

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 2 MARCH 2021

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

Vol. 84 No. 60 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

JOY OF AN EXCLUSIVE CLUBHOUSE & AMENITIES

Beautiful venue
to refresh,
celebrate
& stay fit



APARNA
Altius

APARTMENTS @ SHAMSHABAD

TAKE OFF TO NEW HEIGHTS

2 & 3 BHK Apts.

1440-2250 Sft.

Current Price:

₹5499*/SFT

Price w.e.f: 02-04-2021

₹5699*/SFT

BOOK TODAY

Marketing office
open on Sundays only

73372 27707 / 70953 33335 aparnaconstructions.com

WEATHER

Max: 36.8°C
Min: 22.2°C
RH: 48%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Hazy sky.
Maximum/Minimum
temp. 36/20°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarakaya
Tithi: Magha Bahula Chaviti till
2.59 am (Wednesday)

Star: Chitta till 3.28 am
Varjyan: 12.50 pm to 2.18 pm

Durmuhurtam: 8.57 am to
9.44 am; 11.14 pm to 12.03 am

Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 17,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.33 am

Zohar: 12.38 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrib: 6.28 pm

Isha: 7.36 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.22 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.34 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 8.30 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 8.06 AM

COUNTER POINT



Don't insist on the number of seats... our MLAs will anyway defect to the winning party after polls!

SHORT TAKES

LPG price hiked again by ₹25

New Delhi: Cooking gas LPG price was on Monday hiked by ₹25 per cylinder across all categories, including subsidised fuel and those availed by Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries — the fourth increase in rates in a month's time. LPG prices have gone up by ₹125 per 14.2-kg cylinder since the beginning of February, price data from state-owned oil marketing companies showed. Also, jet fuel prices were hiked by a steep 6.5 per cent.

Will you marry victim: SC to rapist

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked a government servant accused of repeatedly raping a minor girl if he would marry her. Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde asked the lawyer appearing for the accused whether his client would marry the victim girl. "We are not forcing you to marry. Let us know if you will," he said.

■ Report on Page 7



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine by Sister P. Niveda at AIIMS in New Delhi on Monday. During his brief stay at the hospital, the PM chatted with the nurses and other staff and even cracked jokes with them. Niveda said the PM, after getting the vaccine shot, remarked: "Laga bhi diya, pata bhi nahin chala" (Already done? I didn't even feel it). She was from poll-bound Puducherry. The other nurse, Rosanna Anil from Kerala, said it was the happiest day of her life "because our PM Modiji came to our AIIMS hospital for taking vaccine." — PTI

Modi takes Covaxin shot, launches 2nd phase drive

100-yr-old takes Covid jab in city

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The second phase vaccination drive to cover the general population above 60 years and those above 45 with co-morbidities began Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some of his Cabinet ministers taking the first dose of the anti-Covid jab. The 70-year-old PM took the first dose of the indigenously made Covaxin at New Delhi's AIIMS to launch the second phase drive.

"Took my first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at AIIMS. Remarkable how our doctors and scientists have worked in quick time to strengthen the global fight against Covid-19. I appeal to all those who are eligible to take the vaccine. Together, let us make India Covid-19 free!" the PM tweeted after taking the vaccine shot.

The decision to take the Covaxin shot by the PM was intended to quell the apprehensions and suspicion over the India-made

A 100-year-old man became the oldest person to receive Covid-19 vaccination in Telangana on Monday. The centenarian, Jaidev Chowdhry, was among the first to get vaccinated at a private hospital in the city.

A former entrepreneur, Chowdhry said he was looking forward to get vaccinated as he wanted to "enjoy an active social life of quality."

"There has been a lot of hesitation among people over taking the vaccine because of misinformation," he said.

vaccine as several Opposition leaders have questioned its safety and efficacy. The government has given emergency use



Jaidev Chowdhry

Visibly happy after receiving the first dose, Chowdhry said people should get vaccinated not just for themselves but also to keep their families and loved ones safe.

authorisation to Bharat Biotech, which has developed Covaxin in collaboration with the ICMR-NIN.

Cracks show up in BJP, AIADMK alliance in TN

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, MARCH 1

The DMK, founded by actor Vijaykanth, is seemingly angry with the AIADMK, its coalition party, and has sent out signals of a possible break-up by calling for applications from its cadre to contest all seats by the coalition leader.

across Tamil Nadu.

Though the announcement of the schedule for the Assembly elections has led to hectic activity with leading parties trying to wrap up alliances and start campaigns, allies of the AIADMK are playing truant, demanding seats more than what is being offered to them by the coalition leader.

After the PMK, the ally with the biggest votebank in northern Tamil Nadu, accepted the 23 seats that the AIADMK offered, talks with the BJP and the DMK are said to have gone south, particularly the parleys with the BJP's top honcho and home minister, Amit Shah, in Chennai on Sunday night.

PG 4: AIMIM WILL CONTEST ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN TN

MAN VS | WILD River, source of drinking water, is Mugger sanctuary

Croc kills 50-yr-old in Manjeera

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

A 50-year-old man died of crocodile attack close to the banks of River Manjeera on Sunday when he was trying to get one of his buffaloes back from the water to the shore.

According to a forest department official, G Ramulu from Esoipeta village in Pulkal mandal of

ONE OF HIS animals strayed into the water. As he went after the animal, he happened to have passed by a crocodile's nest with eggs in it. The crocodile felt threatened and attacked the man.

Sangareddy district was grazing his cattle near the river. One of his animals strayed into the water. As

he went after the animal to get it back to the land, he happened to have passed by a crocodile's nest with eggs in it. The crocodile felt threatened and attacked the man.

The crocodile dragged Ramulu into the water and he could not save himself. The villagers refused to have a post-mortem done on the body.

Manjeera river and its

dam are popular weekend destinations for many from the city. The river and the reservoir are a declared Mugger Crocodile sanctuary.

Last year, after a crocodile was spotted near Pasalwadi, officials had cautioned people to remain safe. As per the 2017 census of crocodiles in the sanctuary, this is home to 171 muggers.

KCR surveys hint at easy win for TRS in elections

Tells party not to be complacent in upcoming MLC, N'Sagar polls

L VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Internal surveys commissioned by the TRS chief and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao have boosted the morale of the party leaders and cadre.

Sources in TRS said Mr Chandrashekhar Rao had commissioned six surveys by various private agencies between February 1 and February 28 on a weekly basis, covering Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar, Warangal, Nalgonda and Khammam districts on the MLC polls on March 14 and the Nagarjunasagar Assembly bypoll later.

All the elections held between 2014 and 2020 were monitored by Mr Rama Rao. However, the party received setbacks in the recent Dubbik and GHMC bypolls in which the BJP, on the other hand, has put up a stunning performance.

The survey reports cautioned party leaders and cadre against any compla-

cency at this stage as the last two weeks before polling have the scope to change the political environment.

It was since a long time that Chandrashekhar Rao has plunged into action to deal with elections directly. After Chandrashekhar Rao became CM in June 2014, barring 2018 December Assembly polls, all the remaining elections were monitored by his son and TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao.

All the elections held between 2014 and 2020 were monitored by Mr Rama Rao. However, the party received setbacks in the recent Dubbik and GHMC bypolls in which the BJP, on the other hand, has put up a stunning performance.

The ongoing MLC election schedule came at a time when it has become important for the TRS to check the rise of the BJP.

Hence, the CM himself is guiding the leadership in shaping the party's MLC election strategy.

KTR, Ramchander slug it out on jobs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The war of words between TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao and BJP MLC candidate for Hyderabad-Rangareddy - Mahbubnagar constituency N. Ramchander Rao has escalated into a Twitter squabble on Monday. Both the leaders took a dig at each other with their posts on the social media site.

After writing an open letter to Rama Rao, asking him to prove that the TRS government's claim of filling 1.32 lakh posts in government departments during the past seven years, the BJP leader dared Rama Rao for a debate at Osmania University Arts College on Monday.

When the minister did not turn up, Ramchander Rao tweeted, "I am here at Arts College. Where are you, Mr. @KTRTRS?" (sic).

Taking the battle to the rival's territory, Rama Rao tweeted, "I am busy gathering information on the 12 crore jobs (2 crore per year) & Rs 15 lakhs in all Jandhan accounts promised by Hon'ble PM Shri Modi Ji. NDA (No Data Available) is the answer so far. Please share if you have any answers."

To this, Ramchander Rao replied, "You could have collected this information earlier or later. I hope you are manufacturing data for public consumption. We shall soon meet." (sic).

■ Page 4: KTR asks Netizens how GDP is growing

LIFE GOALS. DONE.

bajajallianzlife.com

ENJOY GUARANTEED LIFE-LONG INCOME

DEFERRED ANNUITY



Age 50

PAY
₹5.13 Lakh⁵ p.a.
for 10 years

Total = ₹51 Lakh



GET
₹4 Lakh⁶ p.a.
GUARANTEED⁷
LIFE-LONG INCOME



GET
₹51.33 Lakh⁶
on death benefit will be
receivable by nominee

+ Total = ₹2.11 Crore⁸



No medicals required



Quick issuance



Deferment option with annuity
guarantee¹ at policy inception

SCAN TO BUY



BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE
GUARANTEED PENSION GOAL

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Deferred & Immediate Annuity Plan

⁵In the above illustration Male Age – 50 years | Premium paying term – 10 years | Deferred Annuity | Premium paying frequency – Yearly | Regular Premium – ₹ 5,13,347 | Deferral Period – 10 years | Annuity Amount – ₹ 4,00,000 | Annuity Frequency – Yearly | Life annuity with Return of Purchase Price (ROP) on death | Purchase price/Regular premium is exclusive of Goods & Service Tax/any other applicable tax levied, subject to changes in tax laws if any

⁶Assuming Death at age 100 years | Death benefit - ₹ 51,33,470 | Total Benefits received under policy - ₹ 2,11,33,470

⁷Conditions Apply – The guaranteed benefits are dependent on the purchase price & annuity option chosen. For more details please refer to sales brochure.

Risk Factors and Warning Statements: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited and Bajaj Allianz Life Guaranteed Pension Goal are the names of the company and the product respectively and not in any way indicate the quality of the product and its future prospects or returns. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions please read sales brochure & policy document (available on www.bajajallianzlife.com) carefully before concluding a sale. Regd. Office Address: Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune – 411006, Reg. No.: U66010PN2001LC015959, Call us on toll free No.: 1800 209 7272, Mail us: customercare@bajajallianz.co.in, Fax No.: 02066026789, Bajaj Allianz Life Guaranteed Pension Goal is A Non Linked Non Participating Deferred & Immediate Annuity Plan (UIN: 116N167V01). The Logo of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd. is provided on the basis of license given by Bajaj Finserv Ltd. to use its "Bajaj" Logo and Allianz SE to use its "Allianz" logo. All charges/ taxes, as applicable, will be borne by the Policyholder.

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint.

BJAZ-0-4779/27-Feb-21

</

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY For Sale @Gachibowli (PSR Prime Tower), 2nd floor, 6800sqft, With 100% Car Parkings for Sale. Ph:9703817123. Email: a.s.d.r.a@974.ho.tmail.com (HYMM/2021/C07454)

FARM HOUSES-SITES

CUSTOMIZE VILLAS 3EL 303sqyds, farm houses, resorts, sandalwood, 100acres community. Rs.5999 offer 4200 per sqyd. Mumbai highway, sadashivpet, 7416613247. (HYMM/2021/C07637)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

TARNAKA 2 & 3 BHK flats, 1225 to 1425 sft, 100% vasthu. Ready to occupy with all amenities gated community. www.happyhomeshyderabad.com Ph:7729999728, 7729999732. (S/2021/C02495)

THREE & MORE

SAINIKPURI 3 & 4 BHK deluxe flats 1500 to 2460 sft with all amenities. 100% vasthu. Ready to occupy, gated community. www.happyhomeshyderabad.com Ph:7729999728, 7729999732. (S/2021/C02496)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

THREE & MORE

FOR SALE North East facing Plot 726sq.yards with 6500 built up area in Film Nagar, Jubilee Hills, only interested persons pls contact on 8897998934 between 2pm to 6pm. No Brokers pls. (HYMM/2021/C07634)

PREMIUM VILLAS in Gated community for Sale at Moksha @ 1.70 crs (Special Offer available). Contact: 7353585358 (HYMM/2021/C07395)

MOOSAPET MAIN Road 400sqft, S.F. Rs.95000/- per sq.yard & Erragadda 3BHK Flat for sale, 1685sqft, E/F, G.Floor, Rs.7500/-per.sqft Negotiable. Ph:8555900837. (W/2021/AT001198)

SUPER GROWTH Corridor Airport Novotel to Tukkuguda to Maheshwaram. Prelaunch offer for our just started Villa Venture 267 sq.yds, 348ft, 3 Cr, 1BHK, Home theatre, lift, servant quarter, E/W face, exclusive elevation. Call: 9849002667, 6305150227. (S/2021/IC00195)

LAND

FARM LAND For Sale: 20Km From APPA Junction, Entrance Arch, Compound Wall, Borewell With Drip Irrigation, 10 Varieties Of Fruit Plants, Security Room, Well Developed Farm Land Half Acre (2000 Sq.yds). Price Rs 10000000. Ph:9963038315. (HYCL/2021/C03109)

FARMLAND FOR SALE 20kms From Appa Junction, Entrance Arch, Compound wall, Borewell With Drip Irrigation, 10 Varieties Of Fruit Plants, Security Room, Well Developed Farmland For sale, 1/2 Acre (2000sq.yds). Rs.1Cr, Ph:7997583777, 9963038315 (HYCL/2021/C03107)

CHEVELLA 20 ACRES Nala 4 covered connecting to 4 lane road at upcoming RRP. Contact: Devender: 984681897 (HYMM/2021/C07521)

MACHINERY

SALE OF Crockery Hydrolics Press 100 /150 tuns and Crockery Die. Contact Ph:8179474403. (HYCL/2021/C03131)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

HIMAYATHNAGAR MAIN road earlier 3rd floor 1000 ft, 100 ft Cabin 1st floor, for any Commercial purpose. Ph:8712366000. (B/2021/C01056)

AVAILABLE 1200 Sft Commercial Space for Rent on Liberty Main Road, Situated at Jamuna Plaza, Himayathnagar. Ph:7998927549. (B/2021/C01078)

1330 SQ.FT Raj Bhavan Road earlier tenant Food Court earlier 70K. Ideal for offices, workshop, distributor, clinics, etc. Ph:9700123552. (S/2021/C02482)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

KONDAPUR NEAR Hitec, well ventilated, Spacious 2 BHK Flat in good condition with good facilities at Prime Location. Rent 20K. Ph:8790387265, 8520957026. (B/2021/C01094)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

MULTIPLE INDP HOUSES

KHAIRATHABAD STREET no.8 near metro station 2 rooms with kitchen+balcony semi furnished only one employed person and 2BHK 1st floor semi furnished employed hindu for a small family or 3 bachelors ph: 7680939611/04-23307169 (HYMM/2021/C07624)

LEASE

COMMERCIAL

INDEPENDENT BUILDING Mainroad, Diagonally Opp Central mall, Beautiful glass & Marble elevation, total 12000sf sqb area, G+3 plus 2BHK, 1st floor, 2nd floor, 2 roads & entrance, lift, Each floor 2750sf. sqb. Suitable Software Companies, Furniture, furnishing, lights, jewellery showroom/mall concept, hospitals, clinics. Clear title, For Lease Total Building/ Floor Wise/ G+1. Ph:9502032226. (HYMM/2021/C07605)

GACHIBOWLI MAINROAD, 3rd floor fully furnished with 10A.C's, 40Chairs, 10Work station & Cabinets) and 4th floor open Hall, washroom, and shop. @Suraj bhan jewellery hub building Opp. Al-Saba Restaurant, Beautiful Elevation, Automatic lift. Ample parking. Generator back-up Each floor 2750sf. sqb. Suitable for Software Company, Clinics, Architects, Clinics, Offices. Ph:7997995592 (HYMM/2021/C07606)

WAREHOUSE SPACE available at Medchal & Kalakad main road 30,000 to 2,00,000sfPh: 9393834321 (HYMM/2021/C07448)

SITUATION VACANT

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

ULTRA INSTRUMENTS a leading manufacturer of medical instruments requires - Manager Accounts Male Minimum 5 years Experience in Managing Accounts, GST, PF, Labour etc. Qualification - M.Com with Tally, Package - 3.8lac PA. Excellent English & English a must apply to: kumar@ultratech.in (HYMM/2021/C07399)

WANTED ACCOUNTANT (M/F) at Kukatpally. Age: 20-40years, Qualification: B.Com/ MBA/ Any Qly. Salary: 20,000/- Mail Resume to: u.i.p.a.i.p.d@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C07636)

BEAUTICIANS

WANTED MALE Hair Stylist and Female Beautician (Beauty cum Hair) in Studio No.1 Salon. Salary: 15k to 35k. We will provide accommodation to Male Hair Stylist. Contact: 7993590967. (HYCL/2021/C03062)

ENGINEERS

WALK IN Interview For Cnc Lathe Operators &Quality Control Engineer B.Tech (Mech) Contact With Original Testimonials of 2nd, 3rd & 4th Month Between 10AM-2PM in EPE Process, Filters & Accumulators P.M. Ltd 59A, 59A1, C.I.E (Expt) Gandhinagar, Balanagar Hyderabad-37, Ph:040-23085750/ 040-23085937. (HYMM/2021/C07638)

HR & ADMINISTRATIVE

FEMALE COUNSELLOR wanted for a 20 Years Old Education Consultancy at Somajiguda. Positive Attitude & Good Communication Skills required. Fixed salary as per industry norm + Attractive Incentives. Call/ WA: 9989044403 (W/2021/AT001207)

LECTURERS

WANTED LECTURERS to teach BBA & B.Com with M.B.A & M.Com with minimum 55%. Good Salary for Deserving and experience Candidates. Contact Today and Tomorrow in between 10AM-2PM. S. Srinivas Degree College, Attapur, Pillar No.187, Ph:9849093627, 984273311. (HYMM/2021/C07631)

WANTED LECTURER in Sanskrit for a Reputed Degree College in Hyderabad. Send Resume to: kr1955@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C03130)

WANTED QUALIFIED & Experienced Faculties to Teach Degree B.Sc. Nutrition, Zoology & B.Com Commerce. New Madina Degree College, Shambhalia, Hyderabad. Ph:9885576060. (HYMM/2021/C07633)

REQUIRED SENIOR and Junior Lecturers- Physics & Zoology for residential junior college at Vikarabad. Candidates with minimum 5 to 10 years experience in B.P.E, Mains & Competitive Exam preferred. Candidate with proficiency in English Communication & Management Skills, Attractive salary & Perks offered. Mail CV: info@hei.net.in Ph:9652699811. (HYMM/2021/C07629)

EDUCATIONAL

DISTANCE EDUCATION

CONTACT FOR NCTE-Recognised: B.Ed./M.Ed. No Advance Fee. Only for Educational Consultants. Students Please No call. Contact regarding any academic Problem Guidance: Shiksha Bharti Varanasi. Email: shikshabharti88@yahoo.com Ph:9517596633, 9915103781. (HYMM/2021/C07635)

EDUCATIONAL

MEDICAL COURSES Complete in 6months/ 1year/ 2years. DMU, Optometry, Operation Theater, CSSD, DMIT, Nursing, DOA, Anesthesia, ECG, Sadhana. Ph:9247478673. (HYCL/2021/C03010)

LOST

NILANI No.104, Tarun Towers, Anandnagar, Hyderabad. Secunderabad 500047. While travelling I lost my original sale deed No.1050/ 1991 of S.R.O. Medchal. Which is on my husband's name Late. S.L.Narayana. Anybody found please inform. Ph: 9849878227. (S/2021/C02507)

MOSQUITO NET

MOSQUITO MESH: Glass Fiber, Aluminum meshed with different sizes. Detachable, easy to openable; with Aluminum powder coated frames for windows, Doors, Roll-on, PVC Sliding systems. For Estimation, Installation, Call: Satya Creations. Ph:8328647852/ 9849057513. www.satyacreations.in (HYCL/2021/C03097)

POULTRY

VENCOBB CHICKEN rich in protein, great in taste eat & enjoy. Vencoobb Hyderabad. 100% organic, per kg. Price: Rs.92, Retail Live Bird Rs.114, Dressed with Skin Rs.165, Skinless Rs.188. Ph:27992239. (HOPE) (S/2021/C02244)

PEST CONTROL

SPECIALIST PEST Control Cockroach, Bed Treatment & Termite, New Construction Treatment, 10years Guarantee and Sanitizer Spray. Ph:998908181. 9989369849. (HYMM/2021/C07520)

PACKERS & MOVERS

SURYA PACKERS & Movers. Household in Packing & Moving of Household Goods, Cars for Local & Countrywide. Ph:9849478333, 040-27244117. www.suryapackersmovers.com. E-mail: suryapackersmovers@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C07630)

SOFTWARE

WANTED .NET Developers & Testers with 0-3yrs experienced any graduates, C#, MVC, Entity Framework, WCF, SOAP, SQL Server. Having good knowledge in enterprise software testing, knowledge of testing tools and web design is an added advantage. CI/CD Systems, Hyderabad. P.V. Ltd. Ph:9618876862, m_razi@ciossystems.com (HYMM/2021/C07632)

TEACHERS

LOTUS LAP Public School, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad. Karimnagar, Khammam, Rayalaseema requires Principal (Female), PRO (Female), Primary and High School Teachers for all the subjects, IIT Foundation Faculty, Mother Teachers for Pre-primary immediately. Contact: 9866082175; 9849893003; 9912593361. (HYCL/2021/C03061)

JOHNSON GRAMMAR School, ICSE Mallapuram, Hyderabad. 2 years experience at Primary & Middle School English (B.A & M.A in English), Science, Maths & Social; English, English Teacher (G+3); History; 4)PGT with 5 years experience in an ISC School to teach Psychology. Mail to: jsgensrscorrespondents@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C03056)

OTHER VACANCIES

PEST CONTROL

WATER PROOFING

WE DO

All Kind of Building Structural Strengthening, Water Proofing, Structural Repair, Structural Analysis, Structural Damage using (Prometer, Ultrasound, Etc.), Ultra Sound Rebound Hammer, Corrosion Meter, Moisture Meter). Techniques. 9347532044, 779179999, 998561924. (HYMM/2021/C07378)

YONA WATER Proofing solutions for bathrooms, walls, terrace, water tanks, sumps & other leakages. 100% guarantee. Dr.Fixit Application. Jousha: 9050752971, 8897602102. (S/2021/C02190)

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 false.

Etala takes jab, kicks off vaccination drive

Everyone should take Covid vaccine, says health minister

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Health Minister Etala Rajendar, who took a jab on Monday, called on all eligible people to go for the Covid-19 jabs at the earliest opportunity.

Rajendar kicked off the latest phase of the vaccination programme in the state at the Huzurabad Government Hospital's vaccination centre in the morning.

"There is no reason for fear and everyone should take the vaccine. Do not get anxious for your turn, register online and get vaccinated. Everyone will get their turn and we will vaccinate all," Rajendar said.

The health minister spoke to the media immediately after receiving the first of the two doses of the vaccine at the HG Hospital. He was accompanied by district collector



Health minister Etala Rajendar takes the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at Area Hospital in Huzurabad on Monday.

K. Shashanka and Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy.

● **FROM TODAY**, the vaccine is administered to people above 60 years, and to those with comorbidities. While the vaccine is free in government hospitals and health centres, private hospitals charged ₹250 for each dose.

● **RAJENDAR SAID** the vaccination process for these two groups will be expanded.

SHORT TAKES

SSC EXAM FEE PAYMENT DATE EXTENDED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The Director of Government Examinations, Telangana, on Monday extended the deadline for SSC examination fee payment, on request of principals and headmasters.

According to an official circular, the last date for remittance of examination fee to headmasters with a late fee of ₹50 has been extended to March 6. The headmasters have to remit in sub-treasury SBI without a late fee by March 5 and with a late fee on March 8. Last date for submission of NRs by the headmasters in the DEOs office without late fee is March 6, and with a late fee of ₹50 is March 9.

The last date for submission of NRs in the office of DGE without a late fee is March 10. The Telangana SSC examinations 2021 are scheduled to be held from May 17-26.

● **THE LAST** date for submission of NRs in the office of DGE without a late fee is March 10.

French connection



Emmanuel Leanain, French ambassador and Dr Marjorie Vanbaelenghem, consul-general of France met I.T. minister K.T. Rama Rao in Hyderabad on Monday. IT secretary Jayesh Ranjan was also present. Emmanuel later tweeted, "Excellent meeting with KTR. Telangana is already home to many companies in aeronautics, pharmaceuticals, IT and energy. We discussed how France can further contribute to Telangana's growth and innovation goals."

— BY ARRANGEMENT

HC reserves order on Hafeezpet land case

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The Telangana High Court on Monday reserved its decision relating to the disputed 141 acres in Survey number 80 of Hafeezpet village in Serilingampally mandal.

After lengthy arguments from all the sides, including Wakf Board and private parties, claiming the said land, a division bench, comprising Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao and Justice T. Vinod Kumar decided to reserve orders.

The bench on Monday once again asked the Wakf Board about the veracity of the document executed by Munnerunissa Begum, through which the Wakf

Driver killed as crane crashes into another

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

A 26-year-old man's head was crushed by a hydra crane vehicle on late Sunday night following a road accident at Gachibowli.

Pavan alias Anil Yadav, a resident of Balanagar and native of Uttar Pradesh, was riding the crane towards the Financial District in Gachibowli from Balanagar, said the police.

The accident was reported at around 1 am when Pavan, along with another driver,

Cops arrest youth for matrimonial fraud

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

A 21-year-old who cheated a female victim from Tarnaka via matrimonial website by claiming that he is a UK resident was arrested by the Hyderabad Cyber Crimes Police on Monday. The accused, Mohd Hasim, a resident of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, had conned the victim to the tune of ₹10.69 lakhs by promising to marry her, said the police.

"Hasim contacted the victim after seeing her profile on

2 from Delhi held for duping Hyd resident

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Two men from Delhi were caught by Hyderabad CCS officials for duping a city resident to the tune of ₹50,000 by posing as RBI officials.

According to the police, the arrested persons, identified as Vineet Singh, 28, and Deepak Singh, 32, allegedly cheated a city-based man after promising to extend the validity date of his credit card.

Explaining their modus operandi, officials said that the duo had called up people over phone and posing as bank officials, told them

their credit cards were about to expire.

"On the pretext of extending the validity, they collected One Time Passwords from the card holders and duped them after withdrawing or transferring money from their accounts," said K.V.M. Prasad, ACP of Cyber Crime Hyderabad.

Following a complaint from the victim, who lost ₹50,000 to the gang, the Cybercrime wing registered a case and traced the fraudsters to Delhi with the help of technical evidence. A special team then reached Delhi and took them into custody.

High Court takes up suo motu case based on DC report

CJ points to lapse in cops' probe of double murder

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Telangana Chief Justice Hima Kohli on Monday found a serious lapse in the police investigation into the brutal murder of advocate-couple Gattu Vamana Rao and Nagamani and directed the Advocate General to rectify the anomaly that could dilute the case and help the accused go scot-free.

The Chief Justice's direction raised hopes in the legal fraternity that justice would be rendered in the daylight murder, which has political implications. The kin of a ruling party leader, who allegedly masterminded the gruesome murder, was arrested along with his accomplices.

The court made its keenness to monitor the investigation known by asking

the police to submit status reports to it from time to time.

A division bench, comprising the Chief Justice and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy took up suo-moto the February 17 murder when the two were returning to Hyderabad from Manthani.

The court took the case suo-moto based on news reports, especially that of Deccan Chronicle (Feb 18) headlined 'Lawyer couple hacked to death on way to Hyderabad'.

When the case came up for hearing on Monday, the Chief Justice, while going through the status report submitted by Ramagundam police commission, sought to know why police recorded the confessional statements of the accused under Section 161 Cr PC instead of the more appropriate Section

164. The difference between the two Sections is that a confession statement would be recorded in the presence of a judicial magistrate under 164 Cr PC and thereafter it would be taken as evidence and form a strong base for conviction.

The Chief Justice asked the advocate general, B.S. Prasad why police recorded the confessional statements that will not be admissible as evidence in the process.

Justice Vijaysen Reddy pointed out that a video showed that the deceased Gattu Vamana Rao, while profusely bleeding, spoke for a considerable time before succumbing. Police ought to have taken the tahsildar or a Gazetted Officer to the spot and recorded the dying declaration, which would have formed crucial evidence in nailing the culprits, he maintained.

VITEEE 2021
B.Tech. Admissions
EXAM DATES 18th - 26th June

VIT ALIZING YOUR FUTURE

IOE
Recognized as an
Institution of Eminence*
by Govt. of India

TOP 20
NIRF rankings past 4 years*
(HRD Ministry,
Govt. of India)

2947+
Total Number of
Super Dream and
Dream offers

*Vellore and Chennai Campus

+ Inclusive of Internship Offers

₹44 lakh
Highest Annual CTC offered in 2021

8180 **
Placement offers from 510 companies
**For 2021 batch and counting

300+
International Partner Universities
(Europe, America, Asia, Australia etc.)

ITP
INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER PROGRAMME
2 years at VIT
2 years at a Partner University Abroad

SAP
SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAMME
Final Semester at Partner University

www.vit.ac.in **ugadmission@vit.ac.in** **FOR ENQUIRIES +91-416-220-2020** • **TOLLFREE No. 1800-891-4220**

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

VIT-AP
UNIVERSITY
VELLORE, CHENNAI

VIT
Bhopal
www.vitbhopal.ac.in

VIT
University

school/vellore-institute-of-technology

vellore_vit

VITUniversityVellore

SHORT TAKES

I-T DETECTS ILLEGAL CASH IN HYDERABAD FIRM

New Delhi, March 1: The Income Tax Department has detected "unaccounted" income of about ₹400 crore after raids on a major pharmaceutical group based in Hyderabad, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Monday.

The searches were carried out on February 24 at around 20 locations spread across five states. The CBDT said the pharmaceutical group is engaged in the business of manufacturing of intermediates, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations, and majority of its products are exported to European countries and the USA.

"The search has led to unearthing of evidence relating to unaccounted income of around ₹400 crore, out of which the assessee group has admitted an additional income of ₹350 crore," the CBDT claimed in a statement. It added that ₹1.66 crore cash was also seized during the operation. "Incriminating evidence in the form of digital media, pen drives, documents, etc. have been found and seized," the CBDT said.

The statement said digital evidences were gathered from SAP-ERP software. "Issues relating to purchases made from bogus and non-existent entities, artificial inflation of certain heads of expenditure, alongwith suppression of receipts relating to by-product sale were detected." — PTI

TRS TAKING ALL MEASURES TO WIN 2 MLC SEATS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Ruling TRS is making all preparations to win both the graduate MLC seats from Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal and Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar constituencies.

Party high command has made ministers, MLAs and public representatives of respective districts responsible for ensuring the victory of the party candidates. Ministers are campaigning vigorously along with the candidates. Key party leaders are being made in-charge for every 100 voters in the two constituencies to ensure the victory of TRS nominees.

In-charge ministers and MLAs have been given the overall responsibility for mobilising voters constituency-wise in the respective districts. TRS candidate Vani Devi from Hyderabad-Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy is a newcomer. Hence the party high command has deputed many senior leaders to ensure her victory, which is considered prestigious; as she is the daughter of late P.V. Narsimha Rao, former prime minister.

Party high command has also directed that meetings be held with caste leaders and youth. In this regard, all Brahmin communities have assured their unconditional support for Vani Devi. Likewise, TRS leaders have been asked to mobilise other castes in both the graduate constituencies. Students' and employee unions are also being contacted in this regard.

TRS cadres have also been directed to explain the welfare and development schemes undertaken by the state government during the campaign. At the same time, they should also highlight the failures of BJP government on various fronts including farmer laws, hike in fuel prices and the failed promise of creating two crore jobs.



TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy participates in a protest against hike in LPG and fuel prices in Hyderabad on Monday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Cong: LPG not affordable now

Centre hiked LPG prices by 3 times; Uttam

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The women's wing of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) organised "Vanta Varpu" agitation in front of Gandhi Bhavan on Monday to protest against hike in petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices. The programme was attended by TPCC president Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, the TPCC chief pointed out that cooking gas has become unaffordable for common man. While prices of petrol and diesel have crossed all expectations, the BJP government has increased the price of LPG

cylinders by almost three times. He pointed out that the price of a non-subsidised LPG cylinder in Hyderabad today is ₹871.50. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao of playing with the lives of common people by not controlling prices.

Uttam Kumar Reddy pointed out that while the neighbouring states have announced subsidies on LPG cylinders, CM KCR has not made any such announcement. He said Congress party would fight against the rise in fuel and LPG prices until they are withdrawn.

This apart, the Nalgonda MP also

addressed a meeting with leaders of all frontal departments and cells in connection with MLC elections.

He said both TRS and BJP have done utter injustice with Telangana state ever since they came to power in 2014. As a result, Telangana has got into a huge debt trap of nearly ₹3.5 lakh crore. He said the government has misused resources only to benefit KCR and his family.

The TPCC chief addressed party leaders to ensure the victory of Congress party in both graduate MLC seats. This would force both TRS and BJP to mend their approach towards the people of Telangana.

KTR IS DUPING GRADUATES THROUGH HIS TWEETS: DASOJU

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

AICC national spokesperson Sravan Dasoju on Monday accused IT minister K.T. Rama Rao of diverting people's attention over the prestigious Information Technology and Investment Region (ITIR) project ahead of graduate MLC elections in Telangana.

Addressing media at Gandhi Bhawan on Monday, Sravan released a letter purportedly written by KTR that read: "It is imperative... to restore ITIR scheme or provide a better scheme in its place to ensure that cities like Hyderabad continue to build on the tremendous momentum in the IT sector growth that has been witnessed over the last six years.

Such a scheme (will) also provide a major boost to IT industry as it looks up to the government for relief from economic downturn."

The AICC spokesperson said graduates are intelligent enough to identify the chameleon-like characteristics of the minister, who is producing fabricated figures. He alleged that KTR is resorting to Goebbels propaganda on employment just to get the votes of graduates in the forthcoming MLC elections.

Sravan pointed out that many times, including in assembly, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao himself had said that ITIR, NIMZ and pharma are dream projects that would change the landscape of Telangana while ensuring millions of employment opportunities for the state's youth. But neither KCR nor KTR sincerely tried to retain those prestigious projects for the state. Not a single TRP MP raised a question or stalled the parliament to protect the interests of our youth after the project got shelved in 2018.

KTR ASKS NETIZENS HOW GDP IS GROWING

From Page 1

Of late, the Chief Minister is taking the BJP to task on Twitter with his sarcastic posts at the Modiji NDA government at the Centre in the backdrop of the upcoming MLC polls on March 14 in which the TRS and the BJP are engaged in a pitched battle.

On Saturday, K.T. Rama Rao took potshots at the Centre on rising prices of gas, diesel and petrol. In his tweet, he posed a question to the Twitterati — "Quick general knowledge question. What is the full form of GDP that has been constantly on the rise because of the extraordinary performance of the Union Govt?"

Netizens angry over the steep increase in LPG and fuel prices in the recent past understood the sarcasm in the question and were quick to answer it with a reply — "Gas, Diesel, Petrol."

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

The memory of the righteous is blessed. Proverbs 10:7

MARTHANDA CHARLES PADMA RAO
S/o Rev. Gnana Prakasham
DOB: 02-03-1927 D.D.O: 07-06-1994
Daughter-in-law: Florence Prabhu Charan
Granddaughter: Nancy Katakshan
Grandsons: Rahul Rohit and Nikhil Preetham

12th ANNIVERSARY

SUNIL.R.DALAL

A LIFE TRULY NOBLE THAT GUIDES US

THROUGH THE TRAVELS OF LIFE.

- PRADEEP KUMAR UPADHYAYA,
USHA UPADHYAYA,
UNNATI, KRUTIKA, ADITYA.

EDDA MALLAIAH
(Retd. Owner of 'B. E. Malliah Shop')
S.C. Ry. C&W Shop, Lalapura
DOB: 26-06-1930 D.O.D: 02-03-1992
W/o Late E. Eshwaramma
Your memories will always remain in our hearts
KAVADAPU FAMILY MEMBERS
Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters &
Grand Children
VPC Malkajgiri, P.O. 9177226193

Holidays before MLC voting day a concern for parties

L VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Consecutive holidays before the March 14 polling day for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections have become a cause of concern for both political parties and candidates.

As per the state government's list of holidays for the month, March 11 is Maha Shivaratri and March 12 is Shab-E-Meraj, while March 13 is the second-Saturday and March 14 a Sunday. The larger concern is, could this result in a low voter turnout? If so,

who would benefit from it?

ONLY GRADUATES are eligible to cast their votes in MLC Graduate polls. The voters would be either students pursuing higher education or employees in the government or private sector.

TRS chief and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has, in a teleconference held on Monday, advised party leaders and activists at every booth to cover all households having graduate voters, with the help of voters' list, and urge them to cast votes without fail.

Most of such voters are those who have migrated to cities from villages for education and jobs. Central party leaderships have asked their leaders and cadre at every booth level to go and request voters to remain present for voting without fail.

All the parties and taking up door-to-door campaigning and requesting voters not to leave the city and stay on to cast their votes without fail.

12th ANNIVERSARY	3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY	13th ANNIVERSARY
SUNIL.R.DALAL	Late Smt. L.K. JESSICA	B.PRASAD
HIS MEMORIES LIVE, HIS IDEALS CHERISHED, HIS DEEDS UNFORGETTABLE, HIS PRESENCE MISSED	For the Righteous will never be Moved, and Remembered for Ever Psalms: 112:6	CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT Times moves but memories live forever Inserted by: WIFE:Usha Rani SON:VENKAT KRISHNA DAUGHTER:BMADHAVI

OBITUARY	12th ANNIVERSARY	1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
GULLAGATTU. RATHNAMALA	SUNIL.R.DALAL	Mrs. ANASUYA SRIVATSAVA
W/o Gullagattu. Eber Jayapaul DOB: 01-01-1970 DOD: 01-03-2021 Body is kept at their residence at Jyothinagar, Hanumantpet, Funeral service will be held at Mettuguda Cemetery Today (02-03-2021) at 12:30 pm	TODAY IS THE DAY YOU LEFT US TWELVE YEARS AGO WITH TWO FOLDED HANDS, WE BOW TO BLESS US FOR THE LONG WAY TO GO. SUHANI, SURALI, JHANVI SIMRAN, SHAURYA.	DOB : 24/ Feb 1934 DOD : 1st March 2020. YOU WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IN OUR THOUGHTS Inserted by : SUMAN, YESHWANTH, NEENA

13th ANNIVERSARY	3rd ANNIVERSARY	70th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
K.NARSING RAO & FAMILY	LATE MRS. LINGALA JESSICA	IVAN BASTIAN
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. Ps. 112:6	(Retd. Govt. Teacher) W/o Mr. L.J. Krupiah DOB: 13.03.1939 DOD: 02.03.2018 Thank God for the priceless gift, we call her "DEAR MOM". We Miss You MOM Inserted by: Family Members Ph: 9966768910 (Lingala Justin)	Born: 02-03-1951 Demise: 20-05-2020 In Loving Memory Dad you meant the world to us, our only wish is if you were still here. We always think of you and be glad, that we have the fondest memories of our Very Special Day. Happy Birthday Memorial Mass: Our Lady Of Fatima Church - Dammiguda '83 at 1800 hours Contact: 9966157054/6309505345 Inserted by: The Bastian's

12th ANNIVERSARY	3rd ANNIVERSARY	7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF Mr. G. JOHN
CHINTALA JAGAN MOHAN	MR. GIRIGALLA JOHN	MR. GIRIGALLA JOHN
DOB : 08-05-1960 DOD : 02-03-2018. Words cannot express our feeling of losing you. We remember you every moment with utmost love and respect. We badly miss your presence. Inserted By: Grandsons, Wife, Daughters, Son-in-laws.	D.O.B: 4-5-1925 - D.O.D: 2-3-2014 Mrs. MARTHA VENKAIYAH JOHN D.O.B: 5-3-1929 - D.O.D: 17-6-2018 We miss you everyday in our lives We remember your love and compassion We thank God for both of you. Inserted by: Children & Relatives	D.O.B: 02-03-1951 Demise: 20-05-2020 In Loving Memory Dad you meant the world to us, our only wish is if you were still here. We always think of you and be glad, that we have the fondest memories of our Very Special Day. Happy Birthday Memorial Mass: Our Lady Of Fatima Church - Dammiguda '83 at 1800 hours Contact: 9966157054/6309505345 Inserted by: Children & Relatives

2nd Death Anniversary	5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY	12th ANNIVERSARY
THADAMALLA MARTHA	GOLLAPALLI EDWARD THOMAS AZARIAH	SUNIL R. DALAL
Retd. Govt. Teacher W/o T. Wilson DOB: 17-06-1959 D.O.D: 02-03-2019 In remembrance of 2nd Death Anniversary by Family Members, Brothers, Sisters and Grandchildren.	D.O.B: 02-01-1938 D.O.D: 02-03-2016 Former Principal, Noble College, Machilipatnam. Fondly Remembers Wife, Children & Grand Children. Mobile: 9876718428	D.O.B: 2.3.2009 Inserted by: Premier Spinning & Weaving Mills (P) Ltd. Dealers * Sri Padma Textiles & Weaving Mills (P) Ltd. * Gokul * B.G. Meena Swetha * G.R. Textiles * SuSheel Textiles & Kailash Ravi Shankar

29th DEATH ANNIVERSARY	14th DEATH ANNIVERSARY	TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
EEDA MALLAIAH	LATE DUNDHIGALLA MALLESH GUPTA	PETER HEMANTH KUMAR
(Retd. Owner of 'B. E. Malliah Shop') S.C. Ry. C&W Shop, Lalapura DOB: 26-06-1930 D.O.D: 02-03-1992 W/o Late E. Eshwaramma Your memories will always remain in our hearts KAVADAPU FAMILY MEMBERS Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters & Grand Children VPC Malkajgiri, P.O. 9177226193	DOB: 10-08-1948 DOD: 02-03-2007 "May god rest your Soul In Peace" Inserted by: Wife: D.UMA RANI & Family Members Nine Syndicate, 8-3-165/1/B/5/A, Erragadda, Hyderabad Ph: 9703503989	A Decade has gone by and we still miss you more than. We Can Possibly say. Rest in Peace DADDY! Inserted by: Wife, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grand Children. Ph: 9703503989

BALLOT BATTLE

Owaisi plans to expand party's base in the country

MIM to contest polls in TN

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Siddiqui and its Indian Secular Front, formally joined the Left-Congress alliance. Owaisi said he will react to Siddiqui's move at an appropriate time and also reveal his plans for West Bengal. On the current political developments in West Bengal, he said everyone should have a positive outlook. "We will contest and make our presence felt", he said.

Owaisi reminded that they entered Gujarat and the party won seven seats in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and "we are hopeful that our candidates will win from Bharuch, Modasa and Godhra. We worked hard. Our work is going on and



Asaduddin Owaisi

ON PLANS to contest in West Bengal, Owaisi hinted that AIMIM will change its electoral strategy after its potential partner, Furfur Shareef led by cleric Abbas Siddiqui and its Indian Secular Front, formally joined the Left-Congress alliance.

Owaisi said "we are working for elections in Uttar Pradesh. I will visit the State on March 14 and discuss plans with Shivpal Singh Yadav of Samajwadi Party. We have announced the candidature of Ilyas Baghban from Gulbarga. I will also visit West Bengal."

Continuing on the theme of expanding the AIMIM footprint in the country, Owaisi said party leaders would meet to decide on entering Rajasthan.

we are looking ahead." Continuing on the theme of expanding the AIMIM footprint in the country, Owaisi said party leaders would meet to decide on entering Rajasthan.

are looking ahead." Continuing on the theme of expanding the AIMIM footprint in the country, Owaisi said party leaders would meet to decide on entering Rajasthan.

SHORT TAKES

THREE CARS WITH CANNABIS BUSTED IN TS

Bengaluru, March 1: The Narcotics Control Bureau on Monday said it busted a cannabis trafficking network by arresting eight people and seizing 68.1 kg of contraband.

According to the NCB, acting on specific intelligence inputs by NCB Bengaluru, the Hyderabad sub-zonal unit intercepted three cars near Pedda Amberpet Toll Plaza, Rangareddy District in Telangana and seized the contraband.

The NCB said the consignment was concealed in compressed form, kept in 355 brick-like packets and wrapped with brown colour adhesive tapes.

A syndicate of eight people used to source cannabis in huge quantities from Visakhapatnam and distribute it in various parts of Pune and Osmanabad in Maharashtra.

It added that the illegal cannabis cultivation in India is largely concentrated around the naxal infected regions of Andhra and Odisha border.

Cannabis from this region finds its way to all over the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and is smuggled across the ocean to Sri Lanka.

Difficult terrain and inaccessibility make this area difficult for the law enforcement agencies to conduct destruction of illicit cannabis cultivation, the NCB said. — PTI

JAGAN WANTS INTERLINKING OF AP RIVERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 1

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has advised officials to take up execution of the Polavaram irrigation project works on a war footing so as to complete them expeditiously.

The CM reviewed the progress of the project works with chief secretary Adityanath Das, water resources secretary J. Shyamala Rao and other senior officials at his camp office here on Monday. He laid stress on completion of the coffer dam works by end May, and reviewed in detail the execution of all major components like spillway, approach channel, upstream cofferdam, earth-cum-rock-fill-dam and installation of gates to spillway.

The officials informed the CM that the spillway works were completed while the works relating to installation of gates and cylinders to the spillway were in progress. The CM said once the works on spill channel and approach channel are over, the cofferdam works must also be completed.

Later the CM advised the officials to come up with proposals on interlinking of rivers like Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Penna and Cauvery, with stress on safeguarding the interests of the people and the state. He asked them to draft proposals with clarity and this could be sent to the Centre for approval.

NAIDU STAGES PROTEST AT TIRUPATI AIRPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, MARCH 1

At the end of a day's grim experience and hours-long sit-in protest at the arrival launch of the airport here following his detention since morning, Telugu Desam chief Chandrababu Naidu, returned to Hyderabad on Monday night.

Naidu arrived here to take part in some protests organised by his party, but police served notice on him immediately after his flight's touch-down. The notice said any agitation will affect the urban local body polls and this will be against the model code of conduct that's already in place. The cops asked Naidu to go back, upon refusal of which he was detained for nine hours.

"Congregation of crowd at Gandhi Circle will obstruct free flow of traffic", read the notice served on Naidu by the Renigunta police.

Naidu was obviously non-plussed. He tried in vain to get out and take part in two protests by the opposition party – one at Gandhi statue in Tirupati and the other at Gandhi Circle in Chittoor. The protests were planned to denounce the alleged high-handedness of the YSRC on the TD cadre to withdraw nominations from the coming civic polls.

The TD chief was also supposed to meet and extend solidarity to a Tirupati-based party activist RP Srinivas, whose tea stall was under threat of being razed by municipal officials following filing of nominations for the civic body polls by his wife.

Musi panel lists 6K illegal units, razes just 2 in 3 yrs

Authorities claim work started this year due to lockdown

MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd (MRDCL) has removed three permanent structures that were set up since 2018 — one religious structure and two private boards erected on government lands.

The corporation has identified 6,218 illegal structures on the banks of Musi river for removal.

MRDCL officials said that the total encroachments along the Musi as reported by revenue department were of 6,218 structures spread over a 55km-length and three districts of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri. These encroachments have been classified into permanent structures and temporary structures. The encroachments were the prime reason to the recent urban flooding.

MRDCL had agreed that the recent floods were the cause of encroachments of lakes and drains. "The Lenin Nagar Lake was completely encroached upon. If this tank was alive, it would have stored nearly 1TMC of water, preventing overflow in Jillelaguda and Saroornagar lakes," officials said.

The authorities claim that they started the work early this year but couldn't complete it due to the lockdown. According to the MRDCL data, the three removed structures were a religious structure at Bapughat in Golconda mandal and two private property boards at Putlibowli mandal. In 2019, the authorities removed only two permanent encroachments.

Officials now claimed that they are short of staff. Serious steps were required in mission mode to remove encroachments and for taking other remedial measures. Primarily, officials said they have done the demarcation of a river boundary of 55km length on

either side (50mtrs) of Musi from Gandipet to ORR-East (Gowrelli) and Himayat Sagar to Bapughat and the leaning and jutting of jiliflora, shrubs etc apart from removal of silt for free flow.

To prevent further dumping of construction and demolition of waste material on either side of Musi Bund, the MRDCL has installed surveillance cameras and engaged 50 security guards to keep a watch and ward (patrolling 24/7) to avoid further encroachments of Musi river.

MRDCL has engaged two long-boom excavators, two excavators and one phantom excavator for the cleaning of River Musi throughout the year. It said about 40 spraying machines have been procured for spraying of pyrolysis to check mosquito menace all along the Musi course, and the work was being taken up today.

10 ARRESTED FOR SCRATCH CARD SCAM

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police arrested a 10-member gang for cheating gullible citizens through gift scratch cards through popular e-commerce companies. Officials seized 42 mobile phones, two laptops, 18 bundles of fake scratch cards, 28 debit cards, 10 Aadhaar cards and two rubber stamps from their possession.

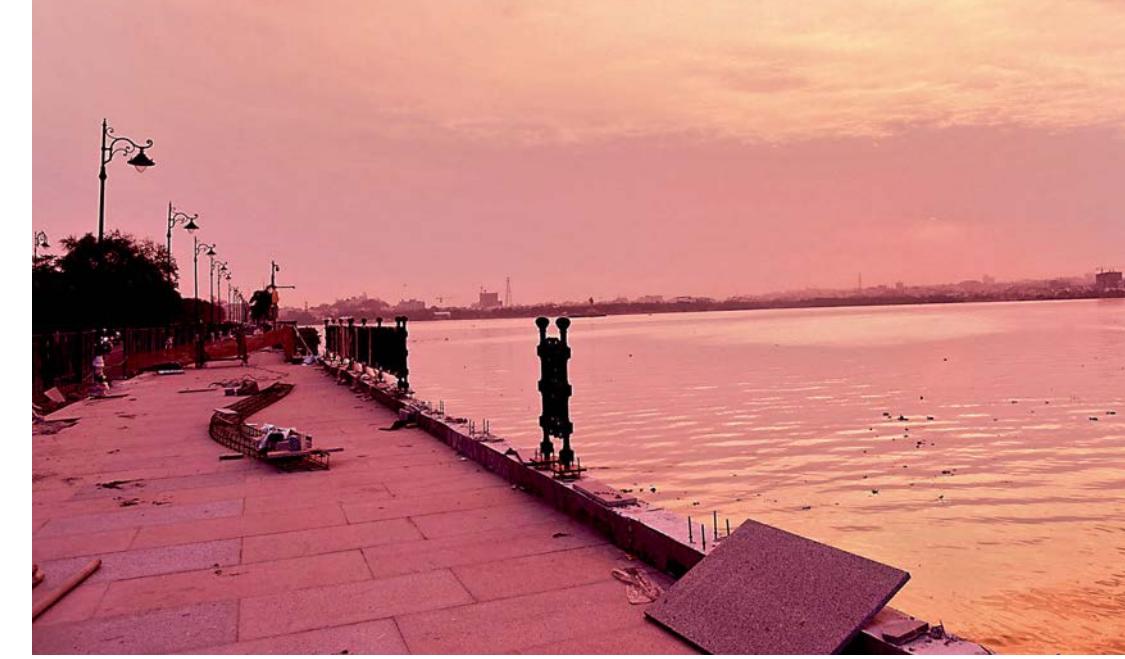
According to the police, the arrested persons were identified as Tarun Kumar, Prabhakar Kumar Sinha, Kamlesh Dubey, Yashwanth Thakur, Sourabh Patel, M Venkatesh, G Rakesh, E Prashanth, S Rajender Reddy and L Rajalingu. Five more associates, Alok, Tiranjai and Bajrangi from Bihar and Kotesw and Sunil from Jharkhand, were reportedly absconding.

Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said that Tarun had collected the database of customers of different e-commerce websites and prepared fake envelopes on the name of these companies and sent scratch cards to them by post. "The victims, believing the letters to be genuine as they had purchased products from the online e-commerce companies, fell into the trap and called the fraudsters on the mobile phone numbers given in the post received by them to confirm winning gifts including cars and costly gadgets among others," Sajjanar said.

The fraudsters, on receiving these calls, would send fake ID cards of e-commerce companies on WhatsApp to convince the customer.

"Once any of the customers believed them, they would start extracting money under the pretext of registration fee, document charges, GST and Income Tax to claim gifts," Sajjanar said, adding that the police had seized 42 mobile phones, laptops, rubber stamps and 30 debit cards from the gang.

Tank Bund beautification in progress



Tank Bund renovation work picks up pace. However, the lack of temporary barricades along the bund poses a threat to tourists. — GANDHI

Heatwave to intensify in Hyd

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

This year's summer may not provide any respite from last year's sizzle. However, for those keeping track of day to day temperatures, there may be something to look forward to.

According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the coming summer may see seasonal maximum and minimum average temperatures of lower by 0.14 and 0.6 degrees Celsius.

According to sources close to her, Sharmila will make public her party's name at a massive public meeting planned at

10-YEAR RECORD OF HEATWAVE DEATHS IN TS

Year	deaths	Year	deaths
2020	8	2015	541
2019	64	2014	31
2018	7	2013	516
2017	108	2012	144
2016	340+	2011	0

The IMD, in its early forecast for the months March to May, said there would be below normal seasonal maximum temperatures over most of the subdivisions of the south peninsula and

adjoining central India. The east part of central India and some northern regions are expected to witness below-normal minimum temperatures, while there would be above normal seasonal maximum temperatures in north, northwest, and northeast, eastern and western parts of central India and few coastal subdivisions of north peninsular India.

Telangana, which meteorologically falls in the country's core heat wave zone, according to the

Telangana State Development Planning Society, saw Hyderabad register a maximum of 44.4 degrees Celsius in 2020. Jagital sizzled the maximum at 47.2 degrees Celsius.

The highest temperature the state has ever recorded was in Hanamkonda where the mercury peaked at 47.8 degrees Celsius, on June 3 in 2003. Similarly, the highest temperature ever recorded in Hyderabad district was 45.5 degrees Celsius on June 2, 1966.

Sharmila may launch party in April

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Y.S. Sharmila, daughter of late chief minister of combined Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy, is likely to announce the launch of her new political party in Telangana on April 9.

It may be recalled that since February 8, she has been holding district-wise sammelans at her Lotus Pond residence in Hyderabad with late YSR supporters, loyalists and

her supporters in Telangana to take their feedback on launching the party.

She is reportedly considering three names – YSR Telangana Party, YSR Party Telangana and Rajanna Rajyam. Once the party is launched, she plans to take up padayatra across Telangana from May 14.

Though Sharmila initially thought of launching her party on July 8,

coinciding with the birth anniversary of her father, her advisors reportedly told her it would be too late. She reportedly zeroed in on April 9 on the ground that it would be ideal time as MLC polls and Nagarjunasagar bypolls would be over by then.

On Tuesday, YSR's daughter will be holding a meeting with supporters from Mahabubnagar district.

FINANCIAL BURDEN

TMREIS has to pay rents to the tune of over ₹50 crore

Minorities dept under economic stress

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The Minorities department experienced an unprecedented economic disruption because of Covid-19.

Landlords who leased out their buildings to Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) for running schools are not getting rents from July last.

TMREIS has to pay rents to the tune of over ₹50 crore.

TMREIS is managing the high-

est rate was fixed at ₹18 per sqft per month, which earlier was more than ₹24 per sqft. Most landlords accepted the revised rates while some are reluctant to extend the lease period on revised rates.

According to Secretary TMREIS B. Shaifiullah with this initiative, they are saving ₹1 crore per month on rents. He hoped that within one week the finance department would clear the bills, at least in parts.

Sources in TMREIS confirmed that rents have

not been paid for the last eight months and files pertaining to them pending with the finance department.

A landlord, on condition of anonymity, said that he agreed to extend the lease with TMREIS and signed an agreement last year. He said since March 2020, he received only one month's rent in January. He contended that he is not able to bear labour charges, material charges, property tax, electricity bills and water bills.

President Bazm-e-Rehat-e-Alam M A Mujeeb advocate said it is found that minority institutions are facing troubles in getting clearance from the finance department resulting in many schemes being affected. Imams and Muezzins are not getting remunerations for the last three months, the Finance Corporation is not in a position to extend loans to unemployed while petitions of beneficiaries of Shaadi Mubarik schemes have to wait for getting aid.

G-20176/2021 Sd/ D.S.P. (Provisioning) For Director General of Police M.P. दो गज की दूरी, मात्रक है जरूरी।

VARSITY TEACHERS SEEK REDRESSAL TO GRIEVANCES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

A delegation of Federation of University Teachers Association, Telangana State (FUTATS) on Monday met education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy and finance minister T. Harish Rao and submitted a representation seeking speedy solution to their grievances.

They sought clarifications about the release of 7th PRC arrears, enhancement of block grants, filling of vacant teaching posts and appointment of regular vice-chancellors.

Similar concerns were raised when the representatives met Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) chairman Prof. T. Papu Reddy and vice-chairman Prof. R. Limbadri. Later, they said that the meeting was fruitful and that they got a positive response from the authorities.

CM calls on CJ



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao pays a courtesy call on the Chief Justice of High Court Hima Kohli at her residence in Hyderabad on Monday. Justice Kohli took over as Chief Justice on January 7 at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan which was attended by CM. — BY ARRANGEMENT

CBI gets court approval to probe Vakiti companies

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

The Telangana High Court made it clear to CBI that its earlier interim order issued on a petition filed by Vakiti Narayan Reddy, former managing director of M&R Infrastructure Private Limited and VNR Infra Metals Private Limited could not prevent them to probe the allegations against the petitioner's firms.

Earlier, in relief to the petitioner the court directed lender banks and others not to take any coercive steps against the petitioner, who challenged the action of the banks in declaring his bank account as a fraud account. On an earlier occasion, the bench, in its interim order, directed the Reserve Bank of India's master circular asking all the banks to declare suspicious bank accounts as fraud accounts.

The court also extended the interim orders, but it made it clear that those interim orders could not prevent CBI's probe.

The court reserved the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Chief Manager

3,165 BENEFICIARIES TAKE COVID-19 VACCINE IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 1

3,165 new category beneficiaries turned up for Covid-19 vaccination on the first day in phase-3 in Andhra Pradesh on Monday, including those aged over 60 years and over 45 years with comorbidities.

Though the Centre launched an upgraded version of CoWIN-2.0, some people found it difficult to register their names for undergoing vaccination, while some managed to register their names successfully on the portal.

Some people found it difficult to register their names for undergoing vaccination.

Union Bank of India invites sealed bids (in two bid system) from eligible established Agencies for maintenance and servicing of Air Conditioners other than Central AC plant. The detailed information regarding eligibility norms and tender document is available on the bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in and www.eprocure.gov.in. The last date for submission of tender is 30.03.2021 till 15.00 hrs.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Chief Manager

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL</div

DECCAN Chronicle

2 MARCH 2021

G-23's Jammu conclave exposes Cong. faultlines

The Jammu conclave on Saturday of the 23 Congress dissidents (G-23) who wrote to interim party president Sonia Gandhi in August demanding a "full-time and effective leadership", as well as proper internal party elections, now appears to have fully emerged as a caucus reminiscent of the ginger group that the late V.P. Singh had formed with disgruntled Congressmen to take on then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The difference is that the anti-Rajiv dissidents challenged a PM, using the same ammunition as the rest of the Opposition, and in time became the principal Opposition. In the Lok Sabha polls that followed, Mr Singh ended up as PM through political stagecraft. This time the circumstances are very different. The Congress is in Opposition and is facing a very determined ruling party under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But, in Jammu, the G-23 have played their real hand.

This can be seen to be in two parts. First, Ghulam Nabi Azad, the former J&K chief minister who days ago retired from the Rajya Sabha, where he was the designated Leader of the Opposition, was projected as Congress president by one of the most important dissidents, Kapil Sibal. Two, in his own remarks, Mr Azad did not fail to make a favourable mention of Prime Minister Modi, a reference to the PM, teary-eyed, marking out the retiring Congress leader for praise in the Upper House recently.

He was critical of the BJP government at the Centre only to the extent of questioning the Modi government's move to constitutionally reduce J&K from a state to a Union territory. He did not question the ending of J&K's autonomy, setting himself apart from the position taken by the Gandhis in Parliament.

It's not clear if all the G-23 leaders will be in the Azad camp for Congress president when the party elections take place. Some of them apparently also see themselves as contenders. But what became evident was that the thrust of the Jammu conclave was against the Congress leadership, though names were not mentioned. The Jammu meet leaders noted that the Congress had become weak and they had come together to strengthen it. Their other objective was to campaign against the BJP. But not much was said about the BJP at the forum.

The G-23 had launched themselves through a letter to the interim chief (which arrived in newspaper offices before it landed with Mrs Gandhi) not long before the Bihar Assembly election. They held their first formal meet in Jammu weeks before Congress will be up against formidable challengers in the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, where the Congress government was practically toppled through the BJP's manoeuvring recently.

After the Congress' below par showing in Bihar, the caucus leaders sharply questioned the leadership. They would doubtless have the opportunity to do so again if their party fares poorly in the upcoming state polls and may even pray for the opportunity. However, it hardly behoves an official Congress spokesman in New Delhi, Abhishek Singhvi, to be critical of G-23's Jammu show. The party election has been pushed from January-February this year to June — no doubt with the Assembly polls in view. But this was an executive decision, rather than one formally made consensually, including with the dissidents.

Biden lets Saudis off the hook?

America's strategic interests seem to have prevailed even as US President Joe Biden reprimanded Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman by releasing an intelligence report saying the assassination of critic Jamal Khashoggi was carried out with the prince's tacit approval. Mr Biden stepped back after suspending some arms sales, drawing criticism from his own party that he didn't go the whole hog and sanction MBS, who goes scot-free for the sinister actions of his Rapid Intervention Force lackeys which pursues and silences dissidents at home and abroad.

In calling out the Crown Prince, who is the real power behind his ailing father King Salman, who still occupies the throne, Mr Biden merely sent out the political signal that he is different from Donald Trump and that Saudi Arabia can't expect the same kind of cosy ties it enjoyed with the White House through Mr Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, especially if it breaches human rights as brazenly as, say, Russia did with Alexei Navalny.

The Saudi-US pact goes back eight decades to the Franklin D. Roosevelt era when Americans gained access to cheap Saudi oil in exchange for protection under a bizarre security covenant between the world's oldest democracy and the epitome of an Islamic monarchy. The tensions that came with the release of the intelligence report may only help push the kingdom further towards Russia and China, the latter already Saudi's biggest trade partner.

The prince's actions, which included detention of hundreds of princes and businessmen at a luxury hotel in 2017 aimed at consolidating his power base, may not have endeared him to a more liberal America with its faith in personal freedoms. Mr Biden's moves since moving into the White House has been to reset America's ties with many countries with the focus on first stamping out Mr Trump's erratic and personalised style of handling foreign relations. Can Mr Biden propel America quickly enough into cherishing democratic values and human rights once again? That remains the key question.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

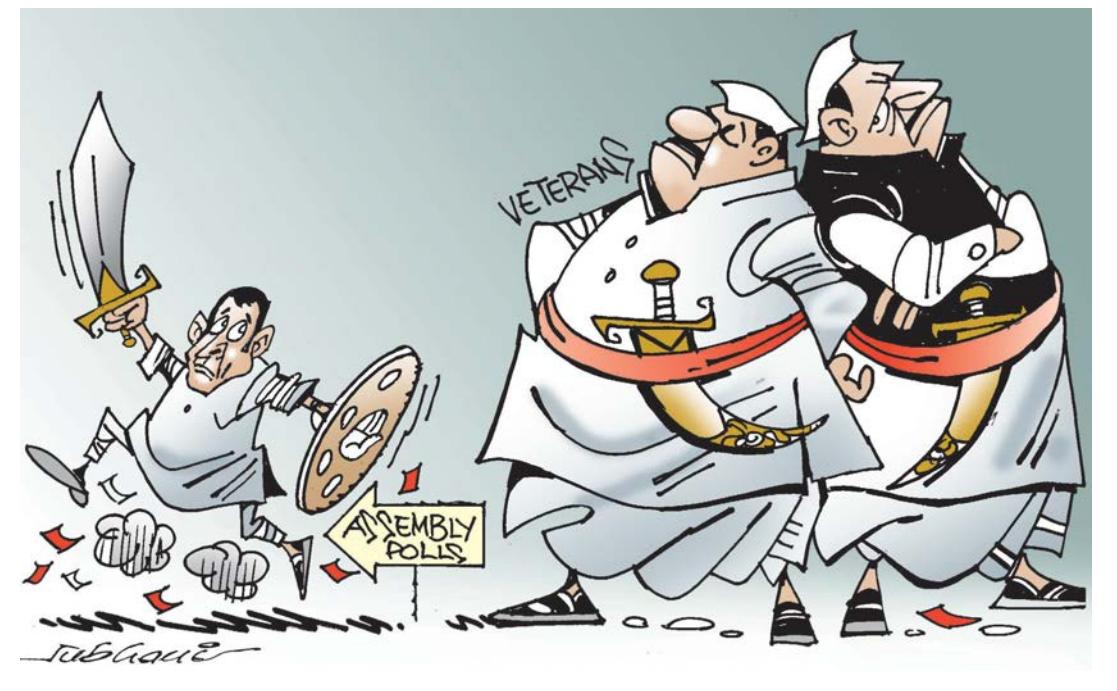
KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

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 Patnamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555287
Vishakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Vishakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2552334
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, Bumprup Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; 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, Rammagam, Cochin - 641 009, Ph: 0422 223108
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

Subhani



New online, digital code fails to empower users

Shashidhar Nanjundaiah

The new Information and Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 under Section 79 of the IT Act has created a flutter. The news media has paid extraordinary attention, space and time to it as it unfolded, and with good reason. Few people dispute the need for some kind of regulation of the digital media. But the debate is over whether it does what is needed. How empowering a tool are the new rules for the public, who are the ultimate users?

From the press statements of minister for information and broadcasting Prakash Javadekar and minister for information technology Ravi Shankar Prasad, it seems that the new rules seek to rein in the online media and the social media platforms by intervening in their content, and that the overarching objective is to get the digital platforms to be enveloped into "the law of the land". I draw a technical distinction between "online platform" from "digital platform" — the first is an unbundled series of news stories released across time, while the latter is a package, similar to a printed newspaper.)

Because the interpretations of sensitive laws of the land by government agencies — in regard to the freedom of expression versus sedition, for example — in recent years have been disputed, a certain amount of scepticism with regard to Rules 2021 should be expected. Experts have questioned whether the new rules even pass the test of constitutionality — in terms of rationale, purpose, proportionality, necessity, and possible impingement on people's basic rights.

First, to tease out what is new in the rule. In its artic-

ulation, the rule seeks to empower the user's voice, especially in case content is objectionable to them. The new rule changes the privacy protection norms that the social platforms seek to exercise by drawing a line between acceptable messaging and spreading objectionable messages. The mandating of age-appropriateness in the rule for the over-the-top (OTT) content certainly ensures that parents have the right to monitor which content is available to their child and which content could be abhorrent. International OTT channels do declare the customary caution about the nature of the content. The rule attaches online news to the conventional definition of news, making online-only news platforms adhere to the same Press Council of India and the Cable Act norms as the conventional media do. The rules mandate a self-regulatory mechanism, like the National Broadcasters' Standards Association (NBSA). A three-tier redressal mechanism entails inter-ministerial oversight. Social media companies, or "intermediaries", would need to disclose the originator of a "mischievous" message.

I would like to take a media literacy point of view here. In a social media world, the user is also a producer of messages. Media literacy has increasingly gained popularity in school and college curricula in several countries after the alarming rise and opiate-like popularity of fake news. Recently, the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at the Arizona State University introduced a degree programme in media literacy that takes a train-the-trainer approach and teaches journalism students to further educate society. It empowers the user through an under-

If the government's intent is to provide more rights to its people, it must help soothe the nerves of people who are now confused about what to say on the social media.

The writer has led reputed institutes of media and communications, and is the founder of "Being Responsible", which promotes media literacy. The views expressed here are personal.

vate. Other users exposed to the public discourse have been consuming and reproducing it, essentially dismissing the need for credible information, or for doing any kind of fact check. The new rule does not take care of this problem. How does a user distinguish between the credible and non-credible platforms?

So, the proposed rule on the social media "intermediaries" seems both perfunctory and off the mark. Is it because the real intent is to rein them into a more government-controlled content environment in the name of the "law of the land", which are being adhered to anyway? In an ideal world, strengthening the hands of the user and empowering the government should be the same thing. But is it possible for a government to use the former as a front for the latter? The decryption-on-demand mandate is a powerful indicator that this could be the result, providing access to the government to whether what people are saying — and perhaps thinking — can be punished if found to be politically inconvenient.

The exemplary and now routine arrests of seemingly ordinary individuals who are seen to be endangering the nation's sovereignty have spooked a large number of citizens. If the government's intent is to provide more rights to its people who are now confused about what to say on the social media.

The word "media" in the term "social media" is totally misleading — it is merely media in a technological sense of the term. Yet it is an empowering tool like none other in recent history. People tend to use the social media as a public square, mixing facts and fiction, public and private.

The writer has led reputed institutes of media and communications, and is the founder of "Being Responsible", which promotes media literacy. The views expressed here are personal.

LETTERS

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

It is a Herculean task for the government to provide jobs for all unemployed youth (*Uttam asks CM for data on jobs*, March 1). However, the government may release quarterly bulletins indicating vacancies and jobs provided. This can clear all the apprehensions.

G.V.N. Murthy
Hyderabad

BANDI VS DALITS

It is shocking to note that the BJP state president called Dalits "sandal makers and crooks"! If this is his opinion about Dalits, his party high command should fire him (*TRS Dalit MLAs flay BJP, DC*, March 1). Anything short of his resignation or dismissal will reveal the true face of his party.

B.Banerjee
Hyderabad

FARMERS PROTEST

A narrative is being built up by a section of influential people that paints you anti-farmer if you support reforms in agriculture. Regardless of the government's offer to freeze the farm laws for 18 months or proposal to discuss contentious issues and the SC appointing an expert committee, a section of farmers are portraying themselves as victims.

Shashi Karan
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

PM's narrow escape

BHUBANESHWAR, MARCH 1

The Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi had a miraculous escape when her Dakota with engine trouble made a forced landing well in time, at Jayakapur airstrip in Koraput district this afternoon.

The pilot of the Indian Air Force plane noticed smoke emitting from the port engine as the aircraft was nearing Jayakapur and later detected oil splashes. He then reduced the power of the engine and made an emergency landing. Fearing a fire in the port engine, the pilot Wg. Cdr. V. Krishnamurthy, manoeuvred a smooth emergency landing at the Jayakapur airstrip, about ten miles from Rayagada.

The sighting of the Dakota over Jayakapur was the signal for a large number of people to rush to the air-field thinking that Mrs. Gandhi was landing there to address them as had originally been planned.

rights themselves. This was always the case in India. However, this government has pushed the rights of the State over the rights of Indian citizens to the point where it will crush individuals who stand up to the State. This is what the *Washington Post* and *Economist* are writing about. The reason the Indian government is silent on these accusations is that they are true.

We can tell a pop singer to shut up because she is a young woman. It's slightly more difficult to tell the *Washington Post* and *Economist* to get lost, so silence is the next best option. What is left unsaid is that this is not something that will pass over. The Indian government's continued actions and its refusal to reverse what it is doing to its citizens has come at a cost to India's global reputation. We are too close to the story as it unfolds before us in real time today to be able to calculate what this cost is. But it is substantial, and entirely avoidable. It's a different matter that the Indian government today does not care what it does to Indians as long as it can continue on its path.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

The *Washington Post*'s editorial board has written that India's claim of being a democracy should be put in question. This headline came after it summed up what was happening in India accurately across the spectrum of governance, from the farm laws being passed without voting in Parliament to young women being jailed because they edited an open-source document.

India's ministry of external affairs did not put out a brave response to this, as it did earlier when a pop star that almost nobody in India had heard of wrote six words ("Why aren't we talking about this?") over a CNN headline on February 2. India's brave soldiers like Akshay Kumar and Sachin Tendulkar did not respond to the *Washington Post* either, as they had done to Rihanna. Presumably the Prime Minister did not instruct his minions to react because he does not care about what the *Washington Post* writes, whereas the pop star has millions of followers.

The Economist, which is the world's most respected magazine, has carried a headline in its latest issue which reads: "The Indian government's pursuit of its critics is not just unfair, but hypocriti-

c". Like the *Post*, this magazine is well-informed about what is going on in India. It says that the Narendra Modi government's actions have made it globally look "mean and silly".

The government had not responded to this either, though presumably it will have to do something. One reason is that *The Economist* has referred to the Indian government's promotion of Gurjari Golwalkar through an official tribute earlier in February. The magazine told its readers that "Mr Golwalkar believed that Nazi Germany's management of its Jewish problem 'represented a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by'".

Let us examine what the *Washington Post* has claimed, that we are not a democracy. The West doesn't see democracy beginning and ending at the polling station. It has to be accompanied by civil liberties, fundamental rights and access to justice. All of these ingredients together form what the government structure, which they consider democracy.

In our case, we believe elections are democracy. But there is a problem here. India achieved freedom at the group level in 1947. Independence meant that control of the State was transferred

from a set of people led by foreigners to Indians entirely. This gave Indian citizens the space to determine how to govern themselves and write their own laws to enjoy individual freedoms and civil liberties.

Freedom at the group level meant essentially the right to vote. This was available, but restricted, in the British period too. Freedom at the group level liberated India from a system that already included voting rights, legislatures and lawmaking ability for Indians. It was on limited subjects, however.

After 1947 India should have focused on individual freedoms so that the exercise could be deepened. Here India stumbled. The State (meaning, the apparatus of government) did not relinquish its rights to citizens. It contested the space and asserted itself over citizens on essential freedoms.

The rights — to freedom of speech and expression; practice any profession or occupation; peaceful assembly; to form associations; freely practice and propagate religion; not to be deprived of life and liberty — do not exist in India today. These rights are fundamental, which enjoy a high degree of protection from encroachment by the State. But

they are not available to Indians today despite what the Constituent Assembly wanted. The State has taken them away and many never existed in the first place.

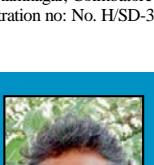
There are so many laws that regulate and criminalise free speech that it is difficult to know where to start. Sedition, criminal defamation and criminal contempt are a start. They don't exist in the nations where our laws are derived from (India's Constitution isn't based on Manu Smriti, but the constitutions of other nations).

The Supreme Court in the 1950s ruled while the Constituent Assembly guaranteed freedom to practice "any" profession or "carry out any occupation", it could not allow butchery of cows because that offended Hindus; and while the Constitution was supreme, Hindu sentiment was more supreme.

Protest (peaceful assembly) has been criminalised, right to propagation has been criminalised and so has the right to occupation. The freedom of speech is criminalised with sedition, criminal defamation and criminal contempt laws.

The State sought to regulate these freedoms by so-called "reasonable restrictions", which overturned the

Aakar Patel



As democracy endangered, India's global reputation hit

SHORT TAKES**C'GARH ALLOCATES ₹30 CR FOR 'RAM GAMAN' CIRCUIT**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MARCH 1

An allocation of ₹30 crore has been made in the annual budget of Chhattisgarh for 2021-22 towards the development of places in Chhattisgarh visited by Lord Ram during his 14-year-exile.

This was announced by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel while presenting annual budget for 2021-22 in the Assembly on Monday. Chhattisgarh government in August last had unveiled a ₹137.45 crore ambitious project envisaging development of "Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit" linking 75 sites in Chhattisgarh, said to be visited by Lord Ram during his 14-year-exile.

Baghel has earlier written a letter to the Union tourism minister Pralhad Patel urging him to sanction the project under the Centre's scheme, Ramayan circuit of swadesh darshan. The letter cited various researches in the field which suggested that Lord Ram spent 10 years out of his 14-year-exile period at various places in Chhattisgarh. Folk songs of Chhattisgarh also establish this, the letter said.

Research work in the field suggests that Lord Ram spent some time in 51 places out of the 75 sites he had visited in Chhattisgarh during his exile, according to the letter. The state government plans to develop nine out of these 75 sites in the first phase at a cost of ₹30 crore.

NIA ARRESTS 4 FROM J&K FOR NARCO TERRORISM

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, MARCH 1

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested four persons from Jammu and Kashmir allegedly involved in smuggling of heroin and other narcotic drugs worth million of rupees from across the Line of Control (LoC).

The money obtained through the sale of the contraband locally and in other parts of the country would be transferred to a major militant outfit to help it in carrying out "terrorist activities" in the Valley, the agency claimed.

A statement issued by the NIA here said that the case of "narco-terrorism" was registered by it in June last after the J&K police seized 21 kilograms of heroin and cash amount of ₹1,35,89,850 from the members of a drug syndicate operating in the Union Territory.

The accused who were formally arrested by the agency in Srinagar have been identified as Altaf Ahmed Shah, Showkat Ahmad Paray, Mudasir Ahmad Dar and Amin Allae alias Hilal Mir-all residents of Kashmir Valley.

The NIA said that the case was initially registered under an FIR filed at a police station in Handwara area of frontier Kulwara district on June 11, 2020.

WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST KANGANA RANAUT

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 1

A magistrate court in Mumbai on Monday issued a bailable warrant against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut, as she failed to appear before it despite issuance of summons in connection with a defamation complaint filed against her by lyricist Javed Akhtar.

Metropolitan Magistrate R.R. Khan had issued summons to Ranaut on February 1, with a direction to appear before the court on March 1.

On Monday, when the matter was called out for hearing, Ranaut was not present in the court following which the court issued a bailable warrant against her. With issuance of the warrant the court deferred hearing on this matter till March 22.

After hearing Akhtar and his lawyer Nirjan Mundargi the Magistrate court had ordered the Juhu police to file a report in December 2020.

The police had sought further time to submit the report and the court had ordered Juhu police to file the report by January 18, 2021, however, they had sought further time.

Finally, the police submitted the report in February and in the report police stated that the offences alleged against Kangana are made out for further investigation.

BJP trying to woo Christian voters ahead of Assembly polls in Kerala

Saffron party had secured close to 15 per cent votes in the last Assembly polls in 2016

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 1

The BJP in Kerala is hoping to improve its electoral fortunes with the help of Christian votes in the coming Assembly elections.

The party which had secured close to 15 per cent votes in the last Assembly polls in 2016, believes that the support of Christians is crucial to convert the votes into seats. Two prominent leaders of the BJP called on Cardinal Mar George Alanchery who is the Major Archbishop of Syro Malabar Church in Kochi on Monday.

BJP state president K. Surendran who arrived in Kochi as part of his statewide Vijay Yatra, met the cardinal at the Kerala Catholic Bishops Conference headquarters in Kochi. Though the BJP leader maintained that it was only a courtesy call, sources said the issues related to Assembly elections also figured in the discussions.

Soon after Surendran left, Karnataka deputy chief minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan who is also in charge of Assembly elections in Kerala, drove straight to the Catholic Bishops Conference headquarters and held discussions with Cardinal Alanchery and other leaders of the Syro Malabar Church. The BJP has deputed Narayan who is known to have close ties with Christian denominations running educational institutions in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka.

Though Narayan also said that it was a courtesy visit, he admitted that political issues also came up for discussions during the meeting which went on for more than 30 minutes. He told media persons that the BJP was hopeful of getting a sizable Christian vote in the coming elections. The party is focussing on Christian dominated constituencies in central Travancore, he said and added that a good number of Christian candidates will figure in BJP's candidate list this time.

More central leaders of the BJP are expected to meet Church leaders in Kerala in the run up to the polls.

The BJP which had only one member in the outgoing 140 member Kerala Assembly has been working assiduously to woo the Christians. Senior Kerala BJP leader and Mizoram Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai had taken the initiative to resolve the dispute between Jacobite and Orthodox factions in the state. The two churches are engaged in a decades old battle regarding ownership of various Churches.

Christians form about 19 per cent of the state's 3.5 crore population. The Christian vote is decisive in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, parts of Kannur, Malappuram and Wayanad. Latin Catholic population plays a key role in the outcome of polls in coastal districts.

Though the BJP had



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi eats ice apple from a roadside stall during his election campaign for the forthcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, in Kanyakumari district on Monday. He tweeted about "three alternatives" that the Centre has given to people as he went on to suggest that consumers have been left with no choice. "Prices of LPG cylinders hiked yet again. For people, these are Modi government's alternatives – Wrap up businesses, throw away cooking stoves and eat up jumlas (false promises)," his tweet said.

● SENIOR KERALA BJP leader P.S. Sreedharan Pillai had taken the initiative to resolve the dispute between Jacobite and Orthodox factions in the state. The two churches are engaged in a decades old battle regarding ownership of various Churches.

Made an attempt to woo the Muslims as well by appointing A.P. Abdulkutty as national vice president of the party, the possibility of the community favouring the saffron party is remote. Abdulkutty who was a former firebrand leader of CPM was elected to parliament twice. After quitting CPM he joined Congress and became an MLA. Now he is one of the main faces of BJP.

Former union minister Alphons Kannanthanam who was also once CPM MLA, had joined the BJP and made a central minister during the previous Modi ministry. Now he is a Rajya Sabha member.

More central leaders of the BJP are expected to meet Church leaders in Kerala in the run up to the polls.

DMK President M.K. Stalin announced his grand plan for unveiling a 10-year vision document for the state in its public meeting to be held on Sunday even as his party started finalising seat sharing with its allies, one after the other.

Though the talks with the Congress ran into rough weather over the numbers, the DMK leaders assigned to hold talks with the alliance partners managed to bring around the MMK and IUML by offering them two and three seats respectively.

Delegations from the VCK and MDMK held talks on Monday and have agreed to return to the table after holding discussions with their leaders. But insiders say there was no

big hitch on finalising the agreement though again the bone of contention is the numbers and the question of which symbol they will be contesting under.

Since the DMK would like its smaller allies to contest in its popular 'Rising Sun' symbol, most of the parties seem to have a different view on that. The IUML is yet to decide on what symbol to go for.

The two Communist par-

CPM may relax criteria for senior ministers

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 1

state leaders the coming election would be Sudhakaran's eighth and Isaac's fifth electoral battle.

With the CPM aiming for a repeat, the party does not want to take any chances by keeping its popular leaders out of electoral contests in the name of norms. Party sources said if the norms are enforced strictly then at least 28 sitting MLAs of the CPM including 7 ministers will have to stay out of contest.

As per norms finance minister Thomas Isaac, PWD minister G. Sudhakaran, fisheries minister J. Mercykutty Amma, local bodies minister A.C. Moideen, general education minister C. Raveendranath, higher education minister K.T. Jaleel, industries minister

E.P. Jayarajan and Law minister A.K. Balan should not be in the fray. Besides, Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan will also have to sit out.

The party feels that it would be suicidal to keep the ministers, especially those who have performed well, out of electoral fray in such a crucial election. However, the final decision on fielding the ministers will be taken at the state committee meeting to be held later this week.

Meanwhile, the seat sharing talks of ruling LDF remained inconclusive on Monday. The CPM top leadership had a one on one meeting with the leaders of the alliance partners at the party headquarters AKG Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.

DMK firms up ties, seat deals

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, MARCH 1



M.K. Stalin

DMK President M.K. Stalin announced his grand plan for unveiling a 10-year vision document for the state in its public meeting to be held on Sunday even as his party started finalising seat sharing with its allies, one after the other.

Though the talks with the Congress ran into rough weather over the numbers, the DMK leaders assigned to hold talks with the alliance partners managed to bring around the MMK and IUML by offering them two and three seats respectively.

Delegations from the VCK and MDMK held talks on Monday and have agreed to return to the table after holding discussions with their leaders. But insiders say there was no

big hitch on finalising the agreement though again the bone of contention is the numbers and the question of which symbol they will be contesting under.

Since the DMK would like its smaller allies to contest in its popular 'Rising Sun' symbol, most of the parties seem to have a different view on that. The IUML is yet to decide on what symbol to go for.

The two Communist par-

20,000 troops on stand-by for WB

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

large-scale violence was expected especially during elections in West Bengal in anticipation of close contest between Trinamul Congress and the BJP. These intelligence inputs have also been shared with the Election Commission following which tight security arrangements are being made.

However, as a precautionary measure addition 20,000 para-military personnel will be kept on standby in case reinforcements need to be rushed at a short notice. All senior para-military forces officers deployed in Bengal have been directed to also coordinate with local SSPs and Election Commission observers for deployment and maintaining law and order during the poll process.

Home ministry sources said that they had received intelligence inputs from multiple agencies that



A medic administers the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Patna on Monday. — PTI

BIHAR TO GIVE COVID VACCINES FREE TO ALL

NAYEER AZAD | DC PATNA, MARCH 1

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine on his 70th birthday on Monday and urged people to get vaccinated as per the central government guidelines. He also announced his government's decision to provide the vaccination free of cost including at private hospitals in the state.

"Our government has decided to provide vaccination free of cost for the people of the state. This facility will also be made available at private hospitals. I, therefore, urge all those who are eligible to get vaccinated," he said.

The announcement comes on the day country started the second phase of its nationwide vaccination drive. The decision to provide free vaccination was taken on Sunday during a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister.

Free vaccination for Covid-19 was one of the key promises made by the NDA during the Bihar Assembly elections.

Kumar who took the vaccine at the state-run super speciality hospital Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) in the presence of health minister Mangal Pandey said that "I am in good health after taking my first dose. Doctors have fixed March 31 for the second dose of vaccination for the Assembly polls.

Amarinder Singh had then even said Congress president Sonia Gandhi had left it to him on roping in Kishor for the party's poll campaign in the state.

The CM had then said that he had even asked his party MLAs whether they want Kishor for the next Assembly elections. "Out of 80 MLAs, 55 said yes, they want him," Singh had then said. — PTI

Later, while responding to the state government's announcement, Bihar BJP in a statement said, "The state is ready for vaccination of elderly and people above 45 years of age. The cost of vaccination in private hospitals of ₹250 will also be borne by the NDA government. The largest vaccination drive in the world is progressing in the country as well as in the state".

Ahead of the second phase of the vaccination drive, Bihar health minister had released data on Twitter claiming that "the total number of healthy patients in the state reached 2,60,594 and recovery rate is 99.26 per cent. There are 398 active corona patients in the state".

He further said that arrangements for vaccination for members of the state legislature have also been made at the hospital.

Metropolitan Magistrate R.R. Khan had issued summons to Ranaut on February 1, with a direction to appear before the court on March 1.

On Monday, when the matter was called out for hearing, Ranaut was not present in the court following which the court issued a bailable warrant against her. With issuance of the warrant the court deferred hearing on this matter till March 22.

After hearing Akhtar and his lawyer Nirjan Mundargi the Magistrate court had ordered the Juhu police to file a report in December 2020.

The police had sought further time to submit the report and the court had ordered Juhu police to file the report by January 18, 2021, however, they had sought further time.

Finally, the police submitted the report in February and in the report police stated that the offences alleged against Kangana are made out for further investigation.

Chinese hackers target India's power

WASHINGTON, MARCH 1: Amidst the tense border tension between India and China, a Chinese government-linked group of hackers targeted India's critical power grid system through malware, a US company has claimed.

In its latest study, raising suspicion whether last year's massive power outage in Mumbai was a result of the online intrusion.

Recorded Future, a Massachusetts-based company which studies the use of the internet by state actors, in its recent report details the campaign conducted by a China-linked threat activity group RedEcho targeting the Indian power sector.

SHOCKING ORDER

Bombay HC set aside trial court order granting anticipatory bail to accused**'Will you marry her?' SC asks rape accused**

PARMOD KUMAR | DC WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

The Supreme Court on Monday asked a government servant accused of repeatedly raping a minor girl if he would marry her.

Heading a three-judge bench, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde asked the lawyer appearing for the accused whether his client would marry the victim as he is already married.

"I wanted to marry her. But she refused. Now I cannot, as I am already married. Trial is going on, charges are yet to be framed," accused told the court.

"You should have thought before seducing and raping the young girl. You knew you are a gov-

ernment servant."

"We are not forcing you to marry. Let us know if you will. Otherwise you will say we are forcing you to marry her," the CJI said, making clear the position of the bench.

As the lawyer upon taking instructions from the accused rapist informed the court that the accused can't marry the victim as he is already married.

"I wanted to marry her. But she refused. Now I cannot, as I am already married. Trial is going on, charges are yet to be framed," accused told the court.

"You should have thought before seducing and raping the young girl. You knew you are a gov-

ernment servant."

"We are not forcing you to marry. Let us know if you will. Otherwise you will say we are forcing you to marry her," the CJI said, making clear the position of the bench.

As the lawyer upon taking instructions from the accused rapist informed the court that the accused can't marry the victim as he is already married.

"I wanted to marry her. But she refused. Now I cannot, as I am already married. Trial is going on, charges are yet to be framed," accused told the court.

"You should have thought before seducing and raping the young girl. You knew you are a gov-

CINEMA

RELEASING ON 5TH MARCH



PRASADS	Necklace Road.
O AMB	Gachibowli Road.
PVR CINEMAS	RK Complex - Banjara Hills Inorbit - Cyberabad Central - Panagutta Forum - Kukatpally Hitech - Madhapur L&T Metro - Panagutta Icon - Erram Manzil Moosaram Bagh Preston Prime - Gachibowli.
ASIAN CINEMAS	RADHIKA - Kapra CINE SQUARE - Uppal M CUBE - Attapur CINE PLANET - Komapally CINE TOWN - Miyapur CINEPRIDE - Moosapet SHIV GANGA - Dilsukhnagar SHA SAHENSHA - Jedimetla.
INOX	GVK - Banjara Hills MP Mall - Kachiguda GSM Mall - Madinaguda.
Cinépolis	Manjeera - Kukatpally CPL - Malkajgiri Mantra Mall - Attapur Sudha - Rajyal Nagar.

INDRA FILMS RELEASE



THRILLING HIT

DEVI 70MM [4K & DOLBY ATMOS]

Daily 2 Shows : 2.15pm & 9.00pm

TARAKARAMA 70MM 11.15am & 6.00pm

TALLURI - 11.15am & 2.15pm

PRASADS MULTIPLEX - 6.15pm

PVR CINEMAS

FORUM - 10.50am, 7.15pm | ICON - 4.45pm

10.10pm | MOOSARAMBAGH - 1.25pm, 6.50pm

IRRUM MANZIL - 1.15pm | CENTRAL - 10.55pm

GALLERIA - 11.00am, 4.30pm | RK - 4.45pm

INORBIT - 2.00pm

INOX

GVK - 1.25pm | GSM - 1.30 & 7.15pm |

MP MALL - 7.25pm

BALANAGAR - 2.50pm & 10.50pm

DSL VIRTUE MALL - 3.40pm |

PLATINUM CINEMAS - 9.30pm

PVR PICTURES RELEASE-9963883444



SUDARSHAN 35MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)

11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

EESHWAR-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

MAHALAXMI-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

RAJDHANI COMPLEX-DSNR 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

VISWANATH 70-KUKATPALLY 11.45, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45PM

SRISAI RAM 70-MALKAJGIRI 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

AARADHANA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ANJALI 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

GOKUL 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

RANGA 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SRILAXMI 70MM 12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00PM

SRIDEVIR.C.PURAM 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SUSHMA 70MM 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SRIKRISHNA 70 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TALLURI CINEMA 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

NARTHAKI 70 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

GANESH 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

KRISHNA ALIYABAD 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

OAMB AMB-10.50, 1.20, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30PM

RADHIKA-1.30, 7.30, 10.35PM

SHA COMPLEX-9.30PM

GPR-10.40, 7.25, 10.20PM

CINESQUARE-10.25, 1.15, 4.10, 7.05, 10.00PM

MCUBE-10.55, 4.40, 10.30PM

9.00, 11.45, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45

11.00, 1.45, 7.30, 10.30PM

FORUM-10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30PM

GALLERIA-10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON-12.10, 3.20, 6.30, 9.40PM

CENTRAL-10.50, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50PM

INORBIT-11.00, 3.35, 6.35, 9.45PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.30, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.15, 3.25, 6.35PM

RK-1.35, 7.40, 10.50PM

10.55, 4.35, 7.25, 10.35PM

1.50, 4.20, 7.40, 10.05PM

GVK-10.20, 1.40, 6.55, 10.20PM

10.30, 4.40, 7.40, 10.40PM

GSM-12.00, 3.30, 7.00, 10.30PM

4.40, 10.10, 12.40, 6.50, 10.40PM

6.50, 10.40

INOX

LAXMIKALA 2.30, 9.30PM

TIVOLI XTREME 2.00, 4.45, 10.45PM

AMEERPET 3.30, 6.30PM

11.00, 1.15, 4.30, 5.45, 7.10, 10.00PM

CCPL-10.30, 4.25, 10.35PM

MANTRA-10.10, 1.20, 7.05, 10.15PM

SUDHA-10.10, 1.20, 7.05, 10.15PM

DSL-11.45, 3.10, 6.30, 10.20PM

1.50 PM

CHANDANAGAR-12.15, 9.10, 7.30PM

BALANAGAR-1.10, 7.30PM

1.50 PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI-11.40, 9.10, 7.30PM

BALANAGAR-1.10, 7.30PM

1.50 PM

GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE

2.20 PM

11.15, 7.20

10.45 PM

8.10 PM

MP MALL-4.05PM

CCPL-1.20PM | DSL-4.50PM

MANTRA-4.30PM | SUDHA-4.30PM

1.50 PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI-8.10PM

CHANDANAGAR-3.30PM

BALANAGAR-8.10PM

11.15, 7.20

10.45 PM

PLATINUM 2.20 PM

Gvk mall | inorbit mall

Icon | Galleria | Preston mall

Central | Irrummanzil | RK plex | Musarambagh

LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE

TIVOLI EXTREME-SEC'BAD

OAMB AMB CINEMAS-GACHIBOWLI

Gvk mall | mp mall

Gsm mall

Prasad's Multiplex

ASIAN CINEMAS

Sivaganga | mcube mall

| Cinesquare-Uppal

Gpr mall | Radhika

Ccpl | Dsl | Sudha

Mantra Mall

Miraj Cinemas

Chandanagar | Geetha

Dilshuknagar

& YOUR FAVOURITE THEATRES

Trump hints at Prez run in 2024

Washington, March 1:

In his first public speech since leaving the White House, former US president Donald Trump has raised the climate issue while criticising his successor Joe Biden for rejoining the “very unfair” Paris Agreement, saying what good does it do when America is “clean” but China, Russia and India are not.

Speaking at the

Conservative Political Action Committee in Orlando, Florida on Sunday, the 74-year-old leader, who left the White House on January 20, came down heavily on the Biden administration for putting the “United States back into the very unfair” Paris Agreement, saying what good does it do when America is “clean” but China, Russia and India are not.

Speaking at the

in for 10 years, Russia goes by an old standard which was not a clean standard... but we get hit right from the beginning when it costs us hundreds of thousands and millions of jobs, it was a disaster... but they go back in.

We have the cleanest air and cleanest water... and what good does it do when we're clean, but China is not and Russia is not and India is not, so they are pouring fumes... you know the world is a small piece of the universe and we're trying to protect everything,” Trump said amidst applause from his supporters.

On February 19, the US officially returned to the historic Paris climate accord, 107 days after it left at the behest of former president Trump. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had termed that decision as a “major disappointment for global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote global security.”

In the past also, Trump has criticised China, India and Russia for pollution. In October last year, he accused China, India and Russia of not taking care of their “filthy air” as he justified America’s withdrawal from the landmark Paris climate agreement.

Donald Trump told conservatives Sunday he was considering running for president again in 2024, as he reasserted dominance over the Republican Party and warned of a “struggle” for America’s very survival. Echoing the grievance politics of his 2016 campaign and the harsh rhetoric of his one-term presidency, the 74-year-old fired up an enthusiastic crowd at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando.

COVID VACCINE IP RIGHTS DIVIDES WTO

Geneva, March 1: The World Trade Organisation faces calls led by India and South Africa to waive intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines — a notion fiercely rejected by pharmaceutical giants and their host countries.

The WTO will thrash out the divisive issue at its general council meeting on Monday and Tuesday as its new head Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala takes up her post. Some countries see the waiver as a shortcut to ending the Covid that has hobbled the global economy.

The IP plan was filed by India and South Africa on October 2 and garnered support from a host of developing countries which — correctly — anticipated being left behind in the vaccination race.

The text proposes a temporary exemption from certain obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), so that any country can produce vaccines without worrying about patents.

The waiver would also cover “industrial designs, copyright and protection of undisclosed information”, and would last “until widespread vaccination is in place globally.”

— AFP



INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON CROSS TIME CONNECTION

SEE TODAY

WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 2 MARCH 2021

**GRAND RELEASING
ॐ 5th Fri**

DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS

(Enjoy 4k laser projection & dolby atmos)

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY
MEGA 70MM-DILSHUKNAGAR
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
OAMB CINEMAS-Kukatpally
PRASAD'S
PVR CINEMAS
GACHIBOWLI
PLATINUM
CCPL
MANTRA
SUDHA
INOX
MP MALL
CINEPOLIS
NARAPALLY
GEETHMA
USHPARASAD
INOX
WARANGAL
S2 CINEMAS
SHALINI SHIVANI
IDIPL COLONY
MALLA PURAM
RAICHUR
SK 25
DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS

(Enjoy 4k laser projection & dolby atmos)

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY
MEGA 70MM-DILSHUKNAGAR
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
OAMB CINEMAS-Kukatpally
PRASAD'S
PVR CINEMAS
GACHIBOWLI
PLATINUM
CCPL
MANTRA
SUDHA
INOX
MP MALL
CINEPOLIS
NARAPALLY
GEETHMA
USHPARASAD
INOX
WARANGAL
S2 CINEMAS
SHALINI SHIVANI
IDIPL COLONY
MALLA PURAM
RAICHUR
SK 25
DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS

(Enjoy 4k laser & Dolby Atmos sound system)

11.00 & 6.00PM
TALLURI 70MM-9.15PM(ONE SHOW)
PVR FORUM MALL-12.25PM
ASIAN CINEMAS CINESQAURE UPPAL-7.00PM
INTRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI
2.30, 9.00PM(ONE SHOW)
French ex-prez Sarkozy guilty of graft, to be jailed

Paris, March 1: Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was found guilty of corruption on Monday and handed a three-year prison sentence, in a ruling that deals a major blow to any lingering political ambitions.

The sentence includes two years suspended and the remaining one year would be converted into a non-custodial sentence, meaning it is unlikely Sarkozy will end up behind bars over this case.

He is almost certain to appeal and remains free, with no arrest warrant issued, but he faces several other corruption investiga-

BERLINALE 2021 KICKS OFF WITH VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

Berlinale, the world's biggest film festival which usually attracts close to 50,000 film fans to the German capital, opened quietly on thousands of laptops across the world on Monday morning for five

worships at the plush Berlinale Palast theatre. Sitting at a safe distance from each other in the 1,600-seater theatre were five former Golden Bear winners (the festival's top prize which goes to the best film) who will pick this year's winner from 15 films in the festival's Competition section.

The sixth jury member, Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof, could not make it. Rasoulof, who won the Golden Bear last year for *There Is No Evil*, a film on capital punishment in Iran, has been found guilty of making films that are a "propaganda" tool "against the system" and is under a travel ban. He will be watching films on his laptop.

Usually held for 10 days in February every year, the 71st edition of the International Film Festival of Berlin is a hybrid affair that's been cut short and split into two. From March 1-5, Berlinale will run virtually for film critics and industry across the world. The winners will be announced on the last day, but the Golden and Silver Bear trophies will be presented in person, in June, when organisers hope to invite stars for red carpet events and screen films for the public.

Another departure from the past is that this year the festival has gone "gender neutral" in terms of awards. Berlinale is the first international film festival that has replaced best actress and best actor prizes with awards for best lead and supporting performance. The jury is, quite literally, out on whether this will be a unique way to showcase women's talent or whether it will end up robbing actresses of yet another chance to be celebrated on the world stage.

Berlinale's artistic director Carlo Chatrian, speaking about this year's Competition section, has said that these are "deeply personal films that reflect the disruption brought on by the events of 2020".

The films competing for the top prize this year are from Germany, France, Romania, Hungary, Mexico, South Korea and Japan. They were either shot or were in post-production during the pandemic.

Films outside the Competition section that are set to have their world premieres at Berlinale include director Azazel Jacobs' French Exit starring Michelle Pfeiffer, and the real-life thriller *The Mauritanian*, which stars Jodie Foster and Benedict Cumberbatch. Foster won the Golden Globe for best supporting actress for her performance in *The Mauritanian* on Monday.

Another film that has already created a lot of buzz is *Tina*, a documentary about the queen of rock'n'roll by Oscar winners Dan Lindsay and T.J. Martin (Undefeated). It features never-before-seen concert footage and interviews with the notoriously private 81-year-old superstar.



A still from the movie 'Tina'

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	49,849.84
Nifty 50	14,761.50
S&P 500*	3,898.07
Dollar (₹)	73.55 -0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.40 0.02
Euro (₹)	88.40 0.78
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	45,520 ▲241 0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	65.02 0.93
INR 10Y bond yield	6.209 0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.426 -0.030

* As of 8:30 PM IST

SBI reduces home loan rates to 6.70%

State Bank of India said it has reduced interest rates on home loans by up to 10 basis points (bps) and is offering loans starting from 6.70 per cent rate. The new rates are based on loan amount and Cibil score of the borrower, and are available till March 31, 2021. The bank said the home loan interest rates will start from 6.70 per cent for loans up to Rs 75 lakh and 6.75 per cent for loans in the range of Rs 75 lakh-Rs 5 crore.

WTO to hold ministerial meet in late 2021



World Trade Organization members agreed to hold the next major ministerial meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in late 2021, delegates said. The biennial conference was originally set to be held in Kazakhstan last year but was delayed due to the pandemic. The WTO's director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala who began work on Monday hopes the meeting will provide a venue for a deal on fisheries subsidies and WTO reforms.

Govt expects ₹3.39 L cr from maritime summit

The government is aiming to attract investment worth Rs 3.39 lakh crore during Maritime India Summit 2021 in various projects. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate Maritime India Summit 2021 (MIS 2021) on Tuesday, which will be held virtually and is likely to be participated by many nations, including Russia, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Denmark, Iran, Afghanistan, and Armenia.

Credit demand may double to 9-10% in FY22

On the back of government and regulatory measures, which helped the economy to recover faster than expected, bank credit is seen growing 400-500 bps to 9-10 per cent in FY22, a Crisil report said. While bank credit growth had contracted 0.8 per cent in the first half of this fiscal, it recovered sharply in the third quarter by growing 3 per cent QoQ. In Q4, too, it should clock 3 per cent growth, Crisil said.

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/089/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Komappally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No. APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

Sales jump 12% at Maruti, 29% at Hyundai Cars regain speed, clock 24% growth in February

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, MARCH 1

Major carmakers on Monday reported robust double-digit sales in February, bringing cheers to the automakers depressed from the prolonged Covid pandemic that had hit them hard.

The top 10 carmakers who produce 97 per cent of the total domestic sales clocked a 24 per cent growth in domestic volumes in February at 298,694 units against 241,533 units sold in February 2020.

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker by sales, said its sales in February jumped 11.8 per cent to 1,52,983 units from 1,36,849 units it sold a year ago.

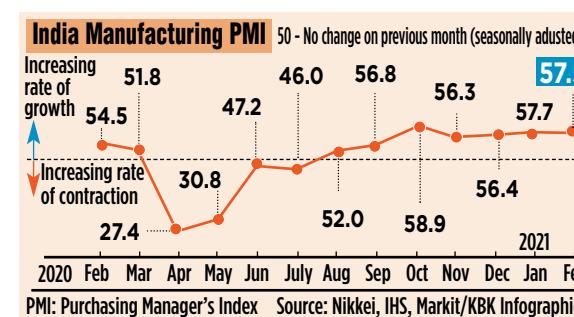
Sales at its rival Hyundai, the second largest carmaker, also rose 29 per cent to 51,600 units, up from 40,010 units.

Tata Motors reported an 11.9 per cent jump in sales to 27,225 units, up from 12,430 units.

Korean brand Kia Motors logged a 7 per cent rise in volumes to 16,702 units against 15,644 units.

Mahindra and Mahindra, the SUV specialist, also reported 41 per cent jump in sales last month to 15,391 units, up from 10,938 units a year ago.

Japanese carmaker Toyota registered a 36 per cent sales growth last month. It sold 14,075 units compared to 10,352 units in February 2020. Toyota attributed this sales growth to new launches like Innova Crysta and



Mfg PMI stays in expansion zone

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

Strong demand and increased output helped India's factory activity to stay in expansion for the seventh straight month in February. Although the easing from January, the pace of growth remained sharp in the context of historical data," IHS Markit said.

Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said, "Indian goods producers reported a healthy inflow of new orders in February, a situation that underpinned a further upturn in output and quantity of purchases. This was evident from a quicker rise in outstanding business and another decline in inventories of finished goods."

"Better demand conditions and successful marketing campaigns reportedly underpinned a fur-

ther increase in new orders during February. Although easing from January, the pace of growth remained sharp in the context of historical data," IHS Markit said.

"Out of the total GST for the February month, the Central GST was Rs 21,092 crore, State GST was Rs 27,273 crore, Integrated GST was Rs 55,253 crore (including Rs 24,382 crore collected on import of goods) and compensation cess was Rs 9,525 crore (including Rs 660 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry statement said.

It said the government settled Rs 22,398 crore to CGST and Rs 17,534 crore to SGST from IGST.

Fortuner facelift and Fortuner Legender in January.

French car brand Renault posted 26 per cent growth in February volumes to 11,043 units against 8,784.

The company has started dispatches of their latest model Kiger to its showrooms.

Honda Cars sold 28.3 per

cent more cars at 9,324 units last month, up from 7,269 units it sold last year.

Sales at MG Motor registered its best-ever monthly retail at 4,329 units last month, marking a growth of 215 per cent compared to February 2020. China's SAIC-owned British carmaker registered this

growth on account of robust demand for Hector, Hector Plus, and Gloster.

Riding on the success of the Magnite SUV, Nissan Motor saw 313 per cent growth in February volumes to 4,244 units as against 1,028 units sold in the same month last year.

CHINA'S R&D SPENDING RISES 10% TO RECORD \$378 BN IN 2020

March 1: China's spending on research and development (R&D) hit a record high 2.4 per cent of gross domestic product in 2020, according to preliminary data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

China's total expenditure on R&D rose 10.3 per cent from a year ago to 2.44 trillion yuan (\$377.8 billion), the bureau said in a release on Sunday. It's the slowest incremental growth in five years and down from 12.5 per cent in 2019.

China's top leadership is set to detail additional measures to support self-reliance in technology and innovation at the National People's Congress that kicks off this week.

US policies that seek to contain China's continued rise have given new urgency to Beijing's push for technology self-sufficiency. China has pledged to accelerate development of 5G technologies, semiconductor manufacturing and other technologies seen as critical to the next stage of economic development.

The R&D expenditure data for 2020 are subject to revisions. —Bloomberg

Chinese hackers target Indian vaccine makers

KRISHNA N. DAS
NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

A Chinese state-backed hacking group has in recent weeks targeted the IT systems of two Indian vaccine makers whose coronavirus shots are being used in the country's immunisation campaign, cyber intelligence firm Cyfirma told Reuters.

Rivals China and India have both sold or gifted Covid-19 shots to many countries. India produces over 60 per cent of all vaccines in the world.

Goldman Sachs-backed Cyfirma, based in Singapore and Tokyo, said Chinese hacking group APT10, also known as Stone Panda, had identified gaps and vulnerabilities in the IT infrastructure and supply chain software of Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine maker.

The ministry was responding to a study by a private US company which suggested that a China-linked group targeted India's power grid system via malware.

"The real motivation here is actually exfiltrating intellectual property and getting competitive advantage over Indian pharmaceutical compa-

MINISTRY SAYS NO MALWARE IMPACT ON POWER SYSTEM

New Delhi, March 1: The Ministry of Power on Monday said there is no impact on operations of Power System Operation Corporation (Posoco) due to any malware attack by any malicious actor.

However, the ministry did not mention about the Mumbai outage in its statement.

A Chinese government-linked group of hackers targeted India's critical power grid system through malware, Recorded Future, a Massachusetts-based company said in its latest study. —PTI

nies," said Cyfirma chief executive Kumar Ritesh, formerly a top cyber official with British foreign intelligence agency MI6.

He said APT10 was actively targeting SII, which is making the AstraZeneca vaccine for many countries and will soon start bulk-manufacturing Novavax shots.

"In the case of Serum

Institute, they have found a number of their public servers running weak web servers, these are vulnerable web servers," Ritesh said, referring to the hackers.

"They have spoken about weak web application, they are also talking about weak content-management system. It's quite alarming." —Reuters

IDBI BANK TO SET OFF ₹45,580-CR LOSSES AGAINST SECURITIES PREMIUM ACCOUNT

New Delhi, Mar. 1: LIC-controlled IDBI Bank will set off its accumulated losses worth Rs 45,586 crore against the balance in the securities premium account, according to the bank's draft scheme.

Its accumulated losses (or debit balance of profit and loss account) at the end of March 31, 2020, stood at Rs 45,586 crore.

The accumulated losses as on December 31, 2020,

SHORT TAKES
Police storm into Barca stadium

Barcelona: Barcelona confirmed on Monday police raided the club's offices as part of an investigation into the hiring of a company to improve the image of former president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

Several arrests were made, a Catalan regional police spokesman said, just six days ahead of the club's new presidential elections on Sunday. Spain's Cadena Ser radio said one of those arrested was Bartomeu, who resigned in October, along with CEO Oscar Grau and the club's head of legal services Roma Gomez Ponti. But Barcelona refused to comment on arrests while the police would not confirm names, saying only that "arrests are taking place" and adding that the operation was being run by officers from the financial crimes unit.

"We are in the process of carrying out an operation right now with agents of the financial crimes unit," the police spokesman said. Barcelona said the operation is linked to last year's investigation into the 'BarcaGate' scandal, in which the club was accused of covering up payments to a company called I3 Ventures, hired to boost the image of then-president Bartomeu on social media. — AFP

Handball trials for junior boys

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad District Handball Association is conducting selection trials for Junior Boys on March 3 and 4 from 6.30 am at the Lal Bahadur Stadium to pick the Hyderabad district side for the Handball Inter-District Junior Boys Championship to be held at Warangal from March 6 to 8. Players born on or after 1-1-2001 are eligible to participate. They should also carry Aadhar cards at the time of selections. For further details contact Ravi Kumar (9866229937), Ranadeer (7702662210) or Siva Kumar (9848336484).

Vijender's next pro bout in casino ship

New Delhi: Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh's next bout, his first since November 2019, against a yet-to-be-announced opponent will take place in Goa on the rooftop deck of a docked ship on March 19. The 35-year-old reigning WBO Oriental and WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight champion defeated Ghana's former Commonwealth Champion Charles Adamu in Dubai to claim his 12th successive win in November 2019. He has not competed ever since.

"Vijender Singh is set to make his return to the ring on March 19... The first-of-its-kind fight will be held on the rooftop deck of the Majestic Pride Casino Ship — who have been roped in as the venue partner," his promoters IOS Boxing Promotions said in a statement. Vijender said he is looking forward to the experience. "It is something that has never happened before in India and I am glad to be part of this unique professional match," Vijender said. — PTI

Churchill survive late Kerala scare

Kolkata: Churchill Brothers survived a last-minute scare to beat 10-man Gokulam Kerala FC 3-2 and extend their lead atop the I-League table here on Monday. Luka Majcen's brace (26th and 87th) and Kingslee Fernandes' goal (53rd) helped Santiago Valer's side stretch their lead at the top of the standings to five points.

Gokulam Kerala made a dominant start to the game, and created a couple of chances in the opening three minutes, but Vincy Barreto and Philip Adjah were unable to get their shots away from inside the area. Churchill custodian Shilton Paul had to be alert when Ubaid released Philip Adjah with a long kick forward, and the Ghanaian tried to sneak his volley at the near post in the seventh minute.

Two minutes later, Zuniga forced Gokulam Kerala's keeper Ubaid into making a sharp save after he met Bryce Miranda's cross at the far post. — PTI

Live on TV

FOOTBALL
Italian League: Lazio vs Torino from 11 pm; Juventus vs Spezia from 1.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

English Premier League: Manchester City vs Wolverhampton Wanderers from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

JINGLE BALE TIME

Tottenham ride on Gareth's brace; Man U hold Blues

London, March 1: Manchester United were left frustrated by a VAR penalty controversy in their 0-0 draw at Chelsea, while the revitalised Gareth Bale struck twice in Tottenham's 4-0 rout of Burnley on Sunday.

Liverpool took advantage of dropped points for Chelsea to move within two points of the top four by ending a four-game losing streak with a 2-0 win at Sheffield United. Second-placed United had hoped to close the gap on Manchester City with a victory at Stamford Bridge. But instead they now sit 12 points behind the Premier League leaders as their title hopes fade following a run of one win from four games.

Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel is unbeaten in nine matches in all competitions since replacing the sacked Frank Lampard, but the stalemate also did little for the Blues top four challenge. The biggest talking point of a dour clash came in the first-half when United's appeal for a penalty was rejected by referee Stuart Attwell after he consulted the pitchside monitor when Callum Hudson-Odoi appeared to handle in a challenge with Mason Greenwood.

Meanwhile, after five defeats in their previous six league games, Tottenham eased the pressure on Jose Mourinho with a significant contribution from Bale, who made just his third league start of the season.

Bale took just 68 seconds to score with a clinical close-range finish from Son Heung-min's cross.

The four-time Champions League winner then picked out Harry Kane's run and the England captain's shot deflected off James Tarkowski for his 22nd goal of the season.

Lucas Moura netted with a predatory finish before Bale, who had scored just once in the league all season before Sunday, grabbed his second with a cool strike from Son's 55th-minute pass.

Tottenham are up to eighth, six points behind the top four with a game in hand. — AFP

Atletico Madrid bounced back from recent poor form with a hard-fought 2-0 win at Villarreal on Sunday that allowed the La Liga pace-setters to extend their lead to five points.

An own goal from Alfonso Pedraza and Joao Felix's powerful strike gave Atletico a precious win after a wobble which had allowed Barcelona and Real Madrid to gain ground in the title race.

Diego Simeone's side had come into the match off the back of a Champions League last 16 defeat to Chelsea and a league run in which they picked up just five points from their previous four matches.

However despite Villarreal coming close on a number of occasions



Liverpool's Curtis Jones (right) beats Sheffield United's George Baldock to the ball during their English Premier League match at Bramall Lane in Sheffield on Sunday. Liverpool won the match 2-0. — AFP

Atletico boss over Villarreal

Madrid, March 1: Atletico Madrid bounced back from recent poor form with a hard-fought 2-0 win at Villarreal on Sunday that allowed the La Liga pace-setters to extend their lead to five points.

We suffered, and even after the second goal they had good chances. But we come home with a very important victory at this point in the season.

— DIEGO SIMEONE
Atletico Madrid coach

Atletico held on for a win that ensures they keep second-place Barca at bay and crucially increase the gap between them and rivals Real Madrid to six points ahead of next weekend's local derby.

Madrid can go back to within three points of Atletico when they host Europa-chasing Real Sociedad on Monday night.

"We suffered, and even after the second goal they had good chances. But we come home with a very important victory at this point in the season," said Simeone.

Atletico opened the scoring thanks to Pedraza's odd own goal mid-way through the first half, which came after long VAR check to see if Stefan Savic, who was initially credited with the goal, had strayed offside for Thomas Lemar's cross.

Savic's header was saved by Sergio Asenjo only for the ball to ricochet off Pedraza and into the net as the 24-year-old defender fell over. Gerard Moreno should have pulled the hosts level when he met a Daniel Parejo cross but couldn't muster a decisive finish and Savic recovered

easily to clear the ball off the line.

Suarez could have doubled Atleti's lead eight minutes after the break when he pounced on a defensive lapse to let off a powerful shot, only for Asenjo to pull of a superb reaction save to deny the Uruguayan.

However Joao Felix gave the away side the two-goal cushion they needed in the 69th minute, quickly latching onto a poor clearance by Pau Torres to lash home the second from just outside the penalty area.

Felix appeared to direct an angry look at Simeone after scoring, reportedly prompted by a lack of game time.

"I love rebel players, those that have pride. The goal brought something out in him," Simeone further added. — AFP

City swings into golf league

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Hyderabad is all set to swing into an IPL-style golf league, with 14 sides crossing clubs with each other for top honours. The first ever Hyderabad Premier Golf League kicked off with the players draft selection at a plush hotel in the city.

The teams are named after graceful as well as powerful birds, animals, fishes, have a dash of royalty and a fair bit of Hyderabadi too. They are: Sharks, Civet Rangers, Villaggio Highlanders, Labonel, Kings Ball Busters, Bar Phir Par, Origins, Benelli Raiders, Boulder Tigers, Markenzo Fairways, Swans, Synthokem Swing Kings, Golfing Nawabs and Eagle Hunters — will cross clubs over six weeks as they vie for honours in the Hyderabad Premier Golf League.

On Sunday, the 14 team owners and core members drafted eight players each from a pool of 142 golfers from the city who had signed up as players for the six-week-long league which tees off on March 12 across three courses in the city.

At first cut, the event seems to be a glittering affair. Apart for the custom designed Swarovski trophy, the teams will be competing for a handsome prize money.

"The response has been tremendous. The league formed by Quantum Holding Pvt Ltd is the first of its kind in the state of Telangana and gives owners and players the opportunity to experience a world class league format," says League Commissioner Sumanth D.S.

The draft was attended by prominent industrialists and golfers of the city.



Markenzo Fairways owner Paul Suresh (above, right) celebrates a pick during the draft for the Hyderabad Premier Golf League in Hyderabad on Sunday. Mohan Tayel (below, left) is all smiles during the draft.



Mr Nasir Ali Khan, who was recently appointed as the Honorary Counsel General of Kazakhstan for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, was also

Fourteen teams
— Sharks, Civet Rangers, Villaggio Highlanders, Labonel, Kings Ball Busters, Bar Phir Par, Origins, Benelli Raiders, Boulder Tigers, Markenzo Fairways, Swans, Synthokem Swing Kings, Golfing Nawabs and Eagle Hunters — will cross clubs over six weeks as they vie for honours in the Hyderabad Premier Golf League.

Apart from the custom designed Swarovski trophy, the teams will be competing for a handsome prize money.

ing time for all humanity" Mr Khan said.

Mr Khan also suggested that the League explore the possibility of traveling to and exploring the beautiful golf facilities of Kazakhstan.

"Hyderabad has hosted national as well as international sporting events on a professional level and golf has marked the city on a global map with some of the finest courses available. It's been an honour to be part of such a privileged event and we were delighted to host prominent partners and members of the association. A league of this nature will promote our city and I look forward to the commencement of action in Hyderabad," said Shobhit Sahney, General Manager, Park Hyatt Hyderabad.

in attendance. "These kind of leagues will promote the sport and are also a great way to move forward and forget the year 2020 that was a test-

Aarush, Charvi are chess champions

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

points), 3. Dishi Makija (2 points).

U-11 Boys: 1. Pavan Karthikeya Varma Gunturi (5 points), 2. Prajwal Gingupalli (5 points), 3. Sr Anjani Kumar Kanchala (4 points).

U-9 Girls: 1. Anaya Agarwal (4 points), 2. Kota Nithya Sri (4 points), 3. Laasya Radhamayee Vengla (3 points).

U-13 Boys: 1. Challa Saharsa (5 points), 2. Allampati Kovidh Kushal Reddy (4 points), 3. Sriram adarsh Uppala (4.5 points).

U-13 Girls: 1. Kirthika B (4 points), 2. Durga Karthika (3.5 points), 3. Challapalli Kankshita (3 points).

U-15 Boys: 1. Sikkam Sai Vishnu (5 points), 2. Sanketh Reddi K. R. K. K. (4 points), 3. Kolla Bhavana (4 points).

U-15 Girls: 1. Amrutha Bhagavatula (4 points), 2. Kushi Soma Srivatsa (3 points), 3. Sahithi Anikapati (2.5 points).



Winners and runners-up pose at the Telangana State Chess Association state ranking tournament pose with their trophies at the Lal Bahadur Stadium in Hyderabad.

SIYA, MANOGYA, VENKAT DO WELL AT U-16 TENNIS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 1

Siya Prasade, M. Manogya, Venkat Rishi and Naishik Reddy emerged victorious in the first round of the Under-16 AITA Championship series being held at Sania Mirza Tennis Academy in Murtazaguda on Monday.

In girl's singles, Siya saw off Aditi Chanda in straight sets 6-0, 6-0 while top seed A. Srinidhi Reddy got the better of Diya Mattipatti with a 6-1, 6-6. 3 scoreline.

Meanwhile in boys singles, Venkat Rishi flattened No.1种子 in straight sets 6-0, 6-0; Trishant Reddy (7) bt B. Sandilya (5) bt Vedant (6-5); Hansika Reddy (2) bt G. Bala (6-0, 6-0); Trishant Reddy (7) bt B. Saatvika Reddy (6-1, 6-1); G. Chaitra Reddy bt A. Vijay Sarathy (6-2, 6-0); Soma Suhar (T) Mahendra Reddy (6-2, 6-3); Aditi Chanda (6-1, 6-1); Naishik Reddy (6-2, 6-1); Srinivasa Reddy (6-2, 6-1); Nikhil Dsouza (8) bt Yeshwanth G (7-6(5)-6, 6-6); Thakur Armaan Singh (3) bt Vedant (6-3, 6-2); P. Sandilya (5) bt Sadham Husein (4-6, 7-6(3)-6, 6-0); Vanitha Siddhartha (6) bt Arad (6-4, 6-3); Vaishnavi (6) bt Revanth Rayudu (6-3, 6-3); Ramdhish Rayudu (4) bt Praneel Eshwar (6-3, 6-3); Chris Hamilton Ross (7) bt Murali Koushal (6-3, 6-7); V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); C. Revanth (7-5, 6-3); Rohan (6-2, 6-2).

THE RESULTS
U-16 Boys First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): A. Srinidhi Reddy (1) bt Divya Mattipatti 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; Sama Chevika (2) bt Nysha Barua 6-3, 6-7; V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); C. Revanth (7-5, 6-3, 6-2);

U-16 Girls First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): A. Srinidhi Reddy (1) bt Divya Mattipatti 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; Sama Chevika (2) bt Nysha Barua 6-3, 6-7; V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); C. Revanth (7-5, 6-3, 6-2);

U-18 Boys First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Naishik Reddy (1) bt Hemanth (6-2, 6-2); Venkatesh (6-2, 6-2); Trishant Reddy (7) bt B. Sandilya (5) bt Vedant (6-3, 6-0); Trishant Reddy (7) bt B. Saatvika Reddy (6-1, 6-1); G. Chaitra Reddy bt A. Vijay Sarathy (6-2, 6-0); Soma Suhar (T) Mahendra Reddy (6-2, 6-3); Aditi Chanda (6-1, 6-1); Naishik Reddy (6-2, 6-1); Srinivasa Reddy (6-2, 6-1); Nikhil Dsouza (8) bt Yeshwanth G (7-6(5)-6, 6-6); Thakur Armaan Singh (3) bt Vedant (6-3, 6-2); P. Sandilya (5) bt Sadham Husein (4-6, 7-6(3)-6, 6-0); Vanitha Siddhartha (6) bt Arad (6-4, 6-3); Vaishnavi (6) bt Revanth Rayudu (6-3, 6-3); Ramdhish Rayudu (4) bt Praneel Eshwar (6-3, 6-3); Chris Hamilton Ross (7) bt Murali Koushal (6-3, 6-7); V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); Rohan (6-2, 6-2);

U-18 Girls First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Sama Chevika (2) bt Nysha Barua 6-3, 6-7; V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); C. Revanth (7-5, 6-3, 6-2);

U-20 Boys First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Sama Chevika (2) bt Nysha Barua 6-3, 6-7; V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); C. Revanth (7-5, 6-3, 6-2);

U-20 Girls First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Sama Chevika (2) bt Nysha Barua 6-3, 6-7; V. Sahan Reddy (7) bt Shashank (6-3, 6-3); C. Revanth (7-5, 6-3, 6-2);

U-22 Boys First round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Sama Chevika (

