THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 11 MARCH 2021





Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 35/21^oC

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana Tithi: Magha Bahula Trayodasi Star: Dhanishta till 9.46 pm Varjyam: 5.16 am to 6.59 am Durmuhurtam: 10.27 am to

11.14 am; 3.11 pm to 3.59 pm Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR**

Rajab 26,1442 AH **PRAYERS Fajar:** 5.37 am

Zohar: 12.36 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm Maghrib: 6.30 pm Isha: 7.38 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.26 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.08 AM **MOONSET** TODAY 4.44 PM



Even now you can join our party. We will give you a ministry!

TAKES

SC moves on

succession law

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the Central government on a public interest litigation seeking to remove anomalies in succession and inheritance laws and make them uniform for all citizens. The petition said gender and religion-neutral laws in succession and inheritance is necessary to secure justice, equality and dignity of women

229 sedition

cases in 5 yrs

New Delhi: As many as 5,128 cases under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA and 229 on charges of sedition have been lodged across the country in a five-year period from 2015, minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy informed Parliament on Wednesday. Manipur topped in the UAPA cases and Bihar in sedition cases

IDBI Bank gets out of RBI curbs

Mumbai: The RBI on Wednesday announced that it has decided to take LIC owned IDBI Bank out of its prompt corrective action (PCA) framework following an improvement in its financial performance. This follows a review of IDBI Bank by the Board for Financial Supervision in its meeting held on February 18.

NATION 4

P.C. Chacko quits Congress in Kerala



WORLD 5

EU-UK relations dip over 'vaccine ban'

SPORTS 6

Ronaldo's Juventus out of Champions League



Vol. 20 No. 284 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

TRS sure PRC, jobs will win over staff, graduates

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

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

As the March 14 polling date for Graduate MLC elections nears, the ruling TRS is making all-out efforts to turn the tide in its favour. The party is trying to win over state government employees and graduates three days ahead of polling. They constitute a major chunk of voters and are enthused by governmental steps like the new PRC, higher fitment, hike in retirement age and the issuing of job vacancy notifica-tions to fill 50,000 posts. TRS ministers, MLAs, leaders and cadre are

aggressively campaigning on the issue of the TRS government extending 29 per cent fitment (hike on basic pay) as against a meagre 7.5 per cent fitment recommended by the PRC and promise of a three-year raise in retirement age from 58 to 61 years within a day of the announcement of MLC poll results on March 17.

They are also tyring to strike an emotional chord with employees and students, with TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao reminding in every elec-



 TRS leaders engaged in the campaign say that CM Chandrashekar Rao will make an announcement in the Assembly on March 18 on new sops for emp-loyees and students.

• They promise 29 per cent fitment (hike on basic pay) to govt staff as against a meagre 7.5 per cent fitment recommended by the PRC

tion campaign meeting that, "Together we fought and achieved Telangana State. Let us continue to work together for the allround development of Telangana.

TRS ministers and leaders engaged in the campaign field say that Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao will make an announcement in the Legislative Assembly on March 18 on new sops for

Following the directions of KCR, the ministers and party MLAs functioning as election in-charges are holding mandal and district-level meetings with various associations of Telangana employees.

All these meetings begin with ministers and TRS MLAs announcing, "We are here to convey an important message from

They go on to add, after a pause: "The CM will announce a 29 per cent fitment despite the Covidinduced financial crisis, though the PRC had rec-ommended just 7.5 per cent. He will also announce an increase in retirement age from 58 to 61 years. The retirement age raise will be applicable from this month itself. About 10,000 employees are due to retire on March 31 after attaining 58 years, but they will not. They will continue to work for three more years. This shows how employee-friendly our CM is. It's your duty and responsibility to support the CM in return by voting for the TRS in MLC

> Page 2: KCR strategy weans away unions

CHINA HAS NOT VACATED INDIAN AREAS, SAYS U.S.

PAWAN BALI | DC

China's People's Libera tion Army "has not yet withdrawn from several forward positions" at the Line of Actual Control that it had seized after the initial clashes with Indian forces, a top US military commander told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington on Tuesday.

He also said the US and Indian navies are now securely sharing information, and India has substantially increased its acquisition of US defence

Adm. Philip S. Davidson, US Navy head in the Indo-Pacific Command, said China's expansionary territorial ambitions were on display along its western border, where the PLA engaged in a standoff with Indian forces along the LAC since May 2020.

He said the standoff was predicated by clashes over construction activity near the disputed border, and that PLA elements subsequently forward-deployed roughly 50,000 soldiers along the LAC, leading to a counter-deployment by the Indian Army.

"The PLA has not yet withdrawn from several forward positions it seized following the clash," he said.

Tirath sworn in as U'khand CM

CM takes oath alone, to pick Cabinet later

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI/DEHRADUN,

Tirath Singh Rawat, 56, currently Pauri Garhwal MP, on Wednesday was sworn in as the chief minister of Uttarakhand, replacing Trivendra Singh Rawat, who was forced to resign after dis-content over his leadership and some of his decisions, including giving the state summer capital Gairsen the status of a new division.

Faced with dissension in its state unit as the central leadership was busy gearing up for the Assembly polls, due early next year the BJP top brass decided to go in for a change of guard after sensing that the brewing dissension could spoil its chances of retaining power in the hill state. The BJP top brass took less than a week to defuse the political crisis after initial reports suggested that going to the polls with Trivendra Rawat as CM will not be favourable for it in polls.

The former CM had failed to pacify his detractors and the PLB leader

tors and the BJP leader-

BJP-JJP GOVT IN HARYANA BEATS NO-TRUST VOTE

Chandigarh, March 10: The BJP-JJP government in Haryana survived the floor test on Wednesday, comfortably defeating the no-confidence motion no-confidence motion moved against it by the Congress. The motion was defeated following division of votes. Speaker Gian Chand Gupta announced in the House that 55 members had voted against the motion while 32 MLAs had backed it.

Full report on Page 4

ship was wary that if no action was taken, the party could face the same fate as that of the then ruling Congress in 2016, when around a dozen of its MLAs had revolted.

A former journalist and also a former BJP state unit chief, Tirath Singh Rawat is known for his down-to-earth nature. In his parliamentary constituency, the first-time MP is popular for being very approachable. Mr Rawat was adminis-

tered the oath of office by Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya at a simple function held at the Bhavan, Dehradun. The new CM was the only person who was sworn in on Wednesday, which means the members of his Cabinet will be finalised and sworn in later.
Earlier in the day, Mr

Rawat was elected as the leader of the Uttarakhand BJP legislature party. His name came as a surprise to many as it was not among the nearly halfdozen names doing the rounds in the media over the past few days as contenders for the top post.

As his name was announced as the legislature party leader, Mr Rawat's supporters burst into celebrations at the party office in Dehradun.

"I am a small party worker from a village. I had never imagined that I will be a given an opportu nity like this by the party. I hope that with every one's cooperation and blessings, I will fulfil the expectations from me,'

Didi says she was attacked by men

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC

Hours after filing her nomination in Nandigram, the hot seat of the West Bengal Assembly elections, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in an explosive claim, alleged that she was attacked by a group of men in a "conspiracy" in the absence of police personnel, including the East Midnapore superintendent of police, in the constituency on Wednesday evening, leaving her injured.

The Trinamul Congress supremo, with injuries on her legs and forehead, was later rushed to Kolkata in a "green corridor" and was admitted to the Woodburn Ward of SSKM Hospital after she was

wheeled in a stretcher. The TMC has launched protests across the state. Rattled by Ms Banerjee's complaint, the Election Commission has sought a report on the serious security breach from the district administration.

The CM, who is a Z-plus category protectee, and is usually surrounded by a contingent of at least 25 security personnel in close quarters, apparently fell down, according to sources close to her.

Seated on the front seat of her car, Ms Banerjee,

Standing beside my car, I was doing namaskar. Suddenly four or

- MAMATA BANERJEE West Bengal Chief Minister

five men blocked my car.

They shoved and pushed

me, leaving me injured. My

legs got swollen. It is pain-

ing very much.'

gasping for breath, told the media: "Standing beside my car, I was doing namaskar. Suddenly four or five men blocked my car. They shoved and pushed me, leaving me injured. My legs got swollen. It is paining very much.

Asked about any foul play, she added: "It was definitely a conspiracy. The attack was deliberate. No police personnel were present there. Even the SP was not there. I will lodge a complaint with the EC."

Questioning Ms Baner-jee's version, Barrack-pore BJP MP Arjun Singh wondered: "Who will attack her being the CM as well as the home minister of the state? How can someone attack the CM when a distance of 2 km is cleared for her movement wherever she visits? If there was any attack, the IPS officers should be sus-

KTR BACKS AP'S **FIGHT AGAINST VSP STAKE SALE**

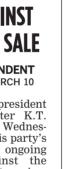
DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on Wednes-(VSP) in

esh against privatisa-tion of VSP. If necessary, support," Rama Rao said at a TRS election meet-ing for the graduate

also if we remain silent on Vizag Steel," he said. "They promised to set

up a steel plant in Telangana's Bayyaram through SAIL. Now they are selling off VSP to private players. Who will believe that the Centre will set up a steel plant in Bayyaram now? The Centre's decision has brought VSP employees onto the roads," he said.



day extended his party's support to the ongoing agitation against the Central move to priva-tise the Vizag Steel Plant Andhra Pradesh. "We stand with the

people of Andhra Pradwith the permission of KCR, we will visit Visakhapatnam to extend our MLC polls.

He said Telugu states

should fight unitedly if the Centre rendered injustice to AP or TS. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will privatise Central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) like BHEL in Hyderabad



Scan & Enter

Follow Us on

the World of Kumkumadi

KUMKUMADI NIGHT SERUM

THE PROMISE OF **TIMELESS BEAUTY**

2.5 X IMPROVEMENT IN SKIN BRIGHTENING*

20% Reduction in Pigmentation 15% Reduction in Wrinkles

In just 4 weeks Clinically Proven**



Shop now at www.kamaayurveda.com & Our Exclusive Stores Order directly on 18001232031

Also available on NYKAA amazon Myntra

* X represents skin conditions before product usage ** Based on clinical trials conducted over 28 days

RIGHT | TRACK | Citizens note ebbing Covid fear, fuel prices, summer

Price rise to fuel Metro rush

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

Hyderabad Metro Rail's daily passenger load has now built itself back to around 1.86 lakh. Still, this forms only 45 per cent of its pre-Covid figures. This summer will see a further increase for three reasons. The air-conditioned travel facility usually attracts more people to Metro ser-

vices during summer sea-

son. The steady hike in fuel

prices are bound to make

many to keep their vehicles

 Officials say that with confidence steadily building up and people are venturing out, the Metro Rail is expecting sooner or later to return to the year-ago level. In February 2020, the ridership was four lakh people a day.

at home and commute by train. Three, the Covid fear Metro officials say that

with an air of confidence

steadily building up and people are venturing out, the mass transport system is expecting sooner or later to return to the year-ago level. In February 2020, the ridership was four lakh people a day.

After an abrupt halt for

five months, Metro Rail resumed services on September 7 last but there were very few who opted to step in, board and travel. Airconditioning inside the trains added to the worry. Such fears are receding

now. The data last month

showed the passenger strength rising to 1.86 lakh per day. More and more people are streaming in during morning and evening peak An L&T official said, "Confidence-building mea-

sures in terms of awareness and safety protocols have helped. People generally opt for metro rail in the summer season due to the affordable air-conditioned mode of travel."

■ Page 2: Officials expect more youth to take Metro

HC GRANTS BAIL TO AGRIGOLD CHIEF, DIRECTORS

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday granted bail to the chairman of Agrigold Group of Companies Avva Venkata Seshu Narayan Rao and two of his relatives, who are directors in the company. They have been in judicial custody since their arrest in a case regis-tered by Enforcement Directorate for alleged money laundering.

While granting the conditional bail, Justice Gandikota Sridevi directed them to execute a personal bond of Rs five lakh each apart from a local

Kashyap, counsel for one of the petitioners, submitted that investigation into the alleged scam was almost complete and all documents were with the probe team. He said there was no chance of influencing witnesses and causing hindrance to investigation, after petitioners are granted bail.

Considering the counsel's contention and following the stand of Supreme Court, while granting bail to Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy and P. Chidambaram, who were accused in economic offenses cases, Justice Sridevi granted

JOURNALISTS GET POSTAL BALLOT FACILITY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

'The Hyderabad unit of Indian Journalists Union (IJU) has welcomed Election Commission of India's provision bringing journalists under essential services voter category and providing them ballot facility, along with senior citizens above 80 years, people with disabilities, suspected and quarantined Covid-19 patients, individuals persons working in essential

IJU leaders called on journalist fraternity to utilise this opportunity and cast their vote for participating in the

process of democracy.
In a statement, Hyderabad
IJU president K. Sreenivas Reddy and its secretary general Balwinder Singh thanked ECI for the gesture. They said postal ballot for journalists had been a long-pending demand of media persons,

which has now been accepted. The postal ballot facility comes ahead of the assembly polls scheduled in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

PARTIAL HC RELIEF FOR SHARMILA, **VIJAYAMMA**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

In a relief to Y.S. Sharmila and Y.S Vijayalaxmi, the Telangana High Court on Wednesday partly quashed the FIR filed against them for alleged violation of election code at Parkal in 2012.

The court heard the petitions filed by the two, who sought quashing of the cases registered against them under Sections 188, 341 of IPC and under Section 127 of Public Representative Act. Their counsel submitted that they were not public representatives and except for some traffic jams, they had not dis-

The court quashed charges framed against them under Section 188 of IPC and Section 127 of Public Representatives' Act. However, charges framed under Section 341 of IPC would continue.

obeyed the code.

TRS leaders seek EC action against Bandi

They say Bandi is provoking people against one religion

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

The TRS party state general secretaries Bharath Kumar and Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday complained against BJP state president Bandi Sanjay to the state election commission.

They sought action against him for the "objectionable posts" he put on Facebook, Twitter and other social media, hurting religious harmony.

They said, "We are telling the public as to what our government and TRS party are doing and what we are going to do in relation to the MLC elections. But the BJP is making provocative statements in the name of religion, rather than saying what they would do for the people

They said Bandi Sanjay has been provoking the people via his postings on Facebook and Twitter against one religion. "We are doing good work, rather. The state government has built the Kaleshwaram proj ect and irrigated lakhs of acres of cultivable area.

"We have pleaded that action be taken against Bandi Sanjay for provoking people of other religions in an obscene man-Facebook, Facebook and Twitter. Bandy Sanjay speaks without common sense,' the TRS leaders said.

They said the state government completed the construction of the Yadadri temple in three years. "Provocative comments against other religions are not acceptable and we want election commission to take action against those who do

BANDI INTERACTS WITH GRADUATES FOR MLC POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao why he was taking salary when he was not even attending office at secretariat. He alleged that in the past, as an MP, K. Chandrashekar remained absent from parliament. Somebody else signed the attendance register in parliament against his name. In this regard, he stated that BJP will file a complaint against K. Chandrashekar Rao for cheating parliament.

Sanjay was interacting with graduates of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar as part of his campaign for the MLC elections. He went on to accuse IT minister K.T. Rama Rao for spreading false news about development in the state.

He maintained that employees will not believe in CM saying he was unable to announce fitment in salaries as the election code is in force. The BJP president pointed out that earlier too, the Chief Minister got away by making similar statements. He expressed confidence that BJP will win from both the MLC constituencies.



with owners and staff of minority educational institutions in Hyderabad on

Uttam objects to union leaders 'sailing' with KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

Telangana Pradesh Congress Pradesh (TPCC) president and MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy wants state government employees to revolt against their union leaders for betraying their cause and choosing to sail with Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao in the graduate MLC elections.

The appeal came during a series of meetings the Pradesh Congress chief addressed in Nalgonda and Hyderabad. Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly objected to employee union leaders having a "secret meeting" with the Chief Minister at Pragathi Bhavan and questioned its validity. He pointed out that K. Chandrashekar Rao had held the meeting not as CM but being the president of TRS in seeking support from employees. 'K. Chandrashekar Rao should have organised an on-camera meeting and given a public assurance that a fitment of not less than 43 percent will be given to employ-

ees," he pointed out.
The TPCC c charged that the TRS chief is clearly using union leaders as a tool to betray employees. In this regard, he alleged that K. Chandrashekar Rao has offered an MLC seat to one of the union leaders in exchange for

employees' support for TRS candidates in the two MLC seats from graduate constituencies.

Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to employees not to trust their union leaders as they had sold themselves out to ruling TRS for personal gains.

He also accused TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao of threaten ing managements of private educational institutions that their teachers should vote for the ruling party candidates. "Rama Rao had also shamelessly admitted that TRS government could not help thousands of private teachers due to shortage of funds during Covid-19 pand-emic", TPCC chief said.

HC grills Siddipet collector on lands

VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday expressed apprehensions over the state government taking possession of land from the owners of assigned lands by applying the provision of 'Unconditional

Razinama to the lands' (Relinquishment) by farmers or landowners, which is prescribed in Rule 16 of A.P. (Telangana Area) Land Revenue Rules, 1951.

Chief Justice Hima Kohli sought a detailed affidavit from the collector of Siddipet on a complaint that Revenue authorities have taken over the land of 6.37 acres in Survey number 692 of Duddeda village, Kondapak mandal. Siddipet district (erstwhile Medak District), without issuing any notice to the landown-

ers. The division bench, comprising the Chief Justice and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy was dealing with an appeal by Balagoni Saikiran and three of his family members, challenging the single-judge order, which had upheld the Revenue authorities stand.

The contention of the appellants was that they had never executed such 'Razinama' in the said survey number. fabricated

papers, the authorities are saying that we relinquished the land. In fact, we never gave up the properties." appellants said. Their coun counsel

Venugopal argued that Rule 16 of 1951 Act was no more prevalent and appellants were not in such an economic posirelinquish their rights over the lands. Citing the guidelines pre-scribed in the Mekala Pandu case, in which the court had clearly mentioned that every assigned land owner should be paid compensation as per the existing Land Acquisition the counsel said that without notices, the land was forcibly taken over from the appellants and handed over to a third party. government explained that the said land was given to a third party on the ground of providing alternative land to third party's land in which double bedroom houses

have been built by the government. Suspecting the contentions of Revenue authorities of taking over the said lands, the court directed the collector to file an affidavit with all relevant docu-

COURT PARDONS KHAMMAM COLLECTOR KARNAN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday pardoned Khammam collector R.V. Karnan who recently faced heat after he cast aspersions on a high court judge who had imposed a fine on him in a contempt

Karnan personally appeared before a division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy and sought mercy on him for his act of filing an affidavit against the Single Judge. In the affidavit, the

collector had alleged the was predetermined about punishing

Karnan said he was not aware of the contents of the affidavit drafted by government counsel. He had signed it in due faith but had no malice towards any udicial officer.

After listening to the collector, the bench withdrew the decision to file a suo moto contempt case against

and Congress governments of the past. Aurobindo group, close to CM Jagan,

also made K.V. Rao partial-

A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party Mahender Reddy at State Police Headquarters here and submitted a memorandum on comclashes Bhainsa town in Nirmal district.

BJP PANEL

CALLS ON DGP

OVER BHAINSA

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

The BJP leaders included MPs Soyam Bapu Rao and D. Arvind, former MP Vivek Venkatswamy, and ex-MLAs Ch. Ramachandra Reddy and N. V. S. S. Prabhakar. They demanded that the DGP take stringent ex-MLAs

action against culprits involved in the incident.

They wanted a highlevel enquiry into the series of communal incidents going on in the town for identifying habitual offenders who incite riots, so that rowdy sheets could be opened against them.

The delegation sought that permanent police pickets be placed at all sensitive areas and intelligence network improved to identify anti-national elements

across the district as well

CHUGH RALLIES FOR BJP MLC **CANDIDATES**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh has accused Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao of deceiving people promising "Bangaru Tela-ngana" but indulging in large-scale corruption and promoting nepo-

Addressing meetings at Ibrahimp atnam and Maheshwaram on Wednesday to muster support for BJP in the forthcoming MLC polls from Hyderabad-Reddy-Mahabubnagar graduconstituency, Chugh maintained that Telangana is fed up of K.

Chandrashekar nepotism in which his family members are indulging in rampant loot of the state. The BJP leader said K.

Chandrashekar Rao government is plagued with inefficiency due to which people of the state are unable to reap benefits of various welfare schemes and programmes initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He alleged that administration has completely collapsed as people of the state do not have even basic facilities of drinking water and power supply. Roads all over the state are in bad shape.

Trade and industry are facing an unprecedented

KCR STRATEGY **WEANS AWAY** UNIONS

From Page 1

The response is instant from employees unions. They are openly declaring their full support to the TRS in these meetings itself and giving a call to all their fellow colleagues to support the TRS as a 'thanksgiving gesture' to the Chief Minister for these sops.

TRS sources said that Mr Rao has devised a 'special strategy' to corner opposition parties and attract employees students towards TRS at this crucial stage of polling. Ministers and party MLAs held meet-ings on Wednesday with employees unions in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar, ngal, Khammam and Nalgonda. These meetings will go on until March 12, the last day of

campaigning. The highlight of all these programmes was of employees conducting a 'ksheerabhishekam (pouring milk on the por-traits of Mr Rao and K.T. Rama Rao) as a thanksgiving gesture for sops which were more than

Budget session under Covid-19 guidelines

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

The budget session of the Telangana state legislature will be held under Covid-19 safety protocols and restrictions, including strict physical distancing norms that were in place for the monsoon session in September

The session involving both the houses will commence on March 15. Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy reviewed the arrangements on Wednesday. Special seating arrangements have been made to ensure physical distancing between legislators.

"All the Covid-19 restrictions in force during the September 2020 session will be enforced now. All the MLAs and staff of the assem-

bly have to undergo Covid tests. They will be allowed to attend the budget session only if their test reports are negative," Speaker Srinivas Reddy said.

He said instructions were issued to the security staff to not allow any gathering of people in assembly premises. The restrictions on media will continue. Media personnel have to undergo Covid tests and only those with negative reports are allowed entry.

Gunmen and the personal staff of MLAs will not be allowed inside the assembly premises. Ministers can bring personal secretaries as they have to assist ministers in providing information on their departments to answer queries raised by the Opposition parties.

Officials expect more youth to take Metro

From Page 1

Officials note that with the prices of petrol and diesel rising, many cannot afford to take their vehicles out on a daily basis. Within the city, long-distance journeys will thus be more by metro rail rather than by private vehicles, they reckon.

Commuters say they have been safe and careful and followed all the safety protocols. Nausheen Ali working in the healthcare sector Madhapur says, "Travel by Metro is safe. It also helps us save time and avoid delays due to congestion in central city areas.

Many marketing executives who travel a lot inside the city say they prefer this mode. Yet there are problems of end-point connectivity at metro stations. Officials say it will take time to restore these. They urge commuters to book their transport via apps so that there is no queu-ing up of other vehicles near metro stations.

The workforce in the information technology sector is continuing to work from home. This meant a part of the crowd in Metro trains is now missing. In the pre-Covid days, Friday evenings saw Metro trains packed to full as IT professionals moved towards Uppal and LB Nagar and on to their homes in the city outskirts. This scenario is missing now. With vaccination reaching all segments of the population in coming months, more youths would return to the Metro mode.

Metro officials feel this is time to restore confidence among commuters. They are trying to increase the footfalls in station areas of Panjagutta by organising festivals for shopping and enter-

State reports 189 new Covid cases, 2 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

Around 189 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths were reported in the state, taking the total number of positive cases to 3,00,342 and the toll to

Meanwhile, the government has urged all those who are vaccinated to continue wearing masks in public places

and not give up on safety protocols. According to the latest GHMC limits, Karimnagar 10, Medchal Malkajgiri 12 and Ranga Reddy 15.

The total active cases in the state are 1,780. Around 39,000 tests were conducted and people have been asked to follow the protocols of masks, hand washing and social distanc-

Al-Beruni centre adopts Aloor village

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)'s Al-Beruni Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy has adopted Aloor village in Chevella mandal of Ranga Reddy district as part of the centre's

Programme (IAP). In this regard, Al-Beruni director Prof. Afroz Alam said a team of the centre visited Government Primary School (Telugu Medium) and Government High School (Urdu Medium) at the village to sensitise teachers and students about the need for inclusive educa-

Sniffer Teena gets tearful farewell

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

Cyberabad police bid a tearful adieu to sniffer dog 'Teena' with a guard of honour on Wednesday.

Teena, a Cocker Spaniel (female) served Cyberabad Police Commissionerate for ten years and died due to illness

here on Wednesday. Teena was involved in a number of regular duties and routine checks of all VIPs, VVIPs, anti-sabotage checks, RGIA helipad checks and emergency threat calls. She was deployed in cases like threat calls at JNTU and at Gandipet both in 2014, open house demo at Cyberabad parade ground and GMC Balayogi stadium in Gachibowli, Bio Diversity COP II in 2017 and Ivanka Trump visit at HICC.

Teena was second best during 2012 batch training at IITA Moinabad in explosive detection as a sniffer dog.



and paid their last respects to Teena with bands and three rounds of firing. "During her lifetime Teena

helped cops to detect whenever bomb threat calls were reported. As a sniffer dog, there were instances with the clues given by Teena, helped nail those making fake calls," said a statement from Cyberabad police.

nent during the tenures of Anurag Sharma, C.V. Anand and Sandeep Shandilya.

Her services were promi-

ernment on Wednesday

relaxed rules to facilitate

Aurobindo Reality own

controlling stake in two

ports — the existing Kakinada deep water port and the proposed Kakinada

There was an embargo on

acquiring the controlling

stake in two ports falling

within a distance of 75 km.

Infrastructure and invest-

ment special chief secre-

SEZ port.

the existing

POWER I START Relaxation allows Aurobindo Realty to own two ports

AP eases rule to help Aurobindo

tary Karikal Valaven issued orders relaxing the MENT took legal opin-N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC The Andhra Pradesh gov-

The state government took legal opinion from former Chief Justice of India V.N. Khare and advocate general S. Sriram before approving the Aurobindo's request for rule relaxation.

The government also allowed GMR group to buy back 26 per cent stake in the port project, though it sold its entire equity to Aurob-indo, to fulfill the condition that the original concessionaire of the port MENT took legal opinion from former Chief

Justice of India V.N. Khare and advocate general S. Sriram before approving the Aurobindo's request for rule relaxation.

project (GMR in this case) should not leave the project before two years of commencement of port opera-Aurobindo which initial-

ly acquired 51 per cent sake

Aurobindo will give a boost to the state's economy and create more job opportunities. of the GMR group in the proposed KSEZ and green-field port later managed to

DEFENDING ITS

decision, the state

government said the

proposed investment by

take over the remaining 49 per cent held by the K.V. Rao and associates, who are close to both the TD

ly sell his stake in the exist-ing deep water port. Both the legal experts, the former CJI and AG, opined that the government has power to make changes in the concession agreement when larger public interest is involved. Defending its decision, the government said the proposed investment by Aurobindo will give a boost to the state's economy and create jobs.

their expectations.

KITSW PROFESSOR GRANTED PATENT FOR HYDROPOWER

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, MARCH 10

Prof. Rajagopal Veeramalla, Dean academic affairs and Professor in Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal (KITSW), has been granted a patent for an invention entitled 'A Hydro Power System' patent was granted by the Patent Office, Government of India, said Capt V. Laxmikantha Rao, MP and secretary & correspon-

Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy explained that Mr Rajagopal has developed a decoupled electronic load controller for hydropower system using conductance algorithm, which decouples the active and reactive power, which avoids the de-rating of the generator and improves the life of

the machine. KITSW treasurer Narayana Reddy, Professors and HoDs, deans, faculty, staff PRO Dr D Prabhakara Chary and others congratulated him on being granted the patent.



17 bogus votes with one address points to scam

Officials found that a voter's name registered at more than one place

DC CORRESPONDENT KOTHAGUDEM, MARCH 10

Registration of 17 votes bearing one house number in Kothagudem exposed the bogus votes scam in Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency. Officials of the Election Commission are inquiring into the fraud.

The 17 votes have the address:8-3-19, Writers Basti, Kothagudem town and house Vasamalla Esuratnam is not even aware of the

He said, "There are three graduate voters in my family. I do not know how the additional 17 vot-

ers came in."
He said that the issue was taken to the notice of officials. The 17 'voters' Ramesh, Latha, Jayanthi, Imran, Aseeya, Santhi, Naveen Kumar, Nageswara Rao, Lavanya, Bhattu, Avinash, Anjum, Suneetha, Renuka, Suneetha, Renuka, Begum, Nageswara Rao and Jyothi.

Officials also found that the name of one person is registered at more than one polling station. The candidates of opposition parties are crying foul of All is not going well with TRS campaign for MLC

WARANGAL, MARCH 10

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) which ruled the roost in the state until the Assembly elections in 2018 has lost its dominance in the state, or so it seems if the recent election results are to be considered.

The party which thrived on the Telangana statehood sentiment is now accepting its failures in fulfilling its promises, partly blaming the coronavirus pandem-

ic.
To top it up, internal bickering in the party with unhappy leaders openly expressing their displeasure of the party leadership has become a cause of worry during the ensuing MLC elections for the Nalgonda-

the bogus registration. A candidate, who runs eduinstitutions,



Student leaders in Kakatiya University questioning Palla Rajeshwar Reddy when he went there to campaign recently.

Warangal-Khammam graduates' constituency.
This election turned out to be a hard nut to crack for the TRS with open dissent from both voters and even the party

goes for the campaign. Student leaders obstructed his campaign leaders. Party candidate recently.

joined these bogus voters. There are doubts about from the list and there deletion of the names sands of such votes in

three districts.
Stunned by the exposure, candidates are to meet election officials.

Independent candidate from Nalgonda Yarala Ashajyothi complained that there are 17,000 such bogus votes in the constituency. TJS candidate Prof. Kodandram said that he had issued a statement on the issue quite early and it is exposed now. He demanded the election commission to delete all bogus votes from the list.

BJP Khammam district president Galla Satyanar-ayana demanded the election officials to order a thorough enquiry and issue a fresh list before the election date. Congress candidate Ramulu Naik said that the Palla is known for such gimmicks and the officials should inquire into it.

BJP Khammam district president Galla Satyanarayana demanded the election officials to make thorough enquiry on the bogus votes and issue a fresh list before election date. Congress candidate Ramulu Naik said that the Palla is known for such gimmicks

PALLA KNOWN FOR 'PAIRAVIS': JITENDER

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, MARCH 10

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Jitender Reddy said Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency candidate Palla Rajeswar Reddy earned money by making

"Pairavis" by working as an attender in CM office. He said that Palla will continue such things if he is elected a

second time.
"The MLC did not respond to any issue of the graduate voters or employees. The voters should think twice," the BJP leader said.



CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for "Operation & Maintenance of Pig Casting Machine (PCM), Torpedo Ladle Repair shop (TLRS) & Sand Pit area of Blast Furnace for a period of 2

Chhattisgarh state. The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from NMDC website http://www.nmdc.co.in, Central Public Procurement porta (CPP PORTAL) http://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app and MSTC portal http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/ from 11.03.2021 to

years for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No.: NMDC/HO/135/20-21/ET/878 The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website/CPF

Portal/MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date. For further clarification, the following can be contacted: Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad,

Fax No.: +91-040-23534746, Tel No.: +91-040-23532800,

हर एक काम देश के नाम

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA NTPC RAMAGUNDAM

Walk In Interview

Walk-in-Interview is to be conducted in the school premises at KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, NTPC Ramagundam for preparation of panel for filling in vacant posts on purely temporary and on contractual basis for the academic year 2021-22. Schedule for

S No.	Post and Subject(s)	Date and time of walk in interview
1	PGT(English/Hindi/Maths/Physics/ Chemistry/Biology/Computer Science/	23.03.2021 10:00 AM
	Economics/Commerce) &	onwards
	Primary Teachers	
2	TGT(English/Hindi/Maths/Science/	24.03.2021
	Social Science/ Sanskrit) &	10:00 AM
	Computer Instructor/ Dance coach/	onwards
	Sports coach/ Yoga Tr./ Educational	
	Counsellor/Data Entry Operator	

Candidates are requested to get registered by 10:00 AM on the day of interview. For eligibility, payment and more details, please visit to https://ramagundamntpc.kvs.ac.in/

PRINCIPAL

Agents exploit redgram farmers

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, MARCH 10

Redgram and bengalgram (chana) farmers are at the market facility for them to sell their produce at reasonable prices. The farmers say middlemen are exploiting

The state government has not fixed purchase rates for redgram and bengalgram crops. It is planning to close down market yards in June in view of the arrival of three new farm laws at the behest of the Central gov-

There is no supervision by officials in the purchase of redgram by middlemen. Middlemen and businessmen are directly going to villages and purchasing redgram from farmers.

Rich businessmen are buving redgram and chana in villages from the small and marginal farmers who could not afford to pay transport expenses for their small quantities. Big farmers whose yield crossed 20 quintals are also selling their produce in Maharashtra.

The middlemen who purchased produce from the small and marginal farmers are taking the same in vehicles and selling them for higher prices at the auction

centres in Maharashtra.
Farmer Rupesh Reddy of
Bela mandal who got 35
quintals of the yield of ben-

galgram from his four-acre land said he took a loan of ₹1 lakh from middlemen with a promise this would be paid back after selling his yield.

He says small and marginal farmers are the losers in the process of removing the market yards and the gov-ernment has also stopped purchasing the crops from farmers. This is giving scope for private traders to exploit

men pay the money immediately after they make the purchase at Hinganghat, Maharas-htra.

Some farmers from here are therefore going to Hingaghat to sell theirredgram at the rate of ₹6,300 per quintal. There is no need for any patta passbook to sell the produce. Chana is being sold for ₹4,800 and private traders are buying the produce from farmers in the vil-

produce in the market.

There is no fixed price for redgram.

Micro artist carves Shiva Linga

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, MARCH 10

On the occasion of Mahashivaratri a young micro artist from Warangal, Thatikonda Srijith of Arunodaya Colony in Gopalpur of Hanamkonda carved Shiva Lingam and Trishul height 6mm and 8mm



2nd year in a private Polytechnic college in Rampur previously carved many such micro sculptures and also found a place in the Credence Book of international records.

Srijith, who is persuing diploma

It took him 1 hour 45 minutes to carve these on

He also made a Shiva Lingam made of quilling newspapers in 6 hours of

Palla Rajeshwar Reddy

has been experiencing public ire wherever he

University

Srijith, who is persuing diploma 2nd year in a private Polytechnic college in Rampur previously carved many such micro sculptures and also found a place in the Credence Book of international records.

Srijith was inspired by his uncle Raju Muthoju, a goldsmith.

Cipla

ENERGY TO **KEEP YOU GOING LONGER...**

• Restores Electrolytes Contains Vitamin C **Electrolytes** Vitamin C **Boosts Energy** Pack for representation purpose only. Cipia is the registered trademark of Cipia Limited used under a [non-exclusive] license from Cipia Limited

SUB-RESERVE POLICE HQ AT BHAINSA: DIG

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, MARCH10

Inspector-General Police, North Zone, Y. Nagireddy on Wednesday said they are preparing an action plan including various preventive measures and setting up a permanent sub- reserve police head-quarters in the Bhainsa

The top police officials said they are also planning to use preventive detention of persons involving in communal clashes and also use externment procedure against the persons involving in communal clashes that are broke out often over petty issues in the Bhainsa town. Discussions are going at the government level to set up a permanent sub- reserve police headquarters

Bhainsa. Nagireddy said they are making efforts to permanent create a structure.

EMPLOYEES TO GET MORE PRC THAN them.
It is learnt that business-WARANGAL, MARCH 10

It is noted that in order to meet urgent medical and other expenses, farmers take money from lenders by promising to repay it after selling their redgram and chana yield. Government agency Markfed is not coming to the rescue of farmers by arguing that farmers are getting a good price for their

But, the ground situation is different from what Markfed officials project. **NEIGHBOURING STATE: ERRABELL** DC CORRESPONDENT ments." to influence peo-

Panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao assured the government employees that the PRC to be announced by the government would be one or two per cent more than the neighbouring state.

Addressing a press conference here Wednesday, he said the PRC will not disappoint the government employ-

Retorting to comments of opposition party leaders, he said that the leaders are making brainless comments that if the TRS loses these two MLC seats, the government will collapse. "How will the government fall if we lose these MLC seats?" he questioned.

He addied, "People who cannot bring the Wagon factory in Kazipet are making instigating comState planning commis-

sion Vice President Boinapally Vinod Kumar said Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is positive to solve the prob-

Minister Finance Nirmala Sitharaman parliament

Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar was present among others.

Narendra Modi and the

themselves said in the relangana state is going in the direction of development in the country. While the state is positive to solve the problems of the employees, some have made false propaganda. Once the election code is exhausted, the problems of the unions will be resolved to give the PRC, he said.

Government

PROPERTY ohr@gmail.com S/2021/C02607) INDEPENDENT HOUSE

INDEPENDENT HOUSE: Sq.yds, Old House, 3 Rooms Slab+ 3 Rooms Penku, 35,000/- per Sq.yard, Beside Hayagreevachary Compound, Srinivasa Colony Balasamudram, Hanmakonda Warangal. Ph:9949424759 Warangal. Ph:9949424759, 9989749355. (HYCL/2021/C03256)

SITUATION VACANT

ENGINEERS

FOR SALE

WANTED MECHANICAL engineer for patancheru Hyderabad factory with 10years experience in fabrication, erection, auto cad, machining and labour resource @18000PM all inclusive interested ed candidate apply ztvpltd@gmail.com 9515668101. (HYMM/2021/C07948)

MANAGERS

WANTED FOR an Automobile dealership Company based at Nellore: 1)Asst. Accounts Manager having minimum 5 years experience. Good knowl-edge in Tally. 2)Admin/ Operations Manager having minimum 5 years experience. Computer knowledge required. Candidates outside Nellore

must be willing to relocate to Nellore on being selected. Ph:8096696647. Mail CV to vlau-

BUSINESS OFFER

EARN DAILY through sharemarket, MCX commodity, Realestate, Kirana, FMCG, E-commerce, OTT Webseries, Production movies & films, 8247510478/ 7659977788

WANTED ACTIVE Partners (MBBS, M.D, Super Specialists Doctors) to Run a Well Furnished Hospital, 1st Mogalirajapuram, Vijayawada, Near Magic Sweet Shop. Contact Dr.M.N.Rao Dermatologist Barbie Skin Laser Clinic. Ph:9849746252. (B/2021/C01129)

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 Educational Problem/ Guidance. Shiksha Bharti, Varanasi, Email:shikshabharti88@yahoo.com Mob:9519759663, 9915103781. (HYMM/2021/C07950)

NOTICE Readers are advised make appropriate enquiries

while responding to adver tisements 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

Chronicle

KARIMNAGAR H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhutkur Road, Mugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186

DISPALY / CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS 9121183123, 90006 50508

COPIES / SUBSCRIPTION 9100715345, 90004 20630



DECCAN CHRONICLE | KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 11 MARCH 2021









Khattar govt wins first no-trust vote

After 6-hour discussions, Speaker said 55 members voted against motion, 32 backed it

Chandigarh, March 10: The BJP-JJP government in Haryana survived the floor test on Wednesday, comfortably defeating the no-confidence motion moved against it by the main opposition Congress. The motion was defeated

following division of votes.
At the end of a marathon six-hour discussion on the motion, Speaker Gian Chand Gupta announced in the House that 55 members the House that 55 members had voted against the motion while 32 legislators had backed it.

In place of secret voting, which former chief minister B.S. Hooda had earlier demanded in the House, the Speaker first asked the members favouring the motion to rise from their seats and those against it were asked to stand.

A headcount was done later. The 55 members who voted against the motion included 39 from the BJP, 10 of ally Jannayak Janta

of ally Jannayak Janta Party, five Independents and Gopal Kanda from Haryana Lokhit Party. The BJP has 40 members in the Assembly which includes the Speaker. Thirty members of the Congress and two
Independents — Balraj
Kundu and Sombir
Sangwan — who had earlier
withdrawn support, backed
the motion the motion.

The opposition camp would have needed 45 members to win the no confidence motion. In the 90member Haryana Assembly, currently having an effective strength of 88 members, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has 40 members, the JJP 10 and the Congress 30. Seven are Independents, five of whom are support-

ing the government, while one member is of the Haryana Lokhit Party. While the ruling BJP-JJP was batting on a comfortable wicket with numbers on their side, moving the motion, the first no-trust vote which 16-month old Khattar government faced, Leader of Opposition Hooda claimed the ruling dispensation has lost peo-ple's trust.

He also said it would expose those who were claiming to stand in favour of farmers if they vote against the motion.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee holds on to her injured leg after her campaign trial at Nandigram in

Jolt to Cong. in Kerala as P.C. Chacko resigns

NEW DELHI / THIRUVANAN-

The Congress on Wednesday received a jolt with its senior leader from the poll bound state of Kerala P.C. Chacko calling it quits from the party. He sent in his resignation to the party chief Sonia Gandhi.

He said, "I have quit Congress and sent my resignation to the party's interim chief Sonia Gandhi. I had been deliberating upon this decision for the past many days. I come from Kerala where there's no Congress party as such. There are two parties — Congress (I) and Congress (A). It's a coordination com-(A). It's a coordination committee of two parties functioning as the Kerala Congress unit. The "A" group was headed by former chief minister Oommen Chandy and the "I" group by state chief Ramesh Chamithala and Ramesh Chennithala and these groups had been

He further charged the Congress of not having

active for many years.

'There is no democracy left in Congress. The list of candidates has not been discussed with the state Congress committee. There are no panels for any dis-cussions on polls, winnability of candidates. There have always been factions in parties, even in the Congress, but there is no point anymore," he added.

The recommendations of the groups being placed at the screening committee were being meekly accepted by the central leadership. "Under these ship. circumstances there was no point in continuing in the Congress," he said.

Chacko, however, ruled out possibility of joining the BJP. "The BJP has no future in Kerala. It is not a party that is widely acceptable among the people of Kerala," he said.

The Congress high command is already feeling the

pressure from the letter writers group who wanted change in the party and the latest allegation from Chacko has only added to



U.S. 'HYPING UP' TAIWAN INVADE THREAT: CHINA

Beijing, March 10: China on Wednesday accused a top US commander of attempting to "hype up" the threat of an invasion of Taiwan to inflate Washington's defence spend and justify its own military

chicanery in Asia.
The US' top military officer in Asia-Pacific, Admiral Philip Davidson, on Tuesday said China could invade Taiwan within the next six years, as Beijing accelerates its moves to supplant American military power in Asia. "Some US people continue to use the Taiwan issue to hype up China's military threat," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing.

PLAN TO ATTACK JEWS: MAN HELD IN SINGAPORE

Singapore, March 10: Singa pore has detained a full-time national serviceman (NSF) for planning to carry out a knife attack against Jews at a local synogogue, according to a media report on Wednesday.

Singaporean Amirull Ali, 20, had also made plans to travel to Gaza, Palestine, to join the military wing of Hamas in its fight against Israel, the Internal Security Department said.

Amirull was self-radicalised with a deep hatred for Israel after being convinced that Palestinians were being oppress ed in the Israel-Palestine conflict, the ISD said.

He was arrested on February 5 while he was an NSF, a compulsory military service for young Singaporeans in the Singapore Armed Forces.

N. KOREAN TO **BE EXTRADITED** TO THE U.S.

Kuala Lumpur, March 10: Malaysia's top court ruled that a North Korean man can be extradited to the United States to face money laundering charges, rejecting his assertion that the US charge was politically motivated.

The Federal Court on Tuesday refused to accept Mun Chol Myong's arguments because i was not a trial, and agreed with a lower court that prosecutors had followed procedures, said defence lawyer Gooi Soon Seng.

Mun, who is in his 50s, has lived in Malaysia for a decade and was arrested in May 2019 after US authorities requested his extradition.

Malaysia's government apprchallenged the US bid.

NON-MUSLIMS CAN USE 'ALLAH': MALAYSIA COURT

Kuala Lumpur, March 10: A Malaysian court ruled on Wednesday that non-Muslims can use the word "Allah" to refer to God, in a major decision in a divisive issue for religious freedom in the Muslim-

majority country. The High Court decision squashed a 35-year-old government ban on the usage of Allah and three other Arabic words by Christian publications, deeming the ban unconstitutional, said the plaintiff's lawyer, Annou Xavier. The government has previously said Allah should be reserved exclusively for Muslims to avoid confusion that could lead them to convert to other religions, a stance that is unique to Malaysia and hasn't been an issue in other Muslimmajority nations.

YOUTHS ATTACK ATHENS PS WITH PETROL BOMBS

Athens, March 10: Greek youths protesting an incident of police violence attacked an Athens police station with petrol bombs and severely injured one officer on Tuesday

The violence came during a march by several thousand people in the southern Nea Smyrni district. Greek media said dozens of people attacked a motorcycle police officer with stones and clubs, severely

Earlier, police said they had confiscated quantities of petrol bombs at the beginning of the protest. They said several participants in the march were armed with iron bars The march to the Nea Smyrni police station was in reaction to an incident on Sunday during police enforcement of virus lockdown measures in a square in the Nea Smyrni area.

Royal remarks raise race issue in C'wealth

ties to Britain, allegations by Prince Harry and Meghan that an unnamed member of the royal family had "concerns" over how dark their unborn baby's skin might be have raised a thorny question: Do those nations really want to be so closely connected to Britain and its royal family anymore? It was expected the interview would expose more rifts in the royal family. Now it seems to be risking divisions within the "family" of the Commonwealth - an association of 54 countries, most of them former British colonies, held togeth-

For decades, Queen Elizabeth II has been the driving force behind the Commonwealth. After the TV interview, shown in the US on the eve of Commonwealth Day, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull cited it as another reason for the country to sever its constitutional ties to the British monarchy.

er by historic ties.

"After the end of the queen's reign, that is the time for us to say: OK, we've passed that watershed," Turnbull told Austr-

another diplomatic dip on

Wednesday when the EU

envoy in London was su-

mmoned to explain com-

ments that Britain had

issued a vaccine export

ban. The United Kingdom

was so irate about Tuesd-

ay's comments from Euro-

pean Council President

Charles Michel that Brita-

in had "imposed an outri-

ght ban on the export of

the ambassador for a

morning meeting.

vaccines," that it called in

A British government

statement said that it

"has not blocked the ex-

port of a single Covid-19

to a UK export ban or any

restrictions on vaccines are completely false." The

spat comes against a ba-

ckground that the Covid-

19 vaccination drive in

Britain is seen as a huge

success while that in the

27-nation bloc has been a

The United Kingdom

has given about 35 per

cent of its adults a vacci-

ne shot while the EU is fu-

rther back with 9.5 per

major failure.

references

Any

Cape Town, March 10: In countries with historic UK TALK SHOW **HOST QUITS OVER MEGHAN COMMENT**

London, March 10: British talk show host Piers Morgan has quit the show 'Good Morning Britain' after making controversial comments about the

Duchess of Sussex.
The UK's media watchdog said earlier Tuesday that it was launching an investigation into the show under its harm and offence rules after receiving more than 41.000 complaints about his comments on Meghan.

alian Broadcasting Corp. "Do we really want to have whoever happens to be the head of state, the king or queen of the UK, automatically our head of state?" The value of the Commonwealth has been debated before, with critics questioning if countries and people once colonised — and even oppressed - should remain in such

mer coloniser.

INSTITUTIONS

Islamabad, March 10:

Pakistan announced on

Wednesday that all educa-

tional institutions in citi-

es worst hit due to the

Coronavirus pandemic

will be closed down from

March 15 for two weeks

due to a surge in Covid-19

EU-UK ties dip

ban' comments

Brussels, March 10:
Relations between the European Union and recently departed Britain took

over 'vaccine

an association with a for-

Protesters adapt tactics after Myanmar police use violence

Forces' crackdown has failed to slow protests against the Feb. 1 coup

Mandalay, March 10: Protesters against the military takeover in Myanmar carried homemade shields and moved with more caution and agility Tuesday, adapting their tactics to the escalating violence from security forces not reluctant to use lethal force to break up crowds.

In Mandalay, the nation's second-largest city, about a thousand demonstrators emerged onto the streets, those in the vanguard carrying shields marked with a three-fingered salute, the movement's symbol of defiance. They marched for just a few minutes before dispersing to avoid a possible confrontation with riot police. Another group made a mobile protest, driving through the streets on motorbikes.

Security forces trying to stop people from gather-ing have used water cannons, tear gas and rubber bullets most often, but also have fired live ammunition at crowds. The crackdown has left more than 60 protesters dead but has failed to slow the widespread protests against the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

A school principal involved in the protest movement died Tuesday from unknown causes after being taken into custody by security forces, according to media reports and an activist who knew him. The death of Zaw Myat Lin in custody was the second in recent days. -AP



Anti-coup protesters retreat from the frontlines after discharging fire extinguishers towards a line of riot policemen in Yangon, Myanmar, on Wednesday.

MYANMAR SECURITY forces on Wednesday raided the Mingalar Taung Nyunt neighbourhood in Yangon that houses state

railway workers who have gone on strike to protest the coup. Photos, video showed officers blocking streets and people escaping. At least three arrests

BIMSTEC MEET: LANKA INVITES MYANMAR FM, TRIGGERS ROW

Colombo, March 10: Sri Lanka has invited the new foreign minister of Myanmar's junta to the BIMST-EC ministerial meeting next month, triggering a controversy that it is endorsing the military coup in that nation. Sri Lanka has neither endorsed or rejected the recognition of the

FBI releases new video after

military regime which topped Myanmar's elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi's government on Feb. 1, just as it was to start its second term. The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule. Sri Lanka's FM Dinesh

military regime's FM Wunna Maung Lwin, for a virtual meeting of the FMs of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC) on April 1. -PTI

Yusuf Raza Gilani

PAK HC REJECTS

ected a petition by Prime

Minister Imran Khan's

af party challenging for-

mer premier Yusuf Raza

Gilani's upset win in the Senate elections, ruling

that it was not appropri-

drag" the judiciary in

Democratic

political matters.

PLEA AGAINST

Biden administration will not defend Trump immigration rule

Chicago, March 10: A Trump-era immigration rule denying green cards to immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps was dealt likely fatal blows Tuesday after the Biden administration dropped legal challenges, including before the Supreme Court.

cases in the country. Education Minister Sh-Continuing to defend the afqat Mahmood announcrule "is neither in the public interest nor an efficient ed the decision after the use of limited government National Command and resources," the US Department of Homeland Securi-Control Centre (NCOC) reviewed the Coronavirus said in a statement. The Supreme Court won't weiinstitutions. gh in on the legality of the so-called public charge rule because of an agreement by the Biden administracent. Already uneasy bed-

tion and the parties and fellows during Britain's 47 years of EU memberstates challenging it. The Justice Department ship, thing got progressively worse since the 2016 also dropped objections to a ruling before the 7th US referendum when the United Kingdom voted to Circuit Court of Appeals, leave the bloc. After acriupholding a federal judge's

bombs left at RNC, DNC offices Washington, March 10: US Capitol Police and age-The FBI has released new nts from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobac-

video showing someone placing two pipe bombs outside the offices of the Republican and Democratic national committees the night before the Jan. 6 riot at the US Capitol.

The explosive devices were placed outside the two buildings between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5 and were located by law enforcement the next day.

ves were called to the Republican National Committee's office around 12:45 p.m. on Jan. 6. as the agents and bomb technicians were still investigating at the RNC, another call came in for a sim-

outgrowth of the Biden mer President Donald administration's effort to Trump administration immigration pocommunities. licies. The new administration recently dismissed

Trump's effort to deny funding to so-called sanctuary

ilar explosive device fou-

nd at the Democratic Nati-

co, Firearms and Explosi-

The justices, at the administration's request, also put off cases they had

agreed to hear over the funding of portions of the wall along the border with Mexico and the policy of forcing asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their

GILANI POLL WIN rters nearby. The bombs were rendered safe, and no Islamabad, March 10: one was hurt. The video, released Tue-The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday rej-

sday, shows a person in a gray hooded sweatshirt, a face mask and gloves appearing to place one of the explosives under a bench outside the DNC and separately shows the person walking in an allev near the RNC before the bomb was placed there.

Gilani, who contested the Senate election as a Pakistan Movement (PDM) candihearings.

date, defeated ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate and Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh by securing 169 votes against 164 votes by Shaikh on Wednesday, giving a major blow to Prime Minister Imran Khan who had personally campaigned for his Cabinet colleague. The Opposition had demanded the prime

minister's resignation after the debacle following which Khan decided to take a vote of confidence on Saturday which he won comfortably. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) heard a plea by PTI lawmaker Ali Nawaz.

YAHYA SINWAR **RE-ELECTED GAZA HAMAS CHIEF**

Gaza City, March 10: Yahya Sinwar was re-elected Wednesday as the head of Hamas's political wing in Gaza, extending his tenure as the Islamist movement's de facto leader in the Israeliblockaded Palestinian enclave, Hamas said.

Sinwar, a former commander of Hamas's military branch, served more than two decades in an Israeli prison before he was released in 2011 as a part of a prisoner exchange. First elected to the post

in 2017, he faced four challengers this time, including Nizar Awadallah, the former head of Hamas's advisory Shura Council. Hamas's overall chief Ismail Haniveh. currently based in Qatar, congratulated Sinwar in a statement. "The movement's commitment to (internal) elections (internal) elections every four years con-firms our deep faith in the principle of rotating power," Haniyeh said.

Sinwar's re-election comes ahead of May 22 Palestinian legislative polls. The Islamist group is considered a terrorist organisation by much of the Western world.

No China role in Dalai succession: US

high court appeals over for-

The Chinese government should have no role in the succession process of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, the Biden Administration said on

monious departure talks,

the split became official

last year.

"We believe that the Chinese government should have no role in the succession process of the Dalai Lama," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his freedom," Price said. daily news conference. "Beijing's interference in

November order striking

down the rule nationwide.

The moves were the latest

the succession of the Panchen Lama more than 25 years ago, including by 'disappearing' the Panchen Lama as a child and attempting to replace him with a PRC (People's Republic of China) government-chosen successor, it remains an outra-

Previous president Donald Trump in December

had signed into law a bill which called for establishing a US consulate in Tibet and building an international coalition to ensure that the next Dalai Lama is appointed solely by the Tibetan Buddhist community without China's interference.

appropriate measures to hold accountable senior officials of the Chinese government or the Chinese Communist Party who directly interfere with the identification and installation of the future 15th Dalai Lama of Tibetan Buddhism, successor to the 14th Dalai Lama, the act said.

Panchen Lama more than 25 years ago, including by 'disappearing' the Panchen Lama and attempting to replace him with a government-chosen successor, it remains an abuse of religious freedom. - NED PRICE

Beijing's interference in the succession of the

State Dept Spokesperson

It is the policy of the geous abuse of religious **NEW I STUDY** During intervals without virus curbs, infection rates were four per cent higher

Higher airborne pollen levels behind Covid risk

concentration of airborne pollen is associated with increased novel Coronavirus infection rates, according to a study that used data from 31 countries across five continents.

Researchers at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the Helmholtz Zentrum Munchen in Germany noted that people in high-risk groups can protect themselves by watching pollen forecasts and wearing dust filter masks. The team collected data on airborne pollen concentrations, weather conditions and SARS-CoV-

Berlin, March 10: Higher consideration the variation of infection rates from one day to another, and the total number of positive tests. The researchers also included data on population density and the effects of lockdown measures.

The study, published in the journal *Proceedings of* the National Academy of Sciences, analysed pollen data from 130 stations in 31 countries on five continents. The team showed that airborne pollen can account for, on average, 44 per cent of the variation in infection rates, with humidity and air temperature also playing a role in some cases.

in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, analysed pollen data from 130 stations in 31 countries on five continents.

During intervals without lockdown regulations, inf ection rates were on average four per cent higher with every increase of 100 grains of airborne pollen per cubic metre, the researchers said. In some German cities, concentrations of up to 500 pollen grains per cubic metre per day led to an overall increase in infection rates of more

than 20 per cent, they said. However, in the regions where lockdown rules were in effect, the infection numbers were on average only half as high at comparable pollen concentrations, according to the study. The researchers explained that high pollen concentrations lead to a weaker immune response in airways to viruses that can cause coughs and colds. They noted that when a virus enters the body, infected cells usually send out messenger proteins, adding this is also the case

with SARS-CoV-2. These proteins, known as antiviral interferons,

signal nearby cells to escalate their antiviral defences to keep the invaders at bay. Additionally, an appropriate inflammation response is activated to fight the viruses, according to the researchers. However, the researchers

said, if airborne pollen concentrations are high, and pollen grains are inhaled with the virus particles, fewer antiviral interferons are generated. The beneficial inflammatory response itself is also affected, they said. The study suggests that high concentration of pollen can lead to an increase in the number of respiratory illness-

es, including Covid-19. Whether individuals are allergic to the different pollen types is irrelevant, the researchers said. "You cannot avoid exposure to airborne pollen," says Stefanie Gilles, first author of the study. "People in highrisk groups should, therefore, be informed that high levels of airborne pollen concentrations lead to an increased susceptibility to viral respiratory tract infections," Gilles said.

The researchers noted that when studying the spread of SARS-CoV-2, environmental factors such as pollen must be taken into

2 infections, taking into

Hyderabad FC rope in Hitesh

Hyderabad: Young midfielder Hitesh Sharma has signed a two-year contract extension with Indian Super League (ISL) side Hyderabad FC, the club said on Wednesday. "I am really proud and happy to

have signed this contract with Hyderabad FC," said Hitesh. "I believe that we have the best players, the best management and the best coaches we can ask for at the club and I hope to continue the hard work for years to come," he added. The 23-year-old, who joined Hyderabad FC in January 2020, played a crucial role in the side's fight for a place in the top-4 this league campaign. He made 15 appearances (13 starts) and grew into a regular in the first team under head coach Manolo Marquez this season. He played a total of 1,060 minutes in the season, which remains his busiest league campaign in his career. - PTI

Mohammedan SC held by Punjab

Kolkata: Punjab FC snatched a remarkable 3-3 draw after Mohammedan SC scored two goals in as many minutes in the second half in a thrilling I-League clash here on Wednesday, Chencho Gleytshen's brace was cancelled out by Faisal Ali and Pedro Manzi strikes in the second half. Azharuddin Mallick then gave Mohammedan the lead again only for Ashish Jha to score the equaliser for Punjab in the 88th minute. Punjab FC showed intent and played like they had to prove something, in the opening minutes of the match. In the 34th minute. Chencho headed home from inside of the box after he was found by a Pritam Singh cross. Punjab FC wasted little time in the second half and doubled their lead just seconds into the half. In the 46th minute, Chencho was found by a cross and the forward unleashed a swirling finesse shot that

Indian team set for Le Mans race

crashed into the back of

the net. - PTI

New Delhi: Racing Team India is set to become the first all-Indian-driver team to race in the iconic 24 Hours of Le Mans, after having been granted a provisional entry for this year's edition of the twice-round-the-

The team, which features an all-Indian driver line up of Narain Karthikeyan, Arjun Maini and Naveen Rao, will compete in the LMP2-AM category of the iconic race. The No. 74 be prepared and run by Eurasia Motorsport, making it a trueblue Asian effort.

Padma Shri awardee and India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan said, "This is a proud moment not just for our team, but for our nation as a whole. Racing at Le Mans with an Indian team is a dream I have nurtured since 2009 when I first visited the Circuit de la Sarthe. I would like to thank all of our sponsors and partners, and especially the ACO and the

Sharath crashes in quarterfinals

Doha: Veteran Sharath Kamal

Asian Le Mans Series team.

bowed out of the World Table **Tennis Star Contender series** after going down in straight games to World No. 12 Dmitrii Ovtcharov in the men's singles pre-quarterfinals here on Wednesday. Sharath, ranked 32nd, lost 9-11 8-11, 6-11 to the German in a lop-sided contest. Sharath showed consistency in the first game against Dmitrij, who recently won the WTT Contenders title, and came

close. But he could never get under the skin of a man who was in superb form. He looked good again the second but could not overcome the blues. In the end, the third game was so easy for the German that he didn't need to

make any extra effort to com-plete the task. Dmitrij will take on Swede Anton Kallberg in the quarterfinals on Thursday. - PTI



CRICKET

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Semifinal from 9 am on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Round of 16. 1st leg — Slavia Praha vs Rangers from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 1; Manchester United vs AC Milan from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2: Dinamo Zagreb vs Tottenham Hotspur from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; Olympiakos vs Arsenal from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2; Roma vs Shakhtar Donetsk from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six, HD

NATS AND BOLTS

Varun fails fitness test as injured Natarajan is at NCA

Leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy's failure to clear fitness tests has ruled him out while pacer T. Natarajan is racing against time to be battleready, making him doubtful for at least the early part of India's five-match T20 series against T20 series against England starting here on Friday.

Chakravarthy has repeatedly failed to clear the fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru while yorker specialist Natarajan is yet to join the squad here due to an apparent "shoulder niggle".

"Varun Chakravarthy was selected because he recovered from his shoulder injury that ruled him out of the Australia series. He did his rehab at the NCA and started throwing normally.

"However, he has failed to clear the YoYo test mark stipulated for a 2km run at least twice," a senior BCCI source said.

The question now being asked is why did the Chetan Sharma led committee select such a player, who, after the month of October, hasn't played even one competitive game for his state Tamil

"We can understand he was doing his rehab during Mushtaq Ali (T20 Championship). But then again, he didn't play a single Vijay Hazare Trophy game. How do you assess his match fitness based on games that he played five months back? I guess Varun Chakravarthy is a lesson for selectors," said

the source.

"If a player is generally not maintaining the standards set by this Indian team, his bowling alone can't be a criteria for selection," the source added.

It is learnt that Rahul Chahar will be inducted in the squad as he is already in the bio-bubble since the start of the Test

In case of Natarajan, the NCA medical staff is trying to get him fit or at



India pacer T. Natarajan in this file photo

series. Rahul Tewatia is training with the Indian team in Ahmedabad as he awaits his second fitness Γest results.

INDIA LEAP TO NO.2 IN T20 RANKINGS

India climbed a spot to second in the latest ICC men's T20 International team rankings ahead of a five-match series against top-placed England beginning on March 12.

England England are seven points ahead of India, who were third before the away series against Australia. Australia's 2-3 loss to New Zealand in a recent five-game series pushed the side below India with just one point.

In the T20 batting chart, India batsman KL Rahul lost a place to be at the spot but skipper third Virat Kohli retained his least the later part of the sixth position.

Southampton to host the India vs Kiwis WTC final

Dubai, March 10: The International Cricket Council on Wednesday Cricket formally announced that Southampton will host the inaugural World Test Championship final between India and New Zoolond in June and a lim Zealand in June and a limited number of fans could be allowed if the easing of lockdown in the UK con-

The game will be played inside a bio-secure bubble at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton from June 18-22. The venue was confirmed on Monday by BCCI President Sourav

"Should the UK government's phased easing of Covid-19 lockdown measures proceed as planned, it is anticipated that a limited number of fans will be allowed into the Hampshire Bowl to watch the final," the ICC statement read.

Initially, the final was supposed to be held at the Lord's but the ICC Board and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) decided to change the venue to ensure that the fixture could be staged safely with the potential impact of Covid-19 minimised for all involved.

selecting Hampshire Bowl, the ICC drew on ECB's experience of delivering a full summer of bio-safe international cricket in 2020.

"The venue provides world-class playing and training facilities, giving both teams the best possible environment in which

to prepare," the ICC said.
"The ICC WTC final is the pinnacle event in the calendar and is intended to be a week-long celebration of the oldest form of the game," Geoff Allardice, ICC General Manager, Cricket said.

Bach back as Olympic boss

Lausanne, March 10: International Olympic president Committee Thomas Bach promised to Tokyo Olympics this year as he was re-elected for a second term on Wednesday. As he opened the IOC Session, Bach said it was

no longer a question of whether the Olympics, which were postponed last year as the coronavirus pandemic spread around the globe, would take place but in what conditions

they will be held.
"Tokyo remains the best prepared Olympic city ever and at this moment, we have no reason to doubt that the opening ceremony will take place on July 23," Bach said

"The question is not whether, the question is how these Olympic Games will take place.

"The IOC is working at full speed together with our Japanese partners and friends to make the postponed Olympic Games a safe manifestation of peace, solidarity and resilience of humankind in overcoming the pandem-

Bach said his aim was to create "a safe, secure and fair environment for all the

athletes' The local Japanese organisers are due to announce by the end of the whether foreign



spectators will be allowed to attend the Games, although it is widely reported that they will be barred due to Covid-19 con-

Bach, 67, received unanimous backing in the election for IOC president in which he was the sole candidate, with 93 of the 94 valid votes from IOC members in favour of his reelection.

"Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for this overwhelming vote of confidence and trust," said Bach, sending out a 'virtual' hug to his supporters.

'This is more overwhelming given the reforms and difficult decisions we had to take.

"It's touching me deeply and also makes me hum-ble," the German said, describing his first eightyear mandate as "not so



Dortmund's Erling Haaland celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Sevilla during their Champions League match in Dortmund, Germany, on Tuesday. -AP

India are favourites for T20 World Cup: Buttler

Ahmedabad, 10: England white-ball vice-captain Jos Buttler feels hosts India, who are strong in every format of the game, are favourites for this year's T20 World

India will host the tournament in October and November.

"Going into World Cups, you probably look at hosts nations one specially as strong as India who are going to be favourites for that tournament," Buttler said.

"There are many excellent teams, in the last few World Cups hosts



Jos Buttler

nations have performed very well. India is of course strong in every format and T20 is no different and especially playing at home I see India as the favourites," Buttler added.

that confidence and gel together as a group and have that clarity ahead of

the World Cup.
"So, it's a fantastic opportunity for us as a side to be playing against India in World Cup con-

ditions," he added.
"This is a great benefit
for us. Being here and to play in Ahemdabad in the brand new stadium which may play a big part in the World Cup and no one has played here before. So it's a big advantage for us to learn and hopefully you wanna $\frac{1}{2}$ about conditions, and hopefully you wanna $\frac{1}{2}$ Buttler said. $\frac{1}{2}$ PT



Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli with teammates during a training session at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Porto end Juve campaign in CL

Turin (Italy), March 10: Ronaldo's Juventus crashed out of the Champions League in the Last 16 for the second year running on Tuesday. losing to 10-man Porto on away goals despite winning the second leg 3-2 in Turin.

Sergio Oliveira's extra-time free-kick sent twice former winners Porto through to the quarterfinals as the tie finished 4-4

on aggregate.
Leading 2-1 from the first leg in Portugal, Oliveira's first-half penalty increased Porto's advantage but Juventus levelled the tie through two goals

Oliveira then rifled home

a low free-kick on 115 minutes, which passed through the legs of Ronaldo, with Adrien Rabiot's header in reply coming in vain for Juventus. Meanwhile, Erling Braut

Haaland scored twice as Borussia Dortmund held off a late Sevilla fightback to reach the Champions League quarterfinals with a 'crazy, amazing' 5-4 aggregate win after a fran-

tic 2-2 second-leg draw. Haaland tapped in a firsthalf opener and scored a retaken penalty after the break at Signal Iduna Park.

IPL best prep for T20 WC: Billings

England wicket-keeper batsman Sam Billings feels the upcoming IPL will be good preparation for the T20 World Cup later this year but conceded that he will get limited game time due to the "phenomenal" competition in the Delhi Capitals'

squad.
"You look at the squad that Delhi have, and especially the overseas options: you could go with any combination and it would be a success-

ful one," Sam said. "The competition for places is phenomenal: they obviously got to the

Ahmedabad, March 10: but it comes back to the point of preparing for a World Cup and giving myself the best chance in these conditions to prepare for that.

Sam recalled the first time he got a glimpse of the flamboyant Rishabh Pant. "With Pant, I played

with him for 2 years when I was in Delhi. I turned to Rahul Dravid and asked 'who is this kid? He was smacking Nathan Coulter-Nile, Chris Morris, Rabada everywhere in the open net. I was just thinking 'this is unbelievable!' and that year he lit up. It's final last year, so game been great to see him time might be limited, evolve," Sam said. — PTI

PrintedTandTPublishedTfromTKarimnagarTbyTK.Sudhakar on

PrintedTandTPublishedTfromTKarimnagarTbyTK.Sudhakar on behalfTofT Deccan8Chronicle8Holdings8Limited atTTDeccan ChronicleTPress,T
H.No.T1-21/12/1,TCherlabhutkurTRoad,TMugdumpurTVillage,T KarimnagarT-1505T186T-TTTelanganaTStateTTT Regd.8No.8H/SD-2/2K RNITRegistrationTNo. APENG/2001/04766T
Ph:T9121181123TTTTGrams:TCHRONICLETTTTEditor:TKaushik Mitter

