# 

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 7 FEBRUARY 2021



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 31/15 ºC

**RH:** 60% Rainfall: Nil



(+74)(+12,514)1,08,27,170 1,55,028

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+161)(+1)TS: 2,95,431 1,608 (+75)(+1)AP: 8,88,350 7,159

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



worldometers.info/ coronavirus

#### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarayana Tithi: Pushya Bahula Ekadasi till 4.47 am (Monday) Star: Jyeshta till 4.15 pm Varjyam: Nil Durmuhurtam: 4.39 pm to 5.25 pm Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** 

Jamadi- ul- Akhir 24,1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.45 am **Zohar:** 12.40 pm **Asar:** 4.38 pm

Isha: 7.28 pm **SUNSET TODAY 6.13 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.46 AM MOONRISE** TOMORROW 2.38 AM **MOONSET** TODAY 2.02 PM

Maghrib: 6.19 pm



Price rise again? I am not aware... I always travel in government vehicles!

SHORT TAKES

#### **H1-B registration** from March 9

Washington: The registration process for the H-1B visa application for the next fiscal year will begin on March 9 and the successful applicants through a computerised draw of lots would be notified by March 31, a federal agency has announced. The notification by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services on Friday came a day after the Biden adminis-

tration announced that it will continue with the traditional

lottery system to issue the

to foreign professionals.

much sought-after work visa

WORLD 6

**UN: Reverse coup** in Myanmar



#### SPORTS 8

**Root first to hit double** century in 100th Test

#### **TABLOID**

**Bollywood's pursuit** of the talented

Vol. 20 No. 252 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00



Congress leaders use bullock carts to protest against the 3 new farm laws during the Chakka jam at Hayathnagar in support of farmers on Saturday. Nearly 50 protests

# Farmers, farm union leaders held for jam

**BALU PULIPAKA I DC** HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Hundreds of farmers, representatives of farmer unions, along with leaders and workers from various political parties were arrested at many locations around Hyderabad for obstructing traffic as part of the nationwide chakka jam' protest on

The largest of such protests was held near the Hayathnagar bus depot on the Vijavawada highway for about an hour from

In all, 50 such protests were held across Telangana state with no reports of any untoward incidents. Protests were held on the highways including Bodhan, Armoor, Kammarpally, Makur in Nizam-abad district, Wardhannapet. Narsampet and

Oct. 2 deadline to repeal laws: Tikait

**SUNIL THAPLIYAL** with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, FEB. 06

On a day farmers protesting against the Centre's three contentious agricultural laws staged an incithree-hour dent-free 'chakka jam' across the country, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said that the farmer leaders have given the

district, and in Mulugu, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Adilabad,

Gadwal as well as in several other districts. The protest, called by the

Samvukt Kisan Morcha

Sangharsh Coordination Committee, was in solidarity with striking farmers who have been camping outside New Delhi.

Page 2: Protesters wan Mandarpet in Warangal and All India Kisan TS to reinstate procurement

Centre time till October 2

to withdraw the laws.
Farmers, he added, will

return home only after the

government repeals the

contentious legislation

and makes a law ensuring

legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP).
"There will be no com-

promise on this," he said

and asserted that the agi-

tation is for the whole of

India and not one state.

#### **SEC CONFINES AP MINISTER TO HIS HOME FOR POLLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 6

unprecedented move, the State Election Commission (SEC) has directed the AP Director-General of Police to confine minister for panchayat raj and rural develop-ment Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy to his house till the completion of gram panchayat elections on February 21.

This prohibits the minis ter from accessing the media and prevents him from "making inciting utterances" that could adversely impact the poll process and also the law and order situation in Chittoor district. The SEC took serious note of the minister's recent warning to collectors and returning officers, urging them to disobey instructions from SEC N. Ramesh Kumar and to blacklist them if they followed Kumar's instructions especially with regard to prevention of forced unanimous elec-tions. The minister had allegedly said that the SEC would be in power till March 31 while the YSRC government tenure would continue beyond it, and asked the returning offi-cers to declare all unanimous elections.

■ Page 2: Minister alleged **SEC seeking MP nomination** 

# TS Budget to be downsized 20%

#### ₹50,000 cr lost due to lockdown, slowdown

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The Telangana Budget is set to be downsized by at least 20 per cent from the last year, as the financial condition of the state has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown.

The government has suffered revenue losses of over ₹50,000 crore due to the lockdown and slowing

down in the economy.
Finance minister T.
Harish Rao had presented
the 2020-21 Budget with an outlay of ₹1.8 lakh crore. The Budget for 2021-22 is expected be less than ₹1.5

lakh crore. It may be recalled that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had pruned Budget size by 20 per cent in 2019-20 citing the economic slowdown and drastic cuts in Central government funds and grants. The recent Union Budget

also came as a big disappointment for the TS government with cuts in Central tax devolution and imposition of agriculture cess on fuel which is estimated to result in a

Growth fell short of target and revenues also fell. None of the budgetary targets could be met. There is little chance of making good the losses till financial year ends on March 31.

loss of over ₹5.000 crore in 2021-22.

The CM has been holding meetings with finance officials at Pragathi Bhavan to finalise the new Budget for the past three days. Officials explained to the CM the need to prune the Budget size.

The 2020-21 Budget proposals were prepared esti-mating the state's revenue growth rate at 15 per cent. Growth fell short of target and revenues also fell. None of the budgetary targets could be met. There is little chance of making good the losses in the remaining week till the financial year ends on March 31.

The state government also paid a heavy price for stopping property registrations to facilitate the launch of the Dharani por-

The earnings through property registrations remain the worst-affected among all sectors. The Budget had targeted earning ₹10,000 crore through property registrations but the government collected ₹3,189 crore, thanks to Dharani portal for which the government stopped registrations from September 7, 2020, to

October 29. On GST, the government had set an earnings target of ₹32,671 crore but has realised only ₹18,429 crore so far. Against the sales tax target of ₹26,400 crore, ₹13,954 crore could be collected.

The Budget had estimated that the state would receive ₹10,906 crore as its share in Central taxes but the Centre has released just ₹5,412 crore so far.
The silver lining is the

Centre's grants-in-aid to the state government surpassed the budgetary estimates, thanks to Centre releasing more grants to help states to overcome Coronavirus-induced financial crisis.

■ Page 2: Non-tax revenue

## KTR: Make Green India a success

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

working president Saturday urged all public representatives at all levels to participate in the

make it a success. The minister appreciated TRS MP Joginipally Santosh Kumar for taking up the one crore tree plantation programme. He was speaking after launching the event's poster in the presMinister Mahamood Ali, minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, MP Malotu Kavita and MLA Hari Priya Nayak. He stated that the one crore saplings were a birthday gift to Chief Minister K.

envisioned a green Telangana. Rama Rao said the programme should be taken up in coordination with forest and panchayat raj departments. The participants would get 'Vanamali'

envisioned

# Indians are likely to miss Haj pilgrimage again

#### Saudi bans arrivals from 20 nations till May 17

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Indians looking forward to performing the Haj this year might be in for a disappointment again as there is no official word vet on whether the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest place is on.

It may be recalled that last year, the pilgrimage was scrapped because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year too, with con-

tinuing fears of the pandemic, Saudi authorities have banned arrivals from 20 nations till May 17, including those from

EVERY YEAR, some two lakh Indians travel to Macca to perform the Haj, but this year, pilgrims are waiting for a call from the Haj Committee for completing pre-selection formali-

Every year, some two lakh Indians travel to Macca to perform the Haj, but this year, pilgrims are waiting for a call from the Haj Committee for completing pre-selection for-malities.

There is also uncertainty over the February 10 meeting between Indian diplomats and Saudi authorities to finalise the Haj pilgrims' quota for this year and arriving at a mutual agreement.

A source in the State Hai Committee said chances of allotment of quota looks bleak with the pilgrimage dates drawing near.
The Haj is scheduled for

July this year.

Officials in the Haj Committee believe that even if Saudi Arabian government allows Indians, it is likely that the quota will

#### **OGH DOCS PAY TO GET THEIR JOB CARDS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Doctors alleged that the 70 newly recruited assistant professors in Osmania College are being paid their salary only after they shell out ₹5,000 to section officers in the administration department. In a letter to OMC principal Dr P.S. Vijayender, convener of the Telangana Doctors Forum alleged that the officials were demanding money to process the papers and create employment cards. The rates vary from ₹3, 500 to ₹5,000. Officials clarified the amount was for processing the employment card.

### GHMC | ELECTION | Congress MP can't vote as he used it in Boduppal Municipal Corp

## 44 of 52 ex officio members can vote

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

After an exercise spread over two months, the municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department has determined that only 44 of 52 ex officio members belonging to various parties will be eligible for voting in the GHMC council elections on February 11.

These 44 are from the TRS, MIM and the BJP. None from the Congress can vote as MP A. Revanth Reddy has utilised his vote in the Boduppal Municipal

No invitation has been

extended to ex-officio members who are ineligible to vote on the day mayoral elections are to be held. However, all 52 members (TRS 38, MIM 10, BJP 3 and Congress 1) will be allowed participate in the remaining GHMC council meetings. Hyderabad collector

Swetha Mohanthy, who is the presiding officer for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elections, scheduled to be held on February 11, inspected the arrangements being made in this regard at the council hall. As per the arrangements, Cabinet ministers and MPs

lakh Indians travel to Macca to perform the Haj, but this year, pilgrims are waiting for a call from the Haj Committee for completing pre-selection for-

• **EVERY YEAR,** some two

row, followed by MLAs, MLCs and corporators. The 56 TRS corporators will sit on the extreme left side of the council hall, 44 of MIM in the centre, 48 of BJP on the right and two Congress corporators on the extreme

The mayor will be elected They are thus ineligible to will be seated in the front soon after new corporators

are administered their oath. The Deputy Mayor will be elected thereafter. If, for any reason, the mayoral elections are not held on February 11, polling will be held the next day – February 12 — even if it is a holiday for the GHMC.

According to official records, ex officio members of the TRS have been reduced from 38 to 32 since MLA and MLCs Yegge Mallesham, Garikapati Rammohan Rao, Katepally Janardhan Reddy and min-ister Sabitha Indra Reddy utilised their votes in the Tukkuguda municipality. vote in GHMC polls.

Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, MLC M. Srinivas Reddy and Rajya Sabha MP Banda Prakash have cast their vote in municipality. Adibatla Kurumaiahgari Naveen Kumar and Patnam Mahender Reddy utilised their vote in Pedda

Amberpet municipality.
Rajendranagar MLA T.
Prakash Goud and Chevella MP Gaddam Ranjith Reddy have voted in the Narsingi municipality; labour minister Ch. Malla Reddy and MP A. Revanth Reddy in the Boduppal Municipal Corporation and MLA K.P. Vivekananda Kompally municipality.

should the need arise.

Several senior officials

including Mahesh Bhagwat, commissioner

of Rachakonda police,

received their first round

vaccine jabs on Saturday.

Phase II of the vaccination drive is for personnel

from various frontline

departments including

municipal workers, and

those from the panchayat

raj departments. According to the health

department, on Saturday, against the target of

41,666 vaccinations for the

day, only 15,437 took the

shots accounting for just 37 per cent of the target.

Only two cases of some

reported for the day, the

police,

# STATE

#### **MINISTER: SEC SEEKING MP NOMINATION**

From Page 1

The minister was quoted as saying that the SEC was trying to gain an MP or MLC nomination from the Telugu

The SEC said that the intention for issuing such an order was to carry out the mandate given to the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections and to insulate collectors and returning officers from fear psychosis following the minister's threats. The SEC's order will come into effect immediately.

The SEC said that the minister's utterances were a serious breach of rule of law and unconstitutional. It said that the threats transgressed election laws and abuse of office for wrongful ends.

The SEC justified its action on the minister by saying that his exhortation in favour of forced unanimous elections was nothing but a veiled threat administered to disincentive the citizens to participate in the election process as contestants and voters. However, it said that the restrictions imposed on the minister would not prevent him to access his medical aid and other exigencies and also to dispose of his official papers and matters.

#### **BHATTI WANTS** PROBE INTO **PUVVADA LANDS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on out Puvvada Ajay Kumar for regularising his land in Khammam by utilising GO Nos. 58 and 59, which is meant for the poor. Bhatti criticised the govern-

ment for its failure to create better infrastructure in Khammam town. He said that the state government has been illegally registering police cases on anyone questioning the government's failure per-

taining to development.

he CLP leader alleged that Ajay Kumar was allocating works only to his own con-tracting company or to his supporters, which was against the spirit of democracy. He said that the minister's actions were causing concern among the locals.

Bhatti criticised the government for regularising thousands of acres of government land by using GO No 58 and 59. He said that Ajay Kumar has blatantly misused his position for boosting his personal business. He demanded a vigilance inquiry into his alleged irreg-

ularities.

The CLP leader announced that a booth level committee pertaining meeting Khamman municipal corporation election would be held on

#### **BUILD STRONG** STATE, KAVITHA **URGES WOMEN**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said the SanghaMitra programme to empower and train women Ibrahimpatnam, Choutuppal, Bhongir and Yadadri had received a good

response.

He said that the initiative has inspired thousands of women in the state by way of awareness and instilling selfconfidence over issues like abolition of crime, fraud against women, and prevention of social evil against women, among others.

He was speaking at a meeting of SanghaMitra, the Rachakonda police commissionerate's flagship programme that is held in collaboration with Security Rachakonda

Council, Bhagwat called for active and continued participation of the SanghaMitra trained with Rachakonda

police in creating awareness amongst women to act as ambassadors. He sought prevention of child marriages and encouraged the progress TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha stated that women in

Telangana state, taking inspiration from the state-hood movement, should aspire and work together to build a progressive and forward state besides working towards empowering women. She appreciated Bhagwat

for his friendly policing initiatives and prompt actions ensuring prevention of violence against women.

# All dams have enough water for summer

Good storage due to heavy rains during monsoon last year

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Most reservoirs in the Krishna and Godavari basins in Telangana state have more water than previous years, just before the onset of summer. At

others, the water is close to the levels seen in 2020. The government is confident it can sail through this summer without facing drinking water shortage either in the city or in

the districts.

The good storage is the result of heavy rains received during the southwest monsoon that lasted till October. The state received 1,259.7 mm of rainfall from June 1, 2020, against the norm of 852.8 mm, an increase of 48 per cent. In the GHMC limits, the total was 1221.1 mm against 723.5 mm usually, which is higher by 68.8 per

Nagarjunasagar in the Krishna basin remains the major source of drinking water for the GHMC limits and south Telagnana districts. As on Saturday, the water level at Nagarjunasagar dam stood at 559.50 ft against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 590 ft. It has 231.22 tmc ft against gross storage of 312.05 tmc. The same day last year, it had 551.30 ft and 212.43 tmc ft.

In Srisailam dam, water stood at 867.30 ft againt 868.8 ft last year (FRL 885 ft) and the storage was 130.96 tmc ft against 138.93 tmc last year (total capacity 215.81 tm ft).

Same is the case with the major dams in Godavari

Sriramsagar had water at 1083.30 ft on Saturday (last year 1,084.4 ft, FRL 1,091 ft) and storage of 61.77 tmc (last year 64.99 tmc, gross capacity 90.31

The Mid-Manair dam is brimming with water at 1040.72 (last 1,039.93 ft,

**PRANMOY** 

Saturday

**BRAHMACHARI I DC** 

AIMIM chief Asaduddin

Owaisi and his brother Akbaruddin Owaisi will

kickstart their poll cam-

paign from Murshidabad and Malda, a

party leader said on

Murshidabad MIM con-

vener Asadul Sheikh said,

"Asaduddin Owaisi and

his brother Akbaruddin

will address at least 10

meetings

Malkapet reservoir work gathers momentum

**DC CORRESPONDENT** SIRCILLA, FEB. 6

Smitha Sabarwal, secretary to the Chief Minister's Office, on Saturday inspected the construction work at the Malkapet reservoir Malkapeta of Konaraopet mandal in Rajanna Sircilla district. The work is part of package-9 of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS).

After inspecting the underground surgepool, tunnel, pump house, ventilation shaft, delivery cis-

terns on Bund-5 works, the official inquired with the officials about the progress of work and ordered them to speed up the works and to complete lining of the tunnel for at least 80 metres every day.

Speaking at a review meeting held with the officials and contractors, Smitha Sabarwal said that as per the orders issued by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, work should go on round the clock in shifts to meet the

complete stone pitching works of all the bunds," she said and wanted a dry run of the second pump by April and a trial run of the project in May.

The senior official said that the Chief Minister was very keen to complete Package-9 as early as possible and was tracking its

She further asked the collector D. Krishna Bhaskar to resolve land acquisition and revenue issues and bring to her notice if they face any



Secretary in the Chief Minister Office Smitha Sabarwal inspects the construction work of Malkapet reservoir on Saturday.

of 25.52 tmc ft (last year 24.92 tmc ft gross capacity 27.50 tmc ft).

The Yellampally project, which also supplies the city, had water at 484.25 ft (last year 477.13 ft, FRL

485.56 ft) and storage of 19.06 tmc ft (13.60 tmc ft last year against gross capacity of 20.18 tmc ft).

As per the latest reserbulletin

AIMIM MLA Akhtarul

Iman and Bihar state

youth wing president

camping in Murshid-

abad from February 13,

Murshidabad and Malda after the poll schedule is declared. We hope that we will be able

to open our account in

He added, "As we need

good orators and organis-

ers, our party leadership

Murshidabad like Bihar."

Adil Hasan will be

Owaisi to focus on Murshidabad

and Malda for Bengal elections

issued by the Central Commission(CWC), live storage available in the reservoirs in the southern region is 33.12 billion cubic metres (BCM), which is 63 per cent of the total capacity.

The storage during corresponding period of last year was 61 per cent at this time of the year. The aver-

from Jharkhand, Bihar,

Delhi and Maharashtra

have been entrusted the

task of spearheading the

campaign for the next two months. Since the Muslim

population is around 66.27

per cent in Murshidabad

and 51.30 per cent in Malda, these districts

have been earmarked by

According to sources, five AIMIM MLAs from

Bihar and the party's

youth wing president, in

the wake of a large-scale

defection by the state lead-

years during the corresponding period was 42

The southern region includes the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana Kerala and Tamil Nadu There are 36 reservoirs under the Central Water Commission (CWC) monitoring having total capaci

ership to the ruling

Trinamul Congress, have

been given responsibility

for campaign in Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinajpur, another

minority-oriented district,

before fielding candidates

While AIMIM MLA Akhtarul Iman and Bihar

state youth wing president Adil Hasan will be camp-

ing in Murshidabad from

February 13, others from

neighbouring states have

started camping in Murs-

hidabad from Friday.

#### **Protesters want TS to** reinstate procurement From Page 1 protesters The also

DGP M. Mahendar Reddy receives Covid-19 vaccine at Tilaknagar Primary Health

Take Covid vaccine, DGP

vaccines have proven to be safe. The DGP called on

all senior police depart-

sions in the ranks of the

force over the vaccination

Recalling the services

provided by police personnel during the lockdown,

Mahendar Reddy said the

department served the

people during the time of

crisis. This work has been

recognised by everyone,

With expectations that all of the 60,000 state

police department person-

take the vaccine shots, Mahendar Reddy said that

while the current drive

was for four days for

would request the health

personnel,

nel will come forward to

urges police personnel

programme.

he added.

The second phase of ment officials to dispel Covid-19 vaccination pro-

demanded that the state government reinstate procurement of crops and all measures to ensure minimum support price (MSP) to farmers, and demonstrate its opposition to the three farm laws by passing a resolution in the Assembly and by amending the state APMC Act to nullify the effects of the Central laws.

BALU PULIPAKA | DC

Telangana

their shots.

Covid-19 vaccination programme kicked off in

Telangana state on Saturday with Director-General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy getting the first jab as police per-

sonnel began getting inoc-

ulated against the disease.

Mahendar Reddy, who

got vaccinated at the Urban Health Centre in Tilaknagar, called on all police personnel to get

The top police official

allayed any apprehensions people may have over the vaccine and said

that while the vaccination

programme is voluntary,

there is no cause for any

fears or worries as the

state

The laws enacted by the government, according to Kiran Vissa from Rythu Swarajya Vedika, were designed to hand over agriculture to agribusiness corporates.

The government, he said, should also enact a law that guarantees minimum support price to various crops.

Those arrested during the protest included AIKSCC farmer union leaders, Pasya Padma (Telangana Rashtra Rythu



Kiran Kumar Vissa from Rythu Swarajya Vedika is being taken away by the police from the chakka jam location near Hayatnagar bus depot on Saturday.

Sangham), Kirankumar Vissa (Rythu Swarajya Vedika), T. Sagar (Telangana Rythu Sangham), J.V. Chalapathi Rao (AIKMS), Achutha Ramarao (AIKMS) and Upender Reddy (AIKF); Political party leaders

Chada Venkat Reddy (CPI), D.G. Narasimha Rao (CPM), Govardhan (CPIML-ND), Sadineni Venkateswara Rao (CPIML-ND); and other leaders Jhansi (POW), Rama (POW) and Anuradha (IFTU).

#### **TPCC** stages dharna across Telangana MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC FORMER PCC presi-

in

HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Responding to the call given the All India Committee (AICC) to participate in protests against the farm laws passed by the Centre last year, the Telangana unit of the party staged 'dharnas' on highways

across the state.
Former PCC president
V. Hanumantha Rao
joined the agitating farmers at Khammam bypass road and extended his support to the farmers. He said that though

farmers were agitating for 70 days in Delhi, the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ignoring demands regarding minimum support price (MSP) and against the three farm laws.

He said it was unfortunate that the Modi government was deliberately ignoring the farmers's "genuine demands" and favouring a few big businessmen. The Congress will stand by the farmers

dent V. Hanumantha Rao joined the agitating farmers at Khammam bypass road and extended his support to the farmers. THE SENIOR Congress

leader said that though farmers were agitating for 70 days in Delhi, the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ignoring their demands regarding minimum support price (MSP) and against the three farm laws.

till their demands are met, Hanumatha Rao

Congress supporters led by Malreddy Ramreddy and Anil Kumar Yadav joined the protest. The police intervened and cleared the traffic and said that several people were taken into preventive custody. Police also removed the protesters who were agitating on a highway on the outskirts

of Hyderabad.

## Few adverse reactions to Covid-19 jab, say Doctors

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Around 12 deaths have been reported across India after Covid-19 vaccination till January 31, according to the Union health ministry. These deaths are being investigated by experts who are examining the possible

This data was provided

in a reply presented in the Lok Sabha on the adverse effects following immunisation (AEFI). It was stated that a total of 7,580adverse effects reported after 44,49,552 persons were vaccinated. AEFI is stated to be 0.2

per cent. The major side-effects noted in the first 30 minutes after vaccination were anxiety, vertigo, giddiness, dizziness, fever, pain, rashes and headaches. Due to this, many of those who took the vaccine were asked to stay at the vaccination centre for an hour. Many people recovered between 24 and 48 hours, the Lok Sabha was told

There were 14 hospitalisations in the country which is 0.000372 per cent of those vaccinated till January 31, the Centre

Asked about the data, a senior pharmacologist on condition of anonymity said, "There could be underlying illness or allergic reaction, which are not known to lead to death.

#### also got affected From Page 1 THE EARNINGS through

Non-tax revenue

While the Budget expected ₹10,525 crore, the Centre has released ₹11,000 crore

The non-tax revenue earnings also took a severe beating due to the pandemic. Against of the target to earn ₹30,600 crore, only ₹2,450 crore was realised due to the slump in registration of new vehicles, collection of transport taxes and mining cess.

The earnings through imposition of other taxes and duties also nosedived imposition of other taxes and duties also nosedived from ₹6,041 crore expected to ₹2,650 crore.

from ₹6,041 crore expected

to ₹2,650 crore.
The excise duty collected on liquor also fell due to closure of liquor shops for nearly three months closure of bars, pubs from mid-March to Septemberend. The budgetary target was ₹16,000 crore but the state has earned only ₹8,874 crore so far.

### LOOT | CASE | Court rejects plea for probe into alleged ₹300 crore fraud

# HC status quo on Mahesh Bank fracas

IN A petition submit-

**VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA** 

HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Complaining against the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as it was not responding to pleas for action against AP Mahesh Co-operative Bank for alleged fraud to the tune of Welfare Association has approached Telangana High Court, seeking a direction to issue orders for a full-fledged probe into the bank affairs.

In a petition submitted to the court here on Saturday, the association on the earlier board of directors. stated that around ₹300 depositors' ₹300 crore, the Mahesh Bank Shareholders by six persons who were directors. They mentioned that those six directors

ted to the court here on Saturday, the association stated that around ₹300 crore of depositors' money was siphoned off by six persons who were

on the earlier board of

November and they have been holding posts of chairman, vice-chairman and managing director. They sought the court to direct RBI for a forensic audit into the bank's transactions and to suspend the incumbent Board

re-elected

However, Justice the earlie Abhinand Kumar Shavili adequate.

of Directors.

orders. Recalling the earlier directions by a single

in refused to issue interim

judge of the High Court in a batch of petitions related to conduct of elections and allowing only administrative decisions for day to day activities, Justice Shavili said that the earlier orders were





Commissioner of police V.B.

#### KAMALASAN TAKES **JAB, VAX DRIVE FOR COPS BEGINS**

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, FEB. 6

Soon after Commissioner of police V.B. Kamalasan Reddy took the Covid-19 vaccine, district collector K. Shashanka launched the immunisation programme of the vaccine to frontline workers from the police department here on Saturday

There were no untoward incidents or complaints of any side-effects from anywhere in the district.

As per the guideline issued. vaccine was first administered to the officials and staff members of the health care department working in government and private hospitals and to the staff of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) anganwadi and sanitation

workers. Later, the vaccine will be given to those above 50 years of age and to Under-50 persons suffering from co-morbidity.

In Huzurabad area hospital, the vaccine was administered to ACP Srinivas Rao, CIs Madhavi and Kiran Kumar along with 42 members of police personnel.

Those who were administered the vaccine were first kept in the waiting hall. After enrolling their details in the Co-WIN app, they are sent to the second room, where they were given the vaccination. Later, they were shifted to the third room for a 30-minute

observation. The collector later interacted with the persons who were vaccinated. District medical and health officer Dr. Sujatha, superintendent of the government main hospital, Dr. Ratna Mala, Additional DCP G Chandra Mohan were present along with others.

# **KCR's support for farm** laws creates confusion

There is no clear direction to cadre, says senior leader

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, FEB. 6

TRS cadre and leaders in Adilabad district are in confusion over the party's stand on new farm laws enacted by the BJP-led government at the centre. As a result, they are unable to answer farmers who are asking them about whether the TRS is in favour or against the farm laws.

Earlier, the party high command asked its cadre and leaders to participate in Bharat Bandh against the farm laws.

TRS cadre outnum-bered all others during the Bharat Bandh in the district against the three central laws.

However, news has now that Minister Chandrashekar Rao is supporting farm laws. Because of this, TRS cadre and leaders are remaining silent on this topic. They are refraining from openly supporting the agitating farmers on borders of Delhi.

A senior TRS leader of Adilabad said there is no clear direction to cadre and second rung leaders from party high command about the party's stand on the three farm laws. They are thus remaining silent even as the Congress party has taken the lead in organising protests in Adilabad

TPCC state general secretary Gandrath Sujatha accused the TRS high command of taking a Uturn after participating in the Bharat Bandh opposing the farm laws. 'This exposes the interunderstanding between the BJP and TRS leadership," she

Market revenues fall to 65 per cent

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, FEB. 6

The revenue of agriculture market committees has drastically dropped in undivided Nizamabad district over the last six months, after the farm laws that were passed last month took effect. Market committees were unable to collect market fee from the traders and the revenues have fallen by 65 per cent.

The marketing department collects 1 per cent of the value of the business transaction as market fee from the traders. The fee is collected on transactions held in market yards or elsewhere in its regulated area. It is the main resource to provide basic amenities to farmers in the market yards.

The families of thousands farmers, traders and workers depend on market yards for their livelihood. Usually, farmers prefer to sell their

agriculture products in market yards for better prices.

instance. For Nizamabad agriculture market committee has collected ₹4.31 crore as market fee so far in the 2020-21 financial year. It had set ₹13 crore as the target for the market fee collection which may now not be met. In 2019-20, the Nizamabad market committee had collected ₹11.76 crore as market fee.

Following the ordnance on farm laws, following by the enactment of the legislation, the collection of market fee outside of market yards was stopped on June 5, 2020. Incidentally, the benefit is not reaching either farmers or consumers.

committee Market check posts were withdrawn in the district. Rice milling is a major industry in Nizamabad district and the rice millers enjoyed exemption from paying the 1 per cent market fee.

#### **CPI, CPM STAGE RASTA ROKO RALLY ON NH 44**

Adilabad, Feb. 6: Along with leaders of farmer bodies, leaders and activists of Congress, CPI and the CPM on Saturday staged a rasta roko on National Highway 44 near Chanda (T) village in opposition of the farm laws passed last year, and in support of the agitating farmers against the legislations in Delhi, in Adilabad.

With the rasta roko in place, long lines of vehicles were seen waiting on both sides of the national highway. Congress leaders led by TPCC state general secretary Sujatha participated in the event. The farmers and agitators demanded that the Centre repeal of the

Adilabad DCC incharge president Sajid Khan, ZPTC Goka Ganesh Reddy, senior Congress leader Sanjeev Reddy, CPI leader Mudupu Prabhakar Reddy, Bandi Dattatri, Raghavulu and Rythu Swarajya Vedika district convener Borranna and

## Cong. to interact with farmers

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, FEB. 6

Senior Congress leaders and MLAs led by Congress Legislature leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka will start a programme titled 'Interaction with from Farmers' Bheemsari village

district on February 9.

A team of leaders, including MLAs Sridhar Rabu and Jagga Reddy, apart from senior leaders Hanumanth Rao and Kokkirala Premsagar Rao, Kodanda Reddy and others; will interact with farmers as also party cadre of the district

Congress leaders will reach Bheemsari from Hvderabad in the afternoon of February 9 for interacting with farmers. On the same day, the team will depart for Dhanora village in Boath mandal for discussions with farmers in that

# Mahbubabad sets up ABC team to check dog menace

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, FEB. 6

In a bid to make streets safer for citizens from stray dogs in Mahbubabad, district administration has set up an Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Kummarikunta hamlet in Shanigapuram, where these dogs will be sterilised to control their population.

District additional collector Abhilasha Abhinav, who

said the centre will also administer anti-rabies vaccination to stray dogs before their release. ABC Centre will double up as a care centre for injured street dogs.

"This unique initiative is

being taken up for the first

cated vehicles that will pick

time in a small municipality. For the purpose, we have tied up with the state veterinary department to sterilise 300–400 dogs per month. There will be dediup and drop the canines ward-wise. This will help us check the stray dog menace and deaths due to rabies. Abhilasha underlined.

She asked people to call 8106542911 in case there is menace of dogs in their area. They can also report

about injured animals. Stray dogs are estimated to number about 4,000 in Mahbubabad. District administration aims to cover all of them as early as

#### **KODANDARAM ASKS CENTRE** TO WITHDRAW FARM LAWS

Warangal, Feb. 6: Telangana Jana Samiti founder Prof M. Kodandaram has demanded that the Centre withdraw the three famr laws which were being opposed by the farmers

Addressing press conference ĥere on Saturday, he emphasised the need for supporting farmers who have been protestrelentlessly ing

across the country.

Softpath and Exeed Management are hiring @ Warangal Graduate with excellent Written & Verbal Communication Skill can send Profiles to warangal@softpath.net

rs would be conducted on 13th & 14th Feb. 10:30 am to 5:00 pm At SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY, Parks of India Kakatiya IT Park, Hanamkonda, Warangal-506001, Telangan

Cell: 9390150336/ 9010208663



Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD) Mysore, Karnataka

#### 2-Year Fully Residential Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) Approved by AICTE | Accredited by NBA | MBA Equivalence by AIU

- 25 Years of Legacy | Ranked among top 50 B-Schools in India International Tie-up with 15 reputed Universities across the world
- 100% Placements: 7.7 Lakhs Average Salary
- · Scholarships worth Rs. 75 Lakhs to meritorious students
- Single Occupancy hostel rooms | Students from 20 states
- · SBI Scholar Loan: Educational loan facility without any tangible collateral security
- Air Conditioned classrooms

#### Last date to apply: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021

www.sdmimd.ac.in

e-mail: admission@sdmimd.ac.in

Contact: 18001211535 (Toll Free), 95350 07893, 99161 22245

EFMD PGDM









by BOROSIL®

# "Make Everyday Meals Special"





Designed to keep your family healthy

- BONE ASH FREE
- FOOD GRADE
- 100% HYGIENIC EXTRA STRONG





Follow us on 10 De Borosil And You





- MICROWAVE SAFE
- LIGHT WEIGHT

Larah By Borosil Product Ranges Available In All Leading Crockery Dealers And Supermarkets. Borosil Limited. Chennai New No. 20 (old No. 9), 1st Floor, Brahadammal Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034. Corporate Enquiries - Hitesh Advani : +919902687614 Trade Enquiries - Rajasekhar : 9849084601, Dhanraj : 90300771414. Tel : 044 2822 6012 / 2822 6013 Fax: 044 2822 6014 Email: borosil.mso@eth.net, chennai@borosil.com, myborosil@borosil.com Now Shop Online For India's Most Trusted Brand At www.myborosil.com











# Chronicle

7 FEBRUARY 2021



Shashi Warrier

**Off the beaten track** 

## The WhatsApp riddle: What's the big secret?

Then I first saw the notice saying that the terms of WhatsApp's privacy agreement were going to change, I panicked. In my mind, at least, there was some reason for that panic. I sometimes share my writings with friends and publishers on WhatsApp, and I was afraid that Mark Zuckerberg would simply claim copyright on whatever I shared thus. Then came TV interviews with technology experts and lawyers saying that WhatsApp was going to swallow up everything you put on it, and let Zuckerberg do with it whatever he likes, which they said was against Indian law. And then Elon Musk came up with something about Signal, an app that allows you to do much the same things that WhatsApp does without gobbling up your data.

This was towards the middle of January, a couple of weeks late, because I see these things only when people point them out to me. I was stewing in my panic, unable to decide whether to change from WhatsApp to some other app, and people were giving me conflicting bits of advice: stay with WhatsApp, switch to Signal, switch to Telegram, get off social media, wait a little and go with the herd, and so on.

So when my professor friend came visiting, I was genuinely glad to see him. "What do you make of this WhatsApp trouble?" I asked him when he was seated comfortably with a cup of tea in his hand and a plate of snacks on the table

"Nothing," he replied, taking a large bite from a hot samosa. The insides of the samosa were much hotter than the outside, and it took him a few seconds to regain control of his scalded mouth. "Nothing?" I asked. "Nothing," he repeated.

"I don't understand," I said. "What about all those invasions of privacy and

"The invasions started when you began to enjoy what you thought were the free benefits of the Internet," he replied.
"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Take email, for instance," he said. "You've been using it for decades without paying a paisa for it. But did you ever read the details of your agreement with the service provider?"

"No," I said. "Everyone I knew agreed, and so did I. I never knew there was

If I post a photo of my

samosa on Facebook

before I eat it, do you

know how much they

**GPS** they know that

they see a Brand X

so they know about

your tastes.

sofa or a Brand Y TV,

get to know? From my

this is your home, and

in a corner of the photo

anything untoward about the agreement."
"Ah!" he said. "How do you think all the companies that provide the service pay all their employees, and for the software and the servers and everything?

"Advertising," I said, hopefully.
"Of course," he replied. "Business is like politics, like most human activity. Everyone tries to take his work one step past the competition. No one wants to be remembered as the person who let something stagnate and die. Right?"

"Right," I said, a bit tentatively. I hadn't really thought about it but he being a pro-

fessor must have.

"So they're always looking for opportunities to expand their reach," he said, "and, with social media the way they are, the simplest way they can expand is by getting to know you better. And do you know why they're spending so much on machine learning and artificial intelligence?

"No," I said. "I was hoping you'd tell me."

"Well," he said, "they've always had trouble finding people to analyse the data they've grabbed. You know, when people go out for a meal, they post photos of what they eat before they eat it. If I post a photo of my samosa on Facebook before I eat it, do you know how much they get to know? From my GPS they know that this is your home, and in a corner of the photo they see a Brand X sofa or a Brand Y TV, so they know about your tastes. But then, can you imagine anything more boring than going through millions and million of photos of samosas or cakes? So, artificial intelligence and machine learning."

"But I thought machine learning and artificial intelligence were meant to relieve people of the drudgery of things like housework and taking care of old

people and so on," I said.
"That's what they say," he replied. "The truth is that they've developed all these algorithms to recognise, say, the brand of a sofa in a corner of a photo of a black forest pastry. And they've been following you using the GPS chip in your phone. So now they can figure out what you'll eat next and where, and, besides, your taste in furniture and appliances. Business. "Right," I said.

"And then there are selfies," he continued, a samosa later. "Social media sites use them to figure out where you're going for your next holiday, and what you'll do there, whether you're stupid enough to try to get yourself in a selfie with a crocodile or at the edge of a thousand-foot cliff.

"Then someone realised that the programs that could analyse all this could also do other things. So there were spinoffs. Those same programs, with small modifications, can also recognise dirt on a floor, or chart a path in a room that'll get a robot to sweep the floor with the minimum of effort, in the least possible time. That's dead easy. So is something like facial recognition, or thumbprint identification.

"So, you see, all the good things that they claim, all that wonderful security stuff about recognising faces and thumbprints and explosives and everything. it's all secondary. It's a sort of side effect of having to make programs to analyse the largest and most boring collections of photos and videos and GPS locations that people have taken in the entire history of the mankind.

"So what's all the protest about?" I asked. "Umm," he said, picking up the last samosa. "That's just misdirection. You know, almost all of us lead such dreary, boring lives. The protesters, they're afraid people will figure out that their biggest secret is that they have no

Shashi Warrier has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.

#### Subhani



# Maligning the messenger pays diminishing returns



Pavan K. Varma

**Chanakya's View** 

n the days leading to the infamous dec-Emergency in 1975, PM Indira Gandhi, flush from her victory over Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, was showing signs of becoming increasingly autocratic. She was impatient about dissent, convinced of her own invincibility, and adamant about pursuing what she thought was good for the country irrespective of what the Opposition was saying. It was then that the theory of the "foreign hand" gained autropay She recorded to currency. She resorted to the not-unfamiliar stratagem of conflating all internal dissent as the manifestation of a conspiracy against her regime from abroad; "CIA agents", began to proliferate, and Oppos-ition leaders, and those who had the temerity to oppose her, were seen as puppets playing to a conspiracy orchestrated by international powers.

A similar stratagem

seems to be at play today. Undoubtedly, the sovereignty of our country is paramount, and we must ceaselessly be vigilant against outside powers that seek to destabilise it. But do Rihanna and Greta Thunberg qualify to pose such a threat? Greta is a Swedish environmentalist activist not yet out of her teens; Rihanna is a celebrity singer-actor, who has sales of 250 million records worldwide, and is considered one of the most successful music artistes of all time. Both of them have been involved in social activism. Greta's environmental evangelism has won her global recognition. Rihanna is known for her involvement in humanitarian causes, and has been vocal against police brutality in America against the blacks.

Since the "foreign hand" of Indira Gandhi's days, the world has changed. Social media, and the global footprint of media and especially television, has inter-connected people in a way never seen before. News in any part of the world becomes instantaneously news everywhere. Our government appears to be making the cardinal mistake of using the paranoia of the "foreign hand" in today's world when so much has irrevocably changed. Social media celebrities, with hundreds of millions of followers on Twitter and Instagram, post comments on anything and everything as a matter of routine. Social media platforms are full of posts against the arrest of Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny by Vladimir Putin's dictatorial regime; against the attack on Capitol Hill by Donald Trump's hooligans; against China's undemocratic down on dissidents; and against Saudi Arabia's intolerant Wahabi state to name but a few sub-

jects. We are proud of India's democratic credentials, but if a farmers' protest on the borders of the capital of our country continues for over two months, with some 150

In a democracy there will be protests. Such protests, if they are allowed to linger on for so long, will attract global attention. Filing FIRs against those who comment is a highly immature and insecure way of responding. First, the protesting farmers were called by over-zealous supporters of the government as Khalistanis, **Maoists, Urban** Naxals and Pakistanis. Then the Opposition parties supporting the farmers were called anti-national.

farmers dying in the bit-ter cold, it is bound to attract media attention worldwide. The government may be right in believing in agrarian reforms, but there is little doubt that the manner in which the bills were passed was undemocratic, and was unpreceded mandatory the process of consultations stakeholders. Equally, the manner in which the protests were handled leaves much to be desired. A certain arrogance informed the government's approach from the very beginning. What prevented the agri-cultural minister, if not the PM himself, in going to the protest site, and talking to the farm leaders over a glass of lassi? The offer to keep the laws in abevance for some time could have been made much earlier, with the government assuring the farmers that there would be full discussions with them before the laws are implemented.

Reforms are desirable, but in a democracy, opposition to them — some of it very valid — must be taken on board. Besides, a large number of the protestors are from the sensitive border state of Punjab, which has seen radicalisation in the past, with the fullest support of Pakistan. It serves nobody's purpose to see Punjab radicalised again. Such factors should have weighed in with the government. After the con-demnable violence on January 26, the protest movement was demoralised, and farmers were leaving for home on their own volition. But Yogi Adityanath's police gratuitously rekindled the

protest again. The visual footage of a government using nails and ditches to barricade itself from its own people made for dramatic watching, and it is futile to believe that its audience was restricted only to India.

Now, the government has made a laughing

stock of the nation by filing an FIR against unnamed "foreign" con-spirators, citing Greta's tool-kit\_tweet as evidence. Earlier, the government thought it fit to respond to Rihanna's tweet. The correct tweet. The correct response would have been to ignore such tweets. If, however, the government felt that such "global influencers" should be replied to, the appropriate way would have been for a letter from a bureaucrat to be delivered to these commentators through the agency of our embassies explaining the govern-ment's point of view and saying that India as a democratic nation is well equipped to resolve such disputes. As the PM never tires of saying, we are a nation of "sawa karod" — 1.25 billion people. We are the world's largest democracy, an emerging global super power. In a democracy there will be protests. Such protests, if they are allowed to linger on for so long, will attract global attention. Filing FIRs against those who comment is a highly immature and insecure way of responding.

The game of tarnishing the messenger has diminishing returns. First, the protesting farmers were called by some over-zealous supporters of the government as Khalistanis, Maoists, Urban Naxals and Pakistanis. Then the Opposition parties supporting the farmers were anti-national Now, foreign commentators are being accused of being part of an international conspiracy against India. All of this, when the real priority is to sensibly resolve the impasse with the farmers.

> The writer, an author and a diplomat, is in politics

### **LETTERS**

#### **FIRE IN SCHOOLS**

It is not shocking that such incidents can happen frequently as most schools do not follow fire safety norms (Fire breaks out at school in Old City, DC, Feb. 5). How could the education department ever give recognition to such a school without keeping in mind the safety of school children? The fire department should immediately check erring schools and make sure fire-fighting equipment is in place in each and every school.

> **Shahbaz Husain** Hyderabad

#### **OLD VEHICLES**

The move to scrap 20-year-old vehicles is not right without proper infrastructure to deal with massive scrap that will be generated. A badly maintained brand new vehicle can also cause pollution. venicle can also cause pollution.
The burning of fossil fuel is the pollutant. An old car reconditioned with a brand new engine will be as good as a new car in fighting pollution.

Rau Nidumolu

#### **KEY TRS MEETING**

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao must get together with his party to bring forth overall welfare of twin cities and Telangana state (KCR calls for key meet tomorrow, DC, Feb. 6). The Chief Minister must not only discuss elections in the state but also how his second term will bring forth growth and prosperity in the coming years of his rule.

> Mohan Secunderabad

As usual the TRS president should have been selected on April 27. But one wonders why this time on

February 7?

Om Vishal Raj Vikram

Hyderabad

**VIZAG STEEL PLANT**The privatisation of the Vizag Steel Plant at a throwaway price and the proposed sale of ore mines at Bastar to a business house in the good books of the Centre are a blatant attempt to gift precious public property in AP acquired by agitation and sacrifices of many citizens. If the government expects private bidders to buy the plant to earn profits, why were mines not part of steel plant and why was there no effort to over-come losses in the public sector? Dr K.V.N. Durga Prasad

# 50 YEARS AGO IN

#### **Pakistan refuses to** return hijackers

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY. 6 Pakistan said today that it would not hand over to India the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane.

The refusal was conveyed to Indian High Commissioner B.K. Acharya by the Foreign Office on Islamabad.

Radio Pakistan said, Mr. Acharya was summoned to the foreign office and told that the two hijackers, Mohammed Qureshi Hashim Mohammad Ashraf, were "not Indian nationals" and, therefore, there was no question of their being handed over to



Farm stir: Snap ties, says JJP to chief; Yogi gags his ministers

aryana deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala of the Jannayak Janata Party is under immense pressure from his colleagues to walk out of the BJP-led ruling coalition in solidarity with the protesting farmers. The JJP's Karnal district president Inderjit Singh Goraya recently resigned from the party to support the farmers demand for the repeal of the three contentious farm laws. In addition, two JJP legislators have spoken in favour of the agitating farmers and have warned Mr Chautala that the party will pay a heavy price if he does not come out openly against the farm laws. Though JJP cadres are undoubtedly agitated about their party's wishy-washy stand on the farmers' agitation, Dushyant Chautala's unwillingness to share power with his colleagues has also contributed to the rumblings in the JJP. Mr Chautala is heading as many as 10 ministries, which include high-profile portfolios like excise and taxation, industry and commerce and food and civil supplies. There is only one more JJP minister in the Haryana Cabinet,

Anoop Dhanak who holds the inconsequential archeology and museums portfolio. Given the power he wields, it is not surprising that Mr Chautala is in no hurry to snap ties with the BJP.

aced with a revolt by farmers in western Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath Adityanath government has ordered a virtual gag order on its ministers and MLAs. It has been informally conveyed to them that no one other than those authorised by the government should make any public statements or give interviews to the media regarding the farmers' protests. Any MLA or minister violating this "code of conduct" immediately receives a phone call seeking an explanation for his or her transgression. These instructions were issued after several legislators from western Uttar Pradesh failed to come out strongly against the ongoing farmers' agitation, especially BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, and have instead sounded apologetic and conciliatory when questioned by the media about their views on the stir. In fact, an MLA from this region even sidestepped ques-

tions on Mr Tikait's aggressive stand. saying the agitating farmers were like members of his extended family.

hough Congress members have become accustomed to Rahul Gandhi's habit of disappearing for long breaks abroad, there was panic in the party recently when word went round that the Nehru-Gandhi scion had left for Germany. After all, this was in the midst of the Budget Session of Parliament and at the peak of the farmers' protests. Party MPs and other leaders made frantic calls to ascertain the veracity of these reports. Many called up Rahul Gandhi's close aides and one leader even tapped into his contacts at the airport to find out if he had boarded an international flight. There was allround relief when Rahul Gandhi's office confirmed that he was very much in town and that he would be attending Parliament. It is, however, difficult to understand the panic over the Congress leader's disappearance during a Parliament session given the fact that his contributions in the Lok Sabha have been minimal. On the plus side,

Rahul Gandhi has addressed the media several times in recent weeks both in

The security arrangements inside the Parliament House building have been beefed up to such an extent that it is being compared to barricading at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders. In an unprecedented and unusual move, Delhi police personnel have been deployed inside the building along with the Parliament's watch and ward staff. The presence of the police personnel, who have been stationed all along the corridors, is inescapable. As it is, the number of media persons allowed inside has been restricted and even those who have been issued passes are finding it difficult to move around freely. Reporters, who could earlier linger outside the offices of ministers in the hope of getting a tiny bit of news, are now shooed away if they dawdle in the corridors for longer than five minutes. The police personnel randomly stop reporters and

demand to see their passes when it is

known that only passholders can enter the building. Several media-persons have lodged a protest but apologetic security officers maintain they have instructions "from the top" to keep a vigil on them.

t is close to a year since he brought down the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh but former Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, now with the BJP, is out to take revenge against his former colleagues for humiliating him. When ministers were given duties in different constituencies for the Republic Day celebrations, Mr Scindia made sure that his loyalist Govind Rajput was sent to Chhindwara, Kamal Nath's fiefdom. According to the buzz in Bhopal, this was meant to be a message for the veteran Congress leader and his son, who represents the constituency now, that they are on Mr Scindia's radar and that his next target is to uproot them from their stronghold.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based

Editor: Kaushik Mitter, Printer & Publisher: K. Sudhakar, Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27805256 Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234 Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285 Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry: Nemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Ra

IN BRIEF

#### **MODI HAILS COUNTRY'S JUDICIARY**

Ahmedabad, Feb 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday praised the country's judiciary, saying that it has performed its duty well in safeguarding people's rights and upholding personal freedom, and added that it has also strengthened the Constitution.

He said the Supreme Court in India has conducted the highest number of hearings via video-conferencing from among the top courts in the world during the pandemic.

Modi also said that in order to make the country's justice system future-ready, the possi bility of using Artificial Intelligence was being explored. He was speaking after virtually releasing a commemorative postage stamp on the Gujarat High Court for sixty years of its establishment. "Every countryman can say that our judiciary has worked with firmness to uphold our Constitution. Our judiciary has strengthened the Constitution by its positive interpretation," Modi said.

Through constructive and creative interpretation of the Constitution, our judiciary has strengthened the Constitution itself, he added.

"Whether it is to safeguard the rights of citizens, question of personal freedom, or a situation wherein the interest of the country is to be given topmost priority, the judiciary has both understood and fulfilled its responsibilities," he said.

He said the root of good governance is in law, as has been held in the ancient Indian scriptures, he said.

"This idea has been a part of our 'sanskar' since ancient times. This mantra gave moral strength to our freedom struggle, and the makers of our Constitution also gave it top priority," he said. This trust towards the judiciary has given confidence to the common man, given him the strength to stand for truth, Modi said.

# Nadda: People have decided to bid adieu to dynastic rule

Nadda flags off BJP's rath yatra in Bengal; takes on Mamata, nephew

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC with agency inputs KOLKATA, FEB. 6

Flagging off the Bharatiya Janata Party's first ever Rath Yatra calling for 'Parivartan' (change) in poll bound West Bengal a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday predicted that the people of the state have already decided to "bid adieu" to the dynastic rule of chief minister and Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and her MP nephew Abhishek Banerjee to welcome the saffron party in the ensuing Assembly Election.

Mr Nadda led the first of the five Rath Yatras from Chotir Math Ground at Nabadwip in Nadia after he participated in a massive BJP roadshow from Foara More to Rabindranath Tagore stat-

ue and also had lunch with the farmers in Malda. Nadda ate the humble

khichdi seated on the floor with farmers as he reached out to peasants on Saturday.
On a day when farmer

unions have called a 'chakka jam' against three contentious agricultural laws, Nadda reaffirmed the BJP and the Narendra Modi government's commitment to the welfare of the farming community.

Nadda was addressing a rally of farmers during the last phase of the month-long 'Krishak month-long 'Krishak Suraksha Abhiyan' and 'Ek Mutthi Chawal' camwhich he had flagged off in order to mobilise the farming community in the state in favour of the BJP.

Mr Nadda told the farm-



BJP national president J.P. Nadda addresses a rally in Malda on Saturday.

ers at Krishak Suraksha Saha-Bhoj at Sahapur of Malda, "I have an appeal to you all. Now the polls will be held. Say 'Ta Ta' and 'Namaste' to Mamataji. Wherever I go

on a visit nowadays, I find big cut-outs of only two Pishi (aunt) and Bhaipo (nephew). Both are seen standing with folded hands. Mamatadi, people of Bengal have decided to bid adieu to you and Bhaipo. You need to understand this.'

Attacking the ruling TMC, he then sarcastically asked the crowd, "Tell me who is rice thief, who is the tarpaulin thief and who extorts money? You will bloom lotus here to usher development led by the Prime Minister in Bengal.' Mr Nadda, silent on the

nationwide farmers' protests against the three farm laws, also alleged, "Mamatadi meted out a very big injustice to the farmers. PM through his Kishan Samman Nidhi scheme allotted ₹6,000 per year to each farmer for welfare. But Mamatadi, only to satisfy her arrogance and ego, did not allow the implementation of the central scheme, leaving more than 70 lakh farmers deprived here. However when 25 lakhs among the affected farmers sent their applications for the scheme on their own, only then she talked of implementing it." He argued, "Mamatadi,

the election has come. So what is the point in trying to take advantage of what has already been lost! The way farmers and labourers have been deprived, Bengal, under her rule. has slipped to 24th position among the states in the list of 29.

Mocking Ms Banerjee for her allergy to 'Jai Shree Ram' slogan, the BJP chief wondered, "When I talk, 'Jai Shree Ram' slogan is

raised in front of me. Same happened on my way here from the helipad. As I waved my hands at the crowd, I was greeted with 'Jai Shree Ram.' But why does Mamatadi feel so angry about it? Why does she have so much hatred for 'Jai Shree Ram' slogan? What is the problem? Is it wrong to be associated with the Indian culture? Is it wrong to remember the legend? If someone chants the slogan, her face turns red in so much anger. This reflects politics of these people is above the culture. They will not protect culture rather bring it down to serve their political interests.'

It may be recalled that Banerjee had declined to speak at the event to celebrate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary where "Jai Shri Ram" slogans were raised in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra

#### **SOUMEN MITRA NAMED NEW KOLKATA POLICE COMMISSIONER**

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, FEB. 6

The Mamata Banerjee government on Saturday transferred Anuj Sharma from the post of the Kolkata Commissioner replaced him with Soumen Mitra, a Bengali face having previous experience in handling polls with iron hands, in a list of major reshuffle of 24 senior IPS officers, for their completion of a term of three years at the same post or unit, ahead of the Assembly Election.

Incidentally, this is also the second stint for Mr Mitra, who was posted as the ADG for training in the state police in his last assignment, as the Kolkata Police Commissioner. He earlier served the post on the orders of the EC after it removed Rajeev Kumar as the city police chief before the Assembly Election in 2016. While Mr Mitra earned a distinction for ensuring

one of the most peaceful elections in the city with a strict police deployment, the Trinamul Congress supremo, after returning to power for the second consecutive time, however transferred him from the Kolkata Commissioner's post as ADG (Training) and replaced him with Mr Kumar, also her favourite

## N'land govt staff to face action for 'seditious' posts

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, FEB. 6

Nagaland Governor R N Ravi has directed the state chief secretary to initiate criminal proceedings against the state government employees indulging in seditious and subversive writings challenging the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country and posting them on social media.

Referring to one such instance of Dr H Inato Jimomi Naga, serving under the department of animal husbandry and veterinary department, Government Nagaland, the commissioner and secretary to the Governor Mr Mahabemo Yanthan said, "Such act of government servant constitutes serious offences under the penal laws and also gross misconduct under the service conduct rules inviting criminal prosecution and disciplinary action including dismissal from service.

Pointing out that Mr Jimoni's social media post justifying the demand of sovereign Nagaland was still in circulation on media platforms, security sources said that there have been numerous instances in

which state government employees are found to have been voicing separatist sentiment on various platforms.

Asserting that it was not only harming the nationinterest, sources said that such activities of a section of government employees was hampering the development activities of the state as well.

Directing all the heads of the departments to sensitize the state government employees in the regard, the commissioner and secretary to governor in his letter to the state chief secretary said, "I have been directed to request the state government to take serious cognizance of such misconducts and initiate appropriate legal and disciplinary action against the delinquent government

The letter of the governor has also been marked to union home secretary Mr Ajav Kumar Bhalla for necessary action and to check such seditious and subversive acts of state government employ-

State government sources told this newspaper that departmental proceedings have been initiated against the particular officer.

#### **UP ASKS LEGISLATORS TO BUY TABLETS** FOR PAPERLESS BUDGET SESSION

Lucknow, Feb 6: The Uttar Pradesh government has asked members of the state's legislative assembly and council to purchase tablets for a paperless budget session. According to Deputy

Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, each legislator reimbursed ₹50,000 to buy Apple iPads.

It may be noted that there are 403 MLAs and 100 MLCs in the state.

## CLASSIFIEDS KOMPALLY, HYDERABAD, SRC

#### **FOR SALE PROPERTY**

COMMERCIA

yards, JubileeHills 720 yards, Road no.45 1,000, Road No.36 1200 yards & 8200 sft Ground and Mezzanine showroom, Madhapur Main Road Ground Floor 3050 sft, Kondapur main road 1400 yards & Jayabheri 934 yards N/E & Rental income prop-erties 5Cr to 50Cr 9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2021/AT001052)

HIMAYATNAGAR MAIN road side facing office space 863sft in 3rd floor fully furnished, centralized A/C & car parking with tenant com-plete vaastu @ 86 lakhs contact 8555085092 (W/2021/AT000974)

DII SUKHNAGAR KOTHAPET 2Bhk Flat 1000Sft. Ground Floor North Facing, Woodwork, Enterier & Italian Marble Flooring, With Beds & A/C's Ph:6302762628, 9 0 3 0 5 5 7 7 6 6 (HYCL/2021/C02754)

NEW 2 RHK Flat Deluxe construction, East Marredaplly, 1200 sft, w/f, 3rd floor, Car parking, lift, backup. Prime location. Ph:9866286151. (S/2021/C02216)

APARNA AURA Vastu North 3BHK 14th floor 2 CCP Road 79 Jubilee Hills Filmnagar Extn Premium gated community. Swimming ourts All amenities 4years old negotiable. 9000656585 (HYMM/2021/C06539)

READY TO occupy, Brand New emi-Furnished Luxury, 3 BHK flats for sale at Kondapur, near Kims Hospital. 1885 sft. ms Hospital, n:8374174353, 8008222691. (S/2021/IC00162)

ABIDS CHIRAH ALLLANE 3 bed room flat approx 2000sft luxuriously furnished with premium parking 24hrs water complete vaastu fo sale @1,4cr contact 8555085092 (W/2021/AT000973)

#### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

UPPAL, PRIME Padmavati colony, 195 Sqyds, 1200 Sft House for sale, Near Venkateswara Swamy Temple. Contact: 9010202020, 9 7 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 (HYMM/2021/C06611)

GATED COMMUNITY JubileeHills Whisper valley 475 yards, Hitech city 350yards, Gachibowli IVR Hill Ridge 490 yards, Financial District & kokapet surroundings areas, Vessella medows 310 yards, 360yards, Aditya casa grande, Ekta Highland, Eden garden, River edge, and more villas in Gandipet, Tellapur, kollur 8884872389, 9985888511. (W/2021/AT001054)

Luxury Villas, beside Nuziveed Seeds in gated community pro-ject. 2130 to 4130 sft. 4 BHK all modern amenities. Attractive offer till 28th February 2021. Ph:9550155023, 9481260314. BANJARAHILLS ROAD no.1 615 Ph:9550155023, (S/2021/IC00166)

#### INDUSTRIAL LAND MALLAPUR IDA - Available for

Sale 3030 Sq.yds Land with G + 1 Built up 18000 Sqft in Mallapur IDA. Contact 7893460684 from 8 am to 6 pm. (W/2021/AT001026)

#### LAND FOR Sale: 25 Acres Land.

100kms from Hyd- Bangalore NH-44 at Annasagar left 4kms from Highway, with fully developed Mango orchid and Paddy Fields. Dairy Form with plenty of Water for (HYCL/2021/C02723) CLEAR TITLE with cement tiles

fencing 4.18 Acres, East facir Land for sale on Shadnagar 4.18 Acres, East facing Chevella (Proposed Regional Ring Opposite Mission 7799322476. (S/2021/C02232)

JAWAHAR NAGAR (Near) 6 Acres, Prime Agriculture Land, 9Kilo Meter From Sainikouri, Near ECIL. Clear Title. Prime Location Best Investment, Square Bit Suitable For Very Good Suitable For Very Suitable For Ph:8374399578/ Farmhouse. Ph:837439957 (HYMM/2021/C06115)

#### **PLOTS**

BALAPUR 'X'ROAD Commercial Plot in Huda Approved Sri Datta Nagar 309& 365sq.Yds E&W 40&100Ft Roads Rs.48000/- Per Sq.Yd. Srisailam Highway Dasarlapally(v) 1000Sq.Yds E&W Road Gated Community Rs.4500/- Per Sq.Yd Ph:9248089222/ 9246842333. (HYCL/2021/C02732)

BANJARAHILLS 400, 500 North 600 West jubileehills 200 South, 400South KBR park view 500East 600East 717 East 1200East 1500West, Filmnagar 110yards Journalist colony 300 **Nandagirihills** 600North Madhapur kavurihills 500East Gachibowli jayabheri HUDA 934 N/E jubileehills and Banjarahills dependent houses 10Cr to 50Cr. All commercial plots with tenant properties 9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2021/AT001053)

HYDERABAD Medchal Town Near KLR Ventures 18,000/- Per Sqyd, HMDA Plots Developed, Fully Gated Community, Bank Loan available 8886785050 Contact: (HYMM/2021/C06551)

#### ing, Building permission with 9848251027. 6281278739. (W/2021/AT001063)

KALYAN SULOCHANA Gardens Yapral near Indus School, gated community, 291 sq.yds, 46'x57', East facing. Huda approved. Serious buyers only. P h : 9 8 4 9 2 5 3 2 0 7 . (S/2021/IC00161)

#### **REAL ESTATE**

LAND REQUIRED REQUIRED LAND in Acres any

where in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Please contact @ 9246228266 (HYMM/2021/C06644) PLOT REQUIRED

HYDERABAD WANTED plots Yapral, Nagaram, Dammaiguda, Thimmaipalli. Silent Wald, Oorjitha projects, Thumukunta, E.M.E housing society, Shameerpet, Indus Park, Medchal, Dublin and near by. Contact: 8074203475 (R/2021/C00018)

#### REQUIRED

BOMBAY BASE Co wanted to purchase Independent House, Plot (no south facing) 300 to 600 sq.yds, Narayanaguda, Barkatpura, Abids, King-Kothi, Direct owner Contact 9820619555 brokers extremely sorry. Whatsapp 98490-78692 (S/2021/C02227)

BANGALORE BASE company wanted Purchase Independent house/ open plots, 400 sq.yds to 1000 sq.ysd, East facing, North or North East facing Jubileehills & Banjarahills. Land Owners contact: 8123009979 & 8147444747. Broker xtremely sorry. (S/2021/C01959)

#### RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

Building (total 23500 sft) Available for Rent at D.K.Road Ameerpet with parking Each floor 4300 sft for Offices, Colleges, etc. Contact: 8919268453. (B/2021/C00925)

LEASE / RENT: Commercia Ganesh multi Speciality Hospital J.B.Nagar, Beliampally Road, Mancherial. Cont. 8121713253. (R/2021/C00016)

#### FLATS

"ERRAMANZIL Deluxe 3 Bedroom Flat, Attached Bathrooms, 1800 Sft, Cupboards, Marble Flooring, 24hrs Water, Vasthu, Parking near NKM Grand Hotel & "Dwarakapuri Colony" 3 Bedroo Flat 1900 Sft, Drawing, Dining, Cupboards, 24hrs Water, Marble Flooring, Vasthu. Saibaba Temple, Suitable Residence, Company Managers, preferd company lease. Contact "Srilakshmi Estates": 9948284298.

JUBILEE HILLS, Prashasan Nagar, New 3Bhk 1600Sft, 100% Vastu, Panoramic Designer Interior, 24x7 Water, Car Parking. Ph: 9866308389 (HYMM/2021/C06059)

#### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

BANJARAHILLS, ROAD No:12, 5 Bedroom Independent house, 7200 Sft, near Lotuspond, North facing, Lift, servant room, Rent: Rs.2,50,000/- Contact Ag 9849968657. (A/2021/C00557)

JUBILEEHILLS, ROAD No:10, 5 Bedroom 9000 Sft, 1290 Sq. Yds, 2 Servant room, S/E Facing, Lift. Rent: 4 Lacks. Contact Agent: 9849968657. (A/2021/C00558)

#### LEASE

COMMERCIAL

TOLET KONDAPUR alone A grade Building total area 11750sqft stilt plus 4floors each floor 2900soft available for lease Contact 9603121115. (HYMM/2021/C06534) **1**3500 SFT building for

Lease at Nallagandla, opposite to Citizens Hospital Suitable for School, Hostel, Boutique, Hotel. Contact: 9949400004, 9949904477. (B/2021/IC00100)

G+4 (18,000 sft) commer cial building for Lease in Tolichowki, walkable distance from Main Road. Interested parties may contact Kamran 7674987012, 8790364046. (S/2021/IC00158)

#### SITUATION VACANT DOMESTIC

BABY SITTING Aaya (Nanny) USA, must have 10 yrs, Multiple entry Visa & Ready to Travel. Contact Venu Reddy: 9652550999. (A/2021/IC00110)

#### OTHER VACANCIES

LOOKING FOR Retired Army Police Officers to Work in Karimangar. Ph:9959592959.

#### TEACHERS

English & Social for classes 6 to 10 English medium. Interested candidates can mail your resume along with your certificate. Salary bluebells.ms@gmail.com. Correspondent, Blue Bells, Pitlam, Dist: Kamareddy, Telangana. (R/2021/C00017)

#### FINANCE

LOAN FOR High Level Projects & Properties from 10Cr to 1000Cr R.O.I @ 3.5% to 8% with feasible tenure No prepayment. Ct:09884327792. Email: hiriseventuress@gmail.com (CHSD/2021/C00009)

FUNDS IN Crores for High value builders projects indus tries, corporate companies, busi-ness groups, purchase of proper-Educational institutions, takeover loans, No processing fee. Ramalingam Retd 9176058736. (ADVIKA ADS) (S/2021/C02030)

#### MATRIMONIAL

**BRIDE WANTED** CHRISTIAN

WWW.EASYCHRISTIANVIVAH.C OM. RS.365/- For 365 Days First Second &Late Marriages, Lakhs of people are seeing from India &Abroad, No Settlement Fees Phone/ Whatsapp: 9440506441. (HYMM/2021/C05608)

#### COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDES WANTED. Cosmopolitan. 6feet Businessman seprated looking for a understandable partner qualified below 40 years with a good soul For a long term relationship. samar19742020@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C02580)

#### HINDU

USA GREENCARD Handsome Kshtriya Engineer 29 years looking for Doctor or well settled Girl; -no bars; Ph:9849032879. Lakshmi Bureau. (S/2021/C02222)

#### MUSLIM

MUSLIM-SUNNI USA boy- smj invite alliance for their SON working in USA 28yrs/5'-8"/ H1B-visa/MS(usa)/ religious, handsome&fair from highly-edu cated family. looking for doc-tor(MBBS), Hijabi & Namazi girl who follows sunnah, from well educated family. \*\*Only MBBS rl profiles\*\* contact: +91-4 4 1 6 9 3 7 1 3 , syeda.bsu@gmail.com

**AYESHA** MARRIAGES Telangana/ Andhra/ Rayalaseema 27 5'7" BE, MS USA, 27 5'11" BE MS USA, 29 5'10" BE PR Canada 29 5'9" BE MS USA, 32 5'10 Particle MS USA, 28 5'10"
Orthopedic, 28 5'6" General Medicine, 29 5'8" General Medicine, 29 5'8" Orthopedic Seeking Suitable 9392420344. Whatsapp (B/2021/IC00106)

#### TELUGU

SEEKS REDDY Bride: Reddy MBBS, MD (USA), 29yrs, Ht: 5'10' Very fair, working as Doctor in USA, seeking Reddy Doctor Bride, who is doing residency in USA or appearing for USMLE steps or cur-rently doing MBBS in India &interested to do MD in USA. Photos (HYCL/2021/C02670)

#### **GROOM WANTED**

MUSLIM

RSM GIRL Hyderabad 28yrs 5'3" Very Fair MCA SWE Mulesoft Developer 6LPA Prefers Govt/IT/ Banking Officers sadiqsmd11@gmail.com 9 9 5 1 2 5 9 (HYMM/2021/C06205)

SUNNI SYED Girl Muslim B tech

F1visa (USA) Ht:5.5 Dob: 1990 whitish have 1Child 5years old stay vith nana nani Looking for Marriage well settled in USA boy age below35 years free from shirk/ Biddat only USA pic & biodata send only whatsap Ph: 8008777535 (HYMM/2021/C06688)

ANDHRA SM Parents invite alliance for their very fair Daughter 1994, 5'2" MBBS pursuing (Anesthesia) Seeking Boy MD/ MS/ DCH/ DNB/ Orthopedics from Andhra/ Rayalseema Ph:7702150110 9848769103 (B/2021/IC00094)

SM AFFLUENT family invites alliance for their Saudi born Daughter aged 31, pursuing MBA, fair, slim, from Reputed well settled families, profession al Graduates, seeking urgent marriage. Contact Kamran marriage. Contact Kamr 7674987012. (S/2021/IC00159)

SHEERIN MATRIMONIAL All are V.fair B.com 2001 Born B.sc 5'7" 2) 1995 5'5" B.tech IT 3) 1995 5'6" M.A 4) 22 5'3" B.com belongs to Business family 5) 21 B.Pharamacy final year required only well settled Business proposal 6) 1997 5'4"pursuing M.pharmacy 9246201463, 7036660001 info@sheerinmatrimonial.com (W/2021/AT001023)

ANDHRA SM Parents Invite Alliance for Daughter 28, 5'2" MBA, Very fair, beautiful, Boy should be Engineer/ PG, working in India/ Abroad from Andhra/ Rayalaseema/ Telangana family. :9908576169, 9030855437 (B/2021/IC00103) RAYALASEEMA SM Parents

invite alliance for their Daughter 30, 5'2" B. Tech Gazetted Hyderabad (Qula Taken/ No Issue) Seeking Divorce/ Widower/ Unmarried Boy Engineer/ MBA (HR)/ Software/ Governmer Employee without issues Ph: 9849258377 Government (B/2021/IC00105)

#### MARRIAGE BUREAU

LORDS CHRISTIAN marriage bureau for all casts: divorce/ wid-ows/ late marriages Registration Fee Rs.1100/- Office at 16No. Uppal bus-stop, Opp: Blue-sea Hotel behind transformer 2ndfloor Rezimental Bazar Secunderabad. Proprietor Benhur V 9 5 4 2 9 4 3 0 1 (HYMM/2021/C06705)

#### **BUSINESS OFFER**

Basis. Daily, Monthly Payments. Cheques And Agreement (HYMM/2021/C06740)

#### CONSTRUCTION/FABRICATION

#### **BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS**

MS CONSTRUCTION &Interiors. We undertake independent house, villas apartment, all constructions &renovation works along with materials. Architect planning, rior designing with vastu Ph: 9 1 2 1 3 5 2 3 7 6 (HYMM/2021/C06637)

#### CONSULTANCY

SOUTH AFRICA: Critical Skills Visa for Software Professionals Quick Processing time for more 8341493131 9290460404. Malta (Europe) Study @ work with low Tuition fee Éligibility 10th Class only. No IELTS. (HYCL/2021/C02644)

#### DANCE

**DANCE COMPETITION 21 & 28th** April Jr & Sr. kindly interested per 9346022255 contact 7981353696. Winners get an opportunity in Badhyatha movie for songs and acting characters. Free of cost. C.K.S. Entertainment

#### Banner. (S/2021/C02220) EDUCATIONAL

CAREER/ENTRANCE COURSES

ONE-SITTING / Fasttrack: Graduations (All), Post-Graduations (All), PG Diplomas, Polytechnic Secondary (10th) & Senior Secondary (12th), Provided Online results & Online verifications, Eligible for Private & Ph:9912540011 7337291133, www.hyderc.com (A/2021/IC00109)

#### DISTANCE EDUCATION

ONLY FOR Educational Consultants/ Academies. No Advance Fee. Students please no call. Contact for Verifiable +Fast Graduation (15,000)/ B.Ed. -NCTE-Recognised (30000)/BBA-MBA-M C A (20-25,000) from Government University.WES Documentation Support Available. 47-years Experience. Educational Bharti. Mobile:9519759663, 9915103781. shikshabharti88@yahoo.com (HYMM/2021/C06690)

#### **EDUCATIONAL**

WANTED INVESTORS On Profit Sharing Or Interest Basis. Daily, Monthly Payments.

Basis. Daily, Monthly Payments.

Basis. Daily, Monthly Payments. Polytechnic. ANM/GNM/ DPT/BPT/ DMLT/BMLT/ X-Ray Technician/ Dental Technician/ MPHW/Ph.D. WES/IQAS-Applying.
Attestations For all Countries
Ph:7981597599 "Certificate Possible". Ph:7981597599/ 7981598278. "Limra Institutions."

#### (HYMM/2021/C06368) **HOME SERVICE**

REQUIRE HINDI speaking live-in female staff single/ widow as housemaid or Couple a BanjaraHills Hyderabad for the house hold / domestic work. Free accomodation. 9885551068 (W/2021/AT001012)

#### KENNAL BEAGLE PUPPIES beautiful tri colour with good marking quality. Male for sale. Second Vaccination

& Devarming done. Con 9866154449 (S/2021/C02208) **PACKERS & MOVERS** S.K.PACKERS & Movers are here to pack & move house-hold goods, cars & industrial, all over India & local also. www.skpackersandmovers.com

Dial: 9948822826 8686337778

Contact

#### skpackers7@gmail.com (L/2021/IC00009) TUITION

GURUSAI Experienced ACADEMY Teachers I-XII all subjects, All Syllabus, Inter (M.P.C) (Bi.P.C) (C.E.C), IIT, NEET, B.Com, B.Tech

Subjects, Languages Computers, Spoken English, Welcome Tutors. Ph:9985060098. (A/2021/C00560) Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while esponding to advertisements

#### Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of

Deccan Chronicle Holdings

n these columns.

Ltd. shall not be held respon ble / liable for any cons quences, in case such claims are found to be false.

#### Chronicle **BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED**

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS at KARIMNAGAR

H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhutkur Road ugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 9000650508

e-mail: krmadvt@deccanmail.com 9121183123

IN BRIEF

#### **TWO SUMATRAN TIGERS ESCAPE INDONESIAN ZOO**

Pontianak, Indonesia, Feb. 6: A critically endangered Sumatran tiger was shot dead on Saturday while another is still on the loose after they escaped from a zoo on Borneo island, leaving a zookeeper dead, an official said.

The tigers, both female and about 18 months old, escaped from Sinka Zoo in the town of Singkawang, West Kalimantan late Friday after days of torrential rain caused a landslide and opened a tunnel allowing their exit. A 47-year-old zookeeper was found dead with scratches and bite wounds on his body. Authorities also found dead a cassowary, ostrich and monkey near the tiger cage. Police and conservation officials were immediately dispatched to search for the tigers. Nearby tourism attractions were ordered to close and locals were told to stay at home while police searched

#### **THREE CLIMBERS MISSING ON K2 MOUNTAIN**

Islamabad, Feb. 6: Three climbers have gone missing attempting to summit the world's second-highest mountain, K2, their expedition manager and the Alpine Club of Pakistan said Saturday.

Climbers John Snorri from Iceland, Juan Pablo Mohr from Chile and Muhammad Ali Sadpara from Pakistan reportedly lost contact with base camp on Friday.

'It's already been more than 30 hours, we (at base camp) have received no news of John Snorri, Ali Sadpara, and Juan Pablo Mohr, since none of the GPS trackers seem to be working", Chhang Dawa Sherpa,

expedition manager, said. An army helicopter has conducted a search flight for the missing climbers, Sherpa said in a separate statement.

"Unfortunately, they cannot trace anything and the condition up in the mountain and even at the base camp is getting poor", he said. News of the missing men comes a day after a Bulgarian mountaineer was confirmed to have died on K2.

He is the third mountaineer to die on K2's slopes this year, after a Spanish climber fell to his death last month. Russian-American Alex Goldfarb also died on a nearby mountain during an acclimatising mission in January. A team of Nepali climbers made history on K2 last month when they became the first to scale it in winter.

# Will reverse Myanmar coup, says UN

'Absolutely essential' to carry out UNSC's calls for a return to democracy, asserts Secy-Gen Guterres

United Nations, Feb. 6: Secretary-General Anton-io Guterres pledged Frid-ay that the United Nations will do everything it can to unite the international community and create conditions for the military coup in Myanmar to be

reversed.
The UN chief told a news conference it is "absolutely essential" to carry out the Security Council's calls for a return to democracy, respect for the results of the November parliamentary elections, and release of all people detained by the military, "which means the reversal of the coup that took place." "It is absolutely essential that that moves forward, and for that, I believe, we need to have all possible areas of pressure to make it hap-

pen," Guterres said.

Myanmar's military announced Monday on the eve of the meeting of new Parliament that it will take power for one year, accusing leader Aung San Suu Kyi's government of not investigating allegations of voter fraud in the November elections, where its party did poorly. It detained Suu Kyi, whose party swept that vote, and other lawmakers, activists, journalists and mem-



A protester gives bouquets of flowers to a line of riot police during a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon on Saturday.

bers of civil society. The election commission

had refuted the military's allegations. In its first statement following the military's takeover on Thursday, the Security Council "stressed the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes, refrain from violence, and fully respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

It also "emphasised the need for the continued support of the democratic transition in Myanmar. Guterres said Christine Schraner Burgener, the

FEB 19THRELEASE

UN special envoy for My anmar had a first contact Friday with the military since the coup and expressed the UN's strong oppo-

sition to the takeover.
According to UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric, she reiterated to Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice

Gen. Soe Win "the secretary-general's strong condemnation of the militar-y's action that disrupted the democratic reforms that were taking place in the country.'

Schraner Burgener also reiterated her call for the immediate release of all detainees and emphasised the need for progress on the safe and voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees, Dujarric said, calling it "an impor-tant conversation." More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh since August 2017, when the military launched a clearance oper-ation in response to attacks by a rebel group. The security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and the burning of thousands of homes.

A year ago, the UN's top court, the International Court of Justice, ordered Myanmar to do all it can to prevent genocide against the Rohingya, a Muslim minority. Guterres said Schraner Burgener is also in contact with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Brunei, which chairs the 10-nation regional group, including

# Myanmar junta blocks net access

NETBLOCKS, A LOND-ON-BASED service that **Yangon, Feb. 6:** Myanmar's new military authorities appeared to have cut tracks internet disrupmost access to the tions and shutdowns, said Internet on Saturday as Saturday afternoon that they faced a rising tide of "a near-total internet protest over their coup that toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's elected civilian shutdown is now in effect" in Myanmar, with government. Numerous connectivity falling to just internet users noted a 16% of normal levels. slow disappearance of services, especially from mobile service providers, that accelerated sharply ment order to block Twitter and Instagram that late Saturday morning. said some people were Broadband connection also later failed, while trying to use the platforms to spread what it deemed fake news. there were mixed reports on whether landline tele-phone service was still

been blocked earlier in the week — though not completely effectively. The communication blockages are a stark reminder of the progress Myanmar is in danger of losing after Monday's coup plunged the nation back under direct military rule after a nearly decade-long move toward greater

Facebook had already

The broad outage followed Friday's govern-

Netblocks, a London-based service that tracks

internet disruptions and

shutdowns, said Saturday afternoon that "a near-

total internet shutdown is

now in effect" in Myanm-

ar, with connectivity fal-

ling to just 16% of normal

openness and democracy.

### Rana attorney: No hint India let go **Headley extradition**

There is no indication that India has given up on the extradition of David Coleman Headley, Mumbai terror attack accused, attorney of his co-accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana has told a US court. Rana, 59, a child-hood friend of Headley,

is facing extradition request by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in 166 people, including six ricans, were killed. Rana, who has been declared a fugitive by

India, is opposing his extradition. In a submission early this week before the US District Court Judge in Los Angeles Jacqueline Chelonian, opposing his extradition, the attorney of nations.

Washington, Feb. 6: Rana claimed that as of now there is no indication in the record that India has agreed to forgo Headley's extradition to India. "India presumably could have agreed to forgo Headley's extra-dition in return for his assistance to the US, but there is no indication in the record that it did so,' the court submission

"In fact, the opinion of the Indian prosecutor serving as the government's expert states: The present opinion is specific to the extradition request in respect of fugitive Tahawwur Hussain Rana. This opinion may not be construed in any manner to indicate that the various extradition requests pending with different sovereign

G. DHANANJAYAN



# U.S. Sec. Blinken presses China on Uighurs, HK

Washington, Feb. 6: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken pressed Beijing on its treatment of Uighurs, Tibetans and Hong Kong while China defended its policies in the first conversation between top officials of the two powers since President Joe Biden took

"I made clear the US will defend our national interests, stand up for our democratic values, and hold Beijing accountable for its abuses of the international system," Blinken said on Twitter of his call with senior Chinese official Yang Jiechi.

Blinken told Yang that the United States "will continue to stand up for human rights and democratic values, including in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong," a State Department statement said of the call, which took place on Friday Washington time.

Blinken also "pressed China to join the international community in condemning the military coup in Burma," it said, using the former name of

Myanmar. The top US diplomat said the United States would hold Beijing "accountable for its efforts to threaten stability in the Indo-Pacific, including across the Taiwan Strait, and its undermining of the rulesbased international sys-tem." The tough tone comes after Blinken in his confirmation hearing said he would continue former president Donald Trump's approach to China in a rare

agreement

#### **BIDEN'S SON PENS MEMOIR OF SURVIVAL**

New York, Feb. 6: US President Joe Biden's son Hunter will come out with his memoir of addiction, loss and survival on April

"Beautiful Things" will be Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. "I come from a family forged by tragedies and bound by a remarkable, unbreakable love," Hunter, a lawyer, writes. The book details his descent into substance abuse and his tortuous path to sobriety. Holly Harris, publishing director (non-fiction) at Simon & Schuster UK, acquired UK and Commonwealth rights from Caspian Dennis at Abner Stein on behalf of Laura Nolan and David at Granger Aevitas

"This book is an extraor-dinary accomplishment — as gripping as it is courageous. I cannot wait to pub-

between the two administrations.

the call that Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet were "China's internal affairs" and "no external forces are allowed to interfere," urging the US to "correct mis-





#### INDIAN TOP 10 BESTSELLERS

#### **NON-FICTION**

**GHALIB: A WILDERNESS** AT MY DOORSTEP: A **CRITICAL BIOGRAPHY** Mehr Afshan Farooqi Allen Lane, ₹799

THE BATTLE OF BELONGING Shashi Tharoor Aleph, ₹799

A PROMISED LAND Barack Obama Penguin Viking, ₹1,999

BY MANY A HAPPY **ACCIDENT: RECOLLECTIONS** OF A LIFE M. Hamid Ansari Rupa, ₹795

THE PRESIDENTIAL **YEARS 2012-2017** Pranab Mukherjee Rupa, ₹695

THE TALE OF THE HORSE: A HISTORY OF **INDIA ON HORSEBACK** Yashaswini Chandra Pan Macmillan, ₹699

REMNANTS OF A **SEPARATION** Aanchal Malhotra HarperCollins

THE LANGUAGE OF O HISTORY: SANSKRIT **NARRATIVES OF MUSLIM POETS Audrey Truschke** Penguin Allen Lane, ₹699

**JUGALBANDI: THE BJP** BEFORE MODI Vinay Sitapati Penguin Viking, ₹799

VAJPAYEE: THE YEARS THAT **CHANGED INDIA** Shakti Sinha Penguin Vintage, ₹599



Career diplomat **HAMID ANSARI**, who rose to become Vice-President of India, in which capacity he served from 2007 to 2017, in a conversation with ASHHAR

KHAN over his just-released book *By Many A Happy Accident*, and the many controversies surrounding it

What was the idea or inspiration behind writing your autobiography?

Well, it was nothing, actually. I was not too keen but my children and my friends said that I should write as I had a diverse life. So, one fine day, I started writing and kept on writing. I had sent it to the publisher in last March but due to Covid-19 it will be formally launched only now. The book is a recollection from memory.

You have had run-ins with the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi? Could you explain?

There was no run-in. Everybody has got it wrong. I had met Mr Modi for the first time when he was the Gujarat chief minister in 2007 and he came to congratulate me on my election. I asked him a question about the post-Godhra issue. I recorded his reply. As PM he came to my room unannounced. Though meetings between the PM and the VP are not abnormal, they are unannounced. spoke about bills getting stuck and I replied that Mr Jaitley had been a witness to that during UPA times. I did not agree to pass the bills in

being canned. Writer Bimal

Waheeda was wearing a tra-

ditional Bengali sari. But

there was another big sur-

prise in store for everyone

during the lunch. The crew

at the Guru Dutt studios saw

Guru Dutt, Geeta Dutt and

Waheeda Rehman eating

A curious Bimal Mitra asked Geeta, 'Hello! Good to

see you. Never seen you in

launched today, so I came,

Guru Dutt interrupted, 'No.

Waheeda didn't know how

'How am I looking?' asked

'Am I looking like a Bengali

'Hundred per cent!' replied

to tie a Bengali style sari, so I

asked Geeta to tell her.'

'The film was being

the studio before?'

I have called Geeta.

replied Geeta.

Waheeda.

'Very good.'

Bimal Mitra.



not happy with that. Then Mr Modi asked about Rajya Sabha TV. I said I have no role in it and there is a committee that takes care of it. On my retirement, he said something in the morning and I replied to him, and in the evening he spoke differently. Now, why he changed his tone I do not know, but neither did I try and find out. I have normal relations with him. He has his own views and I have my own; that's all.

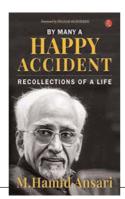
You have been a diplomat in important places like Australia, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Afghanistan. Would it be correct to say that the prestige of India has

increased post 2014? No. That is actually not correct. I have been around in the 1980s and the 1990s, mostly as an ambassador of India. The image of India was always high in political terms. India was an important country as a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement and it also played an important role in the councils of the world. Post economic reforms in 1992, India's economic capacities were being looked at afresh. When I was Ambassador in Saudi Arabia around 1996, I noticed that India was being looked upon as a market where invest-ments can be made. One day, two senior officers of the oil company, Aramco, came to me for seeking visas. They wanted to establish a product experimental centre in India. The other centre was in Houston. Finally, they set up the centre in Vadodara. This hugely changed the perception of political relations. Since 2000, perceptions have changed and India is viewed as a political, economical and military force.

ically, we have handled China well, considering all the action at the LAC? A structure was put in place

Do you feel that, diplomat-

in 1993-94 and during the UPA government's tenure, which had a two-pronged approach.



**BY MANY A HAPPY ACCIDENT: RECOLLECTIONS OF A LIFE** 

By M. HAMID ANSARI

One that we have to keep talking to find a solution to the boundary problem, as there existed different perceptions. This made sure that there was no active conflict or blow-up. That worked very well. We exchanged visits. A great deal of trade was taking place. The full story of Doklam or Galwan will not be known. Probably, someone will write it someday. But there was a skirmish and, in Galwan, it went out of hand. In spite of that the perception on both sides is to keep talking. Talking will yield results. I don't think both are interested in starting a war. But, yes, something did go wrong in Galwan. Both states realise that we are big neighbours, and that cannot be wished away.

In the last couple of years, do you think that there is a concerted effort to attack minorities under the garb of legal sanction, like love jihad, anti-conversion law,

It's all there. It is true, but my thing is that you cannot travel on that path in this country. That is my firm belief. The diversity of this country is a fact of life that you just cannot undo. Identity is a very important factor in any society. And it's multiple identities in this case. Yes, all that you asked in your question is true as a political agenda that is being spread in a crass manner. It may trouble people for the time being, but it just cannot go

One of the predominant

themes in your book is equality before law, justice. Do you think this is happening in present-day India?

Yes, I see everything. The simple thing is, one should read the copy of the preamble. One should read it. It says equality, justice and fraternity. I have hinted in my hook that we should take lessons from the experiences of other diverse societies in our own times. Accommodation and fraternity is very important for the well-being of the country, and the foundation of this country is based on

Do you think governments that have brute majorities use Parliament as a post office?

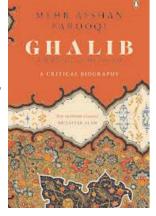
That is very unfortunate thing because the system of government of a parliamentary democracy rests on four pillars, and the Parliament or legislature is one of them. The Parliament has to do its work. Thirty years ago, the House would meet for 100 days, and now it is barely 60 days. This means, the Parliament is not doing enough work. The question is why this should be allowed. It is within the rights of members to say that they want more sittings. But they just want to sign on the attendance register and leave. State legislatures are even Standing Committee is a very good system as all parties are represented. The money bill technique of passing laws is also an aberration, which has been tried in the recent past.

# inable wealth to the area. Barely a few minutes from the beach and close

**BEAUTIFUL PLACE** 

By **AMANTHI HARRIS** 

# 'Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam is the story of our lives'



#### **FICTION**

**SHUGGIE BAIN** Picador, ₹499

THE DISCOMFORT OF EVENING Marieke Lucas Riineveld Faber & Faber, ₹499

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni HarperCollins, ₹599 A TIME FOR MERCY

THE LAST QUEEN

John Grisham Hodder & Stoughton

**WRITERS & LOVERS** Lily King Picador, ₹699

**HOMELAND ELEGIES** Avad Akhtar. Tinder Press, ₹1,050

THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY Matt Haig Canongate UK, ₹699

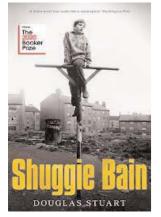
Maggie O' Farrell Tinder Press, ₹599 WHAT THE BODY REMEMBERS

Shauna Singh Baldwin

Tara- India Research

**HAMNET** 

DAYLIGHT David Baldacci Pan Macmillan ₹650



Bahrisons, New Delhi

excerpt January 1961, the shoot-The women were referring ing of Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam began with an to each other as Geeta Ji and Waheeda Ji. Post lunch, auspicious *muhurat* ceremony. The first shot was Guru and Waheeda left for the shot. Bimal Mitra and

Yasser Usman

Mitra was invited again from table. Calcutta to grace the momen-Mitra asked Geeta, 'How did you like the shooting?" tous occasion. Guru Dutt had Geeta replied, 'It was good! shaved his trademark moustache to play Bhootnath. He There was a time when I had appeared super excited. Then asked him not to make this film.'
'Why?' there was Waheeda Rehman who was playing the charac-'Because, Sahib Bibi Aur ter of the Bengali girl, Jaba.

Ghulam is the story of our

Geeta were left alone at the

he accounts of most of Guru Dutt's close friends suggest that during the making of *Sahib*, Bibi aur Ghulam, Guru Dutt and Geeta had grown further apart. They had realised that their marriage was not working. Geeta Dutt too had taken to alcohol and sleeping pills majorly and left the Pali Hill bungalow to live in his moth-

er's house.

Johnny Walker used to say, Studio ke darwaaze aur ghar ke darwaaze mein jitna sukhi rakhoge, rahogey. Nahi to ghar mein kaam ki baatein hongi aur studio *mein ghar ki baatein* Tum confuse ho jaaoge ki tum aa rahe ho ya ja rahe ho. And you'll pay a price for it and it's very very costly. Nobody can afford it.'

swallowed thirty-eight sleep-ing pills. It was his second attempt at suicide.

Tt was an overdose of sleeping pills. We rushed Lhim to Nanavati Hospital but his condition was very serious. His body had gone completely cold. He was unconscious for three days. Then on the fourth day we heard his scream. My brother was shouting. The first person he asked for was Geeta. It was strange because their relationship was going through hell. They were thinking of separation but in those moments, he wanted Geeta to be near him. I think they deeply loved each other despite their major differences,' Lalitha Lajmi told this author.

But she says Guru Dutt never talked about the reason why he tried to end his life. 'Sometimes if there was an altercation with Geeta he used to call me. I would rush to him even in the middle of the night. But he would sit quietly, not say anything. I felt he wanted to say some-thing. But he never did. Never.

A person who attempted suicide twice yet never talked about it with his familv. It was as if through these suicide attempts, Guru Dutt was crying for help. On the doctor's suggestion, the family called a psychiatrist for counselling. 'I was much younger than him and in those days no one really talked about such things. We also called a psychiatrist but he charged Rs 500 for a visit. My brother Atma laughed

Then one night, Guru Dutt that he was just talking with no exception. I have already Guru and he is so expensive. We never called him again,' said Lalitha, adding that sometimes she blames her-self for not doing enough for her brother.

But apperently there were numerous other times that Guru Dutt experimented with sleeping pills. Screenwriter Nabendu Ghosh recounts, 'Let me tell you about a doctor whose name was A.J. Ribero, a very stubborn man. He was an MBBS, and a sweet-spoken doctor, who had [his] clinic in Santa Cruz. Ribero was a general physician. Because of Ribero's goodwill, all affluent people of Santa Cruz, Khar and Bandra would visit him. Especially all those who were associated with films. Famous film personalities like Filmistaan's Shashadhar Mukherjee, Sen, Aurobindo

Samanta, etc. Guru Dutt was **GURU DUTT: AN** 

**UNFINISHED STORY** By YASSER USMAN **S&S India**, ₹599

Dutt's Pali Hill home for discussions. One morning, I reached his house and found out that the situation was tense. I saw Dr Ribero, going inside the bedroom and coming out every two or three minutes with a tense look on his face. I asked, "What's up, doctor?" Dr Ribero said, "Guru took sleeping pills, he's still not coming back to his senses, I have been trying for half an hour, Geeta is crying." But about five minutes later, Dr Ribero came out of the room, sat down on the chair and said, "Thank god,

he's now conscious. Then again one day, about three months later, I saw a similar situation at their house. I asked Dr Ribero, Now what has happened? Ribero said, "Today Debi [Geeta] is unconscious. She took a lot of sleeping pills. Guru is sitting quietly. I will wait for another ten minutes. If she doesn't recover, I'll be forced to call the police." But five minutes later, Geeta came back to her senses.

Lalitha Lajmi says, 'Later he went into depression then slowly his entire personality went down. He kept to himself and became very lonely. Guru Dutt just wanted to run away from Bombay. An escape from the city, studio, family life. To anywhere. He couldn't sleep in Bombay. His constant refrain was: 'I think I will go crazy.

Excerpted from Guru Dutt: An Unfinished Story (2020, Simon & Schuster India) with permission from the

### A CLEVER & FUNNY TALE OF A MONK IN PLAGUE-STRUCK ENGLAND

**Anthony Cummins** 

review

n an essay for *Prospect* a few years back the writer Leo Benedictus noticed how many contemporary novels used what he called a "hindered" narrator: that is, a protagonist (often a child) whose partial understanding of their world forces us to read between the lines. Unreliable narrators set out to deceive. By contrast, hindered narrators — such as the trapped five-year-old in Emma Donoghue's *Room* – genuinely believe what they tell you: it's all they know.

As in *Room*, a hindered narrator can supply drama and pathos, but the Order of Odo,

it's handy for farce, too, Christopher Wilson knows well. He likes to write about science biting off more than it can chew (literally, in 1987's *Baa*, about a fin-de-siecle biologist who gets into cannibalism), and he's especially interested the interface between naivety and pretension: with . Wilson, a little learning goes a catastrophically

way. It's a theme he revisits in his latest novel, a scatological comedy of errors narrated by young Brother Diggory, of

urdv urdu Christopher

**HURDY GURDY** By **CHRISTOPHER WILSON** Faber, £14.99

as who is desperate to get laid during the Black Death. As the sole survivor of an outbreak at his monastery, he superspreads his way through a ragtag bunch of bandits, bailiffs, pilgrims and prostitutes on a picaresque road trip that brings undreamt-of liberation to this meatavoiding celibate, previously permitted to laugh only on feast days. The effect is a little like

> Adrian Mole. Much of the humour resembles the amputation scene in Madame Bovary, in which the stable boy with a clubfoot gets his leg clumsily sawn off after bungled advice by puffed-up professionals.

Diggory, once schooled by an older monk in the ways of 'piss-prophecy (drinking a patient's urine), finds in demand as a medic, recounting his ensuing adventures in gynaecology and neurosurgery with alarming deadpan.

This boisterous, bubo-busting muckfest would probably have felt more of an oddity were it not for the timeliness conferred by - well, don't make me type it. A strangely dangling sub-thread involves the ability of the founder of Diggory's monastery to foretell the rise of an 'orange-faced king, Small Hands with straw-yellow hair wound round his head like a helmet'. Cheap, no doubt; but I guess it's true that, 700 vears hence, if there's even anyone around, our own notions may come to seem as laughably outlandish as anything Diggory gets up to here.

By arrangement with the Spectator

## Privilege-bound but absorbing study of rural Sri Lanka



Devapriya Roy

ilwatte Beach, somewhere off the coast of southern Sri Lanka, is a beautiful place. The sea, "with its yearning rising green-blue swell and the deep-blue simmering stillness of horizon" crashes upon a languorous beach that is dotted with shacks selling beer and fish, peopled with a few foreign (mostly white) tourists or posh Sri Lankans the sort who favour scrappy holidays over fivestar comfort that they can certainly afford — lounging on beach chairs, gazing at the sunset. Around them hover a smattering of local villagers, selling "marijuana, magic mushrooms, lottery tickets, trips to turtle conservation beaches". The economy — and as a consequence, the culture — of the village has been permanently disrupted by the rise of tourism, and the villagers cannot decide if their longing for the outsiders' money outstrips their loathing of the same people, who bring their peculiar morals, tastes, and the stench of their unimag-

enough to the village stands Hibiscus Villa, the

site of most of the action. The beating heart of A m a n t h i Harris's debut novel Beautiful Place, Hibiscus Villa is reminiscent of the regal mansions in coconut estates of yore. With its pillars, clay-tiled roofs and profusion of trees, it is now an upper crust guest house run by Padma, the beguiling protagonist. A daughter of

that very village,

Salt, £12.99 Padma had been brought to the villa by her

greedy father, Sunny, a hustler with criminal tendencies, when she was still a child, as an offering to Gerhardt, the brilliant Austrian architect who had designed it. Sunny had no compunctions about what the foreigner might demand of the child as long as he made a quick buck off it, but horrified at the future that awaited a child with such a parent, Gerhardt adopted Padma, and subsequently brought her up in the villa as a single parent. Content with regular pay outs, Sunny and his family did not bother them further. However, now that Padma has returned to Nilwatte again, to run this business - she hated her time at university in Colombo and failed the exams — Sunny, now the henchman of a powerful politician, tries his best to reclaim her.

A deeply absorbing novel of the old school, Beautiful Place is strongest when it portrays the worlds that the author is familiar with: the peoe who come to the guest house (handsome Rohan, who has emerged from the wreckage of a messy divorce; sassy Ria, looking to reclaim a childhood home she was nostalgic about; runaway lovers Anjali and Dan; and later, in pursuit, Anjali's conservative parents), the architect and single parent Gerhardt, the dancerturned-yoga guru-turned-controversial-writer Jarryd — both expats who have made Sri Lanka their home — and Ruth, Gerhardt's old flame and doyenne of Colombo high society. They are all competently crafted characters, interesting, alive, their lives and worlds rich with detail. As Padma's story intersects with that of her guests, the point of view shifts from one character to the other, introducing a delicious sense of variety as we see people from different perspectives.

Where the novel enters a somewhat sinister space is when it steps out of the villa, as it naturally must. Around the idyll of Villa Hibiscus helping the guests heal and come to terms with their own burdens - is the shadowy space of the village, now firmly overshadowed by a vicious strain of politics. Like in other parts of the world, the tide of chauvinistic identity politics is on the rise in Sri Lanka too, and as Jarryd falls into the sinister crosshairs of right-wing Singhalese extremists, the lives of Padma and Gerhardt are set to change forever too.

However, the author's depiction of the slippery world of the village, where nothing as it at seems and no one speaks the truth, standing in the darkening twilight of the sea, leaves us with a sense of complex unease. Part of it must be deliberate on the author's part, given that her main characters all — except for the cook, Soma — occupy a liberal upper-class ecosystem that is invariably a rift or three apart from the world of the village, and would be exhausted by the seesawing servility and hostility of the people. But as Sunny's web darkens, he assumes almost comic book villain proportions. While we understand the author's deeper critique of rural Sri Lanka, we also feel our inability to truly access the inner life of the village as we do the Villa, as a failure of sorts, not of imagination but of the proclivities that tie us so deeply to the world of the Villa.

> Devapriya Roy is the author of five books, most recently Friends from College



**FAST FACT:** The later Sherlock Holmes stories by Arthur Conan Doyle (the last one published in 1927) remain under copyright in the US. When Netflix's Enola Holmes based on the YA series written by Nancy Springer was released last year, the estate

argued that the film had infringed copyright by depicting a warmer and more emotional version of Holmes. The case was eventually dismissed.



SHORT TAKES

#### **BCCI one-dayers** from February 20

New Delhi: The BCCI will be organising the Vijay Hazare Trophy (domestic one-dayers) from February 20 to March 14 across six cities, with the teams entering the bio-secure bubble from February 13 in order to undergo three Covid tests. BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Saturday released the schedule with Surat, Indore, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Jaipur being five of the six venues. Eight Plate Group teams will be playing their matches in Tamil Nadu. As per the BCCI protocol, the players will undergo three RT-PCR tests in their respective bio-bubble and three more on arrival before the start of the knock-out stages (pre quarterfi-nals) from March 7. According to the BCCI notification. Elite Group 'A' will comprise Gujarat, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Tripura, Baroda, Goa. - PTI

#### **Stokes all praise** for captain Joe

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 6

Ben Stokes said Joe Root made him "feel rubbish" during their stand of 124 runs against India on Saturday. "That's pretty much where he is at the moment. He makes everyone around him not look very good. He is an amazing player and am not sure we have ever had an England player play spin so well, with such control, such ease," said Stokes.
"He is so consistent. He has a

game plan for all types of spin, he further added

Having lost their previous Test that was played in Chennai in 2016 despite scoring 477 in the first innings, Stokes knows the importance of scoring big in the subcontinent.

Printed and Published from Karimnagar by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhutkur Road, Mugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 Telangana State Regd. No. H/SD-2/2K RNI Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121181123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter Printed and Published from

# DOUBLE ROOT Pak increase lea against Proteas

### Joe slams double ton as England make India toil

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, FEB. 6

Joe Root has an insatiable appetite for scoring runs. And it goes up a notch when the England skipper takes guard in India and Sri Lanka where he averages in the mid 60s. Close on the heels of notching up a double hundred and a 186 in Sri Lanka, on Saturday, Root feasted on Indian bowlers for another big knock.

His stroke-filled 218 that steered England to 555/8 (180 overs) in the first innings of the opening Test here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium has put him on a high pedestal. Of the many firsts he achieved on Saturday, he would defi-nitely cherish the feat of becoming the highest individual scorer in a 100th Test.

Continuing from where he left off on the opening day, Root found another able ally in Ben Stokes (82) and forged a century stand to give impetus to a huge total. England have made it clear that they will bat, at least, for one more hour on day three. Having made a quiet start, Stokes pulled off a

surprise when he popped his 16th ball back over R. Ashwin's head for a six. That shot sparked the day's play into life. Stokes also enjoyed some luck. He was dropped twice in the next two overs — once by Ashwin, off his own bowling, and then by Cheteshwar Pujara, off Shahbaz Nadeem. The dangerous Stokes eventually fell to left-arm spinner Nadeem after mistiming a slog sweep. This time, Pujara, stationed at deep backward square leg, held on to the ball



Exhibiting great technique and temperament, Root brought up his double ton in style by charging down and launching Ashwin over long on for a six. He became the first England player to do it with a big hit.

India heaved a huge sigh of relief when Nadeem's quicker delivery crashed into Root's pads. The England skipper reviewed instantly, but the third umpire upheld the on-field decision, ending Root's marathon 377-

walked back, drenched in sweat, Kohli was the first to applaud his effort with a pat on his back.

Playing a long innings in Chennai's humid conditions is not easy. Root has left a lasting impression by making the highest individual score for a visiting batsman surpassing Aussie Dean Jones' 210.

Indian bowlers who slogged through the day found some solace in the final session by taking wickets.

Sharma bowled his heart out. The pacer's persistent line and length finally earned him rewards. He castled Jos Buttler (30) and Jofra Archer (0) off consecutive balls.

fact Washington Sundar and Nadeem, who shared 70 overs between them, could manage only six maidens highlighted their lack of control. As many as 19 no-balls and a few dropped catches — Rohit Sharma dropped a India's cause either.

#### **SCORECARD**

England 1st Innings (overnight 128/3): Rory Burns c Pant b Ashwin 33, Dominic Sibley Ibw b Bumrah 87, Daniel Lawrence Ibw b Bumrah 0, Joe Root Ibw b Nadeem 218, Ben Stokes c Pujara b Nadeem 82, Ollie Pope Ibw b Ashwin 34, Jos Buttler b Ishant 30, Dominic Bess batting 28, Jofra Archer b Ishant O, Jack Leach batting 6. Extras (b-2, lb-16, nb-19) 37. **Total (for 8 wkts in** 180 overs) 555. FoW: 63-1, 63-2, 263-3, 387-4, 473-5, 477-6, 525-7, 525-8.

**Bowling:** Ishant Sharma 27-7-52-2, Jasprit Bumrah 31-4-81-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 50-5-132-2, Shahbaz Nadeem 44-4-167-2, Washington Sundar 26-2-98-0, Rohit Sharma 2-0-7-0.

#### **NUMBERS GAME**

 Joe Root became the first bats-man to score a double century in his 100th Test match. He achieved this feat by making 218 on the second day of the first Test against India in Chennai on

against including against including against including against including a Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq, who had posted 184 against India at Bangalore in 2004-05 in his 100th Test match, held the previ-Root's 218 was his fifth double

century in 182 innings of 100 Test matches. With this double hundreds he became England's third and 16th batsman overall to score five or more double hundreds in

lests.

Root also became the first captain after 84 years to register a hat-trick of 150-plus scores in Test cricket. The England captain became only second skipper after legendary Don Bradman to achieve the feat. Australia's Bradman was the first captain to notch up three successive 150plus scores in Test way back in 1937.

Root had scored 228 and 186 in his previous two Tests in Sri Lanka. He is the 7th player to make 150-plus runs in three consecutive Tests as he joins an elite list including New Zealand's Tom Latham, Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (4 consecutive Tests)
Pakistan's Mudassar Nazar and Zaheer Abbas, Bradman, and

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

# Pak increase lead

lower order increased Pakistan's lead to 200 runs against South Africa on the third day of the second and final Test on Saturday. Allrounder

Ashraf and Mohammad Rizwan were dropped off successive deliveries before featuring in a 52-run sixth-wicket stand which guided the home team to 129-6 in the second innings at stumps.
Rizwan was unbeaten on

28 but Ashraf fell late in the second session for 29 when he sliced a catch at point to give George Linde (3/12) his third wicket.

Earlier, fast bowler Hasan Ali's (5/54) five-wicket haul earned Pakistan a vital 71-run first innings lead as the visitors were bowled out for 201, half an hour after lunch.

Hasan, returning to the five-day format after a twoabsence due

injuries, picked up three wickets on Saturday, but poor running cost South Africa with two batsmen getting run-outs.

Temba Bavuma fought a lone battle to remain unbeaten on 44 off 138 balls before Hasan wrapped up the innings by claiming the last two wickets of succesdeliveries. diminutive Bavuma successfully overturned a leg before decision against him in the fourth over of the day, but could not get enough support from the

Bayuma and Wiaan Mulder (33) dug in for 90 minutes and raised a half century stand before Pakistan struck with two quick wickets. Brief scores (Day 3):
Pakistan 272 & 129/6
(Rizwan 28 batting, Hasan 0

lower order.

batting; Linde 3/12) vs South Africa 201 (Bavuma 44 not out, Hasan 5/54).

## Haque's hundred puts WI in trouble

Chattogram (Bangladesh), Feb. 6: Captain Mominul Haque hit his 10th Test century and offspinner Mehidy Hasan continued his good form for Bangladesh on the fourth day of the first Test against West Indies on Saturday.

Mominul's 115 reaching the 3,000 runs milestone in process Bangladesh set a fearsome 395 runs target for West Indies. At the end of the day, the visitors reached 110-3, with two debutants Kyle Mayers (37) and Nkrumah Bonner (15) batting. Mehidy Hasan (3-52) took all the three wickets.

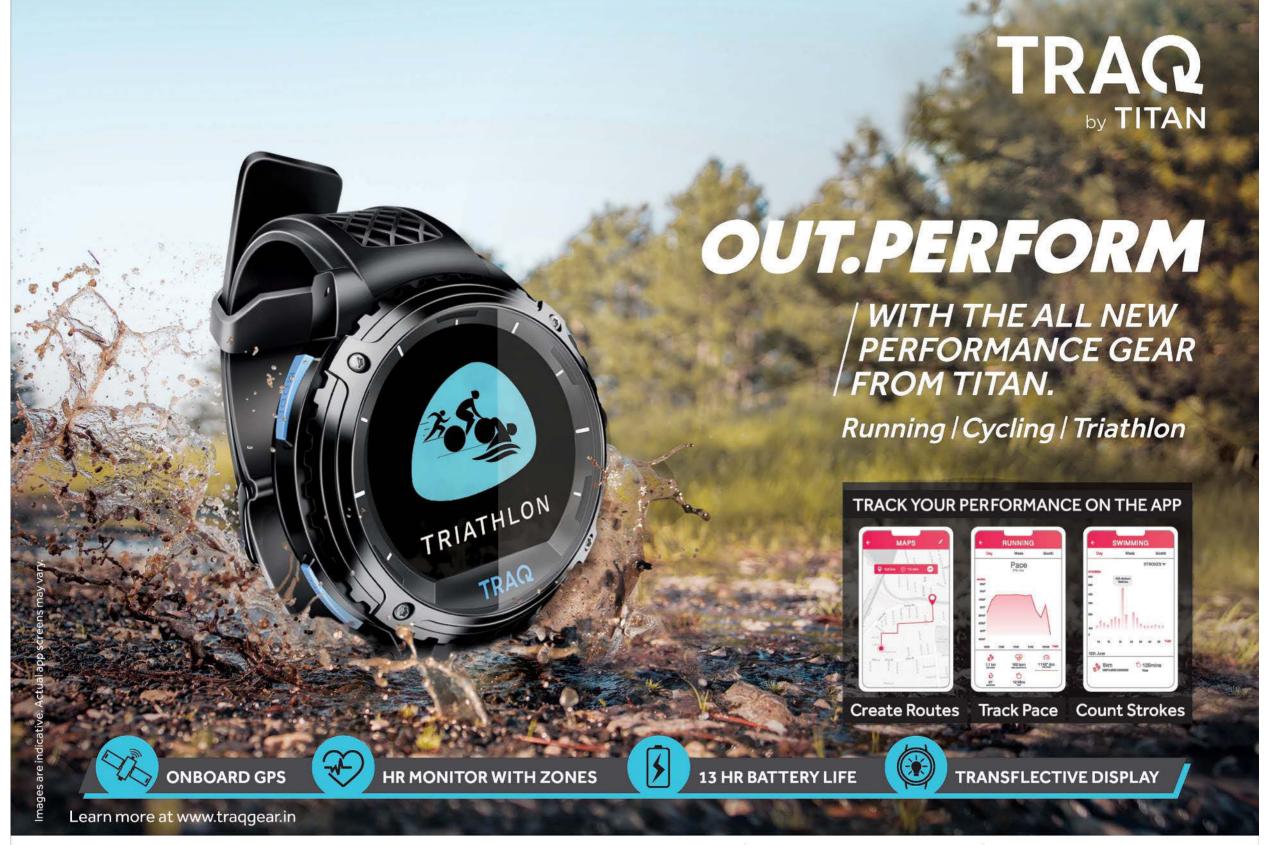
Resuming the day on 47/3, Bangladesh declared their second innings on 223/8 with Liton Das play-

alongside the captain. Das struck 69 and shared 133 for the fifth wicket stand with Mominul to keep the visitors frustrated.

Windies got a glimmer of hope when Rahkeem Cornwall struck early, dismissing Mushfiqur Rahim for 18. Mushfiqur reviewed the decision in vain.

With the ball keeping low, Mominul and Liton had to be watchful. Mominul completed his 10th century off 173 balls, pushing the ball toward cover for a quick single.

Brief scores (Day 4): Bangladesh 430 & 223/8 **decl.** (Haque 115, Das 69, Warrican 3/57, Cornwall 3-81) vs **WI 259 & 110/3** (Mayers 37 batting, Bonner 15 batting, Miraz 3/52).



Available at

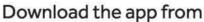
















To know more or buy, scan the QR code.

