

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 6 APRIL 2021

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

Vol. 84 No. 95 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

**NALLAGANDLA'S  
NEW ICONIC  
GATED COMMUNITY**  
Now open for bookings

76600 03101 / 70953 33335 www.aparnaconstructions.com

Apara  
sarovar  
**ZION**  
The lifestyle icon  
Apartments @ NALLAGANDLA

2, 3 & 4 BHK  
1240 - 2875 Sft.  
3024 Total Apts.

₹6999\*/Sft.  
BOOK TODAY

**A**  
APARNA  
Lead the future

Marketing Office open on Sunday also

TS RERA Reg. No.: P0240002673 \*T&amp;C Apply. Images used are for illustrative purpose only.

**WEATHER**

Max: 35.6°C  
Min: 25.1°C  
RH: 45%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 39/23°C

**ASTROGUIDE**

Sarvari: Uttaryana  
Tithi: Phalguna Bahula Dasami till 2.10 am (Wednesday)

Star: Shravanam till 2.35 am (Wednesday)

Varjyam: 6.10 am to 7.48 am

Durmuhurtam: 8.37 am to 9.26 am; 11.07 pm to 11.54 pm

Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

**HJRI CALENDAR**

Sha'ban 23,1442 AH

**PRAVERS**

Fajar: 5.06 am

Zohar: 12.29 pm

Asar: 4.39 pm

Maghrib: 6.36 pm

Isha: 7.44 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.30 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.27 AM

MOONSET TODAY 12.46 PM

**COUNTER POINT**

Don't worry, we will go shopping at the beginning of the week!

**SHORT TAKES**

**SC for panel meet on CBI director**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday asked the Centre to consider convening before May 2 the meeting of a high-powered committee consisting of the Prime Minister and others for appointment of CBI director observing that in-charge arrangements for the post cannot go on. The Centre had informed the apex court the panel will meet after May 2.

**IAF firefighting in U'khand forests**

Dehradun: IAF helicopters on Monday began firefighting operations in Uttarakhand, conducting several sorties over the burning forests in

Garhwal region of the state to spray water over the raging flames and extinguish them. An helicopter with a bucket carrying around 3,500 litres of water from Tehri lake was deployed to douse the forest fire.

**Tikait plans stir in Gujarat**

Ahmedabad: Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Monday threatened to start a farmers' tractor agitation in Gujarat after Delhi, and said time has come to gherao the state capital Gandhinagar and also break barricades if needed. Talking to reporters outside the Sabarmati Ashram here, Tikait claimed farmers in Gujarat were unhappy.

**INSIDE**

**CITY... PAGE 2**  
Doctors warn people against complacency

**Infra boost**

Minister K.T. Rama Rao arrives to inaugurate the railway underbridge (RUB) near Hi-Tech City MMTS railway station at Kukatpally in Hyderabad on Monday. Mayor G. Vijayalakshmi and deputy mayor M. Srilatha Reddy are seen. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Maha HM Anil Deshmukh quits after HC probe order

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC**  
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh resigned on Monday following the Bombay High Court's orders to conduct the CBI inquiry into the corruption allegations levelled against him by former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar's trusted aide Dilip Walse Patil, who was a labour and excise minister in the state cabinet, has taken over as the new home minister after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray accepted Mr Deshmukh's resignation. "I don't have the moral

right to continue in office after the court order. I have decided to quit. Kindly relieve me from my post," said Mr Deshmukh in his resignation letter.

The HC earlier had directed the CBI to conduct a preliminary probe within 15 days into allegations of corruption and

malpractices made by Mr Singh against Mr Deshmukh. Once the preliminary inquiry is complete, the director of CBI can decide on the future course of action and whether or not to register an FIR in the case.

"There can be no independent probe into allegations of extortion if it is handed to the Mumbai Police, which is headed by the home minister. This was an extraordinary and unprecedented case that warranted an independent inquiry," the HC said.

Mr Deshmukh is the second minister to resign from the MVA government in just more than a month's period.

"Please, release my father," pleaded five-year-old Shragvi, the daughter of the commando. This is all the sobbing child could utter as she wiped away her tears.

A phone call from purported Maoists came to a reporter of a local news

channel on Monday claiming that the missing commando, belonging to the COBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) of the CRPF, has been "captured" by them and was "safe in their custody."

The reporter said he had received the call from a "general number" which Maoists use to communicate with the media at

11.30 am. "The caller said the jawan will be released at the appropriate time and informed me that I will be updated about it from time to time," Raja Rathore, the local correspondent of a Hindi news channel, told this newspaper from Sukma on phone.

Rathore said he passed on the information to the family members of the jawan, a native of Jammu, in the presence of a couple of local CRPF officers on Monday.

"The jawan's wife and mother have appealed to the Maoists not to harm him and release him without any delay. The jawan's five-year-old daughter has also made an appeal to the Naxals to release her father safely," Rathore said.

In a statement, the jawan's wife said, "We are grateful to the COBRA commando for releasing our son. We thank God for this miracle."

With India's new Covid-19 cases crossing one lakh in a single-day on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again called for a meeting with Chief Ministers of states and Lieutenant Governors of Union territories on Thursday to review the situation.

The back-to-back meetings, after the one chaired by the PM on Sunday, is a part of the Central government's efforts to contain the spread of the virus, which has once again turned into a full-blown crisis. Health minister Harsh Vardhan has called a meeting with 11 states on Tuesday.

■ Full report on Page 7

## CA arrested for fake GO on TS lockdown

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD APRIL 5

The CCS police of Hyderabad along with the Commissioner's Task Force nabbed a chartered accountant on Monday on charges of creating a fake government order (GO) regarding the imposition of a lockdown, and allegedly cheating people by posting it on social media.

The accused, Sreepathi Sanjeev Kumar, 48, is a resident of Madhapur,

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar, who announced the arrest, said.

Sanjeev Kumar prepared the fake GO on April 1 in the name of the Chief Secretary of the Telangana state government and cheated the public by circulating the same in social media platforms. Subsequently, the government was forced to issue rejoinder.

■ Full report on Page 3

## FRENCH PORTAL: 1M EUROS GIFTED TO MIDDLEMAN FOR DASSAULT

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

In a fresh controversy over the ₹59,000-crore Rafale fighter jet deal, French investigative news portal *Mediapart* has claimed that its manufacturer Dassault Aviation agreed to pay one million euros to a middleman who is now under investigation in India in connection with another defence deal.

In 2016, India had agreed to buy 36 Rafales for the Indian Air Force in a deal worth ₹59,000 crores.

The portal said the French anti-corruption agency Agence Française Anticorruption (AFA) discovered this separate arrangement during a routine audit of Dassault. The AFA nonetheless decided not to alert the prosecution officials over the payment.

The report said as AFA inspectors combed through Dassault accounts in 2017, they raised an eyebrow when they came across an item expenditure costing 508,925 euros entered under the heading "gifts to clients". It said this amount of money seemed disproportionate in relation to all other entries under the same heading.

"The sum is indeed huge for a gift. Though French law does not set out precise limits, legal precedents suggest that giving a watch or an expensive meal costing several hundred euros can be enough to constitute corruption," it said.

■ Page 2: 1m euros spent on 50 Rafale replicas



Rakesh Singh Manhas

channel on Monday claiming that the missing commando, belonging to the COBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) of the CRPF, has been "captured" by them and was "safe in their custody."

The reporter said he had received the call from a "general number" which Maoists use to communicate with the media at

11.30 am. "The caller said the jawan will be released at the appropriate time and informed me that I will be updated about it from time to time," Raja Rathore, the local correspondent of a Hindi news channel, told this newspaper from Sukma on phone.

Rathore said he passed on the information to the family members of the jawan, a native of Jammu, in the presence of a couple of local CRPF officers on Monday.

"The jawan's wife and mother have appealed to the Maoists not to harm him and release him without any delay. The jawan's five-year-old daughter has also made an appeal to the Naxals to release her father safely," Rathore said.

In a statement, the jawan's wife said, "We are grateful to the COBRA commando for releasing our son. We thank God for this miracle."

With India's new Covid-19 cases crossing one lakh in a single-day on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again called for a meeting with Chief Ministers of states and Lieutenant Governors of Union territories on Thursday to review the situation.

The back-to-back meetings, after the one chaired by the PM on Sunday, is a part of the Central government's efforts to contain the spread of the virus, which has once again turned into a full-blown crisis. Health minister Harsh Vardhan has called a meeting with 11 states on Tuesday.

■ Full report on Page 7

■ Full report on Page 7

**POWER | POLITICS**

11.30 am. "The caller said the jawan will be released at the appropriate time and informed me that I will be updated about it from time to time," Raja Rathore, the local correspondent of a Hindi news channel, told this newspaper from Sukma on phone.

Rathore said he passed on the information to the family members of the jawan, a native of Jammu, in the presence of a couple of local CRPF officers on Monday.

"The jawan's wife and mother have appealed to the Maoists not to harm him and release him without any delay. The jawan's five-year-old daughter has also made an appeal to the Naxals to release her father safely," Rathore said.

In a statement, the jawan's wife said, "We are grateful to the COBRA commando for releasing our son. We thank God for this miracle."

With India's new Covid-19 cases crossing one lakh in a single-day on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again called for a meeting with Chief Ministers of states and Lieutenant Governors of Union territories on Thursday to review the situation.

The back-to-back meetings, after the one chaired by the PM on Sunday, is a part of the Central government's efforts to contain the spread of the virus, which has once again turned into a full-blown crisis. Health minister Harsh Vardhan has called a meeting with 11 states on Tuesday.

■ Full report on Page 7

■ Full report on Page 7

**POWER | POLITICS**

11.30 am. "The caller said the jawan will be released at the appropriate time and informed me that I will be updated about it from time to time," Raja Rathore, the local correspondent of a Hindi news channel, told this newspaper from Sukma on phone.

Rathore said he passed on the information to the family members of the jawan, a native of Jammu, in the presence of a couple of local CRPF officers on Monday.

"The jawan's wife and mother have appealed to the Maoists not to harm him and release him without any delay. The jawan's five-year-old daughter has also made an appeal to the Naxals to release her father safely," Rathore said.

In a statement, the jawan's wife said, "We are grateful to the COBRA commando for releasing our son. We thank God for this miracle."

With India's new Covid-19 cases crossing one lakh in a single-day on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again called for a meeting with Chief Ministers of states and Lieutenant Governors of Union territories on Thursday to review the situation.

The back-to-back meetings, after the one chaired by the PM on Sunday, is a part of the Central government's efforts to contain the spread of the virus, which has once again turned into a full-blown crisis. Health minister Harsh Vardhan has called a meeting with 11 states on Tuesday.

■ Full report on Page 7

■ Full report on Page 7

**POWER | POLITICS**

11.30 am. "The caller said the jawan will be released at the appropriate time and informed me that I will be updated about it from time to time," Raja Rathore, the local correspondent of a Hindi news channel, told this newspaper from Sukma on phone.

Rathore said he passed on the information to the family members of the jawan, a native of Jammu, in the presence of a couple of local CRPF officers on Monday.

"The jawan's wife and mother have appealed to the Maoists not to harm him and release him without any delay. The jawan's five-year-old daughter has also made an appeal to the Naxals to release her father safely," Rathore said.

In a statement, the jawan's wife said, "We are grateful to the COBRA commando for releasing our son. We thank God for this miracle."

With India's new Covid-19 cases crossing one lakh in a single-day on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again called for a meeting with Chief Ministers of states and Lieutenant Governors of Union territories on Thursday to review the situation.

The back-to-back meetings, after the one chaired by the PM on Sunday, is a part of the Central government's efforts to contain the spread of the virus, which has once again turned into a full-blown crisis. Health minister Harsh Vardhan has called a meeting with 11 states on Tuesday.

■ Full report on Page 7

■ Full report on Page 7

**POWER | POLITICS**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

### FARM HOUSES-SITES

**OFFER 2 DAYS.** 303 farm villa plot 303sqyds 13acls. 605sqyds 25.50acls. fruits sandalwood. Customize villas & resorts. Mumbai H/W sadashivpet mrf. Ph:7416613247 (HYMM/2122/C00172)

### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

#### DOUBLE BEDROOM

**INDEPENDENT HOUSE** for Sale G+2 144 Sqyds, Ground floor & First floor Commercial, Second Floor Residential, 100% Vastu, North East extended, KMIT Engineering & Law College lane, Ph:9908056794, (B/2122/C00031)

### THREE & MORE

**PREMIUM VILLAS** in Gated community for Sale at Mokila @1.80crs (Special Offer available). For further details, Contact: 7353585368 (HYMM/2122/C00206)

### PLOTS

**HMDA OPEN** Plots Available at Very Low Cost With In the Radius of 3.5km From B.Nagar Amt. Along With Construction Bank Loans Available Ph:9059727659 (HYMM/2122/C00017)

### RENTALS

### COMMERCIAL

**PROPERTY: OFFICE** & Others Firs: 1st flr: 800. Stt- Rs.90/- 2nd flr: 3500. Sft-Rs.80/- 3rd flr: 3300. Stt. Rs.70/- 4th flr: 3562. Stt- Rs.60/- Villa Reddy guda. Ahmednagar's Muttam. Rent: 12000/- 6th: 12000. Stt- Rs.35/- Opt: 5 Months Add: MPM Mall. Abids. Opp. GPO. Hyd. no. 9704059346. (HYMM/2122/C00212)

### FLATS

#### DOUBLE BEDROOM

**BANJARA HILLS** Road No.12 MLA Colony Luxurious 2BHK newly constructed flat with/without furniture for car park for rent. Ph:6300343626. (HYMM/2021/C08608)

### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

### THREE & MORE

**BRAND NEW** Villa for Rent 4500 Sqft, 24-Goonda Hills, Gated Community, 4 Bedroom, attached toilets & A/C, opp to Ocean Park. Before CBIT College, Kothapet. Brokers accepted. Vastu. Corporates. Rent One Lakh Fixed. Contact Hussain Manager 9010771369, 9849001990. (B/2122/C0006)

### SITUATION VACANT

### ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

**ACCOUNTANT:** COMMERCE Graduate with Computer knowledge, with 5years experience in Maintaining Accounts & Tax. Preparing Various Monthly Statements of Receipts& Payments. Handling Banking Transactions & all Other Matters Relating to Maintenance of Accounting, GST etc. Should be in the age group of 25-30years. Salary negotiable. Apply with resume & Photo-graph to: Lumbini springs@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C00204)

**WANTED: 3FEMALE** experience/fresher tally accounts operator with excel knowledge good salary for right candidates @elite grains malakpet Ph:9391535362 (HYMM/2122/C00174)

**WANTED ACCOUNTANT** for a real estate company at punjagutta contact: 6309793339/ 7032031484 (HYMM/2122/C00001)

### ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

**REQUIRE EXPERIENCED** sales executive for IATA Diesel Generator Sales. Minimum 2 yrs experience in Diesel generator sales. Should have own vehicle. Contact: 8099033038/ 8074650324 (HYMM/2122/C00064)

**IMMEDIATELY REQUIRE** Counselors/ Team Leaders/ marketing and Inside Sales Professionals for reputed group of colleges. Candidates with English and Telugu fluency with min. 1to 8 yrs experience in relevant field can apply. Ph:6309584290/ 8099280994 (HYMM/2122/C00217)

### ENGINEERS

**WANTED DEGREE/ Diploma- Civil Engineers** (Fresh/ Experienced) and Diploma in Electronics & experienced for Architectural & Engineering Firm at Barkatpura - Hyderabad. Contact: 9346494319 & 9701826744. Email: id.mapehd1@gmail.com / info@mapeindia.com (S/2122/C0009)

### HOTEL

**REQUIRED RESTAURANT Billing counter Executive** with prior experience of similar work for a broad based Fast food & Jugaad restaurant at Tirumalgai RTC colony. Should have handled swiggy/zomato orders. Cheerful & customer oriented with good knowledge of Telegu, Hindi, English. Salary Negotiable. Ladies preferred. Requirement Immediate. Contact: 7330912121 (HYMM/2122/C00216)

### MANAGERS

**FACILITIES MANAGER** Required for A Gated Community in Gachibowli. Graduate, Should be able to interact with Residents fluency in English, Hindi&Telugu. Responsible for over all Supervision of Facilities in the Community &Other Staff. Salary Negotiable. Should be in the age group of 35-40yrs. Apply with resume & Photo-graph to: Lumbini springs@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C00203)

### MULTIPLE VACANCIES

**THE LEADING** Group requires Mechanical Engineers- 2Nos, Electronics Siemens PLC- 4Nos, Electrical Engineer- 1No. &MSC Chemistry- 6Nos, Experience 10years to 15Years, Location near choutuppal Nallamla District, L.B.Nagari to 60kms. Contact: 040-27753333, 9940620832. Email: idealeido@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C00075)

**RETAIL OUTLETS** Operating Company. Required Business Developers/ Office/ Accounts/ Logistics/ Delivery/ Marketing/ Customer & Public Related Managers/ Managers/ Counsellors/ Telecallers/ Receptionists/ Supervisors/ Helpers. Contact: 7386425653. (A/2122/C00210)

**WANTED EXPERIENCED** Telecaller & Collection Executives for Buckets collection for two wheeler. Collection area Old City, Golconda, Mehdiyampet, Central City, Office at Kachiguda. Ph:8340998461, 6303704581. (A/2122/C0004)

**WANTED MARKETING** executive and service technician for road sweeping machine & cleaning machines & industrial products. Walk-in Indare 102F S-2-437 seven hills villa, hyderabad, Opp lane to arya samaj, R P road secunderabad-3 Phone: 040-27532755. (HYMM/2122/C00213)

**INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT** company secunderabad, requires office incharge 5-7years experienced female/ male/ back office knowledge of petty cash/ banking/ e tendering/ gem/ digital marketing/ tally with good communication skills mail your profile to: sales@unitedagroengg.com 9885206699 (HYMM/2122/C00089)

**HIRING SERVICE** Manager, Works Manager, Parts Manager, Customer Relations, Service Manager, Sales Manager & GMs required at Orange Honda 2 Wheeler. Experience in Two Wheeler preferred. Venue: Orange Honda, Tolichukki. Ph:8886672143/ 779916909, Mail: tatahr@orangeauto.in (HYMM/2122/C00207)

### OTHER VACANCIES

**REQUIRED FOR** Collection Executives, Telecallers (F) & Backend Testers, DSA/ Non-DRA. Qualification: SSc, 2 years experience. Office at Balkampet. Ph:040-23702382, 29550258 (HYMM/2122/C00027)

**WANTED FEMALE** Counselors With Good Communication Skills Good English Computer Knowledge For Abroad Consultancy Sunmerges Educational Services, Chaitanyaapuri. Ph:9014034030 (HYMM/2122/C00208)

**WANTED COURIER** Delvery Boys Preferably residing nearby L.B.Nagar Ph:9900774909 Santhoshnagar Ph:7075050887 Baesheerbagh. Ph:9885770735. Across (HYCL/2122/C00095)

**LOGISTIC COORDINATOR** wanted for our facility at Kattedan, graduate with 5-yrs experience with knowledge in Hindi/ Telugu. May send their resume to: p.w.e.m.k@powerm.k.com Ph:9701720695. (HYMM/2122/C0018)

### SECRETARIES

**WANTED YOUNG** & Dynamic Female Assistant cum Secretary to Follow up job suitable for Tools Industries in Katedan, having full knowledge of English & Telugu. Good command of English & good knowledge to follow up job & must have Good command on language. Working time: 10.30am- 7.30pm with Attractive Salary. Contact Gupta: 98490-30551, 98496-60551. (B/2122/C00004)

### BUSINESS OFFER

**EARN 1,00,000** to 10,00,000 per month Install Allasses Sanitary Pad & Baby Diapers Plants. You can also sell ready ready to company. Contact: 91-25193158, 8929557840, 8929557844, 8929557840, 8376089771 (W/2122/AT00026)

### CHANGE OF NAME

I MADHAVI Boorgula, W/O Shashidhar Sanganabhatla R/o H.No-6-1-132/302, Flat No:201, Amulya's Wonder avenue, Padmaraonagar have changed my Name from Madhavi Boorgula to Madhavi Sanganabhatla for All Record purpose. (S/2122/C00049)

### EDUCATIONAL

### DISTANCE EDUCATION

**DIRECT FINAL** year B.Tech, M.Tech, Degree, PG, Poly Diplomas UGC AICTE Recognise University contact: 7036030524 (HYMM/2122/C00214)

**CONTACT FOR** NCETE Recognised: Ed Ed/M.Ed. No Advance Fee. Only For Educational Consultants. Students Please no call. Contact regarding any Educational Program Guidance. Shiksha Bharti, Varanasi. Email: shikshabhart88@yahoo.com Mob: 9519759663, 9915103781. (HYMM/2122/C00211)

### EDUCATIONAL

### MIRRORS ACADEMY

Offers Career Oriented Courses in Hairdressing Certified by Loreal as well as Beauty, Makeup & Nail Art. Ph:9866681818, 9618991818, 040-40111515. Limited Seats Only (HYMM/2122/C00219)

### KENNEL

**DOBERMAN** 45 days old vaccinated puppies for sale with KCI registration. Please contact 9652828884 (HYCL/2122/C00053)

### POLYU

**VENCOPPI CHICKEN** rich in protein, great in taste & enjoy. Vencopp's Hyderabad. One price per kg. Farm Gaze Re-142, Reel Live Bird Skinless. Rs.27.1. Ph:27992239. (HOPE) (S/2122/C0216)

### PEST CONTROL

**EDDORKINS PEST** HICARE: Expertise Antipest Treatments: Cockroaches, Termites, Woodborers, Bedbugs, Ants, Rodentrats, Honeybees, Lizards, Mosquitos, Centipedes, Spiders, Insects. Sanitization. Ph:9889956152/ 9885076579. (HYCL/2122/C00148)

### TUITION

**CHEMISTRY CONCEPTS:** IIT-JEE/ NEET/ EAMCET/ CBSE/ ICSE/ (8-12) classes by experience corporate faculty. Home Tuitions/ classroom coaching. Call: 7799098698. (S/2122/C00002)

### VAASTHU

**IS YOUR** Business Logo Vastu Compatible Instant Success Use Powerful Vastu Fengshui Fonts and Tools Rajasusha Number Holistics Ph:9391134352. (HYMM/2021/C08807)

### WATER PROOFING

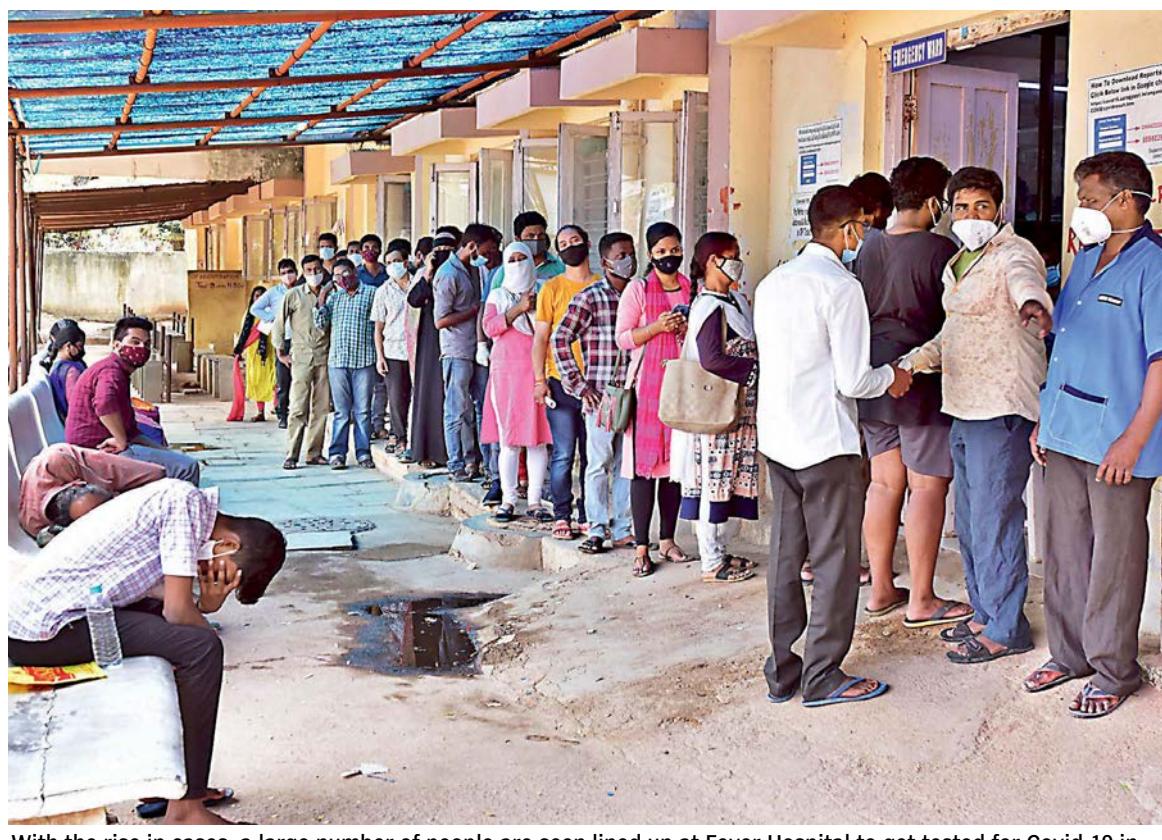
**WE DO** All kind of Building Structural Repairs, interior & exterior. Waterproofing, Wall Repairs and Roof Repairs are analysed thoroughly using (Profometer, Rebar scanner, Ultra sounds, Rebound hammer, Corrosion Meter, Moisture meter) and restore with international standards and Equipments. Ph:9347532044, 7791079999, 9985561924. (HYMM/2122/C00079)

### NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible & liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be true.

**DR ANURADHA**, senior public health officer, Urban Nutrition Health Centre, Golconda, was deputed as nodal officer for the Unani Hospital.

## Testing patients



With the rise in cases, a large number of people are seen lined up at Fever Hospital to get tested for Covid-19 in Nallakunta on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

# 1 million euros spent on 50 Rafale replicas

### From Page 1

It said Dassault supplied AFA with proforma invoice, which was supplied by an Indian company called Defsys Solutions. This invoice, which related to 50 per cent of the total order (1,017,850 euros), was for the manufacture of 50 replicas of the Rafale with the price of each model 20,000 euros. AFA asked Dassault why it ordered an Indian company to make a replica of its aircraft at 20,000 euros per piece. AFA enquired whether these replicas, supposed to be the size of a car, were really ever made? Dassault was unable to provide single document or photograph showing that these models existed and were delivered, said the news report.

of the Dassault sub-contractors in India.

The BIP meanwhile, on Monday dismissed as "completely baseless" the fresh allegations of corruption in the Rafale deal, designed to hide a hidden financial transaction.

On reports that some of these models have been put out in India including at the Indian Air Force Chief's residence, Yann Philippin, the journalist who wrote the story, said that besides the huge price of these models, what was strange was that Dassault refused to confirm if they were the same models manufactured by Defsys.

"Dassault refused to confirm to me that these are the same models. Are they the same model that were ordered to this Indian company? We don't know. What is strange is that if there was no problem and that was just an Indian company manufacturing models, Dassault should have spoken to us and told us everything was clear. We ordered these models they are to be given to institutions in India to celebrate the Rafale deal. They could have explained to us. They said no comment. There seems to be some kind of embarrassment regarding these plane models at Dassault headquarters," Dr Kumar said.

Doctors in small and big private hospitals state that they have double the number of patients in home quarantine treatment and their Covid-19 sections in hospitals are full.

It is also noted that serious cases from Maharashtra and Karnataka, which are not getting space in hospitals in the state, are brought to Hyderabad for treatment.

Experts say it is high time to adhere to safety protocols and stay at home, if required, to protect oneself from the fast-spreading virus.

The Congress on Monday sought a thorough probe in the Rafale defence deal and demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the French media report claimed that 1.1 million euros were paid to a "middleman" by the aircraft manufacturer.

## Over 35K take jab on Monday

### DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

A total of 35,308 persons took the Covid-19 vaccination on Sunday, of whom 35,001 were above the age of 45 years. The first dose of vaccine was given to 31,089 persons and the second dose to 3,912 beneficiaries above 45 years of age.

The state health department said

## IN BRIEF

**Merchant held for selling expired food**

**Hyderabad:** A merchant was arrested by the West Zone police for repacking and selling expired food products. The accused, Komati Laxmi Narayana alias Laxman, was found in possession of ₹1.5 lakh worth of expired food products, police said.

Acting on a complaint, the Langer Houz police raided a godown of 'Jai Sri Ram Agencies' at Bapunagar and nabbed Laxman, the prime accused in the case, for altering the expired dates to fresh dates in order to supply them to people and shopkeepers. A huge quantity of branded snacks was seized from Laxman during the raid. He was booked for selling food items unfit for consumption and cheating.

**MANUU CONDOLES DEATH OF PROFESSOR**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

Prof. Mohammed Zafaruddin, director, Centre for Urdu Culture Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu), passed away on Monday following a cardiac arrest. He was among the first employees of the University.

He is survived by his wife, Dr Mosarrat Jahan, associate professor, department of Urdu, Manuu, a daughter and two sons. The funeral prayer will be held after Fajr Salah (dawn prayer) at Masjid Quba, Qadar Bagh, on Tuesday.

Prof. Zafaruddin had joined Manuu on March 16, 1998, as assistant public relations officer.

Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Siddiqui Mohammed Mahmood, Registrar, recalled the services of Prof. Zafaruddin and visited his family to express their condolences. An online condolence meeting was held at the university.

**WOMAN DEAD, HUSBAND HURT IN ACCIDENT**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

A woman died and her husband was injured when a lorry rammed into their two-wheeler near a hotel on the LB Nagar-Hayatnagar road on Monday. Vanasthalipuram police identified the victim as Bairi Swathi, 30, resident of Hayatnagar and native of Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. Her husband, Jagannadham, who survived the accident was riding the two-wheeler.

Vanasthalipuram inspector K. Murali Mohan said the accident occurred when the lorry driver drove his vehicle in a rash manner and hit the scooter from the rear. The couple fell down and Swathi was run over.

Vanasthalipuram police booked a case of causing death by negligence and took the lorry driver into custody.

Further investigation is underway. Swathi's body was handed over to the family after the post-mortem.

**MINOR TAKES OUT SCOOTER, DIES IN MISHAP**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

A 15-year-old student who took off on his father's scooter without the family's knowledge early on Monday was found dead following an accident in Panjagutta.

On Monday morning, his father found him missing from his room at around 4.30 am. His school bag was missing, as was the scooter. While the family was searching for the boy, the Panjagutta police called the father and informed that he was involved in an accident and had succumbed to injuries on the spot.

"He was heading towards Somajiguda from Raj Bhavan Road when an unidentified vehicle dashed his scooter from behind, following which he fell on the road and sustained head injuries. He succumbed on the spot and was shifted to Gandhi Hospital," said the police.

A case was booked under section 304-A (death by negligence) of the IPC and an investigation was taken up. The body was shifted for the post-mortem examination.

# Still no appointment of regular VCs to varsities

Sources say search panel awaiting CM's nod on the issue

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

Even after 20 months, the government remains indecisive and silent on the appointment of Vice-Chancellors to 11 state universities.

Officials in the higher education department on Monday refused to answer questions regarding the appointments.

Sources said that the search committee is awaiting the Chief Minister's nod on the issue.

This comes almost a month after senior officials had told *Deccan Chronicle* that the government will present the choices to Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan for her approval, and that they were only waiting for

**DR SANTHOSH KUMAR**, state president, Telangana Schools Technical Colleges Employees Association, said that IAS officers continue to govern the state universities as vice-chancellors. They rarely visit and hence there is no one to regularise the affairs of the institutions.

the completion of Legislative Council elections in March.

It is over a week now since the Council elections were completed, but silence continues with two officials in the higher education department responding in non-committal tones on Monday.

On the other hand,

issues over affiliation,

salaries to teachers and a lack of proper administration in the time of crisis induced due to the closure of educational institutes around final examinations are all piling up.

"There has been a monopoly in administration. Even after 20 months, rector posts remain unchanged in universities across the state. Varsities are being run, more so neglected by the people who have been appointed to channelise higher education", said Dr Balakrishna Reddy, founder-president of Telangana Technical Institutions Employees Association (TTIEA).

He added that several teachers in affiliated colleges have not received salaries for over a year now, and there was no one in the administration to address their grievances.

Meanwhile, Dr Santhosh Kumar, state president, Telangana Schools Technical Colleges Employees Association (TSTCEA), said that IAS officers continue to govern the state universities as vice-chancellors. They rarely visit and hence there is no one to regularise the affairs of the institutions.

The Special Chief Secretary (Education) Chitra Ramchandran has called a meeting to discuss issues of implementation of reservation and combined recruitment for filling up teaching staff in the universities, but how will this help when there are no regular VCs," Kumar wondered.



Despite strict warning against public gatherings, a huge crowd gathers for the inauguration of the Railway Under Bridge near Hitec City MMTS station in Kukatpally on Monday. — S. SURENDER REDDY.

## KTR opens Hitec City RUB to ease traffic woes of public

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

K.T. Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) minister, on Monday inaugurated the much-awaited road underbridge (RUB) near the Hitec City MMTS station, which will bring relief to commuters travelling from Kukatpally. The project is part of the state government's flagship Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) programme.

The minister also participated in a series of events to inaugurate infrastructure projects in the city.

The RUB, built to ease traffic flow towards IT cor-

**THE PROJECT** is part of the state government's flagship Strategic Road Development Plan programme.

**K.T. RAMA RAO** added that measures are being taken up to ensure that rainwater does not enter houses anymore.

ridor, has been completed at a cost of ₹66.59 crore. Spanning 410 metres in length and 20.6 metres width, the RUB, completed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation under the SRDP, is expected to end traffic bottlenecks in the corridor with the existing RoB near Hitec City MMTS station

reaching its maximum capacity.

Speaking on the occasion, Rama Rao said that various flyovers and underpasses constructed and opened to traffic under SRDP Phase I at BioDiversity, Mind Space, Ayyappa Society and Rajiv Gandhi junctions have overwhelmingly eased traffic problems.

After inaugurating many developmental works at Khaithlapur later, he said "There is a garbage dumping issue in Khaithlapur, which we will address soon. A modern garbage transfer station is already coming up to cater to the needs of the locality." The minister added that measures are being

taken up to ensure that rainwater does not enter houses anymore. He said that in order to improve sewerage and drainage infrastructure in the merged villages of municipalities on the peripheries of Hyderabad, a comprehensive drainage network would be constructed at a cost of ₹3,500 crore.

Rama Rao said that the state government has begun work on improving drinking water supply in these areas with ₹3,000 crore.

The minister also laid the foundation stone for a VDCC road at Ambedkar Nagar and for an approach road in Ward No.115, Moosapet circle. The roads are being developed at a cost of ₹99 lakh.

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

The CCS police along with the Commissioner's Task Force nabbed a chartered accountant on Monday on charges of creating a fake government order (GO) regarding the imposition of a lockdown, and allegedly cheating people by posting it on social media.

The accused, Sreepathi Sanjeev Kumar, 48, is a resident of Madhapur, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar, who announced the arrest, said.

Ghatkesar police knew to swim and jumped into the lake. They invited Srinu to enter the water with them. He refused, saying he did not know how to swim.

"Both of them forcefully pushed Srinu into the water. As Srinu started drowning, his friends

**THE FRIENDS** informed the locals who alerted the police, who reached the spot and attempted to rescue Srinu. The effort went in vain.

tried to save him but in vain," said Ghatkesar inspector N. Chandra Babu.

The friends informed the locals who alerted the police, who reached the spot and attempted to rescue Srinu. The effort went in vain.

Ghatkesar police booked a case of culpable homicide against Srinu's friends as due to their reckless behaviour.

On Monday, with the help of Disaster Response Force and the fire services department, the Ghatkesar police retrieved Srinu's body. "On April 1, he downloaded previous lockdown orders issued by the Telangana government from the web on his laptop.

top. Later, he forged the order by changing the

dates of lockdown pertaining to the year 2021,"

## DC IMPACT



GHMC workers build a mini-flower zone after removing the garbage dump in front of the Government Primary School in Nehrunagar, Masab Tank.

## DC thanked for removal of garbage bin near school

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

*Deccan Chronicle*, Telangana's voice and Hyderabad's heartbeat on issues, has been appreciated by a reader from Nehrunagar in Masab Tank.

This happened after Altaf Baig, a resident of this area, noticed DC's picture on garbage being dumped at the entrance of the Government Primary School, Urdu and English Medium, at Nehrunagar on March 29.

Following this, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) removed the garbage dump and built a mini-flower zone at the spot.

Altaf Baig pointed out: "People hesitated to walk around this place, which had been earmarked by GHMC into a bin zone. We are thankful to authorities for responding so soon after the report in *Deccan Chronicle*. This will be a great relief to citizens of the surrounding areas too," the reader



This picture of March 29 shows the garbage dump in front of the Government Primary School in Nehrunagar, Masab Tank, in Hyderabad.

said. When this newspaper approached Hyderabad district education officer R. Rohini regarding the issue, she expressed her gratitude to *Deccan Chronicle* for highlighting the problem.

## IIT-H develops sustainable, low-cost power battery

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

A new sustainable low-cost dual carbon battery has been developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. It could as well turn out to be an alternative for conventional lithium-ion batteries, which are not only costly, but also contain heavy transition metals as components.

The new battery has been developed by Electrochemical Energy Storage (EES) Lab of IIT-Hyderabad under supervision of Dr Surendra Kumar Martha, associate professor in the department of chemistry. The IIT-H researched battery may find potential uses in high-voltage applications, sophisticated battery-run medical devices, regenerative braking systems in electric vehicles, and stationary grids.

"The novel dual carbon battery, comprising zero transition metals, is environmentally benign. It may cut down the overall battery cost by 20-25 per cent, apart from curbing unpredictability in the market prices of batteries," Dr Martha said. He announced that their study will be extrapolated to push energy density limits of their battery further. Their broad vision includes introducing the dual carbon system as a cheaper LIB alternative within Indian market. A research article, 'Multifunctional utilisation of pitch-coated carbon fibres in lithium-based rechargeable batteries' has been published in 'Advanced Energy Materials', an online library. The study was carried out by Shuvajit Ghosh and Udit Bhattacharjee, PhD students at IIT-Hyderabad, under supervision of Dr Martha.

The IMD said that for the next three days, the maximum temperature in Hyderabad would be in the range of 37° to 38°C and the minimum temperatures between 21° and 23°C.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the city on Monday recorded 35.4°C Celsius, three notches below normal for this time of the year.

The cyclonic circulation also caused rain in some areas. Bandlaguda in the capital received 4.8 mm of rainfall on Monday.

The IMD said that for the next three days, the maximum temperature in Hyderabad would be in the range of 37° to 38°C and the minimum temperatures between 21° and 23°C.

"There has been a drop in the temperature across the state. This was due to the passage of a trough which has moved from the coast to the peninsular region. Even the wind pattern has changed from northerly to north-eastern direction," A. Sravani, a meteorologist from IMD Hyderabad told *Deccan Chronicle*.

## Fake lockdown GO: CA arrested

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

The CCS police along with the Commissioner's Task Force nabbed a chartered accountant on Monday on charges of creating a fake government order (GO) regarding the imposition of a lockdown, and allegedly cheating people by posting it on social media.

The accused, Sreepathi Sanjeev Kumar, 48, is a resident of Madhapur, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar, who announced the arrest, said.



Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar shows a fake GO which has created ruckus on the social media on Monday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

**HE CIRCULATED THE PDF** format of the fake GO to a WhatsApp group of his badminton team consisting of 40 members, the commissioner said.

Anjani Kumar said. He circulated the PDF format of the fake GO to a WhatsApp group of his badminton team consisting of 40 members, the commissioner said. The group members then circulated it to their contacts. "Seeing the same, the public assumed that it is an original GO issued by the Government of Telangana State and the same was viral in social media," said the police commissioner.

A case was registered by the CCS police for forgery and intent to cause alarm and an investigation was taken up, following which arrests were made on Monday.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**FOCUS SHIFTS TO WARANGAL MUNICIPAL POLLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, APRIL 5

With the delimitation of divisions under the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) approved by the state government, political parties have shifted their focus to the elections to be held for the municipal body whose term ended on March 14. GWMC now has 66 divisions instead of 58. With the boundaries of almost all divisions completely altered, the aspirants are acclimatising themselves with the population and the possibility of reservation.

The number of voters under the GWMC is 6,52,972 according to the electoral rolls up to January 25, 2021.

**ABVP LEADERS VISIT BODA SUNIL'S FAMILY**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, APRIL 5

ABVP leaders visited the family of Boda Sunil Naik, the Kakatiya University student who died of suicide due to lack of jobs, at his residence in Tejavath Ram Singh thanda of Gudur Mandal of Mahbubabad district on Monday.

ABVP state secretary Praveen Reddy said that Sunil, who hailed from a poor family and was educated, died by suicide after realising that the state government was not filling vacancies.

Sunil consumed poison and shot a selfie video to inform the government about the problems of the unemployed.

Praveen Reddy urged the state government to abandon its "reckless attitude" and immediately fill the 1.91 lakh vacancies in the as well as withdraw the decision to increase the retirement age.

"Only when this is done will the soul of Sunil be at peace," Praveen Reddy said.

**52-YR-OLD WOMAN TAKES LIFE BY SUICIDE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

A 52-year-old woman died by suicide at an under-construction building on Monday. Chandanagar police said the victim, Alla Vinoda, was suffering from a prolonged illness.

Her son Yella Nagesh Reddy, 32, is an IT company employee and the family are residents of KSR Enclave, Chandanagar. Police said Nagesh Reddy used to take Vinoda to hospital regularly. On Monday, at about 6 am, when he went to the victim's room, she was missing.

Police said Nagesh began searching for his mother. "Meanwhile in the community WhatsApp group, he got to know about a woman's suicide. He reached the spot and found his mother dead," the police said in a statement.

Nagesh informed police that due to her health condition she might have died by suicide. Based on his complaint Chandanagar police booked a case of suspicious death and investigation is underway.

**COPS ON ALERT, STEP UP COMBING FOR MAOISTS**

**Hyderabad, April 5:** The Telangana state police has sounded an alert, intensified combing operations and beefed up security in the bordering areas of the state in the wake of the killing of 22 security personnel by Maoists in an ambush in neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

The state police have mounted a vigil particularly in Bhadrakothi Kothagudem and Mulugu districts, a senior police official said on Monday.

"We are alert and regular combing operations are going on. In view of the (Chhattisgarh Maoist attack), combing has been intensified and security has been beefed up in areas (near the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border)," a senior police official said. Police parties were carrying out checking, cordon and search operations as part of the measures taken to prevent maoists from entering Telangana state, the official added.

The security personnel were killed by Maoists on Saturday when they were out on a combing operation in a forest along the border of the Bijapur and Sukma districts of Chhattisgarh.

— PTI

**Fill vacancies**



Unemployed youth stage a dharna in front of the State Council of Educational Research and Training, Hyderabad, demanding that the state government fill up the vacancies of Telangana Residential Teachers Urdu medium teachers pending since 2017 with the available candidates, on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

## BJP leaders hit campaign trail

### Bandi says party going door to door to win Nagarjunasagar bypoll

IREDDY SRINIVAS  
REDDY I DC  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

The BJP has increased its campaign momentum for the ensuing Nagarjunasagar byelections with top leaders like party's state affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh, Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy, state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, national vice-president D.K. Aruna joining the electioneering.

Tarun Chugh and party candidate Dr P. Ravi Kumar participated in a joint campaign at Haliya and other places in the constituency.

Kishan Reddy, who completed campaigning in Tamil Nadu, where he is the party's poll incharge, will be organising road shows in Nagarjunasagar in the next three days while Aruna will campaign for two days.

Sanjay has campaigned extensively in the last three days. He said that

key leaders are all campaigning in Nagarjunasagar while poll in-charges are mustering support at the ground level.

"We are concentrating on a door-to-door campaign and the leaders are working hard to win the seat," Sanjay said. "This strategy is worth the effort because we won't resort to use of money and muscle power like the ruling party has been doing."

He said that some leaders from other parties

have been alleging that the BJP failed in the selection of nominees.

"They should remember that we fielded a candidate from the ST community in the general category. The Scheduled Tribes and BCs, who have been neglected by the TRS and the Congress, see hope in BJP and we will not disappoint them," Sanjay stated.

Meanwhile, party sources said there is a worry because unlike at Dubbaka and during the

GHMC elections, state leaders were not campaigning seriously in Nagarjunasagar and there has been no roadshow by any major leader.

They wondered why a crowd-puller like Vijayashanti was not campaigning at Nagarjunasagar.

They said that only those leaders, who have been appointed as coordinators, are going around the constituency while key leaders seem to be missing from the action.



— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Kishan says Cong. denied Jagjivan Ram for PM's post

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

On the occasion of Babu Jagjivan Ram's birth anniversary, Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other leaders paid tributes at the statue of the former deputy prime minister here on Monday.

Kishan Reddy recalled Jagjivan Ram's selfless services and dedication

for the development of the nation. He stated that Jagjivan Ram, who devoted his life for the uplift of weaker sections, will continue to inspire future generations.

Reddy alleged that Congress obstructed Jagjivan Ram's candidature for the Prime Minister's post when the Janata Party proposed his name. He said that the Congress had done so again in 1980.

Sanjay alleged that the

TRS was making money politically and was using it for its survival in Telangana state. Sanjay questioned K. Chandrashekhar Rao about his promise to erect a 125-feet Ambedkar statue. He accused the Chief Minister of going back on his promise to make a Dalit as the state's Chief Minister. He wondered why Rao was not paying homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram and Dr B.R. Ambedkar on their anniversaries.

Mahmood Ali said services rendered by the Chandrashekhar Rao government during the last seven years cannot be forgotten. These include the Shadi Mubarak scheme, the minority residential schools for Muslims and overseas scholarships programme, among others

Addressing a series of meetings in Yacharam and Kashiwargudem villages in Anumula mandal of the Nagarjunasagar constituency, the home minister stated that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has all along supported Muslim minorities.

Only the Congress treated the minorities as its vote bank.

Mahmood Ali said services rendered by the Chandrashekhar Rao government during the last seven years cannot be forgotten. These include the Shadi Mubarak scheme, the minority residential schools for Muslims and overseas scholarships programme, among others

and former minister K. Jana Reddy, who has represented Nagarjunasagar constituency for over 25 years, ultimately failed to do much for Muslims.

He claimed that minorities in Telangana have achieved the kind of progress under TRS government that cannot be matched by any other state in India.

Mahmood Ali maintained that TRS must succeed in the Nagarjunasagar bypoll. He pointed out that late MLA Nomula Narsimhaiah had done a lot for the constituency and the latter's son Nomula Bhagat, whom the TRS has fielded, will continue developing the constituency represented by his father.

The home minister maintained that Congress candidate

represented the constituency

represented by his father.

Both the state and Central governments of

their elections, both have

deceived the cane

farmers.

"Kavitha knows how to

play only Bathukamma

and is not bothered

about farmers. Present

Nizamabad MP D.

Aravind also promised

farmers that he will

reopen Muthyampet sugarcane factory. Both have

betrayed the farmers,"

Vedika leaders charged.

They said the centre and

state have similarly

deceived turmeric, corn

and paddy growers.

The leaders warned

that their agitation will

be intensified in days to

come and a befitting lesson

tought to state and central governments if

they fail to act at least

now.

Centre, state accused leaders of breaking poll promises

## Cane farmers want factory reopened

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, APRIL 5

Demanding that state government reopen sugar cane factory at Muthyampet in Mettaphal mandal of Karimnagar district, farmers under banner of Rythu Ikya Vedika blockaded road in front of the collectorate in Jagtial district on

Monday. Speaking on the occasion, representatives of farmers' vedika accused the state government of arresting their union leaders even before their protest programme could be organised. "This is undemocratic and grave injustice to farmers," they stated. The leaders accused

both the state and Central governments of betraying farmers with regard to Muthyampet sugar cane factory. Before the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, leaderships of both the centre and state promised they will reopen three sugar cane factories and resolve all the issues of farmers. But having won

their elections, both have deceived the cane farmers.

"Kavitha knows how to

play only Bathukamma

and is not bothered

about farmers. Present

Nizamabad MP D.

Aravind also promised

farmers that he will

reopen Muthyampet sugarcane factory. Both have

betrayed the farmers,"

Vedika leaders charged.

They said the centre and

state have similarly

deceived turmeric, corn

and paddy growers.

The leaders warned

that their agitation will

be intensified in days to

come and a befitting lesson

tought to state and central governments if

they fail to act at least

now.

Please call for Zoom Meeting ID

VISHAL KHURANA | 9000110111

## TS only state to buy paddy, says minister

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, APRIL 5

cure the paddy from the farmers," Dayakar Rao said.

"Due to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS), Devadula and SRSP (Sriram Sagar Project), there was an increase in the irrigated area. Mission Kakatiya has also replenished tanks. As a result, farmers took up paddy cultivation on a large scale," Satyavathi Rathod said. The farmers are likely to be rewarded with high yield under favourable conditions, she added.

She said that procurement of paddy will be done through Indra Kranti Pathams, primary agriculture cooperative societies, district cooperative marketing societies (ODCMS) and district cooperative central banks (DCCBs). Both the ministers told the officials to tackle the procurement by overcoming transport and other problems.

**OBITUARY**



Mario Louis Gerard D'souza

25-03-1952 - 05-04-2021

Forever in our Hearts

Deeply mourned by Wife: Synora

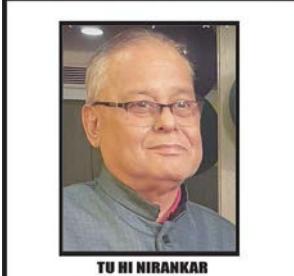
Children: Merlin and Kurt, Rachel

Grandchildren: Katelyn and Megan

God Children: Judy, Melissa and Joanna

Ph: 9885127380

**RESPECTFUL HOMAGE**



TU HI NIRANKAR

Late Sri. SURESH KHURANA JI

DOB : 22-04-1952 DOD : 04-04-2021

"You will always be remembered with deep affection"

## SHORT TAKES

## A FEW TD MEN CONTEST POLLS DESPITE DIKTAT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, APRIL 5

Even though party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu has given a call to boycott ZPTC and MPTC elections, the 'disillusioned' Telugu Desam cadre is actively participating at the ground-level supporting one candidate or the other.

TD not being in the fray may benefit YSRC and dash the hopes of Jana Sena candidates, who are garnering the support of TD in many places. The local TD leaders say that if they avoid the elections at this juncture, the party cadre may be scattered and many head to YSRC. However, if the TD is in the contest, and though its candidates may lose, the cadre will be working for the party with vigour.

Meanwhile, former legislators Assembly segment in-charges are not objecting when some cadre wish to contest the elections. In fact, they are advising them to spend money only if their winning chances are bright. Some former MLAs have gone to Tirupati for the Lok Sabha by-election campaign.

"After Naidu announced the boycott decision, some cadre members abandoned the campaign but in some villages, the cadre and candidates did not agree with the decision and are keen on contesting," said Undi constituency social media convener Yashoda Krishnaiah.

## BODY OF C'GARH MARTYR ON WAY TO VIZAG

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 5

Paramilitary jawan Routh Jagadish, killed in an encounter with Maoists in Bijapur forests of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, had fixed his marriage for May 22 and planned for shopping this Tuesday.

The untimely death of the local youth shocked the entire town after the news broke out. Hundreds of people came out in rallies and raised slogans praising his supreme sacrifice. His garlanded portraits were seen all over the town.

On Monday evening, a bike rally was taken out from the central town to his home in Gajularega, on the city outskirts, paying tributes to the jawaan.

Friends of Jagadish said his parents Ramanamma and Simhachalam were inconsolable. They started preparations in advance for the marriage as they thought Jagadish, posted in Assam, might not have much time to be at home due to his nature of duties.

"He called me four days ago and said he would be arriving today and start shopping for wedding clothes etc from Tuesday. That was the last call we got. His superiors broke the news of his death," Jagadish's father Simhachalam said.

## DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN FOR VACCINE IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 5

Ward and village volunteers are visiting houses of targeted beneficiaries aged above 45 years to persuade the reluctant ones to take the Covid-19 vaccine.

Given the steady rise in the number of Coronavirus infections across the state, the state government directed health authorities to concentrate on highly populated urban areas and villages. It recently extended vaccination centres to ward and village secretariats to be within the reach of people. With the inclusion of people aged above 45 years, health authorities identified the beneficiaries at all levels. They fixed a daily target of 500 people in each ward secretariat and nearly 300 at each village secretariat. The vaccination schedule will be from 9 am to 5 pm with a possible extension by an hour if the need arises.

Volunteers and ASHA workers campaign in the targeted areas a day the vaccine date. However, some beneficiaries are failing to turn up for varied reasons. At this juncture, the volunteers and ASHA workers list out those who have missed out and by afternoon visit their houses and persuade them to take the vaccine. Those who refuse to take the jab cite reasons that include fear of side-effects like fever and body pains, blood pressure and blood sugar and health complications, instances of death of some people after vaccination.

## TELANGANA'S FORESTS: LOST IN THE WOODS

## TS forests staring at a disastrous fire year

State has lost 20K hectares to forest fires this year

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

Every day, on an average, Telangana's forests have been losing to fires every day the equivalent of 57.5 times the area of the popular KBR National Park in the city. Or, in terms of another popular Hyderabad landmark, the state is daily losing forests equal to 19.5 times the area of Hussainsagar lake to fires.

This year, till April 4, Telangana lost a whopping 20,471.54 hectares to forest fires.

Nearly every one of these fires, except 600 out of the 21,439 fire alerts received by the state through satellite imagery since January 1, have been set off by people. A few accidentally, and most deliberately.

The 600 exceptions include controlled burns by forest department staff creating fire lines, and burning fallen leaves, dried grasses to prevent any possible fire, accidental or otherwise, from going out of control.

The current year, has been particularly a bad one in terms of forest fires. In 2018, during the 'forest fire season' that begins at the start of the year and ends in June, when the monsoon rains typically set in, Telangana reported 13,002 forest fire alerts. In 2019, this number was 13,911, and in 2020 it was 12,442 forest fire alerts.

This year, with three more months to go for the fire season to end, there have already been 21,439 fire alerts. This leap in fire alerts is being attributed to the lush growth of grasses and shrubs in

## FIRE ALERTS

13,002 in 2018  
13,911 in 2019  
12,442 in 2020  
21,439 in 2021 (till April 4)

Fires in wildlife sanctuaries/tiger reserves

4,161 in 2018  
4,444 in 2019  
4,267 in 2020  
6,179 in 2021 (till date)

Forest area burnt this year: 20,471.54 hectares



2020, thanks to the copious rains the state received last year. The then green sheets of undergrowth, are now bone dry, the perfect tinder for fires.

Most fires are set by people. This year, a great number of these fires are a result of people setting alight the undergrowth under Mahua trees. Last year's rains resulted in a boom of sorts in flowering by Mahua trees this season, officials say.

The flowers of these trees are extremely popular among tribals living outside of forest areas as well as the forest dwelling tribal communities for brewing home-made liquor, a traditional activity enthusiastically pursued every summer.

Mahua collectors set off ground fires because it becomes easy to spot the bright yellow flowers against the black burnt ground. Searching for the flowers amidst the sometimes waist-high grasses is a near impossible task, particularly with the wild grasses capable of inflicting painful nicks on the human body. Once picked, the flowers are sun-dried before becoming the vital

ingredient for brewing liquor.

Though an efficient fire alert system exists, with the alerts being issued everyday by the Forest Survey of India which has two satellites keeping an eye on such fires across India, battling them and putting them out is a tough task, according to several forest field staff and fire watchers that *Deccan Chronicle* spoke with.

"Sometimes, when we get an alert, we reach that spot using the GIS coordinates but find it has burnt itself out. At other times, the fires are raging and it takes hours to beat one down. The equipment, including fire beaters, is heavy and before we get to a fire, we often have to walk many kilometres in the hot sun or the dead of the night," one fire watcher in Nagarkurnool district said.

Since it is next to impossible to carry water to put out a fire in a forest, staff rely on fire beaters, or just branches with green leaves from the nearby trees, to beat the fire down. "It is very hard work and Mahua collectors

do not realise how hot it gets and how tiring and dangerous the fires can be," another fire watcher said.

In fact, just how dangerous the forest fires can be, came to the fore tragically this past March when three of the 11 Chenchu tribals, caught in a ground fire when out digging for 'nannari' roots in the Amrabad tiger reserve, lost their lives to the severe burns they suffered.

Another big cause of fires are pilgrims making their way to temples through forests in the state, with the tiger reserve again presenting the perfect examples. Every year, in the days running up to Maha Shivaratri festival, the largest tiger reserve in the country sees hundreds of fires set by pilgrims walking through the forest as they make their way to the Shiva temple in Srisailam, across the Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh. "They listen to no one, set the fires to keep wild animals at bay as they walk through the forest," a forest guard said.

In addition to Devikta, TD nominees Maddur Saidamma from the Balayapalli MPTC seat and Chandramouli from Vengamambapuram MPTC migrated to the ruling party. It effectively meant they had dropped out of the elections. All three of them

## Bus shelter ACs don't work



Passengers wait outside the AC bus shelters. Those waiting inside complain of ACs not working near the KPHB Metro Station. — S. SURENDER REDDY

**MOST FIRES** are set by people. This year, a great number of these fires are a result of people setting alight the undergrowth under Mahua trees. Last year's rains resulted in a boom of sorts in flowering by Mahua trees this season, officials say.

**MAHUA COLLECTORS** set off ground fires because it becomes easy to spot the bright yellow flowers against the black burnt ground.

Tors and others do not realise how hot it gets and how tiring and dangerous the fires can be," another fire watcher said.

In fact, just how dangerous the forest fires can be, came to the fore tragically this past March when three of the 11 Chenchu tribals, caught in a ground fire when out digging for 'nannari' roots in the Amrabad tiger reserve, lost their lives to the severe burns they suffered.

Another big cause of fires are pilgrims making their way to temples through forests in the state, with the tiger reserve again presenting the perfect examples. Every year, in the days running up to Maha Shivaratri festival, the largest tiger reserve in the country sees hundreds of fires set by pilgrims walking through the forest as they make their way to the Shiva temple in Srisailam, across the Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh. "They listen to no one, set the fires to keep wild animals at bay as they walk through the forest," a forest guard said.

## JAGAN APPROVES RESUMPTION OF SOMASILA-SWARNAKUMHI CANAL WORKS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, APRIL 5

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy gave his approval for resumption of works pertaining to Somasila-Swarkumhi link canal so as to put an end to irrigation ordeals faced by farmers in Rapur.

This was stated by minister for Energy Balineni Srinivasa Reddy while addressing an election campaign, 'YSR Congress Sankaravam', at Rapur in Venkatagiri constituency on Monday.

He said it is going to be a reality now following the consent given of Jagan Mohan Reddy.

**TSRTC TENDER NOTICE**  
No.01/804(01)/2021-RM-RR, Dt. 31.03.2021.  
Online e-tenders are invited for appointing Authorized Ticket Booking Agent at Kempegowda/Majestic Bus station, Bengaluru platform No.15 in Terminal -1 through e-Tendering: (1) for tender forms, tender terms and conditions down load through the tender id.No.231995 Website: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 06.04.2021 to 20.04.2021 and apply as per the details mentioned in the tender document and tender forms.

Sd/-  
Regional Manager  
Rangareddy Region

NORTHERN RAILWAY (Construction Organization) E-TENDER NOTICE	
Chief Project Manager, Construction, Northern Railway for & on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Two Packet System for the following work.	
1. Name of work and location	Replacement of ROB-784 (Katal Put) with bowstring steel girder in connection with 4-line entry & exit in Lucknow yard.
2. Completion period of work	24 (Twenty Four) Months
3. Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 5738.79 Lakhs
4. Earnest money amount (to be deposited online)	NIL
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 28.04.2021 on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> . The tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 28.04.2021.
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> w.e.f. 07.04.2021. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> from 14.04.2021 to 28.04.2021. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 22-Tender/CPMC/NRL/KLKO. Dated : 05.04.2021. 768/21  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Invitation of application for appointment as Young Professionals and Consultant in the Department of Economic Affairs

The Department of Economic Affairs proposes to engage Young Professionals and Consultant for attending to specific and time-bound jobs. Interested candidates may apply on Webportal URL: <https://mofapp.nic.in/cadre> within 15 days of publication in the Newspapers. The detailed guidelines for applying for the posts are available on the website of the department ([www.finmin.nic.in](http://www.finmin.nic.in))

sd/-  
(Shoba Basil)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Ph. No. 2309-5061

davp-15201/11/0001/2122

## TSRTC sees dip in commuters

SANJAY SAMUEL  
PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

ly, led to RTC busses soon regaining 80 percent of its commuters in rural services and 75 per cent in urban services, though after schools, colleges and commercial establishments restarted functioning.

According to corporation's chief traffic manager Jeevan Prasad, "There has been almost five per cent drop in passengers in the past few days after Coronavirus has become resurgent in the state. Field mangers have been asked to be on high alert. Further, all busses are being sanitised on a regular basis, apart from creating awareness about safe journey environment among passengers."

"Schools and colleges are not functioning. That could be another reason for drop in passenger traffic," he pointed out.

## 47-YEAR-OLD DRUNK RIDER DIES IN ROAD MISHAP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

A drunk rider who accidentally fell from a scooter in April 1 succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment in hospital on Monday, police said.

Policeman said Papathoti Vishwaraj, 47, a resident of Malkajgiri, fell on the road when his motorcycle skidded near the Safilguda crossroads.

"Some passerby brought him to his residence. After some time, he became unconscious. His parents shifted him to a nearby hospital and later to Gandhi Hospital," the police said. The duty doctor informed the parents that Vishwaraj's condition was critical due to internal injuries.

Following his death, Malkajgiri police booked a case of suspicious death. Vishwaraj's body was handed over to his family after the post-mortem examination.

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum to E-Tender notice no.: SG-664-2-E-DHN-2020-21

Ref. E-Tender notice no.: SG-664-2-E-DHN-2020-21

Name of work:- Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Solar State Interlocking (Electronic Interlocking) System conforming to RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/192/2019 version 2.0 with latest amendments at 06 Station i.e. PARASATH, CHAUDHURIBANDH, HIRODI, GUJHANDI, PAHARPUR &amp; TANKUPPA Stations in Dhanbad Division of E.C.Railway, including all Indoor &amp; Outdoor Signalling Works.

Schedule of Works, Existing Entry of Schedule :- Schedule 05 - Schedule 05 - Schedule - C (Part - II) (Non Schedule Items) Item No. 53-Qty 56 DP, Revised of Schedule :- Schedule 05 - Schedule - C (Part - III) (Non Schedule Items) Item No. 53-Qty 56 DP, Revised of Schedule :- Schedule 05 - Schedule - C (Part - III) (Non Schedule Items) Item No. 54-Qty 56 DP, Revised of Schedule :- Schedule 05 - Schedule - C (Part - III) (Non Schedule Items) Item No. 54-Qty 00 (Zero No.), Approx. cost of the work, Existing Entry of Schedule :- Rs. 27,51,63,140.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Fifty One Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Forty only), Revised of Schedule :- Rs. 24,35,18,646.55 (Rupees Twenty Four Crore Thirty Five Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Forty Six and Fifty Five Paisa only)

Dy. Chief Signal &amp; Telecommunication Engineer/Works, East Central Railway/Dhanbad, PR/00015/DHN/WP/C/21-22/44

Department of Atomic Energy  
Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

## e-TENDER NOTICE

Regional Director (P&amp;S), HRPSU, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online tenders as given below:

- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: DPS/HRPU/NFC/E-9498/PT/TPT/CAP/11324 (b) Description: Supply of Hydraulic Laboratory Infrastructure – Qty. 1 set detailed technical Specifications as per Annexure (c) Last date for submission of online pre-bid queries: 26/04/2021 upto 2:00 PM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: 25/05/2021 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: NIL, subject to submission of Bid Security Declaration.
- (

# DECCAN Chronicle

6 APRIL 2021

## Govt must rework its entire Naxal strategy

In yet another massive ambush in South Bastar, just a couple of kilometres away from their camp and on the edge of the Bijapur forest, the entrenched Maoists took a big toll of the security forces, chiefly the CRPF, in broad daylight on Saturday. It was only the following day that the enormity of the tragedy, that should make us ask serious questions, was revealed. It was found as many as 23 uniformed personnel were killed, as many as 33 were injured, and one was missing.

The questions are pressing because this was not a routine tragedy in which an IED blows up a truck ferrying troops. In this particular case, the forces were out to launch an attack on the Naxalites, presumably fully prepared; they were the hunters. And yet, they were ambushed not 2 km from their base, if early reports are anything to go by. They were chased down a hill with automatic weapons raising bullets on them. Then they ran into what looked like deserted village houses. The insurgent cadres were waiting. More were killed in gruesome ways.

Union home minister Amit Shah quite rightly cut short his election visit in Assam and rushed back to take stock. It does look like deep-going failures of an all-round variety. And yet, even before the post-mortem is complete, the CRPF's director-general is announcing, prematurely that there was no intelligence failure. He does not substantiate the assertion, which appears shallow. The forces try to draw comfort from other wholly unsubstantiated assertions when they speak of high numbers of Maoists killed.

It is self-evident that our forces did not expect to be surrounded and chased down a slope and then end up facing murderous Naxalite cadres when they attempt to seek shelter in seemingly empty houses. Should this have happened reported 2 km from base camp if the intelligence was good when the soldiers set out to track and capture/kill?

Sad events like these have been occurring for the past 15 years or more. Under various names and fanciful acronyms, plans are drawn up to deal with the armed Maoist cadre. But our soldiers are dying. The data for the last decade is 175 uniformed men dead. The Maoist movement, however, is nowhere near dead.

What happened on Saturday was a part of a proper plan to launch an attack on the Maoists before they go on the rampage in the pre-monsoon summer season. It was meant to be a pre-emptive action. It ends up like little boys playing soldier with their toys and the nation must mourn.

If dealing with armed guerrillas well-entrenched among the people requires a military approach as well as plans to win hearts and minds, then it seems evident that the Indian State has floundered on both counts. Year after year, Bastar in Chhattisgarh becomes the killing field of valiant men who appear short on training, supportive intelligence and possibly also morale, though the last is not clear. It is important to return to the drawing board, call in the specialists, look at the causes of repeated military failures, revamp the development and population-centric paradigm, and jettison smooth talking police officers who do not lead well. The careful training of the state police is much needed, as was done in Jammu and Kashmir where the police now excels in counter-insurgency operations. The local police are the real intelligence gatherers.

## Coming soon: Covid passports

It has been more than a year since members of the human race, threatened by a microorganism, have been covering the most distinguishable part of their bodies, the face, with a mask and getting along with life. The new normal, forced by the Covid-19 pandemic, has several other elements that range from an unprecedented part of the workforce opting to "work from home" to a strict "no" to unbridled social dos to avoiding physical contact, even in the form of shaking hands with others.

"Quarantine", a word which rarely appeared in the media, has become as common as "weather". Application of a chemical on the hands immediately after touching an unfamiliar surface has almost become a part of human behaviour. Millions have experienced life in the confines of the four walls of a room for months on end. Travel has been reduced to a necessary evil. It's against this background that British PM Boris Johnson has added "Covid passports" for mass events and a "traffic lights system" for foreign travel to the new normal's defining elements. These are parts of the measures he has suggested to stem the spiralling number of daily Covid-19 cases in his country.

Covid passports, or rather a Covid-status certification system, would record if a person has natural immunity after having the infection, has been vaccinated, or tested negative for Covid-19 recently. It would be a deciding factor if one were to be allowed entry into sports events, nightclubs and theatres when they reopen. The "traffic light" system will rate overseas destinations based on a range of parameters such as proportion of a country's population which has been vaccinated, rates of infection, emerging new variants and access to reliable scientific data and genomic sequencing. Travellers from "green" countries won't be required to isolate while those from "amber" or "red" will have to self-isolate. It looks like humankind will have started living a different life before the virus departs.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/255234; Fax: 0891-2755285  
**Rajahmundry:** Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208  
**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904  
**Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433  
**Nellore:** Survey No.52/2, Burrapur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/2; Telefax: 0861-2348580  
**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325  
**Cochin:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Rammagai, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
**Gram:** CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08



## America sinking to a new low in crass diplomacy

The United States struck a poor low in the conduct of diplomatic relations recently. One had thought that President Joe Biden would break with his predecessor Donald Trump's crudeness. Its senior officials met senior officials of China last month in Alaska, on American soil. The talks were supposed to break the ice in their relations. Tradition requires extra civility for such openings. The US delegates began with uncalled for uncivility to China's top diplomats. The latter gave back as good as they got.

Since George H.W. Bush, America's Presidents have revelled in calling the heads of other states names; from Iraq's Saddam Hussein to the leaders of North Korea, Iran and others.

If this exercise was designed to promote America's interests, the gains were not visible.

Diplomacy is a blend of words and actions. When Anthony Eden, otherwise a highly cultured man, called Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser names, the astute ones predicted he had forsaken diplomacy

and was sold on war. But the boorish language of recent American vintage doesn't presage war. It is intended to browbeat in the game of negotiation.

Sparta's leaders' response to the verbosity of a mission from the island of Samoa is a classic of its kind: "We have forgotten the beginning of your harangue; we paid no heed to the middle of it; and nothing has given us pleasure in it except the end."

Romans housed ambassadors in rat-infested buildings. China was barely civil to foreigners. In modern times, Nikita Krushchev flouted all the norms of civility. While on a visit to Beijing in 1959, he shouted at Marshal Chen Yi: "Don't try and spit at me. There isn't enough spit in your mouth for that." As the Sino-Soviet Cold War became fierce, the Soviet foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, lamented that even in the worst days of the Cold War, Western spokesmen never used the language that the erstwhile friends (China) did. Gromyko himself could be very rude. He told Pakistan's diplomats during the crisis in East Pakistan in

1971: "Note I did not use the word 'please'."

There was a time when the British set high standards of civility and wit in diplomacy. Prime Minister George Canning once told the House of Commons on April 30, 1829: "But be the language of good sense or good taste in this House what it may, clear I am that, in diplomatic correspondence, no minister would be justified in risking the friendship of foreign countries, and the peace of his own, by coarse reproach and galling invective; and that even while we are pleading for the independence of nations, it is expedient to respect the independence of those with whom we plead."

"We differ widely from our continental allies on one great principle, it is true: nor do we, nor ought we to disguise that difference; nor to omit any occasion of practically upholding our own opinion. But every consideration, whether of policy or of justice, combines with the recollection of the counsels which we have shared, and of the deeds which we have achieved in concert and companionship, to induce us to argue

our differences of opinion, however freely, with temper; and to enforce them, however firmly, without insult."

British diplomats were noted for understatement. But as Harold Wilson noted in his classic Diplomacy: "In extreme cases, moreover, the habit of diplomatic ambiguity, or of diplomatic understatement, leads to actual misunderstanding. I remember before the war reading a dispatch from some consul general in which he informed the Foreign Office that one of the vice consuls under his charge 'does not, I much regret to report, take the care of his health which his medical advisers would recommend'. The poor man was, in fact, in the last stages of delirium tremens."

Dr Paul Schmidt, Hitler's interpreter, mentions Neville Henderson's final interview with Ribbentrop before the war: "I can tell you, Herr Henderson," Ribbentrop remarked, "That the position is damned serious." Henderson shouted, "You have just said 'damned'."

"Ribbentrop's breath was taken away. One of the 'cowardly' diplomats, an ambassador, and an arrogant Englishman at that, had dared to reprimand him as he as he might a schoolboy. Ribbentrop jumped up from his chair. 'What did you say?' he roared. 'Henderson too had risen to his feet. Both men glared at each other. According to diplomatic convention, I too should have risen; but to be frank I did not quite know how an interpreter should behave when speakers passed from words to deeds — and I really feared they might do so now. I therefore remained quietly seated and pretended to be writing in my notebook."

It is one of the diplomat's prized possessions. The Spanish ambassador told Britain's foreign secretary: "Even Spanish liberals in exile support Spain's case on Gibraltar." Michael Walker, an Oxford don retorted, "I regret to say that Her Majesty's Government cannot boast of any British liberals in exile who support its case on Gibraltar."

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



## Hydro, rail projects in Tibet a threat to India

Claude Arpi



Recent developments not far from the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh are worrying. On March 29, Dave Petley, pro vice-chancellor (research and innovation) at the University of Sheffield in Britain noted on his blog: "I received an email from Göran Ekstrom of Columbia University making a small group of us aware that he had detected, using seismic instruments, a probable large-scale landslide in the vicinity of the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet... an idea of the mass (in this case about 100 million tonnes — a very large one indeed)."

Whether it was triggered by an earthquake in this highly seismic area, is still not clear; it could also be due to torrential rain. Mr Petley further explained: "Either way, at Yarlung Tsangpo it is clear that a large amount of rock and ice have detached from the east side of the tributary valley, moving westwards and then to the south. Once again this has formed a catastrophic channelised flow that has travelled down the channel to deposit a large volume in the main channel."

The new plan, submitted to the NPC for approval, provided "the green light for the dams to be built on the lower reaches of Yarlung Tsangpo river". Later adopted by the Chinese legislature, it called for "a hydropower base on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo river, along with clean energy bases in the upper and lower reaches of Jinsha river", known as the Upper Yangtze in Sichuan province.

On the occasion of the Chinese New Year, President Xi Jinping called the Communist Party "a gigantic vessel that navigates China's stable and long-term development" and stated: "Upholding the principle of putting the people first and remaining true to our founding mission, we can break the waves to reach the destination of realising the

great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Like any Emperor, Xi Jinping needs to think big. The Seventh Tibet Work Forum (TWF), a large meeting which decides the fate of Tibet for the years to come (to which Tibetans are rarely invited), was held in Beijing on August 28-29, 2020. It was a crucial event not only as it concerns the fate of the Roof of the World, but for the Indian border too.

Some massive projects were announced soon after; first, the Pai-Metok (Pai-Mo) Highway linking Nyingchi to Metok, north of Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, which should open in July 2021. After the completion of the highway, the length of the road from Nyingchi City to Metok County will be shortened from 346 km to 180 km and the driving time will be shortened from 11 hours to 4.5 hours. Though only 67 km long, in strategic terms the highway will be a game changer and greatly accelerate the developments of new model villages, and therefore relocation of populations on the border. But, more important, it will pave the way for a mega HPP.

In December 2020, *Global Times* had announced Beijing's plan to build a cascade of mega dams on the Yarlung Tsangpo.

The Metok County government confirmed that the project would be built north of the Indian border, while *Global Times* added: "The head of Power Construction Corp of China (POWERCHINA) suggested the planned hydropower station — which is expected to have three times as much generating capacity as the world-leading Three Gorges power station — aims to maintain water resources and domestic

security." A series of nine hydropower plants in cascade will definitely threaten life across the whole of India's Northeast region. The area soon became "restricted" by the Chinese authorities. A notice from the Metok Border Management Brigade announced that from March 1, the Chinese authorities began "to check border pass, ID cards and other documents of people entering and exiting Metok".

Metok is the last small, but strategic town located near the Great Bend of the Yarlung Tsangpo, north of the McMahon Line.

Though there is no proof that the mudslides on March 22 were directly linked to the dam project, the fact remains that the entire area is environmentally extremely fragile. And that's not all; already in 2016, *China Daily* reported the construction of a 1,629-km Sichuan-Tibet railway. It has now entered a crucial phase. The railway will be connecting Chengdu in Sichuan to Lhasa; the new rail line will shorten the travel time to less than 15 hours.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi section is scheduled to be opened in July.

All this will have incalculable strategic implications for India as the train will pass near the Indian border where the hydropower plant is located.

These two projects (HPP on the Yarlung Tsangpo and the Sichuan Railway) are directly affecting India's security.

For India's frontiers, China's "dual-use" (civil and military) infrastructure development will take place on a much larger and faster scale than today; a great tragedy in the making.

How will the mandarins of South Block react?

They will probably try to keep the information under the carpet for as long as possible. But if they wait too long, it may be too late. Remember the Aksai Chin road in the 1950s.

The writer is based in South India for the past 42 years. He writes on India, China, Tibet and Indo-French relations.

## LETTERS

### MAOISTS ATTACK

The massacre of 22 security personnel, including seven CoBRA commandos jawans by Maoists in Chhattisgarh was shocking (*Maoists used rockets in ambush on jawans; toll, 22, DC, April 5*). The Centre and state governments should sit together to find out a permanent solution to this menace pending for many decades. How long will our security personnel be sacrificed?

**Syed Amjad Ali**  
Secunderabad

### COVID RISING

It is another grim Covid milestone (*India crosses 1 lakh cases in 24 hours, DC, April 5*). It is clear we are witnessing a second wave of cases that is rising faster than the first wave. The Central and state governments must act fast and increase vaccination across the country. People must cooperate and get vaccinated at the earliest. We are certainly better prepared now. Special focus must be on mass gatherings like the Kumbh Mela and Assembly elections to avoid another deadly surge.

**Jitesh Mathur**  
Hyderabad

The warning by doctors that Covid-19 is in community transmission phase in Telangana state must be taken seriously by the people and the government. People should stop being negligent and confine themselves to their homes, unless it's very important to come out. The government could explore measures like lockdown in certain areas on weekends. Otherwise we may be forced to take a tough stance like how Maharashtra did.

**C.K. Vinaya Chandra**  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Create more jobs: Giri

**HYDERABAD, APRIL 5**  
The need for taking "urgent and effective steps on a war-footing with the primary aim of generating mass employment, combined with rapid economic growth", was stressed by Mr. V.V. Giri, President today.

Delivering his address at the sixth annual convocation of the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University at Rajendranagar here, Mr. Giri said that a labour-intensive technology to absorb the entire man-power surplus through all channels of development was called for.



## SHORT TAKES

**COMPLETELY BASELESS: BJP ON RAFALE CHARGES**

New Delhi, April 5: The BJP on Monday dismissed as "completely baseless" the allegations of corruption in the Rafale deal, stressing that the Supreme Court had rejected a demand for a probe in the purchase of the fighter aircraft and the CAG also found nothing wrong.

Responding to a question about the Congress' attack on the Modi government over the bribe allegations, senior BJP leader and Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said at a press conference that the opposition party made it a big issue in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls but lost badly. He said the allegations of corruption were "completely baseless" and suggested that a report in the French media about the alleged financial irregularity in the deal may be due to "corporate rivalry" in that country.

Noting that the Congress had raised the issue earlier too, he said the Supreme Court rejected the demand for a probe and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) also found nothing wrong in the fighter aircraft deal.

**COURT REJECTS KANGANA'S PLEA AGAINST AKHTAR**

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC**  
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

A Mumbai sessions court on Monday dismissed an application filed by Kangana Ranaut challenging the proceedings initiated against her by a magistrates court in connection with a defamation complaint lodged by veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar.

Ranaut had filed the revision application seeking to quash the process issued against her by the Metropolitan Magistrate on the basis of a complaint filed by Akhtar. Her plea was heard and decided by the Sessions court situated at Dindoshi. She had said the procedure under section 200 of the CrPC, which requires the complainant as well as witnesses to be examined on oath, before the issuance of process, was not followed.

Akhtar opposed Ranaut's plea through Advocate Jay Bharadwaj. He had argued that by issuing summons, Ranaut was given a fair chance to respond to the complaint.

**CBI DIRECTOR: SC ASKS CENTRE TO CONVENE MEET**

New Delhi, April 5: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider convening before May 2 the meeting of a high-powered committee consisting of the Prime Minister and others for appointment of CBI director observing that in-charge arrangements for the post cannot go on.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Vineet Saran was informed by the Centre that meeting of the committee—consisting of the Prime Minister, leader of the single largest opposition party and the Chief Justice of India or any judge of the apex court nominated by the CJI—will be convened after May 2.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner NGO Common Cause which has sought direction for appointment of a regular CBI director, claimed before the bench that the Centre is delaying the meeting of the committee as it wants to bypass the present CJI S.A. Bobde who is retiring on April 23.

## COVID | SCARE

**Delhi govt announces one-third of all vaccination centres will operate 24 hours from Tuesday**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

Mumbai recorded 9,857 new cases on Sunday, prompting the state government to announce additional curbs. The state has announced containment measures that include imposing prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC. All beaches and outdoor activities will remain out of bounds, while malls and shops will remain closed.

Their staff will have to get vaccinated during this shutdown period. Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple will be closed from Monday evening onwards till further orders for "darshan" and the regular aarti and puja can be seen by devotees



Passengers gather at the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to board the outstation trains in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

through webcasts. Similarly, the Shirdi Sai Baba temple in Shirdi in the state will also remain shut from Monday midnight.

Guest workers were seen making a beeline at various railway terminuses in Mumbai to leave the city even before strict restric-

tions imposed by the Maharashtra government came into force from 8 pm on Monday.

Guest workers were spotted at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) waiting to board a train to their home town in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

Meanwhile, Delhi on Monday had 3,458 new cases while Karnataka reported 5,279 cases, of which 3,728 cases were from Bengaluru Urban alone. Kerala, with 2,357 daily cases on Monday, saw a fall in its spike while new cases have started coming from Bihar while Tamil Nadu had 3,672 by Sunday night.

The Delhi government has

announced that one-third of all vaccination centres in all Delhi government hospitals will operate 24 hours from Tuesday.

However, the Centre has asked Delhi to keep a watch on the beneficiaries, saying it has found cases of some people under 45 and health-care and frontline workers being vaccinated in private centres despite a restriction on them.

In a letter to Delhi's principal secretary (health), the Union health ministry pointed out that there were serious lapses in the registration of beneficiaries by Vimhans (Vidyasagar Institute of Mental Health, Neuro and Allied Sciences) operating as a private Covid vaccination centre.

**STUDENTS CREATE RUCKUS IN SASARAM OF BIHAR AMID ANTI-COVID-19 DRIVE**

**NAYEER AZAD | DC**  
PATNA, APRIL 5

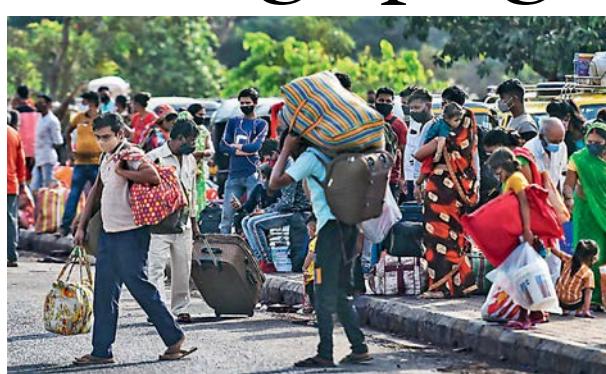
Amid rising corona cases mob of students attacked administrative officials and the police for implementing state government directives to shut down private coaching centres in Sasaram Bihar which falls in Rohtas district.

According to reports around eight students were taken into custody following the violent agitation. Sources from Sasaram said that the incident occurred on Monday after the state government decided to shut

down educational institutions due to the rising number of corona cases in the state.

Students allege that the government has been enforcing corona guidelines on educational institutions but does not take action against those who have been holding political rallies and other gatherings.

The officials however feel that few coaching institute owners could be behind the violent attack on the administration and the police who had gone to enforce the corona guidelines.

**Maha: Panic grips guest workers amid stern curbs**

Guest workers were seen making a beeline at various railway terminuses in Mumbai to leave the city even before strict restric-



Polling officials carry Electronic Voting Machines and other materials as they leave for polling stations from a distribution centre on the eve of the third and final phase of Assam Assembly elections in Guwahati on Monday. — PTI

**Will win Bengal 'on one leg', Delhi on 'two legs': Mamata**

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 5

Describing herself as a Royal Bengal tigress, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday bragged about her capability to come to power in the state again "on one leg" and in Delhi on "two legs."

Addressing a Trinamul Congress rally in Chinsurah of Hooghly, Mamata Banerjee, while sitting in a wheelchair with her injured left leg, said, "The BJP thought since they left me injured, I would not be able to go out again. But I fight back like a Royal Bengal tiger. On one leg, I will win Bengal. No Gujarati will be allowed to rule Bengal. In future, I will win Delhi on two legs."

The TMC supremo also teased the party over the low turnout at its rallies in an oblique reference to the cancellation of two public meetings of BJP J.P. Nadda in the district during the day.

Undeterred by the public meetings of BJP J.P. Nadda in the district during the day, "Their rallies do not attract crowd.

The grounds remain empty. That is why they distribute money of few hundreds to the public to get their votes," she added.

"It was Babul who first talked in favour of Rose Valley while Chatterjee was the 'locket' of Saradha," the Chief Minister claimed.

Countering her, Locket Chatterjee later said, "She has become abnormal in fear of her defeat. Her allegations are rubbish. Let her prove her claims first."

**Jaya: Didi 'lone woman fighter'**

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 5



Jaya Bachchan

Actor and Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan on Monday hailed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the lone female fighter, moving forward while bravely fighting her injuries, for democracy against the BJP. She also reminded the saffron party that no one had succeeded by intimidating "Bengalis", referring to its continuous attacks on the Trinamul Congress supremo during the Assembly poll campaign.

At the Trinamul Bhawan, the SP Rajya Sabha member said, "I have love and respect for Mamata for being a single lady fighting against all atrocities. She is head broken, leg broken but they have not been able to break her heart and brain and her determination to move ahead and make Bengal one of the best in the world. Mamata is fighting and struggling as a single lady to preserve democratic rights of every individual of Bengal. It is my belief that she completes what she wants to do. There will be more development if Mamata becomes the CM again next year. I am sure about it."

In a veiled warning to the BJP, she observed, "Bengalis have always done what they felt in their heart. No one became successful by intimidating the Bengalis always. No one can be too now. There are many things which I think of. But I always follow my heart. I am a Bengali. I want to say: Do not hijack my religion, democracy and democratic rights from me. Never. When I say 'me', I represent all."

Praising West Bengal as "the safest state for women in the country" she also castigated the BJP saying, "Those who spew venom against Mamata, I tell them: Shame, Shame."

**NADDI CANCELS 2 RALLIES DUE TO THIN CROWD IN BENGAL**

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 5

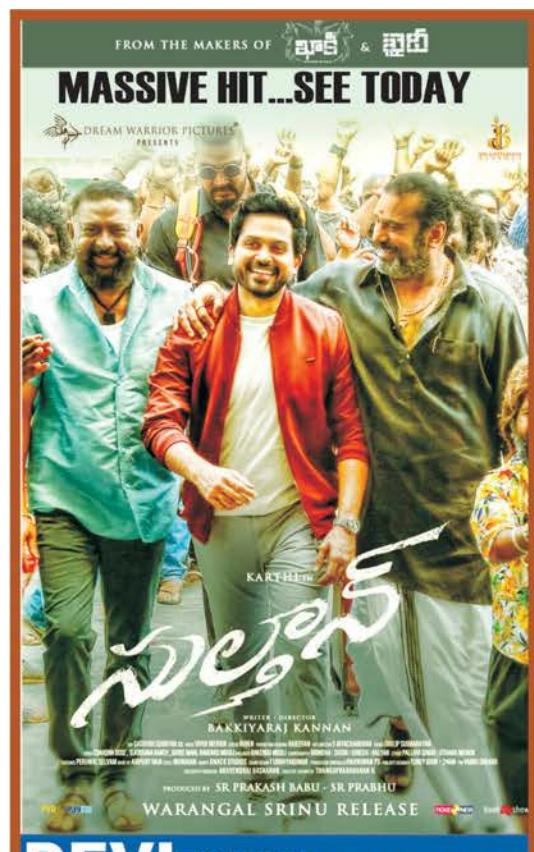
At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah are frantically repeating their claims of the BJP coming to power with more than 200 Assembly seats in West Bengal, a low turnout at poll campaign rallies continues to haunt their forecasts and plague their party. Monday witnessed the cancellation of BJP president J.P. Nadda's two major campaign rallies in Hooghly, apparently due to poor crowds.

The ominous sign, that has been casting a shadow on the saffron party's prospects for quite some time, resurfaced only a day before the state goes to the third phase of polls with 31 seats on Tuesdays.

Nadda, who reached Kolkata on Sunday night, was scheduled to address a public rally each in Shreerampore and Chinsurah apart from a roadshow in South Kolkata in between. Though his first rally was supposed to start from 11.30 am at Shreerampore Stadium for four BJP candidates, it appeared to have failed in attracting the party workers and local residents in large numbers even after an hour.

Helpless, Shyamal Basu, BJP (Shreerampore organisation) district president announced that Nadda's message, either an audio clip or a video, would be played at the venue. This too did not happen. Later, state BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu informed that Nadda would come to address the rally. The venue emptied out, as the small crowd that had gathered there got confused by the different statements and left.

Later in the afternoon, the BJP chief led a roadshow from Tollygunge Tram Depot to Garia More in Kolkata for party candidates Babul Supriyo and Patel Sarkar at Behala East.

FROM THE MAKERS OF **Dream** & **Wild Dog****MASSIVE HIT...SEE TODAY**

DREAM WARRIOR PICTURES  
PRESENTS  
**Wild Dog**  
DIRECTED BY KARTHIK  
WRITER & DIRECTOR SAKKIYARAI KANNAN  
PRODUCED BY SR PRAKASH BABU & SR PRABHU  
WARANGAL SRINU RELEASE

**DEVI** 70MM-RTC X ROADS  
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM**11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00****BRAMARAMBA** 70MM  
**11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45****RAJADHANI COMPLEX**  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15****SIRAMULU** 70MM  
**11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM****LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE**  
**11.15, 6.00PM(2 SHOWS)****OAMB** **10.15, 1.20, 4.15, 7.15, 10.05****PRASAD'S Multiplex**  
**8.45, 11.45, 5.15, 7.30, 10.45PM****O ASIAN CINEMAS****Radhika**-10.30, 7.35, 10.35PM**MCUBE**-10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 7.35, 10.40PM**Cinesquare**-10.35, 1.35, 4.35, 7.35, 10.40**GPR**-10.40, 4.10, 7.30, 10.35PM**Sivaganga**-11.15, 6.15PM**Sha Complex**-11.00, 6.00PM**MJR Square**-10.40, 1.40, 7.40, 10.40PM**TIVOLI** **Xtreme** **11.00, 1.45, 4.45, 10.20PM****PVR** **CINEMAS****Central**-10.20, 4.45, 7.00, 10.20PM**Inorbit**-10.00, 1.00, 4.20, 7.40, 11.00PM**Galleria**-10.30, 1.00, 4.20, 7.40, 11.00pm**Tamil Version**: 01.50pm**RK PLEX**-10.15, 4.20, 7.40, 11.00PM**Irrummanil**-12.00, 3.20, 4.05, 6.40, 10.00**Hitech**-12.00, 3.20, 4.25, 6.40, 10.00PM**Musarabagh**-12.50, 3.05, 4.10, 7.30, 10.50**Forum**-10.00, 1.00, 4.20, 7.15, 7.40, 11.00**Tamil**:10.40AM, 10.30AM**Preston**:12.30, 3.10, 6.30, 9.50PM**10.40, 1.40, 4.10,** **10.00, 7.30, 10.30PM****PLATINUM** **PLATINUM-GACHIBOWLI**  
**10.00, 12.00, 5.10, 7.40, 10.45PM****SEE TODAY****INOX** **GVK-10:20, 1:50, 3:20, 6:50PM, 10:20PM****MP-10:20, 1:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20PM****GSM-11:00, 12:45, 2:40, 6:20, 10:00PM****TAMIL-7.05PM****Cinépolis** **CCPL-9.00, 12.25, 7.15, 10.40****TAMIL-3.50PM****SUDHA**-9.00, 12.25, 3.50, 7.25, 10.40PM**MANTRA**:10.00, 12.55, 7.15, 10.40PM**TAMIL:4.10PM****DSL-11.20, 1.00, 3.00, 6.40, 10.20PM****MIRAJ** **CINEMAS****SHALINI**-10.00, 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 11.00PM**CHANDANAGAR**-12.00, 3.15, 6.30, 9.45PM**BALANAGAR**-10.00, 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 11.00**10.45, 1.40, 4.20, 7.30, 10.30****MAHALAXMI** **COMPLEX-KOTHAPET**  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM****VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
**11.30, 6.15PM(2 SHOWS)****RAMAKRISHNA** 70MM-**ABIDS**  
**11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM****SRINIVASA** 70MM **SREERAMANA** COMP  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15****SRIDEVI** R.C.PURAM  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****SWAPNA** KATEDHAN  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.00PM****AARDHANA** 70MM **PRIYA** 70MM  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****RANGA** 70MM **TALLURI** COMPLEX  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****SRI SAPIOOJA** 70MM **SENSATION** COMPLEX  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****SIVASAKTHI** 70MM **METRO** 70MM  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****GANESH** 70MM-**11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15PM****KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE**

# NATION

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 6 APRIL 2021

pg | 8

## SC STAYS PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BSY IN AN ALLEGED GRAFT CASE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

In a relief to Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, the Supreme Court on Monday put on hold the Karnataka High Court's order directing a special court to take cognizance of allegation of gratification in the denotification of 24 acres of government acquired land in Bengaluru and releasing them to private individuals.

Yediyurappa has chal-

lenged March 17, 2021, order of the HC directing the special judge of the trial court to take cognizance of the alleged offences in the final report of the state Lokayukta police against him under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

While staying the order, a bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde issued notice to one A. Alam Pasha on whose petition the HC had passed March 17, 2021.

## KING NAGARJUNA'S BLOCKBUSTER

### INDIA'S BIGGEST UNDERCOVER OPERATION

*Just watched Wild Dog. It's an edge of the seat thriller. A nice gem from Telugu Cinema, that will make us proud.* - Sankalp Director - GHAZI, ANTARIKSHAM

*I enjoyed watching Wild Dog. It is very gripping. Couldn't take my eyes off the screen. Never seen this side of Nagarjuna Sir. He is at another level in this film.* - Ravikanth Perepu Director - KSHANAM, KRISHNA AND HIS LEELA

*An out of the box script with edge of the seat action sequences. The film has been made with utmost sincerity and dedication.* - Swaroop RSJ Director - AGENT SAI SRINIVAS ATHREYA

**SANDHYA** 35MM  
**11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm****SHANTI** 70MM  
**11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm****ARJUN** 70MM  
**11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm****KONARK** 70MM  
**11.15am, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15pm****SHIVAPARVATHY** 70MM  
**11.30am, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45pm****INDRA VENKATARAMANA**  
**11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.30pm****MANJU** 70MM **TALLURI**  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****RAMAKRISHNA** 35MM **SREERAMANA** 70  
**11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15****SHARADA** 70MM **BHUJANGA** 70  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****GOKUL** 70MM **AMBA** 70MM  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15****SENSATION** INSOMNIA **RAJ LALAXMI** 70  
**11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30****VYJAYANTHI** 70 **SUSHMA** 70MM  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****VIJETHA** 70MM **SAI RANGA** 70  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****BR HITECH** 70 **SUPER** 70MM  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****SV CINESQUARE** **VLS SRIDEVI** 70  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****SRI PREMA** 70 **SRI SAI RAM** 70  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****ASIAN SWAPNA** **SANTOSH** 70  
**11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00****JAGDAMBA** 70 **SHIVRANJANI**  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****JYOTHI** IDA BOLARAM **KRISHNA CINEMA**  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****MAHESHWARI** **VENKATASAI** 70  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****VENKATESHWARA** **LAXMI** Shamshabad  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****ASIAN MUKUND** **KRISHNA CINEMA**  
**11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00****FORUM** - 1.25pm I **ICON** - 1.05pm I **RK** - 4.45pm I**IRRUM MANZIL** - 12.40pm I **CENTRAL** - 4.25pm I**GALLERIA** - 7.50pm I **INORBIT** - 10.40pm I**PRESTON** - 10.20pm I**MIRAJ** Balanagar - 6.55pm I **CHANDANAGAR** - 1.00pm**INOX** GVK - 10.15 I GSM - 10.00 I MP - 7.10 I**CCPL MALL** - 4.40pm I**KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE**

Union home minister Amit Shah pays tribute to the 14 CRPF personnel who lost their lives in Bijapur-Naxal attack on Monday. — PTI

## Shah: Will intensify anti-Maoists fight

Says Centre, Chhattisgarh govt working together

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC  
RAIPUR, APRIL 5

Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday said the battle against the Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region will be intensified in the coming days.

The Maoists were frustrated over the establishment of security camps in their core areas and the recent attack on security personnel was a manifestation of their desperation.

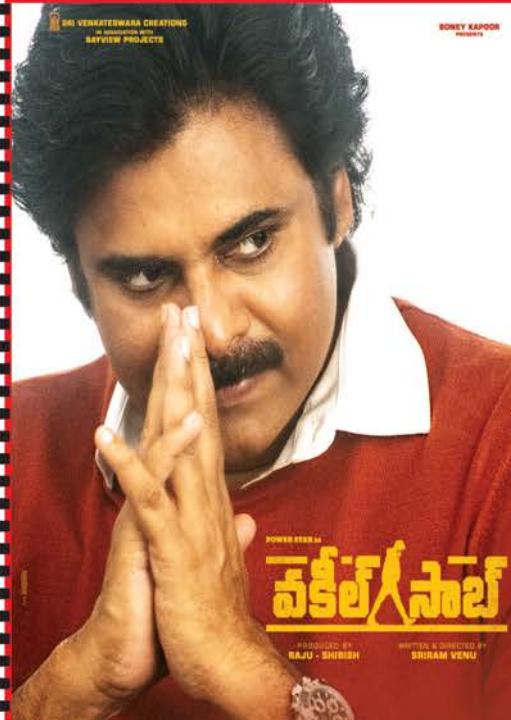
Shah said the Centre and the Chhattisgarh government were working together to fight the Maoist menace and the battle against the Naxalites would take a decisive turn.

Shah said the Centre and the Chhattisgarh government were working together to fight the Maoist menace and the battle against the Naxalites would take a decisive turn.

Shah said the Centre and the Chhattisgarh government were working together to fight the Maoist menace and the battle against the Naxalites would take a decisive turn.

Shah said the Centre and the Chhattisgarh government were working together to

RELEASING THIS FRIDAY  
AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU



**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
{ ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS }  
**R.T.C X ROAD**

**SANDHYA 70MM**  
**SANDHYA 35MM**  
**DEVI 70MM**

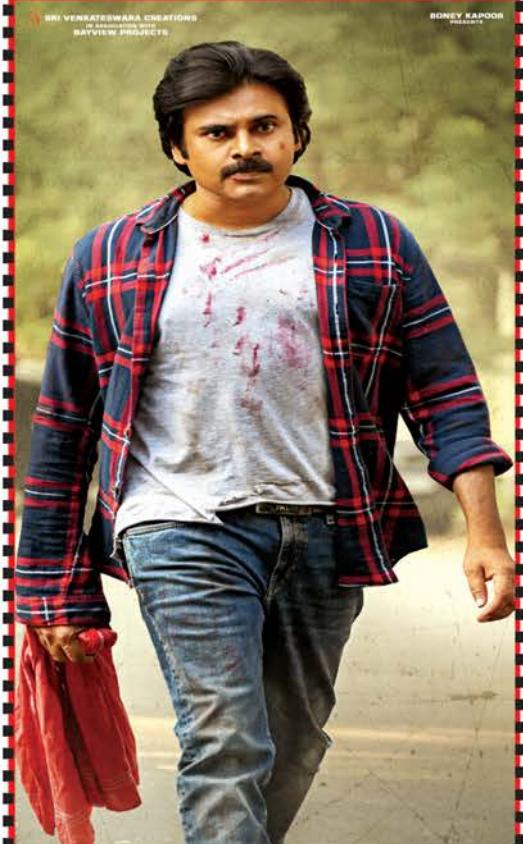
**KACHIGUDA**  
**TARAKARAMA 70MM**  
**INDRA VENKATARAMANA**

**ABIDS**

**INDRA RAMAKRISHNA 70**  
**MUKTA RAMAKRISHNA 35**

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairatabad  
AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli  
TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad  
FORUM - Kukatpally I ICON - Hitech  
MOOSARAMBAGH I IRRUM MANZIL  
GALLERIA I CENTRAL - Punjagutta  
RK - Banjara I INORBIT - Cyberbad  
GPR - Kukatpally I SHA - Chintal  
RADHIKA - Kapra I M CUBE - Attapur  
CINEPLANET - Kompa I  
CINESQUARE - Uppal I  
SHIVAGANGA - Diluskhnagar  
LAXMIKALA - Moosapet I  
GVK - Banjara I GSM - Miyapur  
MP MALL - Kachiguda  
DSL - Uppal I MANTRA - Attapur  
CCPL - Malkajgiri  
MIRAJ - Balangar I Chandanagar  
CARNIVAL CINEMAS - Ameerpet  
S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur  
TALLURI THEATRES - Ecil X Road  
**ADVANCE BOOKING OPEN NOW**

POWER STAR  
ARRIVING ON  
**9TH APRIL**



**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
{ ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS }  
**R.T.C X ROAD**

**SHANTI 70MM**  
**NARAYANGUDA**

**KUKATPALLY**  
**VISWANATH 70MM**  
**SHIVAPARVATHI 70MM**  
**MALLIKARJUNA 70MM**  
**BRAMARAMBA 70MM**  
**ARJUN 70MM**  
**DILSHUKNAGAR**  
**MEGA 70MM**  
**RAJADHANI DELUXE**  
**KONARK 70MM**

**MAHALAXMI, Kothapet**  
**EESHWAR, Attapur**  
**SANGEETHA, R.C Puram**  
**SRI LAXMI, Karmanghat**

IN CINEMAS  
THIS FRIDAY



**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
{ ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS }  
**R.T.C X ROAD**

<b>MANJU 70MM</b> SECUNDERABAD	<b>SRI RAMULU 70</b> MOOSAPET
<b>SRI SAI RAM 70</b> MALKAJGIRI	<b>SHARADA 70</b> KAPRA
<b>RANGA 70MM</b> JEEDIMETLA	<b>BHUJANGA 70</b> JEEDIMETLA
<b>GOKUL 70MM</b> ERRAGADA	<b>SRIDEVI 70MM</b> R.C PURAM
<b>SRI LATHA 70</b> R.C PURAM	<b>JYOTHI 70MM</b> R.C PURAM
<b>SRI KRISHNA 70</b> UPPAL	<b>RAJALAXMI 70</b> UPPAL
<b>NARTAKI 70</b> ALWAL	<b>LAXMIKALA MANDIR</b> ALWAL
<b>ASIAN SWAPNA</b> KATTEDAN	<b>SRI SAI RAJA 70</b> MUSHEERABAD
<b>SENSATION</b> INSOMNIA I SUNSHINE	<b>KHAIRTABAD</b>
<b>SREERAMANA 70MM I 35MM</b> AMBERPET	
<b>YADGIRI 70MM</b> SANTOSHNGAR	<b>VLS SRIDEVI 70</b> CHILKALGUDA
<b>SRI PREMA 70</b> TUKKUGUDA	<b>KRISHNA CINEMA</b> NAGARAM
<b>ASIAN MUKUND</b> MEDCHAL	<b>PRIYA 70MM</b> MALLEPALLY
<b>SANTOSH 70</b> IBRAHIMPATNAM	<b>JAGADAMBA 70</b> GHATKESAR
<b>SRI KRISHNA 70</b> ALIYABAD	<b>SHIVARANJANI</b> ISNAPUR
<b>JYOTHI 70MM</b> IDA BOLARAM	<b>VENKATESHWARA</b> GUMMADIDALA
<b>GANESH 70MM</b> SHAMSHABAD	<b>LAXMI 70MM</b> SHAMSHABAD
<b>SUSHMA 70MM</b> VANASTALIPURAM	<b>SAMPOORNA 70</b> VANASTALIPURAM
<b>VYJAYANTHI 70</b> NACHARAM	<b>SAI RANGA 70</b> MIYAPUR
<b>SANTOSH 70</b> ABIDS	<b>AMBA 70MM</b> MEHDIPATNAM
<b>ALANKAR PRATAP</b> LANGERHOUSE	<b>VIJETHA 70MM</b> BORABANDA
<b>BR HITECH 70</b> MADHAPUR	<b>SUPER 70MM</b> MADHAPUR
<b>ARADHANA 70</b> TARNAKA	<b>VIMAL 70MM</b> BALANAGAR
<b>SV CINESQUARE</b> PATANCHERU	<b>SRI SAI POOJA</b> SURRAM
<b>ADVANCE BOOKING OPEN IN FULL SWING</b>	



**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

**MEGA 70MM**  
11.15am, 2.15, 6.15, 9.30pm

**VISWANATH 70MM**  
11.45am, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45pm

**TALLURI THEATRE**  
LAXMIKALA  
2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
2.40, 6.30, 9.45

**SRI KRISHNA 70**  
JYOTHI 70MM  
Puram  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**NARTAKI 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

**PRASADS**  
12.15, 3.00, 5.30, 8.00, 10.45pm

**AMB CINEMAS**  
11.05, 1.50, 5.05, 7.45, 10.30

**TIVOLI CINEMAS**  
2.15, 7.10, 10.25pm

**PVR**  
CENTRAL - 10.15, 1.30, 7.45 | RK - 10.40, 8.05

**INORBIT** - 11.35, 1.40, 8.15, 10.35 |

**GALLERIA** - 10.45, 1.50, 7.45, 10.40 |

**ICON** - 4.30, 9.45pm | **PRESTON** - 7.10pm |

**CENTRAL** - 10.40pm | **INORBIT** - 1.20, 7.25 |

**IRRUM MANZIL** - 3.40, 6.35, 10.20 |

**S2 - Mallapur** - 2.00, 8.05 | **ICON** - 1.20, 6.50, 10.55

**CINESQUARE** - 10.30, 4.30, 10.10 |

**RADHIKA** - 10.50, 1.40, 4.40, 7.40 |

**M CUBE** - 10.50, 1.30, 4.50, 10.20 |

**SHIVAGANGA** - 2.15, 9.15 |

**GPR** - 7.45 | **SHA** - 2.45, 9.45 |

**CINEPLANET** - 1.45, 7.35 |

**MJR** - 1.30, 7.30, 10.20 |

**GVK** - 10.40, 1.35, 7.30, 10.30 |

**INOX** MP - 10.10, 4.10, 10.30 |

**GSM** - 11.45, 1.05, 5.00, 8.05, 11.10 |

**BALANAGAR** - 10.05, 4.00, 10.15 |

**CHANDANAGAR** - 7.30 |

**MANTRA** - 10.20, 4.00, 7.35, 10.10 |

**DSL** - 12.20, 3.05, 5.50, 8.40 |

**CCPL** - 10.40, 1.25, 7.35 |

**BVK** - 12.30, 6.45, 9.45 |

**CLASSY THRILLER**  
INDIA'S BIGGEST UNDERCOVER OPERATION



**MAHALAXMI** - 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 |

**SANGEETHA** - 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00 |

**EESHWAR** - 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 |

**SRI LAXMI** - 12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00 |

**PRASADS** - 12.00, 3.15, 5.30, 8.30, 11.00pm

**AMB** - 11.00, 1.35, 4.25, 7.30, 10.25pm

**TIVOLI** - 10.50, 1.40, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10pm

**CINEPLANET** - 10.50, 1.45, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20 |

**CINESQUARE** - 10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.25, 10.15 |

**RADHIKA** - 10.40, 1.20, 4.20, 7.20, 10.20 |

**M CUBE** - 10.40, 1.20, 4.20, 7.15, 10.10 |

**PR** - 10.50, 1.40, 4.45, 7.20, 10.10 |

**SHA** - 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30 |

**SHIVAGANGA** - 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 |

**LAXMIKALA** - 11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30 |

**PVR**

**FORUM** - 11.20, 2.15, 4.15, 5.10, 7.10, 8.05, 10.05, 11.00 |

**INORBIT** - 10.10, 11.10, 2.05, 5.00, 7.05, 7.55, 10.50 |

**GALLERIA** - 10.05, 11.10, 2.05, 5.00, 7.25, 7.55, 10.50 |

**ICON** - 12.45, 1.45, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30 |

**MOOSARAMBAGH** - 12.10, 1.30, 4.25, 7.20, 10.15 |

**IRRUM MANZIL** - 12.45, 1.45, 4.50, 7.45, 10.40 |

**CENTRAL** - 10.40, 1.10, 4.05, 8.05, 11.00 |

**RK** - 10.20, 1.15, 4.10, 7.05, 10.00 |

**PRESTONE** - 12.15, 1.45, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30 |

**S2 MALLAPUR** - 11.05, 1.15, 4.10, 7.05, 10.00 |

**MIRAJ** - Balanagar - 11.30, 2.20, 5.10, 8.00, 10.50 |

**MIRAJ - Chandanagar** - 12.30, 3.45, 7.00, 10.15 |

**GVK** - 10.00, 1.35, 4.10, 4.40, 7.40, 10.40 |

**INOX** GSM - 12.00, 1.30, 3.10, 4.40, 6.20, 7.50, 9.30, 11.50 |

**DSL** - 1.30, 4.20, 6.10, 7.10, 8.50 |

**MANTRA** - 10.00, 1.10, 2.00, 4.20, 7.20, 10.40 |

**CCPL** - 11.20, 1.45, 4.30, 7.15, 10.15 |

**SUDHA** - 11.00, 11.3

**SHORT TAKES**  
**INMATES STAGE  
UPRISING AT  
ST. LOUIS JAIL**

St. Louis (US), April 5: Inmates broke windows, set a fire and threw debris to the ground late Sunday at a St. Louis jail that has been plagued by uprisings in recent months.

The riot broke out Sunday night around 9 p.m. at the City Justice Center, news outlets reported. Inmates were seen tossing objects out of broken windows and setting a fire. Firefighters used a hose to douse the flames. Law enforcement responded to bring the jail under control.

**IRAN SAYS IT HAS HELD SPIES FOR ISRAEL**

Tehran, April 5: Iranian authorities arrested several people on charges of spying for Israel and other nations, state TV announced Monday.

An unnamed Intelligence Ministry official in the country's eastern Azerbaijan province was quoted by state TV as saying that security forces had detained a group of people suspected of spying for Israel and other unspecified countries. The brief report did not provide further details on the nationalities of the suspects.

**27 DEAD IN B'DESH RIVER COLLISION**

Dhaka, April 5: At least 27 people died after a small launch carrying over 100 passengers capsized after colliding with a cargo vessel in Bangladesh's Shitalakshya river, officials said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday evening at Narayanganj district, about 16 km southeast of Dhaka.

While five bodies were recovered on Sunday, rescuers retrieved 22 bodies on Monday as a salvage vessel pulled out the launch with the help of a huge crane around midday, rescue officials said.

**MALAYSIA EX-PM APPEALS JAIL SENTENCE**

Putrajaya (Malaysia), April 5: A Malaysian court Monday began hearing an appeal by ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak to overturn his conviction and 12-year jail sentence linked to the massive looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that brought down his government in 2018.

The appeal came more than eight months after a high court found the former PM guilty of abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering, making him the first Malaysian leader to be convicted.

**US SHUTS GUANTANAMO PRISON UNIT**

Washington, April 5: A once-secret unit within the Guantanamo Bay detention centre that had fallen into disrepair has been closed and the prisoners moved to another facility on the American base in Cuba, the US military said Sunday.

The prisoners at Camp 7 were transferred to a facility adjacent to where the other detainees on the base are held as part of what US Southern Command said in a statement was an effort to "increase operational efficiency and effectiveness."

Miami-based Southern Command did not say how many prisoners were moved. Officials have previously said about 14 men were held in Camp 7.

**INDONESIA, EAST TIMOR FLOODS: 113 KILLED**

Lembata, Indonesia, April 5: Tropical cyclone Seroja pounded Indonesia and East Timor Monday after torrential rains triggered floods and landslides that have killed at least 113 people and left dozens more missing.

Packing heavy winds and rain, the storm heaped more misery on the Southeast Asian nations after Sunday's disaster turned small communities into wastelands of mud, uprooted trees and forced thousands of people into shelters.

Downpours are expected over the next day as the storm triggers offshore waves as high as six metres.

The cyclone hampered efforts to reach trapped survivors.

# Rollout of twice weekly Covid tests for all in UK

**Will help track asymptomatic cases, says British govt**

London, April 5: Everyone in England will be able to access free, regular, rapid Coronavirus testing from later this week to track asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, the UK government announced on Monday.

As a step forward to start lifting lockdown restrictions for all businesses, shops and restaurants, anyone will be able to access the free, rapid lateral flow tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week starting this Friday. It is hoped the data will help scientists track and trace any new variants of Coronavirus more effectively because more people getting a test will increase the ability to identify and control mutations of the deadly virus.

Massive efforts have been made by the British public to stop the spread of the virus. As we continue to make good progress on our vaccine programme and with our roadmap to cautiously easing restrictions underway, regular rapid testing is even more important to make sure those efforts are not wasted, said UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

That's why we're now rolling out free rapid tests to everyone across England helping us to stop outbreaks in their tracks, so we can get back to seeing the people we love and doing the things we enjoy, he said.

Rapid testing has so far been available to those most at risk and people who need to leave home for work, including front-line National Health Service (NHS) workers, care home staff and residents, and schoolchildren and their families. Now rapid testing will be offered to everyone, with people encouraged to take regular tests.

The vaccine programme has been a shot in the arm for the whole country, but reclaiming our lost freedoms and getting back to normal hinges on us all getting tested regularly, said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

The British public have shown over the last year that they quickly adapt and always do what it is right in the interest of public health, and I know they will do their bit by getting tested regularly in the months ahead, he said.

According to official estimates, one in three people with Covid-19 do not experience any symptoms and may be spreading.



Berlin's famed tourist magnet Checkpoint Charlie memorial site is pictured in Berlin on Monday in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP

## Britain set to announce new global travel rules

London, April 5: Britain will on Monday set out plans to restart international travel, using a "traffic-light" system as the country cautiously emerges from lockdown.

The UK has set a tentative date of May 17 to relaunch foreign travel, currently banned except for a handful of permitted reasons. This has created massive pent-up demand for summer holidays abroad. Travel destinations will be ranked green, amber or red according to virus risk. Downing Street said late Saturday, with the government to provide more details on Monday. "We are doing everything we can to

enable the reopening of our country... as safely as possible," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

The government said the new system "will help ensure the UK's vaccine programme isn't jeopardised and provide clear guidance for travellers". People heading to low-risk "green" countries will simply take a virus test before and after they travel, the government said. But those going to amber or red countries will have to self-isolate or quarantine afterwards.

Health minister Edward Argar said as cases surge on the European continent, Britain would have to be

— AFP

ing the virus unwittingly. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately.

Since rapid testing was introduced, over 120,000 positive cases that would not have been found otherwise have already been identified by lateral flow tests which involve a swab kit for the nose or throat.

— PTI

## Cases go over 100 in Chinese city

Beijing, April 5: Covid-19 cases in the southwestern Chinese city of Ruili bordering on Myanmar have now topped 100.

That comes as authorities have launched an aggressive campaign to vaccinate all 300,000 residents of the city, whose outbreak is something of an anomaly in a country that has all-but eliminated local transmission of the virus.

The National Health Commission reported an additional 20 cases on Monday, five of them in which the persons showed no symptoms. The cases were detected during city-wide

nucleic acid testing, bringing the city's total to 51 confirmed cases and 56 asymptomatic cases, which China has placed in a separate category.

Confirmed cases are treated in hospital while those who test positive without showing symptoms are isolated and placed under isolation. Ruili on Friday launched a five-day drive Friday to vaccinate its entire population.

Some of those infected are Myanmar nationals and authorities have offered free vaccinations to foreigners living and working in the city. — AP

said. Bangladesh has registered 7,087 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 637,364, in the last 24 hours until Sunday which is the highest number of infections since the start of the pandemic, the *United News of Bangladesh* reported. Besides, the deaths due to Coronavirus rose to 9,266 with 53 news fatalities during this period. The mortality rate fell to 1.45 on Sunday from Saturday's 1.46 per cent.

All public transport services (roads, river, railway and domestic flights) were suspended and only emergency services remained operational.

However, all government/non-government/autonomous offices, courts and private offices will be able to facilitate the commute of their employees to work using their own transport on a limited scale. Thousands of people left Dhaka on Sunday. — PTI

## French ministers had dined at secret eateries

Paris, April 5: French authorities are investigating accusations that government ministers and others dined in secret restaurants in violation of pandemic restrictions.

The Paris prosecutor's office said an investigation was opened Sunday into possible charges of endangerment and undeclared labour, and to identify the organisers and participants of the alleged gatherings. A document

network M6 over the weekend included an unidentified man saying that he had eaten in two or three clandestine restaurants with a certain number of ministers.

Government members quickly denied knowledge of such wrongdoing. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin asked police to look into the claims. The prosecutor's office said Monday that the investigation is continuing despite reports that the

man featured in the documentary had retracted his claim. French restaurants have been closed since October to slow the spread of the coronavirus virus. France just entered a new partial lockdown in response to intensive care units again filling with COVID-19 patients.

Government spokesman Gabriel Attal said on LCI television Sunday night that authorities have been investigating reports of clandestine parties. — AP

# Graft trial: Bibi lashes out at prosecutors

Jerusalem, April 5: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has lashed out at prosecutors in his corruption trial, accusing them of trying to oust him.

In a nationally televised statement, Netanyahu said the case against him is threatening to undermine the will of the country's voters. "This is what a coup attempt looks like," he said. Netanyahu spoke shortly after his corruption trial resumed and with the country's president holding post-election consultations on choosing the next prime minister

Democracy Institute.

He said it was "very clear that Netanyahu is not close" to assembling a majority in the 120-seat Knesset. Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases.

Monday's proceedings, the first in two months, marked the beginning of the evidentiary phase, in which a long line of witnesses are to take the stand against the prime minister.

The session focused on the most serious case against Netanyahu — in which he is accused of promoting regulations that delivered hundreds of millions of dollars of profits to the Bezeq telecom company in exchange for positive coverage on the firm's popular news site.

Walla Ilan Yeshua,

Walla's former chief editor, described a system in which Bezeq's owners, Shaul and Iris Eliovitch, repeatedly pressured him to publish favourable things about Netanyahu and smear the prime minister designate just a few miles (kilometres) away.

The explanation he was given by the couple? "That's what the prime minister wanted," he said. He said the pressure went on "for hours on end" over several years.

The Elioviches, who are also defendants in the case, chose photos, headlines, word choice and other content. Yeshua said they also ordered him to write unfavourable articles about Netanyahu's rivals, giving them pejorative nicknames.

Naftali Bennett, a former Netanyahu ally turned rival, was known as "the naughty religious one," and former Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, who is of North African descent, was called "smiley" and "the Arab."

Yeshua said he never spoke directly to Netanyahu.

**FORMER ALLY NOMINATES SELF TO BE NEXT PM**

Jerusalem, April 5: A former right-wing ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has recommended himself as the next prime minister, deepening Israel's political deadlock. Naftali Bennett's Yamina party nominated him to form the next government in consultations with Israel's president on Monday.

Yamina had been in a position to serve as a kingmaker between the two major blocs of supporters and opponents of Netanyahu.

But instead, it declined to take sides. Yamina has just seven seats in parliament, making it a long shot to be able to form a governing coalition. Bennett is hoping he can become a consensus candidate who can bridge the deep divides between the rival factions. — AP

ahu, and that requests also came from intermediaries, including former Netanyahu aide Nir Hefetz, who has turned state's witness and is also expected to testify against the prime minister.

"It was clear that I needed to comply with Nir's requests to put up positive articles, and remove negative ones," Yeshua said.

He said his staff was furious about the pressure and one editor even nicknamed the prime minister "Kim," after the North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

He said Shaul Eliovitch referred to Netanyahu as "the big guy," and would also show him text messages from the prime minister's son, Yair.

— AP

## WINDOW ADVERTISEMENT WALK-IN-INTERVIEW IN CRPF

Suitable and willing Male & Female candidates may attend WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for engagement as Specialist Medical Officers for Composite Hospital CRPF Hyderabad and GDMOs for 10th NDRF Bn on Contractual Basis as per details/dates given below.

Sl. No.	Date and time of Interview	Venue/ Interview Centre	Interview to be held for CHS	No. of Vacancies of Spl. Mos.	No. of Vacancies of GDMO	Age	Remuneration	Qualification
01	07/04/21 at 09:00 hrs	Composite Hospital, CRPF, Hyderabad	CH Hyderabad	Below 70 years as on date of Walk-in-interview	Rs. 85,000/- for Specialists MOs and Rs. 75,000/- for GDMOs	> Post graduate Degree/ Diploma in concerned specialty > One and Half years experience after obtaining PG Degree. > Two and half years experience after obtaining PG Diploma. For GDMOs > MBBS > Internship		

- a) Appointment is purely on contract basis and the initial period of appointment of contract will be for three years which may be extended for further 02 years on year to year basis subject to the Maximum age of 70 years.
- b) On completion of tenure, the contract shall lapse automatically. However, the appointment can be terminated at any time (on either side) by giving one month's notice or by paying one month's notice or by paying one month's salary without assigning any reason or failure to complete three months service to the satisfaction of the competent authority.
- c) The appointee shall not be entitled to any benefits like provident fund, pension, gratuity, medical attendance treatment, seniority, promotion etc or any other benefits available to the Government servant appointed on regular basis. The appointee will not be granted any claim or right to regular appointment to any post under CRPF.
- d) The working hours of the appointee as per the schedule of CRPF Hospitals/Establishment or as fixed by competent authority.
- e) The appointment carried the liability to serve in any part of the country.
- f) The appointee shall perform the duties assigned to him/her. The Competent authority reserves the right to assign any duty as and when required. No extra/additional allowance will be admissible in case of such assignment.
- g) The leave entitlement of the appointee shall be governed as per DOP & T.O.M. No. 12016/3/84-Estt(L) dated 12 April 1985, O.M. No. 12016/1/90-Estt(L) dated 05 July 1990 and O.M. No. 12016/2/99-Estt(L) dated 12th July 1999 as amended from time to time.
- h) No TA/DA and boarding / lodging will be provided during walk-in-interview.
- i) No TA/DA will be paid during the period of engagement in CRPF on contractual basis/hiring basis.
- j) During the continuance of contract period he/she will be subject to follow the standard of discipline of the force and will execute the orders of administrative authority either written or verbal.
- k) Interested candidates may also refer to our website [www.crpf.gov.in](http://www.crpf.gov.in) for terms and conditions/ full details as applicable for contractual appointment of GDMOs and Specialist MOs.
- 2. While appearing for Walk-in-interview, the candidates should bring documents in original & photocopies of all relevant documents (Degree, Age Proof & Experience Certificate etc.) application in plain paper superscripting the name of post applied for & five passport size recent photographs. Interview will be followed by Medical Examination.

(davp 19140/11/0001/2122)

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	49159.32
Nifty 50	14637.80
S&P 500*	4,077.02
Dollar (₹)	73.33
Pound Sterling (₹)	101.55
Euro (₹)	86.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,949.15
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	61.40
INR 10-Yr bond yield	6.123
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.727
As of 8:30 PM IST	

### NHAI files for InvIT; plans to raise ₹5,100 cr

The National Highways Authority of India filed draft papers with the Sebi for floating an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) through which it seeks to raise Rs 5,100 crore. The NHAI plans to mop up total of Rs 5,100 crore through fresh issue, as per the draft papers. In December 2019, the Cabinet had given nod to the NHAI to set up an InvIT and monetise national highway projects.

### SBI hikes home loan rate by 25 bps to 6.95%



State Bank of India has revised its home loan rate to 6.95 per cent from April 1. With this, the rate of 6.70 per cent, offered for a limited period, ended on March 31. During this period, the bank offered home loans at 6.70 per cent for loans up to Rs 75 lakh and 6.75 per cent for loans up to Rs 5 crore. As per information posted on its website, compared to teaser rate, the new rate is 25 basis points higher at 6.95 per cent.

### Manufacturing PMI at 55.4 pts in March

India's manufacturing sector activities fell to a seven-month low in March as demand was constrained by the escalation of the Covid-19 pandemic. The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 57.5 in February to 55.4 in March. "Production, new orders and input buying expanded at softer rates," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

### Cadila seeks nod to use hepatitis drug for Covid

Zydus Cadila said it has sought the DCGI approval for additional indication of its hepatitis drug Pegylated Interferon Alpha-2b for treating Covid-19. Phase-III clinical trials with the drug, which the company sells under the brand name 'Pegi-Hep', has shown promising results in treating Covid-19. The interim results indicate the drug, when administered early on, could help patients recover faster and avoid complications.

## Sensex dips 870 pts as sentiments sour Covid second wave, lockdown hit stocks

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

The equity market plunged on Monday as stricter lockdowns were imposed in Maharashtra even as the all-India daily Covid cases crossed one lakh.

The Sensex fell around 1450 points in early morning trade to the day's low of 48580.80 while all sectoral indices, barring IT and metals, witnessed profit taking. However, there was a partial recovery after 11 am and the Sensex finally closed 870 points, or 1.74 per cent, down at 49159.32.

The broader Nifty-50 Index fared better as it fell 1.54 per cent, or 229.55 points, to 14637.80.

Foreign portfolio investors sold equities worth Rs 931.66 crore while domestic institutional investors stayed cautious with net buying of Rs 75.48 crore.

Among the sectoral indices Banks, Financials, Realty, Media, Auto and FMCG fell the most.

"Severely adverse advance-decline ratio suggests broad nervousness in the markets. RBI's credit policy and Q4 earnings numbers create some added uncertainty for traders when Covid cases are on the rise. Indian markets have underperformed severely," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research, HDFC Securities.

India's manufacturing activity has been hit in March after being on the slow road to improvement in the previous few months due to the renewed escalation of the pandemic and subsequent restrictions played spoilsports for factory activity.



### SEBI'S FRAMEWORK TO CURB STOCK MARKET SPOOFING KICKS OFF

New Delhi, April 5: The new framework to curb instances of stock market spoofing kicked off on Monday, whereby serial offenders could face trading disablement of 15 minutes to two hours.

In spoofing, traders place a large number of buy or sell orders, with an intent to cancel before those orders can be executed. Market experts say excessive cancellations of large orders lead to manipulative increases or decrease in prices, which impacts retail

investors.

The exchanges have noted three activities—high order to trade ratio, high instances of order modifications and persistent deferred or lower order execution priority due to frequent modifications—that will be monitored to curb such practices.

The surveillance measure will be effective from April 5 and the first action on such traders will be on May 5 based on 20 trading days window. —PTI

cases are slowly dispersing to other states, which have seen some dip in mobility towards end-March. So far, though, economic impact remains minimal, said rating agency Crisil.

Over the previous few months, due to the renewed escalation of the pandemic and subsequent restrictions, played spoilsports for factory activity.

"Initially concentrated in Maharashtra, new

cases are slowly dispersing to other states, which have seen some dip in mobility towards end-March. So far, though, economic impact remains minimal, said rating agency Crisil.

Over the previous few months, due to the renewed escalation of the pandemic and subsequent restrictions, played spoilsports for factory activity.

"Initially concentrated in Maharashtra, new

### MACROTECH SEEKS TO RAISE ₹2,500 CRORE; IPO PRICED AT ₹483 TO ₹486

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

Mumbai-based realty firm Macrotech Developers, formerly known as Lodha Developers, announced a Rs 2,500-crore initial public offering (IPO) of shares in a price band of Rs 483 to Rs 486 per share of face value of Rs 10 each.

The long-awaited IPO was postponed twice in the past, as the realty sector was facing several headwinds, and is now aiming to cash on the revival in the sector owing to lower home loan interest rates and fall in real estate prices.

The IPO opens on Wednesday and closes on Friday, April 9.

The IPO aims to raise money for payment of outstanding borrowings of the company, to acquire land or land development rights and to meet general corporate purposes.

Macrotech has 91 completed projects as of December 31, 2020, comprising affordable, mid-income, premium, luxury housing and retail space. It was incorporated on September 25, 1995.

Macrotech Developers is amongst largest real estate developers in India by residential sales during the period FY14-20, the company claims. It is developing some of the biggest real estate projects in Mumbai and Pune in terms of geographic area.

Macrotech Developers is amongst largest real estate developers in India by residential sales during the period FY14-20, the company claims. It is developing some of the biggest real estate projects in Mumbai and Pune in terms of geographic area.

## Byju's acquires Aakash for \$1 bn in cash-stock deal

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, APRIL 5

Ed-tech startup Byju's has acquired Aakash Educational Services in a cash and stock deal valued close to \$1 billion.

The founders of Aakash—which provides test preparatory services—and investor Blackstone Group will hold a minority stake in Byju's and the promoter Aakash Chaudhry will continue to head the business.

"Our complementary strengths will enable us to build capabilities, create engaging and personalised learning programmes. The future of learning is hybrid and this union will bring together the best of offline and online learning, as we combine our expertise to create impactful experiences for students," said Byju Raveendran, founder, and CEO of Byju's.

The deal values Byju's around \$13 billion, the same as during the recently closed funding round. Byju's had recently raised \$460 million from a Series F funding round led by MC Global Edtech Investment Holdings. This is the second large acquisition by Byju's in recent times, the other one being the acquisition of WhiteHat Jr for \$300 million last year. Before that Byju's had acquired TutorVista and Edurite, from Pearson in 2017, and Osmo in 2019.

Aakash has over 33 years of operational experience in the test preparatory industry and a student count of more than



### MEESHO VALUED AT \$2.1 BILLION

SARITHA RAI  
APRIL 5

Bengaluru-based social commerce startup Meesho Inc has raised \$300 million in new funding led by SoftBank Group Corp's Vision Fund 2, valuing the startup at \$2.1 billion.

Existing investors like Prosus Ventures and Facebook also participated in the investment round, which adds a new member to a growing coterie of Indian unicorns. Meesho, which

operates an online sales platform for micro, small and medium businesses across India, will use the funds to "strengthen its talent pool."

Meesho serves over 13 million individual entrepreneurs in helping them start online businesses. The software developer has delivered orders from more than 100,000 registered suppliers to over 4,800 cities, pursuing a strategy of taking e-commerce to smaller cities and towns.

—Bloomberg

preparation and after-school tutoring (high school) segment is estimated to be a \$7-8 billion opportunity in India and is expected to witness 55-60 per cent growth over the next four-five years.

Byju's said the company will look at opportunities that bring in new products and formats, market expansion and/or distribution opportunities.

Launched in 2015, Byju's has over 8 million students cumulatively learning from the app.

## RBI redistributes portfolios of deputy governors

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday reshuffled the portfolios of the deputy governors following the retirement of deputy governor B.P. Kanungo on April 2.

Kanungo used to handle the most number of portfolios, including currency management, external investments and operations, department of government and bank accounts, information technology, payments and settlements, forex, internal debt management and right to information.

These portfolios have been reassigned to the remaining three deputy governors—Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Patra and Rajeshwar Rao, who has been recently appointed.

According to the RBI statement, Jain will handle co-ordination, Central Security Cell, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Department of Information Technology, Department of

of Economic and Policy Research, Department of External Investments & Operations, Department of Government and Bank Accounts, Department of Statistics and Information Management, Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Financial Markets Operations Department, Financial Markets Regulation Department, Financial Stability Unit, International Department and Monetary Policy Department.

Rao has been assigned Corporate Strategy and Budget Department, Department of Economic and Policy Research, Department of External Investments & Operations, Department of Government and Bank Accounts, Department of Statistics and Information Management, DICGC, Financial Markets Operations Department, Financial Markets Regulation Department, Financial Stability Unit, International Department and Monetary Policy Department.

Deputy governor Patra will handle Corporate and Strategy and Budget Department, Department of

## Pre-packaged insolvency resolution plan for MSMEs

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, APRIL 5

The government has promulgated an ordinance amending the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, ensuring quicker, cost-effective and value maximising outcomes for all the stakeholders, in a manner which is least disruptive to the continuity of their businesses and which preserves jobs.

Soumitra Majumdar, partner at J Sagar Associates, said the IBC Amendment Ordinance 2021, makes available the pre-packaged route to genuine and viable cases, to ensure least business disruption.

The ordinance said, "It is considered necessary to urgently address the specific requirements of micro, small and medium enterprises relating to the resolution of their insolvency, due to the unique nature of their businesses and simpler corporate structure."

According to the ordinance, the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process shall be completed within a period of 120 days. Government may specify the minimum amount of default of high-



er value, which shall not be more than Rs 1 crore, for matters relating to the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process. Not less than 66 per cent vote of the committee of creditors is needed to approve the resolution.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for one year beginning March 25, 2020.

Since this relaxation had ended on March 24, 2021, the government has promulgated the ordinance to provide for a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process.

In view of the pandemic, the government had increased the minimum amount of default for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to Rs 1 crore. It had also suspended filing of applications for initiation of CIRP over defaults arising for

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Indonesia Masters,**  
**Russian Open off**

New Delhi: Two Super 100 badminton tournaments - the Russian Open 2021 and Indonesia Masters - have been cancelled due to Covid-19 related restrictions, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said on Monday.

"The ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and complications left local organisers no choice but to cancel the tournaments," a BWF statement read.

"The respective decisions of the National Badminton Federation of Russia and Badminton Indonesia were made in consultation and agreement with the BWF," it added.

The Russian Open was scheduled in Vladivostok from July 20-25 and Indonesia Masters from October 5-10. The Canada Open, supposed to held in June, has also been cancelled.

Another Super 100 event, the Hyderabad Open, is scheduled from August 24-29 but with the fluid Covid-19 situation in India, it remains to be seen if it will take place or not. — PTI

**Polish Hubert is Miami champion**

Miami: Poland's Hubert Hurkacz defeated Italian teenager Jannik Sinner in straight sets to win the Miami Open and claim the first ATP Masters title of his career on Sunday.

The 26th-seeded Hurkacz, who had eliminated four higher-ranked players en route to the final, held his nerve at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium to win 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in 1 hour 43 minutes.

It was a deserved victory for the 24-year-old from Wroclaw, who claimed his second title of the season as Sinner's challenge unravelled with a series of unforced errors. "It feels unreal, so happy that I was able to play a good match today."

Jannik is an amazing competitor. I'm so proud that I was able to beat him," Hurkacz said. Hurkacz, whose win earned him a message of congratulations from Polish President Andrzej Duda, said he hoped the tournament win would be a launchpad for more victories. — AFP

**Honda's Pol lands a spot in top 15**

Doha: There were flashes of what's set to come from a strong and consistent Pol Espargaro, matching the pace of the leaders throughout the race as Bradl recovered from a difficult start with an aggressive ride through the field.

For the second time in two weeks, the MotoGP World Championship lined up on the grid in Qatar. What followed

was the closest top 15 in MotoGP history, just 8.928 seconds splitting the leading 15 as fans around the world were treated to a spectacular race. Fighting with those around him, Espargaro worked to hold his position but dropped back on the sixth lap after a mistake.

Rallying, Espargaro moved back past Morbidelli midway through the race as he matched the pace of the podium contenders. Crossing the line in 13th, Espargaro was looking for more this Sunday but once again showed there is huge potential inside himself and the RC213V.

**Morris heroics lay Lakers low**

Los Angeles: The Los Angeles Clippers didn't have to lean heavily on their superstar duo against the defending NBA champions on Sunday, getting help from their supporting cast in a 104-86 rout of the short-handed Los Angeles Lakers. The Clippers got a game-high 22 points from Marcus Morris while all-stars Kawhi Leonard and Paul George finished with 19 and 16 points respectively at Staples Centre arena.

Luke Kennard tallied 15 points off the bench. Marc Gasol with 11 points was the only starter to finish in double figures Sunday for the Lakers. — AFP

**Live on TV**
**FOOTBALL**

Champions League Quarterfinals (first legs): Real Madrid vs Liverpool from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2; Manchester City vs Dortmund from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

Regd. No. HC/SD/509/2021-23  
Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar  
on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings  
Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle  
Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal  
Village, Vellore Nager Taluk, Medchal  
Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana and  
Published at 36, S.D. Road,  
Secunderabad-3.  
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.  
Editor: Kaushik Mitter

# Kings battle ready

Rechristened Punjab look to make a case in coming IPL

New Delhi, April 5: With a new name and a stronger squad, Punjab Kings will be hoping for a change of fortunes this season after spending big money on addressing their death bowling concerns and beefing up a not-so-inspiring middle-order.

Here is a look at the team that will open its campaign on April 11 against RR in Mumbai.

**STRENGTHS**

Punjab Kings have one of the strongest batting line-ups this season. They have a dangerous opening pairing in skipper K. L. Rahul and the ever-reliable Mayank Agarwal.

Universe Boss Chris Gayle is expected to start from game one this time. Include flamboyant Nicholas Pooran to the mix and the top four seems sorted.

They have also roped in the world's number one T20 batsman Dawid Malan, seen as Gayle's back-up. Jhye Richardson and Riley Meredith alongside Mohammad Shami and England's Chris Jordan, the quartet makes for a formidable fast bowling unit.

**WEAKNESSES**

Punjab Kings' biggest weakness is the lack of quality spinners. They released off-spinner K. Gowtham, who ended up becoming the most expensive buy ever at the latest auction.

The likes of Murugan Ashwin and young Ravi Bhishnoi will be expected to deliver.

But with no internationally successful players in the spin department, it remains the weakest link.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Punjab Kings are yet to win an IPL title. With most of their bases covered on paper, they seem like strong contenders this year. This season is the perfect opportunity for Rahul and his men to get their hands on their maiden title, having charted out a three-year plan under his leadership and coach Anil Kumble's guidance.

**THREATS**

Shami, who fractured his wrist in Australia last year, has not played cricket in four months. With the national team's workload management to be kept in mind in a busy year, it remains to be seen if he plays all league games.

He had a memorable run last year with 20 wickets, and the team's success will depend a lot on him. — PTI



Mayank Agarwal of Punjab Kings plays a shot during a practice session ahead of the upcoming edition of Indian Premier League. — Pujab Kings

## DON'T LEGALISE BETTING, SAYS BCCI ACU CHIEF

New Delhi, April 5: The BCCI's new Anti-Corruption Unit chief Shabir Hussein Sheikh-adam Khandwala doesn't want betting to be legalised in India as it "encourages" match-fixing and feels his biggest challenge will be stamping out "shady activities" from smaller leagues.

There is a school of thought that legalising betting will bring in massive revenues for the government. But Khandwala looks at it differently.

"Whether the government legalises betting or not that is a different matter but deep inside, I feel as a police officer that betting can lead to match fixing. The government, so far, has rightly not legalised betting," the 70-year-old said.

"Betting encourages match fixing. So there should not be any change on this, we can make the rules more strict. We will work on that. It is a matter of great prestige that cricket is largely free of corruption. Credit should go to BCCI for that," he added.

"Betting might be legal in some countries but the people who go into stadiums to watch the game and watch it on television they believe in this game and don't go to grounds thinking this game could be fixed. We need to protect their belief that game is free of all corruption," he further added. — PTI



Indian shooters Gagan Narang and Annu Raj Singh.

## Gagan to marry fellow shooter

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

Hyderabad's Olympic medal-winning shooter Gagan Narang is set to marry fellow shooter Annu Raj Singh at a City hotel on April 21.

Gagan, who won the bronze medal in the Men's 10 metre Air Rifle Event at the 2012 London Olympics, had known Annu — a 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medallist pistol shooter — for almost 20 years.

They have been part of the Indian team together on many occasions.

Annu hails from Aligarh and is the same age as Gagan, 37.

The wedding will be grand affair and will be preceded by Sangeet a day before. However, strict Covid protocols will be followed.

"Dear family and friends, We understand that the sit-

uation is in constant flux, but based on the current guidelines and the recommendations in the State of Telangana, we feel we should be able to pull this long awaited wedding off successfully provided we all contribute towards a safe environment and adhere to all Covid Protocols.

We have taken special steps with the Hotel who is conducting Covid tests of all their staff on a regular basis and sanitisation of premises of our venues for the various functions.

We are making sure adequate amenities like sanitisers, face masks, face shields are available at the venue to keep you safe, and request everyone to follow social distancing norms and wear masks at all times during various ceremonies and avoid hugging and greeting," a note on the wedding invite reads.

## Sanjana captures national trophy

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

Hyderabad tennis player Sanjana Sirimalla won the All India Tennis Association U-18 Nationals tournament in Indore.

The 16-year-old dished out her top game right through the tourney and came up with an allround show when it came to aggression and stability to come out flying colours.

In the finals played at Indore Tennis Club, Sanjana was too strong for Suhih Maru as she simply sailed past her opponent with a 6-1, 6-3 scoreline. Earlier in the semiinals, Sanjana defeated Lakshmi Prabha of Tamil Nadu 7-5, 6-1.

In the quarterfinals, Sanjana's sponsor, Rainbow Children's Hospitals chairman Dr Ramesh Kancharla congratulated the champion player on her big achievement and said she was destined to win more in the future.



Sanjana Sirimalla poses with the AITA U-18 trophy at the Indore Tennis Club.

him join the squad for IPL2021," the franchise wrote in another tweet.

The 20-year-old Padikkal was RCB's highest scorer last season with 473 runs from 15 matches.

He has also been in tremendous form in the domestic circuit. He is only the second uncapped player in IPL's history to score more than 400 runs in debut season.

On Saturday, Delhi Capitals and India all-rounder Axar Patel had tested positive for the highly contagious Coronavirus and is set to miss the team's opener on April 10 due to quarantine protocols. — PTI

## FIRST WOMAN COMMENTATOR CHANDRA DEAD

**BIPIN DANI**

India's first woman cricket commentator, Chandra Nayudu, passed away in Indore on Sunday. She was 88.

Chandra was the daughter of Col C. K. Nayudu, India's first Test captain, and lived at Manoramganj, close to the Holkar Stadium in Indore, where her father scored tons of runs.

In 1995, Chandra had written a book titled, "CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers".

Chandra, a professor in English at the Government Girls College in Indore, had commented in the MCC vs Bombay game in the 1976-77 season.

Renowned cricket commentator Sushil Doshi said from Indore: "Chandra was a very good Hindi commentator. She was an English teacher but had equal command over our national language."

"Like her father, she wanted to be the first to do something. She inherited some of her father's traits. Chandra was a very brave and courageous lady. She would never accept defeat easily in her life," said Doshi who considered Chandra as his elder sister.

## CITY CLIPS

### Football trials for Reeds junior teams

The Reeds Football Academy is conducting professional football trials in Hyderabad to pick its Under 15 and Under 17 teams for the India Youth League 2021-2022 season on its premises at Bowrampet-Bachupur Center in Hyderabad on Saturday and Sunday. Selections will be held from 6.30 am to 12 noon.

Players born between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008 are eligible for U-15 trials while those born between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2006 can appear for U-17 selections. For further details, contact Amrendra Singh on 9030035854.

### Big win for Rasoolpura in hockey

Rasoolpura B' began the Dhyan Chand Cup 5-a-side Rhoocky tournament with a bang, defeating Young Turks B' by a whopping 8-1 margin at the Gymkhana Ground in Secunderabad.

Ravi Teja scored four goals while Sailesh, Saikiran, Vijay and Harish scored one each for the winners while Keshav reduced the margin for Young Turks B' in the tournament organised by the Gymkhana Hockey Club. Young Turks A' won though, beating Royal Club B' 3-0 as Vivek scored a hat-trick.

Navbharat were the other big winners. They defeated Mohd Sporting C' 8-3. Arvind and Mahender scored three goals each and Rohit contributed two for the winners while Abdul Hadi got two and Ghous Pasha one for Sporting C'. In another match, Ashok XI beat Rasoolpura A' 2-0 via a brace of goals by Vikram.

### Rahul emerges chess champion

International Master Rahul Srivatsav emerged champion of the Telangana State Senior Fide Rated Chess Championship organised by Telangana State Chess Association at Lal Bahadur Stadium in Hyderabad.

Rahul scored eight points out of eight rounds for an all-win record. Bharat Kumar Reddy Poluri was second with 7 points, Aditya Varun Gampa and Rajsekhar were third and fourth respectively with 6.5 points each. The top four players were selected to represent Telangana in the National Men's Championship.

## FORMER MUMBAI PLAYER MEHLI BREATHES HIS LAST

Mumbai, April 5: Former Mumbai cricketer and "Kanga League" giant Mehli Irani has passed away in Dubai. He was 90.

Kanga League is a well-known monsoon season cricket tournament played in Mumbai.

Mumbai Cricket Association's (MCA) Apex Council member Nadim Menon and noted curator, who had helped Irani, said on Monday that Irani passed away in Dubai on Saturday and the last rites were held there itself a day later.

Irani played the Kanga League for 50 years and had represented the Bombay Gymkhana and Parsee Cyclists at the club-level, another MCA official said, adding that he only played one game for Bombay (now Mumbai) against Baroda in 1953-54. Test cricketers like Nari Contractor, Farokh Engineer, Karsan Ghavri and Ghulam Parkar, played under Irani for Parsee Cyclists. Former India captain Contractor, who played with Irani, condoled his demise and recalled that he was a good cricketer. — PTI



Delhi Capitals' Prithvi Shaw (right) with coach Ricky Ponting in this file photo.

## Ponting reveals Prithvi's batting habit in last IPL

Mumbai, April 5: Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting has revealed that Prithvi Shaw refused to bat in the nets when he hit a bad patch in the last IPL and hoped that the highly-rated Indian youngster has changed his training habits "for the better" ahead of the upcoming season.

Ponting recalled how Shaw simply refused to pad up for nets when after scoring two fifties last season, he was hit by a slump. "...he had an interesting theory on his batting last year — when he's not scoring runs, he won't bat, and when he is scoring runs, he wants to keep batting all the time," Ponting said.

"He had four or five games where he made under 10 and I'm telling him, 'We have to go to the nets and work out (what's wrong)', and he looked me in the eye and said, 'No, I'm not batting today'. I couldn't really work that out. He might have changed, I know he's done a lot of work over the last few months, that theory that he had might have changed, and hopefully, it has, because if we can get the best out of him, he could be a superstar player", the former Aussie skipper added. — PTI

Regd. No. HC/SD/509/2021-23  
Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar  
on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings  
Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle  
Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal  
Village, Vellore Nager Taluk, Medchal  
Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana and  
Published at 36, S.D. Road,  
Secunderabad-3.  
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.  
Editor: Kaushik Mitter