treated at a local hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening, Yglesias said.

Investigators recovered a weapon at the scene, Yglesias said. Florida state law enforcement officials were investigating the shooting.

The man wasn't immediately identified.

BROKER TO BE EXTRADITED TO VENEZUELA

Madrid, Feb. 13: Spain's National Court has approved the extradition of a financial broker wanted in Venezuela on charges of fraud and embezzlement of funds.

The ruling on 40-year-old Ernesto Quintero triggered protests Friday among the Venezuelan community in Spain and Venezuelan opposition representatives.

Protesters, including Quintero's wife, demonstrated near the court in Madrid, calling for Spain to stop the extradition given the political instability in the Caribbean country. Quintero worked in a stock exchange in the western Venezuelan city of Maracaibo that was seized by authorities in 2010 owing to alleged fund-management irregularities, the unauthorised sale of client investments and for funneling money to Britain's Virgin Islands. He was arrested in Spain early in 2019 but released with conditions while his extradition was studied. He was detained again this week.

The court's three-judge panel rejected Quintero's argument that there were political motivations behind Venezuela's extradition request and that he would be in physical danger if handed over.

Antonio Ecarri, a Venezuelan politician designated as ambassador to Spain for the parallel government of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, claimed that any extradition now was a virtual death sentence given Venezuela's human rights record. Spain has previously rejected other extradition requests.

1 PEACEKEEPER HURT IN MALI HAS DIED: UN

United Nations, Feb. 13: One of the 28 UN peacekeepers wounded in an attack on a temporary United Nations base in central Mali has died from his injuries, the United Nations announced Friday.

Mali remains the deadliest of the UN's 12 far-flung peacekeeping missions and the peacekeeper from Togo was the sixth killed just since January in hostile acts in which 46 peacekeepers were also injured.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric, who announced the peacekeeper's death, extended the UN's deepest condolences to his family and the people and government of Togo and wished a speedy recovery to the 27 other peacekeepers.

The UN has condemned Wednesday's complex attack using direct and indirect fire against the temporary base in Kereka, near Douentza. There have been no claims of responsibility for the attack, but Islamic extremists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have staged regular attacks on UN peacekeepers and soldiers.

Dujarric said the Kereka base was set up recently to better protect the local population, bring back calm in areas impacted by intercommunal violence, as well as to reduce the threat of improvised explosive devices.

Mali has been in turmoil since a 2012 uprising prompted mutinous soldiers to overthrow the president. The power vacuum that resulted ultimately led to an Islamic insurgency and a French-led war that ousted the jihadists from power in 2013.

The country has also been plagued by a series of coups, the latest in August that overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar.

7 injured in fuel tanker blast at Afghanistan-Iran border

The blaze consumed more than 500 trucks carrying natural gas and fuel

Herat (Afghanistan), Feb. 13: A fuel tanker exploded Saturday at the Islam Qala crossing in Afghanistan's western Herat province, injuring at least seven people and causing a massive fire that consumed more than 500 trucks carrying natural gas and fuel, according to Afghan officials and Iranian state media.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the blast. Wahid Qatali, Herat's provincial governor, said Afghan first responders did not have the means to put out the fire and had requested support from Iran in the form of fire-fighting aircraft.

"For the time being, we can't even talk about the casualties," Qatali told The Associated Press.

The intensity of the flames meant ambulances were having trouble reaching the wounded or getting

07 people injured by the fire have been admitted to the hospital so far, said Mohammad Rafiq Shirzy, spokesman for the regional hospital in Herat's provincial capital.

02 explosions, around half-an-hour apart, at the border crossing were powerful enough to be spotted from space by NASA satellites.

75 miles is the distance of the Islam Qala border crossing from the city of Herat. It is a major transit route between Afghanistan and Iran.

close to the site of the blast, said Mohammad Rafiq Shirzy, spokesman for the regional hospital in Herat's provincial capital, also named Herat.

Seven people injured by the fire have been admitted to the hospital so far, he said.

Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency quoted truck drivers as saying more

than 500 trucks carrying natural gas and fuel have been burnt so far.

Two explosions at the border crossing were powerful enough to be spotted from space by NASA satellites. One blast erupted around 1:10 p.m. Afghan time (0840 GMT), the next around a half hour later at 1:42 p.m. local (0912 GMT). The fire continued to

burn after nightfall, and forced Afghanistan to shut down its electrical supply from Iran, leaving Herat in the dark, said Wahidullah Tawhidi, spokesman for the Ministry of Power Supply.

The road between the city of Herat and Islam Qala is a dangerous stretch of highway that Afghans rarely travel at night for fear of attacks by criminal gangs. Taliban insurgents also travel freely in the area. Afghan security services had set up checkpoints and were assisting ambulances and emergency vehicles traveling to and from the border crossing.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported that following the request from Herat's governor, Iranian "rescue forces and fire fighters are underway to extinguish the fire inside Afghanistan," according to Mohsen Nejat, director-general of crisis management in Iran's Khorasan Razavi province.

The fire spread to the Daghroshan customs facilities on the Iranian side and first responders — including the fire department, the Iranian army and border forces — were assisting in extinguishing the blaze, according to Iranian state television. Trucks carrying natural gas and fuel were directed to leave the scene.

The Islam Qala border crossing is around 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of the city of Herat. It is a major transit route between Afghanistan and Iran.

The United States allows Afghanistan to import fuel and oil from Iran as part of a special concession that exempts Kabul from sanctions against Iran. Satellite photos taken Saturday showed dozens of tankers parked at the border crossing before the explosion. — AP

Charge against Trump a lie, say his lawyers

AS VOTE DRAWS NEAR, MCCONNELL REVEALS LITTLE

Washington, Feb. 13: Seldom has Mitch McConnell signaled so little about such a consequential vote.

While many expect the Senate's top Republican to back acquitting former President Donald Trump of inciting rioters who assaulted the Capitol last month, no one is really sure. The Washington political universe and the world beyond will collectively hold its breath when the Senate impeachment trial roll call reaches the Kentuckian's name.

Over 36 years in the Senate, the measured McConnell has earned a reputation for inexpressiveness in the service of caution. This time, the suspense over how hell vote underscores how much is at stake for him. — AP

45th president engage in incitement of — they continue to say — insurrection. Clearly there was no insurrection," he said.

Trump's lawyer van der Veen used his opening remarks to dispute the Democrats' case that the former president had incited violence during his speech to supporters on January 6.

Trump had made allegations of voter fraud and urged his supporters to converge at the Capitol building a short while before the riot broke out.

To claim that the president in any way wished, desired or encouraged lawless or violent behaviour is a preposterous and monstrous lie. In fact, the first two messages the president sent via Twitter once the incursion at the Capitol began were 'Stay Peaceful' and 'No violence because we are the party of law and order,' the lawyer said.

"That issue is did the

— PTI

Paint on Thai riot cops



Riot police covered in red paint thrown by pro-democracy protesters stand guard during an anti-government demonstration next to the Grand Palace in Bangkok on Saturday as demonstrators scaled a Bangkok monument, draping it in a crimson cloth and calling for the kingdom to abolish its draconian royal defamation laws. — AFP

Biden: Gvs, mayors need \$350 bn to fight virus

US: China must make available data of outbreak's earliest days

AIRLINES PUSH WH TO REJECT TESTS FOR FLYERS

Washington, Feb. 13: President Joe Biden met with a bipartisan group of governors and mayors at the White House on Friday as part of his push to give financial relief from the coronavirus pandemic to state and local governments — a clear source of division with Republican lawmakers who view the spending as wasteful.

Judge Peter Cahill ruled last month that Chauvin would stand trial on his own starting March 8 and that the other defendants would be tried together starting August 23, citing a lack of courtroom space due to Covid-19 safety protocols.

Prosecutors appealed, saying multiple trials would traumatise witnesses and the community and that the evidence against all four defendants is similar.

They also said all four officers should be tried in the summer, when Covid-19 may present less of a risk. Pretrial appeals are rare and are only allowed in limited circumstances.

The appeals court found that prosecutors did not show that holding Chauvin's trial in March would have a "critical impact" on the trial's ability to successfully prosecute the case, which is the threshold they need to meet for a pretrial appeal. — AP

Local governments would also get \$130.2 billion and tribal governments would get \$20 billion. The money could be used to states would be distributed based on their share of unemployed workers nationally.

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outbreak began to spread last February, and local governments have cut nearly 1 million jobs, according to the Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Republican Govs. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas and Larry Hogan of Maryland attended the Friday meeting, along with Democratic governors, including New York's Andrew Cuomo and New Mexico's Michelle Lujan Grisham.

The mayors of Atlanta, Detroit, Miami and Arlington, Texas, also were at the meeting.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell was set to attend, but she could not due to White House health screening and safety protocols, according to her press secretary.

Under the relief package being crafted in House committees this week, every state and the District of Columbia would get at least \$500 million, but most of the money going to states would be distributed based on their share of unemployed workers nationally.

Local governments would also get \$130.2 billion and tribal governments would get \$20 billion. The money could be used to

and 468,103 deaths from the deadly virus.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, in a strongly-worded statement, expressed deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the Covid-19 investigation by the World Health Organisation (WHO) were communicated. "We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the Covid-19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach them. It is imperative that this report be independent, with expert findings free from intervention or alteration by

governments in an earlier relief package signed into law last March.

Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the lead Republican on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, said that tens of billions of dollars from that legislation has yet to be spent and that the rush to "bail out locked-down states that shuttered small businesses, schools, and churches is government waste, pure and simple." — AP

the Chinese government," he said.

"To better understand this pandemic and prepare for the next one, China must make available its data from the earliest days of the outbreak. Going forward, all countries, including China, should participate in a transparent and robust process for preventing and responding to health emergencies — so that the world learns as much as possible, as soon as possible," Sullivan demanded. The mission of the WHO has never been more important, and the US has deep respect for its experts and the work they are doing every day. — PTI

"Reports that there is an intention to put in place new requirements such as testing are not accurate," Psaki said. A person familiar with the discussions said the airline CEOs talked with White House Coronavirus-response coordinator Jeff Zients. — AP

WH aide threatens reporter, suspended

Washington, Feb. 13: White House deputy press secretary T.J. Ducklo has been suspended for a week without pay after he reportedly issued a sexist and profane threat to a journalist seeking to cover his relationship with another reporter.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement Friday that Ducklo had been suspended without pay with the approval of White House chief of staff Ron Klain.

Ducklo is the first to acknowledge this is not the standard of

behaviour set out by President Joe Biden, and that Ducklo had sent the reporter in question a personal note professing his profound regret.

Ducklo's personal life came under scrutiny earlier this week when Politico reported on his relationship with a reporter for the news outlet Axios who was assigned to cover the Biden campaign and its transition.

Before Politico broke the story Tuesday, People Magazine published a glowing profile of the relationship. — AP

the injury-defying and spine-stretching arts that fuel the storied spectacle. More than 110,000 people attended the last BIAC in 2019. This year it had up to 2,000 visitors, all professionals who work in the circus or are looking to buy shows. Even that is a testament to the grit and determination of the organisers, who skillfully adapted their festival to the French authorities' rules and regulations.

"We started with a plan A, then plan B, then plan C, then plan D, and finally

a chiropractor. Virus safety signs put up at the port-side venue showed a clown with red nose, bow tie and mask, and the accompanying text: "Having a big nose does not exempt you from wearing one." In France, theatres, concert halls and other venues have been shuttered since Oct. 30 due to Covid-19. Before that, they were shut from mid-March to late June.

No one knows when the performing arts will be allowed to begin again. But it's important to show that culture is essential, according to Yoann Bourgeois, a dancer and choreographer who trained in the circus arts and is the flagship artist of this year's BIAC.

"The management of this crisis has had an extremely violent impact on poets, artists, people who dedicate their lives to culture in general," Bourgeois said. "It has categorised what is considered essential or non-essential. We are convinced that poetry is essential to live." — AP

A testament to the grit of organisers who followed French rules Circus festival adapts to Covid-19 rules

Marseille, Feb. 13: It's been a tough year for the performing arts in most countries, with virus lockdowns cancelling shows and shuttering venues.

But the world's top circus festival has found a way to flourish between the cracks in the rules — even without the huge crowds that would normally have attended. Ending Saturday in the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, the fourth edition of the Circus Biennale (BIAC), held every two years in the south of France, celebrates

the injury-defying and spine-stretching arts that fuel the storied spectacle. More than 110,000 people attended the last BIAC in 2019. This year it had up to 2,000 visitors, all professionals who work in the circus or are looking to buy shows. Even that is a testament to the grit and determination of the organisers, who skillfully adapted their festival to the French authorities' rules and regulations.

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2nd WEEK

DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM**ARJUN** 70MM-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**KONARK** 70MM-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15**TALLURI** 70MM-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15**SRLAXMIKALAMANDIR**-6.30, 9.30PM**AARADHANA** 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**SRINIVASA** 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**SAMPOORNA** 70MM-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**BHUJANGA** 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**OAMB** 10.30AM, 1.55PM, 4.20PM, 7.55, 10.40PM

4.15, 7.00, 9.45PM 1.45, 7.45, 10.10PM 1.40, 10.35PM

GPR-1.50, 7.30PM **RADHIKA**-1.40, 7.45PM **BIG Cinemas** you must!**UPPAL**-1.40, 7.45, 10.10PM **MCUBE**-1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM**PVR** INORBIT-1.20, 7.20, 10.15PM CENTRAL-2.10, 7.35, 10.30PM

FORUM-11.00, 1.50, 5.00, 7.55, 10.50PM

GALLERIA-11.00, 4.15, 8.05, 11.00PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.20, 6.20, 9.15PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.20, 6.20, 9.15PM

PRISTON-3.50, 6.50, 9.40PM

ICON-12.45, 7.05, 10.00PM | R.K.-4.15, 9.45PM

INOX GVK-10:20, 7.30, 10:40PM **MP**-1:50, 7:30, 10:30PM **GSM**-1:50, 4.50, 7:50, 10:50PM4.40PM **STAR** TIVOLI 11.00, 2.10, 7.50, 10.45PM **Cinepolis** LAXMIKALA 2.45, 9.45PM**MANTRA**-11:00, 1.55, 7.30PM **CCPL**-10.00, 12.50, 7.30PMDSL-1:00, 7.35, 10.35PM **SUDHA**-12:15, 7.10PM**MIRAJ** SHALINI-11.30, 8.00, 10.50PM **CHANDANAGAR**-3.15, 9.45PM

BALANAGAR-11.30, 8.00, 10.50PM

PLATINUM 10.20, 1.30, 6.00, 7.30, 10.30PM **STAR** 01.15, 4.00, 10.15PM

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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NAVEEN YERNENI Y RAVI SHANKAR DEVI SRI PRASAD

SHAMDAT SAINIDEEN NAVIN NOOLI RAMAKRISHNA MONICA VENKAT YUGANDHAR G SERRY



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SHOWS: 11:30, 2:30, 6:00 9:00

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ASIAN CINEMAS

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

HAPPY Valentine's DAY

ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
10.30, 10.45, 1.20, 4.15, 4.30,
7.10, 10.05, 10.35PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
10.00, 1.05, 4.25, 7.20, 10.10PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
1.40, 7.45PM

ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
10.20, 10.40, 1.35, 4.25, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20, 10.35PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
10.30, 1.10, 4.10, 7.15, 10.00PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
1.50, 7.30PM

ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR(FULLY RENOVATED)

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
10.20, 10.35, 10.50, 1.15, 1.35, 4.10, 4.50,
7.10, 7.20, 10.00, 10.30PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
10.40, 1.40, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
1.50, 4.35, 7.45, 10.40PM

ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
11.00, 2.15, 2.45, 6.15, 9.30PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
6.00PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
11.15, 9.15PM

ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKHNAGAR

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
11.00, 2.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
11.15, 6.00PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
9.15PM

ASIAN CINESQUARE(FULLY RENOVATED)

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
10.20, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 1.15, 1.30, 1.55,
4.10, 4.40, 4.45, 7.05,
7.15, 7.40, 10.00, 10.40PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
10.10, 1.25, 4.30, 7.30, 10.25PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
1.35, 4.30, 7.45, 10.10PM
- MYSTERY OF SARAKI-TELUGU(U/A)(TEL)
10.30PM

ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
11.30, 6.00PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
11.00, 2.30, 9.30PM
- 30 ROJULLU PREMINCHATAM ELA(U/A)
2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
10.00, 10.25, 1.20, 1.30, 4.00, 4.15,
7.10, 7.35, 10.10, 10.40PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
10.15, 12.55, 4.25, 7.00, 10.25PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
1.40, 4.35, 10.35PM
- 30 ROJULLU PREMINCHATAM ELA(U/A)
7.30PM

ASIAN MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY

- UPPENA(U/A)(TEL)
10.10, 10.20, 10.45, 1.15, 1.35, 4.10, 4.25,
4.50, 7.05, 7.25, 10.00, 10.20PM
- FCUK(A)(TEL)
10.30, 1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM
- ZOMBIE REDDY(U/A)(TEL)
1.45, 7.45, 10.10PM

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10% of global road victims in India: World Bank

Indian govt has taken steps to address road safety issues, says V-P for South Asia Schafer

Washington, Feb. 13: India, which has one per cent of the world's vehicles, accounts for 10 per cent of all road crash victims, the latest World Bank report on road safety said on Saturday. Hartwig Schafer, World Bank's Vice President for South Asia, said the Indian government in recent years has taken significant steps to address the issues related to road safety now, he noted.

"Unfortunately, the road crashes have not been going down and any time 10 per cent of the capacity in hospitals is being used for the treatment crash victims," he

said. In particular in India, we have to pay attention," Schafer said in an interview on the occasion of the release of the report on road safety in New Delhi on Saturday. While the attention in the last year has shifted due to Covid-19, there is an interesting link between road safety and pandemic right now, he noted.

"For India, it's one per cent of the world's vehicles and 10 per cent of the crash victims. This is something

said. Schafer said road crashes actually hit the poorest and the most vulnerable segments of the populations. "The financial impact of the crash is much more on poorer households than on better-off households. It is much higher on women who have to take care of the burden of caregiving. It is much higher on those who rely on foot and also in the informal sector," he said.

However, according to Schafer, the good thing is that India was doing quite a bit on road safety. Last year,

India amended its Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, which is "bringing a lot of innovation" in terms of financing, protection and enforcement to the fore, he said.

Responding to a question, Schafer said that Tamil Nadu is one of the states which has reduced the number of crash fatalities by 25 per cent. "For us in the bank, this is a major part of our engagement in the transport sector — rural transport, urban transport — the focus on new mobility post-Covid is something that we are

doing," he said.

In South Asia, he said, the World Bank is helping in road safety standards and institutional aspects of it as well. Building a safe infrastructure is one of the key aspects of addressing this major challenge, he said.

"We need to make sure that we have adequate roadside barriers. We need to make sure that crash victims are getting care within the first hour of the crash. That very often makes the difference between life and death," he said. — PTI

system then you have unsafe vehicles on the road, and it's clearly documented that unsafe vehicles are actually contributing to crashes," he said. Emergency health care facilities in the vicinity of highways make a huge difference in addressing the challenge of road safety.

"When we plan highways now, we need to make sure that crash victims are getting care within the first hour of the crash. That very often makes the difference between life and death," he said. — PTI

CRITICS DEMAND PERMANENT FB BAN OF TRUMP

New York, Feb. 13: Calling Donald Trump a "clear and present danger," scholars and civil rights advocates on Friday urged Facebook to permanently ban the former US president from the platform.

Critics of the social media company along with strong advocates of unfettered political discourse called on Facebook's oversight board to endorse the decision to boot Trump from the platform in the aftermath of the January 6 attack on the US Capitol.

A public comment period ended Friday with more than 9,000 submissions regarding the case, according to the board. The social network itself has asked the independent body to review Trump's eviction from the online community.

The oversight board has the final say on what is removed or allowed to remain on the world's biggest social network.

A ruling is expected by April. "Overturning the Trump ban is an invitation to violence, hate and disinformation that will cost lives and undermine democracy," a group of critics maintained in a letter. "Don't strike the match."

They described Trump as a serial abuser of social media rules who poses a danger "to democracy and human life." Signers of the letter include Rashad Robinson, president of Colour of Change; Anti-Defamation League head Jonathan Greenblatt; and Harvard professor Lawrence Tribe. — AFP

POLAND'S RULING MEMBER OPPOSES NEW MEDIA TAX

Warsaw, Feb. 13: A junior partner in Poland's ruling right-wing coalition says it will not back a controversial advertising tax on the media, revealing cracks in the governing bloc.

The declaration late Friday by the Agreement party means the ruling coalition would be short of votes in parliament to pass the proposed legislation that critics — at home and abroad — say would undermine Poland's press freedom and variety.

"In our opinion (the tax) may bring many negative effects to Poland's businesses, media and the people," and Agreement "sees no possibility of giving its backing to the law in its current shape," the party said in a statement. The message reveals disagreements within the conservative coalition of the Law and Justice party and two small parties that have been in power since 2015 and is in its second term.

The government argues that the tax, linked to the size of companies, would level out the chances between big and small media companies and would make communications giants like Google, Facebook, Apple or Amazon pay their fair share. It says some 800 million zlotys from this "solidarity" tax would bolster state finance badly strained by the Covid-19 and would go toward health care and culture. Some 45 independent media suspended their coverage for 24 hours Wednesday in protest at the plan. — AP



V CINEMAS RELEASE

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SHORT TAKES

FORMER PM OF GUINEA-BISSAU LEAVES COUNTRY

BISSAU, Feb. 13: Former Guinea-Bissau prime minister Aristide Gomes, who has been holed up in United Nations premises in the capital Bissau for 11 months, left the country on Friday.

Gomes, who left office in early 2020, boarded a special UN-chartered flight in the afternoon without making any comments.

The flight was headed for Dakar, the capital of neighbouring Senegal, according to an airport source.

Gomes, a leading member of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), took refuge in the local offices of the United Nations in March 2020 after President Umaro Sissoco Embalo took office following an election victory contested by PAIGC.

Citing fears for his safety, Gomes sought international help to allow him to leave the former Portuguese colony in West Africa. On Thursday the foreign ministry confirmed in a statement that an agreement had been reached to allow Gomes to go abroad for medical reasons. This came after the prosecutor general had given the green light for his departure, despite an investigation into embezzlement of public funds.

ECUADOR'S PREZ RUNNERS-UP SEEK RECOUNT

Quito, Feb. 13: The two runners-up in the first round of Ecuador's presidential election on Friday asked the country's electoral body for a vote recount to determine which one of them will contest a runoff. Environmental lawyer Yaku Perez and right-wing ex-banker Guillermo Lasso finished neck-and-neck in the race for second and third place in Sunday's vote.

Pre-election polls had placed Lasso comfortably in second place. First place went to young leftist economist Andres Arauz, but he did not earn enough votes to avoid a second-round runoff set for April 11.

"Our proposal is that this (electoral) process be suspended until a recount is given in the 24 provinces" of the country, Perez said at a meeting with Lasso at the headquarters of the National Electoral Council (CNE) in Quito.

CNE head Diana Atamaint, other council members and international election observers were present at the meeting.

Perez, a prominent indigenous leader who claims there was wrongdoing in the first round, said a recount would offer a chance "to demonstrate to the country that there is no fraud, that the electoral process was transparent."

Hundreds of Ecuadorans rallied in support of their candidate Thursday. Perez, 51, an environmental lawyer, has been given 19.38 percent of the vote behind conservative Lasso, 65, who got 19.74 percent.

KILLING OF GIRL: BELGIAN COURT SENTENCES COP

Mons, Belgium, Feb. 13: A Belgian court on Friday gave a police officer a one-year suspended sentence over the fatal shooting of a two-year-old Kurdish girl during the chase of a van carrying migrants.

Victor-Manuel Jacinto Goncalves, 48, was found guilty of involuntary homicide after a trial in the southern city of Mons over the 2018 incident in which he opened fire at the vehicle. The high-profile tragedy caused a scandal in Belgium and, for rights activists, became a symbol of the dangers posed by the "criminalisation" of irregular migration.

The Iraqi Kurdish driver of the vehicle, on trial alongside the police officer, was jailed for four years. A third man accused of being the people smuggler was acquitted.

The lawyer representing Goncalves, Laurent Kennes, said the conviction was a "great disappointment" and that the legal team will consider appealing.

The toddler named Mawda was fatally wounded in May 2018 when she was shot in the head as police chased a van being driven across Belgium by traffickers taking migrants from the continent to Britain.

The officer — who initially faced up to five years in jail — insisted he intended to shoot out a tyre to halt the suspect vehicle, but his car swerved violently and the bullet went astray.

Prosecutors ended up demanding only a one-year suspended sentence.

Tensions running high in Myanmar

Street protests enter 2nd week with neither protesters nor military govt ready to back off

Yangon, Feb. 13: Mass street demonstrations in Myanmar entered their second week Saturday with neither protesters nor the military government they seek to unseat showing any signs of backing off from confrontations.

Protesters in Yangon, the country's biggest city, again congregated at Hleden intersection, a key crossroads from which groups fanned out to other points, including the embassies of the United States and China. They marched despite an order banning gatherings of five or more people. The US, especially after the announcement by President Joe Biden of sanctions against the military regime, is regarded as an ally in the protesters' struggle against the Feb. 1 coup.

China is detested as an ally of the ruling generals, whose support is crucial to them keeping their grip on power. Demonstrations also resumed in the second biggest city, Mandalay, with lawyers making up one large contingent. The military ousted the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and her government and prevented recently elected lawmakers from opening a new session of Parliament.

Suu Kyi and other senior members of her government and party remain in detention. The junta led by Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said it was forced to act because Suu Kyi's government failed to properly investigate allegations of fraud in last year's election, which her National League for Democracy party won in a landslide.

The election commission said there is no evidence to support the military's claims. Saturday's protests coincided with the birthday of Gen. Aung San, the country's independence leader and father of

— AP

Terror hints: Khalsa TV fined

London, Feb. 13: The UK's media watchdog has imposed a total fine of £50,000 on Khalsa Television Ltd or KTV in Britain for broadcasting a music video and a discussion programme that was an indirect call for British Sikhs to commit violence and also contained a terror reference.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom), the UK government-approved media regulatory authority, issued the order on Friday following its findings dating back to February and November 2019.



Joe Biden

BIDEN WILL TRY TO CLOSE GUANTANAMO

Washington, Feb. 13: President Joe Biden will seek to close the prison on the US base at Guantanamo Bay following a review process, resuming a project begun under the Obama administration, the White House said Friday.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said it was the "intention" of the Biden administration to close the detention facility, something President Barack Obama pledged to do within year shortly after he took office in January 2009.

Psaki gave no timeline, telling reporters that the formal review would be robust and would require the participation of officials from the Department of Defence, the Justice Department and other agencies who have not yet been appointed.

"There are many players from different agencies who need to be part of this policy discussion about the steps forward," she said. — AP

Biden admin files appeal pressing for Assange extradition

Washington, Feb. 13: The administration of US President Joe Biden has appealed a British judge's ruling against the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, a Justice Department official said Friday.

A brief filed late Thursday declared Washington's desire to have Assange stand trial on espionage and hacking-related charges over WikiLeaks' publication of hundreds of thousands of US military and diplomatic documents beginning in 2009.

The Justice Department had until Friday to register its stance on Judge Vanessa Baraitser's January 4 ruling that Assange suffered mental health problems that would raise the risk of suicide if he were sent to the United States for trial.

Yes, we filed an appeal and we are continuing to pursue extradition," Justice Department spokesman Marc Raimondi said.

After Baraitser's decision, which did not question the legal grounds for the US extradition request, Donald Trump's administration moved to appeal.

In doing so he aided and abetted hacking, illegally exposed confidential US sources to danger and used the information to damage the United States, according to the charges. — AFP

rency and media freedom issues. After WikiLeaks began publishing US secrets in 2009, then-president Barack Obama, whose vice president was Biden, declined to pursue the case. Assange said WikiLeaks was no different than other media constitutionally protected to publish such materials.

Prosecuting him, too, could mean also prosecuting powerful US news organisations for publishing similar material — legal fights the government would likely lose.

But under Trump, whose 2016 election was helped by WikiLeaks publishing Russian-stolen materials damaging to his rival Hillary Clinton — the Justice Department built a national security case against Assange.

In 2019 the native Australian was charged under the US Espionage Act and computer crimes laws with multiple counts of conspiring with and directing others, from 2009 to 2019, to illegally obtain and release US secrets.

In doing so he aided and abetted hacking, illegally exposed confidential US sources to danger and used the information to damage the United States, according to the charges. — AFP

Inmates must be allowed to have a spiritual adviser by their side as they are executed

Religion, death penalty collide at the US Supreme Court

Washington, Feb. 13: The Supreme Court is sending a message to states that want to continue to carry out the death penalty: Inmates must be allowed to have a spiritual adviser by their side as they are executed.

The high court around midnight Thursday declined to let Alabama proceed with the lethal injection of Willie B. Smith III. Smith had objected to Alabama's policy that his pastor would have to observe his execution from an adjacent room

rather than the death chamber itself. The order from the high court follows two years in which inmates have some rare success in bringing challenges based on the issue of chaplains in the death chamber. This time, liberal and conservative members of the court normally in disagreement over death penalty issues found common ground not on the death penalty itself but on the issue of religious freedom and how the death penalty is carried out.

States that want to avoid months or years of litigation over the presence of spiritual advisers "should figure out a way to allow spiritual advisors into the execution room, as other

White carpet



Snowed under signposts are pictured before sunrise on the top of the Brocken, the highest point of the Harz Mountains, near Schierke in central Germany. Temperatures of minus 20 degrees Celsius and icy winds have been measured on the Harz peak. — AFP

3 killed in Mogadishu car bomb

UN welcomes US revocation of Houthis as ultras

Mogadishu, Feb. 13:

Three people were killed and eight wounded after the Al-Shabaab Islamist group detonated a car bomb near a security checkpoint in the Somali capital Mogadishu Saturday, a security official and witnesses said.

"The police were chasing the hostile vehicle after spotting it a few kilometres away from where it exploded," the official, Abdirahman Mohamed, informed.

"Three civilians died according to the information we have received so far and eight others are wounded," he said.

"The police opened fire on the vehicle and chased it and this allowed many people to flee. This has really limited the number of casualties the blast could have caused." Witnesses said they heard gunfire and saw vehicles including three-wheel tuk-tuks scatter before the heavy blast occurred on a key road near the presidential palace.

"I was at a gym close to where the blast occurred, but thanks to God we have heard the gunshots before the blast. And this alerted many people including

myself and we fled from the area to take cover before the vehicle reached the area of the explosion," said one witness, Dahir Osman.

A police statement said

there had been no deaths,

only seven wounded in the blast which destroyed

eight cars and nine tuk-tuks. However witnesses contradicted this, saying there were casualties.

"My uncle was among the dead, I went there to collect his body and I saw another civilian who died in the blast as well," said Suleiman Ali.

The Al-Qaeda linked Al-Shabaab claimed the attack through their Shabada News Agency, according to the US monitoring group SITE.

The Somali capital is regularly targeted with attacks by Al-Shabaab who have been waging a long and violent insurgency seeking to unseat the internationally backed government.

They were driven out of Mogadishu in 2011, but still control swathes of territory from where they plan and launch frequent, deadly strikes against government and civilian targets. — AFP

Indian-origin UN staffer in race for Secy-Gen post

United Nations, Feb. 13:

A 34-year-old Indian-origin employee at the UN has announced that she is running to be its next Secretary General, throwing her hat in the ring against the world organisation's current chief Antonio Guterres, saying she refuses to be a bystander and it is now time for a new UN.

Arora Akanksha, whose work includes managing audits at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said she will run for the post of the world's top diplomat.

People in my position aren't supposed to stand up to the ones in charge. We are supposed to wait our turn, hop on the hamster wheel, go to work, keep our heads down and accept that the world is the way it is, Akanksha said in a two-and-a-half minute campaign video posted online.

The #AroraForSG campaign video shows Akanksha walking inside the sprawling UN headquarters, as her voice over says that people who have come before her have failed to hold the UN accountable. For 75 years, the UN has not fulfilled its promise to the world — refugees haven't been protected, humanitarian aid has been minimal, and technology and innovation has been on the back-burner. We deserve a UN that leads progress," she said.

That is why I am running for the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I refuse to be a bystander. I will not accept this is the best the UN can do, she said in the video.

Akanksha posted another video on Twitter in which she thanked people for supporting her campaign. I am so humbled at the support I've received from everyone and thrilled

that you're with me on this journey together. I know it's a David and Goliath story and I know we are the little guys here, but we have to remember, we the people, are more powerful than any system,

we realise that once we change the system, we can influence the system.

She urged people to vote on her website to send a message that they support change and support a new UN. Last month Guterres, 71, had confirmed that he will seek a second five-year term as chief of the world organisation.

Guterres's first term ends on December 31 this year and the term of the next Secretary-General will begin on January 1, 2022. Guterres assumed office on January 1, 2017 after a reformed selection process that included a public informal dialogue with everyone and thrilled

RAPE PLOT, CRIES FRENCH TV PRODUCER

Paris, Feb. 13: A prominent French television producer who is being investigated for child sexual assault said Saturday he was the victim of a plot by his nephew who had demanded money from him.

"I am not a predator!" Gerard Louvin told the newspaper Nice-Matin, in his first public comments on the affair — the latest sexual assault case to rock the intellectual elite in France. French prosecutors said Tuesday they had opened an investigation into accusations of rape and complicity in raping minors by Louvin, who has produced some of the most popular shows on French television over the last decades, and his husband Daniel Moyne.

The probe was opened in January after a complaint was filed by Louvin's nephew, named as Olivier A. — AFP

allowed the execution of

Smith, who was sentenced to die for the 1991 murder of 22-year-old Sharma Ruth Johnson in Birmingham. Alabama had up until 2019 allowed a Christian prison chaplain employed by the state to be physically present in the execution chamber if requested by the inmate, but the state changed its policy in response to two earlier Supreme Court cases.

Robert Dunham, the executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, says the court's order will most clearly affect states in the Deep South that have active execution chambers. The Biden administration is still weighing how it will proceed in death penalty cases. The court's order in Smith's case contained only statements from Kavanaugh and Justice Elena Kagan.

"Willie Smith is sentenced to death, and his last wish is to have his pastor with him as he dies," Kagan wrote for herself and liberal Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer. — AP

SHORT TAKES

Sandeep, Priyanka break Natl records

Ranchi: Three Indian race walkers qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics during the National Open Race Walking Championships here on Saturday, with Sandeep Kumar and Priyanka Goswami shattering national records in the men's and women's 20km events respectively. With the three new entrants, the total number of Indian race walkers who have qualified for the Tokyo Games has swelled to five as K T Irfan (men's 20km) and Bhawana Jat (women's 20km) have already made the cut earlier. Sandeep clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 16 seconds to win the men's group 'A' 20km event while Goswami emerged victorious in the corresponding women's group 'A' event with a time of 1:28:45. Rahul, who finished second in the men's group 'A' 20km race walk event with a time of 1:20:26, also qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. — PTI

Navdeep, Arvind secure Oly berths

Dubai: Para-athletes Navdeep and Arvind secured quotas for the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics as India's gold medal tally swelled to nine after the third day of competitions at the 12th Fazza International World Para Athletics Grand Prix here. Overall, India has claimed 17 medals including nine gold, with four of them coming on Friday. The day was lit up by brilliant shows by Indian men's javelin throwers — reigning world champion Sandeep Chaudhary (F44), Ajet Singh (F46) and Navdeep (F41). However, javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar (F46) had to settle for a bronze. Arvind attained the Minimum Qualification Standard with a distance of 14.05m in men's shot put final F35/36 to clinch Tokyo Paralympics spot. — PTI

Leicester humble Liverpool 3-1

Leicester: Slumping champion Liverpool fell to a third straight loss in the Premier League after a dramatic late collapse against Leicester, conceding three goals in seven minutes in a 3-1 defeat at King Power Stadium on Saturday. Leading 1-0 through Mohamed Salah's league-high 17th goal of the season, Liverpool was pegged back in the 78th when James Maddison's low free kick crept in and then went behind after another blunder by goalkeeper Alison Becker. Jamie Vardy and Harvey Barnes netted the next two goals for Leicester and tilted the mach in their favour. Fourth-place Liverpool dropped six points behind Leicester, which climbed above Manchester United into second place. — AP

TT tourney on February 21

Hyderabad: Ping Pong at Spars in Yaprak, Secunderabad, is conducting its 2nd Table Tennis Open Tournament on February 21 in three categories -- beginners, intermediate and advance. The first tournament held in November last year had drawn participation from corporates, students, state players and students of other TT academies. For registration please contact: 9989035800

Live on TV

TENNIS
Australian Open: Matches from 5.30 am on Sony Six, from 1.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

CRICKET
India vs England: Second Test, Day Two, from 9.20 am on Star Sports 1

Pakistan vs South Africa: Third T20 from 6.30 pm on Sony Ten 1

FOOTBALL
English Premier League:
Southampton vs Wolves from 5.30 pm; West Brom vs Manchester United from 7.30 pm; Arsenal vs Leeds United from 10 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

Indian Super League: North East United vs Odisha FC from 4.50 pm; Mohun Bagan vs Jamshedpur from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Italian League: Crotone vs Sassuolo from 10.30 pm; Inter Milan vs Lazio from 1.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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Chepauk Ro-mance

Rohit cracks whip with 161 to lift India against England

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC
CHENNAI, FEB. 13

As expected, the ball gripped, bounced and turned sharply. It was a tricky pitch to bat on, but an elegant Rohit Sharma made it look easy. The opener's classy 161, his seventh Test century, put India in the driver's seat against England in the second Test here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday.

At stumps, India were 300 for six in 88 overs with Rishabh Pant (33 not out) and Axar Patel (5 not out) threatening to pile on runs.

Winning a crucial toss on a bunsen track, India suffered an early jolt when England pacer Olly Stone trapped Shubman Gill in the second over of the day. But Rohit, in the calm company of Cheteshwar Pujara, steadied the ship by stitching together a brisk partnership of 83 runs.

India, however, found themselves on the back-foot again shortly before lunch. Pujara's dismissal — after poking a shot away from his body off left-arm spinner Jack Leach — triggered a mini-collapse. Virat Kohli's stay in the middle lasted just five balls. Off-spinner Moeen Ali knocked down the Indian skipper's off-stump to dismiss him for a duck. Kohli stood there in disbelief before trudging back to the pavilion. At this juncture, India were 86 for three.

Mumbaikars Rohit and Ajinkya Rahane forged a delightful stand for the fourth wicket (162 runs off 310 balls) to put an end to their lean patch. With Rahane (67 off 149) playing the perfect second fiddle, Rohit took the responsibility of unsettling the bowlers.

Rohit set the tone for the day by pulling Ben Stokes for back-to-back boundaries, including a six. Skipper Joe Root had to take Stokes off the attack and he never returned to bowl.

Against spinners, Rohit used his feet effectively. His sweep shots were perfect examples of controlled aggression. It was a treat for the weekend crowd that walked through the turnstiles of a cricket ground in India for the first time since January 2020. Rohit took just 130 balls to complete his century, with a paddle shot towards fine leg. Moeen, playing his first



India's Rohit Sharma plays a shot against England during the first day of their second Test at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday. — BCCI

NUMBERS GAME

ROHIT SHARMA'S FOURTH 150+ SCORE IN TESTS:

- Rohit Sharma became the 20th Indian batsman on 26 occasions to score 150 plus runs in an innings against England by making 161 off 231 balls with 17 fours and two sixes on the first day of the second Test match at Chennai on Saturday (February 13).
- It was Rohit Sharma's fourth 150 plus knock in 60 innings of 36 Test matches.
- After this innings, Rohit Sharma's Test average in India reached to 83.55. Among the 203 batsmen who have scored at least 1500 runs at home, Rohit Sharma reached that milestone today — only one batsman, Don Bradman, has managed better.
- Sharma has seven hundreds in 23 innings in India, of which four have been 150-plus scores. Only once has he been dismissed for less than 150 after he has passed 100.
- Rohit Sharma made 19 hundreds in international cricket since the beginning of 2018, the most among all batsmen. Virat Kohli (18) and Joe Root (13) are next in the list. Rohit Sharma has struck four hundreds in Tests, 13 in one day internationals and two in Twenty-20 internationals; no other batsman has struck multiple hundreds in each format in this period.
- Rohit Sharma's 161 was seventh hundred in Tests at home for Sharma, without a single overseas century. Among all batsmen without an away hundred, only one — Mominul Haque — has more centuries at home (10). Only two other batsmen have scored their first away hundred after making more than seven centuries at home: Allan Lamb (nine) and Mahela Jayawardene (eight). Robin Smith had seven centuries in England before scoring his first one away from home.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER

SCORECARD

India 1st Innings: Rohit Sharma c Moeen b Jack Leach 161, Shubman Gill lbw b Olly Stone 0, Cheteshwar Pujara c Stokes b Jack Leach 21, Virat Kohli b Moeen 0, Ajinkya Rahane b Moeen 67, Rishabh Pant batting 33, Ravichandran Ashwin c Ollie Pope b Root 13, Axar Patel batting 5. Extras 0. Total: (for six wickets in 88 overs) 300.

FoW: 1-0, 2-85, 3-86, 4-248, 5-249, 6-284.

Bowling: Stuart Broad 11-2-37-0, Olly Stone 15-5-42-1, Jack Leach 26-2-78-2, Ben Stokes 2-0-16-0, Moeen Ali 26-3-112-2, Joe Root 8-2-15-1.

Rohit happy with fans' return

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 13

Rohit Sharma knew he had to be "proactive and not reactive" on a challenging Chepauk pitch that offered bounce and spun sharply. Calling his seventh Test century one of the most satisfying knocks, Rohit said it was the result of subtle adjustments he made in his game.

"When you play on turning pitches, you have got to be proactive. We wanted to make sure we used our feet more and swept the ball," said Rohit.

Getting on top of the bowler and making sure you are ahead of him is very crucial. The preparation helped. We knew how the pitch was prepared and that it would turn. We had a few good training sessions before the game and trained according to what we were going to expect in the middle," he added.

Asked to rate Saturday's knock, Rohit said: "I am not going to rate any of my knocks because every knock comes with a different kind of pressure and this too came from different circumstances. I am

not one to rate my knocks. A little disappointing to get out like that but I'm happy the team is in a good position." Rohit said the return of spectators changed the atmosphere. "It was great to have them back. It's something that livens up the whole atmosphere. Without spectators, the intensity was a bit low in the first game. It's been a long time since fans enjoyed live action at the stadium. I am happy they witnessed some good cricket today. I am sure they're going to enjoy the rest of the days as well," he said.

At Full Stretch



An aspirant goes for the ball during the selection trials for the Sub-junior, Junior and Elite teams of the Sreenidhi Football Club, which has recently been granted the playing rights for Youth I-League from the season 2021-22 onwards. A second round of trials is likely to be held by April-May before the final list is announced in June.

HAZARD | HAZARE SELECTION

Performers miss bus? No, they get thrown under it!

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

scored 500-odd runs, yet he is not even among the standbys. He is very depressed," said Chandra's worried mother Usha Ramani.

Mohammed Junaid Ali scored runs by the bucket to be No.5 on the batting charts. They poured cold water on him, provoking his heated father Azeem Ali to chuck a true blue Hyderabad question at the HCA administrators: "Baap ki jagir hai kya?" (is it their father's field?).

"There is a lot of favouritism and nepotism in selection, this has to end. I hope the higher authorities in BCCI and the State government note the foul play and take appropriate action," an agitated Azeem added.

Former Ranji Trophy captain Akshath Reddy aggregated 726 runs to be the third highest run-getter. Not good enough. "There's no place for performers, it's a disgrace," his enraged father Narasimha said, shaking.

Then there was a distraught G. Anil, father of leg-spinner Arjun who was not picked despite being the highest wicket-taker, snaring 45 from five matches.

Former HCA secretary T. Shesh Narayan requested the State High Court to take *suo motu* note of the grave injustice to innocent players.

"It is affecting their careers. The players stand to lose a full year, having already lost one full season due to pandemic," he said.

Balaaji Cricket Club secretary R. M. Bhaskar said they are writing a letter to the BCCI highlighting the discrepancies. "We want the BCCI to send observers for the State Under-19 and Under-16 selections as we fear foul play there too," he said.

G. Vinod, former president of the HCA and minister in the State cabinet, said "This has to stop. This year has been the worst with no respect for merit."



P. Narsimha Reddy, father of former Ranji Trophy captain Akshath Reddy, shows his son's batting statistics during a protest against HCA administrators at the Gymkhana grounds in Secunderabad on Saturday. — DC

Muchova sends Pliskova packing

Melbourne, Feb. 13: World number one Ashleigh Barty gave long-suffering Melbourne something to cheer as the home hope swept into the Australian Open last 16 at an empty Margaret Court Arena following a snap Coronavirus lockdown on Saturday.

Barty's straightforward 6-2, 6-4 win over Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova put her into the fourth round without dropping a set as she bids to become the first Australian winner since Chris O'Neil in 1978.

As play unfolded in Melbourne Park's empty arenas on Saturday, former world number one Karolina Pliskova had a racquet-smashing tantrum en route to a 7-5, 7-5 defeat by fellow Czech Karolina Muchova.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal extended his winning streak against fellow left-handers to 18 with a 7-5, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Cameron Norrie that earned him a place in the Australian Open's fourth round.

Elina Svitolina beat Yulia Putintseva 6-4, 6-0; Karolina Muchova bt Karolina Pliskova 7-5, 7-5; Jessica Pegula bt Kristina Mladenovic 6-2, 6-1; Jennifer Brady bt Kaja Juvan 6-1, 6-3; Donna Vekic bt Kaja Kanepi 5-7, 7-6 (2), 6-4; Elise Mertens bt Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-1; Ashleigh Barty bt Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-2, 6-4; Shelby Rogers bt Anett Kontaveit 6-4, 6-3.

4-6, 3-6, 6-0 win over Filip Krajinovic of Serbia.

Casper Ruud became only the second Norwegian to make the last 16 of a Grand Slam Saturday, emulating his father Christian who made the grade at the Australian Open in 1997.

He defeated Radu Albot 6-1, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 to book a fourth-round Melbourne Park clash with Andrey Rublev. — Agencies