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HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 1 MARCH 2021

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### WEATHER

Max: 36.6°C  
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RH: 24%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Misty morning. Max/Min  
temp. 37/190C

### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarakaya

Tithi: Magha Bahula Vidiya till  
8.35 am; Tadiya rest of the day  
Star: Uttarā till 7.36 am; Hasta  
till 5.31 am (Tuesday)

Varjyam: 3.16 pm to 4.43 pm  
Durmuhurta: 12.51 pm to  
1.38 pm; 3.11 pm to 3.58 pm

Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 16,1442 AH

### PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.35 am

Zohar: 12.40 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrīb: 6.28 pm

Isha: 7.36 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.22 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.34 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 8.30 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 8.26 AM

COUNTER POINT



They are my real  
daughters, didis, aunties...  
all are contesting polls!

### SHORT TAKES

**Maha min resigns  
on woman's death**

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra minister Sanjay Rathod, facing flak from Opposition BJP after being linked to a woman's death, on Sunday resigned from the state Cabinet. Rathod made the announcement after submitting his resignation to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who is also the president of his Shiv Sena party.

Report on Page 7

**Arunachal turns  
Covid-free state**

**Itanagar:** Arunachal Pradesh became a Coronavirus-free state on Sunday with the three active cases recovering from the disease, a senior health official said. The total caseload in the state remained at 16,836, while the number of recoveries stood at 16,780, surveillance officer Lobsang Jampa said.

**Traders to go on  
nationwide strike**

**New Delhi:** Traders' body CAIT said it will launch a nationwide agitation against issues related to the GST and alleged malpractices of foreign e-commerce firms. "The campaign will begin from March 5 and continue till April 5," CAIT said, adding that the protest will continue till the issues are resolved.

### INSIDE

**CITY... PAGE 3**  
**Mayor feeding pet goes viral**

**CITY... PAGE 4**

**TRS dalit MLAs flay BJP  
TS chief over 'loose talk'**

## Up up and away



ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51, carrying Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1, lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. ■ Report on Page 3

## PAPER LEAKED, ARMY CANCELS HIRING EXAM

R. MOHAN | DC  
CHENNAI / KARAikal, FEB  
28

The seat-sharing alliance talks between Amit Shah of BJP and Edappadi Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam of the AIADMK began late on Sunday night. Slated to meet on Saturday night at a Chennai hotel, Amit Shah's arrival past midnight as well as his tight Sunday schedule involving a meeting with TN BJP leaders and then a whistle stop campaign tour of Karaikal and Villupuram meant the leaders had to wait to start discussions towards sealing the deal.

The indications are that the Tamil Nadu ruling party was driving a hard bargain in offering upto 21 seats for the national ruling party in its alliance, retaining

PMK as its major ally. The party has already parted with 23 seats for the PMK and might have to spare a few more for DMK with whom talks began on Sunday night at Minister P. Thangamani's house. An announcement on the deal is expected only on Monday.

The BJP, which is focussing on the NDA alliance in Puducherry with N. Rangasamy's AINRC and AIAMDK where pre-poll surveys hint at good prospects, might settle for a smaller share of seats in the bigger Tamil Nadu Assembly.

The DMK-Congress talks are slated to begin soon. The opposition DMK is said to have fed the same logic for limiting the Congress to less than 25 seats in the alliance.

— PTI

## Modi's only regret: He could not learn Tamil

## Farmer, woman from city catch PM's 'mann'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28



A screenshot of Mann Ki Baat featuring C. Venkat Reddy and PM

eases. "He wanted to find a solution. He developed wheat strains that were fortified with Vitamin D. This month, he received a patent from World Intellectual Property Organisation for the wheat he developed," Modi said.

The PM also answered a question that Aparna Reddy from Hyderabad sent to him the other day. The question was "Mr Narendra Modi, you are a PM for many years. Before that a CM for

many years. Anything you feel you had wanted to pursue but couldn't. I am keen to know."

Modi said the question made him think. It was a simple question but difficult to answer. "I thought about it and told myself that one thing I have not been able to learn is Tamil, the world's oldest language. I could not make an effort to learn it. Many have told me about the beauty and grace of Tamil," he said in reply.

The farmer had heard from a doctor friend how lack of Vitamin D impacted health and led to dis-

## 91 hospitals to give Covid shot

People aged 60+, those above 45 with comorbidities can get vaccine from today

### HOW TO REGISTER FOR GETTING COVID JAB

1 Registration will be available from 9 am on Monday (March 1) at [www.cowin.gov.in](http://www.cowin.gov.in) website

2 Click on the registration link, provide mobile phone or Aadhaar number.

3 This will result in receipt of an OTP which needs to be entered on the website.

4 The location of the vaccination can be chosen, one that is convenient to go to.



**COST:** Free at all government vaccination centres, but ₹250 per dose at private vaccination centres.

5 On the designated day and chosen time, visit the centre, get the first dose; after this, the second dose will be scheduled.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF APPOINTMENT IS MISSED?**  
The appointment is cancelled and beneficiary will have to set up a new one

- For those aged between 45 and 59 years with comorbidities, a medical certificate signed by a MBBS doctor will have to be uploaded.
- Everyone should carry the ID card mentioned during the registration process. A Voter ID Card, or a Photo ID Card may also suffice

### MAHENDRA HILLS RESIDENTS RECALL FIRST COVID CASE

SANJAY  
SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

It was in March last year that coronavirus and Covid-19 were words that everyone in the neighbourhood spoke about as different parts of the country began reporting viral cases after emerging in Wuhan late in 2019.

But no one in Ravi Colony, Mahendra Hills, believed that their residential area would become, in some ways, synonymous with the disease. And on March 2 of last year, all hell broke loose following news that the state's first confirmed Covid-19 case was that of a colony resident. "I would be lying if I tell you now that we were not scared," said Varun Vohra, a resident of Ravi Colony.

■ Page 2: It was like living in a prison, says a resident

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

For those aged between 45 and 59 years with comorbidities, a medical certificate signed by a MBBS doctor will have to be uploaded.

Everyone should carry the ID card mentioned during the registration process. A Voter ID Card, or a Photo ID Card may also suffice

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LIC/20/21/17ENG

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**TARNAKA 2 & 3 BHK flats**, 1225 to 1755 sq ft, 100% vastu. Ready to occupy with all amenities, gated community www.happyhomeshyderabad.com Ph: 7729999728, 7729999732. (S/2021/C02495)

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**6BHKB VILLA** 7200sqft in manikonda locality, large compound and servant quarters. The Villa is gated community with large club house, manicured gardens, amenities. Ph: 8008789915. (HYCL/2021/C03028)

### MULTIPLE INDP HOUSES

**KHANIKHABAD STREET** no.8 near metro station 2 rooms with kitchen/balcony semi furnished only one employed person and 2BHK 1st floor semi furnished employed bhabhi for a small family or 3 bachelors ph: 7680939614/04-23307169. (HYMM/2021/C07624)

### RESI/COMM

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**ERRAMANJIL 2+1 BHK** on 1st floor, Opp Lane of Hotel Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills, Centrally Located for Residence/ Office Purpose. Ph: 7995476971. (S/2021/C02459)

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**INDEPENDENT BUILDING** Gachibowli Mainroad, Diagonally Opp Central mall, Beautiful glass & Marble elevation, total 12000sqft sba area, G+3 plus 2bnk Penthouse/ office, 2side roads & entrance, Itf. Each floor 2750sqft. Suitable for Shopping Complexes, Furnishing, lighting, jewellery showroom/ multi concept hospitals, clinics. Clear title. For Lease Total Building/ Floor Wise/ G+1 Ph: 9502302226. (HYMM/2021/C07605)

**GACHIBOWLI MAINROAD**, 3rdfloor fully furnished with 10Ac's, 40chairs, 10Worke station &Cabinets) and 4th floor (open Hall with washrooms and shutter) @Surajban jewellery hub building diagonally Opp. Al-Saba Restaurant, 2nd floor. 100% vastu. Generator back-up. Ampli parking, Generator back-up. Each floor 2750sqft. sba. Suitable for Software Company, Clinics, Clinics, Offices. Ph: 7997995582 (HYMM/2021/C07606)

### INDUSTRIAL LAND

### PATANCHERI, INDUSTRIAL

### area, IDA Pashemiyarla 3.5 Acres, (Phase-3), East Facing, 25000Sqft Godown, Ready to move.

Contact: 8522015555/ 9704222345. (HYCL/2021/C03053)

### LAND

### FARM LAND

### For Sale 20Km From APPA Junction, Entrance Arch, Compound Wall, Boundary With Drip Irrigation, 10 Varieties Of Fruit Plants, Security Room, Well Developed Farm Land, Half Acre (2000 Sq Yds). Price Rs.1.1crore Ph: 9963038315. (HYCL/2021/C03109)

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### SITUATION VACANT

### ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

### "PROPOSALS ARE invited from eligible Chartered/ Cost Accountant Firms for engagement as Internal Auditors for Advocates Mutually Aided Co-op Society Ltd., Hyderabad Interested Firms can send their proposal to Society. Mail Id: aamacharya@gmail.com on or before 08.03.2021." (HYMM/2021/C07439)

### MALE/ FEMALE

### COMMERCE

### OFFICE SPACE

### for lease 5500

sqft, ready to move, workstations (3rd floor north east corner) in 3 cube tower, Madhapur. Contact: 9052443312. (S/2021/C02461)

### WAREHOUSE SPACE

available at Medchal & Kalakal main road 30,000 to 2,00,000sqft Ph: 9393843421. (HYCL/2021/C07448)

### REQUIRED TEACHERS

### (Female only)

### WANTED TEACHERS

### For Classes V to X All Subjects (EMI)

### Schools

### EAST

### Required

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### WANTED SALES

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(including freshers), Male/ Female, experience in Media Seling such as Print/ Electronic/ Airport/ OOH is preferable. Candidate should be self driven and passionate in sales.

Interested Candidates - Call:

9133411111, 9948990775 for interview schedule. (HYMM/2021/C07435)

### JUBILEE HILLS, 500 Sq.Yards

### East, 720 East, 1100 North, 1000

### South, 2200 South, Madhupur

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### Corner, commercial plots also available, Contact: 8522015555/ 9704222348. (HYCL/2021/C03052)

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### Ph: 9963038315. (HYCL/2021/C03034)

### 450 SQ YDS

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for approved cantonment sanction plan near Asha Officers Colony, Ramakrishna Puram. Contact 9346855233. (S/2021/C02464)

### HMDA APPROVED

### Layout

### at Shadnagar, LP No:

### 00046/LD/Pig/HMDA/2021 with Photo size 150 Sq.yds, 250 Sq.yds, 300 Sq.yds & surrounded by all facilities

& bank Loan Facility, Ph: 9392241860, 8666229114. (HYCL/2021/C03033)

### RENTALS

### COMMERCIAL

### COMMERCIAL SPACE available

for Rent /Lease in Banjara Hills, Road No.10, Near Our Palace Restaurant, Hyd-34, 1st Floor, 3200sqft, 2nd Floor- 330sqft, 3rd Floor- 1040sqft & Lower Ground- 2400sqft, Suitable for Bank, Lawyer, CA, Architect, Interior Designers, Gym, Doctors, Jewellers, Dentists, Salons, Gyms, Stores etc.. Brokers will not be entertained. Contact Sheraz on 9949417777. (HYMM/2021/C07472)

### AVAILABLE 1200 Sft Commercial Space for Rent on 100% Main Road, Situated at Jamia Masjid, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Ph: 7998827549. (S/2021/C07428)

### 1330 SFT

Raj Bhavan Road earlier tenant Food Court paying 70K. Ideal for offices, workshop, distributor, clinics, etc. Ph: 9700123352. (S/2021/C02482)

### HYDERABAD RTC

Cross Roads, Jawahar Colony 4th line beside Arun Icescreams, Vasanth Nilayam, 900 ft (Commercial) ground floor, Flat No. SRT/47 for rent. Contact: 9440487777. (S/2021/C02470)

### FLATS

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**CHIKKAPALLY 2ND** floor, 2 Bedrom Flat 201, Lift, 24 hrs water, fully ventilated, car parking, 100' away main road, Metro Station, R.K.Apartments, Street 1. Ph: 9393343189. (B/2021/C01068)

### MANAGERS

### WANTED MANAGER

Accountant with minimum experience for a business center in Begumpet area. Please contact: 9851117500. (HYMM/2021/C07452)

### REQUIRED EXPERIENCED

Sales Managers, Real Estate Company, 25K, Salary+ Incentives and Bonus, Male & female, Contact: 9948070581, 7799983839. (HYCL/2021/C03043)

### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

### THREE & MORE

**3BHK APARTMENT** of 1550sqft, East Facing, Perfect Vastu, Furnished with Wardrobes is for Rent at No:13A, Banjara Hills, Hyd. Comfortable for a Family of 2-2. Contact: 9989083999/ 9849167072. (HYCL/2021/C03029)

### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

### THREE & MORE

**6BHKB VILLA** 7200sqft in manikonda locality, large compound and servant quarters. The Villa is gated community with large club house, manicured gardens, amenities. Ph: 8008789915. (HYCL/2021/C03028)

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### LADY OFFICE

### HINDU COLLEGE

### THREE & MORE

**ERRAMANJIL 2+1 BHK** on 1st floor, Opp Lane of Hotel Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills, Centrally Located for Residence/ Office Purpose. Ph: 7995476971. (S/2021/C02459)

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Year Admission for 10th & Inter (only 5 Papers) BA, B.Com, B.B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc., M.B.A., M.C.A., Diploma Polytechnic, ANM/GNM/DPT/BPT/ DM/BLMTL/X-Ray Technicians, Medical Technician MPH/W.H.DES/ IOGAS: Applying. "Certificate Attestations For All Countries Possible" 79815759599, "Limra" Institutions. (HYMM/2021/C07363)



## IN BRIEF

**Student booked for ramming car**

**Hyderabad:** An engineering student was booked for ramming a second-hand car that he was test-driving, into a road divider at about 4.30 am on Sunday. Police said Salman Mohd Amin was alone in the car at that time. He applied sudden brakes at a turning, lost control and rammed into the road median near Dilisukhnagar. Amin was taken to hospital and a crane was used to remove the vehicle that was blocking traffic.

**BJP MLC CHALLENGES KTR ON JOBS ISSUE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

BJP's senior leader and MLC N. Ramchander Rao challenged IT minister K.T. Rama Rao's statement on recruitments made by state government.

In an open letter to Rama Rao on Sunday, Ramchander Rao wanted the minister to prove the government's contribution in providing employment during past seven years at a debate in Arts College of the Osmania University on Monday. He said he will withdraw his candidature from MLC elections if the IT minister provides proof for his statement.

The BJP leader questioned Rama Rao about the TSPSC Group 1 and 2 notifications and asked why the government has not fulfilled its promise of providing stipend to the unemployed. He wanted to know what happened to the proposal of state government to enhance the retirement age of its employees.

Taking objection to the IT minister's comment against the MLC that the latter had done nothing for lawyers, Ramchander Rao countered saying that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has promised ₹100 crore corpus fund for advocates in 2014 in recognition of their role in Telangana struggle.

"But, as usual, he forgot his promise," the MLC said. "But I raised the issue several times on the floor of the Legislative Council in 2016 and 2017. Finally, the CM directed then law minister Indrakaran Reddy to resolve the issue."

**SPORTING EVENTS:  
BJP, TRS FIGHT FOR  
YOUTH SUPPORT**

**PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS I DC**  
ADILABAD, FEB. 28

BJP and TRS leaders are fighting for youth support by conducting cricket, volleyball and kabaddi competitions in the rural areas in erstwhile Adilabad district. Party flags are prominent at the events.

The BJP and TRS leaders are the chief guests at the inaugural and valedictory events. The parties present shields and prize money to the winners.

Many agriculture fields are turning into playgrounds in the rural areas. After harvesting cotton and redgram, farmers remove the plants to prepare the field for the next season. Sports events are being held in these fields.

BJP flags were seen on the boundaries of a cricket ground at Bhoraj village in Jainad mandal. TRS flags were seen at many cricket tournaments in different mandals in Adilabad Assembly constituency.

Sons of senior leaders are running the show and mingling with the youth.

Adilabad MLA Jogi Ramanna and BJP district president Payal Shankar were busy in inaugurating the cricket tournaments while another BJP leader, Suhasini Reddy, gave away shields to best players. Adilabad MP Soyam Bapurao also inaugurated cricket tournaments.



TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy addresses frontal organisations, departments and cells of the Congress about MLC elections at the Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

**Uttam asks CM for data on jobs**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has asked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to release the data of unemployed youth in the state.

He said that the unemployment rate has more than doubled ever since the TRS came to power in 2014. As per the latest figures, as many as 19,43,783 qualified educated youth have registered themselves with the TS Public Service Commission (TSPSC) alone. Further, there are over 10 lakh skilled/unskilled youth who are unemployed. This does not include lakhs of people who lost their jobs during the lockdown period, he said.

Similarly, he said that the BJP government at the Centre, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been cheating unemployed youth in Bhrachalam.

He said that the Prime Minister had promised to give two crore jobs every year. By now, they should have created 14 crore new jobs.

Instead, more than 18 crore people lost their jobs due to the Centre's wrong policies. Further, they were taking away lakhs of public sector guidelines for giving

**THE NALGONDA**

MP said that the Chief Minister should release the district-wise figures of unemployed persons.

**THE CONGRESS** leader said that all unemployed youth, government employees and teachers, who have also been cheated by the state government, should vote in favour of Congress candidates

the allowance," he demanded.

He said that the TRS leaders forgot all their promises after winning elections but when they face any byelection, they repeat all those promises or make new ones and cite the model code of conduct as the reason for their non-implementation.

It talks of Ram mandir in Ayodhya, but is silent on the damage being caused to the invaluable properties of Ram mandir in Bhrachalam.

The Congress leader said that all unemployed youth, government employees and teachers, who have also been cheated by the state government, should vote in favour of Congress candidates Ramulu Naik and Chinna Reddy in the MLC elections to teach a fitting lesson to both TRS and BJP.

jobs reserved for SCs, STs and BCs after selling PSUs to private companies, the TPCC chief said.

The Congress said that the BJP has no moral right to seek votes in Telangana as it had dropped the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) project. He said this project was sanctioned by the previous Congress-led UPA government to create over 50 lakh jobs in Hyderabad and neighbouring districts. Similarly, it did not establish the Railway Coach Factory in Kazipet, steel factory in Bayyaram and AIIMS in Bibi Nagar, which were all promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

He said that the BJP was trying to gain political strength by inciting hatred in the name of religion.

It talks of Ram mandir in Ayodhya, but is silent on the damage being caused to the invaluable properties of Ram mandir in Bhrachalam.

The Congress leader said that all unemployed youth, government employees and teachers, who have also been cheated by the state government, should vote in favour of Congress candidates Ramulu Naik and Chinna Reddy in the MLC elections to teach a fitting lesson to both TRS and BJP.

He condemned corporate colleges for not paying salaries to the staff despite collecting exorbitant amounts from students.

The BJP leader maintained that because of pressure in

the name of fees, students were unable to focus on their studies and some were subject to stress. He warned that if colleges continued to harass parents, BJYM would launch a state-wide agitation.

He condemned corporate colleges for not paying salaries to the staff despite collecting exorbitant amounts from students.

**Bandi warns of agitation against corp. colleges**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday warned corporate colleges against harassing parents for excess fees.

He asked the management to explain how they could collect fees for the entire year while colleges functioned only for three months



BJP chief Bandi Sanjay meets Narasimha, who had told a BJP meeting at Banswada recently, that his family had not received a 2BHK house, at the party office in Hyderabad on Sunday. Sanjay promised that the BJP will pay for Narasimha's education and allot his family a 2BHK on coming to power.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

this academic year.

In an interaction with party leaders here, he slammed Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for his silence when corporate colleges were fleecing parents and lecturers, on being denied salaries, were committing suicides.

The BJP leader maintained that because of pressure in

the name of fees, students were unable to focus on their studies and some were subject to stress. He warned that if colleges continued to harass parents, BJYM would launch a state-wide agitation.

He condemned corporate colleges for not paying salaries to the staff despite collecting exorbitant amounts from students.

**TRS Dalit MLAs flay BJP**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

TRS Dalit MLAs on Sunday flayed BJP state president Bandi Sanjay for his alleged comment that Dalits are like "sandals and crooks." They warned him: "Control your language, or else our community will target your office."

MLAs Balka Suman, Guvvala Balraj and Durgam Chennaiah

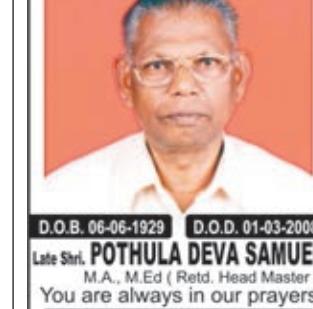
wrote an 'open letter' to Bandi Sanjay in which they said the BJP state chief already enjoyed the ill-repute of being one who indulged in loose talk. "However, his comment against Dalits showed what the BJP's ideology is," they said. "Sanjay once again proved that the BJP encouraged social evils like untouchability and believed in oppression of the dalits. Dr B.R.

Ambedkar gave rights to Dalits who had been deprived of education due to oppression for generations. Dalit youths are now looking for opportunities of education and employment," they said. They said that after taking power in Telangana state, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao made efforts to see that Dalit children got higher education and rose to higher status.

**13<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro. 10:7

In Loving Memory of our beloved



D.O.B. 06-06-1929 D.O.D. 01-03-2008

Late Shri. POTHULA DEVA SAMUEL

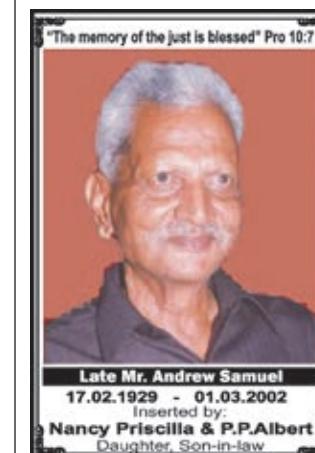
M.A., M.Ed (Retd. Head Master)

You are always in our prayers

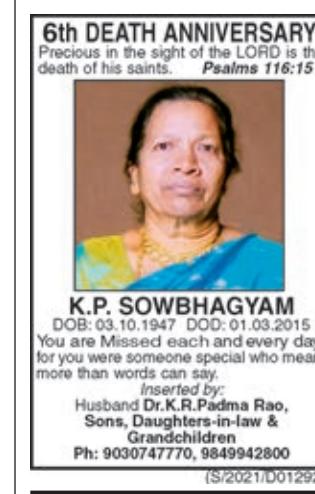
Inserted by: Family Members

**43-YR-OLD STABBED**

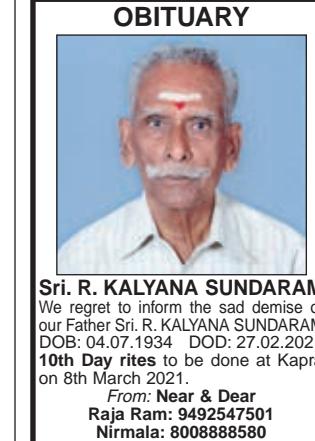
**Hyderabad:** One Srinivas, 43, was attacked with a knife by his friend, Feroz, 35, late on Saturday night in Kulsumpura over an unpaid loan. Police said Srinivas had borrowed ₹30,000 and Feroz started demanding ₹50,000 repayment. Police said Feroz, reportedly drunk, stabbed Srinivas at about 11 pm and fled.



Late Mr. Andrew Samuel  
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2002  
Inserted by:  
Nancy Priscilla & P.P. Albert  
Daughter, Son-in-law

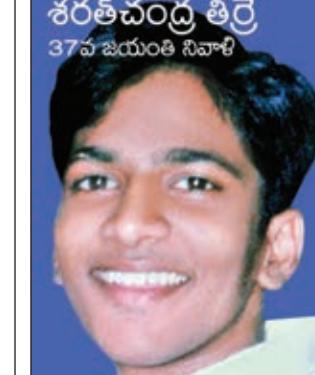


K.P. SOWBHAGYAM  
DOB: 03-10-1947 DOD: 01-03-2015  
You are Missed each and every day, for you were someone special who meant more than words can say.  
Inserted by:  
Husband Dr.K.R.Padma Rao,  
Sons, Daughters-in-law &  
Grandchildren  
Ph: 9030747770, 9849942800

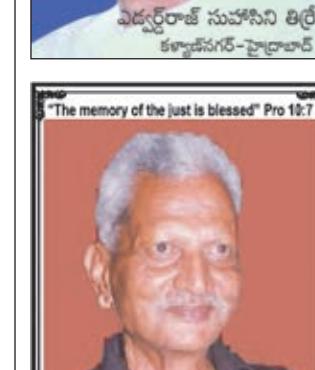


Sri. R. KALYANA SUNDARAM  
We regret to inform the sad demise of our Father Sri. R. KALYANA SUNDARAM  
DOB: 04-07-1934 DOD: 27.02.2021  
10th Day Rites to be done at Kapra on 8th March 2021.  
From: Near & Dear  
Raja Ram: 9492547501  
Nirmala: 8008888580

(S/2021/D01293)



Late Mr. Andrew Samuel  
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2002  
Inserted by:  
Sujeet, Blessica & Aashir  
Grand Children



Mr. BOLLEDDU JOSEPH SUKUMAR

Promoted to glory on 01.03.2020

- FAMILY MEMBERS -

(S/2021/D01295)

**1st REMEMBRANCE**

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

—Romans 14:8



Late Mr. Andrew Samuel  
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2002  
Inserted by:  
Anne Nirmala Samuel, Wife  
Eric D Samuel & Marjula, Son & Daughter-In-Law

(S/2021/D01296)

**4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

TERAHVIN-13th Day Ceremony 01.03.2021

Terahvin (Shubham) will be held on 01.03.2021 from 11 am to 12:30 at 1-1-30/60/17 to 29/28, Opp. Ushodaya Super Market Lane Saket Towers, Vinayaka Nagar-II, Kapra, Hyderabad

Inserted by: Anil Kumar Thakur & Family

9246100575, 761063856, 8374757561

(S/2021/D01297)

**6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

THE MEMORY OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS BLESSED

PROVERBS 10:7

4 years have passed but still your memories and countless smiles remain fresh in our hearts miss you beyond words

Inserted by:-

Stafford & Family Members

(S/2021/D01298)

**3rd ANNIVERSARY**

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Rev. 14:13

PROVERBS 10:7

DEEPLY MISSED, FONDLY REMEMBERED

BY LOVING HUSBAND Dr.K.R.PADMA RAO,

SONS, DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW &

GRANDCHILDREN

Ph: 9030747770, 9849942800

(S/2021/D01299)

**25TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

SRI PREM RAM JI

(Retd Head Chef ASCI)  
DOD: 1-3-1996

"Days will pass and turn into years... But we will always remember you silent tears"

With love: Sons: Ramesh-Rajini & Suresh-Santa

Daughters: Sharda-Shobhan, Raji-Raju, Geetanjali-Kundan

Grand Children: Anurag, Amrita, avinash, Abhishek,

Tarun, Arun, Nikita, Madhuri,Amit & Tanushree,

Khusbow Viya Niketa School, Banjara Hills, Hyd.

Nandini Stores, Hyd. Ph: 955005582

## IN BRIEF

**MAN CHEATING PEOPLE AT ATM ARRESTED**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, FEB. 28

Police on Sunday arrested one Kondaboina Narasimha Rao for cheating farmers coming to withdraw money at ATMs, and recovered ₹36,000 and a two-wheeler from him.

Police said the complainant, Bobba Venkat Reddy, a farmer from Perumalla Sankisa in Mahbubnagar district, came to Gandhi Chowk ATM to withdraw money to purchase pesticides.

Narasimha Rao, who was at the kiosk, offered his assistance to withdraw cash and took Venkat Reddy's debit card. Narasimha Rao pretended to fiddle with the ATM buttons told the farmer that the machine was not issuing cash, and handed him a fake ATM card.

Venkat Reddy went to another ATM and discovered that the card was fake. He noticed that ₹32,000 had been drawn from his account. Reddy filed a complaint in Khammam Three police station.

Following investigations, police took Narasimha Rao into custody when he was moving suspiciously in Gandhi Chowk. He confessed to have cheated three persons.

**MEDARAM TEMPLE CLOSED AS 2 STAFF TEST COVID +VE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, FEB. 28

The tribal shrine, the Sammakka-Saralamma temple at Medaram in Tadwai mandal of Mulugu district, will remain closed for 21 days after two endowments junior assistants tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Temple chief priest Siddaboina Jagga Rao said they took the decision to close the temple from March 1 to 21 to contain further spread of the virus. The junior assistants who contracted the virus were responsible for protocol darshans for politicians and VIPs.

The officials had also helped the priests in the rituals. Temple endowment officer Rajendram said the temple premises were being sanitized and the devotees were also alerted through the public announcement system.

The mini-Medaram jatara which began on February 24 concluded on 27 but the devotees continue to visit the shrine.

District medical and health officer Dr Appaiah said that a total of 73 other employees discharging duties in the temple underwent rapid antigen tests and were found to be negative for the virus. However, they were under observation.

He suggested that the devotees who came to the mini Medaram jatara to remain quarantined and monitor their health condition and if they develop symptoms of Covid-19, they must visit the nearest health centre.

# ED probes city NRI for 'money laundering'

**Bizman's name is also embroiled in land scam cases**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

**INQUIRIES REVEALED** that the ED received a complaint that Hadi Ali received investment from persons outside the country but "deliberately omitted to declare" them.

holders and registering land in his company's name or individuals without fulfilling the sale agreement conditions.

Inquiries by *Deccan Chronicle* revealed that the ED received a complaint that Hadi Ali received investment from persons outside the country but "deliberately omitted to declare and intimate such matters to the RBI." Further, the complainant alleged that the NRI collected crores of rupees from him and others with a promise to issue shares in his company but diverted the same.

The ED issued summons to all individuals and com-

panies connected in the case.

Hadi Ali and his son were in the news recently for the publicity blitzkrieg they undertook, cautioning people against purchasing plots in the prestigious Vooty Golf County near Vikarabad, which was recently launched by cricketer Kapil Dev.

It was, however, conveniently kept under wraps that people who approached NCCL against the NRI had obtained orders restraining him from selling his 47 per cent share in the Vooty, an international standard Golf course, resorts and residential plots developed by Kancharla Constructions Pvt Ltd.

Sources said Kancharla Constructions managing director K. Srinivas Reddy was also summoned by the ED. He confirmed receiving the summons and said he had entered into a reg-

istered development-cum-general power of attorney with Hadi Ali and has been strictly adhering to the agreement.

Srinivas Reddy alleged that the NRI family concealed facts about their previous transactions on the land and has been resorting to mudslinging of a world-class project that would enhance the city's investment image.

*Deccan Chronicle* sent a mail to the NRI seeking clarification, and no response was forthcoming. Data available with the Telangana High Court showed he is currently engaged in a legal battle and has filed a contempt case against National Central Bureau (Interpol), New Delhi, for not withdrawing the red corner notice. The NCB data also does not show his name at present in the list of persons "wanted under red corner notice".



TRS MLC K. Kavitha meets with the family of a man that was in distress over the loss of the breadwinner, on Sunday.

— By arrangement

## Kavitha offers job, aid to family of loan app victim

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

until they graduate.

Chandramohan, an employee of a godown and resident of Pettsheerabad, had died by suicide on January 2 due to alleged harassment by representatives of an instant loan app.

The 36-year old had taken a loan of ₹60,000 but could not repay it. Unable to bear harassment from loan sharks, he hanged himself.

Kavitha responded following reports of Chandramohan's suicide

in newspapers. The MLC also took to Twitter sharing the grief of Saritha and her daughters.

A month later, she met Saritha and consoled her over the untimely death of Chandramohan. Later, she shared news of supporting the education of their daughters until they graduate and a job to the victim's wife at a prestigious institution.

The MLC also told Saritha that she can always reach out to her (Kavitha) in case of any distress.

## AP invites POSCO to set up K'patnam steel plant

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 28

The AP government has invited POSCO India Private Limited, the Indian subsidiary of the Korean conglomerate POSCO, to establish a greenfield integrated steel plant at Krishnapatnam in Nellore district.

In a letter addressed to Sung Lae, Chun, Chairman and Managing Director of POSCO India, special chief secretary, R. Karikal Valaven said the government is keen on having the unit at Krishnapatnam while pointing to the interest expressed by the firm on the location.

The government move gained significance in the backdrop of growing resentment over Centre's disinvestment plans of Vizag Steel Plant (VSP).

The letter is seen as an attempt by the state government to divert the plant to Krishnapatnam and safeguard the interests of VSP and its workers.

In his letter, Valaven said, "I would like to highlight the fact that the government of AP has been a front-runner in providing unparalleled support to the industry and the industrial policy 2020-23 is considered as one of the best in the country."

"AP has consistently ranked No. 1 in Ease of Doing Business rankings among Indian states and it is a testament to our strong commitment to industrial growth," Valaven wrote.

"With the same enthusiasm, I would like to extend an invite to the delegation from POSCO headquarters at Seoul to confirm your proposal for setting up an integrated steel plant in the land identified jointly by your team and the Government of AP at Krishnapatnam and for further discussion on other required support under the State Industrial Policy."

The official pointed out that Krishnapatnam is poised to be the next industrial growth centre.

Valaven envisaged that the steel plant at Krishnapatnam would be an anchor industry in driving the economic activity in the region.

AP would be willing to consider further support in the form of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, he said.

## It's YSRC vs TD again, other parties are also-rans

MD ILYAS I DC  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 28

The urban local bodies elections have turned into a big fight between the ruling YSR Congress and the Opposition, with the YSRC banking on positive votes and its rivals hoping to reap a harvest of anti-government votes.

The withdrawal of nomination would start on March 2 and end on March 3 while elections would be held on March 10. There were 12 municipal corporations in 13 districts of the state covering 671 divisions.

Similarly, there were 75 municipalities and nagar panchayats with 2,123 wards where elections are scheduled for March 10. The ruling YSRC with the credit of winning 82 per cent seats in the gram panchayat elections are putting all efforts to continue the winning spree.

It hopes to cash in on the positive factors like the state government's welfare schemes. Telugu Desam and other Opposition parties are pinning their hopes on anti-government sentiments among sections of the people.

As many as 6,103 candidates have filed their nominations for 671 divisions under the 12 municipal corporations of Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Machilipatnam, Eluru, Vizianagram, Anantapur, Kurnool, Kadapa, Tirupati, Chittoor and Ongole.

Some 2,171 candidates belong to the YSRC, 1,569 to the TD, 364 of the Jana Sena, 323 from the

## YSRC looks to profit from TD, Jana Sena split in Eluru polls

VADREVU SRINIVAS I DC  
KAKINADA, FEB. 28

Telugu Desam and YSR Congress are giving a tough fight to each other in the battle for Eluru Municipal Corporation.

The YSRC is going ahead with welfare schemes and mostly highlighting house sites. Many of the beneficiaries have been given house sites, though they are yet to commence the construction.

The Telugu Desam is highlighting the failures of YSRC. It is said that YSRC felt that there is no tacit understanding between Jana Sena and Telugu Desam and it is expected that

nations only in Pulivendula, Jammalamadugu and Macherla municipalities. This reflected the political bankruptcy of the main Opposition, they said.

They recalled that Naidu had earlier released a manifesto for gram panchayat elections but the public dismissed it as a gimmick and supported the YSRC-backed candidates. Single nominations were filed for 84 wards and divisions in the municipal elections and the TD filed nomi-

the split vote may be advantageous for them.

In the recent gram panchayat elections, the candidates contested as independents supported by political parties. It has helped Telugu Desam and Jana Sena to come together to defeat YSRC in a few villages and wards. But, now the municipal elections are being held with party symbols.

All parties had filed their nomination papers last year.

In the Eluru Municipal Corporation, there are 50 wards and Jana Sena is contesting in only 26 wards. Some of the villages near Eluru city were merged with the Corporation.

Venkatapuram panchayat,

claims urban voters are its traditional supporters and a majority of the urbanites are up-in-arms against the government for the increase in taxes post-the Covid times. TD MP Kesineni Srinivas alias Nani said several taxes have been increased by the YSRC government and it is planning to hike the property tax, water cess, garbage collection charges etc by nearly 500 per cent after the municipal elections.

On the other hand, the TD

employment is largely hit due to a shortage of sand, as also increased prices of cement, iron, steel and other construction materials. The people are waiting for their turn to teach a strong lesson to the YSRC government and they are hoping to win municipal elections with a profusion of anti-incumbency votes.

Analysts say the main fight is between the YSRC and the TD. The others would be 'extras'.

## NO ELECTION IN 3 CORPORATIONS, 30 MUNICIPALITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 28

There is no election in the municipal corporations of Srikakulam, Rajahmundry and Nellore and 30 municipalities.

Officials said that in a majority of the municipalities, objections were registered over the merger of the adjacent villages into municipalities. Petitions were filed in courts, which is the main cause for cancellation of the elections.

The elections were cancelled in 30 municipalities and nagar panchayats due to court cases, ward division disputes and survey of SC, ST and BC voters.

There is no election in Tadepalligudem municipality where Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy lives, due to court cases against the merger of villages.

There will be no polls in Mangalagiri, Bapatla, Ponnur, Narasaraopet, Jaggaiahpet, Gudivada, Amudalavalasa, Rajam, Tadepalligudem, Tanuku, Palakollu, Bhimavarapu, Akividu, Chintlapudi, Ibrahimpatnam, Tadigadapa, Kandukur, Podili, Darsi, Gudur, Kavali, Buchireddypalem, Alluru, Srikanthasthi, Kuppam, Rajampet, Kamalapuram, Pamidi and Penukonda.

1st HAPPY BIRTHDAY



MOHAMMED FARHAN  
S/o Mr & Mrs. Mohammed Ismail

→ Best Wishes from Nani and Mama

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender No. 2021/NP/Mech/KRNTET/PMT-14 (Open)

e-Tender (open) are invited on behalf of the President of India with following details.

1. Name of the work with its location : Design, Fabrication, Supply, Construction, Installation, Erection, Commissioning & Testing of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) capacity 50 KLD and Treated water supply system for best use of it inside workshop on turnkey basis.

2. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 1,35,27,500/- 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Nil (Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit) in lieu of Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit

4. Date & Time for closing of e-tender : 22.03.2021 at 13:00 Hrs 5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded : Tender can only be downloaded and Bidder from IREPS website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) For any other information please contact office of Chief Mechanical Engineer-I/Workshop Projects, 3rd floor, Chamber Bhawan, J.C. Road, Patna - 800011.

5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded : Tender can only be downloaded and Bidder from IREPS website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) For any other information please contact office of Chief Mechanical Engineer-I/Workshop Projects, Patna

PR/1523/WPO/MECH/T/20-21/40

# DECCAN Chronicle

1 MARCH 2021

## Code flawed, equates media, gossip, art

**A** code of ethics and a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism are applicable to news publishers, Over The Top (OTT) entertainment platforms and digital media encompassing the social media that is used by millions of Indians. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 have recycled many existing provisions with the sole aim of establishing stringent government control over the giants of the Big Tech world. The logic of placing the digital news media in the same basket as a social gossip platform and entertainment channel is fundamentally flawed.

Official India is under pressure like never before. The country's international image has been hit hard in the arrest of Disha Ravi after India chose to respond to the likes of pop singer Rihanna and climate activist Greta Thunberg. The response is seen now in the new moves to rein in the digital world, which fall just short of the notorious pre-publication censorship attempted during the Emergency in 1975. As a hypersensitive nation that makes the most requests to digital media sites to take down content, India will be judged by its intent in its actions after empowering itself formally.

**The streaming media like OTT platforms also host creativity in avant-garde content and it's moot whether government servants can stand in judgment on such matters**

ing the media and criminalising dissent. The sum total of this effort at damage control is the casting of a huge shadow on media freedom in the guise of averting irresponsible comment on social media by individuals.

There is little to fault the framing of compliance requirements being thrust upon a social media that has till now gone scot-free while monetising hate and doing little to keep out fake news. They cannot host all manner of irresponsible comment in the guise of freedom of speech either. They may have armed the common man with a platform to vent out his angst, but they are not a substitute for organised news presentation. Nor can news media be clubbed with social media under one umbrella. News content is subject to various rules and regulations already and additional compliance requirements will only burden them while threatening their established news streaming procedures through oversight committees filled with bureaucrats.

The sensitivities of the bureaucracy or the ruling party alone cannot be the sole criterion for reigning in the social media. In the normal course, the government should have prepared legislation for data protection and privacy issues rather than look at it in the narrow perspective of controlling opinion being expressed on social media even as certain elements tyrannise the net through vicious online trolling. The streaming media like OTT platforms also host creativity in avant-garde content and it's moot whether government servants can stand in judgment on such matters as the art of cinema. In short, these rules are best abandoned and legislation prepared with greater thought.

## Stakes high in state polls

**T**he elections to four state Assemblies and a Union territory in March and April this year will assume added significance because it would be a major milestone in the lives of two major national parties in their efforts to survive and succeed even as it will decide the fate of several regional parties.

As for the BJP, the south and the east were a forbidden territory in its formative years but not anymore. It is ruling Karnataka, Assam and Tripura, and is a partner in government in many northeastern states. The party is now eyeing West Bengal, once a formidable Left citadel, with some confidence. A win there will not just add a state to its kitty; it will make for a major psychological breakthrough. The party, by virtue of its being in power at the Centre, has ensured its political relevance in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry through deft political manoeuvring.

The stakes are high for the Congress, whether the party realises it or not. The fall of the ministry in Puducherry will have consequences in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala: The DMK has now been less accommodative of its claims in Tamil Nadu while in Kerala, the party and the UDF it heads will have to convince the voters that they are not up for sale if they were to be voted back. It is also to be seen how the party puts up a fight in Assam.

The regional majors — the Trinamul Congress, the AIADMK and the DMK — will have their bases intact whether they win or lose but power is a major factor that keeps them going. A loss is sure to leave the Trinamul gasping for breath; and hence the stiff opposition to the eight-phase voting in the state. The Left is of little consequence in West Bengal and hence a return to power in Kerala has become all the more critical for the formation. A very interesting and significant electoral battle looks to be unfolding.

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Kishwar Desai

London Diary

**Britain's spot of schadenfreude; pregnancy triggers definition row**

**I**t is only befitting that good news about the vaccination drive is accompanied with good weather too — which for UK means sunny days here again! The mood has definitely begun to lift. There is also much more confidence because the vaccination programme has been so successful. Twenty million have already been vaccinated (36 per cent of population), more than in France, Germany, Italy and Spain put together. There is the joy of revenge, having Brexit, that Europe is doing worse. We are now vaccinating the age group 60 plus with the promise of all by end-June. (I have, too, received my call for the vaccine from NHS!) And the best part is that the government has also ordered the single shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine which can be stored in a refrigerator — and thus does not face the challenges of a Pfizer vaccine for storage. This sounds ideal for India — where a single shot that could be stored easily would mean faster vaccination for the entire population. Trials have shown that the Johnson vaccine is over 90 per cent successful against the virus — so definitely things are getting better and better!

**M**inisters are still being cautious after the earlier mistakes of a premature relaxation of lockdown. But it looks like schools will reopen early March. Young people bored out of their heads at home will love this break. But even more so their parents. Apparently home teaching has been harder on the older ones than on the children. Teaching fractions and knowing what a gerund is or locating Botswana is trying. So apparently

Google has been working over time answering the parents' inquiries. Once schools reopen, they will heave a sigh of relief and promptly forget problems of the past participate.

**W**ednesday is Budget Day. Normally no one cares much except the business pages of newspapers. But the Chancellor Rishi Sunak (or "Dishy Rishi") retains his popularity, despite the threat of the looming increase in taxes ... which he has already begun to warn everyone about. The media is in a quandary about how to tackle him. Normally, a Chancellor belonging to a minority group, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) would deserve warm sympathy and several encouraging tweets. But how do you deal with a Chancellor who is public school, Oxford and Stanford educated, successful as a hedge fund manager and sufficiently at home with billions and fractions not to have to go to Google to do his sums? Hmmm... could some of the good publicity be due to the special adviser helping him calibrate his image, his clothes, his winning slogans? Why not? I think having good public relations

and communications is half the battle won!

**T**he saga of the pregnant minister came to a climax last week in Parliament (we had mentioned it some time back). Of course, at first, there was a shock that no provision had been made in law for a minister to have maternity leave. But then it was discovered that the word "woman" (or man) falls foul of equality legislation. So the word "person" was used instead of "woman" in the drafting of the bill. The "person" had to be pregnant, etc.

When the bill came to the House of Lords there were 38 identical amendments from various lords and Baronesses asking that the word "person" be replaced by "woman". But — in these days of political correctness — there was worry about the trans community which takes the view that the word "woman" is discriminatory. Biological sex at birth is different from identity one can choose and what would happen if a "trans person" fell pregnant? This is a tricky issue not to be mocked. But all decided that, for this matter, the word "woman" was appropriate. So

no vote had to be taken on the amendments. The bill has now passed both houses and is law. Phew!

**B**y the way, cricket or Test matches or spin bowling are taboo subjects after the inglorious collapse in Ahmedabad. Maybe England will send a team of 11 players who are Persons of Indian Origin. Then England may win.

On the same note, may I add that the reverse colonisation of Britain may be already taking place — at least in the eyes of some Indian film producers. The film adaptation of the novel, *The Girl On The Train*, has mainly Indian characters, all living in London, speaking Hindi. There are a few white British characters, but all minor. It is as though the White British were suddenly wiped out from the city. For those of us living here — it makes the adaptation quite unreal... as yet....

**Kishwar Desai** is an award-winning author and playwright. Her latest book, *The Longest Kiss: The Life And Times of Devika Rani*, has just been published.

Subhani



## Special effort needed in Pak to make truce work



Syed Ata Hasnain

**N**one in India or for that matter in Pakistan seems too enthused by the joint statement of the two directors-general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan recommitting to the spirit of the November 2003 ceasefire. It essentially means an attempted quieting of the Line of Control and removal of the dangers of escalation caused by the artillery exchanges and missile attacks on villages and fortifications which cause casualties among the civilian and uniformed elements in the LoC's vicinity. The cynicism is understandable; renewed attempts have been made in the past too but unless actions in the military domain are accompanied by those in the political, diplomatic and social domains the glue for peace and stability just doesn't set. Quoting statistics of ceasefire violations (CFVs) over the years is meaningless. It's more important to understand how and why those ceasefire agreements did not succeed.

CFVs have three connotations. First is the tactical purpose; usually to give covering fire for terrorist infiltration, a practice which has been on the wane with quieter means of infiltration. Second is a reminder to the world by Pakistan to project the continued existence of the J&K issue; a few casualties, civilian or military, does get sentiments high in both India and Pakistan, with the world worrying about escalation between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. The initiation of such CFVs by Pakistan is often in conjunction with politico-diplomatic events like the UN General Assembly session or timed with visits of important international leaders to

either country. The third is usually a spirit of competition, also called "moral ascendancy"; and no specific reason for CFVs except something contrived such as an allegation of construction of fresh fortifications.

What it takes to keep the ceasefire in place without violations is the existence of a conducive political and diplomatic environment, absence or minimisation of infiltration related events and stability in hinterland streets.

The November 2003 ceasefire, many times incorrectly called a unilateral ceasefire by Pakistan, was a result of tremendous backroom work by the political leaderships and diplomats who too understood the significance of a quiet LoC on the overall peace process. This time Moed Yusuf, Pakistan's national security adviser, has denied any back channels were worked between him and India's NSA Ajit Doval and ascribes the ceasefire agreement to military-to-military discussions and consultation. This appears to be Pakistan's way of trying to prove the initiative didn't come from it but rather from India. In other words, that Pakistan had minimal compulsion to call for a ceasefire and attaches little importance to it. That is usually a ploy by a country known to resort to violations of international norms.

Even if we agree that it's unimportant about who took the initiative, will a political-diplomatic situation exist in the near future to allow the ceasefire to persist without CFVs. It is best not to expect a zero CFV situation in the near future as flexibility towards the agreement may actually help to give it more substance. Imran Khan and Moed Yusuf have both tried to focus on

Pakistan to keep the LoC or Kashmir hot. But everything is temporary, for how long it cannot be said. Yet, it provides a window for all stakeholders to revisit their core interests and examine their bottom lines for any possibilities of permanent peace.

With Pakistan reiterating there is no change to its J&K policy and India going strongly in the direction of full and final integration of the people and territories of J&K under the Indian Constitution, the ceasefire seems only a positive blip in the canvas of conflict and despair. No one expects any change in either policy, and there's no finality of outcomes expected anytime soon. The ceasefire is something which creates a more congenial environment in which to improve ties, which can then eventually help resolve the tenuous issues between the two countries; no one expects any miracles in the short term.

The strategic environment of the emerging times appears different from the recent past. Internationally, there appears a trend towards dilution of confrontation to assist the world recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. The passing of the Donald Trump era is marked by new hope which America's new President Joe Biden and his administration is attempting to facilitate. Pakistan's importance due to its influence in Afghanistan and the high-end relationship it has with China gives it scope to punch above its weight. It also knows that handling Afghanistan if the US withdraws fully is going to be a Pakistani responsibility. With China also not averse to finding an exit from the embarrassment it suffered in Ladakh, Pakistan, by initiating the ceasefire recommitment, is reaping the benefits of the emerging environment. If it can reduce violence and curtail the chances of a larger conflagration on its eastern border, it can handle Afghanistan far better; that with US support too as it helps in an easier drawdown and eventual departure of US troops. With Ladakh cooling down, there's little sense for

Noticeably, in the midst of all the buildup of negativity on the J&K and Ladakh fronts, it was only Imran Khan who continued his fusillade, personal and otherwise, against the Indian leadership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi maintained a statesman-like approach, not naming the adversaries or indulging in name-calling, with the fullest regard to the future, in which he knew negotiation and discussion will be with the very same people you abuse.

The obstacles to the ceasefire are many, the chief one being the lack of acceptance of peace with India by Pakistan's "Deep State", and the intent of

the jihadis to disrupt any peace. It is only a special effort by the Pakistan Army, civil society in Pakistan and the media which can hope to ensure that the ceasefire lasts and becomes a stepping stone to the beginning of a peace process between India and Pakistan.

**With Ladakh cooling down, there's little sense for Pakistan to keep the LoC or Kashmir hot. But everything is temporary, for how long it cannot be said.**

**The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps**

## LETTERS

### TRAFFIC CHALLANS

The way traffic challans are being issued by traffic police is highly deplorable (*No parking space, traffic challan at every turn, DC, Feb. 28*). The GHMC is the primary culprit for all this mess. It allows business establishments to function without any parking plan. To make things worse, the traffic police act as per their whims and fancies, ignoring offenders who occupy roads.

**S.S. Rama Chandra Murty**  
Hyderabad

### PARENTS DILEMMA

Parents often experience the high-handedness of school managements (*Parent lodges harassment case on St Andrew's, DC, Feb. 28*). They react only when the issue goes out of hand. All parents endure the wrongdoings of managements to avoid their wards from being targeted. An independent grievance redressal machinery from the government is needed to stop this menace.

**P.R. Ravinder**  
Hyderabad

### MODI IN SPACE

After a stadium was named after the Prime Minister, now sending his photograph to space is in bad taste (*Gita on Isro's first 2021 launch, DC, Feb. 28*). Some time back Modi's image was printed on tea cups and on boarding passes by the Indian railways and Air India. Unlike many PSUs, Isro is successful due to efficiency, sincerity and work culture. Modi government should not spoil that.

**Kshirasagara Balaji Rao**  
Hyderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### Madras Mail rams into goods train near Vijayawada

**HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 28** Thirty-nine persons, including 12 railway employees, sustained minor injuries, when No. 4 Down Madras-Howrah Mail rammed into the rear of a stationary goods train at Pedda Ayutapalle station on the Vijayawada-Nidadavolu section of the South Central Railway, at about 5.55 am.

A press release by the Railways said that the engine and three carriages of the mail as also eight wagons and the brake van of the goods train derailed.

## SHORT TAKES

**MAHA MIN. LINKED TO WOMAN'S SUICIDE RESIGNS**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, FEB. 28

Following intense pressure from all quarters, Maharashtra forest minister Sanjay Rathod of Shiv Sena resigned from the state cabinet on the eve of Maharashtra Legislative's budget session on Sunday in connection with the death of a social media star Pooja Chavan.

He is the first minister to resign from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in its 15-months rule so far.

Rathod met Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at Varsha bungalow, CM's official residence and tendered his resignation to him. He blamed the politics played by the BJP on the Pooja Chavan death case for his decision to quit as a minister.

"There was politics being played out on the issue; the manner in which the opposition said they will not let session proceedings happen, therefore I have stepped down. I want that the probe should be unfair and impartial, and truth should come out," he said after his resignation.

He added, "In an unfortunate incident a young girl from our Banjara community died and taking advantage of an incident, the opposition BJP through media and social media tried to destroy my political career. Whatever I did in my 30 years of political and social field, have been destroyed by the opposition. Now the truth should come out through an impartial probe."

**PUDUCHERRY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER QUILTS**

**Puducherry, Feb. 28:** Puducherry Assembly Speaker V.P. Sivakolundhu quit on Sunday citing health reasons even as his brother joined the BJP just over a month ahead of the elections in the Union Territory.

In the resignation letter to Lt Governor K. Tamilisai Soundararajan, a copy of which was made available to mediapersons here, Sivakolundhu, a Congress leader, said he quit as Speaker only on health grounds.

Later, he said that he handed over the letter of resignation addressed to the Lt Governor to the Assembly Secretary.

Sivakolundhu won from the Lawspet constituency in the 2016 Assembly elections on a Congress ticket.

Meanwhile, Sivakolundhu's brother V.P. Ramalingam joined the BJP in Karaikal in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah, who is on a campaign visit.

Also, former DMK legislator K. Venkatesan and former Congress legislator K. Lakshminarayanan who had quit their MLA posts on February 21 joined the BJP in Karaikal in the presence of Shah who was in Karaikal to address a public meeting.

**MALALA: DREAM TO SEE INDIA-PAK AS 'GOOD FRIENDS'**

**New Delhi, Feb. 28:** The old philosophy of having borders and divisions doesn't work anymore and the people in India and Pakistan want to live in peace, Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai said on Sunday, stressing that it is her dream to see the two countries become "good friends".

She also said that minorities need protection in every country, be it Pakistan or India, adding that the issue is not related to religion but to the "exploitation of power" and must be taken seriously.

Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for girls education who miraculously survived a bullet to the head from the militant Taliban in October 2012, said the news of internet shutdown and arrests of activists "protesting peacefully" in India is "worrying" and expressed the hope that the government will make sure that people are heard.

"It is my dream to see India and Pakistan become true good friends and that we can visit each other's countries. You can continue to watch Pakistani dramas, we can continue to watch Bollywood movies and enjoy cricket matches," the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner said.

She was speaking on her book *'I am Malala: the story of the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban'* on the concluding day of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) which is being held in the virtual mode.



Supporters during a joint rally by Left-Congress and Indian Secular Front (ISF) ahead of West Bengal Assembly elections at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Sunday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

**Cong collapsing due to dynasty politics: Shah**

**Mocks Rahul for his 'no dedicated fisheries ministry' remark**

R. MOHAN | DC  
KARAikal, FEB. 28

In active campaign mode after leaving Chennai for Karaikal in Puducherry on Sunday morning, Amit Shah took off on the opposition Congress, lambasting its erstwhile rule in the Union Territory. He accused former chief minister V. Narayanasamy of giving "cut money to the Gandhi family" from ₹15,000 crore central funds.

The Union home minister said that the Congress government which collapsed after losing its majority had indulged in petty politics over central schemes meant to serve the people of Puducherry.

Hitting out at Narayanasamy for blaming the BJP for the fall of his government, Shah said many senior leaders were leaving the Congress "because it is collapsing across the country due to dynasty politics."

During his speech he had time to aim his barbs at his pet target Rahul Gandhi.

Shah took an elaborate swipe at him, mocking him for saying there was no "dedicated" fisheries ministry while pointing out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set one up two years ago.

"Rahul Gandhi said a few days ago here — Why has the Modi government not created a separate department for fishermen. Narendra Modi has already worked to form a separate ministry for fishermen. Rahul bhaiya you were on leave, so you are not aware," Shah said to rub it into the former Congress President.

The "You were on leave" swipe was aimed at Rahul's frequent trips abroad which give endless ammunition to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "I want to ask the people of Puducherry... the party whose leader has been in Lok Sabha for four terms does not know the fisheries department started in the country two years ago. Can that party take care of the welfare of Puducherry?" he wondered.

"This grand alliance of

incised the Prime Minister of trying to control Tamil Nadu as he does with its Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, threatening him with the ED and CBI.

The Union home minister said that the Congress government which collapsed after losing its majority had indulged in petty politics over central schemes meant to serve the people of Puducherry.

Addressing the electorate at Pavaorachathiram in Tenkasi constituency, in the second day of his three-day election campaign on Sunday, Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi criti-

cated the Prime Minister of trying to control Tamil Nadu as he does with its Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, threatening him with the ED and CBI.

"He may control the Chief Minister as the latter is corrupt, but not the Tamil people," said Rahul Gandhi. The state now needs a leader like former chief minister Kamaraj, who listened to the people and implemented schemes for their development. So, Modi also should keep his ears open and listen to the people, and keep his mouth shut.

"I'm looking forward for

a government to work for the people after the election, so that the state would reach its full poten-

tial in all fields," added Rahul, promising his commitment for the formation of such a government in Tamil Nadu.

**NEP totally flawed, says Congress leader**

Participating in an interaction with professors and teachers organised by the People's Education Protection Movement at St. Xavier's college in Tirunelveli, Rahul Gandhi said, "The Centre's New Education policy is an attempt to promote a particular ideology. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) was framed without proper consultations with major stakeholders in the education system."

**PEOPLE WILL TEACH DIDI A LESSON: ISF CHIEF**

**Kolkata, Feb. 28:** CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Sunday said that the Trinamul Congress has to be defeated first to stop the communal bandwagon of the RSS-BJP, and claimed that the TMC might rejoin the NDA to form the government in West Bengal in case of a hung Assembly.

The CPI(M) leader alleged that the Mamata Banerjee administration is doing the same to youths what the Modi government is doing against the farmers.

"Many people ask me what we would do in case of a hung Assembly. I tell them to direct their question to the TMC as they are in the best position to answer it. The TMC has been part of NDA (for several years) since 1998. It was part of NDA government (at the Centre). In case of a hung Assembly, I am confident that TMC would join hands with the BJP to form the government," he said.

"This grand alliance of

the Left and the secular forces will fight to defeat the corrupt TMC government and the BJP in the state, will fight for a better Bengal," Yechury said while addressing a joint rally at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata ahead of the Assembly election in WB.

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**Mamata may rejoin NDA, says Yechury**

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The farmers at the Singhu border in Delhi are fighting against the Modi government's anti-peasant policies. If farmers who provide us with food can put up such a gallant fight, we too can do it here," he said.

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the Left and the secular forces will fight to defeat the corrupt TMC government and the BJP in the state, will fight for a better Bengal," Yechury said while addressing a joint rally at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata ahead of the Assembly election in WB.

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"This grand alliance of

**Aatmanirbhar Bharat a national spirit, says Modi**

**PM calls for 100-day campaign to clean up all water bodies**

**New Delhi, Feb. 28:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday underlined that Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not just a government policy but also a national spirit, and said the mantra of self-reliant India is reaching villages of the country.

Modi highlighted an assertion made by a person who had written to him from Kolkata that the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign is not just a government policy but also a national spirit, and said this was hundred per cent correct.

When every person in the country takes pride in indigenous products and

connects with the idea of self-reliance, Aatmanirbhar Bharat doesn't just remain an economic campaign but becomes a national spirit, he asserted.

"When we see fighter plane Tejas made in our own country doing acrobatics in the sky, when Made in India tanks, Made in India missiles increase our pride, when we see Made in India coaches in Metro trains in wealthy advanced nations, when we see Made in India Corona vaccines reaching dozens of countries, then our heads are held high," Modi said.

Noting that is not that

only bigger things will make India self-reliant, he said, be it textiles Made in India, handicraft goods made by talented artisans of the country, electronic appliances, mobiles, in every field "we have to raise this pride".

"When we move forward with this thought, only then will we become self-reliant in the truest sense," the PM said.

Modi expressed happiness that the mantra of self-reliant India is reaching the villages. He cited several examples of people using innovative techniques to emerge as shining examples of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. — PTI

the development of humankind for centuries. "We have to understand our collective responsibility towards water conservation," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that when people feel proud of indigenous products then Aatmanirbhar Bharat does not just remain an economic programme but becomes a national spirit.

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast, Modi said water has been crucial for

**One year on, LNJP Corona warriors recall challenges****5 states continue to report 86.37% cases**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 28

from a peak of over 90,000 in September.

The Centre has told states reporting a hike in Covid-19 cases to follow effective surveillance strategies in respect of potential "superspreader" events.

They have been advised to go for effective testing, comprehensive tracking, prompt isolation of positive cases and quick quarantine of close contacts.

The Centre has already deputed high-level multidisciplinary teams to Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir to ascertain the reasons for the surge and coordinate with the state health departments in Covid-19 control and containment measures.

India now has 1,64,511 active cases.

my family back home, after a gap of one year."

The Begusarai native, whose wife also holds an MBBS degree, said, "I met my wife and son, now two-and-a-half years old, in Bokaro this February, and he almost didn't recognise me. The pandemic literally separated us from our families. But we have to do our job, which we have chosen, so that motivated us throughout this very tough period." — PTI

**Tikait to tour five states in March to drum up support**

GHAZIABAD, FEB. 28:

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait will be touring five states in March to drum up support for the ongoing farmers' protest against Centre's new agriculture laws, a Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) office-bearer said.

Tikait, the national spokesperson of the BKU and a prominent face of the farmers' protest, will begin the tour from March 1, the office-bearer said.

"Farmers' meetings will be held in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, while two meetings will also be held in Uttar Pradesh in March," BKU media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said.

Two meetings will be held in Rajasthan and three in Madhya Pradesh. The last three meetings will be held on March 20, 21 and 22 in Karnataka, Malik said.

"One event is scheduled on March 6 in Telangana, but we have not got permission for it yet due to some election in the state. If permission is granted, the meeting in Telangana will be held as per schedule," he said.

Thousands of farmers are camping at Delhi's border points at Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur since November with a

demand that the Centre should repeal the contentious farm laws enacted in September last year and frame a new one guaranteeing the minimum support price (MSP) on crops.

Tikait is leading the protest at Ghazipur. The government, which has held 11 rounds of formal talks with the protesting farm unions, maintains that the laws are pro-farmer.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday called the new farm laws a "death warrant" for farmers, claiming they would take away their land and reduce them to labourers on their own farms.

Addressing a Kisan Mahapanchayat organised in Meerut by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) against the Centre's contentious laws, Kejriwal said farmers are continuously agitating in the cold because their farms will be taken over by capitalists.

He claimed that three-and-a-half lakh farmers have committed suicide in the last 25 years.

Kejriwal said farmer leader Rakesh Tikait is fighting for the rights of peasants at the Delhi border but the government made him cry as it wanted to forcefully end the agitation. — PTI



**R. HARI KUMAR APPOINTED WESTERN NAVAL COMMANDER**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 28

Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar on Sunday took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Indian Navy's most crucial command Western Naval Command that is responsible for the all naval forces in the Arabian Sea and western parts of the Indian Ocean.

Western Naval Command saw extensive operational deployments in response to developing security situation post the Pulwama attack and the Galwan crisis in the Indian Ocean Region.

Vice Admiral Kumar succeeds Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar, who retires upon superannuation, after an illustrious career spanning forty years, in the Indian Navy.

INDIAN TOP 10  
BESTSELLERS

**NON-FICTION**  
**1 GHALIB: A WILDERNESS AT MY DOORSTEP: A CRITICAL BIOGRAPHY**  
 Mehr Afshan Farooqi  
 Allen Lane, ₹799

**2 BY MANY A HAPPY ACCIDENT: RECOLLECTIONS OF A LIFE**  
 M. Hamid Ansari  
 Rupa, ₹795

**3 A PROMISED LAND**  
 Abdul Ghaffar Khan,  
 Intiaz Ahmad Sahibzada  
 (Translator)  
 Roli Books, ₹695

**4 THE FRONTIER GANDHI**  
 Aanchal Malhotra,  
 HarperCollins, ₹599

**5 REMNANTS OF A SEPARATION**  
 Aanchal Malhotra,  
 HarperCollins, ₹599

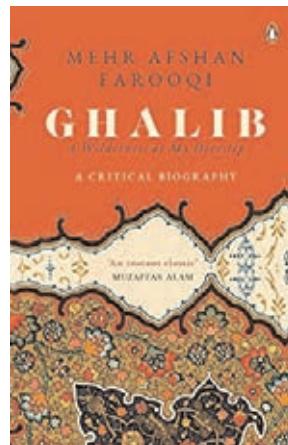
**6 THE BATTLE OF BELONGING**  
 Shashi Tharoor  
 Aleph, ₹799

**7 UNFINISHED: A MEMOIR**  
 Priyanka Chopra Jonas,  
 Penguin Viking, ₹699

**8 HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER**  
 Bill Gates  
 Allen Lane, ₹999

**9 INDUS BASIN UNINTERRUPTED**  
 Uttam Kumar Sinha,  
 Penguin Vintage, ₹799

**10 UGALBANDI: THE BJP BEFORE MODI**  
 Vinay Sitapati  
 Penguin Viking, ₹799



## FICTION

**1 THE LAST QUEEN**  
 Chitra Banerjee  
 Divakaruni,  
 HarperCollins, ₹599

**2 SHUGGIE BAIN**  
 Douglas Stuart  
 Picador, ₹499

**3 THE DISCOMFORT OF EVENING**  
 Marieke Lucas Rijneveld  
 Faber & Faber, ₹499

**4 A TIME FOR MERCY**  
 John Grisham  
 Hodder & Stoughton,  
 ₹699

**5 THE MOUNTAINS SING**  
 Nguyen Phan Que Mai,  
 OneWorld, ₹399

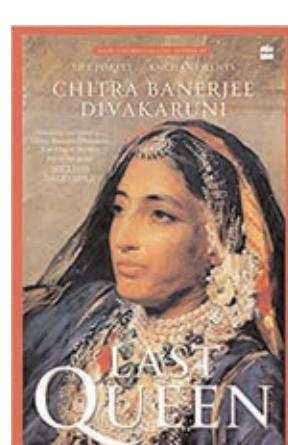
**6 HOMELAND ELEGIES**  
 Ayad Akhtar  
 Tinder Press, ₹1,050

**7 A BOOKSHOP IN PARIS**  
 Ellen Feldman  
 Simon and Schuster, ₹399

**8 JUNGLENAMA: A STORY OF THE SUNDARBAN**  
 Amitav Ghosh,  
 HarperCollins, ₹699

**9 WHAT THE BODY REMEMBERS**  
 Shauna Singh Baldwin,  
 Tara-India Research  
 Press, ₹599

**10 CIVIL LINES**  
 Radhika Swarup,  
 Simon & Schuster, ₹499



Bahrisons, New Delhi

# How atavism became ideology and Hindutva ambushed India



Ranjona Banerji

review

This book is a disquieting, even distressing, journey into how India has reached the place we are today. It is called *Our Hindu Rashtra* but Akbar Patel sets it against the backdrop of India's neighbourhood. He briefly examines how independence from colonial rule and the foundations of democracy were set in the subcontinent. India stands out because it was not established as a Hindu majoritarian state nor as a theocratic democracy.

But before we congratulate ourselves, Patel reminds us of all the steps we have taken in the last seven decades to undo what our founders and our Constitution had set up for us.

Many people, even those who claim admire it, are unaware of the origins of the Hindu majoritarian movement, how it began, how it insinuated itself into everyday politics and what exactly it stands for. Just for that knowledge itself, this is a worth-

while investment. Who are these "heroes" of Hindutva, the "ideologues" of the RSS, the creators of this thought process of Hindu supremacy and exclusion of all others?

From Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the inventor of Hindutva to "Guru" Golwalkar, the stalwart of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and his *Bunch of Thoughts*, they are all here. And Patel has read through (a task which requires immense valour and patience) and provided the reader with salient features of their arguments, their "vision" for India and sectarian principles.

Most of which, as Patel ably demonstrates, are hollow and incoherent. He finds no exact declaration of what this large shadowy movement wants and what they stand for. Except that the RSS wants religious minorities to be subdued and persecuted and for Hindus to be supreme. For everything else, from foreign affairs to the economy, all we have is waffle and changing positions.

He says of Savarkar: "His convoluted rules for Hindutva mean that even a Muslim who lights a lamp on Diwali, who shoulders the corpses of Hindus abandoned by relatives, who knows more about the Hindu faith and custom through scholarship than most Hindus, can never be acceptable as an Indian."

These anti-Muslim expressions by Savarkar define Hindutva and the ethos of the RSS. I quote Patel's summary of Golwalkar's *Bunch of Thoughts*: "India is special in the world because it offered something nobody else could and that was Hindu thought". Whatever that means. This is the basis of the RSS,

later the Jana Sangh and eventually the BJP. The rest, as Patel discovers, was a reaction to whatever was happening in India in the early years. As he amusingly points out, if the ruling government, usually Congress, promised to do X, the Jana Sangh manifesto would promise to do X even better. This did not do much for them electorally until L.K. Advani picked up from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad the idea of building a temple at the site of a mosque in Ayodhya. We have travelled from the 1920s to 1983 and the beginning of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. As Patel says, "Advani's success was built on the corpses of Indians and cemented with their blood".

Through this book, even as he traces the political history of Hindu majoritarianism, Patel reminds us that much of this sectarianism already existed within Indian society. It took immense effort by the framers of the Constitution, as is evident in the Constituent Assembly debates, to keep India on track to become a secular democracy with fundamental rights for all.

The judiciary comes in for particular scrutiny as judgments by our venerable Supreme Courts over the years allowed this underlying feeling of Hindu supremacy to gain prominence. The book also examines the bogus claims of Muslim "appeasement" which is what

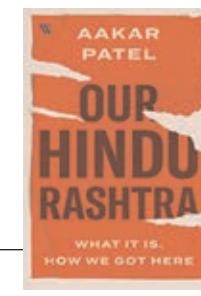
causes the maximum resentment in the minds of "Hindu" voters and of supporters of the BJP.

We meet current Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the culmination if you will of almost a century of Hindu supremacist hopes and dreams. Patel looks at ghettoisation of Muslims, at methods of persecution like anti-conversion and anti-cow slaughter laws, at the bogey of "love jihad" and even at the protests against the Modi government's contentious "citizenship" laws.

Having presented with historical evidence of a depressing past and a worse future, for all Indians who want a democratic India that is, Patel then ends on a note of hope. He uses the citizenship protests to look at how young people, activists and citizens came together to make their voices heard.

The book was written before the ongoing farmers' protests, which have also used civilian anger to push for democracy. Patel is a journalist but although this book sources some of his experiences, *Our Hindu Rashtra* is more a presentation of our recent history from the perspective of democracy. It is also a warning and a reminder of where we are headed.

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjona.



By AKBAR PATEL  
 Westland, ₹799

## A ROMEO AND JULIET-LIKE TRAGEDY IN UTTAR PRADESH

Victoria Schofield

review

In the early hours of 28 May 2014 the bodies of two young girls were found hanging from the branches of a mango tree in the small village of Katra in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Their deaths caused outrage locally and attracted attention worldwide, as domestic and foreign media descended on Katra, the case gaining international notoriety less than two years after the gang rape of a young woman, Jyoti Singh, on a bus in Delhi in 2012.

*The Good Girls* is a tragic tale, both in terms of what it reveals about village life and also about what women in India can expect in a society hidebound by tradition. Having researched for four years — Sonia Faleiro has taken exceptional pains to recreate the events as they unfolded, interviewing as many of the key players as would come forward, their names helpfully listed in an 'index of characters'.

Most surprisingly, perhaps, for western readers, a sub-theme of her narrative is the absence of toilet facilities, which means that before going to bed, the women have to go into the fields to relieve themselves. So when two young

cousins, 16-year-old 'Padma' and 14-year-old 'Lalli' (not their real names) told their parents that they were going into the fields around 9 p.m., their departure did not arouse suspicion. But, as is later revealed, they went to meet a young boy, Pappu Yadav, with whom the elder girl, Padma, had already begun an intimate relationship, while Lalli assumed the role of look-out. When they were caught by another cousin, Nazru, who had been told to keep an eye on the girls, Pappu fled in one direction and the girls in another. Although Pappu was later apprehended at his home, the girls were nowhere to be seen, until their discovery several hours later hanging in an orchard.

What happened to them is described against the backdrop of life in rural India — tending buffaloes, farming water melons and harvesting mint characterised by poverty, corruption and caste. In a modern variation of *Romeo and Juliet*, Pappu's account of his actions was rejected by the girls' families, the Shakyas, their disbelief fuelled because he came from a rival low-caste family from the neighbouring hamlet of Jati. Instead, long before an investigation could begin, the girls' parents accused not only Pappu but also his two older brothers and two policemen of having raped and then killed the girls, the allegation gaining widespread credibility. In a macabre twist, the bereaved parents were so mistrustful of the police that they refused to let the girls' bodies be removed — and so, for several hours, they were left hanging in the heat; as word spread, the orchard became a tourist attraction, with interested voyeurs and the media flooding in from far and wide, contaminating the scene and making what had happened even harder to determine.

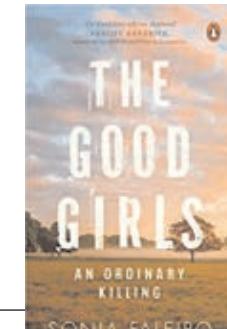
Faleiro's description of the post-mortem examination would be farcical if it wasn't so serious. It was undertaken at night on one of the hottest days on record, in a small room with no air conditioning and no fan, with the bodies by now in rigor mortis. The mortician had no formal training but had started work in the hospital as a sweeper. The lady gynaecologist, who was especially requested to be present, had no experience of post-mortems and eventually had to admit that the girls had not been raped, as she initially claimed. Instead

of cooperating with the police, the two fathers took pains to destroy evidence — including a mobile phone which Padma had obtained, lest the contents of the messages besmirch the family's reputation.

This comes to the heart of the story signalled in the title: 'good girls' do not talk to boys, nor should they use phones. During a psychological assessment, Padma's father was asked what he would have done if the girls had lived. 'We would have killed them,' he replied. But such a drastic step was not necessary. The investigators finally concluded that, having been discovered by their cousin and aware of the shame they would bring on their families, they took their own lives, neatly placing their shoes at the bottom of the tree and hanging themselves by their long scarves. What had been broadcast as a rape was just 'an ordinary killing' of two young women who were too afraid of returning home. The final irony was that the need to go to the toilet in the fields had facilitated the illicit relationship; had there been a toilet in the house it would have been more difficult for the girls to absent themselves from the scrutinising gaze of adults.

This compelling 'whodunit' is a desperate reflection on the status of women. As Faleiro's contextual statistics make clear, upholding the family honour' is paramount not only in Katra but throughout India.

By arrangement with the Spectator



THE GOOD GIRLS:  
 AN ORDINARY KILLING  
 SONIA FALEIRO  
 Penguin Random House, ₹599

### FAST FACT

Harlan Jay Ellison (d. 2018) wrote over 1,700 short stories, novellas, screenplays, comic book scripts, teleplays, essays and criticisms. He worked in the genre of New Wave speculative fiction and was known for his combative personality. He is best remembered for the short fiction, *Earth, Air, Fire and Water*, adapted for the TV series, *Ghost Story*.



## The ocean, not Himalayas: Presenting the South India story

R. Mohan

review

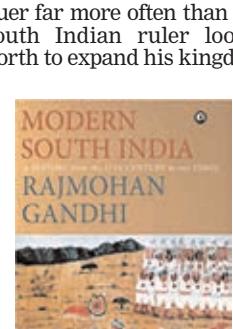
A lesser known fact may be that the Venetian merchant-explorer Marco Polo came to Pulicat Lake where he berthed his boat in 1292 and travelled towards what would have been ancient Madras. Of course, the history of visitors to South India goes way back to Greek and Roman traders. The history of far flung parts of the world trading with South India goes back centuries, beyond Vasco Da Gama who was one of the most famous traders to come south. A historic visitor in the first century CE was the doubting apostle Saint Thomas, who is celebrated in Chennai with the famous St Thomas Mount named after him and long before that had the Portuguese naming the village of San Thome after him. In the first century CE, he was interred in the basilica in Santhome.

It was most fascinating to pore over the book by Rajmohan Gandhi on modern South India which is a history from the 17th century right up to the modern times. This book helps remove the lacuna created by a blind belief in the seat of the Mughal empire and then the capital of the Hoysalas.

He does concede that his book does not seek to unearth hidden knowledge about imperial Delhi from trading Calcutta being thought of exclusively as the centre of India and the cradle of its modern history. It might have taken me a while to read this detailed history put down in this great Dravidian story by a scholar and descendant of Mahatma Gandhi. The pandemic helped in creating the time to read such valuable and well-researched tome.

The author defines the South India story attempted in the book as one of a peninsular region influenced by the oceans, and not by the Himalayas. We must first doff our hats to the scholar who had the vision to see the south, the land of the Dravidians and home of four prominent cultures — Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu — and their myriad subcultures as an entity that stood out on its own and not just an appendage, as a very political India ruled by North Indians thinks of the South in most modern times. In restricting himself to far more modern centuries, Rajmohan cannot dwell on the brilliance of Chola or Pallava architecture or that of the Hoysalas.

It is a matter of curiosity



MODERN SOUTH INDIA:  
 A HISTORY FROM THE 17TH CENTURY TO OUR TIMES  
 By RAJMOHAN GANDHI  
 Aleph, ₹799

Perhaps, that itself is a definition of South India and its sensibilities through the ages. Raja Raja Cholan may have been an exception in an expansionist view of his grand empire that encompassed vast areas across the eastern seas.

The author's four important dates for perspective are well worth remembering — 1484 and the arrival of Vasco da Gama in Kerala, 1565 when the Vijayanagara Empire began disintegrating, 1619 and the birth of Fort St George and 1687 when by forcing the independent Sultan of Golconda to surrender, Aurangzeb enforced Mughal authority in the south. Between the first and last dates there are countless personalities of history who are brought to life in colourful manner by a fine storyteller. In describing the fall of the nayakas or viceroys who ruled after the Vijayanagara Empire collapsed, the author has it that the ruler's eye was "more interested in the courtesan's smile than the contentment of the peasant's wife or the pride of the artisan's mother".

Today, we speak of political conquerors like MGR who were not from Tamil Nadu and still ruled the land. But

there could have been no more colourful conqueror than Chanda Sahib, whose real name was Shams-ud-daula Husain Dost Khan, and who was born into the Navaiyat branch of South India's Muslims whose Arab forefathers had landed on the Konkan coast.

Chanda deposed the Rani of Madurai and proclaimed himself heir to the Hindu Nayaka throne. He was removed in a couple of years by the Nizam who came foraging south but climbed back and became the Carnatic Nawab with the help of the French general Dupleix. Long before he was beheaded by his captor in another of an endless series of succession battles and his head sent to Muhammad Ali Wajah, Chanda was an enigmatic ruler and able military strategist. There aren't a page you can turn without learning of old intrigues, battles, conquests and defeats in a land ruled by princes but terrorised by their tax collectors who were ruthless. To evolve into true modernity may have taken centuries, but the book also places in perspective the power of one of Tamil Nadu's greatest sons — C. Rajagopalachari, whose primary edu-

cation as a child was in Telugu, and who went on to shine on the national stage. The author brings out the secret of why Rajaji didn't rise to even greater prominence, which is because Nehru treated him as a go-between to Sardar Patel and after Patel's untimely death simply ignored Rajaji. The governor general of India, chief minister of Tamil Nadu and once de facto head of the Congress and its freedom movement in the south, may have been wrong in trying to thrust Hindu on Tamil Nadu. But there are few in TN's history who could have matched his intellectual brilliance and his honesty to human principles as portrayed in his allowing an "Untouchable" of his time to open a tap in the Brahmin quarters in Salem. He had also said, presciently, in 1919 — "Let it be clearly understood that we would oppose such legislation vesting in the government the absolute right to suspect and imprison without trial even if the government is democratic and purely Indian, and not bureaucratic and foreign."

Look around us today and the import of those words will become obvious.

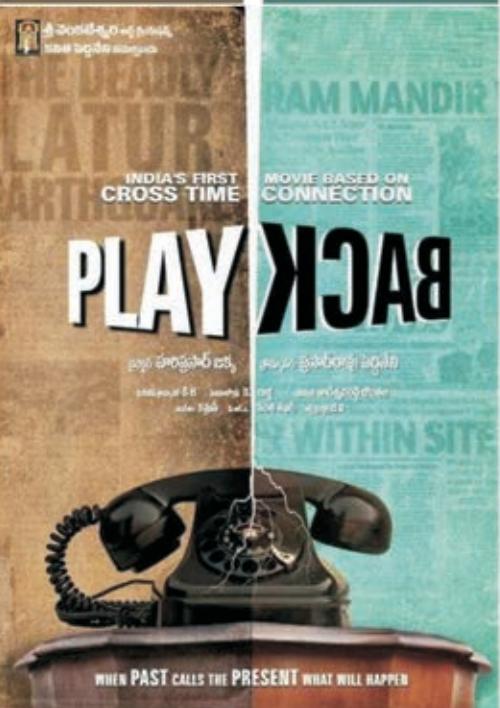
## JLF '21: Tharoor skewers Sandel

Not just about creative writing, the Jaipur Literature Festival is a festival of ideas. And this year's edition went on and lived right up to that definition. So, even though the conversation between "the world's last great intellectual" Noam Chomsky and TV anchor Sreenivasan Jain was rather overwhelming, and the chemistry between the two men frankly painful to watch, leaving, for the most part, the question built into the theme, "who rules the world", unanswered, the one between philosopher Michael Sandel and Shashi Tharoor more than made up for it by nudging out into the open a host of exciting observations. Suffice to say, in the course of it, it was Tharoor who skewered the "rockstar".

Sandel's book, *The Tyranny of Merit*, has made waves in academia. His earlier book, *What Money Can't Buy*, on the moral limits of markets, had sealed his reputation as a formidable critic of free market orthodoxy. In *Tyranny*, he posits a politics centred on dignity, arguing that pursuing meritocracy has betrayed, in many ways, the working classes. Sandel believes, radically, that merit is not an antidote but a justification for inequality. It is corrosive of the common good, Sandel said. If I believe that my success is my own then I conclude that those who aren't successful are responsible for their own distress. Emphasis on merit completely ignores the role of luck and good fortune, indebtedness to cooperation and collaboration and the joys of solidarity. But Tharoor ably countered this point by saying that it is very well known that inequality of opportunity existed in the world. Also, it is not always the meritorious who are the most successful; for example, a hedge fund manager may not be where he is because of merit. With oligarchy and aristocracy alive and well, if not gaining in strength and influence, how fair is it to reward talent and hard work was the question that came through

RELEASING

5th FRIDAY

**SANDHYA 35MM**  
RTC X ROADS

(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION &amp; DOLBY ATMOS)

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

BIG CINEMAS-AMEERPET

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally  
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CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA  
SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR  
KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE**GAME WIN****SHANTI** 70MM  
NARAYANAGUDA  
(FULLY RENOVATED)  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**SANDHYA** 70MM  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**BRAMARAMBA** 70MM  
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM**KONARK** 70MM-DSNR  
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ASIAN CINEMAS

SIVAGANGA-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SHA COMPLEX-11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

RADHIKA-10.30, 1.20, 4.10, 7.00, 10.00PM

GPR-10.30, 1.25, 4.20, 7.15, 10.10PM

MCUBE-10.40, 10.50, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25,

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CINESQUARE-10.50, 10.30, 1.45, 1.25, 4.20,

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NARAPALLY-10.40, 10.55, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25,

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DSL-11.20, 12.30, 1.30, 2.25, 3.45, 5.40, 7.10,

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CCPL-10.00, 10.45, 11.30, 1.00, 1.50, 4.00,

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MANTRA-9.40, 10.40, 12.45, 3.50, 6.55, 7.55,

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SUDHA-10.00, 10.40, 11.30, 1.05, 1.45, 4.10,

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## CINEMA



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PVR	RK Complex - Banjara Hills   Inorbit - Cyberabad   Central - Panjagutta   Kukatpally   Hitech - Madhapur   L&T Metro - Panjagutta   Icon - Erram Manzil   Moosaram Bagh Preston Prime - Gachibowli.		
INOX	RADHIKA - Kapra   CINE SQUARE - Uppal   M CUBE - Attapur   CINE PLANET - Komappally   CINE TOWN - Miyapur   CINEPRISE - Moosapet   SHIV GANGA - Dilusukhnagar   SHA SAHENSHA - Jedimetla.		
CCPL	GVK - Banjara Hills   MP Mall - Kachiguda   GSM Mall - Madinaguda.		CARNIVAL
MANTRA	Manjeera - Kukatpally   CPL - Malkajgiri   Mantra Mall - Attapur   Sudha - Rajyal Nagar.	Ameerpet	Shameerpet.

INDRA FILMS RELEASE



THRILLING HIT	
DEVI 70MM [4K & DOLBY ATMOS]	Daily 2 Shows : 2.15pm & 9.00pm
TARAKARAMA 70MM	11.15am & 6.00pm
CINESQUARE - 7.40pm	
TALLURI - 11.15am & 2.15pm	
PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 8.15pm	
AMB CINEMAS - 1.30pm	
FORUM - 10.50am, 1.45, 7.15pm   ICON - 4.45pm	
10.10pm   MOOSARAMBAGH - 1.25pm, 6.50pm	
IRRUM MANZIL - 1.15pm, 7.05pm   GALLERIA - 11.00am, 4.30, 9.55pm   CENTRAL - 4.20, 10.55	
RK - 4.45pm   INORBIT - 2.00pm, 7.25pm	
DSL - 3.40pm   MANTRA - 1.05, 7.30pm	
CCPL - 1.30pm   SUDHA - 7.40pm	
INOX - 7.10pm   GSM - 1.30	
7.15pm   MP - 12.40pm & 7.25pm	
BALANAGAR - 2.50pm, 10.40pm	CHANDANAGAR - 6.45pm
S 2 CINEMAS - 10.10pm	
PLATINUM - 10.30am & 9.30pm	



THRILLING HIT	
SAPTHAGIRI70-RTC X ROADS	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
TARAKARAMA70MM	2.15, 9.00PM
VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI	6.00PM(ONE SHOW)
TALLURI70MM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
LAXMIKALACINEPRISE	11.30AM
BIG CINEMAS	10.40, 1.45PM
Radhika-1.45PM   GPR-4.30PM	
MCUBE-10.20PM   Cinesquare-4.50PM	
OAMB AMB CINEMAS	1.55PM
Forum-4.35, 10.00PM   RK-8.30PM	
Inorbit-8.10PM   Central-8.20PM	
Hitech-7.40PM   Preston-10.15PM	
Irrummanzil-10.00PM	
Moosarambagh-4.20PM   L&T-7.20PM	
GVK-4.35PM   GSM-4.15PM	8.10PM
MP MALL-4.05PM	
CCPL-1.20PM   DSL-4.50PM	
MANTRA-4.30PM   SUDHA-4.30PM	
SHALINI/SHIVANI-8.10PM	
CHANDANAGAR-3.30PM	
BALANAGAR-8.10PM	11.15, 7.20PM
1.50 PM   MASTERS	
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10.45 PM   MASTERS	
PLATINUM	2.20 PM

GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE

## NY guv. accused of abuse again

Cuomo calls for thorough review while denying sexual harassment allegations

New York, Feb. 28:

A second ex-employee of powerful New York state Governor Andrew Cuomo has accused him of sexual harassment, charges the governor denied on Saturday.

This time the allegations came from 25-year-old former health adviser Charlotte Bennett, who told *The New York Times* that the governor sexually harassed her in the spring of 2020.

According to Bennett, the 63-year-old politician said in June that he was open to dating women in their 20s, and asked her if she thought age made a difference in romantic relationships,

While Cuomo never tried to touch her, "I understood that the governor wanted to sleep with me, and felt horribly uncomfortable and scared," Bennett

told the paper.

She added that she spoke to Cuomo's chief of staff and legal counsel, who transferred her to another post in another building.

Bennett was happy with the new job and decided not to insist on an investigation.

Cuomo became a national star last spring with his straight-talking yet empathetic Coronavirus briefings that contrasted sharply with then-president Donald Trump's dismissive approach to the pandemic.

But the harassment allegations come as he faces a growing storm over his handling of the Coronavirus in nursing homes in his state.

On Wednesday, another ex-adviser, Lindsey Boylan, said in a blog that he had harassed her when she was working for his administration, from 2015 to 2018.

— AFP

that was inappropriate." He said he wanted instead to support Bennett, who had told him that she was a sexual assault survivor.

The governor, whose third term expires at the end of 2022, called for "a full and thorough outside review" of these charges, led by a former federal judge.

"I ask all New Yorkers to await the findings of the review so that they know the facts before making any judgments," he added.

This is the second time in a week that the Democratic governor, who has led New York state for 10 years, has been accused of sexual harassment.

In a statement Saturday, Cuomo said he "never made advances toward Ms Bennett nor did I ever intend to act in any way

— AFP

## Beijing uses new security law on HK dissidents

Hong Kong, Feb. 28:

Dozens of Hong Kong dissidents were charged with subversion on Sunday in the largest use yet of Beijing's sweeping new national security law, as authorities seek to cripple the finance hub's democracy movement.

Police arrested 55 of the city's best-known pro-democracy campaigners in a series of dawn raids last month.

On Sunday, 47 were charged with one count each of "conspiracy to commit subversion" — one of the new national security crimes — with police saying the group would appear in court on Monday morning.

Democracy supporters described the move as a body blow. "Every prominent voice of the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong now is either jailed, in

The broadly worded security law, imposed on the city last June, criminalises any act deemed to be subversion, secession, terrorism or collusion with foreign forces.

Those charged are routinely denied bail until trial and face up to life in prison if convicted.

The activists charged on Sunday represent a broad cross-section of Hong Kong's opposition, from veteran former pro-democracy lawmakers to academics, lawyers, social workers and a host of youth activists.

Joshua Wong, one of the city's most recognisable pro-democracy figures, was among those charged, visited by police inside prison where he is currently serving a sentence for organising protests in

— AFP

## YEMEN REBELS CLAIM SAUDI STRIKES

Sanaa, Feb. 28: Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels on Sunday claimed the attempted strikes that targeted neighbouring Saudi Arabia overnight and threatened more attacks, as fighting in the grinding civil war escalates.

Houthi fighters have intensified operations against the kingdom as air strikes by the Saudi-led military coalition pound rebel positions in the north of Yemen, in a bid to stop their offensive to seize the government's last northern stronghold of Marib.

Years of war have already pushed Yemen to the brink of famine.

Saudi Arabia — which has been backing the Yemeni government against the rebels since 2015 — said Saturday it thwarted a Houthi missile that targeted Riyadh. "The operation was carried out with a ballistic missile and 15 drones... targeting sensitive areas in the enemy's capital of Riyadh," said Houthi spokesman Yahya al-Saree, according to the rebels' *Al-Masirah* TV channel."Our operations will continue and will expand as long as the aggression and siege on our country continues." Fragments of the missile scattered over several Riyadh neighbourhoods, damaging at least one home but no casualties were reported, Saudi's state-run *Al-Ekhbariya* television said. Separately, the coalition said it had intercepted six Houthi drones targeting the kingdom, including the southern cities of Khamsi Mushait and Jizan.

— AFP



+ GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE

## GRAND RELEASE ON MARCH 5th



## quick BITES

### INDICATORS %

Sensex	49,099.99	-3.80
Nifty 50	14,529.20	-3.76
S&P 500*	3,811.15	-0.48
Dollar (₹)	73.47	-1.42
Pound Sterling (₹)	101.83	0.80
Euro (₹)	88.76	-0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	45,599▼342	0.75
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	66.13	-1.12
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.229	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.491	-0.024

\* As of Friday/saturday

### FPIs invest over ₹25,700 cr in equities in Feb.

Remaining net buyers for the second consecutive month this year, overseas investors pumped in Rs 23,663 crore in Indian markets in February on account of positive sentiment due to the Union Budget 2021-22 and strong third quarter earnings. Foreign portfolio investors invested net Rs 25,787 crore into equities but pulled out Rs 2,124 crore from the bonds market during February 1-26, the depositories data showed.

### FY20 GST annual returns can be filed till March 31



The finance ministry has extended the deadline for filing GST annual returns for 2019-20 by a month till March 31. This is the second extension given by the Centre after extending it from Dec. 31 to Feb. 28. In view of the difficulties expressed by the taxpayers in meeting this time limit, Government has decided to extend the due date for furnishing of GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C for the financial year 2019-20 to March 31, a statement said.

### Pakistan may resume import of cotton from India

Pakistan may allow cotton import from India through land route as prospects of gradual restoration of bilateral trade ties have brightened after the new ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control. Citing sources in the commerce ministry, *The Express Tribune* reported that adviser to the prime minister on commerce Abdul Razak Dawood may take a decision on whether to import cotton and yarn from India next week.

### Honda looking to export India-made H'ness CB350 bike

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) is exploring the possibility of exporting its mid-sized premium bike H'ness CB350 to various markets across the globe even as it works to cater to the robust demand for the model in the domestic market, according to director (sales and marketing) Yadinder Singh Guleria. The company rolls out the bike with over 90 per cent localisation from its Manesar facility.

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## ■ Drivers in India work for long hours: ILO App-based cabbies among worst paid

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, FEB. 28



App-based taxi drivers in India work for an average 82 hours a week, which is much higher than the average of both traditional taxi services and app-based services in developing countries, finds the International Labour Organisation. Not just that, hourly earnings of these app-based taxi drivers in India fall at the lowest-end among developing countries.

Most workers in the taxi and delivery sectors work long hours and have high work intensity. Long working hours in the transportation sector, particularly in traditional taxi services, have been an enduring concern in developing countries. This situation has also penetrated into app-based platforms, finds a survey-based ILO study of app-based services in developing countries.

While average working hours in the traditional taxi and delivery sectors are 70 and 57 hours per week, respectively, they are 65 and 59 hours, respectively, in the app-based sectors, with over half the respondents working more than these averages. In India the weekly average is as high as 82 hours for app-based taxi services. The report quotes a driver of a leading Indian app-based taxi service platform as saying that he has to work for 12 hours and sometimes more but he does not get paid accordingly.

### TOUGH LIFE

- App-based taxi drivers in India work for an average 82 hours a week
- A sizeable proportion works seven days a week
- Hourly earnings in India was lowest in the group of countries under study, including Chile, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco and Ukraine
- Hourly earnings for workers in taxi services range between \$1.1 in India and \$8.2 in Lebanon

A sizeable proportion of workers in both the app-based taxi and delivery sectors work seven days a week. About 28 per cent of respondents in the app-based taxi sector reported working for over 12 hours, while half the respondents in the app-based delivery sector reported working for over 10 hours on three or more days per week.

Gamification platforms or offer of freebies and incentives have created opportunities for drivers to access higher earnings or bonuses, incentivising them to work long hours. This may also lead to high work intensity, as workers often do not take breaks in order to be able to meet their targets or due to the fear of losing a client or an order. On some platforms, workers' break times are controlled by the algorithm, sometimes to the second, and workers can be fined for staying offline for too long.

The report also finds that the hourly earnings in India was the lowest in the group of countries under study, which includes Chile, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco and Ukraine. Hourly earnings, which includes waiting time, for workers in these sectors range between \$1.1 in India and \$8.2 in Lebanon.

"The minimum income guarantee will be paid if I log in for 12 hours, six days a week and complete 60 orders, without holidays on weekends. Then I receive Rs 6,000 per week," a worker in a leading app-based delivery platform in India was quoted in the report.

In all countries, the majority of workers earn less than the average in these sectors. Moreover, incomes of workers on location-based platforms have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

### BRINGING PETRO GOODS UNDER GST WILL BE GOOD MOVE: CEA



K. V. Subramanian

Kolkata, Feb. 28: Chief economic advisor K. V. Subramanian has backed a proposal to bring petroleum products under the ambit of the goods and services tax (GST).

He, however, said the decision will have to be taken by the GST Council.

"It will be a good move, but the decision rests with the GST Council," Subramanian said during a recent interaction with Ficci FLO members.

Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan had also urged Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to bring petroleum products under the ambit of the GST.

The continuous rise in fuel prices has burdened the common man and become a political issue in states where assembly elections are due.

Subramanian also said inflationary pressures are mostly on account of "food inflation". — PTI

## PSU general insurers trim offices in smaller cities

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, FEB. 28



Public sector general insurers are bolstering their physical presence in tier-1 cities while closing down offices in smaller cities and towns. Their presence in tier-II cities and beyond has come down to 32 per cent share of offices of all general and health insurers from 36 per cent in a year's time.

Public sector general insurers closed a total of 578 offices in smaller cities in the last financial year. As many as 360 offices in tier-III cities were shut. The count of offices in all the smaller cities and towns, except tier-VI, cities came down. Tier-VI cities got 38 new offices. Still, only about one per cent of general insurance offices are in tier-VI locations.

Private general insurers and standalone health insurers opened 85 new offices in cities beyond tier-I. However, private general insurers have very limited presence in cities beyond tier-II. In tier-III cities they have 32 offices but only 14 offices in tier-IV and V cities. Standalone health insurers do not have a presence beyond tier-IV cities.

Data from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority shows 138 districts in India do not have any offices of general insurers or standalone health insurers. No wonder, non-life insurance penetration in India stands at an abysmally low 0.94 per cent.

Tier-I cities, meanwhile, got an increased share of offices at 68 per cent in FY20 from 64 per cent in FY19. Tier-1 cities have 7,796 offices of general and health insurers, of which 367 were added in FY20.

Public sector general insurers added 34 new offices in tier-1 cities in FY20 as against 11,394 offices in FY20 and standalone health insurers added 164 offices and

### OVER ₹8,300 CR COVID CLAIMS SETTLED

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 28

growth and will further recover in the days ahead," Irdai chairman Subhash Chandra Khuntia said, addressing a National Insurance Academy-Swiss Re event on Friday.

"The general insurance industry has taken a lead by settling total claims of Rs 7,136 crore, while the balance amount has come from the life insurance industry. Nevertheless, insurers have also been able to adapt to challenges posed by the pandemic and they were resilient in providing services to their policyholders without any disruption," he said.

Specialised insurers like Export Credit Guarantee Corporation and Agricultural Insurance Company, which have offices only in tier 1 cities, added none.

Despite these additions, both public and private general insurers were operating 11,394 offices in FY20 as against 11,578 offices in FY19 all over the country—a decrease by 184 offices.

### Ergonomic furniture maker expands ops

MARK BURTON,  
THOMAS BIESHEUVEL &  
ALEX LONGLEY  
FEB. 28

With rising office space demand and work from home becoming a new norm in India, New York-based Humanscale, manufacturer of ergonomic products, is expanding its presence in India.

After Bengaluru, the company has announced its foray into the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh markets, where it sees huge demand for its ergonomic products for the office and work-from-home setup.

The company on Friday opened its first showroom in Hyderabad through its authorised India distribution partner, S Cube Ergonomics.

"A good ergonomic posture is of critical importance at the workplace as a bad posture is potentially disastrous for health, the most common physical issues being neck stiffness, hunched posture, wrist aching and fatigue. Desks, chairs, monitors, keyboards and lighting all need to be assessed when creating a workspace, whether it is at the office or at home," Alastair Stubbs, country manager India, Humanscale, told *Financial Chronicle*.

**What is a supercycle?**

A sustained spell of abnormally strong demand growth that producers struggle to match, sparking a rally in prices that can last years, or in some cases a decade or more. For some analysts, the current rally is rekindling memories of the supercycle seen during China's rise to economic heavyweight status beginning in the early 2000s. Commodities have experi-

enced three other comparable cycles since the start of the 20th century. US industrialisation sparked the first in the early 1900s, global rearmament fuelled another in the 1930s and the re-industrialisation and reconstruction of Europe and Japan following the Second World War drove a third during the 1950s and 1960s.

**What did the last one look like?**

From around 2002, China entered a phase of roaring economic growth, fuelled by a rollout of modern infrastructure and cities on an unprecedented scale. Suppliers struggled to fulfil surging demand for natural resources. In commodities, there's often a time lag to get the product where it's wanted since adding capacity, such as opening a new mine, doesn't happen overnight. For more than a decade, materials, including iron ore, were in tight supply. Copper, priced below \$2,000 a tonne for much of the 1990s, broke \$10,000 and oil jumped from \$20 a barrel to \$140.

**Who says this is another supercycle?**

Among the bulls are analysts at JPMorgan Chase & Co and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. The commodities rally will be a story of a "roaring 20s" post-pandemic economic recovery as well as ultra-loose monetary and fiscal policies,

which has become more of a concern among investors.

### Why might this not be one?

Longer-term trends point to a cooling front for some materials. For example, the energy transition that heralds a bright new age for green metals such as copper would be built on the decline of oil. Even producers of iron ore, the biggest market of mined commodities, expect prices to weaken over time as Chinese demand starts to decline and new supply comes online. It's an even bleaker outlook for coal, with producers looking to exit the market altogether as the world switches away from the heavy-polluting fuel.

Iron, coal and oil were the chief beneficiaries of China's industrial expansion. Those markets dwarf copper in scale.

### Which other commodities are rising?

Copper was on a tear in early 2021, thanks to rapidly tightening physical markets as governments plough cash into electric-vehicle infrastructure and renewables. Goldman Sachs, BlackRock Inc, Citigroup Inc and Bank of America Corp saw the metal moving toward all-time highs. While agricultural commodities have their own particular dynamics, soybeans and corn have rallied to multi-year highs, driven by relentless buying from China as it rebuilds its hog herd following a devastating pig disease.

Agricultural prices are more dependent on global economic and population growth, rather than the decarbonisation trend underpinning excitement in metals.

### Explainer

according to JPMorgan. Commodities may also jump as an unintended consequence of the fight against climate change, which threatens to constrain oil supplies while boosting demand for metals needed to build renewable energy infrastructure and manufacture batteries and electric vehicles, it said. Those include cobalt and lithium. Furthermore, commodities are typically viewed as a hedge against inflation, which has become more of a concern among investors.

### What's been happening with oil?

Prices collapsed in 2020, even turning negative at one point, but have recovered as demand rebounded more strongly than many had expected. Early in 2021, the Opec and its allies were holding back crude equivalent to about 10 per cent of current

### Trying to get Airbus unit in India: Goyal



New Delhi, Feb. 28: Union minister Piyush Goyal said he is "actively pursuing" Airbus to begin manufacturing in India.

Addressing the CEOs session at Toy Fair 2021 on Saturday, the commerce and industry minister said: "We are looking at world domination in the toy sector and anything short of that would be a terrible disappointment".

Narrating an experience from his childhood about a toy setup for planes that influenced him to aspire to become a toy manufacturer, the minister said, "It is another matter that I don't think I will be able to do it, but I'm actively pursuing Airbus to try and get them to come to India to start manufacturing aeroplanes in India". — PTI

## Sebi tracking system found wanting

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, FEB. 28

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's integrated market surveillance system, set up in 2007, needs to be stronger, as it failed to advise or alert the NSE about last week's system breakdown in advance even though volumes soared towards monthly derivatives expiry date.

During the February 24 halt of trade, the NSE was in close contact with the Sebi and keeping it updated on developments, as per an NSE statement.

Indian bourses are facing such glitches regul-

larly but the regulator so far only has surveillance systems built for suspicious transactions like insider trading, front running and not for keeping a watch on the robustness of the market infrastructure.

Wednesday's trading halt has left several market participants in huge financial losses. Last year, the Sebi had imposed stricter surveillance measures to tackle market volatility amid the coronavirus pandemic from March 23 till June 25, 2020. Besides, ensuring orderly trading and settlement, these steps were aimed at effective risk management, price discovery and maintenance of market integrity.

NSE's average daily turnover has shot up sharply from Rs 47,917 crore in March 2020 to Rs 75,898.93 crore on February 23, just a day before the technical glitch and had crossed Rs 1 lakh crore on February 2, 2021 a day after the Union Budget while it was higher on the Union Budget day too at Rs 87,599.7 crore.

In the last trading session of this month i.e., February 26, NSE's turnover was the highest in recent times at over Rs 1.15 lakh crore.

"NSE is the largest derivatives exchange in the world by volume. Equity and derivative segments' daily average volumes have gone up by 122 per cent and 79 per cent respectively in 2021 compared to 2019. Average order messages per day have gone up by about 200 per cent during the period across all segments with a peak load of over 6.5 billion order messages in a day," the NSE said after the February 24 trading halt.

Sebi needs to develop a real-time surveillance mechanism, to allow the market regulator to intervene even in the mid-market hours.

Currently, Sebi largely relies on the data sent by stock exchanges after trading ends, said a report.

## &lt;h

**SHORT TAKES**  
Draw costs Hyd spot in ISL semis

**Fatorda:** FC Goa played out a goalless draw against Hyderabad FC to become the fourth and last team to qualify for the semifinals of Indian Super League at the Fatorda Stadium here on Sunday. Hyderabad FC went into the match needing a win to make the semifinals, but FC Goa ensured that they kept a clean sheet to earn a crucial point that cemented a top-four league stage finish for the Gurs, leaving Hyderabad in fifth spot. Goa joined Mumbai, Mohun Bagan and NorthEast United FC in the semifinals. Hyderabad FC upped the ante in search of goal as the match entered its last 15 minutes of regulation time but Goa defended resolutely. Hyderabad FC also had a golden opportunity to win the match in injury time when Gurs custodian Dheeraj Singh could only parry substitute Roland Alberg's shot into a dangerous area in the six-yard box. — PTI

**Big break for Rashid in snooker**

**Hyderabad:** Saketh, Prem and Zeeshan scored facile victories to march ahead in the senior snooker category at the Telangana State Ranking Snooker & Billiards Championship being played at the Telangana Cue Sports Association premises at Khajaguda on Sunday. However, Md Rashid Ali captured eyeballs with a stunning break of 77 on way to beating Shashi 36-42, 75-14, 106(77)-1, 78-9. Saketh defeated Akshay 3-0 — 63-36, 58-25, 68-21; Prem pinned Venkatesh 3-0 — 13-49, 31-45, 25-33 while Zeeshan sank Shiva Krishna 3-0 — 17-69, 17-52, 13-71. **Senior Snooker first round:** Md Rashid Ali bt Shashi 3-1 (36-42, 75-14, 106(77)-1, 78-9); Saketh bt Akshay K 3-0 (63-36, 58-25, 68-21); Zubair Ahmed bt Ahmed Ali 3-1 (53-31, 12-51, 25-66, 35-58); Syed Sadiq bt Ajay Sai 3-1 (36-62, 47-23, 58-20, 70-40); Arvind Goud bt M. Praveen 3-1 (12-58, 19-58, 69-45, 25-62); Aman Velpula bt Kiran Kumar 3-2 (31-54, 43-49, 63-41, 59-18, 42-53); Md Zeeshan bt Shiva Krishna 3-0 (17-69, 17-52, 13-71); Md Aslam bt Solomon 3-1 (47-69, 64-49, 86-17, 72-20); Prem bt Venkatesh 3-0 (13-49, 31-45, 25-33).



Laxman Reddy gives away prizes to the winners of the Masters football tournament.

**AG's, SAAP old boys are champs**

**Hyderabad:** AG's Office and SAAP Boys emerged winners of the 4th Telangana Masters Football Games Championship held at MLRIT Engineering College in Dindigul near Hyderabad.

AG's won the 30-39 age group final with a 3-1 win over Friends United while SAAP Boys from the 1994 batch got the better of Young Dynamos Club from ECIL 4-1 to take the title in the 40-49 category.

Mr Laxman Reddy was the chief guest of the evening and gave away the trophies and certificates to all the winners along with M. Prabhakar Rao, general secretary, TMGA.

**THE RESULTS**  
**Age group 30-39:** AG's Office bt Friends United 3-1.  
**Age group 40-49:** SAAP Boys 1994 batch bt Young Dynamos Club ECIL 4-1.

**Live on TV**

**FOOTBALL**  
English Premier League: Everton vs Southampton from 1.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 1

**WWE**  
Raw: Bouts from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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# THAT'S ALL, FOAKES!

Keeper Ben says England should stop worrying about the pitch factor

Ahmedabad, Feb. 28: The square turner at the Chepauk for the second Test and the Ahmedabad dust bowl provided for the 'pink ball' game are hardest surfaces that Ben Foakes has kept on in his nascent international career.

India have put England on the mat with a couple of tracks which aided the home spinners as Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel ran riot, giving India 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

"Last two games are the hardest pitches I have kept on. In the last game the pink ball was skidding, I haven't seen a wicket like that and keeping on it was a good challenge," Foakes, who has replaced Jos Buttler as per England's rotation policy, said during a virtual media conference.

By his own admission, Foakes hasn't seen a cricket ball turn so much.

"The two pitches that I have played, I have never seen ball turn like that. It's certainly very challenging. It's like having day five pitch from ball one."

But for one of world's best glove-men, the last two games were learning experience and real fun.

"When the ball spins, it's fun to keep and in Sri Lanka, it was easy because it was consistent and you knew the ball is going to turn. What I found during pink ball Test was it could spin square past batter or it could skid."

He admitted that no keeper can take every catch on these sort of tracks.

As far as the last Test goes, Foakes feels that the team needs to make peace with the fact that wicket will behave a certain way and yet they have to give their best shot.

"Understanding and making peace that we are going to get out in a certain way. We have to grind it out and just put runs on the board. Be solid and understand our gameplan which will be different for all of us. If you get out, get out but trying to do it your way."

He also feels that a positive mindset and clarity in their game plan will only help as testing times can also affect the capability of judgement. — PTI



## Eng panicked against spin: Chappell

### LYON LAMBASTS CRITICS FOR 'CRYING' OVER MOTERA STRIP

Melbourne, Feb. 28: Star Australia spinner Nathan Lyon is baffled by all the hullabaloo over the Motera pitch, saying "everyone seems to start crying" when the ball starts spinning but no one speaks out when teams are bundled out for low scores on seaming tracks.

However, Lyon gave a thumbs up to the curator. "We play on seaming wickets around the world and get bowled out for 47, 60. Nobody ever says a thing (about the pitch). But as soon as it starts spinning, everyone in the world seems to start crying about it," Lyon was quoted as saying by *The West Australian*.

"I don't get it. I'm all for it, it was entertaining."

Lyon, who had scripted an incredible journey from being a pitch curator to one of the greatest off-spinners, said he would like to get the Ahmedabad curator to Sydney Cricket Ground. — PTI

ous spin challenge, the England batsmen didn't trust their defence, which led to England's collapse in the third Test.

"When faced with a seri-

nous," he wrote.

"How can a risky pre-meditated shot be less dangerous than what was previously a trusted technique to unsettle good

spinners?" he questioned. Chappell said "Shrewd use of footwork not only helps negate the spin but also puts a batsman in a position to direct the ball where he wants."

"To be fair, this is a skill to be learned at a young age. Which prompts the question: why is it not widely taught in England, where sweeping is misguidedly touted as the secret to playing spin bowling successfully?"

Ollie Pope had decided to use his feet against the Indian spinners but Chappell said "he had the right idea but the wrong execution."

"Pope was conscious of the keeper as he tentatively ventured out of his crease, which meant he was worried he would miss the delivery. That results in footwork that hinders rather than helps."



Medallists at the Telangana State Shooting Championship in Air and Small Bore events pose at the Gachibowli Shooting Ranges on Sunday.

<b>Championship Women Individual:</b> 1. Vanamala Akhila 394.00, 2. Sri Laxmi Bhandaram 391.00, 3. Gayathri Nemali 390.00.	<b>10m Rifle (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Sri Laxmi Bhandaram 391.00, 2. Pullagura 388.00.	<b>10m Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Kotte Rajeev 250.00.
<b>Championship Youth Women Individual:</b> 1. Anubhav Tiwari 374.00, 2. Kaushik Gopu 372.00, 3. Boinapally Venkata Vishwa Jayanth 371.00.	<b>25m Standard Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Pacharapalli Naga Sai Tharan 239.00, 2. Mohammad Atta Bin Yesrab 149.00, 3. Hassan Bin Yesrab 133.00.	<b>25m Standard Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Jabili Gangapatnam 274.00, 2. Malabika Baruah 259.00, 3. Megana Sadula 254.00.
<b>Championship Youth Men Individual:</b> 1. R. Vishal 388.00, 2. Safwan Shamsuddin 388.00, 3. PMV Ramana 386.00.	<b>10m Rifle (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. R. Vishal 388.00, 2. Prasanna Kumar 388.00, 3. Aga Mohammed Zainulabedin 266.00.	<b>10m Rifle (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Anubhav Tiwari 374.00, 2. Kaushik Gopu 372.00, 3. Boinapally Venkata Vishwa Jayanth 371.00.
<b>Championship Junior Women Individual:</b> 1. B. Shankar 277.00, 2. Prasanna Kumar Alluri 274.00, 3. Aga Mohammed Zainulabedin 266.00.	<b>25m Centre Fire Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. B. Shankar 277.00, 2. Prasanna Kumar Alluri 274.00, 3. Aga Mohammed Zainulabedin 266.00.	<b>10m Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. B. Shankar 277.00, 2. Prasanna Kumar Alluri 274.00, 3. Aga Mohammed Zainulabedin 266.00.
<b>Championship Junior Men Individual:</b> 1. Rani Parashar 395.00, 2. R. Vishal 388.00, Aman Nayak 388.00.	<b>25m Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Rani Parashar 395.00, 2. R. Vishal 388.00, Aman Nayak 388.00.	<b>25m Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Rani Parashar 395.00, 2. R. Vishal 388.00, Aman Nayak 388.00.
<b>Championship Sub Youth Men Individual:</b> 1. Vamsidhar Nali 291.00, 2. Vootkuri Vishnu Murthy 290.00, 3. Prudhvi Goud Vootkuri 290.00.	<b>10m Rifle Open Sight (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Vamsidhar Nali 291.00, 2. Vootkuri Vishnu Murthy 290.00, 3. Prudhvi Goud Vootkuri 290.00.	<b>10m Rifle Open Sight (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Vamsidhar Nali 291.00, 2. Vootkuri Vishnu Murthy 290.00, 3. Prudhvi Goud Vootkuri 290.00.
<b>Championship Sub Youth Women Individual:</b> 1. Arcita Karar 364.00, 2. Neha Bhumarapu 332.00, 3. Megana Sadula 330.00.	<b>10m Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Arcita Karar 364.00, 2. Neha Bhumarapu 332.00, 3. Megana Sadula 330.00.	<b>10m Pistol (Nr) Individual:</b> 1. Arcita Karar 364.00, 2. Neha Bhumarapu 332.00, 3. Megana Sadula 330.00.
<b>Championship Senior Men Individual:</b> 1. K. D. Eknath 169 — 143b, 19x4, 2x6, Snehal K 116 — 112b, 15x4, T. Ravi Teja 3(69).	<b>Championship Senior Women Individual:</b> 1. Lakshmi Manchu 128 — 131b, 19x4, 9x4, 5x6, Himalay Agarwal 27 n.o., Lakshay Garg 2(60).	<b>Championship Senior Women Individual:</b> 1. Lakshmi Manchu 128 — 131b, 19x4, 9x4, 5x6, Himalay Agarwal 27 n.o., Lakshay Garg 2(60).

Telangana's J. Deepthi won silver in the Girls U-18 200 metres at the 32nd South Zone National Junior Men's and Women's Championships held at Calicut in Kerala on Sunday.

Deepthi clocked 24.68 seconds behind Priya Mohan (24.64) of Karnataka and ahead of Mayavathi Nakirekanti (25.93) of Telangana.

In the Boys U-16 300 metres, Sehwag Rathod got gold with a timing of 35.75 seconds. Lohit Setty of Andhra Pradesh took silver in 36.00 seconds while Vinod Kumar Banoth of Telangana was third with 36.71 seconds.

Mohammed Mohsin also got a gold for Telangana, in the Boys U-16 shotput, with 17.49 metres. Sai Kiran (14.65m) of Telangana and Don Biju (14.35m) of Kerala were second and third.

**OTHER RESULTS**

<b>Women's U-20 200m:</b> 1. P. D. Anjali (Kerala) 24.42 secs, 2. Anya Sojan (Kerala) 24.70 secs, 3. Kunja Rajitha (Andhra Pradesh) 25.66 secs.	<b>Men's U-20 1500m:</b> 1. Soundarya (Tamil Nadu) 53.94 sec, 2. S. Lalitha (Kerala) 53.94 sec, 3. S. R. Shyam (Karnataka) 51.52m.
<b>Boys U-18 200m:</b> 1. S. Barath (Tamil Nadu) 22.21 secs, 2. K. Abijith (Kerala) 22.57 secs, 3. Arikha Jogulu (Andhra Pradesh) 22.79 secs.	<b>Boys U-18 400m:</b> 1. S. Rajadurai (Tamil Nadu) 53.94 metres, 2. T. V. Lavanya Kumar (Andhra Pradesh) 52.86m, 3. S. Pruthvi (Karnataka) 51.52m.
<b>Men's U-20 200m:</b> 1. Lalubothu Shanumaga Srinivas (Andhra Pradesh) 21.67 secs, 2. Abdul Razak (Kerala) 22.38 secs.	<b>Men's U-20 400m:</b> 1. Lalubothu Shanumaga Srinivas (Andhra Pradesh) 21.67 secs, 2. Abdul Razak (Kerala) 22.38 secs.
<b>Men's U-20 Javelin throw:</b> 1. Jibin Thomas (Kerala) 56.80 metres, 2. Vignesh Nambari (Kerala) 54.51m, 3. Vijay Vepru (Andhra Pradesh) 54.47m.	<b>Men's U-20 Javelin throw:</b> 1. Jibin Thomas (Kerala) 56.80 metres, 2. Vignesh Nambari (Kerala) 54.51m, 3. Vijay Vepru (Andhra Pradesh) 54.47m.

## Tanmay, Tilak tons in Hyderabad's win

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 28

Tanmay Agarwal and Tilak Varma cracked a century each as Hyderabad edged out Goa by two runs in a cracker of a Vijay Hazare Trophy match played at CK Pithawala ground in Surat on Sunday.

Tanmay took up the mantle and belted Goa bowlers left, right and centre in his rollicking 150-run knock that was infused with 19 fours and a six. Tilak too took the opposition to cleaners in his incredible 128-run innings that contained five sixes and nine boundaries.

Brief scores: Hyderabad 345/6 in 50 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 150 — 131b, 19x4, 1x6, Tilak Varma 128 — 127b, 9x4, 5x6, Himalay Agarwal 27 n.o., Lakshay Garg 2/60) bt Goa 343/5 in 50 overs (K. D. Eknath 169 — 143b, 19x4, 2x6, Snehal K 116 — 112b, 15x4, T. Ravi Teja 3/69). Points: Hyderabad 4, Goa 0