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**Centre delays notifying 2 dists, hits hiring drive**

**KCR's plans to fill 50,000 vacancies end up in limbo**

L. VENKAT  
RAM REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

An "inordinate delay" on the part of the Central government in approving and notifying two newly formed districts in Telangana state has blocked the K. Chandrashekhar Rao-led state government's plans to take up recruitment drives to fill over 50,000 vacancies in various government departments, said a top official on condition of anonymity.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had on December 13, 2020, had announced the intent of the government to fill over 50,000 posts within three months. However, it has not made headway even after more than two months, the senior official pointed out.

The CM had reorganized 10 districts in Telangana state to 31 in 2016, besides augmenting the two zones into seven. He also created two multi-zones, all of which decisions the state government sent to the Union home ministry for approval.

Post the approval from

- **KCR'S DECISION** to create two more districts — Mulugu and Narayanpet — in 2019 has affected the existing zones, which require the Centre's approval and the Presidential assent.
- **SINCE THE** Centre did not approve the move yet, the state's recruitment process has come to a halt.

the ministry, it was sent to President Ram Nath Kovind for final approval. President Kovind approved the zonal changes in May 2018, after which the Centre issued a gazette notification immediately.

However, the Chief Minister decided to create two more districts in 2019 (Mulugu and Narayanpet), taking the total to 33. It was done to fulfil a poll promise ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls, due to strong demands from the local people. This affected the zones by shuffling some districts.

■ Page 5: Hiring without Prez nod will invite mess

## Biden's visa Bill to help many Indians

**Washington, Feb. 19:** In a major move that will benefit hundreds and thousands of Indian IT professionals in the US, the Biden administration has introduced an ambitious immigration bill in Congress which among other things proposes to eliminate the per-country cap for employment-based green cards.

The US Citizenship Act

■ Full report on Page 10

## GHMC PLANS TO REDESIGN CITY NALA NETWORK

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC

HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

After seven years, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has now decided to "redesign" the existing nala and storm water network, calling the project the Comprehensive Drainage Network Plan (CDNP). Zonal commissioners of GHMC have already spent between ₹5 crore and ₹6 crore for "conducting studies" and to "prepare a survey report".

The comprehensive design will cover the area within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits, and the project would be amalgamation of the Kirloskar and Voyants committee recommendations.

Sources in the corporation said that the "project would not be a practical solution", since it would eat up several areas adjoining city nalas, which would require and "force a displacement and disruption of livelihoods" of people in several colonies.

Interestingly, it rained suddenly on Thursday and Friday, a few days after Mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi said she would pray that it would not rain for the next five years.

After the Mayor's controversial wish, the IMD had predicted moderate rainfall in the next 48 hours, accompanied with gusty winds. With a weak drainage network presently, incessant rains could once again check the efficiency of the city nalas and expose the faultlines. GHMC had earlier conducted a nala survey in October 2016 and completed it in January 2017.

■ Page 5: Redesign project may be tough to implement

## 4 killed in Galwan clash, admits China

Indian, Chinese troops end confrontation at Pangong Tso; talks over other friction points today

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 19

Indian and Chinese troops have completed their disengagement from the most contentious friction point, Pangong Tso, in the Eastern Ladakh after nine months of an eyeball-to-eyeball military stand-off.

Corps Commanders from India and China will meet in Moldo on Saturday morning for the 10th round of talks to discuss disengagement at other friction points in Ladakh — Depsang plains and Gogra-Hotsprings.

On Friday, China for the first time officially acknowl-

edged that its four soldiers were killed and one officer was seriously injured during clashes with Indian troops in the Galwan Valley in June last year. The Indian Army had lost 20 soldiers including Col. B. Santosh Babu, the Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar, during the clash.

Earlier this week, Indian Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Y.K. Joshi had said that Indian observers had counted more than 60 Chinese casualties being picked up on stretchers and taken back after the clash.

"But whether they were fatal or non-fatal, we can't

say with authority. So I will not give a figure. But recently, TASS, the Russian (news) agency had put out a figure of 45 (Chinese soldiers killed during the clash) and I think that could be the figure we can look at," he had said.

As part of disengagement, both India and China have withdrawn around 200 tanks and armoured vehicles and troops from the north and south banks of Pangong Tso.

The pace of the disengagement — which started on January 10 — by the Chinese has taken many observers by surprise as the neighbouring country had appeared to have come for a long haul. China had built a large number of structures in the finger area on the north bank of Pangong Tso and had deployed a significant number of its troops.

■ Page 5: No patrol in disengagement zone



In this image taken from video footage run on Friday by China's CCTV via AP Video, Indian and Chinese troops face off in the Galwan Valley on the Line of Actual Control on June 15, 2020.

— AP



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Max: 27.8°C  
Min: 18.4°C  
RH: 93%  
Rainfall: 4.7 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Rain likely in parts of city.  
Max/Min temp. 29/19 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (14,132) DEATHS (+113)  
1,09,76,388 1,56,237

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+165)	(+1)
TS: 2,97,278	1,623
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## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

11,10,28,030
DEATHS 24,56,554
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219
<a href="http://worldometers.info/coronavirus">worldometers.info/coronavirus</a>

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttaryana  
Tithi: Magha Shuddha Astami till 1.29 pm

Star: Rohini full day

Varjyam: 11.46 pm to 1.33 am

Durmuhurtam: 6.43 am to 8.15 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 7,1442 AH

## PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.40 am

Zohar: 12.40 pm

Asar: 4.42 pm

Maghrub: 6.25 pm

Isha: 7.32 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.39 AM

SUNSET TODAY 6.19 PM

MOONSET 12.39 AM

MOONRISE 12.09 AM

## COUNTER POINT



Lift? Sure, but you will have to pay 50% of the petrol cost!

## SHORT TAKES

FAKE GODMAN,  
TWO AIDES HELD  
FOR THEFT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

The South Zone Task Force along with the Charminar police arrested a fake godman and two of his associates, all natives of Nagpur, Maharashtra, on Friday for diverting the attention of their victims and stealing their valuables.

Police recovered 290 grams of gold, 217 grams of silver among other things, all together worth ₹15 lakh from their possession.

According to the police, the accused were identified as Salim Ali alias Baba, 60, Mohd Sadiq, 24, and Qurban Ali, 23. Two more associates, Gulam Raza and Aziz Ali, were reportedly absconding.

Police said Salim Ali had a criminal record since 1993 and has been arrested several times by the Maharashtra police. The other suspects were his relatives. Ali is also wanted by the Upal and Market police since 2018.

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar said the gang stays in cheap lodges near business places.

"Salim Ali approaches the victim and boasts about his spiritual powers, following which his associates intervene as strangers and behave as if they are aware of his powers. The other suspects suggest the victims to hand over their valuables to Salim Ali and seek his blessings to get rid of their problems. While doing so, they escape with the valuables," added the commissioner.

● POLICE SAID Salim Ali had a criminal record since 1993 and has been arrested several times by the Maharashtra police.



After heavy rains lashed the city, water stagnated near the Khairatabad Metro Rail station.



Motorists drive through knee-deep water in Secunderabad due to rains on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

# Biker dies as live wire falls on him during heavy rains

Secunderabad received 2.1 cm of rainfall, Charminar about 1.9 cm



Commuters struggle to cross the waterlogged road near New Bhoiguda railway bridge in Secunderabad.

— P. SURENDRA

A biker died after a live electric wire fell on him at Ghode ki Khabar in the Old City during the sudden downpour in the city around midnight on Thursday.

Police said the man, identified as Mohd. Mustafa, was on his way home on his bike in the rain when the incident occurred.

"Due to heavy winds and downpour, the wire was damaged and fell on him. He received an electric shock and died on the spot," said the police who booked a case under Section 174 (suspicious death) of the CrPC and shifted the body to the Osmania General Hospital for postmortem examination.

Earlier-like weather conditions descended over the city and several parts of the state since Thursday evening, resulting in spells of heavy intermittent rain through Friday.

While the city experienced thunderstorms and lightning past midnight, the sky turned cloudy by Friday afternoon. Several areas like Kharibabad, Medipatnam, Madhapur, Banjara Hills, Secunderabad, and LB Nagar experienced sharp showers.

Weather officials had predicted light to moderate rainfall in some parts of the state, as also thunderstorms, since Thursday. It stated on Friday that there were isolated instances of hailstorms in Warangal (Rural), Mahbubabad, and Mulugu districts. The weather department said the next few days could experience dry weather all over the state.

According to the Telangana State Development Planning Society that runs automated weather stations, Patigadda in Secunderabad received 2.1 cm of rainfall since

Friday morning till 8 pm.

Musheerabad, Nampally, and Charminar too received rainfall between 1.5 and 1.9 cm, while one cm of rainfall was recorded at Marredpally, Saidabad, and Shaikpet.

Almost all areas under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits received rain. There was no report of any major disruption due to Friday's rainfall.

Elsewhere in the state, IMD said, Parkal in Warangal district received 5 cm of rain, the highest in the state since Thursday.

Neredmet police arrested a 23-year-old for kidnapping and murdering a construction worker to rob her valuables. Police recovered gold and silver ornaments worth ₹1.10 lakh from the accused, P. Suresh a vendor.

The kidnap and murder of M. Chandrakala, 43, a construction worker, was reported earlier last week.

Police said Suresh and his younger brother were earlier arrested for the kidnap of a minor girl in Kurnool. Suresh had borrowed money to pay for his bail.

Police said Suresh, who was selling women's accessories in Neredmet, took Chandrakala on his scooter by promising her work at a construction site on February 9. He took her to a secluded place in the Kowkur forest where he strangled her with a rope and fled with her ornaments. Suresh hid the body in some bushes.

Based on a complaint from Chandrakala's son, the police booked a missing person case and after analyzing call data records and footage from surveillance cameras, nabbed Suresh late on Thursday night. He was taken into custody and confessed to the killing during interrogation.

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kilograms of millets every month to support the women farmers of Sangareddy district.

The group will make better food habits and improving the lives of women farmers, the Deccan Development Society and Apollo Hospitals have jointly sponsored an initiative among 5,000 women farmers to grow millets and making it a part of their daily diet.

Millets are superior to rice owing to their rich content of protein, fibre, iron and calcium. They provide nutritional support and prevent its deficiency among vulnerable sections. Consuming millets reduces diabetes prevalence among the population.

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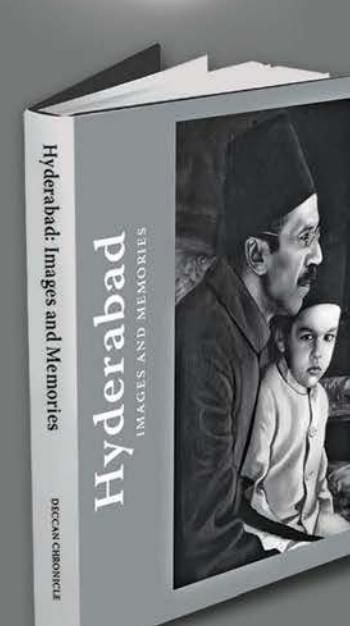
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# Hyderabad

IMAGES AND MEMORIES



We wrapped up our celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Deccan Chronicle on May 15, by bringing a special compilation of seventy-five stories filled with intrigue and delight from the final days of the Nizamshahi, titled Hyderabad: Images & Memories

From the palace mysteries and murder plots to the Nizam's 3,000 wives and how the ruler faced allegations of kidnapping his bride, all under the watchful eyes of the British, it is all there.

We scoured the archives and collected anecdotal evidence from several actors of that era to discover delightful asides like how the motichur laddus got their name, how an aide saved the Nizam's legendary treasures for the royal family and how Indira Gandhi floored the Nizam.

There are more than 75 pictures, a few of them rare and perhaps being published for the first time.

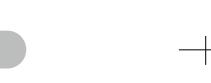
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# 55 new bars in city allotted via lottery

State earned ₹27 crore through licence fees from the applicants to set up bars

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

On Friday, 55 new bars were finalised and allotted to 'winners' of the draw of lots held in the city on Friday. The state government earned nearly ₹27 crore through licence fees from the applicants to set up these bars. The government had prescribed a licence fee of ₹49 lakh to set up a bar under the GHMC limits.

Excise commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad conducted the draw of lots

and declared names of successful allottees. Over 400 applications were received to set up 55 bars under the GHMC limits. The government issued a notification on January 25, to set up 159 bars across the state. The deadline to submit applications ended on February 16.

Such was the demand to set up new bars that the government received 8,464 applications for 159 bars. This itself fetched ₹84.64 crore to the government towards application fee as each appli-

cant was made to submit ₹1 lakh non-refundable deposit, along with their application. However, 23 bars in districts received fewer applications, far below its expectations.

The government suspects a 'syndicate' of applicants is behind this and is planning to issue a fresh notification to invite applications again.

The government aimed to earn ₹100 crore through application fees, with at least 10,000 applications but could earn only ₹84 crore through 8,464 applications.

## CM team studies Delhi bldgs

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao sent a team led by roads and buildings minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy to New Delhi to examine buildings, especially Rastrapati Bhavan, Parliament, North Block and South Block housing the

Central Secretariat. The team was asked to examine the stones used in their construction and explore how similar stones could be used in the construction of the Telangana Secretariat complex, the dream project of the CM. The team comprises R&B engineer-in-chief I. Ganapathi Reddy, executive engineer N.

Shashidhar, architects for the new Secretariat Oscar & Ponni, and representatives from Shapoorji Pallonji, which is building the Secretariat.

The team went around the buildings in New Delhi on Friday and examined how the architects used cream and red Dholpur sandstone from Rajasthan,



Senior Congress leader V.H. Hanumantha Rao visits the site where advocate G. Varman Rao and his wife were murdered earlier this week, on Friday. — DC

## VHR asks CM to break silence on lawyers' murder

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

Senior Congress leader V.H. Hanumantha Rao asked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to break his silence on the brutal murder of the advocate couple Gattu Vaman Rao and Nagamani. He said if justice is not rendered to the victims, the CM's birthday, when the murderers were committed, would be considered 'a black day'.

Hanumantha Rao said that the special investigative team (SIT) constituted by the state government cannot be trusted due to its record.

The case should be handed over to the CBI for transparency, he demanded.

"In my 40 years in politics, I have never seen such a horrific incident. The killing of the advocate couple takes the law and order situation in the state to a new low. How can a common man lead a secure life when there is no guarantee for the safety of people who are serving the judiciary," Hanumantha Rao said.

The veteran leader said action should be initiated against the bus drivers for not intervening when the killing was happening on the road.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To all concerned that I intend to buy property of H. No. 9-4-87/196, Plot No. 196, admeasuring 496 square yards or 414.56 square meters consist of Cellar, Stilt + 5 floors along with fully furnished situated at Salarjung colony, Tolichowki, Hyderabad having acquired the same through sale deed document bearing No. 4555/2014 registered at SRO Golconda, Hyderabad through an Agreement of Sale Dated 22-10-2020 Document No. Z 791262 from MR. NAYEEM AHMED S/o LATE AFZAL BAKSH & MRS. AYESHA NAYEEM W/o NAYEEM AHMED & AHMED BAKSH NAVEED NAYEEM S/o NAYEEM AHMED & NOUMAN AHMED BAKSH S/o NAYEEM AHMED & ASNA NAYEEM BAKSH D/o NAYEEM AHMED Ali R/o H.No.9-4-87/196, Plot No.196, Salarjung Colony, Tolichowki, Hyderabad. & I have paid an advance amount of money towards the same. That any person(s) having any right, title, or interest in the aforesaid property or having any objection for the sale of the said property may contact the undersigned with relevant documents within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which I will proceed to complete the sale transaction by executing Registered Sale Deed & no subsequent objection or claim whatsoever shall be entertained. Syed Shoeb Hussaini (Advocate) The Legal Associates H.No. 5-7-10, Nampally, Hyderabad - 01. TS. 903677730

### TIGER ENTERS VILLAGE IN ASIFABAD DIST

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, FEB. 19

Villagers of Gundepalli in Penchikalpet mandal are in panic over reports that a tiger tried to kill a cow in the cattle shed of one Gedam Pocham during early hours of Friday. Their fears have only multiplied after forests officials visited the village and collected some mug marks.

This is the first incident in the recent past where a tiger has reportedly entered the village looking for cattle. It fled after some villagers spotted it and raised a cry. In all probability, it is the same tiger that had attacked a few cattle in Penchikalpet and Bejur mandals in the last 15 days.

**SHRADHANJALI**  
11th ANNIVERSARY

**Sri. LAKSHMINARAYANA N.C.**  
DOB: 26-09-1931 DOD: 20-02-2010  
"Your blessings are a guiding light to all of us. You will remain in our hearts and continue to inspire us"  
Inserted by: Vijayalakshmi N.C. & Children  
Plot No. 290, Mahendravilla  
Ph: 040-27734281 / 9652978899

**SHRADHANJALI**  
1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**SHRI SANJAY PURI**  
Your memories will live in our hearts.  
You will always be missed.  
Harish and Renu Sethi Ankit and Suchita Sethi

**SHRADHANJALI**  
1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**NADEEM HUSAIN DR.**  
S/o Nouman Ali Abid  
Expired on 09-02-2021  
Inserted by:  
Family Members  
Contact: 9949972076

**SHRADHANJALI**  
17th ANNIVERSARY

**Ivan Anthony Joseph Valentine**  
S/o Cecilia Valentine & Late L.J. Valentine  
DOB: 15/07/1976 DOD: 20/02/2020  
Mass today at St. Mary's Basilica, Sec-bd, at 6:00 pm  
Inserted by - Family members

**SHRADHANJALI**  
5th Death Anniversary

**THAKUR SANJAY PRASAD**  
(15 Jan 1964 - 20 Feb 2016)  
Remembering your smiles and laughter  
Your kindness and caring too,  
The countless ways you made us feel loved  
Just by being you...  
- Thakur Family & Friends

**SHRADHANJALI**  
12th ANNIVERSARY

**Late. DR. MATILDA DAVID**  
Wife of Dr. David Rajah  
Sunrise: 10-01-1934 Sunset: 20-02-2009  
REMEMBERING AUNTIE MISS HER DEARLY  
SAM & MARTHA. KOTHAGUDEM  
Ph: 9491144024

**18th ANNIVERSARY**

**M. DWARAKANATH**  
Chartered Accountant. M. Com F.C.A  
Tears have faded, but not memories!  
Time takes away the edge of grief but  
Memories turn back every leaf!  
We love you as much as we did yesterday  
and Love you ever more till life's very END!  
Missing You Family

## PD Act invoked against 2 for human trafficking

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD FEB. 19

Two persons, Rallapally Shankar alias Ramesh and Patibandla Sriramulu alias Buji, were detained

under the Preventive Detention Act by Rachakonda police chief Mahesh Bhagwat for interstate human trafficking.

The accused, rented a

portion in Sahebnagar of Vanasthalipuram and were running a prostitution racket by procuring victims from West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh through one Pandari

Pandu Ranga Srinivas. They lured the girls on the pretext of providing employment, police said. The duo has been detained at the Central Prison, Cherlapally.

● **THE ACCUSED**, rented a portion in Sahebnagar of Vanasthalipuram and were running a prostitution racket by procuring victims from West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh.

## UTHAVANA / CHAUTHA



**SHRI SANJAY PURI**  
Passed away on 17th February 2021  
Chautha today, 20th February 2021  
At Arora Banquets (Lifestyle Building),  
Begumpet, Hyd. From 4 pm to 5 pm

Anju and Daksh Puri (Wife and Son)  
Aadhar and Sanjana Chadha (Son in law and daughter)  
Kumud Puri (Sister in law)  
Prem and Sarita Kapoor (Brother in law and sister)

## FOND REMEMBRANCE

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance"  
Psalms 112: 6  
**Mrs. K. KARUNA BAI**  
(Retd. Teacher GGHS, Kingsway, Sec-bd)  
**W/o, Late Mr. K. David**  
Left us to be in the presence of Aboda on 29-02-2003  
"You will always live in our hearts"  
The love you have showered on us and the values you have taught us will continue to guide and inspire us forever.  
Fondly Remembered by  
Children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children

"CELEBRATION OF LIFE"  
I will turn their mourning into gladness;  
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow  
Jeremiah 31:13  
**Mrs. Felicia Jude**  
DOB: 01.09.1936 DOD: 25.01.2021  
"Memorial Service" on  
Sat, 20th Feb., 2021 at 5:30 p.m.  
at Centenary Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Abids, Hyd.  
Grieving, Grateful, Blessed : JUDE FAMILY  
Abids, Hyd. Ph.: 9391134128, 8008057878  
Live Streaming on YouTube: Felicia Jude - Celebration of Life

The memory of the righteous is a blessing.  
Prov 10:7  
**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
**KARKALA EMMANUEL DHARMENDRA**  
(Assl. Engineer, R&B Dept.)  
S/o Late Karkala Kanthiah  
DOB: 26-02-1965 DOD: 18-2-2020  
Though you are in a better place in heaven, we miss you so much.  
Inserted by: Kavitha Emmanuel (Wife)  
K. Roberts Swarna Kanth (Son)  
K. Isaac Ratha Kanth (Son)  
(S/2021/D0125)

**SHRI SANJAY PURI**  
Your memories will live in our hearts.  
You will always be missed.  
**Vijay Kapoor & Family**

**1st Death Anniversary**  
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race.  
I have kept the faith. Timothy 4:7  
**SHRI SANJAY PURI**  
Your memories will live in our hearts.  
You will always be missed.  
**R.S. Arora and Family**

**BENEDICTA RAJ**  
DOB: 03.12.1956 DOD: 20.02.2020  
We miss you every moment in our life,  
your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there.  
Inserted by: R Nelson Son, Daughter & Grand Children  
Ph.: 9885215619, 9100521261  
(CA-3535)

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF**  
**E.N. MANOHARAN**  
DOB: 4-6-1964 DOD: 20-02-2012  
"It takes a huge effort to free yourself from memory".  
Inserted by:  
Wife : Nirmita Manoharan.  
Daughter : Swathi Binu,  
Sangeetha Srinivas.

**SHRI SANJAY PURI**  
Your memories will live in our hearts.  
You will always be missed.  
**Bathla Family**

**SHRADHANJALI**  
12th ANNIVERSARY  
The memory of the just is blessed. Prov. 10:7  
In Loving Memory of  
**LATE DR. MATILDA DAVID**  
Wife of Dr. David Rajah  
Sunrise: 10-01-1934 Sunset: 20-02-2009  
REMEMBERING AUNTIE MISS HER DEARLY  
SAM & MARTHA. KOTHAGUDEM  
Ph: 9491144024

**SHRADHANJALI**  
18th ANNIVERSARY  
Tears have faded, but not memories!  
Time takes away the edge of grief but  
Memories turn back every leaf!  
We love you as much as we did yesterday  
and Love you ever more till life's very END!  
Missing You Family

**SHORT TAKES**  
**WOMAN'S VOTER  
I-D CARD HAS  
VENKATESH PHOTO**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNool, FEB. 19

Electoral rolls of a village panchayat in Kurnool district have the photograph of cine star Venkatesh against the name of a woman voter.

The actor's picture has come to notice in 31st ward of Kallur village panchayat. Immediately after realising the mistake, district collector G. Veera Pandian directed the RDO to rectify the issue. He also asked the RDO to take action against the BLO responsible for voter enrolment.

Kurnool has the dubious distinction of issuing passports in the name of film stars, underworld dons and so on.

**CYBERABAD TOP  
COP HONOURS 2  
SNIFFER DOGS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar felicitated Lucy and Daisy, the two newly trained explosive detection sniffer dogs, on Friday. Their trainers, City Armed Reserve (CAR) constables K. Suresh and L. Mahender, were also commended for their work. The dogs had completed an eight-month stint of training with the Intelligence Integrated Training Academy (IITA), Moinabad, and will be joining bomb squads.

Lucy came second in the state for skills in the detection of explosives in an event organised on Tuesday earlier this week. Director General of Police (DGP) M. Mahendar Reddy awarded the dogs on day of the passing out parade held at the academy, the police said. Sajjanar praised the skills of the dogs and rewarded Mahendar and Suresh with cash prizes for supervising their training.

**INTERIOR  
DESIGNER DIES  
BY SUICIDE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

An interior designer died by suicide at her house at Gachibowli on Friday morning. Police said that she was reportedly facing family problems.

The deceased, Sirisha, was married to one Siddharth in 2016. Her body was found by her husband in the morning. No suicide note was found.

Upon receiving information, the Raidurgam police booked a case under section 174 (suspicious death) of the CrPC and the body was shifted to the Osmania General Hospital morgue for postmortem examination. The body was later handed over to the family.

**NO PATROL IN  
DISENGAGEMENT  
ZONE NEAR LAC**

From Page 1

China has now vacated the area between Finger 4 to 8 on the north bank of Pangong Tso, which its troops had occupied in May 2020. India claims that its territory is up to Finger 8. The Chinese soldiers have dismantled the military infrastructure set up at Finger 5, including jetty and a helipad. Both Indian and Chinese troops have also vacated the Kailash range on the southern banks of Pangong Tso.

Indian Army on Tuesday had released videos, which showed Chinese troops dismantling sangars, temporary structures, and loading up supplies provisions onto trucks. The Chinese soldiers were also seen using earthmovers to dismantle shelters and restoring the landforms as per the agreement.

The videos also showed a large number of Chinese soldiers de-indenting and moving back on trucks.

As per the agreement, the Chinese troops will move east of Finger 8 on the north bank of Pangong Tso and the Indian troops will move to their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3.

There will be a temporary freeze in patrolling by both sides in the area between Finger 4 to 8 on the northern banks of Pangong Tso till both sides reach an agreement.

**THE CHINESE** soldiers were also seen using earthmovers to dismantle shelters and restoring the landforms as per the agreement.

# Jagan reigns supreme, Naidu's hubris meets its comeuppance

Even TD chief's Kuppam stronghold has crumbled after over 30 years

**SRIRAM KARRI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

A long spell of a confrontational stalemate in Andhra Pradesh, featuring the YSR Congress government led by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the State Election Commission led by the commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar, invariably ending in court, has finally found a thaw.

People of the state, who were watching with bated breath the visceral antagonism — personal and bitter — were finally given an opportunity to speak. They spoke. And how!

The people of Andhra Pradesh, taking an unforgetting view of Chandrababu Naidu's shenanigans, tired of his obstructionism and backroom manœuvring, have all but wiped out the Telugu Desam from the map of political relevance in the state.

Even in Naidu's stronghold and fortress of Kuppam, a bastion he could hold even against the onslaught of late Dr Y.S. Rajashekhar Reddy, has crumbled after over 30 years. More than four out of five panchayats in Kuppam now fly the flag of the YSRC, a feat unparalleled in the state's history.

Jagan Mohan Reddy, the young Chief Minister, has trumped over the machinations of his snollygoster senior. The TD's rout is so complete, its burial by people into the dust so undoubtedly that it is easy



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurates the new chariot of Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Andarvedi temple in East Godavari district on Friday.

— MANIKANTA KUMAR ALAPATI

to say that Naidu's hubris and perpetual opportunism have all but killed the party he stole from his father-in-law and founder late N.T. Rama Rao.

If the TD looks like it is still alive, and hardly it is, it is because nature abhors a vacuum and the YSRC needs some semblance of an Opposition, however moribund. Naidu, who, in his delusional calculations, wanted to simultaneously trounce the trio of enemies — Narendra Modi, K. Chandrashekhar Rao and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy — is now left with dust for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Led by wrong strategies conceived by himself, carved by his personal insecurities and inability to smell the coffee, Naidu, who like Gandhari from the Mahabharata, voluntary blindfolded himself to everything except caste and unfair gains, blinded by mammonism, lust for power and money, and an inability to resist the lure to bequeath the throne to his undeserving son, Nara Lokesh, who has never won an election involving common people, still alone in vain glory today of a legacy he could never create.

The BJP, which is watching with the appetite of a piranha, will move in swiftly, like it has in neighbouring Telangana state. It does not have to worry because it will hardly be fighting with the YSRC this term, but, instead, will only have to devour the flesh off the bones of a carcass that the TD has now become.

For Naidu, a vainglorious man used to boasting that he will spin the wheel of politics, to be left with a bicycle without a wheel is hardly the fate he would have imagined, even three years ago. The decline will now get swift.

Jagan Mohan Reddy's welfare politics have created for the young Chief Minister public goodwill of astronomical proportions. Even if he completely fails on the development front, creating jobs or inveigling investments, and most likely he will, he is going to retain the pole position for bagging another term in power.

Naidu, who already looks desolate and lonely, will find the last of his lieutenants deserting him and his party, hardly keen to remain on a yellow Titanic. The BJP's recruitment will continue, even as Jagan Mohan Reddy will watch the traffic jam on the one-sided street with sangfroid disdain and characteristic nonchalance.

None, except the most die-hard supporters or the woolly-eyed of Naidu's supporters, or members at the core of his cabal, will fancy his chances in an election over eight years from now, or believe Nara Lokesh can do a Jagan on AP politics.

Naidu may rue his fate in his solitude, or cutting his loses pragmatically, merge the TD with the BJP, make peace with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah with the humility of repentance, and save his people and give himself a chance to be part of a battle against his Telugu rivals — Chandrashekhar Rao in Telangana state and Jagan Mohan Reddy in AP — on the winning side.

In either case, NTR will be smiling in his grave. All debts will be paid soon.

## Hiring without Prez nod will invite legal mess

From Page 1

**● CHANDRASHEKAR RAO** also included

Vikarabad district in the Charminar zone, following a demand from the locals. This also requires an amendment to the Presidential Order.

Unless the President puts his stamp of approval, the sanctioned posts, which are distributed among all districts, zones and multi-zones, the state government cannot go ahead with its recruitment drive. If it does go ahead, it would only land in legal tangles, the official confided.

The Chief Minister brought a new zonal system in the state, according to which, 95 per cent of all government jobs sanctioned for a given zone are reserved for locals. This local status of a candidate is decided based on her or his school study from Class I to VII. Based on these certificates, a candidate is considered a local for jobs. Those who have studied for four years in a particular district/ zone from Class I to VII are treated as a local of that particular district/ zone.

The seven new zones created were Kaleshwaram (zone-1), Basara (zone-2), Rajanna (zone-3), Bhadravati (zone-4), Yadadri (zone-5), Charminar (zone-6) and Jogulamba (zone-7).

Zone-1 includes the districts of Asifabad, Mancherial, Peddapalli and Bhupalapally. Zone-2 consists of Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad and Jagtial districts.

Zone-3 comprises Karimnagar, Siddipet, Sircilla, Kamareddy and Medak districts, while zone-4 comprises Kothagudem, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Warangal Urban and Warangal Rural districts.

Zone-5 comprises Suryapet, Nalgonda, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri and Jangaon districts, while zone-6 comprises Medchal-Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Sangareddy districts.

Zone-7 comprises Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Gadwal, Wanaparthy and Nagarkurnool districts. This apart, Chief Minister Rao created two

## Kumbh Sandesh Yatra



MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha flags off the Kumbh Sandesh Yatra at Peddamma Temple in Jubilee Hills on Friday. The Yatra is aimed at spreading awareness on the significance of the Kumbh Mela.

— R. PAVAN

## Redesign project may be tough to implement

From Page 1

Besides a manual survey, corporation officials had used unconventional methods for accuracy.

Drone cameras were used for aerial surveys and video-documenting areas by utilising the GPS systems.

The Geographical Information System (GIS) wing of the GHMC was actively involved in the exercise.

GHMC officials have identified 12,182 unauthorised constructions in 173

major nala, spread over 390 km in the city. The corporation then spent ₹15 crore for surveys, despite not removing 47 critical bottlenecks (of 16.66 km length) at the cost of ₹230 crore since 2017.

The Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) wing of the GHMC has now decided to leave its mark to improve the efficiency of city nala. Taking into consideration recommendations made by the Kirlloskar Committee and Voyants Consultancy, the SNDP has decided to

completely redesign the nala project, after roping in experts from irrigation and other departments.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* SNDP chief engineer Dr C. Vasanthan said that zonal commissioners were handed over the task to conduct surveys and studies to implement the CDNP with the ORR limits.

She said that zonal commissioners have been conducting surveys at the ground level to learn more about the challenges.

The chief engineer said that LB Nagar zonal com-

missioner Upender Reddy has already submitted a survey report pertaining to the zone, which was most affected due to flash floods during October last.

She said the corporation would arrive at the financial evaluation only after the submission of all reports.

"He may be getting old. However, that is no reason why he should not be held to account for the damage he caused to many children's lives over a long period," he alleged.

Boat said, "The huge catalogue of dishonesty and terrible abuse of Indian children perpetrated by this Australian — who fled

from the ongoing survey and its implementation is going on in an 'unrealistic way'. They said that redesign of existing nala would involve entering and clearing of lands across several residential areas adjoining them.

"Who will give up either their property or land for widening or allow intrusions into their properties? It would not only displace private properties but also creates a ruckus while implementing the project," sources added.

their targets on social media with the promise of sending a gift parcel through courier. Once the victim takes the bait, they demand money by citing different reasons including that the parcel is stuck with the Customs department. One of the victims was conned of about ₹13 lakh, said the police.

Anil and Prashanth colluded with African nationals and supplied bank accounts on commission basis for the victims to deposit the money. Four mobile phones, 16 ATM cards were seized.

The Hyderabad cyber-crime police arrested two persons for supplying bank accounts to African nationals who cheated victims through social media.

The accused were identified as Anil Poniva, 23, of Kailashpuri of Delhi and Prashanth Kumar, 20, a resident of CP Market of Pari Chowk in Greater Noida. The African nationals introduce themselves as 'Dr Ajay Anand from Germany' and lure

## Blind, orphans await justice for 20 years in Visakhapatnam

## Oz paedophile case adjourned again

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 19

The court of the second additional district and sessions judge here has adjourned the case against the Australian "paedophile" Paul Dean to May 10 when the case came up for hearing on Friday.

The court had remained closed due to Covid-19 since March last and is yet to be opened. The railway court had, in March 2018, sentenced the 75-year-old Dean to three years' simple imprisonment under vari-

ous sections of IPC and slapped a fine of ₹32,000. He was convicted and sentenced based on the statement of a lone witness and victim, David, a blind man, who was in his teens when the crime was committed.

Paul later challenged the decision in the appellate court, the second additional district judge court.

Paul had been arrested from his RK Beach apartment in Visakhapatnam in August 2001 following a report in these columns.

Upon hearing about the adjournment on Friday,

Peter Boat from Australia said in his email to this correspondent that Dean had made a mockery of Indian justice system for many years, adopting various ploys to avoid jail.

"He may be getting old. However, that is no reason why he should not be held to account for the damage he caused to many children's lives over a long period," he alleged.

Boat said, "The huge catalogue of dishonesty and terrible abuse of Indian children perpetrated by this Australian — who fled

from his own country — must be held to account. "He has ruined many lives, and there is strong evidence that some have committed suicide due to his grotesque sexual exploitations. This man deserves to spend the rest of his days behind the bars," Peter said in his mail.

Mary Ellen Gerber, 84-year-old woman from France, said in her email: "Paul Dean changed his name seven times. He is notoriously identified for being an accomplished forger, thief, liar and charged with sexual assault of hundreds of underage children for the past 45 years. Dean was arrested several times by the police, incarcerated, but still released thanks to the help of his long-time accomplices." "This man should be imprisoned for life for causing sufferings to hundreds of underage Indian children," she said.

Mary said she and her friends had donated huge amounts to Paul to look after children in his orphanage.



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar with the family of the rescued child on Friday. — DC

## SHORT TAKES

## STALKER NABBED FOR THREATENING CLASSMATE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

The Jawaharnagar police booked an engineering student for allegedly threatening his classmate, a girl, by wielding an airgun and an acid bottle on Friday. He was caught by locals, who thrashed him and called the cops.

Police said the youngster, Abhishek, of Sai Nagar in Dammaiguda, had been stalking the girl and was harassing her on WhatsApp for the last few days.

"The girl told him him to stop but in vain. Abhishek threatened her with an airgun and an acid bottle on Friday evening. The locals who noticed him overpowered and thrashed Abhishek before handing him over to the Jawaharnagar police, sources said. He has been arrested and is being proceeded against.

## CYBERABAD COPS CAUTION ON HELMET RULE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

The Cyberabad traffic police warned that motorists riding a two-wheeler without a helmet would have their driving licence revoked if they are caught repeating the offence. According to Section 206 (4) of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, a driving licence of a two-wheeler rider can be revoked if the vehicle found is driven without a helmet for the second time.

For the first offence, the licence would be suspended for three months. The driving licence will be permanently revoked if they were caught for the second time riding without a helmet, said the Cyberabad traffic police. The police asked two-wheeler riders to provide a helmet for the million rider as well.

"The public is not taking the offence seriously. There have been so many accidents where wearing a helmet could have saved lives. People think that they can simply pay the challan. Now, if a biker is now caught riding a bike the second time without wearing a helmet, we will be writing to the RTO to revoke the licence instead of issuing a challan," said the police.

## WARANGAL GETS AN EXCLUSIVE CYCLING TRACK

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, FEB. 19

The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) has completed laying a new cycling track set up between Fatima junction and Subdari in Hanamkonda.

The project was taken up as part of the India Cycles4Change Challenge, an initiative of the Centre's Smart Cities Mission, to support cities to quickly implement cycling-friendly initiatives.

The city featured as one of the 25 stage 1 list of finalists in the cycles4change challenge. GWMC has completed stage two of the challenge, which is the implementation of the proposal.

GWMC commissioner Pamela Satpathy told Deccan Chronicle they have chosen the best possible location for the two-km cycle track.

"With educational institutions like the National Institute of Technology, the University Arts and Science College and others in the vicinity, we believed this stretch would be best suited for providing a cycling track. Warangal is one of the only four cities to finish the pilot project from scratch," she said.

"In the next phase, we have plans to set up another 54 km of cycling track in the GWMC area in the coming days," the commissioner said.

Pamela Satpathy added that the administration intends to first inculcate the practice of cycling and bring about acceptance from the people to advance its efforts in promoting cycling. Asked about vendors occupying the track and the bollards placed to restrict the entry of two-wheelers, the commissioner said they will take the support of the police to shift the fruit vendors to designated zones.

"We measured and decided the spacing between bollards so that only cycles can pass through and not two-wheelers," she said.

## ED set to crack down on firms in city, B'luru

Infra, realty firms in crosshairs; focus on cos in MP scam

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

The Enforcement Directorate is said to have set the stage to launch a massive drive against the infra and real estate firms in the city and Bengaluru. The proposed raids are based on credible information about money laundering by certain big wigs.

Sources said special teams were formed to carry out the raids and instructions were issued by the top brass of the Union finance ministry to make the violators cough up at least ₹2,000 crore before the end of the current fiscal.

● **GVPR IS** owned by one Sivasankar Reddy, brother-in-law of former IAS official Gopal Reddy who was questioned by the ED in connection with the irrigation tender scam.

Sources said many of these firms had availed of

● **SOURCES SAID** special teams were formed to carry out the raids and instructions were issued by the top brass of the Union finance ministry to make the violators cough up at least ₹2,000 crore before the end of the current fiscal.

thousands of crores of rupees as loans from banks producing fake sureties and in some cases even without showing any collateral security. The amounts were diverted and in some cases the investigating agencies suspect that they were used to fund the electioneering in different states including Telangana in 2018.

The enforcement agency also intensified its investigation into the Madhya Pradesh irrigation tender scam involving the infra companies based out of the two Telugu states. Mantena Infra was found manipu-

lating the online tender portal to grab irrigation contracts worth more than ₹1,000 crore during the regime of the Congress' Kamal Nath.

Sources said the investigating agencies have been looking into the involvement of several other infra companies including HES, Max Infra, Sarala, AMR and GVPR which acted as sub-contractors in Madhya Pradesh.

GVPR is owned by one Sivasankar Reddy, brother-in-law of former IAS official Gopal Reddy who was questioned by the ED in connection with the irrigation tender scam.

## Bandi to cadre: Instal Shivaji statues, never mind the cops

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

A rally wends its way through Koti, Hyderabad, to mark the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji, on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Bandi demands loan waiver, Central cover for farmers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar urged Kisan Morcha leaders to fight against the state government for its neglect of farmers and the agriculture sector.

He was addressing Kisan Morcha office-bearers here on Friday.

He lashed out at the

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao-led TRS government for failing on the promised loan waiver of ₹1 lakh and not keeping his word on supply of free urea to farmers. He urged the Morcha leaders to launch an agitation and seek justice for farmers. He said the state government has not implemented the Fasal Bima Yojana, which he

wanted to be done on a priority basis. He warned that the BJP would lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan if the Yojana was not implemented.

Kisan Morcha president Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy and Kisan Morcha in-charge Gujjula Premender Reddy and other leaders participated in the meeting.



BJP state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar with Kisan Morcha leaders at the party office in Nampally, Hyderabad, on Friday

— DC

## SBI presents 2 vehicles to NGOs

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

SBI officials hand over car key as part of CSR activity on Friday.

ate on CSR activities during the current financial year. On Friday, he also inaugurated a new branch of the SBI at Anjaneya Nagar, Kukatpally adding to the more than 1,200 branches and offices.

## Only Cong can do justice to youth, employees: Uttam

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

● THE TPCC chief said that MLAs Palle Rajeshwar Rao of the TRS and N. Ramchander Rao of the BJP had done nothing for their graduates' constituencies during the last six years. They miserably failed to represent their constituents, especially employees, professionals and jobless youth.

● HE SAID Rajeshwar Rao, who is re-contesting from the Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda constituency, utilised his post to turn his educational institutions into a university.

es was ensuring the victory of Congress candidates for both MLC seats. He said a message should be conveyed to employees that they would get appropriate fitment and decent hike in HRA only if they defeat TRS and BJP in MLC polls.

Similarly, he said that jobless youth must give TRS a big shock if they wish to get the promised unemployment allowance of ₹3,016 per month.

Uttam Reddy said that the BJP government has neglected Telangana ever since its formation in 2014. He said none of the promises made to Telangana under the AP Reorganisation Act were fulfilled.

He said that MLAs Palle Rajeshwar Rao, of the TRS and N. Ramchander Rao of the BJP had done nothing for their graduates' constituencies during the last six years. They miserably failed to represent their constituents, especially employees, professionals and jobless youth.

He said Rajeshwar Rao, who is re-contesting from the Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda constituency, utilised his post to turn his educational institutions into a university.

The TPCC chief directed all party leaders to convince voters that only Congress candidates could represent their problems in a fruitful manner. He said that both TRS and BJP have commercialised politics.

The Modi government at the Centre and the KCR government in Telangana state have not fulfilled any of the promises they made to people. The best way to punish the ruling parties for non-fulfilment of promises.

Commenting on the murder of lawyer couple, Gattu Vaman Rao and Nagamani, he said that Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao did not condemn the incident even after two days. By remaining silent, the Chief Minister was sending a wrong message to TRS men with criminal background that they were free to carry on illegal activities. He reiterated the demand that a CBI enquiry should be ordered into the murders.

## 80-YEAR-OLD TREES HACKED BY SCCL FOR ITS OPEN CAST MINES

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, FEB. 19

Botany students of JVR government degree college in Sattupalli who conducted a dendro-chronology study on trees felled for the open cast mine of Singareni Collieries have found that the average age of these trees were of 12 to 80 years.

The students, numbering 32, studied the dendro-chronology of 42 felled trees as part of a macro anatomy exercise. The trees had been felled between Lankapally and Kistaram in Khammam district. They counted the annual growth rings of dead trunks. Each annual ring had dark and light colours. The study exposed the environmental imbalance caused as a result of the tree-felling.

D Rajkumar, second-year B.Sc student, said the dendro-chronology method helps find the age of felled trees. This is the science of dating events, environmental change etc by using the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks.

The annual rings of the timber showed the seasonal variations a tree faced in its lifetime. Irregular and close-overlapping annual rings showed frequency of dry periods, levels of pollution and wounds to trees.

The trees felled for road widening etc included banyan (*Ficus*), neem (*Azadirachta*), pongamia (*Kanuga*), cieba, albizia (*Dirasena*), nallamadai, jambul (*Nerudu*) and shade-giving varieties. The displaced epiphytic plants known for their hanging spongy roots (*vanda*) that once lived on the branches of these trees were also identified.

Prof. K. Vijay Kumar said the Albizia tree had the circumference of 3.43 metres and 180 rings. The age of the tree was estimated at above 80 years.

**REPLACEMENT OF PANEL INTERLOCKING & OTHER MATERIALS**

E-Tender No.: SNT-22-LMG-2020-21-RT, Dated: 18-02-2021. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of work & its location: Replacement of non standard conventional type Panel interlocking with Electronic Interlocking at 4 stations (Baranger, Langochet, Kothaval & Naqjan) including construction of S&T Service Building along with location hut and Electrical wiring of Service Building in Lumbding-Furkating section of Lumbding Division. Tender Value : ₹12,53,80,496.83 (S & T Component : ₹9,68,25,009.12, Civil Component : ₹2,49,18,263.73, Elect. Component : ₹36,37,226.4) Earnest Money: ₹ 7,76,900/- Date and Time of Closing of E-Tender : 15:00 hrs. on 22-03-2021 Date and Time of Opening of E-Tender : 15:30 hrs. on 22-03-2021. For details visit website www.reps.gov.in, Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Lumbding

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Atomic Energy Central Schools, Hyderabad are going to conduct written test and Skill test to engage teachers purely on Contract basis against vacancies (including leave vacancies) that may arise during academic year 2021-2022. The Written Test and Skill Test will be held on 03.03.2021 (Wednesday - for PRTs & Peons) and 05.03.2021 (Friday - for TGTs) respectively. Please visit www.nfc.gov.in, www.aecshy1.edu.net, www.aecshy2.edu.net, www.amd.gov.in and www.ecil.co.in for the detailed advertisement.

D.Raja Sekhar Rao, Principal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Tender Enquiry No.	Q-3992/20-21/PO-T/CE-MM
Scope / Short Description	(Procurement of 25,000 Nos. EEL-3 (re-designated as EEL-2 as per Amendment no. 4 to IS 1180) Star-2 (New), ISI Marked, 110/433 KV, 16 KVA, Three Phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, core or Shell type, Stack wound core type construction (aluminum wound), CRGO / Amorphous core distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specification & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & 2026 (with latest amendments).
Start date for down loading of specification/tender documents from PSPCL's web site	22.02.2021
Last date for down loading of specification/tender documents from PSPCL's web site	09.03.2021 (upto 11:00 AM)
Last date of bid submission	09.03.2021 (upto 11:00 AM)
Bid opening date	12.03.2021 (02:30 PM)
For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. Note : It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in.	
C-66/21	Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, Patiala.
RO : 76155/12/106/2021/1633	

<b>आयुर्विज्ञान भारतीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान</b>
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA)
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत स्वास्थ्य संस्थान)
(An Autonomous Organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
<b>NOTIFICATION for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program 2020-21</b>
* Applications are invited for admission into Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in various disciplines of Ayurveda at All India Institute of Ayurveda Under Delhi University.
* The candidates desirous of seeking admission into the aforesaid program may apply for the same through <a href="http://www.aiia.gov.in">www.aiia.gov.in</a> . Candidates are requested to go through Ph.D. Bulletin from the website before applying for Ph.D. Program.
* Starting date of Registration 15th February 2021 & last date 06th March 2021
Sd- Director, AIIA

## SHORT TAKES

**AHMED PATEL'S SON SAYS READY TO CONTEST POLLS**

Ahmedabad, Feb. 19: Faisal Patel, son of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel, has said he is ready to join politics and will contest Assembly polls if the party wishes.

Only last month he had announced on Twitter that he would not join politics and rather focus on his late father's social initiatives.

"Just like my father, I will continue doing social work. We have two hospitals and a public school in Bharuch. That is my real work," he told reporters on Thursday night.

"I will enter electoral politics if the (Congress) party high command asks," 40-year-old Faisal Patel said.

"If the high command wishes, I will also fight elections. Preferably from Bharuch, because that is my area," said Patel when asked if he would contest the 2022 Gujarat Assembly polls.

He was in Khadia area of the city to canvas for Congress candidates ahead of elections to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

Elections to Ahmedabad and five other municipal corporations will be held on February 21. He was invited by local Congress MLAs Gyaasuddin Shaikh and Imran Khedawala to support party candidates, Patel said.

**PASSPORT SERVICES LINKED TO DIGILOCKER**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 19

Citizens can now submit various documents required for passport services through the Government's DigiLocker app system in a paperless mode and are therefore not required to carry the original documents, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) announced on Friday. In a move that will also provide great relief to those who have lost their passports and aid them for reissuing of the document, the MEA also announced it was "working on the idea of passport to be included as one of the documents in DigiLocker" to "help citizens to retrieve the passport whenever it is required" and which will also help them in the process of re-issuing in case of passport loss.

The MEA also said it was "working towards rolling out of ePassport for the citizens that are designed to increase security, making it more difficult to tamper with data recorded on a passport, thereby limiting the chances of fraud" and that "in the coming years, biometric passports would help improve immigration processes at airports which are equipped with automatic e-Passport gates".

All this was announced by minister of state (MoS) for external affairs V. Muraleedharan on Friday at an event to "inaugurate DigiLocker for Passport Seva," who also stated that "in the upcoming Passport Seva Programme V2.0, the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Chat-Bot, Analytics, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) will further ease the citizen experience and expeditious service delivery".

The DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of the ministry of electronics and IT and aims to provide access to authentic digital documents stored in a citizen's digital document wallet. As per rules, these digital documents are on par with original physical documents and can therefore be accessed by citizens anytime and anywhere.

**2 NURSES BOOKED IN CONNECTION WITH DEATH OF 10 INFANTS IN MAHA HOSPITAL**

**SHAHAB ANSARI | DC**  
MUMBAI, FEB. 19

Maharashtra police have registered a case of criminal negligence against two staff nurses in connection with the fire at a government hospital in Bhandara in which 10 infants had died.

A case under IPC section 304(2) (causing death by negligence) has been registered against Shubhangi Sathavane and Smita Ambildukhe, both nurses, said director general of police Hemant Nagrare. Further probe is on, he said. The blaze had broken out at the Special Newborn Care Unit of the four-storeyed district hospital in Bhandara city last month.

The inquiry report said the two nurses were supposed to be at nursing stations but were out for paperwork at the time of the fire.

**Snow festival**

A monastery made of snow during the Snow Festival at Hansa Village in Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh on Friday.

**Modi says Visva Bharati should help farmers****PM INAUGURATES MAJOR PROJECTS IN KERALA**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of key projects of power and urban sector in Kerala including country's first High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) project featuring state-of-the-art technology.

The projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister via video conferencing, included 320 KV Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) – Thrissur (Kerala). The Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based HVDC project will facilitate transfer of 2000 MW power from western region and help various sectors including industrial and commercial units. The project has been implemented at a cost of ₹5,070 crore.

Modi dedicated to the nation the 50 MW Kasargod Solar Power Project developed by the National Solar Energy Mission. The project has come up in an area of 250 acres of land in three villages of Kasargod district at a cost of ₹280 crore.

Besides, Modi also inaugurated 75 MLD water treatment plant at Aruvikkara in Thiruvananthapuram district up under the AMRUT Mission. The project will scale up the distribution of drinking water to people of Thiruvananthapuram.

Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan who attended the inauguration via video conferencing thanked the Prime Minister and said that the Centre-state cooperation was important for development in a federal structure.

clear and your loyalty is to 'Ma Bharati' every decision of yours will take you towards finding a solution. Success and failure do not determine our present and future. You may not get the results you thought after taking a decision, but you should not be afraid to take a decision," he said. — PTI

**Agri ministry gets nod to use drones**

**Mumbai, Feb. 19:** The agriculture ministry has been permitted to use drones for remote sensing data collection under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

The ministry of civil aviation and directorate general of civil aviation have granted conditional exemption for Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) usage to ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare (MoAFW), an official statement said on Friday. This will allow MoAFW to use drones for remote sensing data collection in agricultural areas of 100 districts of the country for gram panchayat level yield estimation, under PMFBY.

The conditional exemption will be valid for one year from the date of issue of the permission letter or until the operationalisation of the Digital Sky Platform, whichever is earlier, the statement by the civil aviation ministry said.

This exemption shall be valid only if all conditions and limitations are strictly adhered to, it said. While conditional exemption has been given to MoAFW, it still needs to obtain necessary clearances from other ministries, the statement added. — PTI

**Political climate hots up in Kerala ahead of elections**

**The polls might be held in second week of April or first week of May**

**Open for chief ministership if BJP wins, says Sreedharan**

**New Delhi, Feb. 19:** Set to enter the political fray by joining the BJP next week, technocrat E. Sreedharan on Friday said his main aim is to help the party come to power in Kerala and that he will be open to chief ministership.

He also said that the focus will be on developing infrastructure in a big way and bring the state out of the debt trap if the BJP wins the assembly polls that are likely to be held in April-May this year.

Known as 'Metroman' for the efficiency in completing big infrastructure projects, Sreedharan said that he will contest the Assembly elections if the party wants and will also be open to chief ministership if the party asks.

The 88-year-old technocrat also made it clear that he will not be interested in governorship, saying that it is purely a "constitutional position and no powers at all" and that he won't be able to make any positive contribution to the state in such a position.

"My main idea is to bring BJP to power in Kerala. If BJP comes to power in Kerala, there will be three to four major areas we want to focus. One is infrastructure development in a big way and another is to bring industry to the state," he said.

So what are the stakes for different political fronts? For the CPM-led LDF, it's prestigious battle to safeguard its last bastion in the country. With no signs of immediate revival of party in West

Speaking over phone from Ponnani in Kerala where he is based now, Sreedharan said that a finance commission could also be formed for the purpose of improving the finances of the state, which is in a "debt trap today".

"The state is in a debt trap today, so much of borrowings. And debt burden on each Malayalee is ₹1.2 lakh today.... That means we are heading for bankruptcy and the government still continues to borrow. The state finances need to be propped up and for that, we need to find a solution," he said.

His entry into the BJP is being seen as a major boost for the party in election-bound Kerala. The state is being ruled by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) alternately for the past many years.

"If BJP wants, I will contest (the Assembly elections)," he said during an interview.

Sreedharan said that he is "certainly" ready to be the chief minister if the party wants him to be after coming to power.

When asked about whether he will be open to chief ministership, he said, "If they (BJP) want, certainly. To tell you very frankly, unless I am the chief minister these (pri-

orities) cannot be achieved." He is likely to formally join the BJP on February 25 and said that he was entering the "political fray".

On the reasons for deciding to join the BJP which is in power at the Centre, Sreedharan said that he wanted to do things for the benefit of Kerala if the UDF and the LDF have not been able to bring any tangible progress to the state.

"Why I chose BJP is for a different reason. The two others in Kerala — UDF and LDF — have been ruling Kerala alternately.... They have not been able to bring any tangible progress to the state, not even one industry has come to the state in the last 20 years...

"They were having tussles with the (central) government all the time. The two governments are not able to see eye to eye on many matters. The development of the state is suffering. If the BJP comes to power here, they will have a good rapport with the Government of India," he said. He was referring to apparent differences between the Centre and the ruling LDF in Kerala.

On what it means to enter the political fray, Sreedharan said it only means that all his professional responsibilities are coming to an end by the end of this month. — PTI

Bengal and Tripura too going out of hand, the Left has to keep its flag flying in Kerala. Moreover, the Left is desperate to retain power for what it says — to present an alternative development model to the

country.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, 75, has led from the front during the past five years. While the LDF government has a series of schemes like the 'Life Mission' to provide land

and house to landless and homeless people, social welfare pensions to the poor, development projects and the helping hand provided during Covid and back to back floods, it also has its share of controversy.

Political observers say it is difficult to read the voters' mind at this stage.

However, the situation would be much clearer when the yatsras get over by first week of March.

**ON THE ANVIL After the Mars Orbiter Mission's success, Isro also decides to explore Venus****India's next Mars mission likely to be an orbiter**

**New Delhi, Feb. 19:** As NASA's Perseverance rover landed on Mars in the early hours of Friday to look for signs of past life, Isro's next mission to the Red Planet is likely to be an orbiter.

Perseverance, the biggest and the most advanced rover ever sent by NASA, made its landing at Jezero Crater.

After its successful Mars Orbiter Mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) called for 'Announcement of Opportunities' on Mars Orbiter Mission-2.

"It is now planned to have the next orbiter mission around Mars for a future launch opportunity," according to the

Announcement of Opportunities.

But there are other major projects that are lined up. After the Mars Orbiter Mission's success, Isro also decided to explore Venus.

However, the immediate priorities of Isro remain to be Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaan — both proj-

ects have been delayed due to the Coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Under Chandrayaan-3, Isro will once again try to land a rover on the Moon.

The mission was to be launched late last year.

Chandrayaan-2 did not yield expected results as the lander hard-landed, dashing India's hopes to successfully land on the Moon.

Isro plans to send three humans to space by 2022 under the Gaganyaan (human space) mission.

The India-France Joint Vision for Space Cooperation also mentions about the possible collaboration to explore Mars.

"CNES and Isro, with the

support of Laboratoire de météorologie dynamique (LMD, CNRS), will jointly work on the modelling of Mars and Venus atmospheres," the vision statement said.

Mangalyaan or Mars Orbiter Mission was India's first endeavour to successfully reach another planet.

The launch vehicle,

spacecraft and ground segment cost ₹450 crore, one of the cheapest missions to Mars so far.

Designed to work for six months, the mission has completed over six years.

The Mars orbiter has sent thousands of pictures totalling more than two terabytes. — PTI

(Isro) K. Sivan said. SEED is conceived as a competitive early stage encouragement programme to startups and MSMEs (Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises) keen on developing products/services in focus areas of interest to ISRO with the space agency helping them to use its facilities, officials said.

A formal mechanism for the programme was expected to be announced soon, they said. — PTI

Bengaluru, Feb. 19: ISRO has embarked on a mission to take startups in the space sector to a higher orbit with a string of initiatives to help them realise their business potential.

It is keen on formulating an exclusive space startup programme — "Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development (SEED)", Secretary in the department of space and chairman of the Indian space research organisa-

# DECCAN Chronicle

20 FEBRUARY 2021

## Cong's Punjab lesson: Set store by local stalwarts

The spectacular sweep by the Congress in the civic polls in all three regions of Punjab earlier this week presents an object lesson to the Narendra Modi government as well as the Congress itself. The poll results have pushed the otherwise powerful Akali Dal, which derives its authority from Sikh religious forums, and the BJP into a narrow corner. The lesson for India's oldest party, which now appears to be in a semi-somnolent state in many parts of the country — is that the road to revival is closed. But there is a proviso: in the states the party must be led by local stalwarts who have come up the political ladder in the normal course of elections and manoeuvring, and not by lightweight flunkies accidentally selected by the central leadership and its nominated committees on a whim or to bestow personal favours.

In Punjab, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, in spite of his advanced years, proved his mettle. He gave mature political leadership. He could instinctively pick issues to highlight that matter. He also dealt with upstarts favoured by the Centre in a manner that did not raise any dust and he did not throw tantrums, although he is a maharaja. Attempts by his opponents to throw barbs of a personal nature at him cut no ice.

No doubt, the farmers' agitation helped the Congress greatly. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi's initiative in the Lok Sabha in holding two minutes silence — by treading into the Speaker's domain — in memory of the farmers who have died in the agitation could hardly have gone unnoticed in Punjab or anywhere else.

But these meaningful acts of symbolism may not have gone far enough and been translated into votes, were it not for the astute leadership of the state by Captain Amarinder Singh and the tending of the state party organisation by PCC chief Sunil Jakhar in a sober manner. The Congress high command, such as it is, will doubtless realise that the party could have swept the Assembly election in neighbouring Haryana if only it had handed over charge of the party to Bhupinder Hooda early enough.

The Modi government and the ruling BJP cannot but have noticed that the day after the Punjab civic poll results came out, Rakesh Tikait, who has by now emerged as a famous farmer's leader from western Uttar Pradesh, called on the community of farmers to intensify their agitation.

Rakesh Tikait called on the community of farmers to intensify their agitation

After the Punjab civic poll results came out, Rakesh Tikait, who has by now emerged as a famous farmer's leader from western Uttar Pradesh, called on the community of farmers to intensify their agitation

The Punjab results also point to the fact that the dissatisfaction with the Centre's policies that have fuelled unemployment, shutting down of micro, small and medium industries, and the relentless climb in diesel and petrol prices, are hurting the urban voter badly. The government leadership and the ruling party leadership need to look sharp and make wise choices.

## Prince's ransom for cricketers

A couple of IPL teams seem to have gone overboard in splashing crores on cricketers who are looking to rediscover their mojo after very poor outings in the last edition of the league played in the UAE. Considering that 130 countries around the globe are yet to lay their hands on the vaccine in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, such splurging seems a tad extravagant. But then, chasing sporting success is an expensive but far from scientific pursuit. Perhaps, the extravagance has to be seen as part of a larger sport bubble that comes more as an entertainment package and is not to be equated with normal pay for work rewards in the lives and livelihoods of the people. The 2020 records of Chris Morris of South Africa, who at ₹16.25 crore has become the cash-rich league's most expensive player at an auction, and Glenn Maxwell of Australia, who gets close to ₹13.25 crore (the approximate procurement cost of 5.7 lakh vaccines) bear no relation to the prince's ransom being paid as salaries.

The teams seemed so overenthusiastic about foreign T20 all-rounders that they could not show the same largesse to homegrown talent. The riches showered on some youngsters in this annual auction like K. Gowtham, bought by Chennai Super Kings for ₹9.25 crore and M. Shahrukh Khan, picked up by the renamed Punjab Kings for ₹1.2 crore, may have been heartwarming as their potential to shine in the T20 format is being recognised. The champions Mumbai Indians, who were parsimonious compared to the likes of Royal Challengers Bangalore, who broke their bank at the auction on a couple of expensive buys, also chose to take on the cricketer with the famous surname — Arjun Tendulkar — at the modest starting price of ₹20 lakh. In cricketing terms, the hunt for impact players who can be expected to swing games with bat and/or ball seems logical enough. The timing of the commitment of millions seems a bit awkward when the world is vaccinating against the existential crisis posed by the virus.

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Farrukh Dhondy  
Cabbages & Kings



"There is time always, Bachchoo,  
To talk of many things  
As the Walrus did expound  
On cabbages and kings

And yet this global fear  
Clips conversation's wings  
The only news we hear  
Is of Covid's mutating!"

— From O For a Sip of Bepsi Kohla by Bachchoo

Without freedom of speech and opinion, there is no democracy. The system of counting votes and giving the majority the privilege of governing in fairness to the minority — is only the first requirement. The rule of unoppressive, uncoercive law, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of speech — yes, even on Twitter — are some of the rest.

Twitter has now banned Donald Trump's outpourings, not because they're left-wing or supportive of some mythical religious bias, but because very many of them amount to hate speech and incitement to break the law.

In Britain, there are laws against hate speech. Though difficult to define, the law trusts judges and

juries to identify speech which calls for any sort of attack on the minorities — or even a majority of the population. It's a law that upholds decency, but "hate crime" shouldn't stretch to expressing a questioning or dissenting opinion about, say, a religion. I am free to publicly proclaim that I don't believe in virgin births, or that God engraves, by lightning, laws on stone tablets or indeed dictates books to prophets. I won't have, I hope, crossed the line between a theological or scientific belief and incitement to attack any religious group or the buildings they represent.

The definition of hate crime in any democracy should not deteriorate or ever be interpreted as "Disagree Crime". Dictatorships and fascist regimes, some, as in Turkey, based on religion and others on a mafioocracy, are universally known for their intolerance of dissent. Turkey locks up its journalists and Russia arrests and imprisons 11,000 of the protesters who took to the streets in favour of the release of a dissident politician. Other nations disgracefully encourage and allow curtailment of the freedom of speech or even fiction, on the grounds of dubious interpretations of religious sanctity.

In recent years, American and British universities have entertained insidious attacks on the principle of freedom of speech. Cambridge University, for instance, backpedalled in recent months on an edict they issued to "respect" all opinions. Several senior and junior members of the university interpreted this injunction as a "shut-up" call to all dissidence. They wanted the dictat to be modified to "tolerate" all opinions, while reserving the right to contradict and oppose them. The dissidents won.

Several prominent writers and academics, among them J.K. Rowling of the Harry Potter books, Germaine Greer, widely recognised as a pioneer of contemporary feminism and, most recently, Prof. Selina Todd of Oxford University, have been variously "no-platformed" by university student organisations because they've argued, in the media or through social media outlets, that transgender women were not really women and shouldn't be afforded the reserved rights and spaces that belonged to the gender. They had rational and scientific arguments on their side and each one, and others on the side of these three, strongly aver that they are not denying social or political rights to

transgender people, but insist on their own freedom, without censure and abuse from trolls, to hold scientific and biological arguments which deny that humans or animals can change gender because they want to.

In a recent case, brought by a young woman who was, when she was underage, subject to what she called pressure and "mind control" at the Tavistock Institute, the court ruled that influencing or indulging minors to change their gender and undergo medicinal, surgical and psychological therapy to do so, was unlawful.

This censorship, the denial of platforms to people whose opinions, politics or stances on any issues which the banning and debarring bodies disagree with, has been confined to supporters of what has come to be known as the "woke" agenda. People with doubts or dissenting opinions on race, gender, sexual orientation — and politicians who have acted in favour of right-wing policies — have been the targets of this denial of appearance on university platforms, sometimes being informed of the banning only hours before they were invited to appear.

The phenomenon has been taken up by right-wing commentators, who argue that this is an anti-democratic assault on free speech in the

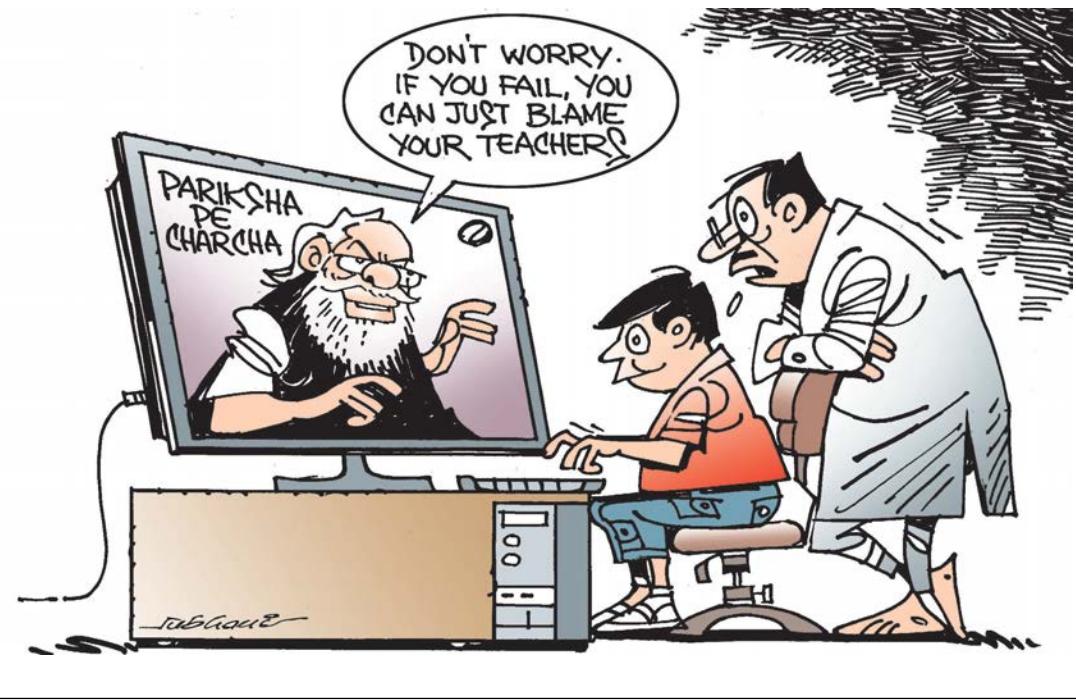
very institutions, the universities, where opposing arguments should be debated. Britain's Conservative government, with an ear wide open to these commentators, has now resolved to legislate for "free speech" and appoint a sort of supreme court to see that this law is enforced.

Prof. Todd has expressed her support for such a law. She says it's necessary as the atmosphere on campus, perpetrated by self-appointed activists and attitude-enforcers, inhibits the expression of dissenting opinions — about history, science, politics, sociology and even literature.

The National Union of Students' representatives argue that there is no need for such a law and that it has constantly been vigilant about absolute freedom of speech in universities. A good cellar of salt should flavour this assertion.

Time will tell if this law and its enforcement have any effect. Perhaps every country with a claim to being democratic should pass such a law and appoint a manifestly independent "nefta" with powers to dismiss frivolous and outrageous attacks on the freedom of opinion and creativity from politicians and charlatans.

Subhani



## Women walk taller... But what if Ramani had lost?

Shobhaa De

The temptation to gloat at this very moment is pretty darn overwhelming. I sure millions of women across India (and possibly the world) are viewing journalist Priya Ramani's acquittal by a Delhi court in a criminal defamation case filed by former Union minister/journalist/author M.J. Akbar as a personal victory. It was a goosebumps-inducing historic few minutes for those present at Delhi's Rouse Avenue courts on Wednesday as Ravindra Dubey, additional chief metropolitan magistrate, pointed out what should have been obvious to everybody all along — that even a person of high social standing can be a sexual harasser and a woman cannot be punished for raising instances of abuse decades later. The irony of that significant observation is not lost on anyone, given that Priya Ramani was the accused in this case, and had to fight valiantly for her truth to be established in court! And yes — as in most such cases, it is men (and more infrequently, women) "of high social standing" who are guilty of misusing this very "social standing", secure and complacent in the belief that nothing and no one can touch them because of it.

With this important verdict, all of a sudden, women are experiencing a surge of confidence. They are walking taller, heads held high. Courage they have never lacked! Just the thought that they will get a fair hearing, is enough for now. The silence of victims has been misread as weakness. Worse, it has been equated with consent and compliance. Ravindra Dubey spoke on behalf of many men who share the sentiments expressed in the verdict but dare not go public with their pro-women views. Why? Because they fear the wrath of other men and are scared of being mocked by a hyper-macho, over-patriarchal system that entitles men

to bully and browbeat women — no questions asked.

Often it is the unalloyed arrogance of men in power (I refuse to call them "powerful men" — they are anything but!) that makes them believe in their own invincibility. Here's my theory for what it's worth: M.J. Akbar overplayed his card. Plus, he was badly advised by his mighty legal team. He probably thought he could turn the tables on Priya Ramani and crush her with formidable money power and political clout. Who was she, after all? That's the way mediocre minds function. One expected M.J. Akbar to be a shrewd strategist. Like some of his contemporaries, who ducked under the radar, and waited for the #MeToo storm to blow over. Today, hardly anybody remembers who they were — and nobody cares! The momentum is long over. People have moved on. And those very same men are carrying on with their lives like nothing ever happened. A few are still lying low, perhaps hoping their accusers have "forgotten", preferably "forgiven". Dream on! No Sir... Women do not forget! Some are unable to fight back, others too emotionally drained to rage on. But no woman forgets the face of her abuser or his despicable abuse, till her last breath.

The court in this remarkable verdict has emphasised that there is no time bar for speaking out. A woman is entitled to do so decades later, if she so chooses. In no way

With this important verdict, all of a sudden, women are experiencing a surge of confidence. They are walking taller, heads held high. Courage they have never lacked! Just the thought that they will get a fair hearing, is enough for now. The silence of victims has been misread as weakness. Worse, it has been equated with consent and compliance. Ravindra Dubey spoke on behalf of many men who share the sentiments expressed in the verdict but dare not go public with their pro-women views. Why? Because they fear the wrath of other men and are scared of being mocked by a hyper-macho, over-patriarchal system that entitles men

to bully and browbeat women — no questions asked.

Priya and Rebecca must know what this victory and acquittal signifies for women — it is like the biggest validation of all times! It shows one thing unequivocally — women matter. Their voices matter.

Right of reputation can't be protected at the cost of life and dignity of the woman..." Yessss! So ... all the "powerful" men cowering at the moment at the thought of the repercussions of this verdict — cower away. It's your turn next!

... But what if Priya Ramani had lost?"

Readers can send feedback to [www.shobhaade.blogspot.com](http://www.shobhaade.blogspot.com)

## LETTERS

### HYDERABAD TREE CITY

We are delighted (*Hyderabad now India's Tree City*, DC, Feb. 19). The TRS deserves applause for encouraging planting of trees since the state formation. While millions of saplings are planted annually, not many survive. Indigenous species that can survive a prolonged dry spell must be chosen. Watering exotic plants every year may not be practical. Secondly, axes and knives are used to trim overhanging branches. It hurts the tree and eventually kills it. It is not only a loss of trees, but also the effort and money spent to raise them. Mechanical saws must be used.

K. Ahmedullah  
Hyderabad

### FUEL PRICE RISE

The people are suffering the most due to the relentless rise in fuel prices. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation that his predecessors' policies caused the fuel price rise is illogical. The LPG price under Modi has risen to a whopping ₹71 per cylinder. The PM should concentrate on burning issues instead of TN and WB polls.

G. Vinod  
Hyderabad

### KILLING ADVOCATES

The government machinery has failed. When it remains silent about illegal works, those who raise an alarm about them will become victims. Investigation, legal procedures and punishments will be a long drawn affair. But the damage is already done. This is the trend in many issues.

S. Venkateswara Rao  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Alarming rise in payments: ESI benefits

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 19 Mr. D. Sanjivayya, Labour Minister today announced that the ceiling of incidence on medical care under the Employees State Insurance Scheme should be fixed at Rs. 50, Rs. 54 and Rs. 64 per annum, depending upon the type of medical care.

Right of reputation can't be protected at the cost of life and dignity of the woman..." Yessss! So ... all the "powerful" men cowering at the moment at the thought of the repercussions of this verdict — cower away. It's your turn next! ... But what if Priya Ramani had lost?"

Time will tell if this law and its enforcement have any effect. Perhaps every country with a claim to being democratic should pass such a law and appoint a manifestly independent "nefta" with powers to dismiss frivolous and outrageous attacks on the freedom of opinion and creativity from politicians and charlatans.

Why it's crucial to stand up for views you may not agree with...



## SHORT TAKES

## CONG LEADER IN MP HITS OUT AT KANGANA

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB 19

Senior Congress leader and former minister Sukhdev Panse has called Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut a 'naachney gaane wali' (a professional singer and dancer), sparking a row here.

The BJP termed his 'uncharitable' remarks against the actress as reflection of 'narrow mindset' of the Congress.

"What do you expect from a leader of a party whose leader Rahul Gandhi re-tweets comments on farmers' stir by (pop star) Rihanna and (former pornographic actress) Mia Khalifa", BJP spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal said here on Friday.

While protesting the purported comment by Ranaut calling protesting farmers in Delhi as terrorists, Panse on Thursday said the Bollywood actress was hardly aware of farmers' plights since she was a 'naachney gaane wali'.

Senior Congress leader and former minister Sajjan Singh Verma came to the rescue of his colleague when the latter's comment on Ms Ranaut snowballed into a controversy.

"He (Panse) should have said Ranaut knows how to dance, but is not aware of farmers' issues", he said.

The Bollywood actress was currently shooting for her upcoming film *Dhaakad* in Sarni in Betul district.

## COURT REJECTS LALU YADAV'S BAIL PLEA

DC CORRESPONDENT PATNA, FEB. 19

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday rejected Lalu Yadav's bail plea in the fodder scam case pertaining to the illegal withdrawal of ₹3.97 crore from the Dumka treasury in the 1990s when he was the Chief Minister of Bihar.

Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh dismissed the bail petition of Mr. Yadav on the ground that he has not completed half of his prison term and asked his lawyer to file another application after two months.

"The court's observation was that he has to serve two more months in jail to complete half of the term of his total sentence in the case. We will file another application after two months", Lalu Yadav's lawyer Prabhat Kumar told reporters in Ranchi after the court's verdict on Friday.

Sources in the RJD said that the court's order came as a setback for Lalu Yadav's family and the party as they were expecting a favourable decision in the case.

He is already on bail in three out of four fodder scam cases pertaining to fraudulent withdrawal of ₹900 crore from Deoghar, Chaibasa and Dumka treasury. He was convicted in the Dumka case in March 2018.

The money was withdrawn through fake vouchers and bills on the pretext of purchasing fodder and other livestock. Fraudulent withdrawal from government treasuries and the use of fake bills and vouchers took place between 1991 and 1996 when Lalu Yadav was the Chief Minister of Bihar.

## CIVIC ELECTION CAMPAIGN ENDS IN SIX GUJ CITIES

**Ahmedabad, Feb. 19:** Campaigning for polls to civic corporations in six major cities of Gujarat ended on Friday with voting scheduled for February 21.

Counting of votes for these polls in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar will take place in February 23.

While the BJP is playing the "development" card, the Congress, which has been out of power in these local bodies for a long time now, has been citing "lack of amenities" and the recent fuel price hike to turn the tide.

The last day of campaigning saw Gujarat BJP chief C.R. Paatil leading a well-attended road show on a 22-kilometre route from Naroda to Khadia here, with state minister Pradeepsinh Jadeja and Rajya Sabha MP Narhari Amin taking part.

Paatil told reporters such events were held by the party in all the cities going to polls, including in Rajkot, where motorcycle rallies were organised in all 18 wards.

Citing huge crowds, Paatil said, "People are in our favour because of our track record and good governance."

# Some media coverage on Disha sensational, prejudicial, says HC

Delhi court sends climate activist Disha Ravi to 3-day judicial custody in toolkit case

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 19

The Delhi High Court on Friday said certain media coverage of investigation into the FIR against climate activist Disha Ravi for her alleged involvement in sharing a toolkit backing farmers' protest indicates "sensationalism and prejudicial reporting", but declined to order removal of any such content at this stage.

Justice Prathiba M Singh said the interim plea for removal of such news content and tweets by Delhi Police would be considered at a later stage.

The court, however, asked media houses to ensure that no leaked investigation material is broadcast as it could affect the probe and directed Delhi Police to abide by its stand on affidavit that it has not leaked nor intends to leak any probe details to the press.

The court also said that police would be entitled to hold press briefings in the matter in accordance with the law and the agency's 2010 office memorandum with regard to media coverage of cases.

To media houses, the court said they should ensure the information received from their sources is authentic and only verified content ought to be publicised as also that the investigation is not hampered.

The court was hearing Ravi's plea to restrain police from leaking to the media any probe material in relation to the FIR lodged against her.

The petition also sought to restrain the media from publishing the content or extract of any private chats, including those on WhatsApp, between her and third parties.

## TWO ARRESTED IN UNNAO DEATHS CASE

**Unnao, Feb. 19:** The Uttar Pradesh Police on Friday held two people in connection with the deaths of two teenage girls at an Unnao village, accusing them of murder over a one-sided love affair.

The third victim in the case is battling for life at a hospital.

One of the accused held in the case is a teenager, according to police.

"Vinay Kumar, alias Lambu, and a teenager have been held in connection with the case. The matter is a fallout of a one-side love affair. The accused gave some pesticide with water to the three girls," Lucknow Range IG Laxmi Singh told reporters here.

Both accused are residents of Pathakpur village in the Ashoka area and were held on a tip-off, the IG said.

During interrogation, Vinay told police that he was involved in agriculture and owned a piece of land at Baburao village, near the spot where girls were found on Wednesday night.

According to police, Vinay told them that the girls used to go to the fields for fodder and they became friends during the Coronavirus lockdown. He had a one-sided love affair with one of the girls.

We used to play and eat together in the field. I had a one-sided love affair with her. When I proposed her, she rejected. When I asked her this month to give me her phone number, she did not give due to which I was angry and decided to kill her," Vinay told police.

"On Wednesday, I mixed pesticide in a water bottle and asked my friend to bring snacks. The three had it and when they asked for water, I gave them the water bottle in which pesticide was mixed and they drank it. I had left their bodies in the field," the IG said quoting Vinay's confession.

## FIGHTING | COVID

**While the US took 31 days to achieve this, UK crossed the mark in 56 days**

# Over 1 cr vaccinated against Covid so far

SANJAY KAW | DC  
WITH AGENCY INPUTS  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 19

A little over a month after starting its Covid-19 inoculation drive, India on Friday achieved the landmark feat of vaccinating over one crore people against the deadly virus. The health ministry said Friday India was the second-fastest after the United States to achieve this milestone.

While the US had taken

31 days to achieve this, Britain had crossed the one-crore vaccination mark in 56 days. India achieved it in 34 days. Till 8 am Friday, the total number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered

accounted for 57.47 per cent of total inoculations in the country. Uttar Pradesh accounted for 10.5 per cent doses. Seven states administered 60.85 per cent of the second dose vaccine.

In this, Telangana led the

healthcare workers and frontline workers in India was 1,01,88,007.

The ministry data, however, showed an uneven pattern, with several states and Union territories injecting doses to less than 50 per cent of their target frontline workers. Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Punjab are among the larger states yet to reach 50 per cent vaccine coverage.

Among eight states that

had sought emergency use authorisation for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine in India.

As part of the review process, Dr Reddy's will present the safety profile of the Phase 2 study, and interim data of the Phase 3 study, that is expected to be over by February 21.

Going by the speed at which the vaccination drive is going on, it will take two more years to get 30 per cent of the population inoculated in India. Experts have suggested private healthcare bodies should also be involved to ramp up the vaccination process.

Meanwhile, a total of

13,193 new Covid-19 cases

were detected in a span of 24 hours. The death toll rose to 1,56,111 with 97 new fatalities in the last 24 hours.

The fatalities count was reported to be between one and five in 15 states and Union territories, while it was between six and 10 in three states and Union territories.

Meanwhile, even as the

Coronavirus cases in Maharashtra are rising, four MVA ministers and senior leaders have been infected by the virus in the last four days.

Maharashtra public health minister Rajesh Tope got infected on Thursday.

Ministers Bacchu Kadu, Jayant Patil and Rajendra

Shinde have also been found Covid positive. In addition to this, senior NCP leader Eknath Khadse and his daughter-in-law Raksha Khadse, who is also BJP MP from Raver, have also tested positive. Minister of state for water resources and education Bacchu Kadu has tested positive for Covid for the second time on Friday.

Also, new strains of coronavirus found in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil have not been detected in Amravati, Yavatmal and Satara districts of Maharashtra where cases have spiked recently, the state government said on Friday.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

## MP CM'S SLEEP DISTURBED, ENGINEER FACES MUSIC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BHOPAL, FEB. 19

An engineer of state public works department (PWD) has been placed under suspension for the inconvenience caused to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan owing to mosquito bites during his night stay in a government rest house in Sidhi on February 17.

In-charge of the Sidhi circuit house Babul Gupta was suspended for the poor maintenance of the rest house which caused inconvenience to the 'special guest' (Chief Minister) during his night stay, a notice served to him by the Rewa revenue division commissioner (RDC) Rajesh Kumar Jain said.

The notice dated February 18 went viral on Friday.

The notice said assistant engineer of PWD Babul Gupta who was in-charge of the circuit house had been intimidated of chief minister's stay in the facility much in advance.

The notice said lack of maintenance of the rest house has been found and complaints of mosquito menace in the rooms have been received.

The facility was found not fit for the stay of the special guest, it added.

The Chief Minister had visited Rampur Naikin canal in Sidhi, the site of bus mishap in which 53 people were killed on February 16, on Wednesday.

Later in the day, he met the survivors of the tragedy in the hospital in Sidhi and then held a meeting of senior officers of Sidhi district at around 10 in the night of February 16.

He had retired to bed almost at midnight.

Sources said Chouhan was troubled by mosquitoes in his room which made him toss and turn in his bed till 2.30 in the morning.

He later called the officers concerned and pulled them up for the mosquito menace in his room.

Later, mosquito repellent was sprayed in his room.

An hour later, he woke up to the sound of the overflowing of the water tank in the circuit house. He had to move out of the room to switch off the motor pump. He had drawn his troubles to Mr Jain's attention on February 17, leading to suspension of the engineer.

**CHOUHAN WAS**  
troubled by mosquitoes in his room which made him toss and turn in his bed till 2.30 in the morning.



"In these circumstances, and to restrain the respondents from further violating her privacy, her reputation, and her right to a fair trial, the petitioner is moving the present petition," the plea has said.

The petition has alleged that investigative matters have been leaked to the media and the press briefings by the police are "prejudicial" and "grossly violative of her right to a fair trial and presumption of innocence".

It has claimed that the police first "leaked investigative material" - like alleged WhatsApp chats - the substance and details of which were only in the possession of the investigating agency.

Thereafter, the "private alleged WhatsApp chats" were published and disseminated by various media houses which was a violation of the provisions of the Cable Televisions Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (CTN Act), the Programme Code and the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines, and the petition has contend-

ed.

Meanwhile, a Delhi court on Friday sent climate activist Disha Ravi, arrested for allegedly being involved in sharing a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest, to three-day judicial custody. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Akash Jain sent Ravi, 21, to jail after Delhi Police produced her before the court on expiry of her five-day custodial interrogation. Police said was "wholly unlawfully and without basis".

She has also contended that in the present circumstances, it was "highly likely" that the general public will perceive the news items "as being conclusive as to the guilt of her co-accused - Shantanu Mukul and Nikita Jacob - join the interrogation.

the ongoing investigation, where she is being viscerally attacked by the respondent (police) and several media houses".

She has claimed that her arrest from Bengaluru on February 13 by a Cyber Cell team of Delhi Police was "wholly unlawfully and without basis".

She has also contended that in the present circumstances, it was "highly likely" that the general public will perceive the news items "as being conclusive as to the guilt of the petitioner (Ravi)".

made asking them to lay down their weapons and surrender.

"Instead of accepting the offer, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately and also managed to keep some of the inmates as hostages.

Due to darkness the operation was suspended for the night.

However, the cordon remained intact throughout the night. With the first light on Friday, the joint party was tactfully able to evacuate the hostages.

Repeated announcements were again made to the terrorists to surrender, but they fired indiscriminately on security forces which retaliated, resulting in elimination of all the three," a police statement said.

It added arms and ammunition including two AK rifles with five magazines and 96 rounds of ammunition, one pistol and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter.

Battalion in Beeru area of Budgam district. They had been followed to another village some two kilometres away from the encounter site. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation launched, he added.

In another clash, three militants were killed in southern Shopian district overnight, the police said, adding that the slain were associated with Al-Badr outfit.

They have been identified as Suhail Sheikh alias Azeem, Shahid Ahmad Dar alias Furqan and Muddasir Ahmad Wagay, all local Kashmiris.

Officials said that the operation against the militants in Shopian's Badigam village was launched jointly by the J&K Police's counter-insurgency Special Operations Group (SOG), the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and 178th Battalion of the CRPF on Thursday evening and that, after the presence of militants was ascertained, repeated announcements were

made asking them to lay down their weapons and surrender.

Escaping militant or militants' 'blood trace' has been followed to another village some two kilometres away from the encounter site. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation launched, he added.

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made asking them to lay down their weapons and surrender.

Escaping militant or militants' 'blood trace' has been followed to another village some two kilometres away from the encounter site. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation launched, he added.

**RELEASING THIS WEEK**

**SHANTI** 70MM NARAYANAGUDA  
(FULLY RENOVATED)

**BRAMARAMBA** 70MM KUKATPALLY

**KONARK** 70MM-DSNR LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

**AMB** AMB-GACHIBOWLI Sivaganga | mcube mall Gpr mall | Radhika Cinesquare-Uppal

**PVR** Forum mall | inorbit mall Icon | Galleria | Preston mall Central | Irrummanzil | RK plex Musarambagh

**INOX** Gvk mall | mp mall Gsm mall

**Prasad's** Prasad's Multiplex Laxmikala Cinepride

**Cinépolis** Ccpl | Dsl | Sudha Mantra Mall

**MIRAJ** Chandanagar | Geetha Dilshuknagar

**PLATINUM** Karthikeya exhibitors release

**BLOCKBUSTER JUSTICE**

**SEE TODAY**

**SANDHYA** 35MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY) 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**RAJADHANI** COMPLEX-DSNR 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**BRAMARAMBA** 11.30, 2.45PM

**AMB** 10.20, 1.00, 7.35, 10.40PM

**LAXMIKALA**-2.15, 9.15PM 9.00, 2.30, 5.15, 8.15, 11.00PM

**SIVAGANGA**-2.00PM RADHIKA-10.50AM, 10.30PM

**GPR**-10.40, 4.25PM | **MCUBE**-1.45, 7.45PM

**CINESQUARE**-10.35, 7.25PM

**INOX** GVK-10:30, 3:45, 10:30PM MP-10:00, 7:25, 10:40PM GSM-12:25, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40PM

**PVR** Forum-10.10, 1.20, 7.40, 10.50PM Inorbit-1.30, 4.25pm, 10.40PM Central-11.00, 4.40, 10.50PM Galleria-10.20, 1.30, 7.00, 10.40PM Irrum Manzil-12.45, 7.40, 9.45PM Moosarambagh-1.00, 7.05, 10.15PM Prestone-1.10, 7.35PM

**MIRAJ** Shalini-10.15, 4.40, 11.00PM Chandanagar-3.45PM Balanagar-10.15, 4.40, 11.00PM

**TIVOLI** 10.40, 1.50, 7.30PM KOMPALLY 4.45, 10.35PM

**MALLAPUR** 12.35, 7.05PM 7.40, 10.40PM

**L.B.NAGAR** 11.00, 4.55 PLATINUM 12.15, 6.00, 10.30PM

**SAPOOJA** 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**VIJETHA** 70MM 6.00, 9.00PM

**VYJAYANTHI** 70MM 11.00, 2.00PM

**JYOTHI** DABALRM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS**

**SANDHYA** 70MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY) 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**PLATINUM** 4.30, 8.10 11.15 **TIVOLI** 1.40 7.45PM

**MIRAJ** BALANAGAR-2.30, 7.10, 10.45PM SHALINI-2.30, 7.10, 10.45PM CHANDANAGAR-3.15, 6.30, 9.45PM

**Cinépolis** MANTRA-12.00, 6.40, 10.10PM CCPL-12.00, 3.25, 6.50, 10.15PM DSL-11.45, 6.50, 10.30PM SUDHA-12.00, 3.30, 7.00, 10.30PM

**INOX** 10.05, 4.30, 7.15PM BVK 1.50, 10.50

**NOMA TALKIES**-MALLAPUR 11.25, 3.45, 10.15PM

**SREERAMANA** 11.15, 2.15PM

**SENSATION** 6.15, 9.15PM **METRO** 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**KRISHNAGAR** 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 **KUMAR** 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

**SRINIVASA** 70 11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30 **MAHALAXMI** 11.00AM

**VENKATASAI** 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 **ANJALI** 70MM 11.15, 2.15PM

**SRLAXMIKALAMANDIR** 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**TALLURI** 70MM 2.15, 9.15PM **SV CINESQUARE** 11.00, 9.00PM

**SAI SURYA ENTERTAINMENTS RELEASE**

**MASS ENTERTAINER**

**SAI SURYA ENTERTAINMENTS EAK**

**SANDHYA** 70MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY) 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**SIVAPARVATHI** 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

**TARAKARAMA** 70MM 11.00 & 6.00PM

**VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI** KACHIGUDA-9.30PM

**AMB** AMB-10.25, 1.45, 7.00PM

**LAXMIKALA**-11.15, 6.15PM

**PRASADS**-11.45, 8.00PM

**mcube**-1.25, 10.10PM **GPR**-4.45, 10.30PM **RADHIKA**-4.35PM

**CINESQUARE**-1.15, 4.20, 10.20PM

**PVR** GALLERIA-11.45, 3.05, 6.25, 10.10PM INORBIT-11.45, 3.05, 6.25, 10.10PM CENTRAL-12.35, 3.55, 7.15, 10.45PM HITECH-3.15, 6.55, 10.15PM IRRUMMANZIL-12.30, 3.55, 7.10, 10.30 PRESTON-7.10, 10.30PM RK-2.25, 11.05PM MUSARAMBAGH-12.45, 4.05, 7.25, 10.45

**INOX** GVK-1.50, 6.20, 10.00PM MP-10.00, 6.50, 10.30PM GSM-12.05, 3.40, 7.15, 10.40PM

**AMB** CINEMAS

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

<b>UPPENA</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A)	<b>KAPATADAARI</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A)
10:40 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:25 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:10 PM, 10:40 PM	10:30 AM, 1:15 PM, 4:20 PM, 7:25 PM, 10:20 PM
<b>BEST OF ENEMIES: WORST OF FRIENDS</b>	
<b>TOM &amp; JERRY</b>	
<b>NAANDHI</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A)	
11:05 AM, 1:55 PM, 4:15 PM, 7:10 PM, 10:10 PM	
<b>CHAKRA</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A)	
10:30 AM, 1:20 PM, 4:15 PM, 7:15 PM, 10:35 PM	
<b>POGARU</b> TELUGU 2D (U/A)	
10:25 AM, 1:45 PM, 7:30 PM	
<b>ZOMBIE REDDY</b> HINDI 2D (U/A)	
5:20 PM	

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**2020 ZEDDY** A TRAILER BY VENKATESH 3rd WEEK

**PVR** FORUM-2.10PM GALLERIA-4.40PM **PRASAD'S** 2.45PM

**INOX** GSM-2.15PM MP MALL-1.00PM **PLATINUM** 12.00PM

**OAMB** 4.35PM **TIVOLI** 4.50PM **BIG Cinemas you matter!** 4.25PM 10.30PM

GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE

**ASIAN CINEMAS** it's showtime!

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

<b>UPPENA</b> (U/A) (TEL)	<b>ASIAN RADHIKA-KAPRA</b>
10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20PM	10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20PM
<b>CHAKRA</b> (U/A) (TEL)	<b>ASIAN GPR-KUKATPALLY</b>
10.30, 1.30, 7.20PM	10.50, 1.40, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25PM
<b>KAPATADARI</b> (U/A) (TEL)	<b>ASIAN MCUBE-ATTAPUR(FULLY RENOVATED)</b>
10.30, 1.30, 7.20PM	10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM
<b>POGARU</b> (U/A) (TEL)	<b>ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL</b>
4.20PM	11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM
<b>NAANDHI</b> (U/A) (TEL)	<b>ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR</b>
10.30PM	11.00, 2.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM
<b>TOM &amp; JERRY</b> (2D) (ENG)	<b>ASIAN CINESQUARE(FULLY RENOVATED)</b>
11.00, 1.50, 7.40PM	10.45, 11.00, 1.55, 4.55, 7.40PM
<b>ASIAN LAKSHMIKALA-MOOSAPET</b>	
10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.30, 10.30, 10.40PM	
<b>ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY</b>	
10.30, 1.30, 4.25, 7.20, 10.15, 10.35PM	
<b>ASIAN MJR SQUARE-NARAPALLY</b>	
10.40, 1.35, 4.25, 7.20, 10.40, 10.45PM	
<b>PROGRAMMING SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE</b>	
<a href="http://www.asiancinemas.in">www.asiancinemas.in</a> or <a href="http://bookmyshow.com">www.bookmyshow.com</a>	
SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE STRICTLY FOLLOWED.	

# Citizenship Bill to help techies

US Act reforms family-based immigration system to keep Indian families together

**US lets in refugees stuck in Mexico**

**San Diego, Feb. 19:** After waiting months and sometimes years in Mexico, people seeking asylum in the United States are being allowed into the country starting from Friday as they wait for courts to decide on their cases, unwinding one of the Trump administration's signature immigration policies that President Joe Biden vowed to end.

The bill, if passed by both the chambers of the Congress — House of Representatives and the Senate — and signed into law by President Joe Biden would bring citizenship to millions of foreign nationals, including undocumented and those who came to the country legally.

The legislation would also benefit hundreds and thousands of Indian IT professionals and their families. Authors of the bill — Senator Bob Menendez and Congresswoman Linda Sanchez — told reporters that the US Citizenship Act of 2021 establishes a moral and economic imperative and a vision of immigration reform that is expansive and inclusive.

It grows the economy by making changes to the employment-based immigration system, eliminating per-country caps, making it easier for STEM advanced degree holders from US universities to stay, improving access to green cards for workers in lower-wage industries, giving dependents of H-1B holders work authorization, and preventing children of H-1B holders from aging out of the system.

"I am the daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico. I have dedicated my career to building an immigration system that lets people live without fear, and a system that gives immigrants — like my parents — who sought a better life and contribute to our nation a fair opportunity to thrive," Sanchez said.

"Immigrants contribute greatly to our country and society. They own businesses, pay taxes and teach our children. They are our roadmap to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants, with an expedited three-year path to citizenship, and giving all other undocumented immigrants who pass background checks and pay taxes with an eight-year path to citizenship without fear of deportation.

It reforms family-based immigration system to keep families together by recapturing visas from previous years to clear backlog, including spouses and children of green card holders as immediate family members. It also eliminates discrimination facing LGBTQ+ families, provides protection for orphans, widows and children, allows immigrants with approved family-sponsorship petitions to join family in the US on a temporary basis while they wait for green cards to become available.

—PTI

**Biden offers to meet Iran to save nuke deal**

**London, Feb. 19:** Britain's Prince Harry will relinquish his honorary military appointments and patronages after confirming to Queen Elizabeth II that he and his wife Meghan Markle will not return as working royals, Buckingham Palace announced on Friday.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, as they are officially known, rocked the British monarchy when they quit frontline royal duties a year ago and relocated to the United States, where they have embarked on several commercial ventures.

Under the terms of their departure, thrashed out at an emergency summit with the queen in early 2020, Harry agreed the couple would stop using the "Royal Highness" title and no longer carry out duties on behalf of the monarch, but vowed to review the moves a year on.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, as they will not be returning as working members of The Royal Family," Buckingham Palace said.

"The Queen has written confirming that in stepping away from the work of The Royal Family, it is not possible to continue with the responsibilities."

**Washington, Feb. 19:** US President Joe Biden's administration on Thursday offered talks with Iran led by European allies and reversed two largely symbolic steps against Tehran imposed by Donald Trump, as it sought to salvage a nuclear deal on the brink of collapse.

Three days before Biden's deadline to restrict some access to UN nuclear inspectors without an end to Trump's sanctions, new US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned jointly with European powers that the move would be "dangerous." Hours after Blinken's video-conference with his French, British and German counterparts, the European Union political director, Enrique Mora, proposed via Twitter an "informal meeting" involving Iran — and the United States accepted.

"The United States would accept an invitation from the European Union High Representative to attend a meeting of the P5+1 and Iran to discuss a diplomatic way forward on Iran's nuclear program," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

"That's not going to happen simply by one side telling the other one what to do," the official said on condition of anonymity.

—AFP

**SHORT TAKES**  
**OZ, FB IN TALKS  
OVER SWEEPING  
BAN OVER NEWS**

Sydney, Feb. 19: Australia and Facebook held high-stakes talks on Friday after the social media giant sparked global outrage by blacking out news for its Australian users, as Canberra insisted it wouldn't back down on a new law that would force the tech firm to pay for journalistic content.

From Thursday, Facebook has blanketed out the pages of media outlets for Australian users and blocked them from sharing any news content, rather than submit to the proposed legislation.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said he had spoken with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Friday to find a way out of the showdown, and that negotiations would continue over the weekend.

"We talked through their remaining issues and agreed our respective teams would work through them immediately," Frydenberg said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison also urged Facebook to "move quickly past" what he called threatening behaviour and "come back to the table".

He said his government's world-first legislation to force Facebook and Google to pay Australian media for news content published on their platforms was garnering interest from leaders around the world.

"People are looking at what Australia is doing," he said, noting that he had already discussed the situation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canada's Justin Trudeau.

# Nasa's rover touches down on Mars

After 7 months in space, overcomes tense landing phase called 'seven minutes of terror'

Washington, Feb. 19: After seven months in space, Nasa's Perseverance rover overcame a tense landing phase with a series of perfectly executed maneuvers to gently float down to the Martian soil on Thursday and embark on its mission to search for signs of past life.

"Touchdown confirmed," said operations lead Swati Mohan at 3:55 pm Eastern Time (2055 GMT), as mission control at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena erupted in cheers.

The autonomously guided procedure was in fact completed more than 11 minutes earlier, the length of time it took for radio signals to return to Earth.

Shortly after landing, the rover sent back its first black-and-white images, revealing a rocky field at the landing site in the Jezero Crater, just north of the Red Planet's equator.

More images, video of the descent and perhaps the first sounds of Mars ever recorded by microphones are expected in the coming hours as the rover relays data to overhead satellites.

US President Joe Biden hailed the "historic" event. "Today proved once again that with the power of science and American ingenuity, nothing is



This Nasa photo shows the first images from Nasa's Perseverance rover as it landed on the surface of Mars. Nasa said that the Perseverance rover has touched down on the surface of Mars after successfully overcoming a risky landing phase known as the 'seven minutes of terror.'

beyond the realm of possibility," he tweeted.

Perseverance's prime mission will last just over two years but it is likely to remain operational well beyond that, with its predecessor Curiosity still functioning eight years after landing on the planet, said Nasa acting administrator Steve Jurczyk.

"It'll be on Mars for its entire life," he said, adding "these robots tend to be really reliable."

Over the coming years,

Perseverance will attempt to collect 30 rock and soil samples in sealed tubes, to be eventually sent back to Earth sometime in the 2030s for lab analysis.

About the size of an SUV, the craft weighs a ton, is equipped with a seven-foot (two meter) long robotic arm, has 19 cameras, two microphones and a suite of cutting-edge instruments to assist in its scientific goals.

Before it could set out on its lofty quest, it first had to overcome the dreaded "seven minutes of ter-



This Nasa photo shows members of Nasa's Perseverance rover team as they react in mission control after receiving confirmation the spacecraft successfully touched down on Mars at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. — AFP

● AS THE world witnessed the historic landing of Nasa's Perseverance rover on the Martian surface, it was Indian-American scientist, Swati Mohan, who led the guidance, navigation, and control operations of the Mars 2020 mission.

● MOHAN ALSO confirmed that the rover had survived a particularly tricky plunge through the Martian atmos-

onboard map, was key to landing in a rugged region of scientific interest.

"We are in a nice flat spot, the vehicle is only tilted by about 1.2 degrees," he said. "We did successfully find that parking lot, and have a safe rover on the ground." Scientists believe that around 3.5 billion years ago the crater was home to a river that flowed into a deep lake, depositing sediment in a fan-shaped delta.

Perseverance ended up landing about two kilometers (a mile) southeast of the delta, NASA scientist Ken Farley said, in a geologically significant area. — AFP

ror"—the risky entry, descent and landing phase that has scuppered nearly half of all missions to Mars. The spacecraft carrying Perseverance careened into the Martian atmosphere at 12,500 miles (20,000 kilometers) per hour, protected by its heat shield, then deployed a supersonic parachute the

field, before firing up an eight-engined jetpack.

Finally, it lowered the rover carefully to the ground on a set of cables.

Allen Chen, lead engineer for the landing stage, said a new guidance system called "Terrain Relative Navigation," which uses a special camera to identify surface features and compare them to an

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**TIVOLI**  
catch the stars  
TODAY'S SCHEDULE

<b>CHAKRA</b> TELUGU U/A 130 MIN 11:15 AM, 4:15 PM, 10:00 PM
<b>NANDI</b> TELUGU U/A 141 MIN 10:40 AM, 1:50 PM, 7:30 PM
<b>KAPATHAARI</b> TELUGU U/A 138 MIN 10:50 AM, 4:45 PM, 10:45 PM
<b>UPPENA</b> TELUGU U/A 148 MIN 10:45 AM, 1:40 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:40 PM, 10:40 PM
<b>POGARU</b> TELUGU U/A 160 MIN 1:40 PM, 7:45 PM
<b>ZOMBIE REDDY</b> TELUGU U/A 125 MIN 4:50 PM, 10:30 PM
<b>TOM &amp; JERRY</b> ENGLISH 2D U 101 MIN 1:45 PM, 7:15 PM

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**EMOTIONAL HIT**

**SUDARSHAN**  
35MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM  
OAMB 10.55, 1.35, 1.50, 4.00, 4.45, 7.00,  
7.40, 10.05, 10.35PM  
11.45, 2.30, 5.15,  
5.45, 8.00, 1.45PM 11.30, 6.30  
10.45PM

**HEART TOUCHING LOVE STORY GRAND 2nd WEEK**

**SUDARSHAN**  
35MM (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM  
SV EESHWAR-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
SANGEETH-11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00  
MAHALAXMI-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM  
RAJADHANICOMPX-DSNR  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM  
VISWANATH70-KUKATPALLY  
11.45, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45PM  
MALLIKARJUNA70MM  
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM  
SRISAIRAM70-MALKAJGIRI  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM  
MANJU 70MM  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
GOKUL 70MM  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM  
SRILAXMI 70MM  
12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00PM  
SENSATIONCOM  
2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
ALANKAR 70MM  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
SARADA 70MM  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
KRISHNA NAGARAM  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
SREEPREMA  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
GANESH 70MM  
11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15PM  
ASIAN MUKUND  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
PLATINUM  
9.30, 10.20, 11.00, 1.30, 3.10,  
4.00, 7.35, 10.00PM  
10.20, 1.30, 4.40,  
7.50, 10.00, 11.00PM

**INOX**  
GVK-11:00, 1:15, 2:30, 6:00, 7:10, 9:30, 10:40PM  
MP-11:20, 12:45, 2:50, 6:20, 7:15, 9:50PM  
GSM-10:45, 11:30, 12:30, 10:30, 11:00PM  
10:45, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
Tivoli Cinépolis  
1.05, 4.20,  
7.20, 10.30PM  
10.30, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
10.45, 4.40, 7.40, 10.45PM

**TECHNICAL HIT**

**DEVI70MM**  
(ENJOY 4 LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM  
BRAMARAMBA70MM  
6.30, 9.45PM (2 SHOWS)  
MEGHA70-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15  
TARAKARAMA 2.15, 9.00PM  
AMB-10.30, 1.20, 7.15, 10.35PM  
LAXMIKALA-11.15, 6.15PM  
PRASADS-10.15, 12.45, 8.30, 11.00  
O ASIAN CINEMAS  
Sivaganga-11.15, 9.30PM  
Gpr-10.30, 1.50, 7.45PM  
Radhika-4.30, 10.10PM | Tamil: 10.30am  
Mcube-10.30AM, 10.40PM | Tamil: 4.30pm  
Cinesquare-10.30, 1.35, 4.20, 7.45, 10.10  
INOX  
LIVE THE MOVIE  
Gvk-10:10, 12:35, 7:20, 10:50PM  
Mp-9:50, 4:10, 10:40PM  
Gsm-1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30PM  
MIRAJ CINEMAS  
Balanagar-11.30, 4.20, 10.30PM  
Chandanagar-12.45, 7.00PM  
Shalini Shivani-11.30, 4.20, 10.30PM  
10.40, 4.50, 7.30PM  
TIVOLI 11.15, 4.15, 7.00PM  
PLATINUM 10.50, 1.15, 7.00, 11.10  
10.20, 1.45, 7.40, 10.45PM  
PVR CINEMAS  
Forum-10.10, 1.15, 4.10, 7.05, 10.40PM  
Inorbit-10.15, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30PM  
Central-10.50, 1.45, 7.50, 10.35PM  
RK-11.30, 8.10PM | Hitech-1.30, 4.00, 10.45PM  
L&T-10.30, 4.40, 7.35, 10.30PM  
Irrum Manzil-1.25, 6.50, 10.00PM  
Moosarambagh-12.30, 6.20, 9.15PM  
Prestone-1.30, 4.25, 9.45PM  
1.55, 7.50PM  
AMEERPET 4.25, 10.20PM  
MUKTHA A2 RAMAKRISHNA 35MM  
11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM  
VYJAYANTHI 6.00, 9.00PM  
SAIRANGA70 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
SREERAMANA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
SAIPOOJA70MM 6.00 & 9.00PM  
METRO70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
SRIDEVICHGUDA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
INURA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI 11.30, 6.00PM  
ANJALI70 VIMAL70MM 6.00, 9.00PM  
TALLURI70MM 6.00, 9.00PM  
SV CINESQUARE 6.00, 9.00PM  
SENSATIONINSO 11.00, 2.00, 6.00PM  
SAMPORNA70 6.00, 9.00PM  
SIVASAKTHI70 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
ASIAN MUKUND 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
TALLURI70MM 6.00, 9.00PM  
KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS

**AN ENGAGING CRIME DRAMA**

**SAPTHAGIRI70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
ARJUN70-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30  
KONARK70-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15  
INDRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI KACHIGUDA-2.30PM  
OAMB 10.30, 1.15, 4.20, 7.25, 10.20PM  
LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE 11.15, 6.30, 9.15PM  
PRASADS-11.30, 5.15, 11.00PM  
O ASIAN CINEMAS Gpr-1.30, 7.20pm  
Sivaganga-6.30pm  
Radhika-1.30, 7.20pm  
Cinesquare-10.40, 1.20, 4.45, 7.15pm  
PLATINUM 10.45, 11.00pm  
Central-2.20, 4.20, 7.35pm  
L&T-3.30, 6.45, 10.00pm  
Musarambagh-1.50, 5.05, 10.40pm  
Irrummanzil-1.10, 4.25, 10.50pm  
Inorbit-10.15, 1.10, 7.35, 10.50pm  
Prestone-4.20, 10.45pm  
Forum-10.00, 1.05, 4.20, 7.35, 10.50pm  
Galleria-11.30, 1.25, 7.35, 10.50pm  
INOX LIVE THE MOVIE Mp-10:20, 4:15, 10:20pm  
Gsm-11:30, 3:05, 6:40, 10:15pm  
PLATINUM 11.00, 4.30, 10.30pm  
10.50, 1.45, 7.30pm  
MIRAJ CINEMAS Chandanagar-3.15, 9.30pm  
Balanagar-11.00, 1.30, 7.50  
Kothapet-11.00, 1.30, 7.50pm  
Ccpl-10.40, 4.25, 10.10pm  
Dis-12.40, 7.00, 10.35pm  
Mantra-10.40, 3.55, 10.25pm  
Sudha-10.45, 4.25, 10.10pm,  
10.50, 4.45, 10.45pm  
Ameerpet 1.10pm  
Chinthal 6.15pm  
Mallapur 1.05, 7.15pm  
10.30, 1.30, 7.45, 10.35pm  
VIMAL70MM 11.00, 2.00PM  
AARADHANA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00  
SRILATHA70MM 6.00, 9.00PM  
SAMPOORNA 11.15, 2.15PM  
MAHALAXMI 2.00, 6.00PM  
TALLURI70MM 2.15, 9.16PM  
GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

TAC-HD bookmyshow

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	50,889.76 -0.85
Nifty 50	14,981.80 -0.91
S&P 500*	3,926.25 0.31
Dollar (₹)	72.64 0.16
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.98 0.02
Euro (₹)	87.67 0.15
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	45,568▲239 0.52
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.41 -0.81
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.132 0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.321 0.034

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Urban consumer confidence up in February

Consumer confidence among urban Indians has moved up slightly, by 0.9 percentage point, in February, according to a monthly **Reutinif-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index (PCSI)** survey. The PCSI is driven by four weighted sub-indices. Its Jobs sub-index moved up 1.5 percentage points, Current Conditions, by 2.8 pps and Investment by 2.1 pps. But Economic Expectations was down by 1.3 pps.

## Govt to appeal against Cairn Energy tax award



The government is likely to file an appeal against the \$1.4 billion international arbitration award won by Cairn Energy in a tax dispute, sources said. Soon after the second round of meeting between Cairn CEO Simon Thomson and finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey ended on Friday, the source said the government intends to defend its sovereign right in taxation and will file an appeal against the tribunal award.

## Foragen Seeds gets Israeli firm's breeding lines

Foragen Seeds Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad-based seed genetics start-up, has signed an agreement with Israeli ag-tech major NRGene to acquire and commercialise the latter's crop breeding programme of maize, rice and chilli-pepper. NRGene is focused on developing software genomics solutions for the ag-tech industry while Foragen Seeds would work for the field breeding programme of elite seed development.

## UTI AMC launches Nifty 200 Index-based fund

UTI AMC has launched the country's first momentum-based passively managed fund, based on the Nifty 200 Index. UTI, which manages seven equity ETF funds with an AUM of around Rs 44,000 crore, said the new fund will be based on the 30 best performing stocks from the Nifty 200. Sharwan Kumar Goyal, fund manager, said the UTI Nifty 200 Momentum 30 Index Fund, opened for subscription on Thursday, will close on March 4.

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## Platinum up 120% on auto demand Gold down ₹10K from Aug. rally

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, FEB. 19

Gold prices have corrected 18 per cent and lost more than Rs 10,000 since August while platinum prices have gained more than 120 per cent since April. Despite the current weakness in gold, both the metals are expected to see further rally in 2021.

Gold prices have dropped to Rs 45,950 per 10 gm in the Multi Commodity Exchange from the highs of Rs 56,590 in August—losing more than Rs 10,000. In the international market, the yellow metal had touched a record high of \$2,075 an ounce in August as the favourable macro-economic factors got a boost from the pandemic uncertainty. Since then prices have been receding and have fallen to \$1,760 levels, losing more than \$300 per ounce.

"Gold prices have slipped below the crucial Rs 46,000/10gm level, to hit an eight-month low. The rise in the US Treasury yields and stronger dollar, optimism of a larger economic stimulus package, and the vaccination drive have led to downside pressure on gold prices," said Nish Bhatt, founder and CEO, Millwood Kane International.

"Gold has seen considerable weakness as investors started profit-booking ever since the vaccine news started coming. Easy money started flowing into riskier assets like equities and Bitcoin and the indus-



trial recovery saw the base metal prices more than doubling. Most of the equity markets are trading at their life-time high levels and Bitcoin has shot up from Rs 4,000 in March to Rs 52,800," said Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities.

Another precious metal, platinum, too saw a rally with the recovery in the automotive sector. Prices are at a six-year high and have moved up from \$560 an ounce in April to \$1273—an increase of more than 120 per cent.

"Tougher pollution regulations requiring vehicle makers to use more platinum in catalytic converters are supporting prices.

China is implementing Phase 6 standard for both gasoline and diesel vehicles from January 2021. As other economies follow the same, the demand will further go up. Moreover, platinum may see a third consecutive annual production deficit in 2021 amid supply concerns from South Africa," said Kedia.

## 18 mn Indians to find new occupation by 2030: Report

Mumbai, Feb. 19: Covid-19 will have a lasting impact on labour markets, and as much as 18 million Indian workers will be forced to switch to a newer occupation by 2030 because of the pandemic, a report said on Friday.

The impact will be "disproportionately" felt on low-wage workers in retail, food services, hospitality, and office administration, the report by McKinsey Global Institute, said.

The pandemic has disrupted labour markets because companies have been forced to respond to a new dimension of work-physical proximity. The report identifies the lasting impact of Covid-19 on labour demand in eight countries.

"Gold rally never ends in a year. It goes on for six to eight years. Despite the current weakness, there are several factors that still support gold. A possible weakness in the US dollar, low interest rates, overvalued equities, ETF inflows and recessionary trends in major economies will continue to support gold," said Kedia.

In a report published in November, CitiGroup found gold prices pushing to \$2,000 an ounce in the medium term with a target of \$2,500 for 2021. Similarly, platinum also may move towards \$1,500 with tougher pollution norms in the automotive sector increasing demand.

Platinum ETFs too have been seeing significant inflows in the recent months.

## ₹25,000-cr fund for stalled realty projects bearing fruit

DHWANI PANDYA

FEB. 19

A 25,000-crore (\$3.5 billion) fund set up by the government to complete stalled housing projects is set to deliver its first finished apartments in 2021, offering a template for a problem that has washed out savings of thousands of home buyers and bankrupted developers.

The fund will hand over 16 projects, or more than 4,000 homes, in the financial year starting April 1, said Irfan A. Kazi, chief investment officer at SBI-CAP Ventures Ltd, the government-appointed manager of the alternative investment fund.

The Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects' (Swahim) fund was announced in November 2019.

At the time, India had an estimated \$63 billion of such stalled projects as an economic slowdown and a credit crisis cascaded through the sector. Builders were unable to service their loans, forcing banks to write off the debts and worsen what was already one of the world's biggest bad-loan piles.

The government created the fund as a measure to unclog the financing pipes. Kazi spoke in a phone interview Feb. 12. Edited excerpts:

### How much money has been disbursed?

We have given approvals to around 159 projects involving investment of about Rs 14,500 crore, which will complete around 100,000 homes. Of this, about 47 projects (Rs 5,000 crore) have received final approval but 112 are early-stage



in the fund, Life Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India each have 10 per cent and the rest are other public and private sector players. Global funds have not shown a large interest for a couple of reasons: they prefer rent-yielding office and warehousing assets over residential. They also expect returns of more than 20 per cent to account for risks, including asset class and exchange rate, at which level our projects will be loss-making. We have raised Rs 10,000 crore so far (of the Rs 25,000 crore fund size) but the government has assured us that more will be made available when required.

### What kind of returns do you expect?

We take first charge on assets and cash flows, so when projects get completed we are the first one to get our money back. Existing lenders have to agree to take second charge. We invest via zero-coupon non-convertible debentures. All our investments are done at 12 per cent internal rate of return across projects.

### Was there any push-back?

There was a significant degree of resistance from lenders about our first charge on repayment but, as our deal track record shows, that hurdle is being gradually scaled. We now allow sharing of the security with lenders and sharing of cash flow to some extent. We keep having internal discussions and also with the finance ministry on what criteria can be relaxed.

### Who are your investors?

We have 14 investors, the government has 50 per cent

## TRAI SECY FAULTS RESIDENTIAL BODIES CHARGING TELECOM FIRMS FOR ACCESS



## V-Guard promoter sells shares worth ₹90 cr for social causes

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, FEB. 19

Kochouseph Chittilappilly, the promoter of V-Guard Industries who donated his kidney to a stranger a decade ago, has raised Rs 90 crore by selling 40 lakh shares of the company for social causes. Earlier in 2019 he also had raised Rs 110 crore by selling shares.

"The sale of 40 lakh shares of V-Guard Industries executed on February 17, 2021, was to raise funds for two initiatives I have undertaken as part of my commitment to social causes," Chittilappilly said in a regulatory filing.

K. Chittilappilly Foundation (KCF), formed to undertake charitable and philanthropic activities will use the proceeds of the sale to execute "Chittilappilly Square" envisioned as the hub for social activities with a vast public park with garden, walking and jogging tracks, sports and games areas, yoga and health club, amphitheatres, auditorium and multiple halls for social gatherings, a heritage and cultural

museum, exhibition centre, library and reading room, model organic farm, etc.

KCF also has been assisting entrepreneurs who face shortage of funds to scale up their businesses, by providing credit funds at reasonable rates and terms.

A company named K. Chittilappilly Capital has been incorporated and it has applied for Certificate of Registration as a NBFC from the RBI. Part of the proceeds of the stake sale will also be utilised for funding the initiative.

Chittilappilly had raised Rs 110 crore in 2019 by selling 51.20 lakh shares in the open market, mainly for buying land for Chittilappilly Square. According to Mithun Chittilappilly, managing director of V-Guard Industries, the promoter group holding in the Kochi-based electrical appliances manufacturer has come down from 64 per cent four years back to 60 per cent now. It was 70 per cent during the IPO in 2008 and had gone up to 74 per cent after the buyback of shares two-three years later.

Kochouseph Chittilappilly is likely to sell part of his shares in the company in the future also for his social causes, said Mithun. This will see the promoter group holdings coming further down.

Earlier in 2011, after turning 60 years, Kochouseph Chittilappilly had donated one of his kidneys to a truck driver—a total stranger in need. He has also promised to donate one-third of his fortune in his lifetime for various philanthropic activities.

New Delhi, Feb. 19: Minimum standards need to be developed for provision of telecom services within buildings and residential complexes and the "wrong" mindset that telcos should pay to get access for laying down infrastructure in housing complexes must change, a senior Trai official said.

The growth of telecommunications, the underlying critical infrastructure, is closely linked to growth of every sector and the economy as a whole, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India secretary, S.K. Gupta said.

"Different types of builders, their associations and RWAs (resident welfare associations) have to be taught about the importance of telecom and (need to be) convinced that they have to change their mindset of penalising telecom service providers by asking money from them to provide the services—in fact it is you (building residents) who requires the services, not telecom service providers," Gupta said.

He was speaking at an interactive workshop of industry body Broadband India Forum (BIF).

The pandemic and work-from-home culture has driven the need for seamless connectivity inside residential buildings and multiple data users within a family—from children taking online classes to professionals working remotely from home—have underlined the importance of good coverage in every nook and corner of the house, he noted.

He emphasised that unless the quality of services is good, next generation 5G will not serve its purpose. "...if you talk about the economy, you have to talk about the health of telecommunication."

## Southern states, UP among losers of divisible pool share

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, FEB. 19

### SHRINKING SHARE

► Karnataka will be the biggest loser, followed by Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Odisha

► The loss has been due to the changes made by the Finance Commission in computation of the income distance and tax effort criteria

tion" by introducing the criterion 'demographic performance'. We had hoped that our share in the divisible pool would go up because of this.

However, it has come down and this is because of the criterion 'income distance', Thomas Isaac, finance minister of Kerala, told Financial Chronicle.

The 15th Finance Commission was required to use population as per the 2011 Census. This would have put some of the states that have worked on their fertility rate at a disadvantage.

However, the Finance Commission also used demographic performance with a weight of 12.5 per cent to a

reward those states that have performed well on demographic management.

Tax Effort also was a new criterion introduced by the 15th FC. It is measurable by the ratio of three-year average of per capita own tax revenues and per capita gross state domestic production (GSDP). This criterion has 2.5 per cent weight.

Maharashtra, meanwhile, is the biggest gainer in terms of share in divisible pool of taxes during FY2022-26, relative to FY2016-20.

The other states which have increased their share include Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan.

Honda Motor Co is promoting its current head of research and development (R&D) Toshihiro Mibe to chief executive, the latest in a number of bold moves the automaker is taking to step beyond its more than half-a-century-long reliance on selling gasoline-powered cars.

Mibe, 59, will assume the president role effective April 1, the company said in a statement on Friday.

Honda's current CEO Takahiro Hachigo, who helmed the firm for six years, will become a director and then retire from the company at its general meeting in June.

Honda's new chief is

taking the top job as the Japanese carmaker pushes to stay abreast of the two great shifts hitting the auto industry: automation and electrification.

Since joining Honda in 1987, Mibe has occupied various roles, including as the chief of Honda's R&D subsidiary, where he was central to driving the company's

electric vehicle technologies and autonomous driving strategies.

Honda, like most legacy automakers, is struggling to find ways to fund next-generation electric and driverless car technologies while keeping its gas-powered car sales afloat.

Hachigo, who took office in 2015, sought to move away from past initiatives

prioritising scale to focus on costs. Under his leadership, Honda trimmed a number of factories in Japan and abroad.

In recent months, Honda has taken a number of steps to reallocate resources into next-generation technologies.

Honda announced it will no longer participate in Formula One racing,

seeking to reallocate resources to its development of EV and fuel-cell technologies.

Honda, which aims to

electrify two-thirds of its

global car sales by 2030,

has weathered a tough 2020, a period when vehicle sales were crushed by pandemic-related disruptions. It's targeting an operating profit of \$20 billion for the 12 months through March, down about 18% from the previous year.

The automaker is also grappling with a chip shortage that's forcing automakers worldwide to pare their output just as car demand begins to recover. The semiconductor shortage is estimated to knock 500,000 units off the

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Kohli reveals he fought depression**

New Delhi: India captain Virat Kohli has revealed that he battled depression during a harrowing tour of England in 2014 where he felt like the "loneliest guy in the world" after a string of failures with the bat. In a conversation with former England player Mark Nicholas on his 'Not Just Cricket' podcast, Kohli conceded that went through a tough phase during the difficult tour. "...it's not a great feeling to wake up knowing that you won't be able to score runs and I think all batsmen have felt that at some stage that you are not in control of anything at all," he recalled. Kohli had a disastrous tour of England in 2014, registering scores of 1, 8, 25, 0, 39, 28, 0, 7, 6 and 20 in five Tests, averaging 13.50 in his 10 innings. — PTI

**BWF extends Oly qualifying time**

New Delhi: The Tokyo Olympics badminton qualification period was on Friday extended by nearly two months to June 15 after the postponement of three important tournaments due to Covid-19 related restrictions.

The qualification period was earlier to end on April 25. "The Olympic Qualifying period for the Race to Tokyo will now close on 15 June 2021, with the last tournament counting for qualification being the Singapore Open 2021," the BWF said in a statement.

"BWF is working with the IOC to update the Tokyo 2020 qualification system whereby the final updated regulation will be shared once ready following formal approval by IOC," it added. — PTI

**Star high jumper Vlasic retires**

Zagreb: Croatia's two-time world champion and double Olympic medallist Blanka Vlasic announced on Friday she was retiring after struggling with injuries for years.

Vlasic, 37, said in an open letter that since winning a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics, "I have been trying to cure my injury, four years full of hope that I will once again stand in front of the bar and challenge myself. The following years brought countless rehabilitation treatments, hope and disappointment," she added.

Vlasic has long suffered from injuries to her Achilles tendon and heel and had to undergo frequent operations. She said she let the decision to end her career "come naturally". — AFP

**Krishna stars for Bhadradi**

Hyderabad: Sai Krishna fell three runs short of a century but his knock powered Bhadradi to a comfortable win over Suryapet in the Telangana Cricket Association U-19 East Zone inter-districts tournament. Krishna's 97 took Bhadradi to 185 for 9. In reply, Suryapet were all out for 151.

**Brief scores:**  
 ■ Bhadradi 185/9 in 20 overs (Sai Krishna 97 – 39b, 11x4, 7x6, Manda Srinath 31, Narsi 3/22) bt Suryapet 151 in 17.2 overs (Avinash Kailash 65, Shiva Nagendra 3/16).  
 ■ Bhupalapally 140/5 in 20 overs (Anruth 69 n.o., Farhan 3/22) bt Warangal 86 in 18 overs (P. Gangadhar 4/26).

**Live on TV**

Australian Open: Women's singles final from 1.30 pm, followed by mixed doubles final on Sony Six, Sony Ten 2

**CRICKET**  
 PSL: Karachi Kings vs Quetta Gladiators from 7.30 pm on Sony Six

**South Africa T20 League:** Lions vs Warriors from 1.30 pm; Knights vs Dolphins from 5.55 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

**FOOTBALL**  
 English Premier League: Southampton vs Chelsea from 6 pm; Burnley vs West Brom from 8.30 pm; Liverpool vs Everton from 11 pm; Fulham vs Sheffield United from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1

**UFC**  
 Fight Night: Curtis Blaydes vs Derrick Lewis and other bouts from 6.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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# Money, Money, Money

## Jamieson didn't know how much ₹15 crore was

Christchurch, Feb. 19: Waking up at around midnight in New Zealand, Kyle Jamieson wondered how much ₹15 crore would be in his country's currency, after having watched an intense three-way bid for him in the IPL auction.

The 6'8" pacer eventually ended up with Royal Challengers Bangalore for \$2 million approximately, making him the highest paid New Zealander and fourth highest in the IPL's 14-year history.

"I woke up around midnight and decided to check the phone. Rather than trying to avoid the situation, (I thought) I'll sit back and enjoy it. It was certainly a weird hour and a half waiting for my name to be called up," Jamieson was quoted as saying by *stuff.co.nz*.

"I had a message from Shane Bond (former New Zealand pacer and Mumbai Indians bowling coach) as it was going and he said, 'How good is this'."

"I didn't actually know what the amount of money, how that translated to New Zealand dollars. It was quite cool to share that moment with him and ride that two or three minutes with him," he added.

Also showing in interest in him were Delhi Capitals and the Punjab Kings in the auction on Thursday.

Former Black Caps coach Mike Hesson, RCB's director of cricket operations, led the charge to win the three-way bidding for Jamieson, who made his Test debut against India at home last year.

His retainer fee for the Black Caps, according to the report, is between \$100,000 to \$150,000, which makes RCB's winning bid amount 20 times more.

It completed a rapid rise for Jamieson, who is known for extracting awkward bounce. The right-arm quick, playing in the 2019 Super Smash, picked up 6 for 7 in four overs, a New Zealand T20 record.

He has so far played in six Tests, two ODIs and four T20Is. He took two five-wicket hauls in his first four Tests and has also shown a lot of competence with the bat as well.

Asked what would he buy if his New Zealand teammates asked for a treat, Jamieson said, "Probably a few coffees I would have thought.

"I don't know. It's only been a few hours. My bank account hasn't changed overnight, but there'll be a bit of stick given and a few coffees and a few beers I'm sure," the New Zealand speedster further added.

Jamieson will join a star-studded RCB team who scooped ₹14.5 crore in the auction. Krishnappa has modest



New Zealand bowler Kyle Jamieson in this file photo.

### ARJUN CAN'T WAIT TO WEAR MI'S JERSEY

New Delhi, Feb. 19: Pacer Arjun Tendulkar cannot wait to start with Mumbai Indians and thanked the coaches for having faith in him after being picked by the five-time champions at the players' auction.

The 21-year-old, son of iconic former captain Sachin Tendulkar, got a major fillip on Thursday when he was bought by Mumbai Indians at his base price of ₹20 lakh.

His celebrated father hasn't just played for the franchise but is also the mentor of the side, which is the most successful team in the IPL.

"Since childhood I have always been a die hard fan of Mumbai Indians. I would like to thank the coaches and support staff who showed faith in me.

"I am excited to join the MI Paltan and can't wait to wear the blue and gold," Arjun said in a video message posted on MI's Twitter handle.

Arjun has been a net bowler for the franchise for the past two-three seasons. He recently made his senior Mumbai team debut when he played in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the national T20 championship, against Haryana. — PTI

### MORRIS ROLE IS TO SUPPORT ARCHER: SANGA

Mumbai, Feb. 19: Rajasthan Royals' director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara on Friday said that allrounder Chris Morris, who was brought by the franchise for ₹16.25 crore in the IPL auction, will have a "very specific role of supporting" pace spearhead Jofra Archer.

Morris became the most expensive buy in IPL history when he was picked by RR following an intense bidding war at the auction on Thursday.

"Morris was significantly high in terms of auction price. Morris has a very specific role for us to play in supporting (Jofra) Archer. It gives us a lot more flexibility in the way we use Archer," Sangakkara said.

"Also, Morris' numbers, when he is (has) been fit and strong, has been some of the best in all IPLs," Sangakkara added. — PTI



Belgium's Elise Mertens (left) and partner Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus leap with their winner's trophy after defeating Czech Republic's Barbora Krejcirova and Katerina Siniakova 6-2, 6-3 in the women's doubles final at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Friday. — AFP

# Medvedev mauls Tsitsipas, in final

Melbourne, Feb. 19:

Russia's Daniil Medvedev overpowered Stefanos Tsitsipas to make his first Australian Open final Friday, where he will bid to stop world number one Novak Djokovic from clinching an unprecedented ninth title.

The fourth seed proved far too strong for Greece's Tsitsipas, crushing him 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 in front of more than 7,000 noisy fans at Rod Laver Arena to extend his win streak to 20.

The 25-year-old, ultra-confident on the back of his unbeaten run, which includes three titles, has been knocking on the door of Grand Slam success for some time, but has yet to win a title.

To finally get over the line he must on Sunday beat top seed Djokovic, who has won all eight finals he has played at Melbourne Park.

Second-seeded Sabalenka and Mertens wasted three championship points in the last game. Sabalenka earned a fourth championship point with an ace and clinched the title when Siniakova sent a backhand wide. — Agencies

### THE RESULTS

**Men's singles semifinal:** Daniil Medvedev (RUS x4) bt Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x5) 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.

**Women's doubles final:** Elise Mertens (BEL) / Aryna Sabalenka (BLR x2) bt Barbara Krejcirova (CZE) / Katerina Siniakova (CZE x3) 6-2, 6-3.

### ELISE-SABALENKA DUO CLINCHES DOUBLES TITLE

Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka won the Australian Open women's doubles final Friday to collect their second Grand Slam trophy as a team.

The 22-year-old from Belarus was the dominant player on court as she and Mertens combined for a 6-2, 6-3 win over third-seeded Barbara Krejcirova and Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic.

Second-seeded Sabalenka and Mertens wasted three championship points in the last game. Sabalenka earned a fourth championship point with an ace and clinched the title when Siniakova sent a backhand wide. — Agencies

# INDIA'S ANKITA DAZZLES, WINS MAIDEN WTA TITLE

Melbourne, Feb. 19: India's Ankita Raina on Friday claimed her maiden WTA title by lifting the Phillip Island Trophy along with Russian partner Kamilla Rakhimova, a feat which will catapult her into the top-100 in the doubles for the first time in her career.

Ankita and Kamilla erased a one-set deficit to beat the Russian combination of Anna Blinkova and Anastasia Potapova 2-6, 6-4, 10-7 in the summit clash.

The 28-year-old Indian shared the \$800 prize money with her partner and earned 280 ranking points, which will take her to 94 from the current 115 when the WTA doubles chart is updated next week.

Ankita will become only the second player to crack the doubles top-100 since Sania Mirza.

The past two weeks have been extremely memorable for the gritty Indian, who made her Grand Slam debut at the Australian Open in the doubles, and also won a round in the main draw of a WTA singles tournament.

"It's been a great week. Kamilla and I played together for the first time. We signed up just 20 minutes before the draw because there was a lot of confusion with the entry list," Ankita said. — PTI

# Pratyush, Vidath, Ranjit best in top division league

## Allround show by Ali; Yogendra takes hat-trick; Krishna, Ram, Akhil, Noman, Raghavendra, Yash, Rachit, Chay, Jayant, Rahul, Azhar, Pranav, Shreyas, Srinivas, Shetty, Zeeshan, Varun, Nadeem, Krish, Aarya, Jawad shine in two-day games

**DC CORRESPONDENT**

HYDERABAD, FEB. 19

Pratyush Kumar smashed a near double century to lead a clutch of performers in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's league matches.

Pratyush slammed 19 boundaries and three sixes in 259 balls before falling for 196. His teammate Nikhil got 104 to help Concorde to 357 in their first innings even as G. Pavani took 5 for 32 for Combined Districts, who eventually won the A-1 Division three-day match.

The Districts team too suffered a bit of bad luck when their batsman Santosh was out for a well-made 96.

G. Vidath and A. Ranjit Kumar were the other performers. The former took 5 for 34 to bowl Balaaji CC to victory over Rohit XI after conceding the first innings lead while the latter scored 114 in a losing cause for Mahmood CC.

The A-2 Division two-day games threw up plenty of performers, the best of which was Sunshine's Syed Ali, who scored an unbeaten 185 and also took 6 wickets while conceding

so happy for me," Gowtham said. "It's hard to describe that feeling. It's all just sinking in. Obviously this isn't the first time I've been part of the auction but every time your name comes up, the kind of butterflies in your tummy is unimaginable," he added.

Gowtham will be playing under M. S. Dhoni and he remembers queuing up with a few other uncapped players to get his bat signed by the legendary wicketkeeper batsman after an IPL game three years ago. — PTI

IPL statistics. He has played just 24 matches in three seasons since 2018 and has scored 186 runs and taken 13 wickets.

He was a part of RR for two seasons — 2018 and 2019 playing 15 and 7 matches respectively — and was with Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) in 2020 where he featured in just two games before being released.

Gowtham's parents and wife in Bengaluru were in tears when they came to know of the good news.

"My parents had tears, happy tears. They were all

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# DC ESTATE

Pg III | > Sree Salasar Enterprises, the name spells luxury <<



## Indoor plants to breathe easy

Plants like orchids, succulents, snake plants and bromeliads emit oxygen, making them perfect for the bedroom. They might help you in getting better sleep, says horticulturist Rakesh Mehta

NAVEEN KUMAR

**T**hough the primary objective of adding an indoor plant may be to make the place look attractive, a deeper research reveals that the benefits of interior landscaping go far beyond the aesthetic. Interior decorators and designers opine that interior plants are good

for buildings and people in a variety of subtle ways. "Interior landscaping plays a vital role in providing a pleasant and tranquil environment to work or relax. Starting off with producing natural oxygen, plants help us by lowering stress and buildings are quieter and more relaxed but, at the same time, more stimulating.

Turn to page 2

## ARK sets new project benchmark

The company is delivering large-scale projects with utmost finesse, being on the front foot of innovation, and most importantly, in time which makes it unique among its peers

ATHER MOIN

**A**RK Group, founded by Gummi Ram Reddy 31 years ago, is setting new benchmarks in project delivery, quality and managements. For this reason, it was awarded marquee projects by Tata-Boeing Aerospace, Decathlon, JBM Group, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Heavy Water Board, Mahindra CIE, Schneider Electric, Department of Atomic Energy and many more. The group has executed many projects and is in the process of executing more including one each in Bachupally, Kollur and Bengaluru with several others in the pipeline.

The group has a strong portfolio of residential, industrial and institutional projects. It stands testimony to delivering large scale projects with utmost finesse, being on the front foot of innovation, and most importantly, in time which makes it unique.

With deep-rooted infrastructure development experience of 31 years and footprints in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, ARK Group has perfected its exceptional craftsmanship, unique design language and valuable solutions. The ARK Group has developed around 5 million square feet across industrial, institutional and residential realty segments. The company is eyeing an expansion and hopes to double its revenues to ₹200 crore by 2021. The group provides employment to about 150 people directly and to over 1,000 indirectly. The group has operations in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and is looking to spread its wings in Gujarat, Odisha and Rajasthan. The group is also contemplating to expand outside Hyderabad in Suryapet, Warangal, Nizamabad and Karimnagar.

Turn to page 2



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#### COMMERCIAL

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**COMMERCIAL SPACE:** hot property in Nanakramguda (financial district) waverock Rd total 15lfts min 500sqft-1200sqft each floor. High return hurryup. @7995675552, 7995675552. (HYMM/2021/C07134)

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**1200 SFT** 2BHK Furnished Independent Flat for Sale at Amrutha Valley, Rd No.12, Banjara Hills. Contact 9177444408. (HYMM/2021/C06796)

**BANJARA HILLS**, Road No:12, 1050SFT 2BHK, N/E Face, Semi Furnished, C/o 2 Main Roads @66L. M. 9701500909. (HYMM/2021/C07131)

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**CHAMPAPET, NAGARJUNA** Colony, 3BHK, 1500sft @78 Lakhs, 2BHK, 1300sft @62Lakhs. Contact: 9059124898, 9849001948 (HYMM/2021/C07099)

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**DHARAMKARAM ROAD**, Ameerpet, 3 BHK, 1st floor for sale. 1588 sqft, fully furnished, car parking- 100 sqft. Ph:9866389443, 9550973655. (S/2021/C02344)

**LOTUS HOMES** 2 & 3 BHK @ 3500/- Sri Louren Flats in gated community with club house & amenities at Bandlaguda near Nagaram 2 BHK starts from Rs.27.04 lacs onwards. Mod. Builders 767712020. (B/2021/C01039)

**FLAT FOR** sale, Krishe gardens, 2341soft, West facing, 5th floor, semi-furnished, corner flat, very good ventilation, 2car parkings, near passport office Begumpet. Contact: 9849155488, 9849155405. (HYMM/2021/C07004)

**3BHK FLAT**, 1807sft, 8th East Facing, Gachibowli, Price: 1.59 Crore, New Construction, Gated community, Pool view. Contact: 9000394880 (HYMM/2021/C06879)

**GACHIBOWLI NEAR** Narsingi, exclusive luxury project, Mappa Insignia by Mappa Akshaya Projects, 2Cellars+ Ground+ 8Floors, 112Apartments 2&3BHK for sale. Sizes 1010 to 1050sft Apartments for possession for interiors in one year. Please Contact: 9849539003. (HYMM/2021/C06925)

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**PATANCHELU- SULTANPUR** Open Plot 150x60 Size, 240 sq.yds. Maruti Nagar, Near PVNR Express fly over Pillar No.86, Per Sq.yd 8500/- Fixed Clear Title Bank Account Available. Middle Person Please Excuse. Ph:9848015799/ 8125688811. (HYCL/2021/C02939)

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**✓TREXIE ROAD** Kondapur Semi furnished Resale flat 3bhk in Gated community with swimming pool 100% vaastu. Price 1.65cr negotiable. Serious buyers contact: 99637841850. (S/2021/C07133)

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**GODOWN RENT** 2500 sft (approx) on Tarbund to Bowenpally main road. Suitable for C&F agency, etc. beside Bhaysham School, Tarbund, Secunderabad. Contact: 9848021020. (S/2021/C02358)

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# Salasar spells luxury

The Sree Salasar Enterprises wants to pioneer creation of masterpieces and cater to those who seek an ultra-luxurious lifestyle

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

**A**esthetics, design, and luxury have accompanied the real estate growth in Hyderabad. One real estate developer who has made these the cornerstones for their projects is Sree Salasar Enterprises. The 35-year-old firm has earned the trust of its customers.

Known for their boutique residential apartments and commercial buildings, Sree Salasar Enterprises is now led by Abhishek Tibrewala. He completed his MBA in 2008 and took charge of running the family owned firm. "We have been a trusted brand for 35 years. Our projects have gained recognition for luxury apartments, and trust of people, and investors," he said.

"We strive to provide luxury products to elite customers at the best locations. We earned a name for ourselves in luxury projects. We are selective when we take up a project, focusing on the unique luxury market. We want to be pioneers in creating masterpieces and cater to those who seek an ultra-luxurious lifestyle," Tibrewala said.

One of the company's projects, 'Bellevue 63' at Nanadigiri Hills in Jubilee Hills area, a high-end luxury residential apartment complex and constructed on the highest altitude in the city, was the one that gained a lot of appre-



We strive to provide luxury products to elite customers at the best locations. We earned a name for ourselves in luxury projects.

— **Abhishek Tibrewala**, MD, Sree Salasar Enterprises

ciation. "After this with each of its 5,000 square feet apartments gaining a lot of appreciation, a lot of clients requested for similar apartments.

In view of the growing demand, the company is coming up with



(Top) Image of the entertainment room (Above) An artist's impression of some upcoming Salasar projects

'Unnathi' at Dharam Karan Road in Ameerpet. These luxurious apartments in the middle of the city, will have the best of amenities, with landscaped premises. The amenities include the likes of jacuzzi, sauna, steam, gym, cricket turf along with a party area, and an open bar," he said.

And with respect to vehicle parking, the building is equipped with mechanical car lifts. "While these are now becoming visible in some commercial complexes, in residential areas, they are a rarity. May be just one in a 100 have

them and we want to ensure our customers have every possible facility that we can offer," Tibrewala said.

Also under execution is a gated community restricted to 50 apartments at Narsingi. Spread over 3,000 square yards, on offer to prospective residents, in addition to quality, well designed and well-built homes that will come with high security measures, are amenities consisting of a club house, swimming pool, gym, multipurpose hall, crèche for the kids. Also included in an innova-

tive space that allows the residents to work from home.

Another project is the Mayberry Towers at Srinagar Colony, a commercial complex in the heart of the city. Like other commercial spaces built by Sree Salasar Enterprises, that caters the luxury of doing business, this one too comes with expensive world class fittings, with a grandeur that rivals a star hotel. The designer lobbies are special, that rival the best of international commercial spaces, with branded lifts and an overall sense of luxury.

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