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HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 17 MARCH 2021

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RH: 26%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 37/20°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttaraayana
Tithi: Phalguna Shuddha Chavitt till 11.29 pm

Star: Ashwini till 7.30 am
Varjyam: 6.20 pm to 8.08 pm

Durmuhurta: 12 noon to 12.48 pm

Rahuakalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Sha'b'an 3,1442 AH

PRAVERS

Fajar: 5.23 am

Zohar: 12.35 pm

Asar: 4.45 pm

Maghrab: 6.32 pm

Isha: 7.40 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.26 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.21 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 8.49 AM

MOONSET TODAY 9.42 PM

COUNTER POINT



Quick! Let us invite her to campaign for us before anyone else approaches her!

SHORT TAKES

Lower juvenile age, says panel

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel headed by Congress MP Anand Sharma has recommended to the government to consider bringing down the juvenile delinquency age from 18 to 16 in cases under the POCSO Act, noting that minor sexual offenders may commit more serious and heinous crime if left untreated and uncounselled. The report was submitted to the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Upper limit for abortion raised

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to amend an old legislation for raising the limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 for "special categories of women" including rape survivors, victims of incest, minors and differently-abled.

TS wants 29-year-old SC cap on quota to go

State to ask SC to revisit 1992 verdict capping quota at 50%

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

The state government is in favour of crossing 50 per cent reservations in education and employment. It will submit an affidavit in the Supreme Court to this effect within a week, official sources said on Tuesday.

The SC had on Tuesday sought the opinion of all state governments within a week on whether they were in favour of extending caste-based reservations beyond the 50 per cent ceiling set by the apex court in a nine-judge bench ruling in 1992.

The state government has already passed a law, the Telangana BC, SC, ST (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2017 in Legislative Assembly and Council in April 2017, increasing reservations

QUOTA SAGA

- The Supreme Court has sought the opinion of all state governments within a week on whether they were in favour of extending caste-based reservations beyond the 50 per cent ceiling set by the apex court in 1992.
- Apart from TS, four other states, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana have passed laws to provide more than 50 per cent reservation.
- The TS government has already passed a law increasing reservations for Muslims under the BC-E category and STs in April 2017, taking the overall quota above 50 per cent.



for Muslims under the BC-E category and STs in April 2017, taking the overall quota above 50 per cent.

But these increased reservations could not be implemented even after

nearly four years as the Centre had kept the state government's legislation pending due to the cap on reservations at 50 per cent. After the passage of the bill in April 2017, the Telangana state govern-

ment referred it to President Ram Nath Kovind for his assent, which is still pending.

Under the law, the quota for STs were increased to 10 per cent from the existing six to 10 per cent, while that for BC-E category (backward sections among Muslim community) were increased to 12 per cent from the existing four per cent. This increased overall reservations in state from the existing 50 per cent to 62 per cent, breaching the 50 per cent cap set by the apex court.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had earlier criticised the Centre several times for blocking the state government's enhanced reservations. He even threatened to file a case against the Centre in the SC. However, the government did not file any case.

The state government now wants to take advantage of the ongoing case to get the 50 per cent cap diluted.

FM: NOT ALL PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WILL BE PRIVATISED

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Amid the ongoing strike of nine bank unions over the privatisation of public sector banks, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday assured that not all banks would be privatised. She, however, insisted that the proposed privatisation of banks is a well-thought-out plan of the government.

"I want to assure all stakeholders that it is not that the institutions are going to be closed or workers are going to be removed. Whether it is the salaries or scale or pension of employees, all will be taken care of. The interests of workers of such banks will be completely protected," Sitharaman said.

The finance minister's statement comes at a time when bank unions, as well as opposition parties, have called for a two-day nationwide strike to protest against the privatisation of two PSBs. State-run banks have been on the strike since Monday, leading to disruption in several banking services as 10 lakh employees have joined the protests.

■ Page 2: Mangalagiri MLA filed plaint with AP CID

Naidu gets AP CID notice over Amaravati land case

MD ILYAS I DC VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 16

The AP Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday issued notice to Telugu Desam president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to attend an inquiry into the Amaravati lands scam case.

A team of the investigation agency reached Naidu's Hyderabad residence on Tuesday morning and served him a notice to join the probe.

Naidu, after receiving the notice, is consulting legal experts about his future course of action. Since the CID has asked

Since the CID has asked him to appear in person for inquiry, the TD president is consulting legal experts about his future course of action.

him to appear in person for inquiry, he is reportedly discussing consequences of attending the inquiry and also considering challenging the notice in a court.

The TD turned up in arms and all leaders, including TD AP president K. Atchannaidu, condemned the issuing of notice by the CID.

An FIR was registered by

the CID, under Sections 120b, 166, 167, and 217 of the IPC into the Amaravati land scam case over alleged irregularities in acquisition of lands in Amaravati and their illegal transfer. The CID asked Naidu to attend the investigation on March 23.

The CID registered a case against Ponguru Narayana, former TD minister for municipal administration and ex vice-chairman of the AP Capital Region Development Authority, who was also named in the FIR.

■ Page 2: Mangalagiri MLA filed plaint with AP CID

107 students test positive for Covid in 3 state-run schools

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

One hundred and seven students from three government-run schools tested positive for the Coronavirus on Tuesday, likely the largest-ever number of students infected in a single day here.

The worst hit was the government-run Minorit-

ies Welfare Residential School at Nagole in Hyderabad, where 36 children — one in five students in the school — were found Covid-positive.

A day after 12 teachers and two staff at the government school in Mancherial tested positive, health department officials tested another 174 students, staff and parents

and found 29 fresh cases among the children. Nine adults, all parents of different children, also tested positive.

In Kamareddy district, 32 students in a government residential school were found positive for Covid-19.

■ Page 2: Parents of Nagole kids not told +ve test

POLL | REFORM

Single poll for all elected bodies to save money, says committee

Panel builds case for one nation-one poll

New Delhi, March 16: Battling for holding of simultaneous elections in the country, a parliamentary committee on Tuesday said this will reduce the burden on the exchequer, expenditure of political parties and also ensure that human resources are optimally utilised.

"The committee also believes that simultaneous elections will reduce voters' apathy of frequent elections and will enthuse general population and voters in particular which will ultimately enhance voters' participation in the electoral

process," the department-related standing committee on law and justice, and personnel ministries said in its report on demands for grants for the law ministry. The report was tabled in both Houses on Tuesday.

The committee said it is of the view that the idea of 'One Nation, One Election' or simultaneous elections is not new to the country as the first Lok Sabha elections in 1952, 1957 and 1962 were held simultaneously and it can be brought back with suitable amendments to the Constitution.

"In view of this, certain provisions of the Constitution may be amended to have fixed terms for local bodies, legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha for holding simultaneous elections. The terms of legisla-

tive assemblies and Lok Sabha are also required to be synchronised with one another and the mechanism in this regard requires to be evolved with political consensus as the term of the respective state assemblies need to be reduced or increased," the report said.

It said having continuous elections around the year whether it is for local bodies, state assemblies or Lok Sabha, put a big strain on the state machinery which further causes hurdles in governance.

"Our country remains in election mode throughout the year," the report observed.

The first, second and third elections after promulgation of the Constitution were held simultaneously. However, premature dissolution of some legislative assemblies in 1968 and 1969 caused discontinuation of holding simultaneous elections, it noted.

"The renewed emphasis on the concept of simultaneous elections was made in 1983 when the Election Commission brought out its first annual report. — PTI

Sagar bypoll on April 17, vote counting on May 2

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

of sitting TRS MLA Nomula Narasimhaiah.

According to the ECI, a gazette notification for the polls would be released on March 23, the last date of filing nominations would be March 30, scrutiny of nominations would done on March 31, while the last date for withdrawal of candidature would be April 3. The polling would take

place on April 17 and the counting would be on May 2. The election process should be completed by May 4. The ECI also issued the bypoll schedule for a Tirupati and Belgaum Lok Sabha seats along with 14 Assembly constituencies across 11 states.

■ Pg4: Congress picks Jana Reddy for bypoll

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I.V.DATTA Narayana have sold my 2-wheeler bearing No.TS09ED4960 to Mohammed Sabahuddin on 16.09.2020 and he hold no responsibility of the vehicle in case of any accident, illegal use of the vehicle or any traffic violations. Ph:9603122221. (HYMM/2021/C08261)

GENERAL

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I. SHAIK Muneeb Ahmed Qureshi, S/o Shaik Maheeb Ahmed Qureshi, R/o 9-3-125/204/A, Shah Hatim Nagar, Tolichowki, Hyderabad, had lost My Sale Doc. No.1120/2014 admeasuring 160 sq.yards situated at Qutubudding

SHORT TAKES

WATER SUPPLY TO GET AFFECTED IN PARTS OF HYD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Works and Sewerage Board has said that water supply will be disrupted for 24 hours beginning 6 am on Thursday in Mansurabad, Nagole, RK Puram, Chaitanyapuri, Maruthi Nagar, Kohtapet, Chilkangar, Uppal areas and parts of the Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation.

In a release, the board said the planned disruption was meant to facilitate work relating to the expansion of a water pipeline at Nagole bridge.

SCR COMPLETES ELECTRIFICATION OF 274 KM TRACKS

Hyderabad, March 16: South Central Railway said that it had commissioned 134 track km of electrified lines in the last two days. So far this financial year, SCR has completed electrification of 274 km route.

The two new sections commissioned for electrification were the 56.5-km Lingampeta-Jagtial-Morthad line in Secunderabad division and the 77.89 track km Dharmavaram-Kadiri line in Guntakal division.

The Lingampeta-Morthad is part of the new Peddapalli-Nizamabad railway line. The section between Peddapalli and Jagtial for a distance of 83 kms has already been completed, SCR said. The works in the remaining portion are also in fast progress.

The section between Dharmavaram and Kadiri is part of the Dharmavaram-Pakala section which was converted into broad gauge in 2011. The section was sanctioned for electrification in 2017-18 of which the first phase has been completed.

SCR said the electrification of these railway lines will significantly strengthen rail infrastructure in the Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh and provide seamless movement of freight and passenger traffic, besides reducing the enroute detentions. —INN

KHAMMAM TO GET IT-HUB TOWER II

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, MARCH 16

The TRS government has given administrative sanction for constructing IT-Hub Tower 2 in Khammam town at a cost of ₹36 crore. Being built over 55,000 square feet, it will accommodate 570 software employees.

This will suit IT companies, which are now expanding to tier II towns; Khammam being one of them. Funds for the project are being routed through Information Technology Department. They will be released on a quarterly basis.

Tower 1 of the IT-Hub is already accommodating 12 companies with a total capacity of 430 desks spread over 41,250 square feet. About 300 employees are already working from Tower 1. There are eight engineering colleges in Khammam and Bhadravati districts, whose students will benefit with construction of the new tower.

Transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar said the state government wants to turn Khammam into an IT-Hub after Hyderabad and Warangal. He predicted that Khammam will get a facelift soon with well-known software companies showing interest in opening their branches in Khammam.

Bandobast for Assembly



Workers instal huge barricades opposite the State Legislative Assembly and heavy police personnel deployed, — S. SURENDER REDDY

50 more OMC medicos show mild symptoms

Food, water samples collected to analyse food poisoning

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

An entire hostel of the Osmania Medical College, including 19 students who were admitted to the Gandhi Hospital on Monday, has been affected by food poisoning. Other than the 19 students who were rushed to the hospital with severe symptoms, at least 50 others were being treated for mild symptoms.

The incident came to light when Osmania Medical College Student Council head Sai Surender, a final year MBBS student, reported to the principal that several inmates of the boys hostel were showing food poisoning symptoms on Sunday evening.

Early on Monday morning, principal Dr Shashikala Reddy instructed an investigation committee to be formed and students were segregated on the basis of their symptoms. "At first, it began with my roommate who started vomiting and feeling nauseous. By Sunday evening, I got to know that the entire hostel had been affected. The investigation is underway, but we think it could have been the Sunday lunch at the college mess that started it," said

Surender.

He added that every second Saturday, the mess at the college is closed for dinner, and students either arrange for food from outside or eat at the college canteen. "It is exam time and so most of us are avoiding eating outside food these days. I ate the same food at the mess, but did get affected, maybe because I did not eat some particular items. Students started to experience the first episode at around 11 pm.

Because the incubation period is eight hours for food poisoning symptoms to show, it seems like it was the lunch that started it," Surender added.

Principal Dr Reddy said that the investigative committee is taking sam-

ples of the food and water at the college mess to analyse the cause of the problem. Blood and stool samples of affected students have also been taken, and results should be out in a few days.

Responding to concerns over the delay in admitting the 19 students to hospital, Dr Reddy said that they had, upon identification of severely affected students, rushed them to the Osmania General Hospital. Due to the lack of space and beds, they were directed to the Fever Hospital.

Due to lack of readiness to take these patients on a short notice, the medical officer at the college sent them to Gandhi Hospital, where they are now said to be stable and recovering.

MAN KILLED OVER URINATING IN PUBLIC

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

A man was killed during a quarrel that ensued when he was urinating in a public place, the Meerpeta police station said on Tuesday.

According to the police, the victim Anand Raj, 33, a resident of Almasguda, was urinating in a public place near the Balapur crossroads at about 8.30 pm on Sunday. Three persons, Shankar, Babu and Shiva Shankar Vara, who were passing by, objected to this. They argued and it quickly snowballed into a fight during which the trio beat up Raj.

He sustained severe bleeding injuries and died on the spot. The trio escaped from the spot.

Meerpeta police booked a case and arrested the accused after investigations. They have been sent to judicial custody.

● ANAND RAJ sustained severe bleeding injuries and died on the spot. The trio escaped from the spot.

Civic bodies pin hope on budget allocations

MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

All departments catering exclusively to the city like GHMC, HMDA and HMWS&SB are pinning hopes of better allocations in the state Budget to be presented later this week.

Authorities said that if the government does not come to their rescue, the civic bodies will not be able to sustain themselves.

According to highly placed sources, the HMDA is expecting special allocations for long-pending major projects like the ₹125-crore Hyderabad Habitat Centre (HHC) and the ₹100-crore Eco Park at Kothwalguda. Besides this, within the HMDA budget, the authority has sought ₹1,600 crore for ORR. Money has to be released on an annuity basis to concessionaires amounting to ₹332.58 crore annually. It has also written to the government seeking allocation.

The HMWS&SB proposed to introduce its Budget of ₹2,000 crore

for 2021-22. The major expenditures are the ₹1,000 crore ring main project, ₹500 crore for free water drinking scheme in peripheral areas and ₹500 crore for the sewerage master plan.

It said the government should pay for all other infrastructure projects, including implementation of free 20 kilo-litre drinking water supply per month.

The financial condition of all nodal agencies would further deteriorate since the government has to repay loans since it has completed three financial years, as per the agreement. Overall the government

has to allocate at least ₹1,500 crore to each nodal agency to prevent them from going bankrupt.

Things might worsen for the GHMC if the government does not bail it out. The corporation has to repay municipal bonds, rupee term loans and other loans taken from financial institutions.

Apart from low revenue collection, unnecessary and unwanted expenditure has led to a deep financial crisis.

A senior official in the municipal administration and urban development department said that the city departments would get a decent share under the Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration (HUA).

He said that the government would allocate ₹10,000 crore for the next financial year as promised. The official said that in view of Warangal and Khammam municipal corporations apart from polls in Siddipet, Achampet, Narekal, Jachherla and Kottur, the government might allocate a respectable share from its annual Budget.

● DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

the board did not have any woman member. "Most of the unorganised sector comprises women and they are facing various issues at the workplace, like absence of toilets and other basic facilities. If the government includes one or two women members in the board, it would have been well-balanced."

Speaking on the plan of action, V. Devender Reddy, board chairman, said, "We will ensure that schemes reach the workers and ensure justice to all the unorganised sector workers." Venkat Reddy from MV Foundation, who represents civil society, said, "Our work is to ensure that the benefits of the government schemes reach the workers. We need to ensure that the funds released by the governments are not misused or diverted. Registration of workers at grassroots level like gram panchayats and wards is important and of other violations and rectify them. We will ensure that schemes reach the workers and ensure justice to all the unorganised sector workers." Venkat Reddy from MV Foundation, who represents civil society, said,

He said there was the phenomenon of inter-state migration and intrastate migration between districts. "We have to reach out to them and understand their problems and act as a bridge between the government and workers," Venkat Reddy said.

Syed Mazher Hussain, executive director, Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), said, "More than 90 per cent of the workforce comes under the unorganised sector. First, our priority is to intensify the registration process. Secondly, we need to create awareness about the schemes of the government. Third, there is need to review the schemes and suggest that the government come up with new schemes."

WELFARE SCHEME

We will ensure that schemes reach the workers, says Board chief

No woman on panel for unorganised staff

DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

The state government on Monday formed a Social Security Board for unorganised sectors workers to review whether Central state welfare schemes are reaching them.

It has 28 members, comprising a chairman, eight members and representatives of employees, employers, civil society and MLAs. Md Irfan from Action Aid, an NGO that works for social justice, noted that

the board did not have any

woman member. "Most of the unorganised sector comprises women and they are facing various issues at the workplace, like absence of toilets and other basic facilities. If the government includes one or two women members in the board, it would have been well-balanced."

Speaking on the plan of action, V. Devender Reddy, board chairman, said, "We will identify the issues of unorganised workers like whether the minimum wage Act has been imple-

mented and of other violations and rectify them. We will ensure that schemes reach the workers and ensure justice to all the unorganised sector workers." Venkat Reddy from MV Foundation, who represents civil society, said,

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HUSBAND KILLS WIFE, ENDS HIS OWN LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

A man allegedly killed his wife and died by suicide at their house under the Narsingi police station limits on Tuesday. The couple, hailing from Kakinada, was identified as T. Ramana, 40, and Ratna Kumari, 35.

Ramana used to work as a driver. The couple used to quarrel frequently, police said. It appeared that Ramana had killed Kumari after a quarrel, and hid her body under the cot in their bedroom. He later took his own life.

Neighbours alerted the police who reached the spot, recovered the bodies and shifted them to Osmania General Hospital for the post-mortem examination.

TWO CONVICTED, GIVEN RI FOR CREATING FAKE MEDICAL BILLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

A court in LB Nagar convicted two persons and sentenced them to three years rigorous imprisonment for creating fake medical bills and cheating HDFC Ergo General Insurance.

The convicts were identified as Badugu Ravi Kumar, 36, a policy holder and Pakala Yakanna, 33, who worked in a hospital at Chaitanyapuri in the city.

According to the police, Ravi Kumar took a 'Suraksha' Policy and paid a term fee of ₹14,101. Ravi Kumar created fake medical receipts to show that his wife Mamatha had undergone medical treatment, with Yakanna's help. Police said the intention was to claim medical expenses of ₹36,000.

Based on the complaint Chaitanyapuri police booked a case, investigated the case and filed a chargesheet in the court.

● RAVI KUMAR created fake medical receipts to show that his wife Mamatha had undergone medical treatment, with Yakanna's help. Police said the intention was to claim medical expenses of ₹36,000.

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PELE NUMBER PAR RONALDO!



High stress levels noted during pandemic: Study

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

Weight gain, increase in stress levels and a feeling of helplessness are noticed among people trying to cope with the pandemic situation during the Covid times, mental health specialists say, quoting a nationwide study.

● HIGHER STRESS levels were noted in the working-age population bound within their homes. Many have complained of an inability to continue working from home. Those who carried out field work in the past could not sit back quietly and operate from home.

A high incidence of stress has been noted in some 50 to 75 per cent of the people. More than 5,000 individuals were included in the study.

They said they were fed up with the present restrictions on public life and wanted to return at the earliest to the pre-Covid-19, normal times.

Higher stress levels were noted in the working-age population bound within their homes. Many have complained of an inability to continue working from home. Those who carried out field work in the past could not sit back quietly and operate from home.

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SHORT TAKES

ASSEMBLY PAYS TRIBUTE TO NOMULA, OTHERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Tuesday paid rich tributes to the late Nagarjunasagar TRS MLA Nomula Narasimhaiah, who passed away in December of a cardiac arrest.

The House unanimously passed condolence motions mourning the death of Narasimhaiah as also the passing away of former legislators Gunda Malleswara, Naina Narasimha Reddy, Kamatam Ram Reddy, K. Madhusudhan Rao, Katta Venkatnaraia, Dugyala Srinivasa Rao, Chengal Baganna, and K. Veera Reddy. The MLAs paid respects to the departed colleagues and observed two minutes of silence. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, who moved the condolence motion, recalled the services of Narasimhaiah to the people and his close association with him.

He remembered how Narasimhaiah, who was closely associated with the Left parties, expressed his inability to join the Telangana movement in the initial days but extended support in his personal capacity. "Narasimhaiah always spoke about the injustice being done to Telangana. He had no health problems. But, unfortunately, he passed away suddenly," he said.

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao recalled the role of Narasimhaiah in the creation and development of the new municipalities of Nandikonda and Halia in the Nagarjunasagar constituency.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO COUNT MLC POLL VOTES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

The result of the Legislative Council elections will be known four days after the start of counting on Wednesday. Extensive arrangements have been made to count the votes polled in the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda graduate constituency elections.

Election commission officials said though counting would begin at 8 am, sorting of ballot papers candidate wise, bundling of 25 votes and distributing 1,000 votes per table would take 24 hours.

If no one emerges victorious with 51 per cent votes in the first round counting, the counting will be continued for the second and third preference votes. The EC would start eliminating candidates with least votes based on the preferential voting. The elimination process would take 24 to 48 hours in both the constituencies.

An official said the results will be declared in 48 hours only if the candidates emerged victorious with 51 per cent in the first preferential voting. Else, the elimination process would be initiated, which would take another two days.

The filtering process would be time-consuming even as four persons are deputed for each table in three shifts. Each of them has to count all 1,000 votes per table to ensure fairness. All things considered, the results would be declared only after four days since the EC is expecting a neck-and-neck fight in both the constituencies.

A total of 93 candidates are in the fray for the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar constituency where 3,36,320 voters were polled. In Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda seat, with 71 candidates, recorded 3,57,354 votes.

The counting of votes for the Hyderabad seat will be held at the Saroor Nagar indoor stadium and for Warangal constituency at the market yard in Nalgonda. Each hall would comprise eight segments and 56 tables. Over 5,000 poll staff would do the counting.

Protest against Bhainsa violence



Bajrang Dal activists protesting against 'harassment of Hindus' and violence in Bhainsa being taken custody for trying to lay seige to the Assembly in Hyderabad Tuesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Sonia okays Jana for Nagarjunasagar poll

TRS to dump sympathy factor, may chose local; BJP keeps watch

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY IDC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

The announcement of Nagarjunasagar Assembly bypoll schedule by the Election Commission on Tuesday has heated up politics in Telangana state yet again. Though it's a bypoll, the stakes are high for the three major parties.

For the TRS, a win in this election is a must to reaffirm its political supremacy especially after it suffered electoral setbacks at the hands of BJP in Dubbaka and in the GHMC towards the end of last year.

The TRS cannot afford to lose its second bypoll

in a row and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had kick-started the party's campaign on February 10 by addressing a public meeting in Halia in the constituency.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi has okayed the name of Jana Reddy as the party's candidate for Nagarjunasagar. For

Nagarjunasagar, the stakes are high for the three major parties.

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The TRS cannot afford to lose its second bypoll

The Congress is at an advantage over other parties as it has decided the candidate — veteran former minister K. Jana Reddy — early in February.

Jana Reddy holds the record of winning this seat seven times earlier but lost to the TRS in 2018.

The TRS is yet to announce its candidate though party sources said that it's in favour of fielding a local BC leader from the Yadav community instead of relying on the 'sympathy wave' by fielding deceased MLA Nomula Narasimhaiah's son Nomula Bharath.

Sources pointed out that the sympathy factor did not work for the TRS in Dubbaka. Bharath hails from Palem village of Nakrekal mandal in Nalgonda district and is an 'outsider' and surveys commissioned by the TRS suggested that voters are favouring a 'local Yadav'. Chandrashekhar Rao is learnt to be in favour of Katteboiyina Guravaiah Yadav of Nidamanuru mandal.

The BJP is waiting for the TRS to announce its candidate. The fact is that the BJP does not have a strong candidate, unlike in Dubbaka.

It is hoped that strong contenders who fail to get the TRS ticket would jump to the BJP so that it can field one of them.

Cops torturing activists of Hindu Vahini, says BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, MARCH 16

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay on Tuesday said Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao is encouraging the Swaero — an organisation of students of social welfare schools — that is allegedly insulting Hindu gods. He also said an inquiry should be done into the source of funding for Swaero's activities.

The BJP leader said the

Swaero organisations were allegedly indulging in 'agadalu'. "Nobody should insult any religion," he said and added that one should respect his own religion.

The reference was to Swaero's chief RS Praveen Kumar allegedly reading out a prayer at a Buddhist event that drew criticism on social media. Sanjay said the BJP will bring the activities of Swaero to the notice of the Union home ministry.

He said many victims of Swaero have approached them.

He said he doesn't want to indulge in personal attacks but the objectionable activities of Swaeros were noticed when an incident took place in a village in Peddapalli district.

"Swaero is directly criticising Hindu gods and Hindu society," he said and asked how people will get confidence in the police system when police officers supported one religion against Hindus and some other police officers ran organisation like Swaero.

such acts.

He specially blamed IPS officers Ranjith Pawar, Rupesh Ranjan, Rajesh, in-charge SP for Nirmal Vishnu S. Warrier, Uttoor DSP Udaykumar Reddy and circle inspector Ramesh. He alleged that the police gave injections and drugs to the Hindu Vahini activists during the interrogation and alleged that police officials acted like criminals.

Bandi Sanjay was speaking to the media after visiting the Hindu Vahini activists lodged in Adilabad district jail following the Bhainsa communal clashes.

He said the BJP will complain to the Union home ministry on the third-degree treat on saffron activists. He also called for filing of attempt-to-murder cases against police officers involved in

such acts.

He alleged that the police resorted to acts like giving electric shock, use of pester (rokali banda), pins and pens and also threatened to kill the Hindu Vahini activists in encounter or inject them with HIV and Covid viruses.

The Hindu Vahini activists were now unable to walk with the pain caused to them via the third degree treatment during the interrogation by the police.

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He said that education sector has been grossly neglected and

quality of education in the government educational institutions had been coming down. The state was not providing land though the Centre was ready to allot Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya schools to every district.

Aruna criticised the government for not sanctioning new ration cards and new social security pensions.

The promise to reduce the age limit to 57 years for taking social security pension was not kept.

Aruna: Increase number of Assembly working days

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

sessions to get the bills of its choice are passed," she said. "It seems the government is holding the sessions only to fulfil the constitutional obligation."

Aruna said discussion was needed on lack of allocations to irrigation projects in south Telangana.

Construction of Palamuru and Gattu lift irrigation schemes and Tumilla and others have been kept on the back burner.

She said that education sector has been grossly neglected and

quality of education in the government educational institutions had been coming down. The state was not providing land though the Centre was ready to allot Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya schools to every district.

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The promise to reduce the age limit to 57 years for taking social security pension was not kept.

As part of their efforts, police personnel have been visiting villages of Maoists and interacting with their families. Apart from promising them assistance, they have also been addressing civic issues in the villages.

"We want to show the citizens that we are with them and our efforts are yielding good results. We would be providing skill training to surrendered Maoists, and also offer

them jobs with the help of government departments," an official from the Bhadrachalam police said.

Recently, the police met the parents of Maoist party central committee member Yakkati Seetarami Reddy and top leader Thota Seetaramaiah at Chintirela in Aswapuram mandal. They urged the families to get their sons to surrender.

Pressure from the

Uttam raises Turmeric Board in LS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD MARCH 16

State Congress president and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy questioned the Centre for not setting up the Turmeric Board in Nizamabad district, something it had assured previously.

Raising the issue during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Reddy expressed dissatisfaction over the reply given by the agriculture minister of state Parshottam Rupala to his specific question as to whether there was a proposal with the Centre to set up the Turmeric Board. Instead of answering the question, the government was talking about the Spice

Board, he said.

Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Prakash Javadekar had given specific assurances while campaigning for the BJP candidates in last Lok Sabha elections that the Turmeric Board would be set up, he said.

The Nalgonda MP said nearly 80 per cent of the world's turmeric is produced in India and half of it is grown in Nizamabad, Nizamabad. The Centre would approve the market intervention scheme if the state government sends a proposal.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said he had visited the Spice Board office in Nizamabad and found that it was only providing export licences.

UTHAVANA

SRI G.P. SURANA

(S/o. Late Sri Gulabchandji Surana)

Left for heavenly abode on Sunday, 14th March, 2021. UTHAVANA Today, Wednesday, 17th March 2021 between 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. at BANTHIA GARDEN, Sikh Village, Secunderabad.

Mourned by :

Mangilal, Narendra, Devendra, Ravi, Dipin & Surana Family

SURANA UDYOG, Secunderabad



PUNYA TITHI (First Anniversary)

Smt. P. JAYAPRADA

W/o. Sri P. DAIVADHEENAM (Reached her heavenly abode on: 27/02/2020)

"Your memory is a treasure we hold in our hearts forever."

Inserted by:

Son: P. Shiv Kumar Advocate & Family Members, 9885799499



11th DAY CEREMONY

BANDI S. BHARATH
DOB: 25.12.1944 DOD: 07.03.2021
Ex-SERGEANT (IAF)
BDL MANAGER (Retired)
At: H. No: 2-297, Meerpeth,
TRR Township, Hyderabad.
From: Near & Dear

(S/2021/D01345)



Smt. RADHA SHENOY
Born: 29.01.1951 Expired: 08.03.2021
OBITUARY

(S/2021/D01346)



Mrs. JANNU LALITHA VIDHYASAGAR
W/o Late Jannu Vidhyasagar
Born: 13-2-1948 DOD: 16-3-2021
Funeral service on 17-3-2021 At
Centenary Baptist Church Secunderabad
@ 12noon and burial thereafter at
Baptist Cemetery Bhoguda Secunderabad.
Inserted by: Kumpati Christudas & Family
TEAM UNITED
Centenary Baptist Church Secunderabad
Tel : 97015 73697 / 98663 93955

(S/2021/D01347)



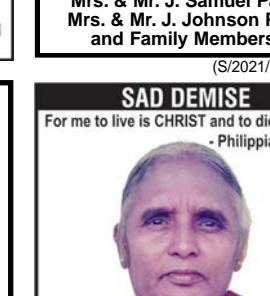
4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
The memory of righteous will be
blessing. (Pro: 10:7)
JOGUNOORI DANIEL PAUL
Inserted by Brothers,
Mrs. & Mr. J. Samuel Paul,
Mrs. & Mr. J. Johnson Paul
and Family Members.

(S/2021/D01346)



OBITUARY
They may rest from their Labors, and
their works follow them" Rev 14:13
MR. G. DEVAIAH
Retired from
State Social Welfare Dept.
FUNERAL SERVICE on 17-3-2021
at 12 Noon, at Narayanguda Cemetery,
Rambote X Roads, Hyderabad.

(S/2021/D01346)



SAD DEMISE
For me to live is CHRIST and to die is gain.
- Philippians 1:21.
Mrs. APULKA SUSHEELA MICHAEL
DOB: 23-11-1946, DOD: 16-03-2021
Inserted by: Sons- Daughter-in-laws,
Daughters-Son-in-laws & Grandchildren.

(S/2021/D01346)



INTEQAL
Mr Mohammad Nisar Ahmed
M E Structural Engineer from Rooree
Former Chief Engineer Irrigation Department Govt Of Andhra Pradesh
S/o Late Mohd. Moinuddin died on 15th March 2021 in the age of 84 years.
In grief in family 3 sons and 2 daughters.
Eng Md Mukhtar Ahmed, Md Ansar Ahmed, Md Baseer Ahmed.
Contact: 95503 03786

(S/2021/D01346)



51st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
You are missed each and every day, for
you were someone special who meant
more words can say.
R.A. Biju George
Raikoti Anand Prasad
Shalu Sant
Ravi Kumar Sant
Avish Sant
Shikha Raikoti
Praveen Swanth
"We love you & miss you"

(S/202

GRAND RELEASING
19th FRIDAY

SAPTHAGIRI
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
TARAKARAMA70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM
INJRA VENKATARAMANA/
PADMAVATHICOMPLEX
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
MOOSAPET
OAMB AMB-11.00, 4.25, 10.10PM
ASIAN CINEMAS Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga
Cinesquare-Uppal
PVR CINEMAS Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzi | Moosarambagh
Next galleria
INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL
CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA
SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR
BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX
TALLURI70MM-ECIL X ROADS
KUMAR70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SENSATIONINSOMNIA-KAIRATABAD
SANTOSHABIDS-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

SUDARSHAN 35MM
(Enjoy 4K Laser projection & Dolby Atmos Sound)
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm
PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 1.30pm, 7.00pm
OAMB AMB - 7.25pm **PLATINUM** - 8.00pm
TALLURI - 2.15 **S2** - 2.50, 8.15pm
PVR CINEMAS
FORUM - 10.35, 2.05, 2.55, 4.50, 7.35, 10.20pm |
RK - 11.00am, 5.00, 8.10pm | **INORBIT** - 10.05, 2.05, 8.00, 10.45pm | **I L&T** - 10.00, 2.35, 5.20, 8.05 10.50pm | **MOOSARAMBAGH** - 3.35, 4.30, 7.05pm | **IRRUM MANZIL** - 4.30, 7.15, 10.00pm | **CENTRAL** - 11.05, 2.05, 8.15 | **ICON** - 5.00, 7.45pm
Cinepolis
DSL - 8.05, 10.40pm | **CCPL** - 4.45, 7.30pm | **SUDHA** - 11.35am | **MANTRA** - 12.00, 5.25pm |
INOX
GVK - 11.10am, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10pm |
GSM - 11.15am, 2.00, 4.50, 7.40, 10.45pm |
MP - 2.05, 5.00, 7.25, 10.50pm
BALANAGAR - 10.45am, 11.00pm
AMEERPET - 10.45, 4.40pm

GRAND 2nd WEEK
AMC AMB CINEMAS-6.50PM
ASIAN CINEMAS CINESQAURE-1.50, 7.35PM
GPR-10.30PM RADHIKA-4.40PM |
CINEPLANET 7.40PM **PVR** FORUM MALL 1.40PM
PLATINUM NARAPALLY 11.00PM **GLOBAL** GLOBAL CINEMAS 9.45PM
ASIAN CINEMAS 7.40PM **GLOBAL** GLOBAL CINEMAS 9.45PM

★★★ Get scared and laugh your heart out with Roohi as you go to the theatres again - Shravan Shah, Miss Malini
★★★ Amazing Film funny and scary at the same time - Punjab Kesari
★★★ Rajkumar Rao's and Varun Sharma's camaraderie steals the show, Janvi Kapoor impresses with her contrasting double act - Peeping Moon
Roohi NOW SHOWING
MARD KO JYADA DARD HOGA
VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATHI- KACHIGUDA - 11:45AM, 9:30PM
SAPNA 35MM - ABIDS RAMAKRISHNA GLITTERATI 11:30, 20, 30, 6:00, 9:15 2 SHOWS 11:30AM & 9:00PM
PRASADS LARGE SCREEN AMB CINEMAS - GACHIBOWL 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 10:20, 1:10, 7:50, 10:45
DSL - UPPAL - 12:30, 3:30, 6:55, 10:20
SUDHA - SHALIBANDA - 10:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
MANTRA - ATTAPUR - 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
CCPL - MALKAJGIRI - 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA - 10:50, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
RK COMPLEX - BANJARAHILLS - 1:45, 10:55PM
ICON - HITECH - 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 | **INORBIT MALL** - MADHAPUR 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY | 10:15, 11:00, 1:05, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 | **PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI** - 1:25, 7:50, 10:50 | **IRRUM MANZIL - KHAIRATABAD** 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40 | **HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA** - MOOSARUMBAGH - 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40 | **HYD - BAD NEXT GALLERIA - PUNJAGUTTA** - 10:40, 1:10, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
INOX GSM MALL - MADEENAGUDA - 1:30, 4:35, 7:40, 10:45 | **GVK MALL** - BANJARAHILLS - 10:10, 1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:35 | **MP MALL** - KACHIGUDA - 10:00, 1:05, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
MIRAJ - BALANAGAR - 2:00, 4:50, 10:50
GEETHA - CHANDANAGAR - 3:00, 9:30
SHALINI SHIVANI - DILSUKHNAGAR - 1:15, 4:00, 10:15
RADHIKA - KAPRA - 4:00PM
CINESQUARE - UPPAL - 1:45, 4:35, 10:40
MUKTHA A2 MJR SQUARE - NARAPALLY - 11:00, 1:40, 10:25
M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR - 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 10:35
TIROLI 11:30, 7:40, 10:15 11:00, 4:50, 10:30
MOVIE TIME - GACHIBOWLI - 10:30 S2 NOMA - MALLPUR 1:25, 4:25, 10:50PM
SRISAIJA - MUSHEERABAD METRO - BAHADURPURA 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:15 11:30, 2:30, 6:00, 9:00
YAKUT MAHAL - YAKUTPURU - 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30

A DIBAKAR BANERJEE FILM
SANDEEP aur PINKY Faraar
ARJUN KAPOOR PARINEETI CHOPRA
IN CINEMAS 19 MAR ADVANCE BOOKING NOW OPEN
yash raj films' worldwide release

GRAND RELEASING
19th FRIDAY
THE STORY OF THE WORLD BIGGEST I.T. SCAM
MANCHU VISHNU, KAJAL AGARWAL & SUNIL SHETTY IN & AS
AVA **மாந்துவிஷ்ணு** **B4FRAMES**
TRUE STORY OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST I.T. SCAM
VISHNU VENCHI JEFFREY SEE CHIN
ASIAN CINEMAS **ADVANCE BOOKING OPEN NOW**
RELEASING ON 19TH MARCH, 2021
ASIAN SHIVAGANGA-DSNR, ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA
ASIAN CINESQUARE-UPPAL, ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR
ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY, ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET
ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL, MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY
ASIAN SRIDEVI-HANAMAKONDA
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SUDARSHAN 35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
ARJUN 70MM-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30
RAJADHANI COMPLEX-DSNR 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
SANTOSH/SAPNAABIDS
INJRA VENKATARAMANA/
PADAMAVATHICOMPLEX
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
OAMB 10.50, 1.45, 4.35, 7.25, 10.05, 10.25PM
ASIAN CINEMAS Radhika-10.55, 1.50, 7.25, 10.30 Sivaganga-2.00, 9.00pm Sha-2.30, 9.45pm | GPR-1.35, 7.30, 10.30 Cinesquare-10.55, 1.55, 4.45, 7.15, 10.40 Mcube-11.00, 1.50, 7.40, 10.40pm
CCPL 11.00, 1.45, 7.40, 10.40 Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston Irrummanzi | Moosarambagh Next galleria
INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX
PLATINUM VYJAYANTHI70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30
SENSATION SUNSHINE 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SRILATHA 70MM 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15 ANJALI70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SAIPOOJA 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 TALLURI70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SHIVASAKTHI 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 & YOUR FAVOURITE THEATRES
INOX GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

VISWANATH 70 MM
KUKATPALLY 11.45 2.45 6.45 9.45
EQUIPPED WITH 2K PROJECTION SYSTEM WITH 32000 LUMEN'S AND HIGH FRAME RATE TECHNOLOGY FOR BEST VISUAL EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR EYES ONLY
wear mask stay safe



West Bengal CM and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, sitting on a wheelchair, addresses an election campaign rally ahead of Assembly polls in Bankura on Tuesday. — PTI

Dissent over tickets has Shah worried

Takes party leaders in Bengal to task over low turnout in party poll rallies

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC

KOLKATA, MARCH 16

A growing and fierce revolt within the BJP over the distribution of tickets to most of the Trinamul Congress turncoats for the Assembly election in West Bengal and low turnouts in the party's poll campaign rallies forced Union home minister Amit Shah to return to the state instead of New Delhi from neighbouring Assam quietly on Monday night and pull up the party leaders for their role during a "marathon class".

Finishing his two-state visit on Monday afternoon, Shah went to attend a programme in the evening in Assam from where he was supposed to return to the capital later. However, he flew from Guwahati to Kolkata, checked into one of the two hotels, which have become favourite destinations for the party leaders for poll preparations in the city, at Rajarhat and chaired a night-long meeting.

There, according to sources, he came down heavily on the party functionaries, who painted a rosy picture of poll preparations to the top leadership, and sought their explanation over massive protests by the rank and file against distribution of tickets to the former TMC leaders throughout the day in the city including the party's election office at Hastings, which saw demonstration on Tuesday also, and the districts.

Mr Shah, sources added, also expressed displeasure over thin crowd at Circus Ground in Jhargram which he had to address virtually from Kharagpur. He wanted to know the reason behind the flop show, sources said.

The prominent TMC turncoats, who are in

Chacko to join NCP

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 16

Veteran leader P.C. Chacko who quit Congress last week is all set to join NCP. Chacko, who arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday, called on NCP supremo Sharad Pawar to discuss his entry into the party. Pawar's party is a constituent of LDF in Kerala.

Before meeting Pawar he told mediapersons, "I can't think of becoming a member of the CPM or the BJP. I wish to be with a party which has Congress culture. And while being in that party I would like to extend support to the Left Front," he said.

Chacko, 74, quit the party on Wednesday in

Ghoshal in Uttarpuria. Besides demands of changing candidates at three more constituencies in South 24 Parganas and some other districts have been raised.

The sources pointed out that the number of ticket aspirants in BJP has gotten bigger than the required number of candidates while people in rural areas remain busy in farming, instead of political rallies, this time of the year.

But their arguments only fell flat before the former BJP chief. On Tuesday morning when BJP president J.P. Nadda landed in the city on a campaign tour, he also attended the second round of meeting by Shah.

While leaving the city later, the Union home minister summoned Ghosh, Roy and others to Delhi at night for picking up suitable candidates for the remaining phases of the polls.

Aasu plans anti-CAA protest on March 20

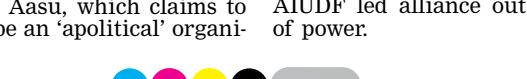
MANOJ ANAND | DC

GUWAHATI, MARCH 16

Just a week before the first phase of polling, the influential All Assam students' Union (Aasu) has announced a mega statewide anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) protest on March 20.

Informing that Aasu activists are going to take out mega bike rallies across the state to educate and remind the voters about the CAA introduced by the BJP government, the Aasu president Dipanka Nath told reporters, "Our aim is to make all, especially those living in the rural areas, aware of the draconian CAA introduced by the BJP government.

sation, for the first time took a 'political stand' by backing the formation of AJP to oust the BJP-AGP combine from power. The mass movement against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act started in December 2019, gave rise to a call for a new political party. Aasu and another allied organisation, the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), played a key role in the formation of AJP. Later, AJP joined hands with Rajo Dal, floated by Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS), to keep the BJP-AGP and the Congress-AIJUD led alliance out of power.



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SHELDON CHAU SAM CS JOE MURPHY, GOUTHAM RAJU M.KIRAN KUMAR
STUN SIVA VIJAY KUMAR.R, JOHN SINGLETON

#MOSAGALLU

TRUE STORY OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST I.T. SCAM

WORLD WIDE
MARCH
19th
RELEASE





SANDHYA35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BRAMARAMBA70MM
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

SHIVAPARVATHI70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

MEGHA70MM-DSNR
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

MANJU70MM-SEC'BAD
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TARAKARAMA70-KACHIGUDA
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00PM

INJARA VENKATARAMANA/
PADMAVATHICOMPLEX-2.45,9.30

PRASAD-8.45,11.00,1.30,3.45,
6.15,8.30,11.00PM

OAMB 10.30,1.45,4.55,7.00,10.25

MULTIFLEX YELLA LAKHONI
11.00,1.55,4.50,7.50,10.50

ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-11.15,2.00,6.15PM

GPR-10.40,1.25,7.30,10.20PM

RADHIKA-10.30,1.30,7.00,9.50PM

MCUBE-10.40,1.30,4.30,7.00,10.10PM

UPPAL-10.50,1.30,4.30,7.30,10.20PM

CHINTHAL-11.00,2.00,6.30PM

10.40,1.30,4.10,7.20,10.00PM

MJR-10.50,1.40,4.40,7.00,9.50PM

LAXMIKALA-1.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

INOX GSM-11.45,12.45,3.00,4.00,

6.15,7.15,9.30,10.30PM

GVK-10.00,1.05,4.15,7.20,10.30,10.50

MP-9.50,12.50,4.00,7.15,10.30PM

Cinépolis MANTRA-10.00,11.00,1.55,

4.50,7.45,10.30PM

DSL-1.00,4.10,6.15,7.20,10.30PM

CCPL-10.00,11.15,1.45,4.30,7.55,10.40

SUDHA-10.30,1.25,4.20,7.10,10.05PM

PVR RK-11.20,1.10,7.45,10.25PM

ICON-1.15,3.10,7.20,9.15PM

PRESTONE-1.45,4.40,7.35,10.30PM

FORUM-10.10,11.10,2.05,5.00,7.15,7.55

10.10,10.50PM

INORBIT-10.20,2.05,5.00,7.35,7.55,10.50

CENTRAL-10.05,1.25,4.10,7.05,10.30PM

GALLERIA-10.05,11.10,2.05,5.00,7.55,

10.00,10.50PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.40,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.50

MOOSARAMBAGH-12.40,2.05,5.00,7.55,10.50

MIRAJ CINEMAS CHANDANAGAR-12.00,4.00,9.45PM

SHALINI-10.15,2.00,4.45,7.30,10.45PM

BALANAGAR-10.15,1.15,4.15,7.15,10.15

2 11.00,5.05,

★ TIVOLI 11.15,2.10,

8.00,10.55 4.45,10.00PM

PLATINUM 10.05,12.15,

3.15,8.30,11.20 4.40,7.40,10.35

SANTOSHABIDS SUPER70MM

11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SENSATION SWAPNA COMX

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.15PM

VIJETHA70MM VIMAL70MM

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

AMBA70MM SREERAMANA

11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SRLATHA70 SAMPOORNA

11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

INDRA RAMAKRISHNA SIVASAKTHI

2.30,6.00PM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SRINIVASAT0 TALLURI COMPLEX

11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15

NARTHAKI70-11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30

ULS SRIDEVITO BHUJANGA70

11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

KRISHNAGARAM JYOTHI IDABL RM

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

LAXMI SHAMSHABAD VENKATASAI

11.30,2.30,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SANTOSH70MM SREEPREMA

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SV CINESQUARE MAHESWARI70

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

VENKATESWARA70-GUMMADIDHALA

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

THIS YEAR'S FUNNIEST FILM
DIAMOND BLOCKBUSTER
IMDb ★ 9.1/10 bookshow 93%

THEATRES RECORDS SHAKING BREAKING

25PRADEEP
DEVI 70MM
{ Enjoy 4K Laser Projection & Dolby Atmos Sound }
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

ARJUN 70MM
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm
MALLIKARJUNA 70
11.15am, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30pm

RAJADHANI COMPLEX
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00pm
KONARK 70MM
11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

VISWANATH 70MM
11.45am, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45pm
SANGEETHA 70
11.00am, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00pm
MAHALAXMI 70
11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 10.30am, 11.30, 2.15, 4.15, 5.00, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00, 10.45pm
LARGE : 12.15,3.00,5.45,8.30,11.15pm
AMB - 10.35, 1.40, 4.40, 7.40, 10.40pm

PVR CINEMAS
RK - 10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40 | CENTRAL
10.00, 10.55, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40 | FORUM
10.00, 10.50, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 7.50, 10.40,
11.00 | ICON - 12.45, 1.50, 3.55, 7.05, 10.15
MOOSARAMBAGH - 1.00, 4.10, 6.20, 7.20, 10.30 | IRRUM MANZIL - 1.00, 4.10, 7.00, 7.20, 10.30 | GALLERIA - 10.00, 10.20, 1.30, 4.40, 7.20, 7.50 | PRESTON - 12.30, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00 | INORBIT - 10.20, 10.55, 1.30, 4.40, 7.50, 11.00 |

GPR - 10.45, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.35 | M CUBE - 10.35, 1.30, 4.25, 7.20, 10.15 | CINEPLANET - 10.30, 1.30, 4.25, 7.20, 10.20 | RADHIKA - 10.50, 1.40, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25 | CINESQUARE - 10.50, 1.40, 4.30, 7.20, 10.20 | MJR - 10.50, 1.45, 4.40, 7.30, 10.10 |

INOX
GVK - 11.00, 12.50, 2.30, 4.00, 7.20, 10.20 | MP - 11.35, 3.00, 6.30, 7.15, 10.00, 10.40 | GSM MALL - 10.30, 11.30, 1.00, 1.50, 3.00, 4.20, 6.30, 7.40, 9.10, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00 |

Cinépolis
DSL - 11.20, 1.00, 2.50, 6.20, 9.30, 10.10, 10.50 | MANTRA MALL - 1.00, 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00 | CCPL - 10.40, 1.10, 1.45, 4.20, 5.00, 7.40, 10.40 | SUDHA - 12.15, 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 10.00, 11.00 |

SHALINI - 10.00, 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 11.00 | BALANAGAR - 10.00, 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 11.00 | CHANDANAGAR - 1.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00 | TIVOLI - 11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20 | BVK - 10.45am, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45pm | PLATINUM - 11.45, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45 | S2 - 10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40, 11.00 |

LAXMIKALA ASIAN SHA
11.10,2.40,6.10,9.40 11.15,2.30,6.15,9.30
SHIVAGANGA TALLURI
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
AARADHANA 70 SHARADA 70
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00

SUSHMA 70 RANGA 70
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
GOKUL 70MM SREERAMANA
11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
SAI RANGA 70 ALANKAR 70
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
JYOTHI 70MM SAI POOJA 70
11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00
SRI KRISHNA 70 LAXMIKALA MANDIR
11.15,2.15,6.00,9.15 11.30,2.30,6.30,9.30

VYJAYANTHI RAMAKRISHNA 70
11.00,2.00,6.00,9

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	50,363.96
Nifty 50	14,910.50
S&P 500*	3,973.39
Dollar (\$)	72.55
Pound Sterling (\$)	100.30
Euro (\$)	86.53
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	44,481.45
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	67.99
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	6.180
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.595
As of 8:30 PM IST	-0.06

India adds 9.7 GW capacity this fiscal till end-Feb.

India added 9.7 gigawatt (GW) of generation capacity during this financial year till February 28. This includes 3.8 GW of conventional energy and 5.9 GW from renewable sources, power and new & renewable energy minister R. K. Singh said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. In 2019-20, India had added 15.8 GW of power generation capacity, including 7.1 GW of conventional sources and 8.8 GW of renewable sources.

Gland Pharma inks pact to make Sputnik V vaccine



Gland Pharma said it has entered into an agreement with the Russian Direct Investment Fund to supply up to 252 million doses of Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine. The agreement will see Gland utilising its Drug Substance and Drug Product facilities in Hyderabad. Production is expected to commence from the third quarter of 2021 for delivery starting from the fourth quarter of 2021, the firm said in a filing.

Anupam Rasayan IPO subscribed 44 times

The initial public offering of specialty chemicals company Anupam Rasayan India Limited was subscribed 44.06 times on the last day of bidding. The Rs 760-crore issue received bids for 42,74,80,578 shares against 97,01,809 shares on offer. The category for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 65.74 times, non-institutional investors 97.42 times and retail individual investors 10.77 times.

Mercedes-Benz drives in new E Class at ₹63.6 L

Mercedes-Benz introduced the Mercedes-Benz E-Class long-wheelbase facelift with prices starting from Rs 63.60 lakh at Delhi showroom. The sedan is available in five variants with three engine options and powered by both petrol and diesel. The automaker has done comprehensive changes on exterior styling and design and updated the interiors. The company has sold more than 46,000 units of the E-Class till date in India.

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Bill to be tabled in Parliament soon Infra push: Cabinet clears mega DFI bill

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

As a part of the government's pan-India infrastructure push, the Union Cabinet, on Tuesday, approved the setting up of a development finance institution (DFI), which will raise capital from the markets and offer long-term debt to infrastructure projects.

Initially, the Centre will infuse Rs 20,000 crore in the DFI and an additional grant of Rs 5,000 crore will be given. There will also be additional increments of the grant over the years. Through infrastructure funding, the government aims to create jobs and boost demand in the economy.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a bill would soon be tabled in Parliament to give effect to the new institution, for which the government has allocated Rs 20,000 crore in the FY22 Budget.

"Besides, the government plans to raise up to Rs 3 lakh crore in the next few years. An additional grant of Rs 5,000 crore will also be given and there will be additional increments of the grant over the years," she told the reporters.

The DFI is part of the government's mega infrastructure spending initiative to generate employment and boost demand. The plan also includes a capital expenditure target of Rs 5.54 lakh crore for



FUND FOR INFRA PROJECTS

- The Centre will infuse ₹20,000 crore in the DFI, along with an additional grant of ₹5,000 crore
- Gradually government's ownership in the DFI will be brought down to 26 per cent

FY22, compared with a revised estimate of Rs 4.39 lakh crore for FY21. "The new institution is being set up in the context of the government's efforts to build infrastructure assets. The DFI will raise capital from the markets and offer long-term debt to infrastructure projects," Sitharaman said.

When asked about its ownership status, the finance minister said, "The DFI will start with 100 per cent ownership of Government of India, and gradually government's ownership will be brought down to 26 per cent. The DFI will have a professional board and 50 per cent of them will be non-official directors. The government, she added, will provide tax exemption and also amend the Indian

Stamp Act to attract global pension funds and sovereign funds to invest in the DFI.

Sitharaman further said that PM Narendra Modi was always keen to give effect to budget announcements swiftly so that the economic stimulus gains momentum. "The government plans to take up around Rs 111 lakh crore under the National Infrastructure Pipeline project. While several attempts have also been made in the past to create a DFI, for different reasons there is currently no bank or institution which can take long-term risk and fund development projects. There are over 6,000 brownfield and greenfield projects which need to be funded," she added.

Barak-8 incorporates phased array multi-mission radar, two-way data link, and a flexible command and control system, enabling users to engage multiple targets day and night.

"This is the beginning of a new era, filled with self-confidence," said Baba Kalyani, chairman, Kalyani Group, on the development.

Kalyani Rafael rolls out missile sections

FC BUREAU
HYDERABAD, MARCH 16

Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (Kras), a joint venture between Pune-based Kalyani Group and Israel's defence equipment major Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (RADS) on Tuesday rolled out its first batch of medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) for the Indian Army and the Air Force.

The six-year-old defence joint venture firm was awarded the contract to manufacture 1,000 medium range missile kits in July 2019 for the Indian Army. The missile sections will be sent to PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited for further integration.

The missiles known as Barak 8 were co-developed by Israel and India. The missile was expected to play crucial role in the air defence systems. The system extends the range of Israel's aerial defence and should be operational in about two years. Israel tested fired it in 2018, while India tested it last year.

Barak-8 incorporates phased array multi-mission radar, two-way data link, and a flexible command and control system, enabling users to engage multiple targets day and night.

"This is the beginning of a new era, filled with self-confidence," said Baba Kalyani, chairman, Kalyani Group, on the development.

India home to 4.12 lakh millionaire households



HURUN INDIA REPORT

- Maharashtra leads the country in wealth creation, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat
- Other states in the top ten list of dollar-millionaire households are West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, MP and Telangana
- Mumbai has 16,933 millionaire households, followed by Delhi with 15,861 households

is also home to 65 of the richest Indians.

Karnataka is ranked fourth with 33,000 households having an annual income of over \$1 million. The state has been growing almost 10 per cent for many years now and its per capita income jumped 11 times in the last two decades. The state is home to 72 of the richest individuals in the country, as per the report.

Uttar Pradesh has the second largest number of millionaire households at 36,000. Its economy has been annually growing at 10.6 per cent in the past one decade.

At the third spot is Tamil Nadu with 35,000 dollar-millionaire households.

In the past five financial years, its economy has clipped at 12.2 per cent annually. The state

Madhya Pradesh and Telangana each have 18,000 millionaire households.

When it comes to cities, Mumbai— which generates 6.2 per cent of the national GDP—leads with 16,933 millionaire households, followed by Delhi with 15,861 millionaire households.

The national capital contributes 4.94 per cent of the country's GDP.

Kolkata is home to nearly 42 per cent of the 24,000 millionaires households in the state.

Bengaluru comes fourth with around 7,582 millionaire households.

With 4,665 millionaire households and home to 37 of the richest Indians, Chennai is at the fifth position.

Kesoram sells junk-rated bonds offering 21% yield



RAHUL SATIJA & SUVASHREE GHOSH
MARCH 16

The Union Cabinet has approved the closure of a central public sector enterprise, Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India, which has been incurring losses since 2015-16 and not earning sufficient income to meet its running expenses.

The 65 employees of the corporation, under the textile ministry's control, will be entitled VRS benefits.

As per information published in 2018, the corporation had been a two-star export house engaged in exports of handicraft and handloom products, besides undertaking export of gold and silver jewellery and articles. It also was operating retail outlets in Delhi, UP and Bihar. In 2014-15, it had posted revenues of more than Rs 2,700 crore with a net profit of.

The investments reflect growing interest in Indian distressed assets. Global heavyweights such as Apollo Global Management Inc and Oaktree Capital Group have either struck deals or scaled up their local

teams in recent years to bet on businesses struggling to stay afloat in the nation, which has a worsening pile of bad loans.

Kolkata-based Kesoram, whose history dates back over 100 years, this month allotted equity shares and preference securities to 10 creditors as part of its plan to restructure debt. Funds from the bond sale will be used in part to repay existing loans and overdue liabilities.

Kesoram hadn't complied with certain financial covenants and defaulted on Rs 4,600 crore of debt as of December 31, the company said in a statement last month.

As security, the company's founder unit Manav Investment and Trading Co also pledged 3.175 million shares, or 1.93 per cent, of the total share capital for the bond investors.

— Bloomberg

Retail sales inch closer to pre-Covid levels

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 16

Retail sales have inched closer to pre-Covid levels in February, led by positive growth in QSR and consumer durables.

Retail sales across categories in February have reached 93 per cent of pre-Covid levels—down by just 7 per cent. The sales have picked up from a year-on-year decline of 18 per cent in the December quarter.

The recovery has been led by consumer durables and quick service restaurants (QSR) categories, which have shown positive growth of 15 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, in February. In January both the categories had registered growth of 10 per cent.

"Except for states like Maharashtra, where Covid cases are rising, the restaurant business has seen recovery in other places. Generally takeaways and deliveries have improved, but dine-in has still not reached pre-Covid levels," said Dilip Datwani, spokesperson for the Federation of



Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India.

According to him, the low base of February 2020 too has helped the growth. "In February 2020, the fear had already set in and this had started affecting the restaurant business. Against this lower base, we are seeing a growth this February," he said.

Consumer durables, especially cooling devices, had started moving in February. As summer last year was a washout due to the lockdown, the low base has helped consumer durables as well.

"It is heartening to see recovery across categories. We hope that the uncertainty regarding the rising cases of Covid-19 in a few states will not cast

its shadow on the growth momentum with the roll-out of the vaccine. Restrictions or not, it has now become imperative for every retailer to adopt phytigal in various ways—be it social media, messaging platforms, or digital shopping in addition to their normal channels—to align themselves with the changing consumer mindsets of the Next Normal," said Kumar Rajagopal, CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI).

However, categories like footwear, beauty, wellness & personal care, sports goods and food & grocery have still registered de-growth in February, despite showing steady month-on-month recovery.

Recovery in retail has been happening across different regions, though in a varying manner. Eastern India has recorded a positive growth of 2 per cent in February, while southern and northern regions are closer with -6 per cent and -9 per cent growth, respectively. Western India has progressed slower at -16 per cent.

UK startup pickles carbon dioxide to make chicken feed

AGNIESZKA DE SOUSA
MARCH 16

UK startup Deep Branch secured funds from backers, including French oil giant Total SE, for its plan to turn carbon dioxide emissions into food for chickens, fish and pigs.

The company uses a fermentation process similar to winemaking or pickling, except that microbes feed on CO₂ and hydrogen instead of sugars. The result is a 70 per cent protein product called Proton that can replace conventional livestock feed such as fishmeal and soybeans. The agriculture

industry's reliance on the two ingredients has been linked to the depletion of wild fish stocks and caused large-scale deforestation.

"We can be price competitive with those ingredients without being bad for the planet," chief executive officer Peter Rowe said in an interview. "Not only is it a way to produce protein where you don't require farmland and deforestation or overfishing, but also because the total carbon footprint of it is extremely small."

Deep Branch raised \$8 million euros (\$9.5 million) for a pilot project to scale up its technology. Investment fund Novo Holdings A/S and DSM Venturing led the financing round, which also included Barclays Sustainable Impact Capital. It brings the company's funding to about 13 million euros.

The startup is one of several using fermentation technology to develop more sustainable protein.

US-based Air Protein and Finland-based Solar Foods are working on converting gases into food, while in India, String Bio recycles methane into protein for animals.

— Bloomberg

MFs, NSE join hands to train 50K MF distributors

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, MARCH 16

Top mutual fund houses and the NSE have joined hands with Centre For Investment Education and Learning (CIEL) to rope in more people into the mutual fund distribution business.

Currently, there are very few MF distributors on the ground to serve the vast untapped population as the industry grows. There is just one distributor for every 17,000 people, indicating a massive opportunity for insurance agents, retired BFSI professionals, homemakers, students

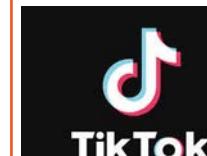
and the like to join the MF bandwagon.

The fund houses joining the initiative include Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, Axis MR ICICI Prudential MF, L&T MF, Nippon India MF, SBI MF and Sundaram MF.

"Asset management companies along with NSE and CIEL have joined hands to build 50,000 new industry mutual fund distributors/ (financial entrepreneurs) over the next three years," said a joint release by the three.

The programme is being done under the aegis of ExpertMFD (www.expertmfd.com).

TIKTOK PARENT BYTEDANCE EYEING CHIPS FORAY



ZHEPING HUANG
MARCH 16

The standout Chinese startup ByteDance Ltd has begun hiring employees for a possible push into semiconductors, exploring an expansion well beyond the hit video app TikTok for which it is best known.

The Beijing-based company has posted at least a dozen job openings related to semiconductors, including hardware and software engineers in cities like Shanghai and Beijing. A spokesperson for the company confirmed it's hiring talent as it explores initiatives in the field, including building server chips based on Arm Ltd designs.

ByteDance, founded by Zhang Yiming, has become the most valuable startup in the world on the success of TikTok and its domestic clone, Douyin. The company

SHORT TAKES

Messi levels Xavi record for Barca

Madrid: Lionel Messi scored a spectacular double the same night he equalled Xavi Hernandez's appearance record for Barcelona, the Argentinian inspiring his team to a 4-1 win over Huesca on Monday.

Messi tied Xavi's 767 games in all competitions for Barca and marked yet another milestone with a brilliant brace, a curling effort in the first half flying in off the crossbar before a late shot nestled in the corner. Antoine Griezmann had earlier followed suit with another impressive shot into the top corner before Huesca pulled one back, Rafa Mir converting a doubtful penalty on the stroke of half-time.

But Messi helped Barca pull away, sending in a cross for Oscar Minguez to head in and then scoring his second as the Catalans moved to within four points of league leaders Atletico Madrid. — AFP

Dhanalakshmi defeats Dutee

Patiala: National record holder Dutee Chand was beaten to second place by S. Dhanalakshmi while Hima Das was disqualified after a false start in a much-anticipated women's 100m sprint final in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics

Championships on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Dhanalakshmi, of Tamil Nadu, took the gold by clocking 11.39 seconds ahead of

Dutee (11.58) of Odisha to become the fastest woman of the championships. Another

Tamil Nadu runner Archana Suseendran was third in 11.76. This was after Hima, who was running in the shorter sprint

races of 100m and 200m instead of her event 400m, was disqualified after a false start. The much-anticipated final did not live up to the expectations as Hima was shown the red card, while Dutee and Dhanalakshmi did not come anywhere near the Olympic qualification mark of 11.15 seconds. — PTI



Sports Authority of Telangana State chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy (left) greets Finance Minister Harish Rao at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Tuesday, ahead of the State Budget. Mr Reddy petitioned the FM and the Chief Minister for enhanced allocation of funds for the sports department in this year's budget which would boost Telangana in sporting circles across the world.

Hockey trials for Medchal district

Hyderabad: Medchal Hockey is conducting selection trials at 4 pm on Wednesday at the Gymkhana Hockey Ground to pick the district side for the upcoming 5th Senior Women's Inter-District Tournament to be held in Hyderabad from March 26 to 28. Further details contact G. Yashwanth on phone number 9866711724.

Live on TV

CRICKET

India vs South Africa women: Fifth ODI from 9 am on Star Sports 2

BADMINTON

All England Open: Round of 32 matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

FOOTBALL

Italian League: Torino vs Sassuolo from 7.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Juventus vs Napoli from 11.15 pm on Sony Six, HD

Champions League: Chelsea vs Atletico Madrid from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; Bayern Munich vs Lazio from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

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BUTTLER HOUSE

India fall to Jos fire in third encounter, England take lead

Ahmedabad, March 16: Virat Kohli's brilliance wasn't good enough to paper over an otherwise inept Indian batting performance as England humbled the hosts by eight wickets in the third T20 International to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series, here on Tuesday.

Eoin Morgan unleashed his fast bowlers Mark Wood (3/31) and Chris Jordan (2/35) to restrict the hosts for 156 for 6, which the visitors surpassed easily in 18.2 overs, riding on Jos Buttler's unbeaten 83 off 52 balls.

Skipper Kohli had mistakenly said at the toss that his team led 2-1 but Morgan, in his 100th T20 International appearance, made sure that opposite happened.

Buttler showed his mastery in white ball format after Kohli single-handedly carried the team to a reasonable score with an unbeaten 77 off 46 balls.

Buttler in the Powerplay pounced on Shardul Thakur and Yuzvendra Chahal in successive overs and England were never in danger of falling behind the run-rate after that.

He played the pacers and spinners with comforting ease, playing reverse slog sweeps interspersed between the lofted straight hits into the empty stands. In all, Buttler hit five fours and four sixes.

More than the Buttler's blade, the difference between two sides was the sheer pace generated by England pacers after Morgan won another good toss.

Mark Wood rocked the Indian top order during the Powerplay overs and even Kohli's magnificence wasn't good enough to save the night for the 'Men In Blue'.

Wood's thunderbolts at 90 plus miles per hour found the younger Indian batsmen in considerable discomfort.

He didn't do anything extra but bowled fast and straight, mixing the well disguised short pitched stuff to get them into a tangle.

Save Kohli, other Indian youngsters found



England batsman Jos Buttler (right) is greeted by teammate Dawid Malan on scoring a half-century during the third T20 against India at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. — PTI

SCORECARD

India: Rohit Sharma c Jofra Archer b Mark Wood 15, K.L. Rahul b Mark Wood 0, Ishan Kishan c Jos Buttler b Chris Jordan 4, Virat Kohli (not out) 77, Rishabh Pant run out (Jos Buttler/ Sam Curran) 25, Shreyas Iyer c Malan b Mark Wood 9, Hardik Pandya c Jofra Archer b Chris Jordan 17. Extras (b-1 lb-5, w-3) 9. Total (for 6 wkts, in 20 overs) 156.

FoW: 1-23, 2-81.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-27-0, Shardul Thakur 3-2-0-36-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-41-1, Hardik Pandya 3-0-22-0, Washington Sundar 4-0-26-1.

England: Jason Roy c Sharma b Chahal 9, Jos Buttler (not out) 83, Dawid Malan st Pant b Washington Sundar 18, Jonny Bairstow (not out) 40. Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-2) 8. Total (for 2 wkts, in 18.2 over) 158.

FoW: 1-23, 2-81.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-27-0, Shardul Thakur 3-2-0-36-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-41-1, Hardik Pandya 3-0-22-0, Washington Sundar 4-0-26-1.

Malan: Adil Rashid 4-0-26-0, Jofra Archer 4-0-32-0, Mark Wood 4-0-31-3, Chris

UAE players banned for bid to fix

Dubai, March 16: The ICC on Tuesday slapped eight-year bans on United Arab Emirates (UAE) cricketers Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt for their attempted role in trying to fix matches in the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019.

The bans are backdated to October 16, 2019, when they were provisionally suspended for attempting to corrupt matches and found guilty of breaching global body's Anti-Corruption Code.

His partnership with Hardik Pandya (17 off 15 balls) fetched 70 runs off just 5.3 overs but it was all about Kohli for the better part. — PTI

Anwar represented their adopted country, UAE at the highest level in cricket. Naveed was the captain and leading wicket-taker. Anwar was the opening bat. Both had long international careers and were well versed in the threat from match fixers. That they both chose to engage with this corrupt activity was a cynical betrayal of their positions, their teammates, and all supporters of UAE cricket," Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager — Integrity Unit, said in an ICC release.

Naveed was also found guilty of breaching two counts of the Emirates Cricket Board Anti-Corruption Code for Participants of the T10 League 2019. — PTI

ALL ENGLAND | BADMINTON

Best chance for Sindhu to excel

● Carolina Marin, the three-time world champion from Spain, though has pulled out of the prestigious tournament due to an injury, taking some shine off the event. Also missing in action will be the Chinese, Koreans and Chinese Taipei shuttlers.

Padukone (1980) and P. Gopichand (2001).

While former world number one Saina Nehwal had a runner-up finish in 2015, Sindhu's best finish was a semifinal in 2018.

Sindhu will again be one of the top contenders but Saina is nowhere near her best with just two quarter-final finishes to show in the last two years.

Among other Indians, former No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth and young men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, currently ranked 10 in the world, had a good run in Swiss Open and will look to put their best foot forward.

Fifth seed Sindhu will kick off her campaign with a clash against Malaysia's Sonia Cheah. — PTI



Players of the Bhadradi team are jubilant after winning the TCA U-16 Inter-Districts Championship on Tuesday.

BHADRADI ARE CHAMPIONS

Hyderabad: Bhadradi emerged winner of the TCA U-16 Inter-Districts Championship at the Bhadradi Stadium in Manuguru. In the finals played on Tuesday, they chased down Warangal Urban's modest 138 with five wickets in hand.

Batting first, Warangal Urban rode on useful knocks by Pardipan (40) and Hardik (35). In reply, Ranadheer steadied Bhadradi and saw them safely home.

BRIEF SCORES

■ Warangal Urban 138/8 in 25 overs (Pardipan 40, Hardik 35, Jashwanth 3/23) lost to Bhadradi 139/5 in 22.2 overs (Ranadheer 37, Ratna Arya 32).

■ Man of the Match: Jashwanth (Bhadradi).

■ Man of the Tournament: J. Pardipan (Warangal Urban).

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