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HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 13 FEBRUARY 2021

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## WEATHER

Max: 30.8°C  
Min: 17.2°C  
RH: 28%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Mist or fog in the morning. Max/Min temp. 31/17°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+11,636)	(+93)
1,08,91,462	1,55,569
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS</b>	
(+143)	(+1)
TS: 2,96,277	1,614
(+68)	(+1)
AP: 8,88,760	7,162

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES	10,84,74,469
DEATHS	23,83,558

worldometers.info/coronavirus



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## Budget for growth: FM

Says strong stimulus will give short-term, long-term growth

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 12

Nirmala Sitharaman

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that strong stimulus measures announced in her Budget 2021-22 would not only provide quick short-term solutions but also ensure long-term and sustainable economic growth, helping the country remain one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

She also said that the Budget was an instrument for promoting Atma Nirbhar Bharat when economies across the world had suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "The post-pandemic

economies have suffered all over the world and the Union Budget 2021 was an attempt to provide a "strong stimulus" to deal with this situation. In doing so, it will not only provide quick short-term solutions that were created, but we also looked at medium, long-term and sustainable growth that will help us remain one of

the fastest-growing economies in the world," she said in her reply to the Budget debate in Parliament.

In her Budget, she had promised a slew of economic measures, including a significant increase in health and capital expenditure along with an aggressive disinvestment policy. "The Budget 2021 has been carefully thought out after listening to views, suggestions and opinions from experts and economists around the country and the world," she said.

Silencing the Opposition's hue and cry over their "false narrative" around her budget of

being pro-rich, she said the government helped the poor by providing free foodgrains, gas, building roads, houses etc. "Over two-thirds of this population are youth, who are looking for opportunities, and the Budget was aimed at not only giving relief packages but creating opportunities for employment," she added.

"The length of road sanctioned under PM Gram Sarak Yojana between 2014-15 and those years... 2,11,192 kms... those roads go to villages... Are they villages for the rich? Are they villages where the poor do not live? Whose lifeline are these roads," she asked.

### TS EAMCET FROM JULY 5 TO 9, ECET TO BE HELD JULY 1

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

TS Eamcet will be held from July 5 to 9, ECET on July 1, and TS PGECET from June 20, the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) said on Friday.

According to the schedule, these exams will be conducted by the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H). The entrance exam dates for Icet, Edcet, Lawcet, PGLawcet and Pecet will be notified shortly, TSCHE chairman Prof. T. Papi Reddy said.

The MoD statement also said India has persistently maintained the right to patrol till Finger 8 in Pangong Tso, including in the current pact with China. "India has not conceded any territory. On the contrary, it has enforced observance and respect for the LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo," the MoD said.

The defence ministry said it had taken note of some "misinformed and misleading" comments on the disengagement at Pangong Tso. This comes

## Indian territory not conceded to China: Def Min

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 12

The defence ministry said on Friday that India had not conceded any territory to China in the disengagement agreement on Pangong Tso. The next military-level talks will take up the outstanding issues at Hot Springs, Gogra and the Dapsang plains.

The MoD statement also said India has persistently maintained the right to patrol till Finger 8 in Pangong Tso, including in the current pact with China. "India has not conceded any territory. On the contrary, it has enforced observance and respect for the LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo," the MoD said.

The defence ministry said it had taken note of some "misinformed and misleading" comments on the disengagement at Pangong Tso. This comes

## UNEMPLOYED TO GET ₹3,016 DOLE IN NEXT BUDGET

L. VENKAT RAM  
REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Unemployed youth in Telangana state will have to wait a bit longer to start receiving the unemployment allowance of ₹3,016 per month from the state government.

With the election code coming into force from February 11, thanks to the Election Commission issuing schedule for MLC elections for two graduates' constituencies, the chances of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao making an announcement on this scheme is ruled out until March 22, when election code will end.

Meanwhile, the finance department has initiated a process to draft a State Budget for 2021-22, in which it has proposed to allot a token amount of ₹1,000 crore for the "unemployment allowance".

Official sources in the finance department said that since the Chief Minister cannot make any announcement on extending unemployment allowance due to election code, it will be mentioned in the Budget.

The sanctioning of ₹1,000 crore shows that the government may not be able to implement the scheme, which remains a key poll promise of the TRS during 2018 Assembly polls, in fiscal 2021-22.

In the vote on account for 2019-20 tabled by the Chief Minister in February 2019, the government had allotted ₹11,810 crore towards unemployment allowance.

■ Page 2: Covid affected TS financial position

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**WANTED SALES** Executives, Sales Manager for Revolt Bike Showroom, Jubilee Hills. Contact: 7799978883. (S/2021/C02279)

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**RECRUITING BPO/ Callcenter,** Telecallers & Team leaders (Inbound process) Telugu. YSI Group is looking for a candidates(F) Qualification 10th+, Basic computer knowledge. Freshers also Can apply salary 10000 to 15000+ incentives 6301390997, 6301282633. (HYMM/2021/C06817)

**URGENT REQUIREMENT** Female Graduate (0-2yrs experience) with Good Communication Skills to work in US Non-Voice Process. Night Shift located at New Bowenpet, Hyderabad. Walkins Contact 8074686345, yashainformatics@gmail.com (S/2021/C02283)

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**WANTED SEC-BAD:** Act Infotech is hiring for web designers, web developers & digital Marketing executives for Inbound & Outbound for US based clients. 2M+ Executives, 2Managers & 4TLs with Excellent Communication skills. Salary: 10k-30k+ cab 50,000/- 2%Commission. On Sale Value, for Real Estate & Construction Company. Office At 910095553, 910095553, 910122275 Interviews On Sat To Sun From 10am To 6pm. (HYMM/2021/C06831)

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Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

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Jamadi- ul- Akhir 30 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.43 am

Zohar: 12.40 pm

Asar: 4.40 pm

Maghrab: 6.22 pm

Isha: 7.30 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.43 AM

SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM

MOONSET 7.46 PM

MOONRISE 7.53 AM

## SHORT TAKES

## AIMES TO HOLD SEMINAR ON FEBRUARY 13

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

The All India Muslim Educational Society (AIMES) will be organising a seminar, 'Professional Development for Principals and Educators' from 9.30 am on February 13 at the auditorium of the Azaan International School, Seven Tombs Road, Tolichowki, Hyderabad.

The seminar will be addressed by M.A. Mohsin, director, True Skills; Syed Sadat, director, Scientific Minds; Mohd Mushtaq Ali, management consultant and CEO Consulting Point.in; Rubina Majid, CEO, The Learning Resource Center; Prof. Vibha Asthana, Principal, Ghulam Ahmed College of Education.

## AP TO HAVE QUOTA IN PVT VARSITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 12

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the government has decided to amend the AP Private University Act, 2006 by which 35 per cent seats in private universities would be filled by the government quota. The amendment Bill will be introduced in the Budget session.

The Chief Minister said that the government had decided to introduce English medium in Intermediate and degree colleges, including professional colleges, to improve the employability of the students.

CM Reddy was speaking at a review meeting on higher education in the CM camp office at Tadepalli on Friday where he enquired about the reopening of colleges and conducting of classes.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to set highest standards for new private universities and convert the existing colleges into private universities. He said there should be joint certification with 200 best educational institutions of the world and it should last for five years and this should be considered as criteria for recognising a college as a private university.

Discussing aided colleges, it was opined that they should be handed over to the government or private totally if they cannot be run independently.

With regard to introducing English medium at the degree level, the Chief Minister directed the officials to come up with appropriate courses so that students face trouble. Textbooks must be printed in Telugu and English for the convenience of students.

He directed officials to draft the curriculum to create employment opportunities for the students. He said awareness on basic financial activities such as stock markets should be created among B Com students which will create scope for self-employment. He said good courses are available online and directed the officials to add those courses in the curriculum. The Chief Minister said the introduction of unlimited internet in every village and providing laptops to all students through schemes like Amma Vodi and Vasati Devena would bring revolutionary changes in the education and skill sectors.

The Chief Minister has approved the Wi-Fi protocol project in which Wi-Fi without internet can be provided for up to 500 users simultaneously through a remote device. The range of each remote device is 100 metre. The connection can be made through laptop, tab and TV. Devices can use that facility even after the internet facility is available.

**Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY** directed officials to draft the curriculum to create employment opportunities for the students.

# Governors should be apolitical: Tamilisai

I convinced CM to accept Ayushman Bharat, says Governor

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

While releasing a coffee table book on her work on completion of her first year at Raj Bhavan, Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan said, "politicians can become Governors but once they take office, they should not think about party politics. I see my office and responsibility is to act as a bridge between Centre and state, and the state government and people."

Smilingly responding to questions on deteriorating Gubernatorial standards and strains between some opposition-ruled state government and the Raj Bhavans in different parts, Dr Soundararajan, increasingly being given the sobriquet of the 'People's Governor' for her proactive engagements with people, taking petitions and following up on them, said, "I focus on constructive ideas and outcomes, not controversies. The state government is responding positively to my suggestions, including during the Covid pandemic."

Giving an example of how her patient approach without confrontation has yielded results, she said, "Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was not keen on implementing Ayushman Bharat, saying Aarogyashri is better. Citing examples of Tamil Nadu, where the state and central schemes have been merged, I explained as a doctor how if he agrees, people from other states can benefit from Hyderabad's exceptional health infra. Similarly,



Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan along with her husband Dr P. Soundararajan at the launch of a coffee table book on Friday.

Telangana people living in other states can get benefits in all parts of India. The government has now agreed to implement this scheme."

The governor released the book along with her husband, renowned Nephrologist Dr P. Soundararajan, and several senior journalists. The book chronicles her various initiatives, meetings, programmes and a host of activities during her first year in office, including her proactive work in fields of education, healthcare and tribal welfare.

"Though I am from Tamil Nadu, I felt a great connect with the sisters of Telangana because we share several aspects of our culture. As a supporter of women empowerment, I am happy that from the day I took oath, we have two women ministers in state government and two ladies being elected as mayor and deputy mayor of Hyderabad," she said.

Getting emotional and personal, she said, "It is a rare coincidence and destiny that I share both my initials (TS) and date of birth of June 2 with Telangana."

"My approach is to patiently listen to grievances of people. This is a

professional inclination, being a doctor who had a thriving practice before I joined public life. When people submit their grievances, I am not just a post box. We write to ministers concerned and follow up. E-office has been launched at Raj Bhavan to help people submit representations in a hassle-free manner," she said.

Elaborating on her focuses, she said, "from day one, I have shown keen interest in the development of universities. My wish is to see Telangana as the number one state in quality of higher education. Similarly, government hospitals must be strengthened to offer best possible medical services to the poorest of the poor."

When asked about her happiest day in office, she replied, "it was the day a Covid vaccine developed in Hyderabad got approval. It is a true symbol of Atma Nirbhar Bharat."

On the question of vaccines, she said, "I will take the vaccine when my turn comes as a common citizen. I do not want to jump the line".

Secretary to Governor K. Surendra Mohan, senior officers of Raj Bhavan and others were present.

## Only 33% received first dose of Covid vaccine

### State records 143 fresh virus cases

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Approximately 24 per cent of beneficiaries availed of the vaccination schedule on the last day for emergency employees in the state. Effectively, the first dose of free vaccines for healthcare and emergency employees has been completed.

The percentage of beneficiaries is 33 per cent while the total number stands at 2,77,825.

The last two days saw very few beneficiaries coming forward. Despite senior officials, doctors and IPS officials going in for vaccination, the confidence levels of middle and lower cadre remained less impressed.

A senior doctor on condition of anonymity in a private hospital said, "Since there were a large number of asymptomatic carriers, they have developed antibodies. They are in turn protecting others and that is the reason for the small number of cases. But

**THE REASONS** for the low turnout are being attributed to the haste with which the vaccines were approved by the regulatory authority leading to lack of confidence in people.

**EXPERTS STATE** that allergic or adverse reactions can be handled but many are shying away as they want to wait and watch those who are vaccinated.

reaction, will I be treated free of cost?" while others are present in our body, others are worried about adverse reactions. It is important to inform people that there is a science behind the vaccine's development and looking at it logically will protect them from falling ill."

Awareness and confidence building in both these sections has been poor. People have doubts like 'if I get an adverse

**THE GHMC area** reported 27 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 10, Ranga Reddy 11, Warangal Urban 8 and Karimnagar 9. The total cases stood at 2,96,277 and toll at 1,614.

cases are being noted and it is important to follow safety protocols of wearing masks, washing hands and maintaining physical distancing."

The GHMC area reported 27 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 10, Ranga Reddy 11, Warangal Urban 8 and Karimnagar 9. The total cases stood at 2,96,277 and toll at 1,614.

being administered have taken vaccines in the past. If they have faced an adverse reaction then they must consult their doctors before taking it now."

Experts state that allergic or adverse reactions can be handled but many are shying away as they want to wait and watch those who are vaccinated. Till the second dose is completed, the confidence levels among people will be low.

There have been only two serious adverse effects in the state. Others have not reported back to the adverse effects committee with any problems after the first dose, implying that they are safe.

A senior government official said, "It is for free but people do not value it. They are scared and not willing to open up about their apprehensions. Those who have not availed the first dose will not be eligible for the second one."

## End-stage patient gets liver transplant

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

A liver transplant was conducted on a 58-year-old retired government school teacher from Nizamabad who was suffering from end-stage liver failure. The patient came to the hospital with the problem of cellulitis and it was found that his liver was dysfunctional.

He was registered with the Jeevandan committee of the government and an organ became available from a brain dead patient in Kamineni Hospital, LB Nagar.

The organ was harvested and brought to Sunshine Hospital for transplant.

**THIS IS** the first liver transplant performed in Sunshine Hospital.

ure and was obese. This made it challenging but the patient responded well to the treatment," said Dr Vimalakar Reddy, liver transplant specialist.

This is the first liver transplant performed in Sunshine Hospital. Dr A.V. Gurava Reddy, managing director and chief joint replacement surgeon, said, "We are now one of the hospitals offering liver transplant service to patients. Our first patient has recovered well."



Dear Dad - (Philip La'touche)  
Mum - (Heather La'touche)  
God Bless You Both  
Inserted By:  
Children, Grand Children & inlaws.  
(S/2021/D01223)

## SHORT TAKES

**DHARNI TO HAVE MODULE TO SOLVE NRI LAND ISSUES**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

A module to address property issues related to non-resident Indians will be launched in the Dharni portal soon, a meeting of top officials was informed. A module for registration by and in favour of institutions and companies is under development and would be launched by February 15.

A module for granting patadar passbooks to companies and institutions has been made available in Dharni. Pending mutation module has been made available. So far, 74,688 pending mutation applications have been received and 62,847 were disposed of by the district collectors under the pending mutation module, the meeting was told.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed that special teams should be constituted to visit villages and study how these modules were being used in the districts. These teams will identify hardships faced by people, if any, relating to these issues and suggest solutions for resolving these issues.

Chief Secretary Kumar and S. Narsing Rao, principal secretary at the Chief Minister's Office, on Friday held a review meeting on issues related to the Dharni portal with officials at BRKR Bhavan.

The Chief Secretary also directed that Dharni-related issues should be attended on priority and collectors should take personal interest in the matters and resolve cases, particularly cases kept in Part-B (disputed lands), on priority.

V. Seshadri, CIG, Registration & Stamps, Ronald Rose, special secretary, finance, G.T. Venkateshwar Rao, MD, TSTS, Satyasaadhra, special officer, CCLA and other officials were present.

**KOTIYA PEOPLES' HEART IS WITH AP, SAYS SALURU MLA**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 12

The dispute over 21 Kotiya villages between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh has once again come to national focus after Odisha government filed a contempt petition in Supreme Court against officials of Andhra Pradesh for issuing a notification on holding gram panchayat elections in three of the Kotiya panchayats.

There is a six-decade-old dispute wherein both AP and Odisha are claiming jurisdiction over the villages. Fortunately, for the poor Adivasis of these villages, they have been able to reap benefits from both the states. They have two ration cards and draw commodities from both governments. They also participate in elections held by both the states. But when it comes to health services and post school education, people of these villagers look up only to AP government.

All 21 schools have Odia and Telugu medium schools. Adivasis have the option of choosing a school of their choice. Except for villagers of Buridi, Kotiya and Eguvagangepadra, most others opt for Telugu medium. "Our welfare schemes like Amavodi, Cheyutha, Rythu Bharosa and others have attracted the villagers. This has caused heartburn within the Odisha government," Saluru MLA Peedika Rajanna Dora said.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* on Friday, he said Odisha government seems to be under the impression that gram panchayat elections are being held for the first time in these disputed Kotiya villages. They have missed out the fact that panchayat elections have been held by AP in these villages since decades. Rajanna Dora maintained that though the Supreme Court has posted the case to next Friday, panchayat polls will be held as per schedule on Saturday.

**Reckless driving**

A traffic cop issues a challan of ₹10,000 and takes photos of three teenagers who were driving without a helmet and hit a passerby at Liberty Circle near Tank Bund in Hyderabad on Friday. — P. SURENDRA

**Hike in fuel prices helps govt coffers**

**Govt earns ₹800 cr per month on an average from VAT**

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Rising petrol and diesel prices over the past few months are generating hundreds of crores every month for the state government's coffers.

In Hyderabad, the fuel prices touched all-time high with petrol being sold at ₹91.65 per litre and diesel ₹85.50 on Friday.

The rising fuel prices have helped the government cover up the revenue losses incurred during the lockdown last year.

● **FUEL SALES** took a severe beating in 2020-21 fiscal with no public transportation for the most part of 2020 and personal vehicles taken off roads from the third week of March to June.

March to June.

Though lockdown restrictions were lifted gradually from July 1, fuel sales started picking up only since October, when all restrictions on travel and transportation

were removed. The government lost nearly ₹5,000 crore due to Corona lockdown in 2020-21 fiscal till October.

However, revenue earnings through VAT (value added tax) on fuel witnessed a sharp rise from November. While increased consumption of fuel contributed to this growth, the rising fuel prices since November also made government richer.

The state government collects 35.20 per cent VAT (value added tax) on petrol and 27 per cent VAT on diesel, and is among the states collecting highest VAT on fuel in the country. The state government earns ₹800 per crore per month on an average through VAT on petrol

and diesel.

In 2019-20 fiscal, when there was no lockdown, the government earned ₹7,720 crore through VAT on fuel till January 2020, as per data available with the commercial taxes department. In 2020-21, the government feared this would be halved due to the lockdown. Contrary to this, the revenue earnings witnessed a steep hike from November.

In 2020-21, the government mopped up ₹6,736 crore through VAT on fuel till January 2021-end. This is a reduction of just ₹984 crore, when compared with previous fiscal 2019-20. The government could bridge losses of Corona lockdown with the help of rising fuel prices.

**UTTAM DEMANDS COMPLETION OF AIIMS BIBINAGAR**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

TPCC chief and Nalgonda Lok Sabha member N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday demanded the Centre to ensure speedy completion of the prestigious AIIMS in Bibinagar.

Raising the issue during Question Hour in Lok Sabha, the Congress member pointed out that the AIIMS super-specialty hospital was sanctioned to Telangana State amid much fanfare in 2018 but the project has made little progress in the last two years.

He said that the Centre had announced sanctioning of ₹1,028 crore for it in 2018 but had spent just ₹22.7 crore so far.

While the Union health minister claimed that it would be completed by September next year, the director of AIIMS Bibinagar Vikas Bhatia had recently issued a statement saying that it can be completed only by 2024, he told the House.

He alleged that both the BJP government at the Centre and TRS government in Telangana are adopting a callous attitude towards this project, which is leading to its inordinate delay.

T.S.S.

SIDDHARTH | DC

HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Residents of Neredmet have taken to social media to express dissatisfaction over South Central Railway's lackadaisical attitude in constructing a road underbridge (RUB) at Vajapainagar.

Residents, including Robin Zacheus, say the project has remained in the pipeline for more than a decade now.

"The project was supposed to start in 2010-11. Public representatives over time have come and assured that they will give it a push.

But nothing much has happened. For people who have to use the road, it is a nightmare," Robin said.

In an RTI reply, South Central Railway (SCR) said works were initiated in 2010-11. However, state government's general administration department is yet to approve the project for SCR to prepare an estimate.

gate is closed for a train to pass for at least 15 minutes every time. The road is very narrow at the point and there is a veritable traffic jam. It is real hardship for people

along this road," said Madan S.N., a resident of the area.

While the lane remains narrow, the number of vehicles plying on this stretch has been increasing by the day, leading to a larger number of vehicles stuck in traffic jams.

"This road is used by a lot of commuters. There are many issues to be considered before construction of a road underbridge is taken up. The major one will be land, which the GHMC will have to give," Madan explained.

**Lack of RUB in Neredmet causes traffic congestion**

Commuters are stuck at the railway level crossing at Neredmet in Hyderabad.

● **IN AN RTI reply, South Central Railway (SCR)** said works were initiated in 2010-11. However, state government's general administration department is yet to approve the project for SCR to prepare an estimate.

Due to lack of passageway, commuters along this road are being put to tremendous hardships. "The

**KISHAN SAYS HE HAS PREDICTED TRS, MIM TIE-UP**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Friday flayed the TRS leadership for bagging the Mayor and Deputy Mayor posts by taking MIM support. He reminded that he had himself cautioned people that a vote for the TRS would eventually go to the MIM kitty, which has now come true.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Kishan Reddy alleged that TRS and MIM had come to a secret pre-poll understanding, which was the reason the TRS did not field candidates in divisions where the MIM was strong. He said that Hyderabad had not made any progress under the TRS and charged that MIM was the main culprit.

He alleged that the two parties had jointly encouraged corruption in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Neither was bothered about the city's development, Reddy said.

He alleged that MIM headquarters Darusalam would decide transfers of the GHMC, police and revenue officials. He said that if TRS had not allied with MIM before the GHMC elections, the party would have won less than 10 seats.

He sought an explanation from Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on how he could align with an "anti-Hindi party", whose leaders "hurt the sentiments of Hindus."

The Union minister took exception to Rao's comments about women in his public meeting. This was unbecoming of a Chief Minister, Reddy said. He lashed out at the cases being filed against BJP cadre and leaders in the Suryapet incident and stated that everyone has the right to fight against injustice.

Replying to questions, he clarified that the Centre had allocated ₹1,400 crore for the Hyderabad Metro corridor in the earlier budget. He wanted to know why the state government had not started work on the Falaknuma route.

Kishan Reddy was confident that the BJP will win both Graduate MLC seats for which elections will be held next month. He recalled that they had won the Mahabubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad MLC seat despite the TRS juggernaut.

HC PULLS UP SEC, OVER DELAY IN PRE-POLL PROCESS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

The Telangana High Court on Friday asked the state government and the State Election Commission to explain the delay in completing the pre-election process for the Nakrekal, Jadcherla, Kothur, Achampet and Siddipet municipalities and the Warangal and Khammam municipal corporations.

Advocate General B.S. Prasad informed a division bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayseen Reddy that was hearing a petition on the matter that the delimitation process and other works had commenced and sought time to get clear instructions.

Naresh Reddy Chinnola, counsel for the petitioner M. Dharmendra Rao of Hanamkonda, Warangal, told the court that the term of the urban local bodies would expire within two months. As per rules, the pre-election process should commence in advance.

Chief Justice Hima Kohli, after hearing the contents of counsel, asked the AG as to why steps were not yet taken to hold the elections. The replies are to be filed within two weeks.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**Late ADHI NIHIL KUMAR**  
S/o Adhi Vinod Kumar  
DOB: 12-03-1991 DOD: 31-01-2021  
You always had a smile to share, Love to give and time to care which fills us with phenomenal memories of your precious love.  
Memorial Service on Sunday 14 February 2021 at 12:00 PM. At CSI Mount Calvary Church, Sri Nagar Colony Patancheru, Sanjaynagar.

From  
Adhi Vinod Jyoti - Mother  
Adhi Nihant Kumar - Brother  
(CA-352)

9885942667

**AP RELEASES ₹116 CRORE FOR POLLS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 12

State government released an amount of ₹116 crore for making arrangements for conduct of gram panchayat polls in phase-2 here on Friday.

Panchayat raj and rural development commissioner M. Girija Sankar reviewed the arrangements made for conduct of polls with the joint collectors, zilla parishad chief executive officers and others by holding a teleconference.



**6th ANNIVERSARY**  
"Your memories will remain in our hearts forever"  
Inserted by:  
**Sattaiyah Ravirala, Jaswanth Ravirala, Smrithi Ravirala, Sushma Sriram, Nagaraj Sriram, Atharv, Anurag, Satvik, Tarunika**  
**Smt. Ravirala Sujatha**  
Dob : 15-05-1954 DoB : 05-02-2015

Now if we died with christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Romans 6:8  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

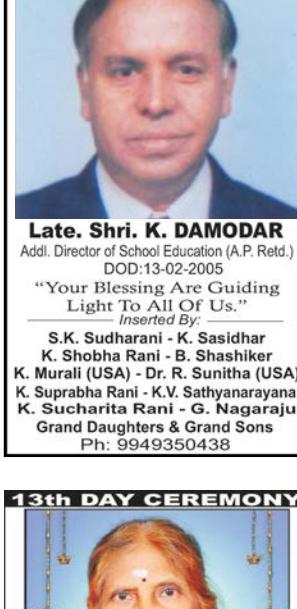


Late P. J. Paul Called to glory: 15-01-1983 05-02-2020  
Late Mrs. Kanaka Paul Called to glory: 15-01-1983 05-02-2020

We will hold you dearly in our hearts till we meet again.

Inserted by: Children, Grand Children, Extended Family & Great Grandsons. 9394705831 / 9936527203

**16th ANNIVERSARY**



Added: Director of School Education (A.P. Retd.)  
DOB: 13-02-2005  
"Your Business Is Guiding Light To All Of Us."  
Inserted By:  
S.K. Sudharani - K. Sudharani  
K. Shobha Rani - Shashikiran  
K. Murali (USA) - Dr. R. Sunitha (USA)  
K. Suprabha Rani - K.V. Sathyanarayana  
K. Sucharita Rani - G. Nagaraju  
Grand Daughters & Grand Sons Ph: 9949350438

(S/2021/D01207)

**1st Death Anniversary**  
"The memory of the righteous is blessed"  
Another year has gone since we lost you and we still find ourselves inconsolable



**Smt. N. SADASUKHI**  
Retd. Nursing Superintendent, Grade-II, Osmansia General Hospital  
W/o G. Vinod Raj  
D.O.B. 15-01-1938 D.O.A. 13-02-2020  
Please Join us as we remember the Life and Love of Smt. N. SADASUKHI on 13th February 2021 at 6:30 pm at our residence in Gowlipura.

Inserted by: Family

**13th DAY CEREMONY**  
Chinnam K Devamani  
DOD: 01-02-2021  
Ceremony will be held at our residence @ 10 AM Ramanathan  
Inserted By:  
Daughters, Son in laws and Grand Children  
Ph: 9703020711



**Smt. KOMARVALLI MARY SUGUNA**  
13 Feb 1991  
"Nothing can ever take away the love our heart holds dear. Fond memories linger every day remembrance keeps her near."  
Forever in our thoughts"  
RAPAKA RATNA KUMAR  
Children & Grand Children  
Ph: 9985200290

"The righteous will be remembered forever"  
Ps. 112:6  
**2nd Anniversary**  
In Loving Memory of a Cherished Wife, Mother and Grand Mother



**N. JEREMIAH**  
S/o. N. Johnson  
DOB: 19-01-1979 DOD: 13-02-2012  
Your sweet memories always remain for ever.  
Inserted by: Roopa Rao  
Dr. Deepa Rao Basu, Dr. Somantha Basu  
Ved Basu & Deeba Basu

(L/2021/D00028)

**10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY FOND REMEMBRANCES**



**H. BHAWARLAL JAIN MUNOTH**  
(S/o Late Shri Lalchandji Munoth)  
Hardik Shradhanjali  
Inserted by: F. LALCHAND JEWELLERS  
Pot Market, Secunderabad

**IN BRIEF**  
**E-CLASSES FOR RURAL GOVT SCHOOL KIDS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Vidyakansha, a non-profit organisation started by three alumni of top business schools, has partnered with the state government to take digital learning to government schools.

The organisation has signed an agreement with Mulugu collector Krishna Aditya and set up smart classrooms in rural government schools in the district.

Aishwarya Mishra, alumna of Indian School of Business, Hyderabad (ISB), Arushi Verma from IIM-Bangalore and Vartika Chaudhary of IIM-Ahmedabad had in May 2020 through Vidyakansha started working towards providing free, quality online education to rural students. They started this initiative in Bihar with five volunteers teaching 10 students over WhatsApp.

In the first phase of their pilot in Mulugu district that commenced on February 1, the organisation set up six smart classrooms in three government schools, with over 12 laptops, speakers, projectors and modems over which the nearly 360 students of Classes 9 and 10 are being taught by volunteer-teachers.

The organisation has over 270 volunteers from the leading institutes teaching over 840 students in Telangana, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Bengal and Gujarat.



Kampara Ramesh

**YSRC KAKINADA CORPORATOR MURDERED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
KAKINADA, FEB. 12

Kampara Ramesh, corporator of ninth division in Kakinada Municipal Corporation, was killed, allegedly by his friend Gurajana Chinna. It is stated Chinna ran the corporator over with his car multiple times in drunken rage at a car washing centre in Valasapakala village of Kakinada Rural Mandal.

The incident occurred at 2 a.m. on Friday. The killing of Ramesh has sent shock waves in political circles of Kakinada city. Agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu, Kakinada city MLA Dwarapudi Chandrasekhara Reddy and Kakinada mayor S. Pavani are among those who have expressed their condolences over the death of Ramesh.

Sarpavaram circle inspector Nunnaraju said Kampara Ramesh came to the car wash centre last night and started drinking there along with his friends. The matter of Gurajana Chinna came up at the time. Following this, Ramesh phone Chinna, who reached the car wash centre along with his brother Kumar. The duo too started drinking with Ramesh and his friends.

While they were heavily drunk, Ramesh found that his car keys were missing. He then asked everybody at the place not to move until his car keys are found. This led to an altercation between Chinna and Ramesh. Following this, the inspector said, Chinna started his car and hit Ramesh repeatedly before running him over.

Chinna then fled from the spot while other friends rushed Ramesh to a private hospital at Sarpavaram, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Soon after receiving information, Kakinada DSP V. Bhima Rao rushed to the spot with Kakinada rural and city inspectors. Sarpavaram police have registered a case. Security has been beefed up to check any untoward incidents in the city.

The DSP said Clues and technical teams are gathering evidence and collecting CCTV footage.

According to sources, Kampara Ramesh was once the city Congress president and later became a close associate of YSRC leaders and ministers.

He had also been the floor leader of Congress in Kakinada Municipal Corporation. Ramesh was involved in land settlements and reportedly settled a land dispute involving Chinna.

# Driver overshot sharp bend

The bus was on its way to Visakhapatnam from Araku valley

From Page 1

The driver, as he was not familiar with the road, or possibly because of brake failure, overshot a sharp bend and the bus went down the gorge. Among the injured, along with several adults, were children.

As per Swamy Goud, who responded to a phone call to Dinesh Travels, three persons had booked the vehicle for a family trip to Araku. There were 26 persons in all in the bus, he said.

Meanwhile, the Hyderabadi district collector was instructed to visit Shaikpet and inquire and assist in relief operations.

According to the Anantagiri district police, the bus fell into the gorge while negotiating a hairpin bend on the hilly road between Dumuku and Tyda villages. The bus was on its way to Visakhapatnam from Araku valley and was about 100 km from its immediate destination.

Anantagiri sub-inspector K. Sudhakar said the bodies of the victims were being shifted to S. Kota community health centre, where the injured persons were taken for immediate care and treatment.

Some of those who received serious injuries were to be taken to Visakhapatnam for better



Accident victims being taken to hospital on Friday.



Family members gather at the residence of the bus accident victims in Sitanagar, Shaikpet, on Friday.

— R. PAVAN

treatment.

As the police scrambled to mount relief efforts, officials reached out to any available vehicle and roped in taxi cabs to rush to the accident spot and carry the injured to hospitals.

"The incident might

have taken place around 7.30 pm and we got a call 10 minutes later. We mobilised all available vehicles including 108 ambulances and rushed to the accident spot 30 km away," said taxi driver Ramesh, from Borra Caves.

## Governor, CM condole deaths

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao expressed shock and grief at the tragic bus accident at Araku on Friday that has claimed at least four lives.

The Governor posted on Twitter: "I am deeply shocked and saddened to know about the death of many tourists from Hyderabad in an accident at Araku Valley ghat road. I express my deep condolences to the bereaved family members. Wish early recovery and best possible medical care to the injured & admitted."

The CM expressed grief over the loss of lives in the tragic incident. "I express my deepest condolences to the families of the bereaved. I'm in constant contact with the concerned officials, to ensure support and medical attention to the injured."

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao said on Twitter, "Deeply shocked by the news of tourists from Hyderabad losing their lives in an accident at Araku valley ghat section in AP. My condolences to the bereaved families. I'm in constant contact with the concerned officials, to ensure support and medical attention to the injured."

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and MLC N. Ramchander Rao expressed grief over loss of life and wished the injured tourists speedy recovery.

## Tanishq's special range for V-Day

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Tanishq, the jewellery brand, in keeping with the celebratory spirit of Valentine's Day on Sunday, is offering its limited time discount on diamond jewellery. In a release, the company said it was introducing a wide range of diamond jewellery, while offering up to 21 per cent off.

The range includes heart-shaped diamond designs and engagement rings, bracelets, pendants and earrings, the company said.

The range has been specially designed to cater to those who celebrate this special day by expressing their love for their family, friends and special ones and celebrating personal milestones.

Stones. The range starts at ₹10,000. Apart from Tanishq stores, the jewellery is available on their e-commerce platform: www.tanishq.co.in, it said.

## Tanishq's special range for V-Day

**DC CORRESPONDENT**

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## Govt to speed up free water plan

**DC CORRESPONDENT**

HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Chief secretary held a review meeting with Arvind Kumar, principal secretary, MA&UD, Dana, Kishore, MD, Water Board, Lokesh Kumar, GHMC commissioner and N. Satyanarayana, CDMA, on Friday.

The Chief Secretary instructed Kishore to complete Aadhaar seeding with PTIN and CAN with beneficiaries to improve the water supply system, duly giving priority to uncovered and slum areas.

## Don't test our patience, KTR tells BJP, Congress

**PULI SHARATH KUMAR IDC**  
SIRCILLA, FEB. 12

"We will not sit quiet if BJP and Congress leaders talk without sense against Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao. There is a limit to our patience. If they cross the limits, we are not afraid to speak out against even the Prime Minister," said TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao.

He was addressing party workers at a function hall in Rajanna Sircilla district on Friday. Rama Rao said no party had the guts to face the TRS. "The TRS leadership should not forget this. We will give a fitting reply to the BJP at the appropriate time."

"Union ministers had on several occasions appreciated the good work of KCR. They even lauded us saying Telangana is the only state supplying sufficient water for both irrigation and drinking needs."

He highlighted the TRS government providing uninterrupted 24x7 power supply, introducing Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bhima and waiving farm loans.

against the Chief Minister and the TRS. There is no gain for the BJP to have a state chief in the form of Bandi Sanjay Kumar; he can only make provocative statements."

Rama Rao said: "The TRS is a party that made former chief ministers of united Andhra Pradesh run away from this region. The BJP leaders should not forget this. We will give a fitting reply to the BJP at the appropriate time."

"Union ministers had on several occasions appreciated the good work of KCR. They even lauded us saying Telangana is the only state supplying sufficient water for both irrigation

and drinking needs." He highlighted the TRS government providing uninterrupted 24x7 power supply, introducing Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bhima and waiving farm loans.

Rama Rao appealed to his party to focus on strengthening the party from the grassroots level. "The Rajanna Sircilla district must stand at top place in the TRS membership drive by enrolling the maximum number of people to the party."

Later, the minister participated in various developmental activities, inaugurated the Rythu Vediaka and laid the foundation stone for the gram panchayat building and Palle Prakruthi Vanam in Rajeshwar Rao Nagar. He inaugurated the newly constructed bridge in Mallappally as also the crematorium, Palle Prakruthi Vanam, and an open gym in Gorantla village.

"Union ministers had on several occasions appreciated the good work of KCR. They even lauded us saying Telangana is the only state supplying sufficient water for both irrigation

and drinking needs."

He highlighted the TRS government providing uninterrupted 24x7 power supply, introducing Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bhima and waiving farm loans.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

13 FEBRUARY 2021

## Go slow on peace thrust, up the ante during talks

Once the breakthrough was achieved after several rounds of talks at various levels, the India-China agreement on disengagement at Pangong Tso in Ladakh is only a promising start towards peace. Surprisingly speedy the process of China moving back its armour from the shores of the lake may seem, but India would have to be most cautious on how the de-escalation exercise works out because it will be surrendering a lot of leverage in giving up the Kailash range heights for securing just the Pangong Tso disengagement in the north and south banks.

Given the history of fraught relations exacerbated by border tensions over the last few years since China's intrusion in 2017, it should be considered fortunate if this initial pullback leads to lasting peace. India would do well to remember how disadvantageous the narrow agreement seems right now because armed Chinese soldiers can be present at Finger 8 while India will be confined to its Finger 3 base and will be unable to patrol up to the Chinese perception of LAC, which used to be east of Finger 8 prior to April 2020.

The disengagement is indubitably positive but India must monitor the progress closely and also press for the resolution of all remaining issues, which are many considering the number of hotspots in Ladakh and further east, including the Depsang plateau where China has held Indian territory of around 1,000 sq km and the PLA has also been stopping the Indian troops from patrolling traditional points. Obviously there is far more to do in terms of tough negotiating in military commander level talks that are to be held within two days and in higher-level negotiations afterwards.

The border situation cannot be dealt with in isolation as China seemed to demand in its call to set right ties, including trade even as talks went on about de-escalation. The point to ponder is whether China is aiming for a larger resetting of ties in a global sense in view of the change in the White House, which Joe Biden signalled with a tough sounding phone call to Chinese President Xi Jinping. It would be a great development for world peace if indeed China is willing to negotiate even from its stronger position post-Covid vis-a-vis economic recovery from worldwide lows imposed by the pandemic.

The trust deficit, including between China and its largest trading partner, the United States, has been enlarged by suspicions over the origin of the coronavirus being Wuhan. A sliver of hope is to be spotted in China seeking peace while agreeing to try and resolve the border issue, even if it did so only on facing India's strong position on its capturing of the Kailash range heights. Doubts will remain over whether China will remobilise quickly as it has the advantage over India in terms of infrastructure capabilities, which is why abundant caution is advised as well as the highest vigil on friction points beyond Eastern Ladakh. Negotiations over easing punitive economic actions taken by India can wait until it is established that the push for peace is real.

## Kamal's black humour

There is never a dull moment in Tamil Nadu's political scene, particularly when the state gears up for an Assembly election. But when a celebrated actor like Kamal Haasan tickles the funny bone, the entire realm turns a theatre of the absurd. When the general council of Mr Haasan's party, named differently as the Makkal Needhi Maiam (People's Justice Centre), made him the "permanent president" by passing a resolution, his detractors, who never miss an opportunity to pick holes in whatever he does or says, raised serious questions, quite out of sync with the prevailing mirth.

What's that general council? How were those members elected? By whom? So wondered the dirty disparagers without realising that it's an internal matter of the party that others should not poke their noses into. They also asked if someone could remain permanently on a high pedestal in a domain where there are no permanent friends or enemies. But Mr Haasan, who hails from a world of make-believe, perhaps believes in the juxtaposition of surrealism with harsh political realities, hoping that it would provide relief from the ennui caused by the ubiquitous harangue and pageantry.

Whatever it was, he made the people laugh though they had heard of even "permanent chief ministers", as hailed in the rhetoric of fawning sycophants, in the past. Displaying a similar sentiment, those who inherited the mantle of running the government from the late J. Jayalalithaa accorded her the exalted status of "permanent general secretary" of the AIADMK posthumously and kept the post vacant "permanently" after throwing out V.K. Sasikala, who had succeeded her. Perhaps it was the spectacular return of Ms Sasikala to reclaim the post that inspired Mr Haasan to look for permanency in the party president's job. Anyway, the same general council's resolution to make Mr Haasan the Chief Minister of the state did not evoke any laughter.

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Farrukh  
DhondyCabbages &  
Kings

"Oh Bachchoo let's have due regard  
For the story-telling genius of  
Scheherazade  
Who over a thousand and one nights  
Scaled creation's narrative heights

She held a king under her spell  
Assuring him there was more to tell  
And so, with each inventive breath  
Do story-tellers stave off death."

— From Lambey Lamens by  
Bachchoo

TO: UK Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London SW

My dear Priti Patelji,  
I am writing to apply for the post of Chief Speechwriter for which you advertised this week.

Your advertisement specifies that "the successful candidate will be someone who can imitate the Home Secretary's personal style". Let me start by saying, Priti Patelji, that I have closely followed your career, from the time you were thrown out of your job by the then PM Theresa May, for attempting unofficial deals and private contact with Israeli officials and business leaders, to when you favoured

hanging and capital punishment, to your generous policies regarding police pay, illegal entrants to Britain and your speeches attacking anti-terror and the Covid crisis.

I am sure that, being a Parsi with a knowledge of fluent Gujarati, I am best qualified for the job. Please tear up and bin any applications from Goras, Punjabis, Pakistanis, Bengalis, etc. None of them will understand the prejudices you have imbibed as a child of immigrant shopkeepers from Uganda. I must confess never having been to Uganda or kept a shop, but as a writer of stage plays, etc, I constantly think myself into the mentality, prejudices, and styles of thought and speech of different characters. I am sure you will consider this my Trump card (I know you got the joke. Ha ha).

Of course, I don't expect you to call me instantly and offer me the job without testing my abilities to deliver superb text in your voice, so I am setting out some samples below:

The first is a sample address to the Tory Conference.

"Comrades, Lords and Ladies,  
I stand before you as your new Home Secretary appointed by our brilliant

elected Prime Minister Boris Johnson who has very perceptively recognised my fantastic talents for this job. I am fully aware of the heavy responsibility that this places on my head such as keeping the wogs out of the country (loud cheers and standing ovation), making the police more effective by cutting their numbers and pay (shuffling in the audience), zero tolerance for criminals with a lock-up-and-throw-away-the-key approach, with the building of five thousand more jails and bringing back hanging (second standing ovation) — er um... I didn't mean by ropes, I meant hanging as in suspending people, like my Chief Civil Servants if they express any opinions...."

I guarantee Priti Patelji, these thoughts of yours which I have humbly attempted to put into words will get you to be PM after this fellow — whose name you characteristically forget.

Secondly, here is a sample address to the Police Federation as you are now in charge of all PC Plods.

"My brave and dedicated servants of the law, let me start by announcing that I intend to immediately boost police pay (huge applause and cat

calls). I have instructed my office to see that every police officer gets paid at least £3 and 12 shillings per week (total silence). This is in recognition of the fantastic work your forces are doing in fighting and combatting anti-terrorism, which must be wiped off the face of this planet. (Huge cheers from Islamist policemen) ...

And next, Priti Patelji, your address to the House of Commons on immigration.

"Mr Speaker, the gravest crisis facing this country is not the shortage of grave-diggers caused by the Covid virus, but the illegal entry of immigrants and so-called asylum seekers across our land-borders with Europe. The previous Labour government under Terrestrial May lived up to its Prime Minister's name by declaring that these criminals may use the *Terrestrial tunnels* to enter our country (Here you pause for the laughter that will certainly follow this joke!). I propose, Mr Speaker, to build a wall across these borders with barbed wire on top to stop people coming in. We shall have a Ugandan and Cayman Island style immigration policy by which all Asians will have to leave the country and only tax-

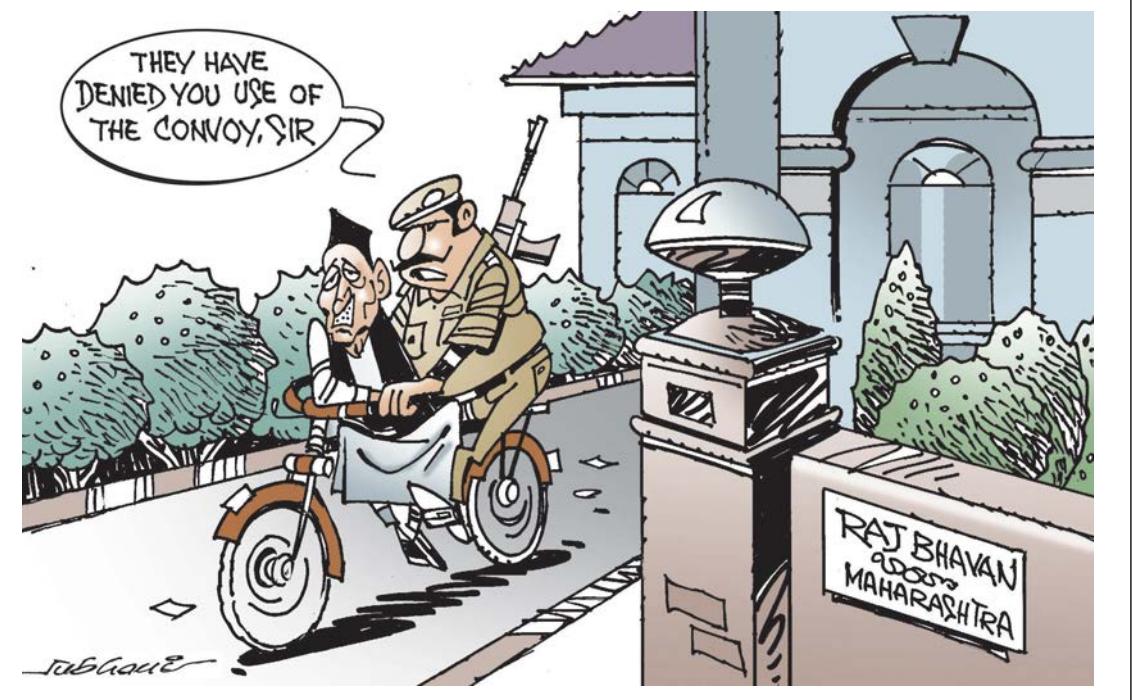
dodgers and drug lords will be admitted to the free ports declared by our hedge-boy chancellor Wishy Anorak. Boris has already told me that he will get the Norwegians to pay for this wall...."

And then perhaps Priti Patelji, the PM may ask you to take to the TV lectern to address the nation on the Covid crisis and the government's efforts to combat it in accordance to the science. So, here's what you might say:

"It is with great sadness that the statistics today reveal that Britain has suffered 66 million deaths in the last 24 hours. My thoughts and condolences go out to all these deaths' families. Now despite some mother lovers opposing lockdown, what the epicologists, etc tell us that not only is lockdown a good thing, we should also have lock-up — which means anyone who tests positive for Covid should be locked up and the key thrown away. And if any scientist or civil servant opposes my same policies they can bloody-well F-off and die — effing wankers — I know where you live..."

Your future ventriloquist,  
Obsequiously,  
Farrukh Dhondy

Subhani



## Why China 'disengaged': Always carry a big stick

Syed Ata Hasnain

After nine rounds of talks at the military theatre level which appeared to be tapering off without any results, we find a positive development announced by the Raksha Mantri in Parliament on Thursday: a decision to disengage between the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army in the over nine-month-long standoff in eastern Ladakh. The issues worth examining are the triggers which created a positive sentiment, the modalities involved in the disengagement and the strategic dynamics for the future.

Why has China accepted a mutual disengagement? There is speculation that its strategic objectives having been met, it was willing to disengage; but this may not entirely be true. The objectives have been analysed to a great extent. My belief veers on the coercion theory, that India's soaring strategic confidence through the past five years deeply worried China. The feasibility of India actually becoming a part of military equations and alliances and thus upsetting the strategic balance in Asia was not too appealing for China.

The Indian government invested in a new strategy of trusting its military leadership to undertake negotiations which were really in the political-diplomatic-military domain. In nine rounds, the military stood its ground well, reflecting an intellectual and pragmatic approach. Of course, it runs the risk of coming up against obstacles in implementation. The last time it tried implementing what was agreed upon in theatre level border meetings, it led to the Galwan incident. The Indian Army is not one which will simply move back to implement an agreement with a country with whom there is virtually zero trust. It will verify and verify, just like its officers and soldiers did in June 2020, which led to Galwan. With caution and the lessons learnt, that procedure has to be implemented all over again.

It is unlikely we have

seen anything close to a threat to the main Chinese highway to Xinjiang. Without an operational-tactical advantage, if this is vacated at the Kailash heights, it is difficult to foresee any further concessions by the Chinese. Perhaps there is more to it and will emerge in due course as understantably full transparency on military operational issues is not currently possible.

Progress on the agreement and subsequent moves towards more positive signs is not contingent upon only the events in eastern Ladakh. Everything here is linked to geopolitical issues relating to Chinese and Indian interests elsewhere in South Asia; relations with countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka being an example. It would be helpful if India can detach the developments in eastern Ladakh from the dynamics of Sino-Indian relations elsewhere. India will find itself under increasing pressure from China regarding its strategic equations with the Quad nations. Having come thus far and also having received fair importance from the United States in its perception of India's role in the Indo Pacific region, New Delhi may feel it's in a dilemma. However, its interests clearly lie where it has established greater trust and identified commonality of interests. It cannot afford to be seen to be submitting unreasonably to Chinese demands. The inevitability in India's approach towards the emerging situation should be to waste little time in enhancing its conventional military capability through the self-reliance route towards modernisation.

What India should be insisting upon is the physical delineation of the LAC without prejudice to anything permanent. It will get rid of the one issue which is the bane of the LAC's management: that is, the perception about where ours or the Chinese claim line exists. This is unlikely, of course, but must remain the pressure point on the Chinese side as a terminal objective of the current talks, the tenth round of which is likely to come up soon. The Raksha Mantri in his Rajya Sabha statement laid it out clearly: "The House should also know that there are still some outstanding issues with regard to deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. These will be the focus of further discussions with the Chinese side". The reference was to other areas in contention, especially Dapsang, where a much greater threat exists to our defences, as also an

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## LETTERS ENCROACHMENTS

Courts directed the GHMC to remove encroachments earlier too (*Remove footpath encroachments: HC, DC, Feb. 12*). Permanent constructions have come up on footpaths. Electric poles are moved to facilitate them. It is rampant in bylanes. Encroachments removed soon resurface within a short time.

**S. Venkateswara Rao**  
Hyderabad

I did not realise the pain of riding through crowded lanes until I got a two-wheeler. Most footpaths are occupied by hawkers who force pedestrians to walk on road. I request the government to ensure liquor buyers stand in queue.

**D. Mehta**  
Secunderabad

## WOMAN MAYOR

A strong message of women's empowerment is sought to be sent to society by having a woman as Mayor. However, she was nominated in a sealed cover. If people had a direct say in the mayor's election like Teegala Krishna Reddy a long time ago, it would have been welcome.

**Phaneendra V.**  
Hyderabad

## MIXOPATHY BAD

The Centre doesn't seem bothered about repercussions of laws they enact (*Doctors' relay hunger strike enter 10th day, DC, Feb. 12*). Not only doctors, but also citizens need to protest against this. It confuses patients trying to diagnose illness with a doctor. Even Ayurvedic doctors who are allowed now to do surgeries with six months training are doing a risky job.

**P.J. David**  
Hyderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### India is on the threshold of change: Indira

NEW DELHI, February, 12

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi opined that in India today "there is a conflict between the forces of change and of the 'status quo'".

Mrs Gandhi, in an interview to the French national radio, also affirmed her party's belief in democracy and said, "we are trying to give it greater meaning". "We believe the interests of the people are best safeguarded in a democracy, because a democracy is perhaps the only system which strengthens people themselves".

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



## SHORT TAKES

**MP COPS PROVIDE SECURITY TO KANGANA**

Bhopal, Feb. 12: Madhya Pradesh police have put in place thick security cover around Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in the wake of a threat by some state Congress leaders that they would not allow her shoot for a film if she did not apologise to farmers over her tweets, an official said on Friday.

Shooting for *Dhaakad*, Ranaut's new film, is going on in Sarni area of Betul district. Sarni City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Abhay Ram Choudhary said, "Security has been tightened for the actress after MP home minister Narottam Mishra directed Betul Superintendent of Police Simala Prasad to do so."

Police personnel equipped with batons and firearms are deployed around the coal handling plant (CHL) near a power project, where the shooting is on, he added.

"Police will man gate numbers two and four of the CHL, from where actors usually enter the shooting venue," Choudhary said.

An inspector has been assigned to oversee Ranaut's safety at the resort, located around 45 kms from Sarni town, where she is during for the shoot, he said.

"We will ensure that she does not face any disturbance during the shoot," the CSP added.

**ASSAM CUTS FUEL PRICES BY ₹5, DUTY ON LIQUOR BY 25%**

**MANOJ ANAND | DC**  
GUWAHATI, FEB. 12

Assam government on Friday announced to cut petrol and diesel prices by ₹5 and reduced the duty on liquor by 25 per cent. The new rates will come into effect from Friday midnight.

The announcement has come months before the Assembly election and especially at a time when fuel prices have been touching new highs across the country.

While presenting a vote-on-account for six months, finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told the Assembly that the move will result in losses of nearly ₹80 crore revenue per month.

"When the Covid-19 was at its peak, we had increased taxes on petrol and diesel. With the Covid-19 situation improving and the additional burden on the health sector reducing, the state cabinet has decided to withdraw the additional taxes on these fuels," Sarma said.

"Effective from Friday midnight, prices of petrol and diesel will decrease by ₹5 per litre. As a result, Assam will have the record of providing cheapest petrol in the country after Gujarat. Even prices of diesel would be the lowest after Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh," he stated. Sarma further announced that additional taxes of 25 per cent imposed on liquor products at the peak of Covid-19 has also been withdrawn.

**INDIA RECORDS STEEP DECLINE IN COVID-19 CASES**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 12

India on Friday recorded 9,309 fresh cases and 87 deaths due to Covid-19 as the country's total active caseload saw a sharp decline, falling to 1.35 lakh.

The positive cases now comprise only 1.25% of the total cases and the day to day change of active cases in the last few weeks is showing a consistent decline, said Union health ministry officials.

The distribution of new cases in India in the last 24 hours shows a positive picture with only one state reporting over 1,000 cases while the rest of the states and UTs reporting less than 1,000 new cases. Four states and union territories have not reported any new cases in the last 24 hours. These are Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Ladakh, Tripura and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A significant decline in the daily deaths too has been noticed as 18 states/UTs have not reported any new deaths in the last 24 hours while 13 states/UTs have reported between 1-5 new deaths.

National Recovery Rate is 97.32 per cent, which is one of the highest globally. Officials said the continued high rise in the recoveries has led to progressively improving national Recovery Rate.



TMC Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Trivedi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi after resigning as MP during the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

**TMC MP Trivedi resigns, says party no longer in Didi's hands**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 12

In yet another major blow to West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Trivedi dramatically announced his resignation on the floor of the House on Friday, saying he felt "helpless" over the political violence in his state. He added, "The kind of violence that is happening in Bengal, it is a threat to democracy. I feel very strange sitting here. I think of what I should do. I think of Rabindranath Tagore. Obey party discipline? Of course, but I feel stifled. My soul is saying I sit here and say nothing, what is the point? I resign."

Minutes after his resig-

nation, he said he was feeling "suffocated" in the TMC which he said was "no longer in the hands" of Mamata Banerjee.

Trivedi's resignation came two days after he endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in the Lok Sabha in which he had called for a key role for the private sector.

Trivedi, a former rail-

way minister, announced his resignation in the Upper House during a debate on the Budget, saying he can't speak about the violence in his state. He handed over his resignation to Chairman M. Venkiah Naidu and it has been accepted. He explained to Naidu that he had resigned of his own will and there was no pressure on him to quit.

Modi's Lok Sabha speech on Twitter, saying, "I am personally in agreement with this. The way forward is to let our young talented minds innovate, create and distribute wealth. Pay Govt levies, create jobs. For that, our Govt officers (babus) too, need to encourage the youth." He was trolled for his tweet with many saying he may switch from the party.

TMC Rajya Sabha deputy leader Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said that Trivedi was "ungrateful" and had betrayed the trust of the masses. "For the last so many years he (Trivedi) did not say anything. Now all of a sudden, just months before the Assembly polls, he has complaints. This shows his true colours," Ray said.

Trivedi had endorsed

Kailash Vijayvargiya said Trivedi was welcome in the party.

Trivedi said, "If you sit here quietly and cannot do anything, then it is better that you resign from here and go to the land of Bengal and be with the people. The way violence is taking place in our state, sitting here, I am feeling perplexed as to what I should do."

Talking to reporters after submitting his resignation, he said, the TMC is no longer in Mamata Banerjee's hands. It has been taken over by a corporate professional who doesn't understand politics. And there is no forum within the party to air our views."

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**12 workers killed, 36 hurt in fire mishap in TN factory**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
VIRUDHUNAGAR, FEB. 12

As many as 12 workers were killed and around 36 injured in a fire accident in a cracker manufacturing unit near Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district on Friday.

The accident occurred at around 11 am when more than 120 persons were working in Mariammal Fire Works at Achankulam village near Satur. The accident is suspected to have been caused by mishandling of the chemical mixture in the process of manufacturing fancy type crackers.

It damaged 20 work sheds fully, killing five persons including a woman on the spot while seven more succumbed to burns at the hospital.

Around 36 injured persons were undergoing treatment at the government hospitals in Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Koyilpatti.

Fire and rescue personnel

from the fire stations at Sivakasi, Virudhunagar

identify the exact cause of the fire that sparked the explosion.

The local villagers, who first rushed to the rescue of the workers on hearing the deafening sound of the blast, however, complained that eight workers were made to work in a shed against the permitted four.

This caused congestion that prevented workers from running out when the accident occurred, said a villager.

A detailed enquiry would be conducted, which will help

identify the exact cause of the fire that sparked the explosion.

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## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	51,544.30
Nifty 50	15,163.30
S&P 500*	3,924.27
Dollar (\$)	72.74
Pound Sterling (\$)	100.42
Euro (\$)	88.14
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	46,847 ▼661
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.35
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.990
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.195
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.037

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Inflation slows to 16-month low of 4.06% in Jan.

Retail inflation eased to a 16-month low of 4.06 per cent in January mainly on account of softening of food and vegetable prices. It is for the second consecutive month that retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has remained within the target range of RBI which is 4 per cent (+/-2 per cent). The retail inflation stood at 4.59 per cent in December 2020 and 7.59 per cent in January 2020.

## Kumar is advisor to Kotak's \$1-bn bad assets fund



Former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar was appointed as the exclusive advisor to a \$1 billion-stressed assets fund floated by the Kotak Mahindra Bank Group. Kumar retired from SBI in October last year. Kotak Investment Advisors said Kumar will be the "exclusive advisor for its \$1 billion special situation fund". It had announced a fund raise of \$1 billion in August 2019, anchored by \$500 million from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

## SC rejects plea against Franklin schemes' wind-up

The Supreme Court rejected the objections to the result of e-voting process and held that unitholders have given their consent by majority to wind up the six mutual fund schemes of Franklin Templeton. The SC, which said that winding up and disbursement of funds to unitholders would be in terms of its previous directions, directed that disbursement can be made in tranches without waiting for liquidation of all assets.

## Jewellers hail role in gold monetisation

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council welcomed the changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) and said the scheme is a win-win for all. The government's decision to include jewellers as collection and purity testing centres and the introduction of SoP for retailers under GMS is a welcome move, it said. The Centre issued the revamped Gold Monetisation Scheme on Wednesday.

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## India keeps trade share in pharma, loses in apparels Global trade recovers in December quarter

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, FEB. 12

Global trade recovered in the last quarter of 2020, reducing the overall decline for the year to about 9 per cent, finds an Unctad study. Some of the less competitive countries lost their market share during the pandemic while competitive ones improved their share in global trade.

The recovery of Q4 2020 was largely driven by the trade of goods from and to developing countries, especially by the very strong performance of East Asian economies, including China, Taiwan and South Korea. The effect of Covid-19 on global trade was most severe during the first half of 2020, with a drop in value of about 15 per cent. Global trade began to recover in Q3 2020 and more strongly in Q4 2020. The recovery in the second half of 2020 was largely due to the rebound of trade in goods rather than in services.

During the pandemic, Vietnam, Uganda, China, Switzerland, Turkey and Taiwan experienced relatively better export performance. In contrast, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Colombia and Nigeria performed relatively worse.

India lost its global trade share in apparels and minerals, while it managed to retain its share in pharmaceuticals and chemicals during the pandemic. India did not improve its trade share in any of the sectors in one of its most



### INCENTIVES SOUGHT FOR SEZS IN FTP

New Delhi, Feb. 12: The Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) on Friday suggested the commerce ministry to announce measures such as incentives for special economic zones (SEZs) in the next foreign trade policy (FTP) with a view to boost the country's exports. FTP (2020-25) is under formu-

lation by the ministry. It said there is a pressing need to allow certain tax incentives in line with the global practice to the exports to Domestic Tariff Area. It also suggested a separate nodal agency as a one-point contact of all queries related to uncleared or rejected Indian shipments. —PTI

challenging years.

India, which had 3.4 per cent share in the global apparel trade in 2019, seems to have lost it significantly during 2020. India is among the top countries in apparels to have lost their competitiveness or market share by more than one per cent. Among India's competitors, Vietnam, Malaysia, Turkey and Cambodia increased their market share during the pandemic and Bangladesh and Indonesia managed to retain their share.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (Unctad) global trade report assessed the competitive ness of different economies by measuring the change in market share between 2019 and 2020. Economies that lost and gained competitiveness saw changes in market share larger than 1 percentage point.

Despite the export growth recorded in pharmaceuticals, India could not improve upon its market share and its global share remained unchanged. In chemicals, too, the country could only retain the trade share.

The report does not find India having gained share in any sector. India appeared to have fared relatively better than other major economies throughout 2020.

growth in exports. However, this could not improve its share by more than one per cent to find a place in the list. Canada and Mexico are the top two countries to have increased their share in the category.

The report also finds that among India's top export sectors, minerals grew by 23 per cent and lost its market share. Various machinery exports too grew by 11 per cent.

More worryingly, in 'export volatility' ranking, which indicates exports vulnerability of a country, India is among the worst performers at 0.75 points, with Ethiopia slightly better at 0.74 and Peru and Cameroon worse at 1.05 and 1.27, respectively. In contrast, Indonesia and Taiwan have a strong score of 0.03 each, followed by Australia and Singapore having 0.04 points each. This points to the huge ground that India has to cover on stabilising its exports over the medium to long-term.

China, meanwhile, improved its share in global trade in different sectors, including chemicals, various machinery, metals, pharmaceuticals, precision instruments, road vehicles, textiles and transportation equipment.

The report also noted that exports of services from China and to a lesser extent from India appeared to have fared relatively better than other major economies throughout 2020. —PTI

Lufthansa has terminated the services of 103 India-based flight attendants after they allegedly sought "job assurance" from the management while the German airlines group had offered them leave without pay option for two years, sources close to the development said.

These employees had been working on a fixed-term contract with the airline and some of them were with the carrier for more than 15 years, the sources added.

In a statement to PTI, a Lufthansa spokesperson said that severe financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic leaves it with no choice but to restructure the airline and as part of that "it will not be extending the fixed-term employment contracts of its Delhi-based flight attendants."

According to the spokesperson, Indian cabin crew with unlimited contracts remain unaffected from restructuring as it "was able to reach individual agreements with these flight attendants." —PTI

Under it last year, there was no proper clarity," said Shefali Goradia, partner Deloitte India.

Meanwhile, Hardeep Singh Puri, minister of state for commerce and industry informed the Rajya Sabha that the US has put out Section 301 investigation reports on Digital Services Tax (DST) against three countries—India, Italy and Turkey on January 6, 2021, and against more countries, including Austria, Spain, and the United Kingdom on January 14, 2021. The findings are that the DST in these countries discriminates against US companies and burdens or restricts US commerce.

"Such issues are a part of an economic relationship and feature in the regular bilateral engagements between India and the US," he said.

However, the US government had imposed duties on certain French products in retaliation to the digital services tax by the latter.

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# Biden in 'dilemma' on Afghan pullout

**Kabul, Feb. 12:** US President Joe Biden faces "serious dilemmas" in Afghanistan as a deadline to withdraw troops nears and the Taliban show no sign of ending their bloodshed, a top US official warned. The new US leader has ordered a review of the deal Washington cut with the Taliban last year, which promised the withdrawal of all for-

eign forces by May 1 in return for security guarantees from the militants and a commitment to peace talks with the Afghan government.

The talks are progressing painfully slowly, but scarcely a day goes by without a bomb blast, attack on government forces, or a targeted assassination somewhere in the country.

"Violence level remains very high... which is shocking and deeply disappointing," a senior US State Department official told AFP this week on condition of anonymity.

"It is unquestionably damaging the atmosphere for any kind of a settlement of Afghanistan's conflict."

The Taliban routinely deny responsibility for the attacks

— and many are claimed by the rival jihadist group Islamic State — but Washington has no doubt who is to blame. "In our view, the Taliban are responsible for the vast majority of the targeted killings that we have seen," the official said, adding they had created "an ecosystem of violence".

"It is clearly intended, I

think, to demoralise citizens... to add to doubts that people have about their government and to add to the aura of inevitability of (a Taliban) victory," he added.

The new Biden administration, he said — which was committed to upholding the deal despite the review — now faced "serious dilemmas".

— AFP

# CINEMA



# Trump lawyers to rebut case

Urge for acquittal in impeachment trial

## Twitter suspends pro-Trump group

Facebook's head of integrity and security outside his home.

In a statement shared to multiple US outlets, Twitter said the group had been "permanently suspended from Twitter" on Thursday, after the group reportedly violated the platform's policies on sharing private information.

Project Veritas, a brash team of right-wing activists which has long been one of former US President Donald Trump's most fervent backers, was banned for "repeated violations of the companies anti-doxing policies", the group's founder James O'Keefe, told Fox News.

The impeachment team charged Trump with stoking an insurrection after losing re-election to Joe Biden on November 3.

According to the case against him, the former president began to lay the groundwork for the riot within weeks of refusing to concede with claims that he'd only lost because of mass voter fraud.

On January 6 he staged a fiery rally near the White House, calling on the crowd to march on Congress, which was in the process of certifying Biden's victory.

The mob then invaded the Capitol building. Five people, including a police officer and a woman shot during the unrest, died as a result of the mayhem.

Impeachment managers insist that Trump, who has never expressed remorse for his encouragement of the violent crowd, is so dangerous he should be barred from holding

office again.

But the former president's lawyers are set to argue that his speech was rhetorical and that he cannot be held responsible for the actions of the mob. They also argue that the trial itself is unconstitutional because Trump is now out of office, although the Senate rejected this claim earlier this week. — AFP

## NAVALNY BACK IN COURT OVER DEFAMING PUTIN

**Rome, Feb. 12:** With almost all the political parties behind him, Mario Draghi on Friday entered the final straight in his bid to form a new government to lead Italy through the Coronavirus pandemic.

The outgoing government, due to hold one last cabinet meeting on Friday, there was speculation that Draghi might wait until Saturday before heading to the presidential palace.

Italy has high hopes for its new leader, dubbed Super Mario after vowing to do "whatever it takes" to save the euro single currency in the 2010s debt crisis.

Mattarella asked him to step in on February 3 after outgoing premier Giuseppe Conte resigned following weeks of political turmoil in his M5S-led coalition.

The president emphasised the urgency of moving quickly to fill the political vacuum as Italy's Covid-19 death toll approaches 1,00,000 and the country battles its worst recession since World War II. — AFP

The charges currently carry a maximum penalty of two years behind bars. During a theatrical trial Friday, the opposition figure sparred with the judge and prosecutor and mocked the veteran's grandson. — AFP

# Online dating apps on front line of loneliness

online and limited options for going out with friends, "I had the feeling I was spending my entire life with my parents," Rodrigo says. He now visits dating apps every day. More than just chasing the thrill of a hook-up, they have become a place to simply hang out.

He has made friends with four people his age through the apps and chats with them daily — a way of "relieving the stress and frustration" of the pandemic, he says. "It's all we have left," he sighs, especially since Portugal was plunged back into lockdown last month.

Match, the group that includes several leading apps such as Tinder, Hinge and Meetic, says it added more than a million users in the last quarter of 2020, up some 12 percent to around 11 million worldwide.

"It sounds like a cliche, but the apps have really kept me from sinking," said Sebastien, a 19-year-old student in France.

"When we can't go to college, and the bars, restaurants, and cinemas are all closed, we spend entire days on our own, stewing. It's horrific," he said. — AFP

**SHORT TAKES**  
**QUAKE STRIKES**  
**TAJIKISTAN,**  
**NORTH INDIA**

Tajikistan, Feb. 12: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 struck northeastern Tajikistan, close to the borders with China and Kyrgyzstan, at (1424 GMT) on Friday, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The earthquake, initially reported as a magnitude 6.8, struck at a depth of 75 kilometres.

An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale hit Amritsar in Punjab on late Friday night. Strong tremors could be felt across north India in states Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, the Delhi-NCR and Uttarakhand.

The epicentre of the earthquake was 21 km from Amritsar in Punjab, according to India's National Center for Seismology. The earthquake struck at 10:34 pm IST at a depth of 10 km from the surface.

"Earthquake tremors felt in Delhi. Praying for everyone's safety," Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted.

The ministry added that the earthquake had a depth of 10 Km.

Not since the earthquake of 2005 have the tremors in Srinagar been bad enough to force me out of the house. I grabbed a blanket & ran. I didn't remember to take my phone & so was unable to tweet "earthquake" while the damn ground was shaking.

— Agencies

# Myanmar protests swell as US sanctions coup leaders

Over 23,000 prisoners released as part of prison amnesty, no word on Suu Kyi

Yangon, Feb. 12: Huge crowds thronged cities around Myanmar to demand the return of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday for a seventh straight day of protests, after Washington announced sanctions on the generals behind last week's coup.

A torrent of anger and defiance has brought hundreds of thousands of people out in nationwide rallies demanding the country's generals relinquish power.

Demonstrations have so far largely been peaceful, but police fired rubber bullets on students while dispersing a sit-down protest in the city of Mawlamyine, arresting at least five.

With teachers, bureaucrats and air traffic controllers among the government employees walking off the job to demand an end to junta rule, the country's new military leader Min Aung Hlaing told striking workers to return to their offices.

"Those who are away from their duties are requested to return to their duties immediately for the interests of the country and people without focusing on the



Protesters holding signs with the image of detained Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi take part in a demonstration against the military coup in front of the Chinese embassy in Yangon on Friday.

part of a prison amnesty. Friday was a public holiday in Myanmar and mass pardons to empty the country's overcrowded prison system are common on significant local dates.

More than 260 people have been detained in the days since the coup and about 20 released, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners monitoring group.

But there was no indication that Suu Kyi or any of her allies were among those set to be freed.

"There is a serious concern that the sudden release... is to clear space for the detention of political prisoners," the AAPP said. Massive rallies were back underway in the commercial hub of Yangon on Friday, including a contingent of Premier League fans who put aside their club rivalries to protest the coup.

"I hate the military coup more than Manchester United!" read one sign.

But further east in the port city of Mawlamyine, police moved quickly to clear a sit-in protest by university students, and footage showed officers hauling away several demonstrators.

— AFP

emotion," he said, in a speech reported by state media.

The new US sanctions target Min Aung Hlaing and

other top generals, after President Joe Biden announced his administration was cutting off the military's access to \$1 billion in funds.

Ahead of another day of mass rallies, state media announced the release of more than 23,000 inmates as

— AFP

**SANDHYA 70MM**  
 (ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)  
 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
**SHIVAPARVATHI 70MM**  
 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
**MEGHA 70-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15**  
 INJARA VENKATARAMANA/PADAMAVATHI  
 2.45, 9.15PM (TWO SHOWS)

MAHALAXMI	JYOTHI R.C.PURAM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SAMPOORNATHO	TALLURI COMPLEX
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
BHUJANGA 70	AARADHANA 70
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
SRINIVASA 70	LAXMI SHAMSABAD
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15
OAMB	
10.20, 1.00, 3.55, 4.10, 7.15, 10.00, 10.15PM	
PARASAD'S MULTIPLEX	
8.45, 12.00, 3.15, 6.30, 9.45PM	
SHA-11.15, 6.00, 9.45PM	
GPR-10.30, 1.10, 4.10, 7.15, 10.00	
RADHIKA-10.20, 1.05, 4.25, 7.20, 10.35PM	
CINESQUARE-10.30, 1.30, 4.00, 7.30, 10.25PM	
SIVAGANGA-11.15, 6.15, 9.30	

**PVR CINEMAS**  
 FORUM MALL-11.00, 12.00, 2.35, 3.35,  
 6.10, 7.10, 9.45, 10.45PM  
 CENTRAL-11.15, 12.45, 2.50, 6.25, 7.25, 10.00PM  
 ICON-11.30, 12.30, 3.05, 6.40, 10.15PM  
 RK-12.40, 3.00, 7.10, 10.45PM  
 INORBIT-11.00, 1.35, 2.35, 6.10, 9.45, 10.45PM  
 GALLERIA-11.15, 12.15, 3.50, 6.00, 7.25, 11.00  
 IRRUMMANZIL-11.00, 1.25, 2.35, 6.10, 9.45, 10.45  
 MUSARMBAGH-11.00, 1.35, 2.35, 6.10, 9.45, 10.45  
 PRESTON-12.00, 3.35, 7.10, 10.45PM

**INOX**  
 GVK MALL-10.10, 2.20, 2.00, 5.50, 9.40, 10.30PM  
 MP MALL-10.40, 2.30, 5.10, 6.20, 10.10PM  
 GSM-10.30, 11.25, 3.10, 5.50, 6.50, 9.40, 10.40PM

**Cinépolis**  
 DSL-10:45, 12:30, 4:20, 6:25, 10:15PM  
 CCPL-10:30, 2:20, 3:40, 6:10, 10:00PM  
 SUDHA-10:15, 2:05, 3:20, 5:55, 10:25PM  
 MANTRA-10:45, 12:00, 3:50, 6:25, 10:15PM

**MIRAJ CINEMAS**  
 BALANAGAR-11.30, 3.00, 6.30, 10.00PM  
 CHANDANAGAR-12.00, 3.30, 7.00, 10.30PM  
 SHALINI-11.30, 3.00, 6.30, 10.00PM

**PLATINUM**  
 10.00, 12.30, 10.15, 1.00,  
 4.45, 6.45, 10.30, 2.05

**Big Cinemas**  
 10.00, 1.15, 4.30, 7.40, 11.00

**MULTIPLEX**  
 10.45, 1.50, 7.30, 10.30PM

**NARAPALLY**  
 10.30, 1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30

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ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	1.40, 7.45PM
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FCUK (A)(TEL)	
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ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	
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ASIAN SHA COMPLEX-CHINTHAL	
UPPENA (U/A)(TEL)	
11.00, 2.15, 2.45, 6.15, 9.30PM	
FCUK (A)(TEL)	
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ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	
9.15PM	
ASIAN SIVAGANGA-DILSHUKNAGAR	
UPPENA (U/A)(TEL)	
11.00, 2.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM	
FCUK (A)(TEL)	
11.15, 6.00PM	
ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	
9.15PM	
ASIAN CINESQUARE(FULLY RENOVATED)	
UPPENA (U/A)(TEL)	
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FCUK (A)(TEL)	
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ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	
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MYSTERY OF SARAKA-TELUGU (U/A)(TEL)	
10.30PM	
ASIAN LAKSHMIKALI-MOOSAPET	
UPPENA (U/A)(TEL)	
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	
FCUK (A)(TEL)	
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ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	
2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM	
MYSTERY OF SARAKA (U/A)	
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ASIAN CINEPLANET-KOMPALLY	
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10.00, 10.25, 1.20, 4.00, 4.15, 7.10, 7.35, 10.10, 10.40PM	
FCUK (A)(TEL)	
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ZOMBIE REDDY (U/A)(TEL)	
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ASIAN MRJ SQUARE-NARAPALLY	
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FCUK (A)(TEL)	
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1.45, 7.45, 10.10PM	

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ZOMBIE REDDY TELUGU 2D (U/A)	KRACK TELUGU 2D (U/A)
10:25 PM, 1:55 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:55 PM, 10:35 PM, 10:40 PM	1:05 PM
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**TALLURI 70MM-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15**

**SRLAXMIKALA MANDIR-ALVALU 6.30 & 9.30PM**

**SRINIVASA 70 UPPAL 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM**

**OAMB 10.30AM, 1.55PM, 4.20PM, 7.55, 10.40PM**

**4.15, 7.00, 9.45PM**

**GPR-1.50, 7.30PM**

**UPPALA-1.40, 7.45PM**

**MCUBE-1.50, 7.40, 10.40PM**

**INORBIT-1.20, 7.20, 10.15PM**

**CENTRAL-2.10, 7.35, 10.30PM**

**FORUM-11.00, 1.50, 5.00, 7.55, 10.50PM**

**GALLERIA-11.00, 4.15, 8.05, 11.00PM**

**IRRUMMANZIL-12.20, 6.20, 9.15PM**

**MUSARAMBAGH-12.20, 6.20, 9.15PM**

**PRISTON-3.50, 6.50, 9.40PM**

**ICON-12.45, 7.05, 10.00PM | RK-4.15, 9.45PM**

**GVK-10:20, 7:30, 10:40PM**

**MP-1:50, 7:30, 10:30PM**

**GSM-1:50, 4.50, 7.50, 10:50PM**

**4.40PM</b**

**SHORT TAKES**


Amritha (left) and Srihitha Mandava pose with their trophies at the Boulder Hills Golf and Country Club in Hyderabad.

**Mandava sisters bag golf titles**

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad girls Srihitha and Amritha Mandava won the age group titles at the Young Master Southern India Classic golf tournament played at the Boulder Hills Golf and Country Club in Hyderabad.

Srihitha tallied 231 over 36 holes with round scores of 78, 73 and 80 to take the top spot in the Girls 12-13 years category ahead of Anyithi Gangisetty (271) and Riya Jadow (281). Amritha got a total score of 242 over 36 holes in three rounds (79, 81, 82) to emerge winner in the Girls 14-15 section.

Lavanya Jadow (249) and Amishi Jain (300) were second and third respectively.

Drishtha Karumbaya was the best in Girls 16+ with a score of 220 (73, 72, 75) ahead of Jasmine Sachdev (234 – 77, 78, 79) and Vidushi Keri (236 – 77, 78, 81).

Aarya Goyal and Sanjana took the first and second spots in the Girls 7-9 category.

**State cue sports from Feb. 22**

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana Cue Sports Association is organising the Telangana State Ranking Snooker & Billiards

Championship (junior and senior) from February 22 to March 7. The top five players in senior snooker and finalists in junior snooker, senior and junior billiards will represent Telangana at the Nationals.

Himanshu Jain, Nabil Lakdawala, Md Ghousi, Khizar Raoof, D. Arvind Kumar (senior snooker); Mushtaq Hussain, Vishwanath and Vibhas (junior snooker & billiards) are among the top players participating in the championship.

**Rashmikaa in singles final**

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad girl Shravani Rashmikaa entered the final of the singles event at the MPTA AITA Open Women's Tennis tournament being played at Chennai.

In the semifinals played on Friday, Rashmikaa defeated Pooja Ingle of Maharashtra in straight sets at 6-4, 6-1.

**Hyderabad FC hold East Bengal 1-1**

**Vasco:** Aridane Santana scored a last-gasp equaliser to help Hyderabad FC hold SC East Bengal to a 1-1 draw and dent the Kolkata side's hopes of making it to the playoffs of the Indian Super League here on

Friday. Bright Enobakhare scored in the 59th minute for SC East Bengal, who seemed to be cruising towards the win until the stoppage-time leveller from Santana. The result extended the Nizams' unbeaten run to nine games. With the draw, Hyderabad are at third spot with 24 points from 17 matches. — PTI

**Live on TV**

**TENNIS**  
Australian Open: First round matches from 5.30 am on Sony Six, from 1.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

**CRICKET**  
India vs England: Second Test, Day One, from 9.20 am on Star Sports 1

**Pakistan vs South Africa:** Second T20 from 6.30 pm on Sony Ten 1

**FOOTBALL**  
English Premier League: Leicester City vs Liverpool from 6 pm; Crystal Palace vs Burnley from 8.30 pm; Manchester City vs Tottenham Hotspur from 11 pm; Brighton vs Aston Villa from 1.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

**Italian League:** Napoli vs Juventus from 10.30 pm; Spezia vs AC Milan from 11.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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— BCCI

# PITCHED BATTLE

Chepauk surface in focus again as India look to hit back

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC  
CHENNAI, FEB. 12

The wound hasn't healed. And the dust is yet to settle. Four days after being battered by the visiting England team in their own den, India have the unenviable task of lifting themselves for yet another 'pitched' battle at the same venue. Round two starting here at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium on Saturday will be a test of character for Virat Kohli & Co.

India find themselves in an unexpected situation. It's only the second time this decade that India have started a bilateral series (minimum three Tests) at home on a disappointing note. When it happened last time, against Australia in February 2017, they roared back with vengeance to clinch the series 2-1 eventually.

Much like in the opening game, the focus will once again be on the pitch. A different strip with black clay on the top layer will be used this time around. With just a three-day gap, the groundsmen didn't have much time. Both teams know what to expect — the track will turn from day one.

England skipper Joe Root has already shown the ideal way for countering spin in subcontinental conditions. But this pitch is expected to pose a bigger challenge to Root.

Annoyed with the flat surface, Kohli had blamed his supporting spinners Shahbaz Nadeem and Washington Sundar for leaking runs. But he backed Ajinkya Rahane despite his poor run of form. Rohit Sharma, who has just one half-century



Rohit Sharma plays a shot during a practice session at the Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Thursday.

— BCCI

in his last eight innings, hasn't faced much scrutiny either. Kohli still felt "all was well" in his batting unit. If not for the brilliant first innings knocks from Rishabh Pant and Washington, India would have slumped to further embarrassment.

With allrounder Axar Patel deemed fit and set for his Test debut, Shahbaz is back in the standby players' pool. If the team management decides to retain Washington for his batting ability, Kuldeep Yadav will continue cooling his heels. He hasn't played a Test since he took

a five-for at Sydney in January 2019.

England, on the other hand, have made four changes in their team. James Anderson who used reverse swing to rattle the Indian top-order has been rested. With Jofra Archer too being ruled out with an elbow injury and off-spinner Dom Bess to be replaced by Moeen Ali, England's bowling attack will sport a new look. In Anderson's absence, another experienced campaigner Stuart Broad, will spearhead the attack. Fast bowlers Olly Stone and Chris Woakes will fight for the final spot.

## It will turn from Day One: Rahane

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, FEB. 12

"I am sure it will turn from day one," India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said it loud and clear. The flat pitch that offered no assistance to bowlers was one of the talking points after India's eight-match winning streak at home came to a halt in the opening Test against England earlier this week.

As India prepare to bounce back in the series, it's no surprise that "the wicket looks completely different."

"However, we have to wait and see how it behaves in the first session. We have to forget what happened in the first Test and focus on the job at hand. We know these conditions really well, so we have to put our best foot forward and move on," said Rahane.

Rahane's average of 37.35 in 28 Tests at home is not as impressive as his away numbers — 44.44 in 42 Tests. His last two innings of 1 and 0 have put him under the scanner. However, the Mumbai batsman doesn't want to read too much into the stats.

"We are playing at home after two years. The last big home Test series was against South Africa. If you take the records out, I'm sure you will find something there. And, it's not about individuals, it's always about the team. My focus is always on con-

tributing to the team's success. If you take out the last 10-15 Tests, you will see my performance. I don't worry about what happened in the first Test. I only worry about what the team wants from me," said Rahane.

England batsmen not only looked comfortable, but also played efficiently by employing sweep shots against the Indian spinners, but the same cannot be said of the hosts.

"It (shots that we play) depends on how they bowl. We play according to their line and length.

England have come up with a plan to play sweep and reverse sweep. It's not necessary we have to copy them," further added Rahane.

When queried about the team's negative body language in the first Test, Rahane said: "There are moments when you don't have that energy but that doesn't mean it has happened because of a change in captaincy. As I have said earlier, Virat is our captain and will remain our captain. If you are trying to dig and find some masala, unfortunately you will not get it."

The second Test will allow 50 per cent spectators in the 45,000 capacity stadium. Rahane is excited to have the crowds back.

"We know how much that means for us. I hope people will come enjoy the cricket," added the seasoned Test batsman.

## Hazare selection turns hazardous

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

Muck at the Hyderabad Cricket Association continues to fly after the flawed selection of State squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy triggered tempers that have boiled over beyond cricket corridors.

After a memorandum was submitted to the Telangana State Human Rights Commission on Thursday, urging chairman Justice Gunda Chandraia to look into the 'Murder of talent and grave violations of human rights by HCA' the secretaries of affiliated clubs whose players have been ignored despite consistent performances, are organising a protest at the Gymkhana grounds Hyderabad's cricket cradle — at 11.30 am on Saturday.

The protest is "against the illegalities and autocratic decisions of select office bearers in selecting the team by violating all norms and constitutional obligations and in utter violation of Supreme Court approved registered Constitution," a note being circulated, read.

For the record, only one batsman from the Top 10 scorers in the League matches that were conduct-

ed to select State sides, has made Hyderabad's Vijay Hazare squad.

Mir Jaweed Ali of Budding Star, No. 6 on the list, is the odd man out.

The bowling selection is even more baffling. Leg-spinner G. Arjun of Balaji Colts leads the list with 45 wickets in 5 matches but has been surpassed by No.2 Ashish Srivastava who has 36 wickets against his name in 6 matches. Both are leg-spinners.

Arjun has also conceded fewer runs, has a better strike rate and has been more economical... he didn't see a googly coming.

All this leaves a bad taste in the mouth and drags the Gentleman's Game through muddied streets. It's time the HCA administrators played with a straight bat.

Aspiring players had risked contracting Covid to turn up for the local league matches after they, along with their parents, had to sign declarations stating they would not hold the HCA responsible should they catch the dreaded virus.

Turns out that there were no first aid facilities at the grounds to treat players who got injured during the course of play.

Now, this selection snub has hurt them even more.

### HYDERABAD'S TOP 10 BATSMEN

Player	M	Inn	Runs	Best	Ave
1. A. Varun Goud	7	11	788	227	87.56
2. Rohit Rayudu	8	13	741	165	61.75
3. P. Akshath Reddy	7	13	726	176	60.50
4. Yash Kapadia	7	12	706	194	70.60
5. Md Junaid Ali	7	12	704	170	58.67
6. Mir Jaweed Ali	6	10	697	237	77.44
7. M. Abhirath Reddy	5	8	694	222	115.67
8. M. Pratyush Kumar	8	16	673	119	44.87
9. A. Tashit Rao	6	11	631	151	63.10
10. Sarthak Bharadwaj	5	9	625	159	78.13

(Tabulated as matches played, innings batted, total runs scored, highest score, average)

## Hurt Djoker hints at exit from Open

**Melbourne, Feb. 12:** Defending champion Novak Djokovic admitted his Australian Open might be over after an injury-hit win on Friday as fans were kicked out ahead of a statewide Coronavirus lockdown.

In the now-empty stadium, a grimacing Djokovic, who needed repeated treatment on an abdominal injury, recovered from losing the third and fourth sets to beat Fritz 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. "I know it's a tear, definitely, of the muscle so I don't know if I'll manage to recover from that in less than two days. I don't know if I'm going to step out on the court or not, I'm just very proud of this achievement tonight," said the Serb.

Meanwhile, ice-cool Dominic Thiem rallied from two sets down to tame flamboyant Nick Kyrgios 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

In women's singles, Naomi Osaka had to deal with a butterfly landing on her nose but was otherwise little bothered as she breezed into the last 16.

The third seed clinched an easy 6-3, 6-2 victory over Tunisian 27th seed Ons Jabeur in 1hr 18min.

In another match, Serena Williams she wore down Anastasia Potapova 7-6 (7/5), 6-2. — Agencies

## Tanay, Mickil, Karthikeya, Ritwik, Vamshi on top

### Mujaheed, Raheem, Gunawith, Haji, Ayub and Sachith lead performers in A-2 division league

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12



Gautam (3/4) lost to XI Masters 149/2 in 15.5 overs (S. Prajwal Rao 106 n.o., 53b, 21x4, 2x6. Points: XI Master 5, Adams 0).

■ WMCC 196 in 38.5 overs (SV Aditya Varma 58, Vilash Reddy 37, Karthik Kumar 3/4, Vikranth Reddy 3/43) lost to HUCC 199/5 in 33.9 overs (Laxmi Sree Madhan 102 n.o., 13b, 16x4, 1x6, Nikunj Patel 40, Anish Patel 5, WMCC 0. Points: HUCC 5, WMCC 0).

■ Shalmal CC 135 in 36.2 overs (Abhid Ali 4/40) lost to Adilabad District 138/2 in 19.1 overs (L. Mahesh 62, D. Venkatesh 56 n.o.). Points: Adilabad 5, Shalmal 0.

■ Mega City 101/9 (all out) in 37 overs (Jai Kiran 35 n.o.) lost to Nizamabad District 103/3 in 28.3 overs (Dama Ajith 56 n.o.). Points: Nizamabad 5, Mega City 0.

■ Venus Cybertech 147 in 57.5 overs (Divesh Bajaj 45) lost to Rakesh XI 148/6 in 56.2 overs. Points: Rakesh XI 5, Venus Cybertech 0.

■ BhCC 295 in 58.5 overs (Md Khalid 110 — 90b, 12x4, 3x6, 6x6, 1x1) lost to Rushiraj 174/2 in 39.4 overs (Vishal Singh 69, Ravi Tej 117 — 109b, 17x4, 12x4, Akshar 41

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## Global standards for city skyline with My Fortune

The company now has its second generation of leaders pursuing the goals and dreams of the group of friends who launched My Fortune 18 years ago, with the same enthusiasm to create better living spaces. It is contributing to the city skyline in the process

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

**M**y Fortune group, founded by a group of friends in 2003, has been on a mission to raise the standards of real estate development. In the nearly two decades of developing properties that match global standards in quality, the company has been successful in providing exceptional customer focus and creating value for its customers.

The company now has its second generation of lead-



One of our projects, Fortune Icon, is a dream home on Road No 10 in Banjara Hills. Forty eight apartments built in a two-acre plot provides residents a feel of a resort, right in the heart of the city.  
— Sumeet Khanna, MD, My Fortune group

ers, pursuing the goals and dreams of the group of friends who launched My Fortune 18 years ago, with the same enthusiasm to create better living spaces. In the process, the company has been contributing to turn Hyderabad's city skyline as one of the most beautiful ones.

Having earned a reputation as developers of premium real estate properties, My Fortune firmed its brand image executing many commercial and residential projects. Each of these, built with high standards of construction, top quality amenities, earned the trust of its customers and helped the firm establish itself as a trusted brand in the real estate world.

My Fortune group's residential projects comprise luxurious villas, condos, apartments with amenities reflecting the sophistication that goes into each project. The amenities provided include the likes of club houses, swimming pools, gyms and other essential facilities. It says it uses only the best materials for construction, such as Recron reinforced concrete that ensures a crack free life for the buildings.

Turn to page 2



## Summers & sizzling roofs

There are solutions that upfront may seem on the higher side in terms of cost but significantly reduce the impact of the sun on the top floors without investing heavily in air-conditioning

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

**S**ummers in Hyderabad are no longer what they used to be a few decades ago. With the disappearance of open spaces, gardens and trees in the city, Hyderabad's summers now record 40 degrees Celsius or more as a matter of routine every year. These sizzling temperatures not just leave many gasping for relief but literally turn homes on the top floors of apartment com-

plexes or individuals homes practically into ovens. Unless the owners of such spaces invest heavily in air-conditioning equipment and are willing to shell out thousands of rupees every month in electricity bills during the summer season.

But there are solutions, that upfront may seem on the higher side in terms of cost but significantly reduce the impact of the sun on the top floors.

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**4 FLOOR**, 2BHK 1250sf, & 5th Floor, 4BHK Penn House 1700sf, @4500/-Per Sft, at Chandanagar, Lingampally, under construction. Ph:911863798, 8328161326, 998915863. (HYMM/2021/C06846)

**DUPLEX FLAT** for sale with carpet area of approx 4200 sq ft at D.D.Coloony. Brokers excuse. Genuine buyers please contact 8897557705. (B/2021/C00107)

**MANIKONDA HMDA** 3BHK Flats (1308sf East-1640sf North) for sale. Ready to occupy. 5min to Hitech City, Gachibowli. Ph:703271787/1, 9510855557. (HYMM/2021/C06845)

**✓SBHK FLAT**, 1870sf, 8th East Facing, Gachibowli, Price: 1.59 Crre, New Construction, Gated community. Pool view. Contact: 900394880. (HYMM/2021/C06879)

**✓INDEPENDENT HOUSE** For-Sale @222sq.yards, G+1, MaharaJana Colony, Sikk-Village, North Facing. Only genuine buyers. Contact: 97017-89567, 98851-24359. Brokers excuse. (HYMM/2021/C06266)

**✓TRIPLEX VILLAS** for sale: @Kompally behind Dolari Dhani, HMDA, OC received, 16 Villas Rowhouses gated community. New Villas, Ready to move. Price 1.65cr to 2.50cr. Contact: 7207862674 (HYMM/2021/C06879)

**GACHIBOWLI NEAR Narsippa, Mungipalli, by Muppa Akshaya Projects, 2Cllars, Ground 8Floors, 112Aparts 2B&3BHK for sale, Sizes 1210 to 1810sqft. Apartments for possession for interiors in one year. Please Contact: 9845939903. (HYMM/2021/C06562)**

**NCC URBAN** Gated, Gachibowli Resale 3BHK, 2270sf E/F G+Floor, 8240sf Sft @Aditya Whitefield, Wf, 4flor Semi-gated. 1.75 & 1.5Cr. Ph:7013550080, 9948888808. (HYMM/2021/C06844)

**STERLING HEIGHTS - 1** BHK Luxury Flat @ 3650/- sf in gated community with club house & amenities Gundla Pochampally, near Kompalyp, 3 BHK starts from 56.57 Lacs onwards. Modi Builders-7677120120. (B/2021/C01007)

**HITECH CITY - 1** 1788sf east facing 3bhk flat in east facing at 1.18cr, near MMTS. Contact: 9347403339, 7993449595 (W/2021/A01086)

**SVS DEVELOPERS** Special offer. HMDA Proposed Gated Community Venture 290 Flats available at only 1600 per SF/- @ Bharat Biotech, Mulugu, 6000sf. Ph:6303146697/ 9014573853. (HYMM/2021/C06749)

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**PREMIUM VILLAS** in Gated community for Sale at Medka @ 1.70 crs. Special Offer available. Contact: 7353585358 (HYMM/2021/C06538)

**4BHK VILLAS** sale @Gachibowli 6500 sf 370Yds 7.5Cr. B/Kakapet 8000sf 5400Yds 7.50Cr. C/Mokila 7000sf 1000Yds D/Mokila 5000sf 1000Yds 6.0Cr Ph:7730854567 (HYMM/2021/C06859)

**PADMARAJ NAGAR** Old Building for Immediate Sale. Clear Title at Prime Location. North & East Two Roads, Corner, 3 BHK, 900sf, 3000sf sqyds. Negotiable and East Facing 220 sqyds. 26.5 Cr. No Brokers. Ph:9014655555, 9014444545. (S/2021/C02288)

**S.R.NAGAR COLONY** 505 Sq Yards 40F Road North Facing House Lane Opp Community Hall Gate. Contact: 8522899999 (HYMM/2021/C06734)

**DUPLEX HOUSE** in Yaprak, HUDA Layout 200Sq.yds W/F, 2500sf With Servant Quarter Fully Furnished. Both Side. Ph:9847883335, 9133726207 (HYMM/2021/C06874)

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**✓HMDA GATED COMMUNITY** 6000 Sq.yards Plots for Sale at Kondapur. 18,000/- Per Sqyd. HMDA Plots Fully Developed, Gated Community. Bank Loan available. Contact: 886785050 (HYMM/2021/C06551)

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**INDUSTRIAL PLOTS**

**✓HMDA GATED**

# Ignorance of fire safety is no bliss while buying a flat

With skyscrapers increasingly coming up, it is very important for a homebuyer to determine if the building is safe in case of a possible fire incident. Fire is undoubtedly a big hazard that people moving into high-rise apartments in megacities need to consider

AATHER MOIN

**P**eople and families buying flats in apartment complexes usually focus their energies on investigating the suitability of a flat as a future home. The emphasis usually is on quality of construction, interiors, and exterior decoration. However, most of them ignore fire safety measures which are equally important when it comes to making a flat one's home.

With skyscrapers increasingly coming up, it is very important for a homebuyer to determine whether the building is safe in case of a possible fire incident. Fire is undoubtedly a big hazard that people moving into high-rise apartments in megacities need to consider. A strong fire-fighting system is a crucial aspect of a building's safety plan, regardless of whether it is a residential, commercial, hospital or educational premises.

Shaikh Ali Ahmed, safety trainer at Link Institute for Professional Engineering advises buyers to look for security features, in addition to the other amenities on offer before finalising a home as many builders do not focus on providing modern features of fire safety.

He said multi-storied building should have basic security components like emergency exits, like emergency alarms, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers or automatic sprinklers and ample setback open space around the building.

It is better to compromise on the carpet area of a flat, rather than opt for a property with no refuge area, especially in old constructions.

An officer of the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services said that though non-multi-storied buildings which are below 15 metres in height (residential buildings below 18 metres) are not required to obtain No Objection Certificate from the Disaster Response and Fire Services Department, but every building should have minimum fire safety measures and equipment. He emphasizes on checking if the available fire safety facilities in the building are functioning at regular intervals.

Gulam Ahmed Zeeshan, a Civil Engineer,

says every home buyer has to inspect the project and ascertain whether his home has the necessary fire safety or not. Sufficient marginal and rear open spaces around the building are compulsory for a fire engine. He should ascertain whether the building has a special fire escape staircase, fitted with fire-resistant doors, in addition to the main staircase. It observed that most of the builders in the old city do not follow safety measures. They provide narrow staircases, which end up becoming bottlenecks in fire emergencies. He advised the building societies to avail the services of well-trained security guards who can help the inmates during an emergency.

Mohammed Shabbir Taher, who recently purchased a flat, said many buyers do not think about fire safety while purchasing flats in multi-storied buildings. They have to pay the price for this ignorance. He said, "I have verified certain features of the building including setback area norm and facilities available during the emergencies apart from structural strength and decoration."



I have verified certain features of the building including setback area norm and facilities available during the emergencies apart from structural strength and decoration

— Mohammed Shabbir Taher,  
Recent flat buyer



## Retirement ready flats available with Saket Pranamam in Komppally

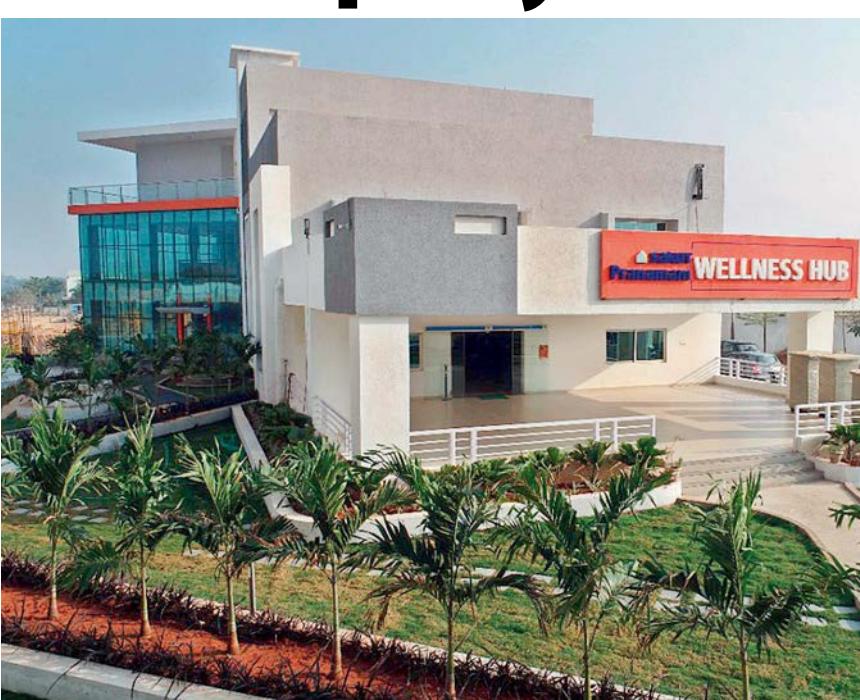
Spread over an area of 5.65 acres, with four towers, and 513 total flats in configurations of one, two and three BHK, the property is open partially for occupancy. Block

A of the project has been completed and ready for handover, whereas Block B is still under construction

HARLEEN MINOCHA

**M**ost of us must have dreamed of our retirement plans at some point in life. What does it include? A serene environment, away from the hustle bustle of the city and yet availability of all amenities at doorstep, a lively, social yet peaceful living space?

The latest project of Saket Group in the city, called Saket Pranamam is giving life to all these dreams, with their organised leisure retirement apartments near Komppally. This active, retirement leaning community will make available all



amenities including safety and security of senior citizens. Basic facilities like senior friendly infrastructure, round the clock security, centralised dining, medical facilities, operational cafeteria, housekeeping staff will be available for the residents, said Sai Krishna Vadrevu, General Manager Sales & Marketing.

Spread over an area of 5.65 acres, with four towers, and 513 total flats in configurations of one, two and three BHK, the property is open partially for occupancy. Block A of the project has been completed and

ready for handover, whereas Block B is still under construction, add Vadrevu.

The 2BHK flats will be available between the range of ₹50 lakh and ₹70 lakh and 3BHK flats will be available starting from ₹70 lakh upto ₹80 lakh.

Basic facilities like senior friendly infrastructure, round the clock security, centralised dining, medical facilities, operational cafeteria, housekeeping staff will be available for the residents

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OPEN FOR JOINT VENTURE

**Wakf, revenue records must be reconciled at the earliest**

AATHER MOIN

**D**etermining the ownership of a plot of land, or a constructed house in the city, its surroundings and elsewhere in Telangana has never been more important. Illegal occupation of Wakf lands is an issue that has no easy solutions.

The extent of the problem, whether Wakf owned or otherwise, is vital for anyone planning to construct a home or buy an old house. Though the state has provided means of regularising illegally occupied land, this cannot be an excuse for 'ownership' of such land as the law and state can always impose costs. While looking at official data on wakf lands, *Deccan Chronicle* found that Telangana has 33,929 Wakf institutions which between them, own a whopping 77,538.07 acres. Of this, a shocking 57,423.91 acres, are under encroachment. The problem gets compounded as the Revenue Department and Wakf Board records show different entries in the column of ownership of a particular property. This results in alienation of Wakf properties and creation of legal snarls for buyers who are unaware that the property belongs to the Wakf. Reconciliation of revenue records with the wakf records can avoid alienation of Wakf properties, officials said.

With this being the case, the Telangana Chief Secretary issued orders in September 2020 prohibiting registration of documents related to transfer of property by way of sale, agreement of sale, gift, exchange, or lease exceeding 10 years in respect of immovable property owned by Wakfs falling under the Wakf Act.

The Wakf Board authorities though claim that they have provided the village wise details of Wakf properties to the Department of Registration, the fact is that still many wakf properties are not blocked yet under Section 22A (c) of Registration Act.

In certain cases, Mutawallis of wakf institutions are involved in alienating the properties claiming it as ancestral property by taking advantage of entries of their names in the Revenue Records, while others insert their names in the Revenue Records as possessor or cultivator and obtain Occupied Rights Certificates. Based on those entries and ORC they possess or alienate the property.

The Wakf Board had published the gazette notifications covering all wakf properties based on the First Survey in the late 80s and also carried district wise compiled format of all gazette notifications. However, after the publication of gazette notifications, Board officials found errors in gazette notifications. In many gazette notifications either the extent of property was wrongly mentioned or other attached properties of a particular wakf institution were misplaced. Considering these flaws Wakf Board did not place details of wakf properties in public domain.

Wakf Activist Syed Ifteqar Ali says few cautious people approach the Wakf Board to know if the property they want to purchase comes under Wakf. However, they do not get proper information on time for their queries. He advised people buying property near religious places to verify with the Wakf or Endowment Department and satisfy that the property is not attached to any religious or charitable institution.

He said that during the second survey, officials of Survey Commission of Wakfs found documentary records of properties that were not covered in the first survey of wakfs. The officials got these documents from revenue records, municipal records and archives and based on them, the Wakf carried out addendum gazette notifications. "We provide information on property queries attached to any wakf institution only if we find a record of specific survey number or house number. If we don't find details in the gazette we avoid replying. We do not want to take risk by affirming that the property does not come under wakf. In a few cases we found certain survey numbers or house numbers were misplaced or errors found," a senior officer of the Wakf Board said on condition of anonymity.



# Budget defines 'residential unit'

A definition which had not been provided in the ordinance earlier, certainly made things clearer. So, what does it mean for homebuyers and developers? To understand the implications, we must first understand the relevant section of the Income-Tax Act

**PRASHANT THAKUR**

Covid-19 in 2020 caused much upheaval across sectors including Indian real estate. Though residential property demand was quick to see signs of revival after the lockdown relaxations last year, government intervention at regular intervals became a necessity. Given the situation prevailing back in November 2020, one intervention to boost housing demand amid the pandemic was to increase the threshold limit on transfer of residential units under section 43CA and 56(2)(x) from 10 per cent to 20 per cent - with conditions:

- The residential unit is transferred between November 12, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- This should be the first residential property purchase by an individual
- The revenue exchange may not exceed ₹2 crore

This ordinance was once again mentioned in the Union Budget 2021-22, but with a clearer definition on what constitutes a 'residential unit'. It is now defined as 'an independent housing unit with separate facilities for living, cooking and sanitary requirement, distinctly separated from other residential units within the building, which is directly accessible from an outer door or through an interior door in a shared hallway and not by walking through the living space of another household.'

This definition, which had not been provided in the ordinance earlier, certainly made things clearer. So, what does it mean for homebuyers and developers? To understand the implications, we

must first understand the relevant section of the Income-Tax Act.

#### SECTION 43CA OF THE INCOME-TAX ACT

Incorporated in 2013, Section 43CA of the IT Act states that developers or any other property sellers can be penalised for selling a property at prices lower than the Ready Reckoner rates, or circle rates or guidance value. If the stamp duty value exceeds 10 per cent of the total revenue exchanged as part of the sale/transfer of the property, the difference must be included while calculating capital gain or business income for the seller, and is viewed as income for the buyer.

States like Maharashtra did allow registration at a market value lower than the RR Rate, the rule being that stamp duty and registration charges must be paid on the higher of the two values - market value or RR rate.

However, a buyer purchasing a property below the RR rate must bear an additional burden because the difference between two rates is taxable in the hands of both the buyer and seller. In other words, if the market value of a property is lower than the RR rate, the difference between the two becomes 'other income' for the buyer - and will be taxed.

The Finance Minister's November 2020 provision to increase the difference between circle rates and agreement value from 10 per cent to 20 per cent (under Section 43CA) was an important one as it opened up possibilities for price reductions. A hypothetical alternative would be to lower RR rates, which would reduce the stamp duty burden on property purchase and benefit



both homebuyers and developers, since the many premiums they need to pay to the state governments are linked to the RR rates.

#### HOW DOES IT IMPACT RESIDENTIAL REALTY?

The increase in the differential between circle rates and agreement value under Section 43CA from 10 per cent to 20 per cent resulted in income-tax relief to both developers and homebuyers. This limited period offer (valid up to June 30, 2021) has direct financial benefits over and above existing offers and discounts.

This relief up to 20 per cent to buyers of homes under Section 56(2)(x) of the I-T Act has positive connotation, especially in the affordable and mid-range segments, and will help developers to clear unsold stock. As per ANAROCK Research, there are approx. 5.46 lakh unsold units across the top 7 cities priced up to



₹1.5 crore, with another 49,500 units priced between ₹1.5 crore to ₹2.5 crore.

(The writer is Director & Head - Research, ANAROCK Property Consultants)

The increase in differential between circle rates and agreement value under Section 43CA from 10% to 20% resulted in income-tax relief to both developers and homebuyers. This limited period offer (valid up to June 30, 2021) has direct financial benefits over and above existing offers and discounts. This relief up to 20% to buyers of homes under Section 56(2)(x) of the I-T Act benefits affordable and mid-range segments, and help developers to clear unsold stock.



If the market value of a property is lower than the RR rate, the difference between the two become 'other income' for the buyer — and will be taxed.

— **Prashant Thakur**  
Director, ANAROCK Property Consultants

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