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HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 9 MARCH 2021

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WANTED DYNAMIC Experienced Male Incharges with IIT/ NEET, EAMCET, Distance Courses, Banking, Insurance & Other Competitive Exams Knowledge. Ph:9849245052/ 9248008870. (HYCL/2021/C07341)

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NIRAJ INTERNATIONAL School, urgently requires well experienced drivers (5 years with heavy vehicles licence), attendants and sub staff. Contact: 040-23401246 Mobile +9703535049. (S/2021/C06209)

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WANTED QUALIFIED and Experienced Teachers for primary, Middle and High school (All Subjects) and Pre-Primary coordinator for Hi-Tech Scholars Residential High School, Medchal, Medchal with Original Certificates. Mail:medchalhitech@gmail.com, 7674927418. (HYMM/2021/C07737)

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LOST

I. CHAKRAVARTHI Sai Harsha S/o. Chakravarthi Sundara Shyam, R/o. D.Colony, have lost the original Sale deed copy of our land, Plot No.80, Survey No.83 in Anajipura Village during transit from D.D.Colony to Madhapur. If anyone finds please contact Ph:9703800430. (S/2021/C06208)

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HOSPITALS ✓ HOSPITAL CUM residence for sale. 5500 sqft. Building in 720 Sq.yds. place in doctors lane, Dwarkanagar, Nizamabad. Contact: 9848056979, 8309496658. (R/2021/C00023)

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IN BRIEF

Man held for firing at wife, kids

Hyderabad: A woman and her children escaped narrowly after her husband, a realtor, open fire with his licensed rifle following a heated argument at their house in Bilalnagar, Kalapather, on Monday evening. The Kalapather police arrested the man, Syed Habeeb Hashmi, 52, for attempt to murder. "At around 5 pm on Monday, the couple had an argument, following which Hashmi opened fire three rounds of fire with his .22 rifle on his wife and children. No one was injured and the bullets hit the wall," said Kalapather inspector K. Sudarshan. Police reached the house on receiving information and arrested Hashmi.

One gets life term for raping minor

Hyderabad: A 32-year-old man was convicted to undergo life imprisonment for rape and slapped a fine of ₹50,000 on Monday. The Kacheguda police had arrested him for raping a 13-year-old girl in 2012. Police said Srinu raped the girl went to watch television in his room. Following a complaint from her family, a case was booked by the Kacheguda police and Srinu was placed under arrest. A charge sheet was filed by them inspector Rajkumar, who later retired as assistant commissioner of police. The sentence was passed by XI additional metropolitan sessions, B. Srinivas Rao in the Nampally court on Monday.

State reports 111 new Covid cases

Hyderabad: Telangana's tally of Covid-19 cases breached the three-lakh mark on Sunday. The state health department said 111 fresh Coronavirus cases were recorded till 8 pm on Sunday, pushing the cumulative tally of positive cases to 3,00,011. The state recorded a fresh fatality due to Covid-19, taking the toll to 1,642, the department said on Monday. The GHMC area registered 27 fresh cases, followed by Ranga Reddy district with 10. The other districts reported in singular digits, according to the health bulletin. The total number of recoveries stands at 2,96,562 after 189 people beat from the infection, constituting a recovery rate of 98.85 per cent.

TS PLANTED MOST SAPLINGS IN 2019-20: CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Telangana state has planted the most saplings in 2019-20, the Centre said on Monday. The state had planted 38.17 crore saplings under the Twenty Point Programme.

Babul Supriyo, Union minister of state for environment and forests, revealed this in a written reply to Congress member G.C. Chandrashekhar in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. It said that under the programme, 150.23 crore saplings were planted nation-wide.

The target for 2021-22 from June is to plant 20 crore saplings, an a state forest department official told Deccan Chronicle. "From 2015, the state has targeted plantation of 230 crore saplings. We have planted 210 crores saplings in six phases," he said.

MP WEARS MASK INNOVATED BY EX-MP KONDA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Dr Narendra Jadhav, Rajya Sabha member and former Planning Commission member, on Monday attended Parliament wearing a High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter mask, innovated by Chevella former MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy.

The mask restricts most particulate matter in the atmosphere from entering the nose. It is based on positive pressure and is turbine-powered, ensuring 99.97 per cent filtration efficiency of 0.3 micron particles, as against the N95 mask, which is 95 per cent efficient. The HEPA eMask is 166 times safer than the N95.

Vishweshwar Reddy said, "My sole objective behind innovating this respirator was the protection of doctors and healthcare workers."

No takers

The GHMC Model Market constructed three years ago at Pattigadda in Begumpet still remains vacant as no one is ready to take the shops due to the high rents.
— S. SURENDER REDDY

Fewer kids dropping out of schools in TS

Centre's data backs state's claims; experts unconvinced

HARLEEN MINOCHA
| DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The school dropout rates in the state have significantly improved over the past two years, from 2016-17 to 2018-19, as per the data available with the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), and released by the Union education ministry on Monday.

As per the data, the Telangana state dropout rate stood at 13.5 per cent in 2018-19 for secondary school, 2.9 per cent for upper primary and 1.9 per cent for primary school, in comparison to 2017-18 and 2016-17.

The dropout rate in 2017-18 for secondary school stood at 17.1 per cent, upper primary at 2.6 per cent, and primary at 3.5 per cent.

school stood at 17.1 per cent, upper primary at 2.6 per cent, and primary at 3.5 per cent, whereas in the 2016-17 academic year, secondary school dropouts in the state

amounted to 22.5 per cent, upper primary at 5.6 per cent and primary school dropouts at 7.6 per cent.

Earlier, report in Deccan Chronicle on February 24 on enrolment in state high schools for 2020-21 had quoted data from the TS education department which had also indicated a positive trend.

However, experts had raised doubts over the same, citing lack of physical data due to pandemic.

More stakeholders, including government teachers, have now argued that this data does not reflect the real picture in current times.

A government teacher in Hyderabad, who did

not wish to be identified, said that the data released by the Union government, and available on UDISE portal, is only until the 2018-19 academic year. "If the government is so confident about a positive picture in the education sector of the country, they should release the latest numbers in the public domain too," they said.

The Union education ministry released state-wise data in response to questions raised by MPs Prataprao Patil Chikhlikar and Anumula Revanth Reddy in the Lok Sabha on Monday regarding school dropout rates during the last two years, particularly in Maharashtra.

WOMAN SUFFERS SEVERE BURNS IN ACID ATTACK

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

On International Women's Day, a tribal woman sustained severe burns following an acid attack by unidentified persons at Alladurg mandal of Medak district early on Monday morning. She was shifted to the Osmania General Hospital in a critical condition.

The victim lives with her two daughters in Antaiahpalle of Tekmal mandal. The attack took place in Gadipeddapur village of Alladurg mandal.

After the attack, she reportedly ran on the village road asking for help before collapsing near the statues of Dr Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi. When she fell down, locals covered her and called the police, who first shifted her to the Sangareddy district hospital and then to the city.

"She sustained severe burns on her face and hands," police said, adding that the incident occurred at about 4 am. The local police have registered a case and are investigating.

After the attack, the victim reportedly ran on the village road asking for help before collapsing near the statues of Dr Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi.

Cab catches fire, 2 rescued

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

A car caught fire under the Telugu Talli statue under the flyover on Monday afternoon. Traffic police and locals pulled out the man who was driving the vehicle, a taxi cab, as well as a passenger. No casualties were reported.

According to the fire officials of Secunderabad, who rushed to the spot on receiving an alert, smoke started coming out of the vehicle while it was proceeding from Tank Bund towards Saifabad. The driver

stopped the vehicle and was helped out of the flaming vehicle.

Traffic flow on the busy road was affected for a few minutes following the incident but was soon cleared.

Curious motorists and pedestrians stopped on the road to photograph the stricken vehicle.

The driver and a person travelling in the car immediately got down and reached a safe distance with the help of other commuters, said a traffic police official, who called the fire brigade.

Officials suspect a short circuit might have caused the fire.



Fire brigade personnel douse the fire which struck the car under the Telugu Talli flyover on Monday.

ED gets custody of duo

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The Enforcement Directorate was granted custody of two persons, Deepak Agarwal and Ayush Goyal, in a ₹1,500 crore money laundering scam.

They were booked for sending close to ₹1,500 crore abroad under the guise of import of fake customised software, officials said. The investigation was taken up following an FIR regis-

tered by the AP police against one Vaddi Mahesh and others, after a complaint from the income-tax department.

"The ED's investigation revealed that Mahesh, in collusion with others, had incorporated various shell firms and opened bank accounts in the names of these firms/companies.

He received funds from different persons, later identified as Pramod Agarwal, Ayush Goyal,

₹75K DEBITED 'WRONGLY' FROM EX-IFS OFFICER'S A/C

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The Jubilee Hills police booked a cheating case after a retired IFS official, Shiva Shankar Prasad, complained on Monday that a

sum of ₹75,000 was suspiciously debited from his bank account.

"We were informed by the bank that the transaction was reversed. We will be questioning the staff to ascertain the same and either alter or close the case accordingly," police sources revealed.

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SHORT TAKES

MAN TRIES TO DONATE 60K, CHEATED ONLINE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

A man lost about ₹60,000 when he went to make a donation for charity, and ended up giving the money to a fraudulent company. Police said he had wanted to make a donation to the actor Sonu Sood, who is known of late for charitable activities.

He searched for the actor's contact address on Google and came upon 'Sonusood Corporation' and duly contacted them. He got a response from a purported executive who diverted the money while pretending to help a poor person.

The donor paid ₹60,000 as donation, registration fee and GST. When he finally realised that he had been cheated, he approached the Cyberabad cybercrime police.

500 PASSPORTS UNDER SCANNER IN BODHAN

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, MARCH 8

In a shocking revelation, the authenticity of more than 500 passports issued in Bodhan has become a cause for suspicion.

After a fake passports racket was busted in Bodhan, all those issued since 2016 are being re-verified. Eight special teams have been pressed into service to verify the details of all passport holders.

Two Bangladesh nationals were arrested at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad last month for possessing fake passports from Bodhan. They were sent for re-verification. Special Branch police head constables Mallesh and Anil, who worked in Bodhan from 2016 to 2021 allegedly supported the accused in an official capacity.

As a result, more than 500 passports were issued in Bodhan, Kotagiri, Varni, Renjal, Yedapally, Rudrur, Mosra and Chandur mandals. Primarily, police officers noticed that around 72 fake passports were issued in Bodhan. Shockingly, all of them were issued on three addresses in the town. There is no way to link with the address and fake passport holders.

Reportedly, with the support of Special Branch policemen and postal department employees, the Bangladeshis got Indian passports by submitting fake details. Of 72 fake passports, around 25 persons have left to their foreign destinations, including Dubai. Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, a police officer, on the condition of anonymity, said that passports are issued regularly by the Ministry of External Affairs. Special Branch constables feed details of the passport applicants in their tabs and higher officials release it immediately, he said.

Earlier the higher-ups thoroughly checked all applications manually. Now with the digital mode, the negligence in different levels stands exposed, he opined.

Expecting bribes from fake passport applicants, SB officials might have cleared applications, he said. Appropriate action should be initiated against all those involved in the scam, he opined.

MORE THAN 500 passports were issued in Bodhan, Kotagiri, Varni, Renjal, Yedapally, Rudrur, Mosra and Chandur mandals. Primarily, police officers noticed that around 72 fake passports were issued in Bodhan. All of them were issued on three addresses in the town. There is no way to link with the address and fake passport holders.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that Mr. Vinod Beharilal, S/o. Late Sri. Rai Bansidhar and Mr. Mukul Beharilal, S/o. Late Sri. Rai Bansidhar, R/o. 6-2-369/A, Fateh Manzil, Kharibabu, Hyderabad, are wrongly claiming to be the absolute owners of all that property admeasuring Plot No. 2, 258 Sq.Yds. Municipal Plot No. 6-2-369, Kharibabu, Hyderabad. Our clients Smt. Preetanjali Saxena, Smt. Neerajali Verma, Smt. Swetajali Saxena, Sri. Kishan Raj Asthana, Mrs. Shaguja Vilkes, Sri. Anshuraj Asthana and Sri. Anu Raj Asthana are entitled to an equal share in the said property and the said property is the subject matter of a Partition Suit being O.S.No. 797/2011 pending on the file of Hon'ble IX Addl. Chief Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad. The General Public is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said two gentlemen named above in respect of the said property, as they do not have any exclusive rights to alienate the same. Any purchases from the said two Gentlemen by any third party will be completely illegal and ab-intio void and the same will not be binding on our clients.

Sd/-M. MOHAN RAO,

T. NATRAJ, D. RAJABAPU, KRAJANI, Advocates, Plot No. 5, Phase-I, Kamalapur Colony, Hyd-073. Mobile: 800884261

MLC polls campaign



BJP state president Bandi Sanjay asks graduate voters to ensure the victory of BJP candidate Premender Reddy in the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda seat, at Kothagudem on Monday. — DC

BANDI: BJP WIN IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, MARCH 8

Bharatiya Janata Party state president Bandi Sanjay said that the people of Telangana have come to the conclusion that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is working to increase his wealth but not for the welfare of the poor.

Sanjay was here on Monday for the election campaign of party candidate G. Premender Reddy. He said that TRS ministers and MLAs, worried over the defeat in graduate constituency elections, are making false statements against BJP. The TRS government should come clear on the unemployment allowance that has been promised.

"Our activists will not go back just because false cases were being filed against them. There is no place for TRS in Kothagudem," he said.

He said that ruling party nominee Rajeswar Reddy was given a party ticket just because he carries files between the government and the CM. He said that all voters are aware of the TRS candidate's 'pairavis'.

TRS should be held responsible for the murder of the advocate-couple, he said. He bemoaned that the state government was using the CM's pictures on Central schemes. There is every chance that Rao will go to jail for his corruption, he said.

"There is no difference between the despotic administration of Nizam and KCR. Unemployed youth and government employees are furious with the state government," he said.

Sanjay said that BJP is extending its support to Podu farmers and the government should solve their problems. None can stop Premender Reddy's win, he said.

BJP gets Swamy Goud to campaign for MLC polls

Employees leader starts canvassing in Nalgonda district

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The state leadership of the BJP has managed to convince Swamy Goud, a Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers (TNGO) Association veteran, into campaigning for the saffron party in the forthcoming elections from the two graduate constituencies in the state. Swamy Goud has been TNGO president for several years, played a key role in separate Telangana movement, became an MLC and

went on to become chairman of the State Legislative Council. He had been keeping away from politics for quite some time after being sidelined by the TRS.

That is why BJP thought of roping him in. The TNGO leader is believed to still have quite some influence among employees in the state who are sizeable in terms of their votes in graduate constituencies.

While being part of the Telangana movement and subsequently TRS, Swamy Goud had been successful in getting bet-

ter fitment for employees

on employees' issues. However, it is not known how successful Swamy Goud will be in his endeavour, as major employee unions of Telangana are with the TRS.

Meanwhile, many ministers of the state cabinet are campaigning for ruling TRS candidates, including Harish Rao, Srinivas Goud and Gangula Kamalakar. They have been focusing on employee unions in a bit to win their support. That is also the reason why BJP decided to rope in Swamy Goud, along with other key leaders.

Centre's done good work for women: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The Central government has done immense good work for women, declared former MP and senior BJP leader Vijayashanti. She was participating in the International Women's Day celebrations at the state BJP office in Nampally on Monday. She also felicitated some frontline warriors against the Covid-19 pandemic on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Vijayashanti contended that women of the state will be strengthened further if the BJP comes to power in Telangana state. She accused the TRS government of failing to fulfil its promises made to women during the agitation for a separate statehood.

There was an interesting conversation between the former actress and municipal employees when the latter asked her to remove her mask, so that they could see her face. They wanted to compare her with how they had seen her in movies.

As per their wish, Vijayashanti removed her mask and asked them whether she was the same person they had seen on the silver screen. The employees responded saying they got strength by seeing the actress in movies. But presently, Vijayashanti looked like their mother or sister, they added.



Former MP and BJP Mahila Morcha leader Vijayashanti felicitates sanitation workers on the occasion of International Women's Day at the BJP state office, in Nampally, Hyderabad, on Monday. — S. SURENDRA REDDY

TRS: Why has BJP not passed Bill on 33% quota for women in Parliament?

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The TRS women's wing celebrated the International Women's Day at the party headquarters Tela-

ngana Bhavan here on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, MLC Akula Lalitha said with advent of the TRS government, participation of women in politics has increased, unlike

the earlier governments led by Congress or TD in the state or BJP at the Centre. Lalitha thanked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for giving priority to women in all sectors of the government.

The MLC asked why the TRS-led Union government had not passed the 33 per cent reservation bill for women in Parliament when it had

criticised the UPA for not doing the same. She charged that BJP is only good at spreading stories about women's welfare.

Addressing the gathering, GHMC mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi pointed out that TRS has gone

on to provide reservations for women in agricultural markets.

She asked women not to

be scared while facing society. Otherwise, they will not be reach higher levels, she pointed out. She wanted women to support other women for overall development of women.

Former MP Gundu Sudha Rani, ZP chairperson Tula Uma, GHMC women corporators and other women leaders attended the function at the TRS Bhavan.

Former MP Gundu Sudha Rani, ZP chairperson Tula Uma, GHMC women corporators and other women leaders attended the function at the TRS Bhavan.

Cong. leader filed plaint with EC alleging poll code violation

Remove PM pic on vax certificate: Marri

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Senior Congress leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy on Monday filed a complaint with the Election Commission seeking removal of the photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Covid-19 vaccination certificates.

In his letter, Shashidhar Reddy pointed out that

responding to a representation by a political party in West Bengal, the ECI has directed the Union health ministry to discontinue the practice immediately in view of the Assembly elections in five states. Reddy regretted that the certificates were being issued in Telangana state with Modi's photograph though MLC elections for two graduate constituencies are scheduled for March 14. Besides, there is an Assembly byelection due in the state, for which the schedule is to be announced shortly.

Taking all these into consideration, the Election Commission should direct the Union ministry to stop this practice without any further delay.

The Congress leader recalled that when he

was vice-chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) between 2010 and 2014, he had to take the EC's permission for an advertisement about the release of National Guidelines on Management of Disasters with a picture of the then Prime Minister and NDMA Chairman Dr Manmohan Singh, which, incidentally, was denied.

The health ministry has apparently failed to apply its mind about model code of conduct (MCC) and did not think it necessary to seek EC approval. He said that the poll panel should seek an explanation from the ministry and ask them to fix the responsibility and ensure that the lapse is recorded in their performance appraisal report.

Owaisi flays Yogi for 'secularism held India back' remark

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

● THE MIM chief said the Sangh Parivar speaks of secularism with a forked tongue. "It was never ready to recognise the diversity of India. On odd days, they say India is secular because the majority of Indians are secular. On even days, they say that secularism has prevented our traditions from winning global recognition."

Addressing the media here on Monday, Owaisi termed Yogi's comment on secularism as "vahiyat" (obnoxious) and said this was an insult to the Constitution, our founding fathers and all those members of the Constituent Assembly."

Owaisi asked the CM, "Petrol, diesel and LPG prices have gone up, jobs are not provided and women are upset. Is it all because the country practised secularism?" He asked whether freedom of thought guaranteed in the preamble of the Constitution did not reflect secularism. "I ask whether Articles 14, 19, 22, 25, 26, 29 and 30 do not reflect secular ideas and values?"

"You are doing bhoomi puja in the name of secularism. You being a Prime Minister or Chief Minister perform bhoomi puja, are you doing this for upkeep of secularism? Does the government have any religion? India has no religion, it never will. India believes in all reli-

"There is no difference between the despotic administration of Nizam and KCR. Unemployed youth and government employees are furious with the state government," he said.

Sanjay said that BJP is extending its support to Podu farmers and the government should solve their problems. None can stop Premender Reddy's win, he said.

13th DAY CEREMONY



Smt. SURYA KUMARI
W/o. Muddu Gopal Rao

DOB: 20-06-1933 DOD: 08-03-2021

Abode away 26-02-2021

13th Day Ceremony

on 10th March 2021

at our residence.

Gopal Rao & Family. Ph: 8143870574

OBITUARY



PHILOMENA VOWLES
W/o. Late Albert Vowles

DOB: 20-06-1933 DOD: 08-03-2021

Funeral Mass at 10 am on 09th March 2021 at St. Francis Church Mudfor, Secunderabad. Burial Mount Carmel Cemetery, Bowenpally

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

Ph: 8897101337

(S/2021/D01318)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Late RAMANA KUMARI
DOB: 09-03-1939 DOD: 03-12-2019

We gratefully remember your love and concern for all of us and the sacrifice you made.

Inserted by: P.R. Dayaker, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grand Children

Ph: 9052345396

(S/2021/D01313)

9th ANNIVERSARY



BOLLAM ANJAN SHWARI YADAV
High Court Advocate

DOB: 28-11-1985 DOD: 17-02-2012

Mother: B. Nagamani - Teacher

Father: Late Bollam Lingiah Yadav - High Court Advocate

Brothers: B. Varun Yadav, M.Tech - Anusha

S. Sai Sharad Yadav, A. Kishan (Adv)

Uncles: Late V. Yungandhar Yadav, Retd. T.I., GHMC V. Satyanarayana Pillai (Advocate) SRPT Friends & Relatives.

5TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



KAPPA CHAKRADHARA
You will always remain in our hearts

IN BRIEF

Javadekar lauds women forest staff

Hyderabad: Union forests minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday lauded women forest officers on the occasion of International Women's Day. He also launched a book, 'Green Queens of India – Nations Pride', profiling women officers of the Indian Forest Service. There are 284 women IFS officers, three of whom head the forest departments in Telangana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF). Javadekar said he wanted to see a ratio of 33 per cent of women forest staff. PCCF R. Sobha told the minister that the figure had reached 30 per cent in Telangana.

HC TO TS: FOLLOW NCTE RULES FOR FILLING PET POSTS

**VUJINI
VAMSHIDHARA | DC**
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the state government to follow the National Council for Technical Education (NCTE) guidelines for filling up 616 posts of physical education teachers lying vacant in Telangana state residential educational institutes, including those of the tribal welfare and minorities welfare departments.

A division bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayeswara Reddy found fault with the state government's stand vis-a-vis filling up these posts without segregation of PETs for Classes 5 to 8 and Classes 9 and 10, whereas NCTE provisions clearly segregated them and eligibility criteria was set separately.

Earlier, the single bench judge also had pointed out the fault with the government. In September 2019, the single bench judge had directed the government to publish the list of the selected candidates in eight weeks on the basis of the cut-off marks prescribed by the Institutions in filling up the PET posts for Classes 5-8 with diploma holders (non-graduates) and Class 9-10 with those who passed B.P.Ed (Graduates).

Challenging the single judge order, the government filed an appeal, by way of defending its decision to not segregate the posts. But, when the division bench questioned the government stand, the state government changed its contention and agreed to segregate the posts for recruitment. State told to follow NCTE guidelines for filling 616 PET posts

12-YEAR-OLD SUFFERS BURNS IN FOREST FIRE

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The nearly fatal fire in the Amrabad forest reserve, which saw 11 tribals suffering burns, started when some Chenchu tribals tried to set fire to shrubs to clear the ground to collect 'Nannarigaddalu' according to officials.

The fire occurred in a valley where grass had grown to a height of about four feet.

"Eleven people had gone to the forest to pick Nannarigaddelu, which is a tuber. They set fire to clear the shrubs to trees. Since there rains aplenty last year, the grass in the spot had grown to a height of four feet. Usually, the grass only grows a foot or two," said the Krishna Goud, the district forest officer at Achampet.

The group was standing in two concentric circles when the fire occurred.

"We learned that the group was inebriated. Since they were in a valley, escaping from the site was difficult due to the climb on the hillside in their condition," the officer said. The incident took place two-three kilometres from their hamlet.

The injured were brought to the Osmania General Hospital for treatment. Mirza Kareem Baig, a member of the Forest and Wildlife Protection Society (PAWPS), who was at the hospital, said: "All of the injured persons are Chenchus, one person is in a serious condition with close to 40 per cent burns. The youngest is a 12-year-old boy, who has 25 per cent burns."

This fire took place in Nagarkurnool district which on Monday had recorded 98 forest fire alerts. The district has received 852 fire alerts, of which 428 fell inside the forest area. The total forest area that has been burnt down is 1,280.05 hectares or 3,163 acres.



AIG Hospital chairman Dr Nageshwar Reddy and his wife Carol Ann Reddy share a lighter moment with guests Captain Ajmeera Bobby, Anju Poddar and Rekha Lahoti and others during the Internal Women's Day celebrations at

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Nageshwar Reddy highlights gender parity at AIG Hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

On the occasion of International Women's Day, AIG Hospital, Gachibowli, organised a special evening for its women employees — administration, nurses and doctors.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, AIG Hospitals, said, "We have always been encouraging anti-gender discrimination. Statistically looking, we have 200 plus consultants of which 30 per cent are women, from 874 nursing staff of which 90 per cent women and 52 per cent are women from 1,072 other staff members. So we can safely say that the place is predominantly run by women."

Shreesta Merla, technical member of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), and Captain Ajmeera Bobby, the first woman from the Banjara tribe to become a



On the occasion of International Women's day, Shaheen Women's Resources and Welfare Association organises a cycle rally from Charminar on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

commercial pilot, were concluded with the screening of a documentary on successful women staff present.

GOV RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD-2021

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan was on Monday conferred with the Top-20 Global Women of Excellence-2021 award through virtual mode from Illinois in the United States of America.

She accepted the award from the Puducherry Raj Niwas and stated that she was humbled and immensely honoured by the recognition.

In her acceptance speech, the Governor stated that the award would double her responsibility to intensify her work towards the gender equality and women empowerment. "I dedicate this honour to millions of women who toil day in and day out and help their family, society, and the countries," she said.

Dr Soundararajan thanked the Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, headed by US Congressman Danny K. Davis, for bestowing her with the honour. The award jury, comprising members of the Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force and the Multi Ethnic Coalition, mentioned that Dr Soundararajan was selected for the award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to society, and for being an ardent advocate of women's rights, gender parity and women's equality."

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This fire took place in Nagarkurnool district which on Monday had recorded 98 forest fire alerts. The district has received 852 fire alerts, of which 428 fell inside the forest area. The total forest area that has been burnt down is 1,280.05 hectares or 3,163 acres.



Gandhi Hospital nurses Bennet and Florence were felicitated at the City Civil Court Legal Services Authority in the presence of Chief Judge Sumalatha, Vijayalakshmi, retired district judge, and first woman chief judge of the City Civil Court, in Hyderabad on Monday.

Hyd Civil Court conducts gender awareness event

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

City Civil Court Legal Services Authority organised an awareness programme on Gender Equality and Rights of Women on occasion of the International Women's Day on Monday.

On the day, the authority honoured women achievers and pioneers in various fields, including frontline Covid warriors, for their

remarkable services and sacrifices.

The Legal Services Authority also honoured the mother and wife of Colonel Santosh Babu, who died at Galwan Valley resisting Chinese soldiers in 2020.

Telangana High Court Employees Service Association also celebrated the International Women's Day by honouring the court's women employees as well as Justice Gandikota Sridevi.

19 crises.

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RTC CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

All depots of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) in the twin cities celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday. Corporation managing director Sunil Sharma felicitated women who excelled in their work, at a function held at Jubilee Bus Stand. Various events, including sports competitions and cultural programmes, were organised to mark the day.

The TSRTC has a workforce of about 47,000, of whom 5,057 are women. Their contribution in helping the corporation run its wheels smoothly is no less. As many as 4,502 of the women staff are conductors, whose recruitment started in 1996.

Since then, there has been no looking back for women in RTC. Though they faced challenges initially, they have overcome them by their dedication and will power.

U. Laxminarsamma has completed 20 years with the corporation. She joined as a conductor, but has now moved on to the administrative side. She said, "During my initial days, it was a tough task. Women were hesitant in joining as conductors. Even their families tried to restrain them. Now, a lot of women are coming forward in working on par with men in RTC."

Laxminarsamma said working with the RTC has given her a lot of courage and helped her gain problem-solving skills.

Kolisetty Vedavani, who is working as conductor at the Mehidipatnam depot, said: "Each day is a challenge. Some passengers do not show their passes when we ask for them. That is when we take charge and set the matter right," Vedavani stated.

QR CODE PLAIN SYSTEM FOR WOMEN IN TS

Hyderabad, March 8: The women's safety wing of the police on Monday launched a 'QR code complaint system' wherein harassment against women could be complained just by scanning a QR code. The information would be routed to appropriate SHE Team office for further processing as per departmental guidelines.

A link through SMS, WhatsApp or e-mail would be sent to the citizens, who availed services of SHE Teams.

Women harassed at public places, offices, during travel, online/social media, phone and domestic can have access through the system through QR codes installed at various public locations like malls, metros, railway stations, bus stations and educational institutions, a press release said. The QR code complaint system is a simple, easy to use, secure complaint and feedback mechanism.

The system was launched by Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy, marking International Women's Day, it said.

It helps in getting a high-level perception of how safe citizens, particularly women, feel about their locality.

— PTI

INFLATION ERA LPG selling at twice the cost since 2014, data analysis shows**Excise duty on fuel doubled in 2 years**

ATHER MOIN | DC WITH AGENCY INPUTS
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

crore in 2017-18, ₹2.37 lakh crores in 2016-17.

The data was provided by the minister in the Lok Sabha in a written reply to unstarred questions of members of parliament Balabhai, Nama Nagendra Rao, Asaduddin Owaisi and others.

The information provided by the government reveals that the government has been collecting an average of ₹33,000 crore a month as excise duty in the current financial year. The amount collected in the last nine

months in 2020-21 is about ₹1 lakh crore more than the tax collected in April 2019-20.

Pradhan said that the retail selling price of domestic gas was ₹410.5 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 1, 2014. This month, the same cylinder costs ₹819, which is double the price it was available for in 2014.

Similarly, kerosene sold to the poor through the public distribution system (PDS) has risen from ₹14.96 per litre in March 2014 to ₹35.35 this

month, the minister said. Giving the oil's import cost, the minister said India paid ₹47.56 per barrel in 2016-17, ₹56.43 in 2017-18, ₹69.88 in 2018-19, ₹60.47 in 2019-20 and ₹42.78 in 2020-21 (till February 28, 2021). This averages to ₹55.42/barrel a year — one of the lowest in recent times.

The average yearly price of petrol in New Delhi, the minister said, was ₹64.61 in 2016-17, ₹69.20 in 2017-18, ₹75.37 in 2018-19, ₹72.69 in 2019-20 and ₹79.82 in 2020-21 (till February 28,

2021). The average retail price of petrol over the last five years was ₹72.34 a litre, which is the highest ever average for petrol.

The minister said the Centre currently levies ₹32.90 per litre excise duty on petrol and ₹31.80 a litre on diesel. In 2018, the government levied the excise duty of ₹17.98 a litre of petrol and ₹13.83 on a litre of diesel. If it is worked out, the government has nearly doubled the tax on petrol and more than doubled the tax on diesel in the last two years.

The real fear is what if undiscovered Covid-19 carriers who interact with these animals pass on the virus to them? And what if the virus at some stage jumps back from these animals to humans? We have no system to monitor the

Animals too virus prone: Scientists

Say they carry same ACE2 receptors of Sars-Cov-2

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

The sheer variety of animals — some that jostle for space with people, and the others that live in Indian forests — that are susceptible to catching Covid-19, is giving some scientists a serious cause for worry, especially in a country like India where officials privately admit to inadequate testing of people for the disease, and under-reporting of Covid-19 cases.

Monkeys, leopards, common buffaloes, cows, goats, dogs, cats, Nilgiri Tahr, clouded leopard, and even donkeys and horses, all have something in common with humans when it comes to Covid-19. They carry the same ACE2 receptors, the bidding sites in cells to which the SARS-CoV-2 attaches to as it multiplies and results in varying degrees of infection.

Sero surveys conducted in the country have consistently shown that the number of people who developed antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, are much higher than the cases that have been discovered.

It was just last week that scientists from Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), and vaccine maker Bharat Biotech, announced that 54 per cent of people in Hyderabad have developed Covid-19 antibodies. Incidentally, in Telangana state alone, the total Covid-19 cases, according to the state health department as on Sunday, stood at 3,00,011. Hyderabad has a population of more than 10 lakh people and if the recently announced sero survey results are anything to go by, then at least 5,40,000 people in the city alone were exposed to, or contracted the virus either in the city, or in the rest of the state.

Among the animals on which candidate vaccine efficacy was tested at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune last year, were monkeys (rhesus macaques). According to studies published by scientists from Bharat Biotech, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), and NIV, the tests showed that Rhesus Macaques can be infected by Covid-19 causing virus, after which the vaccines were tested on them for efficacy in battling the disease. These monkeys, caught in the wild in Maharashtra, were chosen for the tests for the simple reason that they have among the highest levels of ACE2 receptors.

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) as far back as in August last year reported that 410 unique vertebrate species were identified as having ACE2 receptors. According to the study, these species include 252 mammals, 72 birds, 65 fishes, 17 reptiles and 4 amphibians. The study found that rhesus macaques, among other animals, were found to have at least 23/25 ACE2 residues identical to human ACE2 and other constraints at SARS-CoV-2 binding hot spots.

More than half of the animals that have Covid-19 susceptible ACE2 receptors jostle for space with humans — whether they are cattle, cows, dogs, cats, pigs, donkeys, horses, or even monkeys. Making matters worse is the way medical wastes, particularly used face masks, are discarded in public places and in garbage heaps, the latter of which are visited regularly by stray dogs, and in some localities, pigs.

"Even more worrisome is the interactions between people and monkeys, with both species equally vulnerable to the virus. We do not know what is happening on this front. And this is a cause for worry. "The real fear is what if undiscovered Covid-19 carriers who interact with these animals pass on the virus to them? And what if the virus at some stage jumps back from these animals to humans? We have no system to monitor the

DECCAN Chronicle

9 MARCH 2021

Regional power strong in TN, alliances ready

The regional satraps of the South were always powerful enough to make this region of India mostly stay off rule by mainstream national parties and not just in the couple of decades of the new millennium. As a bastion of Dravidian rule since 1967, Tamil Nadu has been even more of an outlier in national politics. The regional versus the national is at play once again as alliance talks on seat-sharing meandered in compulsory coalition politics in which the Dravidian majors seek out the national parties to be partners or vice versa, but without ever conceding a share in power in Tamil Nadu by way of a coalition government. Both the Congress, an older player in Tamil Nadu's politics, and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party may have been miffed but still had no recourse but to accept a lesser number of seats in their respective alliances.

The battle lines are drawn for the Tamil Nadu leg of the polls, which is due on April 6, with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-Congress alliance pitted against the twice triumphant All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)-led front of 2011 and 2016, but which has a new ally now in the BJP. There were never any great ideological barriers against joining either alliance as most parties in the Tamil Nadu mix have been allies on either side in the past. The presence of the BJP in an alliance for the Assembly polls triggers the secular versus majoritarian religious politics debate whereas the two Dravidian fronts used to be separated in the past only by theism versus atheism theme of religious politics. The narrowness of the 2016 verdict suggests that the contests may be even tighter this time.

Friends have remained friends like the Pattal Makkal Katchi (PMK) with the AIADMK since 2011 and "frenemies" have stayed back for now after abandoning fleeting thoughts of switching alliances. Fringe players like Kamal Haasan, whose fledgling party Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) fared reasonably well in a few urban pockets in the Lok Sabha polls of 2019, may make things a bit interesting at the hustings, even though the electorate can be expected to continue to vest power in one of the two major Dravidian parties. The big difference this time around is that Tamil Nadu has moved on from the days of its larger-than-life leaders like M. Karunanidhi, M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) and Jayalalithaa, and the Assembly polls for 234 seats without them is a first since the mid-1950s, when M. Karunanidhi of the DMK made his poll debut.

The anti-incumbency factor after two terms will be weighing heavily on the ruling party-led combine while his father's longtime lieutenant M.K. Stalin will be hoping the trends favour his vaulting to the gaddi for the first time. Association with the BJP did not work for the AIADMK in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, which was a 37-1 washout, which means the pressure may be even more on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami and his deputy O. Panneerselvam, who have kept the state government going for four long years. And, however hard Kamal Haasan may have tried to stress on ridding the state of the corrupt Dravidian parties, institutionalised graft has never appeared to have been an issue with the franchisees somewhat accustomed to accepting cash-for-votes besides freebies from their rulers.

Heed Pope's call for peace

The pictures that the world got to see through the lenses of Pope Francis' entourage on his recent visit to Iraq reflect the destruction the region has witnessed in the last two decades and the urgent need to rebuild it by ushering in peace. The Pope's call for an end to violence was meant for all those who were responsible for it, which started with the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003. Each player who held sway in the region, the Islamic State included, bathed itself in inglorious acts in the land which created and nurtured one of the most ancient of human civilisations. As St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "no one was righteous, not even one", in this deadly game.

The import of the visit, the first one by the head of the Roman Catholic Church, is that it was not meant for photo ops alone. Pope Francis met leaders of every community that has been hit. He visited Qaraqosh, a Christian town, and Mosul, a Sunni heartland, both overrun by the Islamic State, and Erbil, capital of the autonomous Kurdish region. He met Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, one of the most senior leaders in Shia Islam, in the holy city of Najaf. He had an emotional meeting with the father of Alan Kurdi, the boy whose body was washed up on a Turkish beach six years ago, epitomising the sufferings of Syrians who tried to escape the savagery of war. He also visited Ur, the land of Prophet Abraham, the patriarch of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths.

Winding up the visit, the Pope, who commands no military divisions, made an urgent appeal to humanity: we must reaffirm our conviction that fraternity is more durable than fratricide, that hope is more powerful than hatred, that peace more powerful than war. Now, he who has ears, let him hear.

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Aakar Patel

India's image in free fall, but govt in denial on real causes

In 2020, the Narendra Modi government decided to improve India's standing on various indices that showed a deterioration in governance. These indices that were upsetting New Delhi spanned from those produced by non-profits working in specialised areas, multilateral bodies like the United Nations, institutions traditionally seen as being on the Right, like the World Economic Forum and The Economist, and also the government's own data.

The government was clearly concerned about its drop. We know this as it put out a press release on July 10 with the headline: "Niti Aayog organises a virtual workshop to monitor performance of 29 select Global Indices". At this workshop it was decided that the government would prepare a "single, informative dashboard for all the 29 Global Indices" which would allow for "monitoring of the parameters as per official data as well as the data source used by the publishing agencies".

This monitoring exercise was "not just to improve rankings but to improve systems and drive reforms to attract investments and to shape India's perception globally".

The government appeared to

believe that the issue was one related to image rather than reality. A report the next month said the government was "working to improve India's ranking on 29 global indices, and it wants the message to reach everyone loud and clear". The way it would do this was "a massive publicity campaign" that would "shape India's perception" through advertising and "micro-sites of ministries" and it would also "publicise the problems, parameters and data sources of global indices".

Would this address the problem at hand? It would not. The issue was not one of perception or bias, but one of fact. The world was not conspiring to show us in a bad light. The solution lay in acknowledging that India had been declining in several areas since 2014 and working on trying to improve them. Spending money on a media campaign would not change the numbers. India's discrediting the data of all these agencies and institutions was unlikely to reverse the views of those who had looked at and understood the facts.

Under Prime Minister Modi, India's ranking rose on three indicators (including the World Bank's Doing Business index), it remained the

same on two but and fell on forty-one. The decline was so broad and so pronounced that organisations captured similar results through different methodologies. India since 2014 has done poorly on six indices that tracked civil liberties and pluralism, five that tracked health and literacy, two tracking religious freedom and minorities, two tracking Internet denial, six tracking national power of various types, four tracking the rule of law and corruption, four tracking sustainability and environment, four tracking gender issues and their safety, four tracking economic freedoms of Indians and four tracking urban spaces.

The record leaves little room for debate or dispute. The scale and rapidity of decline in governance is manifest. It may appear strange that the Modi government should have thought reversing this performance required "a massive publicity campaign" which would "shape India's perception" through advertising and more websites, but it is how the government thought. A more credible response might have been to say that the decline was not the Modi government's doing entirely; to deny it altogether was to run away from the problem. The solution was not

"image correction" but improving performance through governance.

After the public strategy had fallen through for whatever reason, the government then decided at the end of 2020 that if it asked ministries to "ensure swift and updated data" it would help on the indices. This was based on the assumption that the government's work was excellent; it was merely data lag that caused it to plummet. This was also of course wrong, and the indices that have come out after that showed continued decline.

The latest report has come last week from Freedom House, which says that India is not free but "partly free". This is not opinion; it is based on a set of indicators. India says it is democratic. Freedom House agrees. It gives India 34/40 on political rights. Full marks for free and fair elections, Election Commission impartiality, freedom to start political parties, opportunities for the Opposition to increase their power. Not full marks on whether voting is hampered by violence and affected communal tension. All this we already know. The fact is that we do very well on political rights, and in fact the government gets 3/4 on transparency, which is

hardly accurate.

The real problem is political rights are only 40 per cent of the Freedom House score. The other 60 per cent is civil liberties. Here we perform poorly (33/60). On the issues of freedom of expression, religion, academic freedom, freedom of assembly, freedom for NGOs to work (the report names the attack on my former organisation Amnesty India specifically), rule of law, independence of judiciary, due process by the police and so on, our rating is poor. Can we disagree with this? We cannot. The answer is not to deny, as the government has done through a one-page response. This will not work because another report is coming soon: the reputable Varieties of Democracy report from the University of Gothenburg. Last year's report had said: "India has continued on a path of steep decline, to the extent it has almost lost its status as a democracy."

Our precipitous decline is being noticed and recorded abroad with alarm. It is strange that within India we are carrying on as if it is business as usual.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Subhani



Stop meddle & muddle: Rework regional policy

Mohan Guruswamy

Much as we would like to exalt our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as the founder of modern India's foreign policy, like all other major countries our policy too derives its basis from one man, France's Cardinal Richelieu, who enshrined national interest as the only guiding principle to conduct affairs with other nations. The French have an elegant phrase for it. *Raison d'état*. Richelieu rejected the notion that policy should be based on values and sentimental considerations. He believed, as we all still do, that the State has permanent interests, the singular pursuit of which requires much intellectual and moral flexibility. He believed that the only challenge facing a policymaker is to decide what the national interest was and what it required? It was this singular pursuit that had Catholic France intervening in the Thirty Years War (1618-48) on the Protestant side to block the increasing power of the Pope. At Richelieu's prompting, the philosopher Jean de Silhon defined the concept of reason of state as "a mean between what conscience permits and affairs require".

How we see our national interest depends on how we see ourselves. Therein lies the rub. The rump Republic of India sees itself as the successor to the British Raj, which left these shores in 1947. For the two centuries that Britain was the paramount power in India, India's national interests were synonymous with those of Britain. The paramount power's paramount interest, as far as India was concerned, was to keep the goose that laid the golden egg healthy and well. Lord

Curzon of Kedleston, who was Viceroy of India (1898-1905) and later Britain's foreign secretary (1919-24), is still regarded by many of our foreign policy elite as the man who outlined India's grand strategic vision and its focus on fixing borders. It is argued by these people that while the political context might have changed, geography has not. Physical geography may not have changed, but political geography has changed very much. Afghanistan is no longer the glacis on which the war for India will be fought. Neither are Tibet and Xinjiang buffers any longer against northern threats. The threats are at our doorsteps now.

In the immediate period after 1947, India's foreign policy was still conducted by the Western educated elite who had imbibed their lessons in Cambridge and Oxford and believed they were legatees of the white man's burden, including the defence of India. India's immediate neighbours, for their own reasons, still largely see India's conduct towards them as the continuation of the British legacy. It didn't help very much when the Oxbridge elite were followed by the St. Stephen's elite who were also cast about the same last "laat sahib" mould.

Consequently, our diplomats have tended to be overbearing with the smaller non-hostile neighbours, often treating them like errant schoolboys. This is the constant lament heard in the neighbourhood, whether it is in Colombo or Kathmandu. Increasingly, such voices are being heard in Thimphu as well. With Bangladesh, too, we have rapidly descended from being the liberator to the neighbourhood bully. The dominant Indian discourse

is that the constant lament heard in the neighbourhood, whether it is in Colombo or Kathmandu, is the constant lament heard in the neighbourhood, whether it is in Colombo or Kathmandu.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

LETTERS

WOMEN POWER

There are some vital, common expressions of women who shared their perceptions. They are: self-confidence, desire to achieve and excel, independence and self-respect (*Let's hear it for the women*, HC, March 8). Let all the women think and work together, harness their capabilities and take our nation to greater heights.

G.V.N. Murthy
Hyderabad

NO COBRAS PLEASE

It is very depressing to see political parties concentrating on elections and busy indulging in accusations in order to grab power. It would be better if they concentrate on battling unemployment, poverty, ill-health, lack of education and many other issues. The country is going through a difficult situation and we don't need cobras or scorpions at this moment.

Zakaria Sultan
Hyderabad

MASKS MISSING

Since March 2020, I did not go out of my residence due to Covid-19, but I did go to the hospital to get vaccinated. I was shocked to see people without masks. The government should take some serious action in this regard.

Rajinder Bakshi
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN CHRONICLE

Peaceful civil disobedience in East Pak

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's writ rather than President Yahya Khan's seems to run in East Pakistan today as a non-violent civil disobedience movement got under way to force the military rulers to lift the Martial Law and hand over power to the elected representatives.

While Radio Pakistan in its national bulletins backed out news from the east wing except for a long official report giving casualty figures of last week's disturbances, Dacca Radio played a recorded version of the Awami League leader's speech of yesterday which described the east wing's struggle as "a fight for liberation".



IN BRIEF

MP PASSES ANTI-CONVERSION LEGISLATION

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC KOLKATA, MAR 8

The controversial Freedom of Religion Bill 2021, providing 10 years imprisonment for religious conversion of a girl through marriage or by any other fraudulent means was on Monday passed in the Madhya Pradesh assembly.

The bill, popularly known as 'Love Jihad' law, was passed by voice vote amid opposition by Congress which described it as "an attack on personal freedom and violation of Constitution".

State home minister Narottam Mishra however justified the bill saying that instances of some people marrying girls of other religions by concealing their real identities for conversion have of late come to the fore, forcing the government to legislate the law to check such illegal practices.

"I am not against 'love', but against 'jihad' (religious war)", he observed.

Mr Mishra took a dig at Congress for opposing the bill, saying that the Opposition party always pursued politics of appeasement to cultivate vote banks.

Participating in the debate, BJP MLA Rameswar Sharma said the bill was necessary to check the disturbing trend witnessed in tribal regions of the state in which Christian and Muslim men were found marrying tribal girls to usurp various privileges provided to adivasis by the government.

SPECULATIONS RIFE AS U'KHAND CM TO MEET PM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Amid growing speculations over a leadership change in BJP ruled Uttarakhand, chief minister Trivendra Rawat reached New Delhi to meet the party top brass. Mr Rawat met BJP president JP Nadda late evening.

Earlier during the day, Mr Nadda had met Union home minister Amit Shah in Parliament. BJP general secretary organisation BL Santhosh also attended the meeting, giving rise to speculations that it was related to the Uttarakhand issue. Mr Rawat is likely to meet PM Narendra Modi and Mr Shah on Tuesday. The CM also met BJP Rajya Sabha MP Anil Baluni before his meeting with Mr Nadda.

A section within the BJP state unit is of the view that going to polls, scheduled next year, with Mr Rawat as the CM can dent the poll prospects. This section of BJP leaders, including some ministers and MLAs are miffed with the CM over various issues, including administrative. However, those supporting Mr Rawat claim that the other faction is giving the opposition ammunition.

The opposition - Congress and AAP - lapped up the factionalism brewing in the ruling BJP camp and claimed that many dissenting BJP MLAs are in touch with them.

SUSPENSION OF 10 AKALI MLAS REVOKED

Chandigarh, Mar 8: Punjab Assembly Speaker Rana K P Singh on Monday revoked the suspension of 10 Shiromani Akali Dal legislators. In the ongoing budget session, the speaker said the legislators can participate in the discussion on the budget, which was presented on Monday.

The 10 Akali legislators were suspended on Friday for disrupting Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's speech on the governor's address twice.

The Amarinder Singh-led government presented its last budget with a total size of ₹1,68,015 crore for 2021-22, making bulk of its provisions for agriculture, urban development, water resources, health and other sectors.

Dedicating the state budget to the farmers who are protesting against the Centre's three farm laws, Finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal decided against levying any fresh taxes in the state which will go to the Assembly polls early next year.

Announcing the next phase of the Congress-led government's flagship programme 'crop loan waiver scheme', Badal announced an allocation of ₹1,712 crore in which Rs 1,186 crore of 1.13 lakh farmers and ₹526 crore of landless farm workers will be waived.

JOLT TO DIDI: DENIED TICKETS, 5 TRINAMUL MLAs JOIN BJP

RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC KOLKATA, MARCH 8

Dealing another blow to their party supremo and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on the eve of the Assembly elections, five sitting Trinamul Congress MLAs on Monday joined the BJP after they were denied tickets by her this time.

Another Trinamul leader Sarala Murmu, who had got a ticket to a seat she did not want to contest from, walked away from the saffron party after she was replaced.

The five sitting MLAs who defected to the BJP are four-time legislator of Satgachhia in South 24 Parganas and a close aide of Ms Banerjee, Sonali Guha, Sital Sardar of Sankrail, Jatu Lahiri of Shibpur in Howrah, Rabindranath Bhattacharya of Singur in Hooghly and Dipendu Biswas of Basirhat Dakshin in North 24 Parganas.

They made the switch to the saffron party in presence of its state chief and Midnapore MP Dilip Ghosh and national vice-president Mukul Roy, to whom many of them made a beeline after finding their names not in the TMC list.

The five MLAs took the drastic step after Ms Banerjee, while announcing the TMC candidates' list, had regretted having dropped so many sitting MLAs but assured that she would set up a Vidhan Parishad to accommodate the old guard like Ms Guha as Legislative Council members.

The ruling TMC received another jolt during day after it replaced Ms Murmu, who wanted to contest from Old Malda, citing her "ill health", with Pradeep Baskey at Habibpur in Malda in the morning. Disgusted, Ms Murmu joined the BJP. Besides, the BJP also took control of the Malda Zilla Parishad by inducting its 14 members to its fold from the Trinamul Congress.

Leading a rally of women TMC candidates, including several Bengali film and TV actors in Kolkata on Women's Day, Mamata Banerjee told Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "compete with her on the road like a street fighter".



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participates in a rally with her party women candidates, who are contesting from different constituencies for the upcoming state Assembly polls, to mark International Women's Day in Kolkata on Monday. - PTI

Kerala CM starts campaign with direct attack on Shah

During a rally, the home minister had termed Kerala as 'most corrupt'

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 8

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday hit out at union home minister Amit Shah saying that he had insulted the people of the state by terming Kerala as "most corrupt state".

Mr Vijayan while addressing an election meeting in his constituency Dharmadom in Kannur district said that several agencies had adjudged Kerala as the least corrupt state. The home minister is trying to mislead the people by creating smoke-screen.

You created "ache din" by facilitating 16,000 per cent increase in wealth," he said while referring to the allegations related to Shah's son.

At the public meeting held in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Amit Shah had put certain questions to the chief minister about the involvement of his former principal secretary in

gold smuggling case, appointment of key accused in government department, her trips to Gulf along with senior official, corruption and mysterious death of a person allegedly involved in gold smuggling.

Mr Vijayan put counter questions to Amit Shah. Why have the central agencies not been able to crack the gold smuggling case even after eight months? How did Thiruvananthapuram international airport, which is under Centre's complete control, become a gold smuggling hub under the NDA regime? Isn't the main person who conspired gold smuggling a Sangh Parivar man?

He also took a dig at Mr Shah saying that he had not been in jail on the charges of murder, fake encounter, snooting, kidnapping.

"Amit Shah should remember that he faced such serious charges. People of Kerala know who Pinarayi Vijayan is. They have seen our work," he said.

About mysterious murder as alleged by Shah, Mr Vijayan said that let the home minister clearly state the facts instead of creating a smokescreen. "If he reveals the name of the person, I am sure Kerala police will probe the matter," he said.

The chief minister said Mr Shah personified "communal politics."

He said Kerala does not believe in the communal politics that he espoused. "Our culture is not his culture. We are following the footsteps of our great social reformers Sree Narayana Guru, Chattambati Swami, Mahatma Ayyankali, Ayya Guru who spoke about communal harmony and universal brotherhood," he said.

Mr Vijayan criticised the Congress for failing to utter a word against Shah and his party.

Earlier, Mr Vijayan who arrived in Kannur was given a warm reception by LDF workers at the international airport. He was taken in a procession to

Dharmadom.

The chief minister was elected from Dharmadom constituency in 2016 with a huge margin of 36,905 votes. Though the Congress and BJP are yet to announce their candidates, political observers say Mr Vijayan might retain the seat comfortably considering the support his party enjoys in the constituency.

Meanwhile, the state leadership of CPM decided to exclude Law Minister A K Balan's wife Dr P K Jameela from the list of probable candidates for Tharoor constituency. Her name was taken off following opposition within the party.

Meanwhile, with the Congress high command directing that 60 per cent of the party candidates for the forthcoming assembly polls should be youth, women and new faces, the state leadership will have to make changes in the existing list of probable candidates.

Sources said that at the national executive meet-

ing of Youth Congress, Rahul Gandhi is believed to have reiterated that the representation for youth and women in the list of candidates should not come down.

Youth Congress state president Shafi Parambil MLA who attended the national executive meeting apprised Mr Gandhi about the less number of youth and new faces in the existing list.

Sources said based on the feedback, Rahul is understood to have spoken to the PCC leadership asking them to ensure good representation for youth and women. The Congress high command has also asked the PCC to prune the list of probables before submitting to the screening committee. As of now two to five names figure in the list for each constituency. Kerala PCC president Mr Mullapally Rama-chandran is likely to contest the polls from Kannur district. Earlier he had decided to keep off the electoral fray and concentrate on campaign.

MODI LIKELY TO ADDRESS 5 RALLIES IN KERALA

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 8

The BJP has decided to field party national vice president A P Abdullakutty from Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency for the bypoll to be held along with the assembly elections. The decision was conveyed in a statement issued by BJP's central election committee in Delhi.

The decision to field Abdullakutty has been taken in view of the peculiarity of the Muslim dominated Malappuram constituency. This is Abdullakutty's first election after joining the BJP. Earlier, he was MP twice from the CPM and later MLA from the Congress for one term.

The BJP has projected Abdullakutty as the party's Muslim face by elevating him to the post of national vice president. The Muslim League and the CPM have not decided the candidates for the Malappuram constituency as yet.

The Malappuram Lok Sabha bypoll was warranted by sitting MP and Muslim League leader P K Kunhalikutty's resignation. Kunhalikutty who returned to Kerala politics, would be contesting the forthcoming Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to address five public meetings as part of the campaign in Kerala. Amit Shah will be addressing seven meetings. Rajnath Singh, J P Nadda, Nirmala Sitharaman, Yogi Adityanath are the other star campaigners who would be soliciting votes for the party in Kerala in the coming days.

BJP NOT TO ANNOUNCE CM FACE IN ASSAM

Guwahati, Mar 8: The BJP will not announce the chief ministerial candidate before the Assam polls and a decision in this regard will be taken by its Parliamentary Board at the time of forming the next government, the party's state unit president Ranjeet Kumar Dass said on Monday.

Incumbent chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and influential minister and convenor of the North East Democratic Front (NEDA) Himanta Biswa Sarma have also said the ultimate decision on selecting a person for the chief minister chair in the new government will be that of the party's Parliamentary board.

This is in contrary to the position in 2016, when BJP had projected then union minister Sarbananda Sonowal as its chief ministerial face before the elections were held.

"When there is no government, then the CM name is projected. When we are in government, then we do not project any name for the CM post," Dass said. - PTI

Hiren's death case now to be probed by NIA

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 8

over the case, there is something fishy about it. We are also investigating another matter, that of the suicide of MP Mohan Delkar. The opposition has no guts to speak about it as they know who calls the shots in union territories," he said.

A Scorpio car carrying 20 gelatin sticks was seized near Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in South Mumbai on February 25. Police had said it had been stolen from Airoli-Mulund Bridge on February 18.

The probe into the death of Mansukh Hiren, the owner of the explosives laden vehicle that was found outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence, has been transferred from Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Reacting to this, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has stated that transfer of Mansukh's murder case from ATS to NIA suggests something was fishy. The investigation into Hiren's death was transferred to the NIA on Monday and the NIA was in the process of re-registering the case into his death.

Speaking to the reporters in Mumbai on Monday, Mr Thackeray said that governments come and go, but the official administrative machinery remains the same and one needs to trust it. Mr Thackeray also said that the state had handed over the case of the vehicle laden with explosives and the mysterious death of Hiren to the ATS.

According to him, the NIA taking over

the case, there is something fishy about it. We are also investigating another matter, that of the suicide of MP Mohan Delkar. The opposition has no guts to speak about it as they know who calls the shots in union territories," he said.

The clarification from the top court came in the course of the hearing of a petition by a 14-year-old girl from Haryana seeking court's nod for the termination of her 26-week-old pregnancy. Agreeing with the bench that it was a case of misreporting, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said "You asked a question in a different context. You were quoted

given highest respect to womanhood. We asked 'are you going to marry'. We didn't order (to marry)," the CJI said.

The clarification from the top court came in the course of the hearing of a petition by a 14-year-old girl from Haryana seeking court's nod for the termination of her 26-week-old pregnancy. Agreeing with the bench that it was a case of misreporting, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said "You asked a question in a different context. You were quoted

out of context," Lawyer Biju for the petitioner girl seeking termination of pregnancy described the alleged misreporting as "tarnishing of the image of the highest court".

The question had arisen in the context of an understanding between the victim girl's mother with the mother of the accused, who is now 23, that he would marry her (victim) after she becomes an adult.

In a hearing on March 1, the CJI had asked the petitioner accused if he would

marry the victim making it clear that court was not compelling him or offering an option.

However, entire thing got closed after accused petitioner seeking anticipatory bail said that he had offered to marry the victim girl but she refused and now he is married to another woman.

Rejecting his plea for anticipatory bail, the top court in the last hearing granted him four weeks of protection from arrest, giving him liberty to seek bail from the trial court.

Remarks on rape case last week completely misreported, says SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde on Monday said his remark to a rape accused that "will you marry her" was taken out of context and "misreported".

Expressing dissatisfaction with the "misreporting" of the proceedings, Chief Justice heading a bench also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Rama subramanian said that "We have the highest respect for womanhood". "We have

given highest respect to womanhood. We asked 'are you going to marry'. We didn't order (to marry)," the CJI said.

The clarification from the top court came in the course of the hearing of a petition by a 14-year-old girl from Haryana seeking court's nod for the termination of her 26-week-old pregnancy. Agreeing with the bench that it was a case of misreporting, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said "You asked a question in a different context. You were quoted

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The question had arisen in the context of an understanding between the victim girl's mother with the mother of the accused, who is now 23, that he would marry her (victim) after she becomes an adult.

In a hearing on March 1, the CJI had asked the petitioner accused if he would

marry the victim making it clear that court was not compelling him or offering an option.

However, entire thing got closed after accused petitioner seeking anticipatory bail said that he had offered to marry the victim girl but she refused and now he is married to another woman.

Rejecting his plea for anticipatory bail, the top court in the last hearing granted him four weeks of protection from arrest, giving him liberty to seek bail from the trial court.

across India saw a net increase of 4,224 on Monday, compared with 4,219 on Sunday. States that have seen the biggest daily net increase in active cases are Maharashtra (5,090), Punjab (333), Karnataka (268), Haryana (133), and Gujarat (115).

With 14,278 new daily recoveries, India's recovery rate stands at 96.91%, while fatality rate remains unchanged at 1.41%.

The Indian states and UTs with the worst case fatality rate at present are

Punjab (3.15%),

Maharashtra (2.36%),

Gujarat (2.19%). The rate in

as many as 15 is higher than the national average.

Delhi recorded as many as 239 fresh coronavirus cases on



SHANTI 70MM NARAYANAGUDA
(FULLY RENOVATED)

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BRAMARAMBA 70MM

11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

KONARK 70MM-DSNR

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

2.30 & 9.30PM

NARTHAKI 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

SRINIVASA 70MM-UPPAL

11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-11.00, 6.00PM

RADHIKA-4.40, 10.40PM

GPR-11.00, 1.50, 10.35PM

MCUBE-1.25, 7.35PM|SHA-11.30, 6.30PM

CINESQUARE-10.45, 4.40, 10.40PM

NARAPALLY-1.35, 10.10PM

OAMB 10.30, 1.50,

7.25, 10.10

BVK 10.35PM

PRASAD'S 5.15PM

CINEPLANET 1.40, 7.00, 10.10

TIVOLI 1.45,

PLATINUM 12.30, 5.15

7.45, 11.00

CCLP-1.30, 4.20, 7.35PM

MANTRA-11.05, 4.35, 7.15PM

DSL-12.20, 3.00, 9.40PM|**SUDHA**-1.20, 7.35PM

INOX GVK-10.05, 7.05PM|MP-1.30, 10.20PM

GSM-11.40, 6.20, 9.30PM

2 1.45, 10.45PM

10.10, 4.15,

PVR RK-3.05PM|PRESTON-1.55PM

IRRUMMANZIL-1.25, 10.00PM

ICON-4.25, 10.30PM

GALLERIA-1.10, 7.20PM

MUSARAMBAGH-4.45, 10.30PM

INORBIT-1.15, 10.20PM

CENTRAL-4.25, 10.20PM

FORUM MALL-11.25, 5.10, 10.40PM

BALANAGAR-10.45, 1.45, 7.30

GEETHA-12.30, 9.30PM

SHALINI-11.00, 7.30PM

THRILLING HIT



SANDHYA 70MM

(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)

11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

SHIVAPARVATHI 70-11.30, 2.30PM

SREERAMANA COMPLEX-11.00, 6.15PM

11.00, 6.00PM

PADMAVATHI COMPLEX-KACHIGUDA

9.00PM(ONE SHOW ONLY)

SANTOSHIBPATNAM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

11.15AM(ONE SHOW)

SRLATHA 70MM

6.15, 9.15PM

SENSATION INNSO

9.00PM(ONE SHOW)

SAPNA ABIDS-11.30, 2.30PM

ASIAN CINEMAS MCUBE-10.50AM

Sivaganga-2.15PM

Gpr-7.40PM|Sha-2.15PM

OAMB AMB CINEMAS-1.30PM

MJR Square-7.30PM

INOX GVK-3.55, 10.00PM|GSM-2.25PM

MP MALL-11.45, 6.20, 9.30PM

CCPL-1.30PM|MANTRA-2.40PM

DSL-12.00PM

PRASAD'S 6.00PM

10.55

4.30PM

10.55

11.00, 4.45

PLATINUM 2.25,

CARNIVAL 8.40PM

DILSHUKHNAGAR-10.45, 7.15

BALANAGAR-10.40, 8.00PM

CHANDANAGAR-6.30PM

11.00, 7.50PM

TIVOLI SEC'BAD 11.20AM

RK-8.05PM|PRESTON-7.50PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.15, 6.05, 8.45PM

CENTRAL-10.50, 4.40, 10.20PM

GALLERIA-11.25, 5.30, 8.10, 10.50PM

FORUM-11.00, 1.40, 4.45, 7.30, 10.10PM

INORBIT-11.35AM, 10.30PM|ICON-1.55, 7.35

MUSARAMBAGH-2.05, 7.20PM

INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON CROSS TIME CONNECTION
NOW SHOWING

A GIRL FROM 1993 CALLS A GUY IN 2019.
SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

PLAY KJAD

INDIA'S FIRST MOVIE BASED ON CROSS TIME CONNECTION

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

INORBIT-4.50PM|RK-12.05PM
PRESTON PRIME-1.00, 6.00PM
CENTRAL-7.25PM|GALLERIA-7.15PM

INOX GSM-4.40PM|GVK-1.30PM
MP-1.10PM

CCPL(MALKAJGIRI)-10.30PM
SUDHA-10.30PM

CINESQUARE 4.20PM
MIRAJ SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00PM
BALANAGAR-1.45PM

KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE

RELEASING THIS SHIVARATRI

SHIVARATRI MARCH 11TH WORLD WIDE RELEASE

SUDARSHAN 35MM [4K & Dolby Atmos] R.T.C X Road

VISHWANATH 70MM Dilshukhnagar

RAJADHANI DELUXE Abids

MUKTA A2 RAMAKRISHNA EESHWAR, Attapur

MAHALAXMI, Kothapet Srilaxmi, Karmanghat

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairatabad Amb Cinemas - Gachibowli

ICON - Hitech | **INORBIT MALL** - Madhapur

RK COMPLEX - BanjaraHills Forum Mall - Kukatpally

PRESTON PRIME - Gachibowli Irum Manzil - Khairatabad

HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA - Moosarambagh Hyd - Bad Next Galleria - Punjagutta

SHIVAGANGA 70MM [4K & Dolby Atmos] R.T.C X Road

SHRI SAIRAMU 70 Moosapet

SRI KRISHNA 70 Uppal

SUSHMA 70MM Vanastalipuram

SEN SATION Sunshine Khairtabad

BR HITECH 70 Madhapur

SHARADA 70MM Kapra

SHIVRANJANI 70 Isnapur

SRI SAIRAMU 70 Malkajgiri

SREERAMANA COMPLEX Ambarpet

RANGEVI 70MM Jeedimetla

ARADAHANA 70 Tarnaka

SHIVRANJANI 70 Isnapur

FORUM-1.30, 7.45PM|Central-1.15, 7.30PM

Inorbit-2.10, 7.15PM|Hitech-12.45, 6.00PM

L&T-4.15, 10.15PM|RK-10.45PM

Preston prime-9.00PM|Moosarambagh-3.45, 9.00PM

Irrmanzil-1.15, 6.30PM

PRASAD'S 9.00, 3.00PM

GVK-10.20PM|GSM-3.35PM

CCPL-10.20PM|DSL-10.00PM

MANTRA-10.40PM|SUDHA-10.20PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI-2.00, 7.45PM

BALANAGAR-2.00, 7.45PM

CHANDANAGAR-6.45PM

KOMPALLY 4.20PM

UPPAL 4.10PM

PVR PICTURES RELEASE 9963883444

FROM THE MAKERS OF "STREET"
COMES ANOTHER HORROR COMEDY

MARD KO JYADA DARD HOGA

FROM THE MAKERS OF

Roohi

Releasing worldwide on March 11th

INDRA VENKATRAMANA PADMAVATHI KACHIGUDA

PRIYA 70MM - MALLEPALLY

SRISAIRAJA 70MM - MUSHEERABAD

METRO 70MM BAHDURPURA

YAKUT MAHAL YAKUTPURA

PRASADS MULTIPLEX - NTR GARDENS

AMB CINEMAS - GACHIBOWLI

CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA

ICON - Hitech | **INORBIT MALL** - MADHAPUR

RK COMPLEX - BANJARAHILLS

FORUM MALL - KUKATPALLY

PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI

IRUM MANZIL - KHAIATABAD

HYD-BAD NEXT GALLERIA - MOOSARAMBAGH

HYD - BAD NEXT GALLERIA - PUNJAGUTTA

INOX GV MALL - BANJARAHILLS

MP MALL - KACHIGUDA

GSM MALL - MADEENAGUDA

SHALINI SHIVANI - DILSUKHNAGAR

MIRAJ CINEMAS - BALANAGAR

MIRAJ GEETHA - CHANDANAGAR

M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR

CINESQUARE - UPPAL

RADHIKA - KAPRA | **GPR** - KUKATPALLY

SHIVA GANGA - DILSUKHNAGAR

LAXMI KALA CINEPRADESH - MOOSAPET

MUKTHA A2 M JR SQUARE - NARAPALLY

SHASHENSHA - H.M.T ROAD CHINTAL

CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY | **TALLURI** - ECIL X ROADS

S2 NOMA - MALLAPUR

PLATINUM - GACHIBOWLI

MOVIE TIME - GACHIBOWLI

TIVOLI - SEC'BAD

"SOMETIMES FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION"

FANTASTIC HIT

AVANTHI PRODUCTIONS SOMETIME FACTS ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION

ADITYA MUSIC

UVA

PVR

Forum-1.30, 7.45PM|Central-1.15, 7.30PM

Inorbit-2.10, 7.15PM|Hitech-12.45, 6.00PM

L&T-4.15, 10.15PM|RK-10.45PM

Preston prime-9.00PM|Moosarambagh-3.45, 9.00PM

Irrmanzil-1.15, 6.30PM

PRASAD'S 9.00, 3.00PM

MALLPUR 10.30, 7.30PM

GVK-10.20PM|GSM-3.35PM

MP MALL-10.10PM

CCPL-10.20PM|Malkajgiri-1 SUDHA- Shalibhanda

MIRAJ - Balangar I Chandanagar

S2 CINEMAS - Mallapur

LAXMIKALA • **ASIAN SHA** Chintal

SHIVAGANGA • **TALLURI** Dilshukhnagar

GOKUL 70MM • **SREERAMANA** Erragada

SAI RANGA 70 • **ALANKAR** 70 Miyapur

JYOTHI 70MM • **SAI POOJA** 70 R.C Puram

SRI KRISHNA 70 • **LAXMIKALA MANDIR** Uppal

VYJAYANTHI • **GANESH** 70MM Nacharam

SRI SAI RAM 70 • **ASIAN SWAPNA** Malkajgiri</p



THIS 11th RELEASE

OOSARAVELLI

SHANTI 70MM NARAYANAGUDA

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

OAMB AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga
Cinesquare-Uppal

Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit-Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh
Next galleria

INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL

CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA

MIRAJ SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR

BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX

GLOBAL CINEMAS GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

BLOCKBUSTER JUSTICE

SANDHYA35-RTC X ROADS
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SAPNA35-ABIDS-6.00, 9.15PM

MANJU 70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SIVAPARVATHI 70MM-6.30, 9.30PM

SRIKRISHNA UPPAL-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

LAXMI SHAMSHABAD-11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15

KRISHNA ALIYABAD-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

VENKATESWARA GUMMADIDHALA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

LAXMIKALA 11.30, 6.15PM

OAMB 11.05, 1.55, 7.35, 10.40PM

INJRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI 9.15PM(ONE SHOW)

ASIAN CINEMAS RADHIKA-10.50, 1.40, 7.40PM
CINESQUARE-4.00, 10.10PM
GPR-1.30, 4.45PM|MCUBE-1.45, 7.05PM

INOX GVK-10.35, 4.10PM
MP-11.30, 6.25PM
GSM-12.20, 3.35, 6.45, 10.00PM

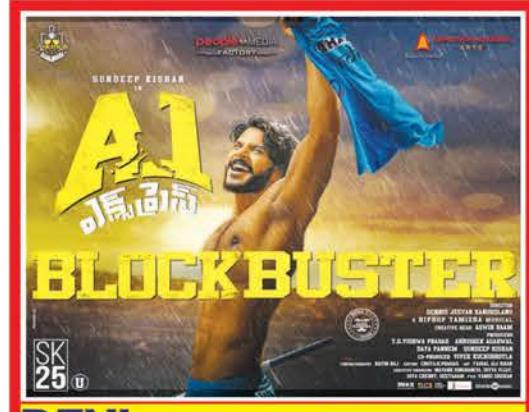
Cinépolis CCP-10.20, 4.00, 10.10PM
MANTRA-10.40, 1.50, 7.20, 10.35PM
DSL-12.40, 4.00, 7.10PM|SUDHA-1.15, 7.05PM

PRASAD'S 4.30 PM 1.00 1.10, 4.30

PVR FORUM-4.25, 7.45, 10.55PM
INORBIT-10.55, 4.30, 7.10PM
CENTRAL-10.25, 1.15, 4.30PM
Hitech-4.05, 10.15PM
L&T-10.00, 2.05, 4.10, 10.20PM
IRRUMMANZIL-2.55, 10.30PM
MUSARAMBAGH-1.10, 3.25, 7.30PM

CHANDANAGAR-3.15PM
DILSHUKNAGAR-10.30, 4.15PM
BALANAGAR-10.25, 4.40PM

AMEERPET 1.15, 7.15PM
PLATINUM 11.50, 1.30, 7.15, 10.20PM



DEVI 70MM-RTC X ROADS
(Enjoy 4k laser projection & dolby atmos)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

ARJUN 70-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

MEGHA 70-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

VENKATARAMANA KACHIGUDA 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM(2 SHOWS)

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

OAMB AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI
10.50, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM

PRASAD MULTIPLEX 9.00, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45PM

ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-2.00, 9.00PM
GPR-10.45, 1.45, 4.25, 7.20, 10.15PM
RADHIKA-10.40, 1.30, 4.35, 7.30, 10.30PM
MCUBE-10.40, 1.40, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM

CINESQUARE-10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM
CINEPLANET-10.45, 1.45, 4.35, 7.35, 10.20PM

Forum-11.00, 12.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM
Inorbit-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM
Icon-12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15, 10.15PM
Galleria-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM
Irrummanzil-12.45, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45PM
Musarambagh-12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
Prestone-12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
RK-10.30, 1.30, 7.40, 10.40PM

INOX GVK-10.50, 1.20, 4.00, 7.30, 10.50PM
MP-10.50, 1.00, 4.00, 7.15, 10.30PM
GSM-11.30, 1.00, 2.50, 4.20, 6.10, 9.30, 11.00PM

Cinépolis CCPL-10.50, 1.05, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM
MANTRA-10.50, 1.05, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20PM
DSL-12.30, 3.50, 7.10, 10.30PM
SUDHA-11.00, 1.05, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20PM

MIRAJ BALANAGAR-1.15, 7.15, 10.15PM
IDPL-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM
SHALINI-11.00, 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00PM

SHALINI/SHIVANI 2.00, 9.00PM
2.00, 11.00PM

PLATINUM 11.15, 2.00, 7.45, 10.45PM
9.00, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45PM

SAIPOOJA 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ALANKAR 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

BR HITECH 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SAIRANGA 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SUPER 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

JYOTHI R.C.PURAM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SAMPOORNA 70MM-2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM

SV CINESQUARE 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SENSATION SUNSHIN-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TALLURI COMPLEX-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

RAMAKRISHNA 35MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ANJALI 70MM-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SIVARANJANI 70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

SREEPREMA 70-11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

GANESH SHAMSABAD-11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM

GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE

Enjoy Coffee Break
EVERYDAY IN
hyderabad CHRONICLE



MAHA SHIVRATRI SPECIAL BONANZA



SANDHYA 35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)
RTC X ROADS

BRAMARAMBA 70MM

SHIVAPARVATHI 70MM

MEGHA 70MM-DSNR

MANJU 70MM-SEC'BAD

MAHALAXMI COMPLEX

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI COMPLEX

PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX

CINE PLANET

GPR-Kukatpally | RADHIKA-Kapra
CINESQUARE-Uppal | SIVAGANGA-Dsnr
MCUBE-Attapur | LAXMIKALA-Moosapet
SHA-Chinthal | MVR Square-Narapally

AMB CINEMAS-Gachibowli

BIG CINEMAS-Ameerpet

Forum-Kukatpally | ICON-Hitech City
RK Plex-Banjara hills | Inorbit Mall
Central Mall-Panjagutta | Next Galleria
Preston Prime | Irrummanzil
Musarambagh

INOX GVK-Banjara Hills
MP-Kachiguda | GSM-MadinaGuda

Cinépolis CCPL-Malkajgiri | Mantra-Attapur
SUDHA-Shalihuknagar | DSL-Uppal

MIRAJ SHALINI-Dilshuknagar | Chandanagar
Balangar

BVK Vijayalaxmi L.B.Nagar
Noma talkies Mallap

PLATINUM Platinum Gachibowli

TARAKARAMA KACHIGUDA
SANTOSH 70MM ABIDS

SENSATION COMPLEX

VIJETHA 70MM BORABANDA

AMBA 70MM MEHDIPATNAM

SRI LATHA 70MM R.C.PURAM

INJRA RAMAKRISHNA ABIDS

SRINIVASA 70MM 70MM-UPPAL

MUKUND 70MM MEDCHAL

VLS SRIDEVI 70 CH.GUDA

KRISHNA 70MM NAAGARAM

LAXMI 70MM SHAMSABAD

SANTOSH 70MM IBRAHIMPATNAM

SV CINESQUARE PATANCHERU

VENKATASAI KEESSARA

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

FORUM 11.45, 4.20, 10.40PM

GALLERIA 10.10, 1.10, 7.30, 10.40PM

ICON 12.55, 9.40PM | RK-11.00PM

INORBIT 10.05, 2.15, 7.40, 10.30PM

IRRUMMANZIL 4.20, 7.20, 10.20PM

PRESTON PRIME-12.50, 7.10PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.15, 4.20, 6.35, 10.40PM

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SHORT TAKES

9-YEAR-OLD BOY SHOT, KILLED NEAR ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, March 8: Police in St. Louis are investigating a shooting that killed a 9-year-old boy. The shooting happened around 10 p.m. Sunday in a residential area south of downtown. The boy later died at a hospital, officials said. Police did not release any other details, including the identity of the child or who may have shot the child.

PHILIPPINE COPS KILL 9 IN RAIDS ON REBELS

Manila, March 8: Philippine police backed by military forces killed nine people over the weekend in a series of raids against suspected communist insurgents, with authorities saying the suspects opened fire first. Others, however, said those killed were unarmed activists. Police said Monday that all of those killed were associated with "communist terrorist groups" and had shot at officers while they were serving search warrants. The suspects died while being brought to hospitals, police said. Police served at least 24 search warrants, mostly for illegal firearms and explosives, in a number of locations.

THREE DEAD IN KENTUCKY OVERDOSES

Hazard (Kentucky), March 8: Police in a southeastern Kentucky community are working with a federal drug enforcement agency to identify the source of suspected overdoses that resulted in three deaths and sickened several other people, including two officers. The Hazard Police Department said on Facebook that officers responding to a report of suspected overdoses in an apartment found three bodies Thursday. A fourth person suspected of overdosing was taken to a hospital while eight more overdoses have since been reported in the city, the statement said. Police urged residents to use caution if they see any substance that is not easily recognizable.

FIVE BALOCH ULTRAS KILLED IN PAKISTAN

Karachi, March 8: Pakistan's security forces on Monday killed five militants of the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army in the country's restive Balochistan province.

The militants of the separatist outfit were killed following an intelligence-based operation in Spinji area of Mastung district, a senior official of the Counter Terrorism Department in Quetta said.

They were planning a big terror attack in Quetta. Explosives, detonators and arms were recovered from their hideout. The five militants were involved in carrying out attacks on labourers and security forces. "When we raided their hideout, they opened fire on the police officials instead of surrendering," he said.

Meghan alleges royal racism

Ex-actress tells chat show host Oprah Winfrey she had contemplated suicide

Los Angeles/London, March 8: Meghan Markle struggled as a new member of Britain's royal family after her marriage to Prince Harry to such a degree that she even contemplated suicide, the Duchess of Sussex revealed in an explosive tell-all interview with American chat show host Oprah Winfrey.

The two-hour special, aired on the CBS network in the US on Sunday and set to be aired on ITV in the UK on Monday night, saw Prince Harry joining his wife half-way through as the couple also spoke about concerns of racism within the royal ranks after being asked about their son Archie's expected skin colour when mixed-race Meghan was pregnant with their first child.

I just didn't want to be alive anymore, Meghan said, adding that when she went to the institution for help she was told it would not be forthcoming as it wouldn't be good for the institution. The 39-year-old former American actress, who is pregnant with her second child, revealed that the couple are expecting a baby girl and shared how the palace decided that their first-born, Archie, could not be a prince and would therefore have no security.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex's children do not automatically become princes or princesses because of a rule that has been in place since 1917, unless the Queen steps in.

Both Meghan and Harry refused to divulge who exactly made remarks about their son's skin tone, with Meghan admitting that if she revealed who was involved in such talks it would be very damaging to them.

That conversation I'm never going to share, asserted Harry. The 36-year-old Duke of Sussex, who is still



Britain's Prince Harry (L) and his wife Meghan (C), Duchess of Sussex, in a conversation with US television host Oprah Winfrey. — AFP

stunned. Winfrey replied: "That was relayed to me from Harry, those were conversations the family had with him, and I think it was really hard to be able to see those as compartmentalised conversations. They were saying they didn't want him to be a prince or a princess and that he wasn't going to receive security."

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Both Meghan and Harry refused to divulge who exactly made remarks about their son's skin tone, with Meghan admitting that if she revealed who was involved in such talks it would be very damaging to them.

That conversation I'm never going to share, asserted Harry. The 36-year-old Duke of Sussex, who is still

sixth in line to the British throne, also spoke of his hurt at his father Prince Charles not taking his calls after the couple decided to step back as frontline royals last year.

[I had] three conversations with my grandmother [Queen Elizabeth II] and two conversations with my father [Charles], before he stopped taking my calls, he said. It was, like, I needed to do this for my family. This is not a surprise to any-

body. It's really sad that it's got to this point. But I've got to do something for my own mental health, my wife's and for Archie's as well, because I could see where this was headed, he said, in reference to the couple's decision to relocate.

They have since moved to California after formally stepping down from royal duties in March 2020, and it was announced last month that they would not be returning as

working members of the royal family. Harry said the couple were only able to afford their new life in California because of his mother Diana Princess of Wales. My family literally cut me off financially. I've got what my mum left me. Without that, we never would have been able to do this I think she saw it coming, he said.

Asked by Winfrey how they would respond to accusations that they were money-grabbing

because of deals they have signed with Netflix and Spotify since moving to California, Harry replied: First of all this was never the intention. We're certainly not complaining. Life is great. We've got a beautiful house, beautiful family. The dogs are really happy.

From my perspective all I needed was enough money to be able to pay for security, to keep my family safe, he said.

— PTI

20 dead, 600 wounded in E. Guinea blasts

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), March 8: A series of explosions at a military barracks in Equatorial Guinea killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 600 others on Sunday, authorities said. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema said the explosion at 4 pm local time was due to the "negligent handling of dynamite" in the military barracks located in the neighbourhood of Mondong Nkuantomba in Bata.

"The impact of the explosion caused damage in almost all the houses and buildings in Bata," the president said in a statement, which was in Spanish.

The defence ministry released statement late Sunday saying that a fire at a weapons depot in the barracks caused the explosion of high-calibre ammunition. It said the provisional toll was 20 dead and 600 injured, adding that the cause of the explosions will be fully investigated.

The country's president said the fire may have been due to residents burning the fields surrounding the barracks. State television showed a

huge plume of smoke rising above the explosion site as crowds fled, with many people crying out "we don't know what happened, but it is all destroyed." Images on local media seen by The Associated Press show people screaming and crying running through the streets amid debris and smoke. Roofs of houses were ripped off and wounded people were being carried into a hospital. Equatorial Guinea, an African country of 1.3 million people located south of Cameroon, was a colony of Spain until it gained its independence in 1968.

Bata has roughly 175,000 inhabitants. Earlier, the Health Ministry had tweeted that 17 were killed and the president's statement mentioned 15 dead.

The Health Ministry made a call for blood donors and volunteer health workers to go to the Regional Hospital de Bata, one of three hospitals treating the wounded. The ministry said its health workers were treating the injured at the site of the tragedy and in medical facil-

ties, but feared people were still missing under the rubble. The blasts were a shock for the oil rich Central African nation. Foreign Minister Simeón Oyono Esono Angue met with foreign ambassadors and asked for aid. "It is important for us to ask our brother countries for their assistance in this lamentable situation since we have a health emergency (due to Covid-19) and the tragedy in Bata," he said.

A doctor calling into TVGE, who went by his first name, Florentino, said the situation was a "moment of crisis" and that the hospitals were overcrowded. He said a sports center set up for Covid-19 patients would be used to receive minor cases.

Radio station, Radio Macuto, said on Twitter that people were being evacuated within four kilometers of the city because the fumes might be harmful.

Following the blast, the Spanish Embassy in Equatorial Guinea recommended on Twitter that "Spanish nationals stay in their homes."

— AP

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— AP

Woman took child to IS area, gets 3 yrs' jail

Stockholm, March 8: A southern Swedish court on Monday sentenced a woman to three years in prison for taking her 2-year-old son to Syria in 2014, to an area that was then controlled by the Islamic State (IS) group.

The woman, who lived in the southern town of Landskrona, has allegedly told the child's father that she and the boy were only going on a holiday to Turkey. However, once in Turkey, the two crossed into Syria and IS-run territory. The Lund District Court said the woman, who was not named, took the child to an area

where there was war and an environment characterised by the violent ideology of the Islamic State group." The court, which did not identify the woman's nationality, rejected her claims that she had only intended to go to Syria for a few days to see how it was there and then return home.

She also told the court that she had become interested in religion after the death of a close relative. "She intended to move to Syria with her son and settle there permanently, and took her son away from his father in an arbitrary manner." — AP

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking)					
KRCL has published Employment Notifications as given below:					
1) Employment Notification No. CO/P-R/01/2021 dated 25/02/2021. Post: Dy. Chief Engineer/Project in PML-13 on regular basis. No. of Posts : 02. Place of Posting: USBR, Project, Jammu & Kashmir.					
2) Employment Notification No. CO/P-R/01C/2021 dated 01/03/2021. Post: Dy. Chief Engineer/Project on contract basis. No. of Post : 01. Place of Posting: Trivandrum, Kerala.					
Candidates may see the details of notification, eligibility criteria etc., on the KRCL website www.konkanrailway.com at the link > Recruitment> Current Notification and apply accordingly.					
Chief Personnel Officer					

Lavanya Raju S/o Bala

Nanavalla Jangala S/o Ajitha

Lavanya Mahesh S/o Yashoda

Lavanya Lingya S/o Bala

Syed Ariz S/o Cheote Miya

Mohammed Taslim S/o Abdul Raheem

Nenavalla Sujitha S/o Komurahai

Nanavalla Raju S/o Sathaiha

Lavanya Rakesh S/o Deshna

Lavanya Babu S/o Deshna

Nanavalla Gopal S/o Valya

Lavanya Nisha S/o Lingya

Kethavathi Shoba W/o Lingya

Lavanya Shankar S/o Damia

Lavanya Lalu S/o Bala

Safiya Begum W/o Syed Habeeb

Nanavalla Sujitha S/o Komurahai

Nanavalla Raju S/o Sathaiha

Lavanya Raju S/o Bala

Nanavalla Jangala S/o Ajitha

Lavanya Babu S/o Bala

Nanavalla Mahesh S/o Yashoda

Lavanya Lingya S/o Bala

Syed Ariz S/o Cheote Miya

Mohammed Taslim S/o Abdul Raheem

Yennam Shyam Sunder Reddy Matto Reddy

Nanavalla Lokaiha S/o Komurahai

Nanavalla Jangala S/o Ajitha

This notification is made under the provisions of section-11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Tenth Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to whom it may concern.

A plan may be inspected in the office of the District Collector and Revenue Divisional Officer, Shadnagar District, Ranga Reddy during working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-Authorized Officer is pleased to authorize the office of the District Collector and Revenue Divisional Officer, Shadnagar to inspect the documents and files in the sub-sell and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said act.

Under section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of such notification.

Objections to the acquisition if and claims from all persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector, Ranga Reddy Authorized Officer.

Sd/-
Tahsildar Revenue Divisional Addl. Collector District Collector
Kothur Shadnagar Division, Ranga Reddy

R.O. No. 1331/LA-PP/Advt/Pub/2020-21

Women of 15 nations feted by Jill Biden for courage

Washington, March 8: First lady Jill Biden says nearly two dozen women from the State Department are honouring for their courage made an intentional decision to persist and demand justice despite their fear. The 21 women being recognised Monday with the department's International Women of Courage Award include seven from Afghanistan who are receiving posthumous honours. The first lady says that the women's stories make it easy to think of them as mythical heroes or angels among us but that they're also humans who want to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

Some of these women have spent their lives fighting for their cause. Others are just starting out on a journey they didn't ask for, Biden says in remarks prepared for the ceremony, which were obtained by The Associated Press.

Some were called to service, and some couldn't escape it, Biden says. They are fighting for their own lives and for their children. They want to right the wrongs of our past, to build a brighter future for everyone. They aren't immune to fear. No

fear they faced, there is a future worth fighting for," Biden says. Touching on the past year, the first lady says the pandemic shows how the things that connect us, our love for family and friends, our hope that we will be together soon transcend language and distance. She says that diplomacy, at its best, is a recognition of this connection and that the United States, under President Joe Biden's leadership, will support women around the world.

We will make the choice to lead, to be bold and to lift up the women and girls everywhere who light our way, Biden says in her prepared remarks. For 15 years, we have honoured women around the world who have made the extraordinary choice to fight for something bigger

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	50,441.07	0.07
Nifty 50	14,956.20	0.12
S&P 500*	3,870.96	0.76
Dollar (₹)	73.25	-0.30
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.94	-0.02
Euro (₹)	86.96	0.17
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,114 ▲122	0.27
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	68.27	-1.57
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.223	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.592	0.038

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Govt nets over ₹53,300 cr from Vivad Se Vishwas

The Centre has realised Rs 53,346 crore through direct tax dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas till February 22. To a query in the Lok Sabha on whether the government has been able to achieve the objective of settling income tax cases after launching the Vivad se Vishwas scheme, minister of state for finance Anurag Singh Thakur said, "Yes". He said over 1.28 lakh declarations have been filed under the scheme.

Tata Motors gets shareholders nod for PV hiving off



Tata Motors said its shareholders have approved hiving off its passenger vehicles business into a separate entity. On March 5, the shareholders voted to consider and approve the transfer of the passenger vehicles business unit to TML Business Analytics Services Ltd as a going concern on a lump sum basis for a lump sum consideration. The firm had said that its PV business has been valued at Rs 9,417 crore.

BEML shares surge over 20% over bid response

Shares of BEML Ltd soared as high as over 20 per cent to lock into the upper circuit limit and touch 52-week-high values on exchanges amid reports that multiple firms are looking to buy the government's 26 per cent stake in the firm. On the BSE, the scrip surged 20 per cent to its 52-week high value of Rs 1,406.25, also its upper circuit limit. On the NSE, the shares jumped 20 per cent to Rs 1,416.

TVS Motor rides in Apache RTR 200 4V at ₹1.28 L

TVS Motor introduced Apache RTR 200 4V (single-channel ABS) motorcycle with innovative "segment-first features" priced at Rs 1.28 lakh at Delhi showroom. Introduced at a premium of Rs 1,000 over the outgoing model, the 2021 variant boasts of a host of segment-first features like three ride modes, adjustable front suspension, adjustable brake and clutch levers, and race-tuned slipper clutch.

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■ Groundwater extraction causing them to sink Coastal cities inundating four times faster: Study

JONATHAN TIRONE

MARCH 8

The economic impacts of rising sea levels will be felt four times faster by people living in some of the world's biggest coastal cities, which are sinking beneath their own weight into manmade cavities created below the surface.

The scientific assessment published on Monday in Nature Climate Change is the second in a month to show that coastal economies are more vulnerable than previously thought to the danger of rising sea levels. The extraction of groundwater and other resources from beneath cities, including Jakarta, New Orleans and Shanghai, is causing them to slowly sink, a phenomena called subsidence, resulting in greater risks from flooding and storm surges.



"Due to its coincidence with major population centres, subsidence has global social and economic implications," reads the peer-reviewed research written by scientists from China, France, Germany and the UK. "These results indicate that the impacts and adaptation needs are much higher than reported global sea-level rise measurements suggest."

While sea-levels have

risen at about 2.5 millimetres a year globally over the last two decades, coastal residents representing some 58 per cent of the world's population have experienced average relative sea-level increases of 7.8 to 9.9 millimetres annually, according to the research, which used satellite data to gauge changes in land elevation.

The risks of groundwater

known but the new research suggests policy makers can regulate development and groundwater extraction to slow down and mitigate the impact of higher oceans.

"Human-induced subsidence in and surrounding coastal cities can be rapidly reduced with appropriate policy for groundwater utilisation and drainage," the researchers wrote. "Such policy would offer substantial and rapid benefits to reduce growth of coastal flood exposure due to relative sea-level rise."

For cities like Jakarta, the window to mitigate sinking ground levels and rising seas is already closing. Indonesia is relocating its capital to higher ground on the island of Borneo, a move that will cost billions of dollars by the time it begins later this decade.

—Bloomberg

IMF suggests carbon tax for India

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, MARCH 8

Levying a carbon-tax will help India accelerate the shift away from thermal power generation in order to become a global leader in achieving emission reduction targets while boosting revenues to reduce the country's fiscal deficit, finds the International Monetary Fund.

While India is expected to achieve both its 40 per cent non-fossil fuel target and

its emissions intensity target by 2030, the country's current emissions target is not as strong compared to some other countries.

India's mitigation policy is of central interest to the global community as significant economic and population growth is likely to account for a larger share of global emission in the next 10 to 20 years. India has an opportunity to become a world leader by taking bolder steps toward mitigation, says the IMF.

To achieve larger emission reductions, India may need to focus on phasing out its reliance on coal-fired power plants. For this, levying a direct tax on fossil-fuel production, in proportion to carbon content and carbon emissions would accelerate the shift away from thermal power generation while also providing a fiscal dividend. A \$50 per tonne carbon tax would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 35 per cent below a "no-poli-

cy-change" baseline scenario by 2030.

Unlike subsidisation for renewable energy, which carries a fiscal cost, a substantial carbon tax could provide a large fiscal boon to India. A \$50 per tonne carbon tax would generate 1.5 to 2 per cent of GDP in additional fiscal revenues by 2030. If this boost to revenues were used to cut the country's deficit, it would play a large role in counteracting the deterioration in India's fiscal position.

DEBT INDEX FUND WITH SIX-YEAR MATURITY LAUNCHED

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, MARCH 8

Edelweiss Asset Management Company announced the launch of Edelweiss Nifty PSU Bond Plus SDL Index Fund 2026, a unique index fund investing in state development loans (SDLs) and PSU bonds. Passively managed, this index fund, with a defined maturity date, will invest in AAA-rated PSU bonds and SDLs.

"This is a first ever, open-ended, target maturity index fund. Proportion of investments of AAA PSU bonds and SDLs will be equally divided with a weightage of 50 per cent each," the fund said.

Exposure to any single company's bonds or loans would be capped at 15 per cent of the corpus. Subsequently, there will be a quarterly rebalancing and review of the index constituents, Edelweiss AMC said.

The Edelweiss Nifty PSU Bond Plus SDL Index Fund – 2026 NFO will be open for subscription between March 10 and March 16.

The fund with a minimum investment amount of Rs 5,000 will have a defined maturity date of April 30, 2026.

The fund will aim to hold the bonds till maturity.

India poised to weather global bond rout with record reserves

SUBHADIP SIRCAR & KARTIK GOYAL

MARCH 8

India's record foreign-exchange reserves and a rare current-account surplus look set to cushion the nation's currency and bonds from a global surge in interest rates.

While the central bank does have its hands full managing the government's large debt issuance, strategists see the country in a much stronger financial position now than it was during previous bouts of turmoil in world markets. They cite the rupee, which has eked out a gain this year, defying the slump seen in most emerging-market currencies, and relative stability of India's bonds.

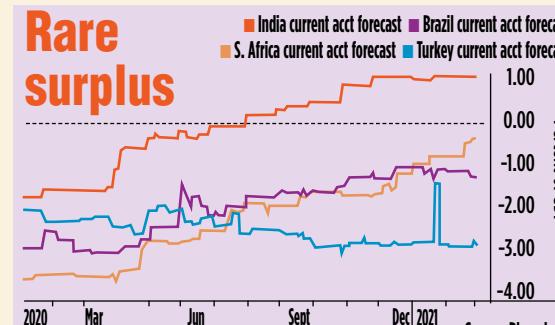
With reserves closing in on \$600 billion and a current-account surplus forecast to exceed 1 per cent of gross domestic product, talk of India as one of five fragile emerging markets has mostly faded away. When the description was coined during the taper tantrum in 2013, inflation in India was running at around 10 per cent.

According to analysts, Indian stocks have attracted about \$6 billion of foreign inflows this year, the

highest in emerging Asia after China, and well above those of the country's erstwhile "Fragile Five" peers. The prospect of strong economic growth has been underpinned by an early start to India's coronavirus inoculation campaign, aided by domestically produced vaccines.

India's central bank has added \$127 billion to its foreign-exchange kitty since the beginning of January last year, the biggest increase among major Asian economies. At the current rate of accumulation, India is on course to pass Russia and take fourth place in global rankings for reserves, behind China, Japan and Switzerland.

—Bloomberg



ANUPAM RASAYAN PRICES IPO IN ₹553-555 BAND

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, MARCH 8

Surat-based specialty chemical maker Anupam Rasayan's Rs 760-crore initial public offering opens on March 12.

The price band for the public issue has been fixed at Rs 553 to Rs 555 per equity share of Rs 10 per face value.

"The issue aggregating up to Rs 760 crore is a fresh issuance of equity shares... The company proposes to utilise the net proceeds towards repayment of debt and for general corporate purposes," the company said during a virtual press conference.

The company has two distinct verticals of life science related specialty chemicals comprising products related to agrochemicals, personal care and pharmaceuticals; and other specialty chemicals, comprising specialty pigment and dyes, and polymer additives.

Anupam Rasayan has developed long-term relationships with various multinational corporations, which has helped the company expand its product offerings and geographic reach across Europe, Japan and United States, the company said.

As of December 31, 2020, the company operates through six multi-purpose manufacturing facilities based in Gujarat, with four facilities located in Surat.

Larger firms recover better than smaller ones

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, MARCH 8

Larger companies have demonstrated better recovery in terms of sales and profitability compared to their smaller counterparts, finds an analysis by CMIE.

"India's smart economic recovery is described as one in which large companies did well for themselves even as the smaller ones languished. MSMEs have suffered as they are unable to survive the sudden and prolonged lockdown and the consequent shrinking of overall business. Large companies are not only better placed to ride out the storm but also gain by cannibalising markets of the withering smaller companies," says Mahesh Vyas, CEO of CMIE.

The private think-tank studied the quarterly financial statements of 3,220 listed non-finance companies to understand growth in net sales, wages and profitability.

Listed companies have been recording a fall in net sales in year-on-year comparisons well before the lockdown pounded them. Then, in the first quarter of the lockdown net sales were down by a massive 39 per cent, followed by 10 per cent in the September quarter and a little less than one per cent in the December quarter.

The lockdown affected companies of all sizes severely. But, the recovery was selective. Larger



companies have recovered in terms of sales growth while smaller companies still see shrinking sales.

The largest companies by size saw their sales shrink by 1.5 per cent in the December quarter. If petroleum refining and aviation industries are removed, the largest companies showed positive growth. Sixty-two per cent of such companies reported growth in net sales. Large companies too registered a growth of 6.6 per cent.

All the other companies in the mid and small segment recorded a fall in sales and the extent of the fall in sales was inversely proportional to the company size.

Similarly, the wage bill of all the companies increased by 3.5 per cent in the December quarter. The largest companies saw a higher 4.7 per cent increase in the wage bill while large companies saw a 1.2 per cent increase. All other companies saw a fall in their wage bill.

The wage bill increases as the size of the companies becomes smaller.

Blackstone calls off Mphasis stake sale

BAIJU KALESH

MARCH 8

Blackstone Group Inc. has shelved a planned sale of its majority stake in Indian IT outsourcing services provider Mphasis Ltd over valuations, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The private equity firm rejected the two bidders in the final round as their offers didn't meet its expectations, said the person, who asked not to be identified as the information is private.

Blackstone has informed the interested parties that it has halted the sale, the

person added.

Blackstone bought a 60.5 per cent stake in Mumbai-listed Mphasis from Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co in 2016 at Rs 430 (\$5.87) per share. The private equity firm also made an open offer to acquire additional shares from other shareholders.

As of end of 2020, Blackstone owned about 56 per cent in the tech firm.

The asset manager started identifying buyers for its majority stake in Mphasis a few months ago. It had held talks with prospective investors, including Carlyle Group

Inc. and Singapore state investment fund GIC Pte. Shares in Mphasis reached an all-time high at Rs 1,788 each on February 23. While the stock has receded from the peak, it's still trading at around Rs 1,600, almost four times above Blackstone's offer five years ago.

A media report on Monday said that negotiations between Blackstone and Carlyle have hit an impasse over valuations.

Representatives for Blackstone and Carlyle declined to comment, while a representative for GIC couldn't immediately comment.

BOSCH TO OPEN AUTOMOTIVE CHIP FACTORY IN GERMANY MID-YR

Frankfurt, March 8: German technology group Bosch said on Monday it would open an automotive chip factory in Dresden in June to build on its leadership in sensor chips that will boost the electric car industry.

The one billion euro (\$1.2 billion) plant will produce sensor chips to be installed in electric and hybrid electric vehicles.

Bosch began testing the fully automated production of prototype chips, a step towards starting full-scale production at the end of the year, it said.

The plant will not produce all of the sort of semiconductor chips now in short supply, causing disruptions to the global car industry, but so-called ASICs (application-specific integrated circuit) microchips, remedying parts of the bottlenecks and only from the end of 2021 onwards.

The factory, partly financed by the Free State of Saxony and federal government in Berlin, will employ 700 people. Plans for the plant were announced in 2017.

The local and federal governments want to make Dresden a centre for semiconductor research and manufacturing.

—Reuters

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SHORT TAKES
Bajrang takes gold, No.1 rank

Rome: Olympic-bound Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia pulled off a two-pointer in the last 30 seconds of the gold medal bout to defend his title at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event, a result that propelled him back to world number one rank.

Up against Mongolia's Tulga Turmuk Ochir, Bajrang was trailing 0-2 till the final moments of the 65kg final but managed to level the scores, 30 seconds from the final whistle.

Since the last scoring point came from the Indian, he was declared the winner on criteria on Sunday night.

Bajrang's leg defence seemed to be a particularly improved aspect of his game in the one-year break, forced by the coronavirus pandemic.

Bajrang was placed second in the rankings before the event and is now on top of the table in the 65kg category with 14 points. — PTI

Mumbai pip Goa for historic final

Goa: Two hundred and ten minutes of football over two legs, yet there was no winners to head into the final between Mumbai City FC and FC Goa!

Such was the battle, that it came down to ISL's first-ever sudden death in a penalty-shootout to decide the first finalists of Season 7. And it turned out to be Mumbai City who had the last laugh as they edged FC Goa on penalties 6-5.

One of the highlights of the thriller was when both coaches decided to substitute their goalkeepers with the contest heading into the penalty shootout. Goa brought on Naveen Kumar while Mumbai raised some eyebrows when they decided to field Phurba Lachenpa in place of skipper and one of the best goalkeepers of the season.

Amrinder Singh, But, as it turned out to be, the Sikkimese gloverman survived the battle of nerves, helping Mumbai City book a place in the final for the first time.

Sharath, Sathiyan and Batra in Rd 2

Doha: Ace Indian paddlers Achanta Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan Ganasekaran and Manika Batra started their campaign at the WTT Star Contender Doha on a winning note by progressing into the second round of their respective singles categories, here on Monday.

Sharath struggled in the initial stages as he lost the first game against Brian Afanador before the world no. 32 recovered well to seal the match 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-1 against the Puerto Rican in the first round. World no. 37 Sathiyan was also trailing 0-2 in his opening match before making a remarkable comeback to pull off a sensational 9-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-4 victory against France's Emmanuel Lebesson.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Batra notched up a comfortable 11-5, 11-9, 11-9 win against Chinese Taipei's Hsieh-Tzu Cheng in the first round.

Team LeBron dominate All-Star

Atlanta: Damian Lillard nailed a game-ending three pointer from just inside half court as LeBron James improved to 4-0 as an NBA All-Star Game captain with a 170-150 win over

Team Durant on Sunday. Giannis Antetokounmpo captured the Kobe Bryant MVP Award going a perfect 16-of-16 from the field for a game high 35 points in Atlanta.

James improved to 4-0 in All-Star games he has served as a team captain. He finished with four points in just 13 minutes of playing time. — AFP

Live on TV
CRICKET

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

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Second Semifinal, 2nd leg — Mohun Bagan vs North East United from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, HD

Champions League: Round of 16, Second Leg — Juventus vs Porto from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2; Dortmund vs Sevilla from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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CATCH 20-20!

Team management in dilemma to choose players for series

Ahmedabad, March 8: The Indian team management faces a problem of plenty going into the five T20 Internationals against England, an assignment which marks the beginning of the side's build-up to this year's T20 World Cup at home.

There are 19 players available for selection and with two in contention for each slot, the XI for the five games, starting here on Friday, will be an indication to how head coach Ravi Shastri, captain Virat Kohli and bowling coach Bharat Arun are looking at the next six to seven months for the shortest format.

Will they look for a settled combination to first clinch the series and then experiment or will they field absolute rookies in the squad looking at the bigger picture?

For a team that's so closely followed, the result does matter and that's why one can expect a settled first eleven for the first three games since all matches are at the same venue on similar kind of tracks.

The roaring comeback of Rishabh Pant will lead to a lot of interesting developments at the top of the order.

Pant's inclusion means that K.L. Rahul, who till a few months back was the first choice keeper-opener, is unlikely to don the big gloves.

Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma were a settled white ball opening pair till recently but Rahul's emergence as a potent white ball specialist has spiced up the competition.

Dhawan recently had a score of 150 odd in the Vijay Hazare Trophy for Delhi and when it comes to Rohit, there's nothing to be discussed.

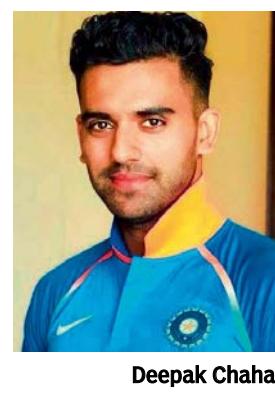
So where does the team management fit in Rahul, who has been a successful



Shikhar Dhawan



K.L. Rahul



Deepak Chahar



Shreyas Iyer



Bhuvneshwar Kumar

IPL opener? Will he be slotted in the middle-order as Dhawan's game is not suited to batting lower down?

These are two pertinent questions and in the answer, will be a follow-up question.

With skipper Kohli himself coming in at No 3 and two game-changers like Pant and all-rounder Hardik Pandya expected to play the big shots at Nos 5 and 6, where does it ideally leave Rahul?

The only place he can be slotted is No 4 but Shreyas

Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav are also jostling for a place.

If one closely follows the pattern of picking the playing XI, Surya, a sentimental favourite, will have to wait for his turn as Shreyas has done nothing wrong.

But when it comes to a three-way battle between Rahul, Shreyas and Surya, the Karnataka man beats the two Mumbai boys hollow with his repertoire of strokes and ability to shift gears.

Similarly, in the pace

department, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, once upon a time India's best white ball exponent, is coming back after a long lay-off and will be engaged in a two-way fight with Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur.

For Bhuvneshwar, his experience and being a better bowler at the death compared to Chahar holds him in good stead but he hasn't played a lot of cricket save a few Mishtaq Ali games.

Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel are the three spinners expected to feature in the playing XI on the sluggish Motera tracks.

In all, there are too many good players and very little space to fit all of them with three sure-shot picks — Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah already resting or recuperating from injury.

Once they come back, it will be a bigger selection headache for the management but one that they won't mind. — PTI

Shivlal blames HCA for no IPL matches in Hyd

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Former Test cricketer and secretary of the Hyderabad Cricket Association N. Shivlal Yadav has hit out at the current establishment for Hyderabad being ignored as a venue for the upcoming IPL.

The BCCI on Sunday announced the venues and fixtures for India's premier domestic tournament and has left out Hyderabad, which has a team in the glitz league and has been the IPL champion twice.

"It's a shame for Hyderabad. I am deeply hurt," Shivlal, who has helmed the HCA for many years in the past, said.

He laid the blame squarely on president Mohammad Azharuddin. "There's no commitment from him. He should have initiated a

dialogue with the BCCI, made a request, put across our points effectively and prevailed upon the administrators," Shivlal, who has been acting president of the BCCI and understands the working of the national board, said.

"We were comfortably placed with regard to facilities but infighting in the HCA has cost us — members of the Apex Council are simply not on the same page," he continued.

"What do we lack in Hyderabad? Our ground has been adjudged the best by BCCI on four occasions, the city has an international airport, there are so many hotels and resorts that can easily deal with Covid restrictions, and we have very less number of Covid cases too. We just threw all this away," the former national selector rued.

"Why did they take up the assignment when they didn't have time for the Association? They should all resign and call for fresh elections. The infighting is killing cricket in Hyderabad," Shivlal surmised.

"When they are making such a mockery of the Lodha reforms, how can they expect the BCCI to deal favourably with them?" he reasoned.

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Koushik, Suffian steal the show

Somsobra, Karthik, Vamshi, Ashish, Ranjith, Vinay, Rohan also shine



Koushik Reddy

Meanwhile, PPMCC's Somsobra (105), Karthik (100) of Lucky XI and Mahesh CC's Vamshi Krishna (100 not out) also put up good shows with the bat.

Brief scores:

TWO-DAY LEAGUE

■ HPS B 350/8 in 90 overs bt Young Citizens 142/9 in 43.3 overs (Rohan Kumar 82 n.o, Kapil Vivek 4/51, Ramana C 3/47).

Points: HPS 8, Young Citizens 0.

■ Time CC 123 in 47.3 overs (Gagan 36, J. Rahul 3/24) lost to Rourkela CC 124/2 in 45.3 overs (Suhil 65, Nikshith 48). Points:

■ Marredpally Blues 272/6 in 45overs (S. Raju 59, Yesudan 67, E. Srikanth 36, Syed Khaja Moinuddin 46, Bala 3/59) lost to Amberpet CC 272/7 in 40.1 overs (Jitender 62, Srikanth Kesari 79, K. Harsha Vardhan 4/29, Yesudan 3/54).

■ Sutton CC 127 in 24.1 overs (Ashish 34, Monith 3/23) lost to CK Blues 128/7 in 31.5 overs (Sandee 38 n.o, Prudhvi 3/14).

■ Gaganmal CC 51 in 17 overs (Shakil Suffian 7/6) lost to Boys Town CC 56 for no loss in 3.3 overs.

ONE-DAY LEAGUE

■ Southend Raymonds 411 in 46.3 overs (Koushik Reddy 212 – 130b, 20x4, 13x6, Noman Ahmed 70, Junaid 31, Omer 31, Mohd Sameer 63, Ashar 3/74).

Points: HPS 8, Raymonds 0.

■ Ameerpets CC 133 in 25 overs (Afraaz 46, Khalene 3/31, Omer 4/42).

■ Gaganmal CC 51 in 17 overs (Shakil Suffian 7/6) lost to Boys Town CC 56 for no loss in 3.3 overs.

■ Sutton CC 127 in 24.1 overs (Ashish 34, Monith 3/23) lost to CK Blues 128/7 in 31.5 overs (Sandee 38 n.o, Prudhvi 3/14).

■ St Marys CC 142 in 34.2 overs (Junaid 3/20) lost to Redhills CC 144/7 in 32 overs (Maran 40 n.o).

Djokovic on top for record weeks

Surpasses Federer's World No. 1 mark

Paris, March 8: Novak Djokovic set a new landmark of 311 weeks as world number one on Monday, one week longer than Roger Federer whose tally of a record 20 Grand Slam titles is now firmly in the Serb's sights.

"Big day today", tennis superstar wrote on Twitter.

Djokovic, 33, won his 18th major at the Australian Open in February. With Federer turning 40 in August, the Serb has time on his side. He is also a year younger than Rafael Nadal who also has 20 majors. "It really excites me to walk the path of legends and giants of this sport. To know that I earned my place among them by following my childhood dream is a beautiful confirmation that when you do things out of love and passion, everything is possible," Djokovic said in a statement released by the ATP.

Federer, who returns to action in Doha this week after more than a year out of action to recover from