

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 21 FEBRUARY 2021



## WEATHER

Max: 28°C  
Min: 18°C  
RH: 44%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Mist or haze likely.  
Max/Min temp. 30/18 °C



## WORLD | 14

Russian court  
rejects Navalny plea



## SPORTS | 16

Osaka is Australian  
Open champion



## TABLOID

Hanuma Vihari's heroics  
find no takers in IPL

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## India, China talk to disengage more

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 20

India and China Corps Commanders on Saturday held their 10th round of talks to discuss disengagement from Depsang plains and Demchok friction points in Ladakh, following the disengagement of the two sides on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso lake.

The meeting was held in Moldo on Chinese side and started at around 10 am and was going on till reports last came in at 9.30 pm.

The Indian delegation was led by 14 Corps commander Lt Gen. P.G.K.

Menon, Naveen Srivastava, joint secretary (East Asia) from the ministry of external affairs was part of Indian delegation.

India and China are likely to issue a joint statement on outcome of the meeting.

It is expected that India and China will first be able to reach an agreement on Gogra-Hot Springs.

In the Depsang plains, Chinese troops are blocking Indian patrols from going to Patrolling Points 10 to 13. A Major General level meeting was also held on August 8 last year at Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO)

to discuss disengagement at the Depsang plains.

## AIR INDIA PLANE HITS ELECTRICITY POLE AT AIRPORT IN VIJAYAWADA

SAMPAT G.  
SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 20

Seventy persons on board an Air India Express flight had a lucky escape when a wing of the aircraft hit an electric pole while the aircraft taxied to the terminal building at the Vijayawada international airport at Gannavaram near the city on Saturday.

The aircraft had arrived from Doha with 19 passengers for Vijayawada and the rest for Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu, the next destination.

The aircraft was carrying 64 passengers and six crew members at that time. All of them were reported to be safe. Flight IX 1676 is operated once a week on the Doha-Vijayawada-Tiruchirappalli route. Vijayawada airport director G. Madhusudhana Rao said,

"While taxiing, the pilot took a wrong turn and hit an electric pole at 4.52 pm. All passengers and crew are safe."

The aircraft suffered some damage. The airport director said it had been grounded. "We made arrangements for passengers to reach their destinations," Rao said.

## Farm sector's potential untapped, PM tells CMS

Urge improvement in some areas to get out of economic slump

### KCR skips meet, deputes Somesh

L. VENKAT RAM  
REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao skipped the sixth meeting of the Governing Council of Niti Aayog chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing on Saturday. The government was represented by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar.

Chandrashekhar Rao's counterparts Mamata Banerjee and Amarinder Singh also stayed away. The Niti Aayog Twitter handle ignored Telangana state in its updates of the meeting.

Rao had also skipped the fifth meeting held on June



25, 2019, citing his 'busy schedule' on account of the Kaleshwaram irrigation project inauguration on June 21, 2019. He did not depute any official for that meeting.

■ Page 2: CS presents progress of TS

THE NITI Aayog meeting held amid farmers' protest did not deliberate on the controversial farm laws while agriculture minister Narendra Tomar was asked to attend by the Prime Minister

Mr Modi also advised extending help to the private sector as a key move to seek foreign investment and emphasised on strengthening MSMEs and start-ups.

With the prime focus on developing agricultural best practices, strengthening local manufacturing in states and improving health care facilities, the meeting witnessed suggestions by several chief ministers on improving logistical support and reducing input costs to enable increased manufacturing in states.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar sought a policy of "one nation, one rate" of electricity, saying that it will benefit states like Bihar which gets power at a higher rate. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot sought focus on job creation and health services.

## No new medical college for TS

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

The Union health ministry has sanctioned 157 medical colleges in government hospitals nationwide, but Telangana State does not figure in the list.

The state government had submitted proposals for six medical colleges.

The government had intended to establish a medical college each in district

ministry intends to establish medical colleges in government-run district hospitals and referral centres.

District hospitals with higher patient load will be upgraded to teaching hospitals with the addition of the new medical colleges as part of a Centrally-sponsored scheme which is to be implemented in three phases.

■ Page 2: TS proposals not documented well

hospitals at Karimnagar, Khammam, Kothagudem, Asifabad, Tandur and Sangareddy. Senior officials in the medical and health department said the proposals had been submitted with all details. The Union health

"Even during Covid-19, India saw a rise in exports in the agriculture sector. We have a lot of untapped potential in this sector. Wastage of our products should be as less as possible and we must thus concentrate on storage and processing," he said.

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## SHORT TAKES

## TS PROPOSALS NOT WELL DOCUMENTED

From Page 1

The state government and the Centre will share the costs.

Commenting on the development, Dr Bhaskar Rao, president of the Medical Colleges Associations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, said, "We do not know why Telangana state was missed out. Andhra Pradesh has got three colleges in Phase 3 of the project." According to sources, the proposals sent by the state government were not properly documented. A senior health official explained, "New districts have been formed and there was confusion over which district the proposal was for."

A senior health official, however, said that these are wrong assumptions and that the proposals were formed in a manner required by the Union health ministry required and there was no administrative lapse. The reason for not sanctioning medical colleges for the state is not understood as the requirements were properly assessed and submitted.

## COVID VACCINE SECOND DOSE IN EIGHT DISTRICTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

The second dose of Covid-19 vaccination was administered in only eight districts, with 28.3 per cent of those who took the first dose turning up on Saturday. One case of mild adverse effect was reported during the day, according to the state health department.

The administration of the second dose was planned for 3,892 participants but 1,108 came forward. The vaccination schedule is to now be carried out on February 22 and there will be a mop-up session for first dose of vaccine.

Besides, those who missed the first dose of vaccine are coming forward to take the jab. As many as 696 health workers came forward on Saturday.

The total number of healthcare and frontline workers targeted for the first dose was 5,88,336 and those who have received the vaccine stood at 2,81,179. The number stands at 58 per cent while 34 per cent from among the emergency employees have taken the first dose. The government is asking all those whose names have enrolled for the first dose to and get vaccinated as they are facing major logistical challenges. Beneficiaries are coming later and demanding that the vaccine be given to them. This is leading to confusion and causing a lot of commotion at the vaccination centres.

## CS PRESENTS PROGRESS REPORT ON TS

From Page 1

However, this time the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) did not provide any reason for Chandrashekhar Rao's absence. Chief secretary Somesh Kumar attended the meeting on his behalf.

On February 15, Somesh Kumar had convened a meeting with senior officials and asked them to prepare a progress report of Telangana state to be submitted to the Chief Minister to enable him to prepare for the Niti Aayog meeting. He submitted the progress report to Rao on Thursday. The Chief Minister sought more details from the CS on Friday.

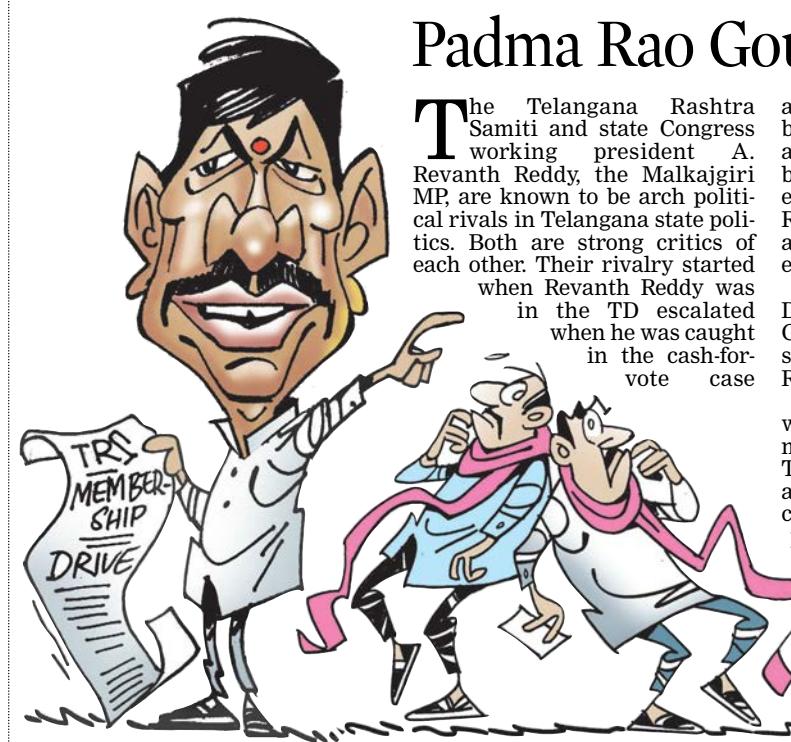
According to official sources, the CM decided to skip the meeting all of sudden on Saturday morning and asked the CS to attend on his behalf.

There was no release from either the CMO or the CS office. They did not furnish any details about issues the state government had raised and what it was seeking from the Centre. Official sources revealed that the CS presented the progress card of Telangana state government in various sectors, especially irrigation, agriculture, health and infrastructure sectors. Chief Secretary Kumar sought funds for Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kanyakuta and Hyderabad Pharma City.

Interestingly, the official Twitter handle of Niti Aayog also ignored any mention of Telangana state in its updates of the meeting.

While it updated highlights of what the Chief Ministers of 25 states and three Lieutenant Governors and two administrators of Union Territories spoke in the meeting, there was no mention about the issues raised by Somesh Kumar.

## NETA'S NATTER



## Padma Rao Goud's 'proximity' to Revanth

**T**he Telangana Rashtra Samiti and state Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy, the Malkajgiri MP, are known to be arch political rivals in Telangana state politics. Both are strong critics of each other. Their rivalry started when Revanth Reddy was in the TD escalated when he was caught in the cash-for-vote case

and reached its peak after he became TPCC working president and Malkajgiri Lok Sabha member. TRS leaders compete with each other to lash out at Revanth Reddy on every possible occasion and even by holding press conferences for the purpose.

However, senior TRS leader and Deputy Speaker T. Padma Rao Goud created a flutter when he spoke 'positively' about Revanth Reddy.

This incident was witnessed when Goud launched the TRS membership drive in Lalapet on Tuesday. When Goud was addressing the gathering, a big convoy of Revanth Reddy's supporters passed through the area holding banners and flexis of the Congress leader and raising "Jai Revanth" slogans. The convoy was proceeding towards Raviyaval to take part in the public meeting organised for the culmination of Revanth Reddy's padayatra,

titled Rythu Bharosa Yatra, against the Centre and the TRS government's anti-farmer policies. Goud stopped his speech and enquired with party cadre about Revanth Reddy. "Is Revanth there in the convoy?"

He is very close to me," Goud said. His comments on the public address system left TRS leaders and cadre shocked for a while.

Goud was recently in the news for his "advance congratulations" to TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao at a public meeting where he said KTR is all set to take over as CM very soon.



## Naidu blames money for loss of TD in Kuppam

**T**elugu Desam president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is at it again. It's a loss of face for him after his party candidates suffered a humiliating defeat in the polls to the gram panchayats falling in Kuppam Assembly constituency being represented by him since

1989. Instead of accepting defeat gracefully, Naidu went back to his old trick of describing the trouncing as loss of democracy and not that of his party.

He attributed the drubbing to the State Election Commission's failure to prevent free flow of money aka purchase of votes by the rival YSR Congress-backed candidates in the polls.

Initially Naidu blamed the ruling party for forcing his party candidates to withdraw from the contest.

When there were no such incidents, at least in Kuppam, and there was a contest everywhere, Naidu blamed the voters for falling prey to the inducements.

If victory is due to "buying of votes" will it not apply to his seven consecutive victories from Kuppam?

## Pay ex-wife, HC directs man

Will auction his property if he fails to pay permanent alimony to her: Court

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA  
| DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

Taking a serious view of a man for disobeying a court decree to pay permanent alimony to his former wife and two children, the Telangana High Court made it clear that it can order auction of his properties and pay her.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was dealing with an appeal filed by

A. Laxmi Tulasi, urging the court to direct her former husband, A. Surendar, to pay ₹40 lakh as permanent alimony to her and transfer 2.5 acres of agricultural land in Palkonda of Mahbubnagar Urban Mandal to their son. She also asked the court to direct her husband to transfer part of his ancestral house in Palkonda on her name.

Her grievance was that since 2006, after a family court had issued a decree for permanent alimony was not paid her anything till date.

aged one and three when the divorce was granted, have now grown up. Therefore, she prayed that at least a part of the offer being made to her should be complied with immediately.

She informed the High Court that Surendar had said that he was willing to give ₹10 lakh as permanent alimony.

During a hearing on December 23, 2020, the High Court had ordered Surendar to pay ₹5 lakh as partial money immediate

ly. Responding to the requests of transferring property, the court had directed the tahsildar of Palakonda to submit a report after assessing values of the properties that Surendar had in his possession.

Surendar ignored the orders, which enraged the court. As a final warning it said that if the orders were not complied within 10 days, it would order auction of his properties to raise money for permanent alimony.

## V-P: Say no to junk food, adopt healthy lifestyles

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

● HE SAID collective efforts were needed to promote awareness among school and college students on the negative impact of sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy dietary habits.

Sustainable Development Goals on human health and mitigate societal burden of genetic diseases.

On increasing NCDs in India, Venkaiah Naidu said that rare genetic disorders form a major group of NCDs, and added that an estimated 70 million people in India suffered from such rare diseases.

Worldwide, the total is about 350 million and many of these diseases are untreatable, he said.

Complimenting CDFD scientists for their role in the battle against Covid-19, bringing criminals to book by providing scientific DNA based evidence, and their study of genetic diseases, Naidu urged them to develop simpler and cost-effective methods to diagnose genetic diseases.

Home Minister Mohd. Mahmood Ali, CDFD director Dr K. Thangaraj, senior officials from the department of Biotechnology, scientists, research scholars and staff were present on the occasion.

## Danger ahead



A JCB being deployed to dig the narrow lanes of Laad Bazaar near Charminar for civic works on Saturday. The work is being done without taking precautions. — P. SURENDRA

## 10 more +ve, panic in Karimnagar

PULI SHARATH  
KUMAR | DC  
KARIMNAGAR, FEB. 20

Following 33 persons who attended a funeral in Chegurthi village contracting the Coronavirus, it was reported on Saturday that 10 staff members of Basantnagar toll gate were infected. It has led to panic among locals in Ramagundam of Peddapalli district on Saturday.

Over 100 personnel work at the toll gate and hundreds of vehicles pass through it every day. Following the latest news, people who passed

through the toll gate and other staff members are a worried lot.

The toll gate staff alleged that the management has not provided face masks, gloves and sanitisers to protect themselves from being infected. Even though they maintained physical distance without protective ailments, there is a possibility of contraction of virus, said the worried staff members.

Meanwhile, district medical and health officer Dr Pramod Kumar, speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, condemned the news of 10 members being infected

with the Coronavirus. He said that five of them had tested positive and that too some days back. He said that all other staff members were healthy. The five, who tested positive, are under home quarantine.

In Chegurthi village,

around 150 members attended the funeral of one Durgam Kanakaiyah (60) 10 days back and 33 of them were infected with coronavirus.

District administration officials sounded an alert, organised a health camp in the village and are conducting tests of all those who attended the funeral along with villagers of Chegurthi, Durshed and Mugdampura.

With the Coronavirus. He said that five of them had tested positive and that too some days back. He said that all other staff members were healthy. The five, who tested positive, are under home quarantine.

In Chegurthi village,

## Will obstruct IPL matches as no local player in team: TRS MLA

## Rage against Sunrisers Hyderabad

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

to the media after launching the TRS membership drive in Filmnagar, Jubilee Hills.

He also found fault with the Sunrisers management for continuing with the Australian cricketer David Warner as captain, saying that he was involved in a ball-tampering scandal and was not worth leading the Hyderabad team in the IPL. Nagender also demanded that the Sunrisers management

remove Hyderabad from the name of the team if it ignores local players.

"There are many talented players in Hyderabad and it is shocking that the Sunrisers management ignored them while selecting players for the team," the MLA said. "There are players who have played Ranji Trophy, U-19 tournaments and other leagues. These players deserve to play in the IPL."

"Mohammed Siraj is not the only cricketer who

HE ALSO found fault with the Sunrisers management for continuing with the Australian cricketer David Warner as captain, saying that he was involved in a ball-tampering scandal and was not worth leading the Hyderabad team.

shone due to his talent. There are other players as well. They should get enough opportunities," he

said adding, We demand that the Sunrisers management select local players. If not, we will make sure that no IPL match will be held at Uppal Stadium," he said.

Earlier, Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohd Azharuddin also expressed disappointment at the Sunrisers team. "Very disappointed not to see a single player from Hyderabad in the Hyderabad Sunrisers Team," he said.

## Army, Ordnance Factory pact to design vehicle

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

ic and technology activities aimed at indigenisation as well as alternative solutions in engineering and technology of armoured fighting vehicles.

Lieutenant General T.S.A. Narayanan, Commandant, MCEME, and Col. Commandant Corps of EME, presided over the ceremony. Major General J.S. Sidana, Deputy Commandant and Chief Instructor, Brigadier T. Srinivasa Rao, Dean FEME, and members of MCEME as well as Alok Prasad, General Manager, OFMK, Anurag Sharma, Director, Ordnance Design Centre and Vaikuntha Rao, Deputy Director, OFMK were present during the event.

The Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad, and Ordnance Factory Medak (OFMK) will join forces for designing an indigenous armoured tracked repair vehicle.

The two institutions signed an academic and technical linkage agreement to this effect on Friday.

Under the agreement, MCEME and Ordnance Design Centre (ODC) of the OFMK will work together on projects on armoured tracked vehicles, training of personnel, manufacturing of systems including components in common academ-



Lt Gen. T.S.A. Narayanan, Commandant, MCEME, and Alok Prasad, General Manager, Ordnance Factory Medak, sign an agreement for the development of an armoured tracked repair vehicle. — BY ARRANGEMENT

## WEATHER



Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Mist or haze likely.  
Max/Min temp. 30/18 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+14,589)	(+100)
1,09,90,977	1,56,337

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+157)	(+0)
TS: 2,97,435	1,623
(+54)	(+0)
AP: 8,89,210	7,167

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

11,14,24,608
DEATHS
24,67,212
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 219 <a href="http://worldometers.info/coronavirus">worldometers.info/coronavirus</a>

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttaryaya

Tithi: Magha Shuddha Navami till 3.38 pm

Star: Rohini till 8.41 am

Varijyan: 2.48 pm To 4.32 pm

Durmuhurtam: 4.44 pm to 5.30 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm To 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rajab 8,1442 AH

## PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.40 am

Zohar: 12.40 pm

Asar: 4.42 pm

Maghrib: 6.26 pm

Isha: 7.33 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.38 AM

SUNSET TODAY 6.20 PM

MOONSET 1.31 AM

MOONRISE 12.54 PM

## COUNTER POINT



Wake up, sir. You are sacked for disturbing CM's sleep!

## SHORT TAKES

CSCs to be open on Sundays till Mar. 31

**Hyderabad:** The GHMC said on Saturday that its Citizen Service Centres (CSCs) will remain open on Sundays till March 31. The centres will function till 8 pm on February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21 and March 28. Citizens can make their property tax payments at the nearest CSC.

## HYD EXPERTS TO MEASURE WATER IN RISHIGANGA

**Raini (Uttarakhand), Feb. 20:** Sonography experts from Hyderabad are expected to measure the volume of water in an artificial lake that has been formed on the Rishiganga river after the recent avalanche and gauge how big a threat it poses to areas downstream.

A team of researchers arrived in Pang village on Saturday to inspect the lake. A team of four scientists from the Uttarakhand Space Application Centre (USAC) led by its director M.P.S. Bish and four scientists from the Geological Survey of India will try to reach the lake on foot.

With roads in the area around Raini Gram Panchayat washed out in the recent flash flood and vast stretches turned into swamps, the team is being accompanied by a mountaineer from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and SDRF jawans to ensure their safe journey to the lake.

"We will inspect the lake formed over Rishiganga by the huge volume of sludge that came from Rauthi stream due to the avalanche," USAC director Bish told PTI. Sonographic equipment of the Indian Navy are being used to measure how much water is contained in the lake, he said.



Cyberabad commissionerate police officials with recovered mobile phones that were previously reported lost by their owners.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

## 200 lost &amp; found phones returned

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

Two hundred mobile phones, reported lost over time by their owners in the city and recovered by the crimes wing of the Cyberabad police, were on Saturday returned to their owners.

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjannar, who handed over the lost-and-found devices to their owners, advised people to be careful and take precautions to secure their electronic devices. This is particularly so with cellphones which have become a key part of everyone's life with many saving very personal data in the devices. If such data reaches the wrong hands, there is every likelihood of it being misused, he said.

The police officials and staff, he said, went the extra mile to recover the phones out of concern for the citizens and the people, too, should be careful and alert while in public places to keep their devices safe.

"We will inspect the lake formed over Rishiganga by the huge volume of sludge that came from Rauthi stream due to the avalanche," USAC director Bish told PTI. Sonographic equipment of the Indian Navy are being used to measure how much water is contained in the lake, he said.

— PTI

## Sheer negligence



Damaged and worn-out furniture lies on the premises of the GHMC office at the entrance of the main building in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Land needed for tank meant for city water

Keshavapuram work may begin on site already acquired

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

The wait for completion of the Keshavapuram reservoir has got longer. Though the state government has allowed 409.53 hectares of forest land to be used for construction of the reservoir, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) officials say acquiring revenue land has become troublesome.

As a result, they will start works for constructing the reservoir on the available land within 15 days. Tenders have been finalised and work order has been issued to Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL).

According to highly placed sources in the Water Board, though the Centre has given its nod for usage of the 409.53 hectares of forest land, construction of the reservoir could take at least three years owing to paucity of funds and the

time being taken in the acquisition of revenue lands. The project was redesigned to minimise acquisition of private lands by 850 acres, though it will lead to a decrease in storage capacity of Keshavapuram reservoir by 5 TMC ft which is being made up by means of an additional pipeline. The estimated cost of the project has reduced from ₹ 4,777.59 crore in 2017 to ₹ 4,369.37 crore. However, 499 acres of revenue land is yet to be acquired.

A senior Water Board official, requesting anonymity, said the acquisition process is in an advanced stage. Most land owners have been given cheques for acquiring their lands. Once the remaining land owners owning about 150 acres of land are also paid, the water board can take possession of their lands and start construction of the reservoir. The official claimed the entire process will take another two weeks. The Water Board

had earlier decided to draw 30 TMC ft water for the city from the Godavari River to meet the city's drinking water needs. Accordingly, the Water Board planned to draw 10 TMC ft from Yellampalli Barrage. It decided to draw the balance 20 TMC ft from Kondapochammasagar at Pamulaparthy village. However, this would involve huge recurring power costs.

As a result, the government suggested formulation of a scheme to draw 10 tmc ft each in two phases, provided it included inflows to the proposed reservoir in the gravity mode from Kondapochammasagar. This has led to redesigning of the project, which, however, has reduced the capacity of Keshavapuram reservoir to 5.04 tmc ft and constructing a pipeline from Kondapochammasagar adjacent to the Godavari pipeline. The MA&UD department has also released GO No 129 dated February 29, 2020, in this regard.

## Rescue petty traders from loan sharks: Activists

ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20



Kids playing in colonies and gated communities in Gachibowli area.

— R. PAVAN

a part of a team, and developed ability to express care and concern for others. This is very different from children who instead develop selfish and self-centred tendencies, the psychologist observed.

Dr Sudhir Charles, consultant paediatrician, said the confinement of children to their homes had made them play, spend time outside and remain in the sun. Increased outdoor activity and exposure to sun has even helped them develop better immunity, apart from making them physically stronger.

Meghalai and Aarshita (names changed) have been having best of time playing with friends in their colony. The past few months have been like a retreat for them. They said they now get more

time to sleep, there is no need to wake up early, or rush to school.

Shazia Hussain, whose two daughters are school students, said: "These 11 months gave us some quality time. I got to spend a lot of time with my daughters. Even my husband is working from home. Initially, there was a lot of phobia about the new virus. But overall, it has been a pleasant time."

Bharathi Vaidyla and her husband, residents of Vanasthalipuram, are very happy about spending more time with their grandson. "He had always been busy with school or tuition. But now, we have been spending a lot of time with him. It is great to see him playing with neighbouring kids," Bharathi remarked.

Social activists have demanded that the government rescue petty traders in the Old City from the clutches of interest sharks and introduce financial aid schemes for the purpose. These activists said they intended to take legal action against money lenders who harass borrowers for repayments.

Social activist Mohamed Farooq said that two decades ago the South Zone police had taken stern action against the unauthorised money lenders but they had again emerged on the scene. Their activities will peak during the month of Ramzan, he said.

Farooq asked the government to provide adequate budgetary allocation for microloans to economically backward classes. A joint action committee was formed and Mohammed Abdul Ali Zubar made its convener.

Munereuddin Mujahid said that in its next meeting, the JAC would chalk out a strategy to curb the atrocities of money-lenders.

G. Jhansi of the CPI (ML), T. Rajender, Mohammed Abbas (AWAZ), Dr Yousuf Mualla Nizam, Sufi Khairuddin, Hamid Shattari and others spoke.

## MAYOR TO ASSUME OFFICE ON FEBRUARY 22

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

City mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalashmi and her deputy Mothe Srilatha Reddy will assume office at 9.30 am on Monday in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) headquarters near Tank Bund.

The duo has invited municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao, city ministers and MLAs and former mayor Bonthu Rammohan for the function. The invitees are yet to confirm their participation, sources said.

The GHMC meanwhile received 19 nominations on Saturday from candidates for the elections to the Greater Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy Mahbubnagar graduates constituency of the Legislative Council, taking the total count to 42.

● **THE DUO** has invited municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao, city ministers and MLAs and former mayor Bonthu Rammohan for the function. The invitees are yet to confirm their participation, sources said.

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\*The monthly fee indicated is for WagonR LXI, 48 months tenure in Hyderabad. Fee may vary based on model, tenure, subscription type and month of purchase. Car Images shown are of Top Variant and for illustration purposes only. Accessories and features may not be part of standard equipment. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe is available in select cities only. Onix Auto Infrastructure Services Limited and Myles Automotive Technologies Private Limited are our Subscription Partners and Vehicle Subscription services will be provided by our Subscription partner.

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**AUTHORISED DEALERS: HYDERABAD: JAYABHERI: (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 9100909255. PAVAN: (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 7331116688. VARUN: (BEGUMPET) CALL: 8886817766. (BANJARA HILLS) CALL: 9966502929. (KUKATPALLY) CALL: 9703970707. (VANASTHALIPURAM) CALL: 9052343438. (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 9885994888. RKS: (SOMAJIGUDA) CALL: 9848845138. (MALAKPET) CALL: 9848866170. (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 9133391029. (KUSHAGUDA) CALL: 8121497101. MITHRA: (HIMAYATHNAGAR) CALL: 7799884945. (MEHDIPATNAM) CALL: 7799884993. SAI SERVICE: (ERRAGADDA) CALL: 9703500020. (MIYAPUR) CALL: 7036048866. ADARSHA: (ATTAPUR) CALL: 6300901715. (CHANDRAYANGUTTA) CALL: 9652886453. KALYANI MOTORS: (NACHARAM) CALL: 910067776. (LB NAGAR) CALL: 910114809. GEM MOTORS: (KONDAPUR) CALL: 9912341526. AUTOFIN: (BOWENPALLY) CALL: 8885040004. E-OUTLETS: SAI SERVICE: (SANGAREDDY) CALL: 9703500020. ADARSHA: (SIDDIPI) CALL: 9652886453. VARUN: (MEDCAL) CALL: 9703656111. AUTOFIN: (MEDCAL) CALL: 8885040004. PAVAN: (IBRAHIMPATNAM) CALL: 7331116688.**

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

## SHORT TAKES

## TRS AFRAID OF BJP'S STRENGTH: PEDDI REDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, FEB. 20

The TRS is afraid of the BJP's growing patronage among the public and has colluded with the Congress and fielded a candidate who is not a graduate for the upcoming election to the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda graduates constituency election, alleged former minister and senior BJP leader Enugula Peddi Reddy.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, he said that the people who were vexed with the family rule of the TRS were ready to dethrone the party in favour of the BJP.

"After the formation of Telangana state, the TRS turned into a platform for the ruling party leaders to loot public money. Apart from this, there is no development in the state because of the inefficient governance," he said.

The BJP leader pointed out that the police who did not allow the Shanti rally organised by the ABVP under the aegis of Hindu Vahini was supporting TRS cadres who celebrated Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's birthday.

Referring to the murder of the advocate couple in Peddapally, Peddi Reddy said that it indicated the condition of the law and order situation in the state.

"Fearing a repeat of the GHMC election results, KCR is holding back elections to the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC). The people would vote for Gujula Premender Reddy, BJP's candidate for the graduates constituency seat," the BJP leaders said.

## CAMPAIGN FOR ADILABAD ZPTC SEAT SILENT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, FEB. 20

Political activity has come down in Adilabad Rural mandal following news that the state government may not conduct elections in the near future for the Adilabad zilla parishad territorial committee (ZPTC) seat that is lying vacant following the demise of Are Rajanna.

Reportedly, there will be a delay in issuing a notification for conducting the election.

Till a few days ago, everybody was waiting for the election notification but now leaders of major political parties are adopting a 'wait and watch' approach as far as spending money on voters is concerned.

It is said that the government has changed its mind to conduct elections following intelligence inputs.

The ruling party has more or less stopped its campaign in the villages while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, who were aggressively campaigning in villages till a few days ago, have stopped their campaign.

There are other aspects too for stopping the campaign. Both Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) and BJP have already spent huge money to attract voters and some leaders even distributed new clothes to Adivasis for Diwali and some others gave money to celebrate Gussadi festival. This is apart from the alleged feasts for youth in the last two months. An Adivasi leader from Mamidiguda said political leaders are not visiting their villages these days unlike a few days ago and added that major political parties have stopped election campaigns due to mounting expenditure.

## Fight against terrorism



Chairman of All India Anti-Terrorist Front and former Youth Congress president Maninderjeet Bitta pays floral tributes to former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Saturday.

— P. SURENDRA

## TRS leaders lobby for party MLC ticket

**Srinivas, Varkatam Reddy, Marri Rajasekhar Reddy in fray**

DURGAM SRINIVAS  
| DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

The TRS has not yet declared its candidate for the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar graduates constituency in the Legislative Council, triggering hectic lobbying by aspirants. The last date for filing nominations is Tuesday.

According to senior party sources, TRS had thought of supporting independent candidate Professor K. Nageshwar. But Nageshwar has been reported as saying that BJP would benefit if

TRS openly supports his candidature. As a result, the ruling party is of the view that it should field its own candidate, sources say.

Senior TRS leader P.L. Srinivas is stated to be keen on being the party candidate for the constituency. It is learnt he has met party working president K.T. Rama Rao to lobby for a ticket. Another candidate, educationalist and social worker Varkatam Jagannath Reddy is also trying for the TRS ticket. He is the son of Jagpal Reddy, retired registrar of Osmania University.

Senior TRS leader P.L. Srinivas is stated to be keen on being the party candidate for the constituency.

A section of party leaders say Devi Prasad, former leader of Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers (TNGO) Association, Karem Ravinder Reddy, former beverages corporation chairman, Chief Minister's officer on special duty Desipathi Srinivas are among those who could be fielded.

But these candidates are not interested in contesting from the

Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahbubnagar constituency. Devi Prasad had earlier contested as MLC but lost. Desipathi Srinivas seems keener to become a nominated MLC than contesting the election. Another aspirant is Marri Rajasekhar Reddy, who contested as the TRS candidate from Malkajgiri Parliament seat.

It is stated the choice could narrow down to P.L. Srinivas, Varkatam Jagannath Reddy, or Marri Rajasekhar Reddy. The final choice will lie with the TRS high command.

## KISAN CONGRESS PLANS MASSIVE RALLY ON FEB. 27

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

The Telangana unit of Kisan Congress will organise a long march from Parade Grounds to Indira Park in the city on February 27 to protest against the three farms laws enacted by the Centre as well as "anti-farmer attitude" of the state government.

Announcing this, Kisan Congress chairman S. Anvesh Reddy accused the Narendra Modi government of being stubborn about insisting on the law despite protests by lakhs of farmers on Delhi's borders since three months.

Adding to woes of farmers in Telangana state, the K. Chandrasekhar Rao government has stated it will no more purchase agriculture produce while keeping the purchase centres open, he added.

Anvesh Reddy said both the Centre and the state government seem be hand-in-glove on benefiting businessmen, leaving farmers in a lurch. Further, the state government is burdening farmers with interest payment on their loans, as it has not waived their loans despite promising the same.

Farmers are even unable to claim crop insurance since the state government is also not extending matching grant under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the leader further said.

The Kisan Congress chairman said that the Chandrasekhar Rao government is not extending input subsidy to farmers if they lose the crop due to unseasonal rains.

"I request farmers to participate in the rally in large numbers to bring pressure on both the Central and state governments," Anvesh Reddy added.

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## KCR uses Intel chief to assault BJP men: Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

A 50-year-old man from Ludhiana, Punjab, was arrested at the Secunderabad railway station by the Railway Police who recovered from him stolen gold and silver jewellery worth ₹4.5 lakh.

According to the Secunderabad Railway Police, the man, Jagroop Singh, was a repeat offender who targeted train passengers, stealing purses and unattended bags. He was found on the middle foot over bridge between Platforms 4 and 5 at the station. He allegedly purloined gold ornaments weighing 102 grams and silver ornaments weighing 228 grams from bags stolen on the Manuguru-Secunderabad train on February 18. A day later, he stole ₹500 along with an ID card from a purse, the police said.

A team of police officials from the GRP and RPF apprehended Jagroop Singh.



State BJP president Bandi Sanjay during a press conference in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— S. SURENDRA REDDY

Gurrapodu lands issue. He said that BJP will repossess the Dubbuk showing in the upcoming Nagarjunasagar Assembly by-election by trouncing the TRS nominee.

The BJP leader said that many TRS MLAs and other party leaders were angry with Rao's autocratic style of functioning and that the days were not far when his own party would revolt against him.

Sanjay demanded the state government to withdraw the cases filed against the tribals and the BJP workers in

Nalgonda district for 60 days in jail and resorted to third degree on them.

He said that the police had violated High Court orders on the lands issue. He claimed that police personnel attacked party activists mercilessly when they tried to fight on behalf of the tribals.

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Gurrapodu lands issue. He said that BJP will repossess the Dubbuk showing in the upcoming Nagarjunasagar Assembly by-election by trouncing the TRS nominee.

The BJP leader said that many TRS MLAs and other party leaders were angry with Rao's autocratic style of functioning and that the days were not far when his own party would revolt against him.

Sharmila outlined party plan

by her father in the Telangana region during his tenure and lashed out at the TRS government for ignoring them.

"If you want to project yourself as an alternative, you need a companion. If what YSR had done to Telangana can be compared to what KCR is doing now, the people will understand the difference and they will support us," she said.

Sharmila also pointed out how schemes like Arogyasri and fee reimbursement scheme were totally neglected during the Chandrasekhar Rao regime.

"We need to show the difference between Rajanna Rajam and KCR Rajam," she said according to those who were present at the meeting. Referring to criticism from various quarters that she was an 'Andhra leader' and a 'non-local', she told her supporters that she is the daughter-in-law of Telangana.

"While YSR introduced

four per cent quota for Muslims, the TRS government failed to implement it effectively. While YSR completed the Outer Ring Road and got approvals for Regional Ring Road, the TRS government is yet to take it up," she said.

Sharmila reportedly explained that the project to improve the underground drainage system in Hyderabad was taken up by the YSR government at a cost of ₹1,250 crore in 2008, but was neglected by the TRS government and the funds were diverted. Instead, the TRS leaders encroached upon storm water drains, she alleged.

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## SHORT TAKES

## CANDIDATE VOWS FREEBIES LIKE BP, SUGAR TESTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, FEB. 20

While candidates contesting gram panchayat polls are luring voters with gifts, cash and liquor in most places, Padala Ranga Reddy (48), a candidate from Ubalanka village in Ravulapamandal mandal has adopted a novel approach. He has promised voters free medical diagnoses like B.P., diabetes and other tests, with cable TV connection and free ration thrown in for one year.

Ranga Reddy has notarised his promises on a sworn affidavit. As per the affidavit, cable connections, ration and mineral water will be provided to people free of cost from March 1 to February 28. BP and diabetes tests too will not cost them anything. ₹10,000 scholarship will be extended to each of the 10 meritorious students of ZP High School. He would cancel house tax and water tax for the year 2022-23.

Padala Ranga Reddy has filed his nomination from ward member three and is supporting Medisetty Surekha for the post of sarpanch. He told *Deccan Chronicle* that his village has not seen any development since his childhood.

## CHICKEN, WHISKY TO LURE VOTERS FOR ELECTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, FEB. 20

1 kg of chicken and a quarter bottle of whisky are making voters decide on who they will vote for in the fourth phase of gram panchayat elections being held on Sunday.

In Halaharvy village, six tonnes of chicken and a whisky quarter for each of 1,750 voters have been distributed. Neighbouring Jammalamadugu division also saw chicken-whisky combo incentivising voters.

The story is no different in Mylavaram and Kondapuram mandals of Jammalamadugu, apart from Mantralayam and Adoni constituencies of Kurnool district. They have seen a surge in distribution of chicken and whisky. Villages in Adoni share their borders with Karnataka and they are also witnessing free flow of liquor.

Though the Special Enforcement Bureau has been focussing on curbing flow of liquor by setting up checkpoints at several vantage points, availability of alcohol is as easy as attempting a song, said Munikrishna, a sarpanch aspirant.

Hatcheries and broiler producers are minting money due to the unexpected surge in demand for birds. A live bird is being sold for ₹100 in wholesale, while it retails at ₹160.

## PHASE IV AP GRAM PANCHAYAT POLLS TO BE HELD TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 20

The Phase IV of Andhra Pradesh gram panchayat polls will be held on Sunday. Nearly 67.75 lakh voters are expected to cast their vote between 6.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Polling is scheduled to be held in 16 revenue divisions covering 161 mandals in all 13 districts in the state.

Out of 3,299 positions of sarpanch notified, 554 were elected unanimously and no nominations were filed for two positions. With this, polling will be held for election of 2,743 sarpanches and 7,474 contestants are in the fray. Similarly, with regard to positions of ward member, out of 33,435 notified, 10,921 were elected unanimously while no nominations were filed for 91 positions.

With this, polling will be held for election of 22,423 ward members and 52,700 contestants are in the fray.

The authorities have set up 28,995 polling stations for the voters to turn up and exercise their franchise and of them, 6,047 have been identified as sensitive while 4,967 are hyper-sensitive. Security has been beefed up especially in these sensitive and hyper-sensitive polling stations to avoid any untoward incidents.

Polling to be held in revenue divisions district-wise include: SriKakulam-SriKakulam, Tekkali and Palakonda; Vizianagaram-Vizianagaram; Visakhapatnam-Visakhapatnam; East Godavari-Amala-puram; West Godavari-Eluru; Krishna-Nuzvid; Guntur-Guntur; Prakasam-Markapur; Nellore-Nellore; Kurnool-Adoni; Anantapur-Penkunda; Kadapa-Jamalamadugu and Kadapa and Chittoor-Tirupati.

## Narrow escape



Air India Express plane hits electric pole while taxiing on the runway suffered a minor damage on its right wing at Vijayawada International Airport with 64 passengers miraculously escaping unhurt, near Gannavaram on Saturday. — BY ARRANGEMENT

## Jagan demands SCS for AP

Rapid industrialisation of Andhra is possible only if SCS is accorded says CM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 20

the bifurcation."

The Chief Minister said that the sixth meeting of the Governing Council assumes significance in the context of the economic upheaval caused by Covid-19. He stated that it is imperative that during these critical times, state governments and the Centre should explore opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions to adopt a unified approach towards policy formulation for the country's economic revival.

Explaining about ongoing developments in the state, he said, "Rapid industrialisation of my state is possible only if SCS is accorded. This was a commitment made on the floor of the Parliament and was a precondition to

emphasis. The Chief Minister said that with respect to the first agenda point of making India a global manufacturing hub, the give significant impediments to the manufacturing sector's growth are the exorbitant cost of funds available from financial institutions, high cost of power, delays associated with land procurement, delay and complexity in the grant of statutory clearances and rigid labour laws. He said state governments and the Union Government must take a deeper drive to understand the root-cause and make a conscious effort to introduce reforms to mitigate the hurdles.

Jagan Mohan Reddy

said that for building infrastructure, state government's undertakings take loans from financial institutions like PFC and REC at higher rates of interest of 10 to 11 per cent per annum. With this enormous debt-servicing requirement, the manufacturing units cannot hope to offer products that can compete with those from other states, where loan is available at interest rates as low as 2 to 3 per cent. He said that the state government was encouraging a performance-linked incentive scheme for new manufacturing units and compiled 229 reforms under the district business reform action plan of the Union government.

The Chief Minister

said, "Despite my state's commitment to provide a business-friendly environment, industrialisation is yet to gather growth momentum. This is due to several constraints, resulting from the unjust and inequitable bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh.

"The bifurcation resulted in my State being deprived of tier I city status, infrastructure, employment opportunities and financial resources. The rapid industrialisation of my State is possible if only "Special Category Status" is accorded. This was a commitment made on the floor of the Parliament and was a pre-condition to the bifurcation."

## BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE ₹5.18CR AT LOK ADALAT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

As many as 251 pending cases were disposed of and compensation worth ₹5.18 crore was awarded to beneficiaries at a Lok Adalat conducted by the High Court Legal Services Committee on Saturday.

Making the announcement, Ramesh Babu, committee secretary, said that 208 of the cases disposed off were motor accident claims and remaining were civil disputes including second appeals, CCCAs and others.

Meanwhile, the Legal Services Authority of the city civil courts conducted an awareness camp on human trafficking and sexual abuse. Hundreds of girl students belong to the government welfare hostels participated in the programme.

K. Murali Mohan, secretary of the authority, taught the girls how they could approach the authorities and NGOs if they face sexual harassment.

## Different pitch



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh along with Commander-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command, Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain chat with former Indian Cricketers, Syed Kirmani and Roger Binny during the inauguration of Championship Golf Course at East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

— K. MURALI KRISHNA

## NEW | TREND Customers urge tailors to stitch masks that match outfit

## Designer masks are the in-thing

SANJAY SAMUEL  
PAUL I DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

The mask, which has been made mandatory since the outbreak of the Coronavirus, is gradually shaping up as a fashion accessory following lockdown relaxations.

What appeared to be purely medical masks, they have now become so integral to one's life that people are patronising designer masks that have hit the market. Their finest of 'made for the occasion' creations, matching the individual's party-wear, can be seen at social gatherings, weddings and birthday bashes.

Customers are urging their tailors to stitch masks that match the main dress. A most noticeable change is that stitched clothes are the in-thing.

Udaya Bhaskar, a fashion designer of Krafted Creations, is busy round the clock with his digital textile printing. He is the



The masks printed by fashion designer Udaya Bhaskar on his fabric printing machine.

only one in the city with the machine that can print on any kind of fabric.

When four months of lockdown did not fetch any business, Udaya, in a smart move, came up with unique printed masks, and the business picked

up gradually.

"Event managers approach us as we print masks for the theme parties, birthday parties, especially for kids with cartoon characters while corporate houses want their logos on it. A mask is

available for ₹7 and it goes up to ₹15."

Gandla Muralidhar of Sumangal Tailors at Abids, said "a new craze has started. Customers ordering for men suits or wedding clothes, ask us to design masks that match them. It takes about 20 centimetres to stitch two masks for the same fabric." Zeharuddin, who is into traditional stone, zardozzi or mirror work on dresses, said, "Designer masks are the new style statement. Clients mostly ask for zardozzi or stone work on them."

At the end of the day, health officials are happy as people have made it a habit to wear masks.

## Ravindra Bharati to ring with music after over a year

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

energy, emotional and cultural exchange occurs," Narahari, a tabla exponent, said.

"Somebody had to bell the cat. We plunged into it. If we succeed, we end up doing good both to music lovers and performers, the fraternity. If we don't succeed, we will still have the satisfaction of having tried to revive the good old tradition of live programmes," Narahari said.

No amount of technology can replace the experience of being part of a real concert, he said.

"In what is very similar to Covid symptoms that attack the breathing pattern, our musicians lost connections with the lifeline that the world is confronted with challenges arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.

"How can we socially distance at a concert? How can artists perform if the audience were to stay at home? These were the questions the music industry had to answer to survive the global pandemic. We took the risk of being the first to organize a concert," said V. Narahari of Vivit Art Entertainment.

"The troubled souls need a mehfil or a kacheri or live performances where a lot of

The Coronavirus has a vaccine, but there is no single cure to the stress that people have been experiencing. "Listening to calming music would probably help people overcome such issues," according to Mohan Hemmadi, the well-known arts and cultural ambassador from the city.

## Mahmood: Give modern education to Muslim youths

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 20

tural and multi-religious communities.

Dr Mohammed Tajammul Hussain, director, Chicago Muslim Medical Alliances, said the biggest challenge faced by Muslims today was blatant oppression. They are overlooked due to their social and economic backwardness, in stark contrast to the Golden Era from 750-1258 where Muslims were great contributors to cultural, economic and scientific advancements.

Dr Hussain said Indian Muslims should avoid negative activities and criticising others. "Education, skills and proficiency are immune to communal poison," he said and advised Muslims and their organisations to come together to indulge in introspection, initiate dialogue with other community members and contribute to nation-building by excelling in their respective educational and professional disciplines. Dr Hussain stressed that the situation in India "warrants us to correct misunderstandings." The majority of Indian Muslims are patriotic and love their country as much as they love their religion, he said.

## Kuwait resumes direct flights from India

NARENDER PULLOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, FEB. 20

where they had to undergo 14 days of quarantine.

They could travel onwards to Kuwait only after that, where they faced another 14-day quarantine. It cost the guest workers about ₹50,000 in additional expenses.

Following the resumption of direct flights, guest workers can go to Kuwait and head for the 14-day quarantine. They will need to book hotel rooms in Kuwait for their employment.

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, direct flight services were suspended to and from Kuwait since September last year. As a result, guest workers were forced to travel to Dubai

for work. The Kuwait authorities advised foreigners, especially the guest workers, to enrol details in the Kuwait App and get hotel reservation, otherwise they will be repatriated to their native countries.

TELANGANA STATE WOMEN CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	
(A Govt. of Telangana Undertaking) Regd. No. TAB/16	
TENDER NOTICE No. 536/WCDC/E/1/2020, DL - 19-02-2021	
For leasing of Ground floor of ANTA, TSWCDC, Road No.45, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-33, Ph. No.040-23549711	
Tender Document fee (Non refundable) : ₹5,000/- (By way of Demand Draft from any Scheduled Bank drawn in favour of "Managing Director, TSWCDC, Hyderabad" payable at Hyderabad & Tender Form available at C/o TSWCDC, Hyd.	
Tender Documents Sale Start date : 02.02.2021	
Tender Documents Sale End date : 04.03.2021	
Last date for receipt of Tender : 03.03.2021 till 03:00 PM	
Tender opening date / time : 05.03.2021 at 12:00 Noon	
Contact person : 7660022515 & 7660003094	
R.O. No: 1489-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/I/2020-21-DL - 20-02-2021	Sd/- D. Divya, Managing Director



# CLASSIFIEDS

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## LAND

1,2,3,4,5 & 10 Acres Farms land with Clear Title For Sale Near Moinabedda Chevela at Best Price. 30-40Kms from Apta Junction. Price Starts From Rs.1.2 to 1.5Cr. Contact: Ph:7997583777, 9963038315. (HYCL/2021/C02968)

1) LAND FOR SALE Bibigaran Allims 3rd gate 2ac, with clear title. 2100sqft land sale in Jaina Palli, 3.5km from Warangal highway Pls contact or 8008918888 910022209. (HYMM/2021/C07144)

LAND FOR sale at Bombay Highway, Budera main road. 4 acres land, clear title, immediate sale. Owner Contact: 9493818415/ 8019470515. (S/2021/C02276)

CHEEP & SECURE @6L per Acre. 5-1000 acres Land for sale at NH-44, Cheguntla Ramayapat, Kamareddy, Bhadravathi, Nirmal, Adilabad. Contact only genuine persons. Cleared title with possession. Ph:9949148080. (HYCL/2021/C02806)

CLEAR TITLE with cement tiles fencing 4.18 Acres, East facing Land for sale on Shadnagar - Chevela (Proposed Regional Ring Road) Opposite Mission Bhagirath Tank. Contact: 7799322476. (S/2021/C02232)

2.12ACRES OF clear land with easepass in chevela @900khs per acre 800Mtrs from highway 650 ft road phase. Call: 8008419220. (HYMM/2021/C07196)

NALGONDA, NEAR Chityal (Mandal), 10Acres Agricultural Land (Red Soil) 65km From L.B.Nagar (Between Ventures) Current & Water Facilities. Ph:9701591999 (HYMM/2021/C07252)

CHOUTUPPAL- CHITYAL-Pittamguda: 7acres BT Road NE face 2.3Km/ 3Min drive from Vijayawada H/W for Residential/ Commercial/ Industrial 63L per acre 900581630. (HYMM/2021/C07139)

DUBBACHARLA, 5 acres in Maheshwaram mandal, 1km from main road. Ph:8886858862. (HYMM/2021/C07257)

GACHIBOWLI 6 ACRES Tellapur 12acres kucatpally 3acres Mokla 7acres Shamshabd 23acres kadal 35acres sangareddy 55acres shadnagar 10acres. 25acres. Buy/Sale Development hyd Ph:7895404209 (W/2021/A001096)

12.10 SQ.YDS Land for sale North face 10 minutes from Financial District (Gachibowli), suitable for farm house. Ph:9666896261. (HYCL/2021/C02959)

5800 SQ.YDS of land on Mumbai Highway 65 @ Doyen County, Isnapur wall, block tpp roads, straight light club house etc. Price Rs.12,500/- per Sq.Yard. Contact: 9643052513/ 9840859037. (S/2021/C02225)

JADCHERLA TO Nagarkurnool Wanaparthy mainroad site and touching water canal Gacres very good road frontage rectangular site, fencing done. Price 60khs/ Acre. 10kms from Jadcherla. Ph:9949886706, 9866565127. (HYMM/2021/C07069)

1.5 ACRE Conversion Land for Sale near Bangalore Highway at Nandigam, Kotur, R.R.District. Suitable for Industry, Godown, Venture, etc. Contact: 9000529001. (L/2021/C00035)

60 UNITA (1.5 Acre) Prime Land on main road for Sale. 16 kms. from Azinagar, North facing, Chikur Road, 1.5 km before Pragati Resorts, Medipally Village, Moinabad Mandal. Contact: 99848867078, 9866565127. (S/2021/C00104)

PRIME LAND 1865 sq.yds at Mehdipatnam, Clear Title N/E facing for Sale or Development. Only sound parties to contact: 9849263563, 2pm to 9pm. (S/2021/C02359)

MIPYAR LAND For Sale 810sq.yds Very Near To MMTS Station, Just 500 Mts To Main Road, Only Out Right. Ph:7659955666 (HYMM/2021/C07349)

LAND FOR sale at patancheru near outer ring road Mumbai highway serious buyer only contact. 9949362153/ 7994915232 (HYMM/2021/C07197)

REGIONAL RING Road (2.5 km) Agricultural Land 16 acres for sale @ 1.20Cr Per Acre (Negotiable) 2km from NH-44. Near to Manoharbad Toll Plaza. No Agents, only Genuine Buyers. Contact: 9652787993. (HYCL/2021/C02975)

NH44 SHADNAGAR Lands 3,4,11,18,49 acres mando gardens farm near Symposis University and Sacres venture land near Raikal Tootgate and 16,11,41,11 acres Agriculture lands & other lands also available. Call:8468087821, 9848143401. (HYMM/2021/C07005)

HMDA APPROVED Industrial Land for Sale: Ac 1.10Gunta, Road Face 340ft on Kandi to Shankarpally near Eddumalaiaram. Ph:6301893483. (HYMM/2021/C07323)

LAND FOR sale at patancheru near outer ring road Mumbai highway serious buyer only contact. 9949362153/ 7994915232 (HYMM/2021/C07197)

2) LAND FOR sale at Kondapalli near Kondapalli, 19 acres agriculture land. Red soil, Road bit. Contact: 9052053454, 9949642237. (S/2021/C02369)

4 ACRES Land at Tandapally Near Palm Exotic. Suitable for Farmhouse. 2nd bit from Main road. Per Acer @13.0cr. Ph:9059626432. (HYCL/2021/C02992)

SALE OF 9 Acres land in Marpally Mandal, Vikarabad District. Rs.22 Lakhs per acre. No brokers please. Only genuine buyers. Ph:9701624314. (S/2021/C02405)

VIKARABAD TOWN Red Soil, 1.28acres open land for sale. Good Vaastu. Nice Location Ananthagiri hills. View Suitable for farmhouse. Contact: 8008535407 (HYMM/2021/C07225)

YADAGIRIGUTTA TO 8km Baswapur Village 1-Acre 3-Guntas BT Road Land with Bore 100+ fruit trees Suitable for Farm House. Near Baswapur Reservoir 11.33 TMC Surroundings. Tourism Projects. Yadagiri Venkatesh Ph:9840865117. (HYCL/2021/C02755)

**MULTIPLE** A REAL estate company wants to purchase and sell land in Jogipett, Sanagareddy, Shirishall road, Sadasivpet and Vikarabad areas. Brokers also may contact. Ph:9010421232, 630272280. (HYMM/2021/C06702)

**PLOTS** SITE FOR sale: Hyd, Aditya Nagar, east facing (36'x60'), 240 sq.yds, opp. Adithya P.S. Road, near TCS. Ph:9866561144. (VJ/2021-00195) (S/2021/C02367)

LAKPUR TOWNSHIP for Sale 500 Sq.yds Plot 51, Sector 4, D Block, Near Kondapalli & Royal Castle, East facing Plot as per vastu dimensions 50/90. Contact Ram 9953325145. (B/2021/C00975)

ALWAL PLOT Sale, 460 sq.yds, Sainagar Colony, behind Vaishnoji Matha Temple. Clear Title. Genuine buyers. Contact: 9391395350, 8790188099. Brokers excuse. (S/2021/C02380)

HMDA APPROVED Lay-Out Plots for Sale@ Pedda Amberpet, Koheda Road, Sizes:150x167sq.yds, LPNO: 00021567/o/PLG/ HMDA/2019, Contact: 900673333. (HYMM/2021/C07129)

HMDA APPROVED Plots for Sale Abutting ORR one side, proposed 120 Road other side, 60 & 40 Internal Roads in Annajuguda, Near Singapore Township, Ghateskar, East. For Details Contact: 9109101111 (HYMM/2021/C06663)

ANUPURAM COLONY Commercial Zone Plot 1200Sq.yds E/F, 40ft. Road, Near Reddy Busstop, No Mediators. Ph:9246158707. (HYMM/2021/C07126)

PADMAMAGAR COLONY 1, Near IDPL Township, Balanagar, 500Sq.Yards, West Facing, ULC Cleared, Plot suitable for Flat System. Contact: 984093636. (HYMM/2021/C07187)

PEDA AMBERPET, Jubileejuguda, 534 Sq.yds, Plot, 5th Bld From ORR, North/ East/ South/ 3 Side Road. Contact: 9701591999 (HYMM/2021/C07253)

BANJARA ROAD 3, plot 250 yards, excellent vastu, with proposed customized luxury Triplex villas, 4000 sqft. Possession 10 months. R.K.Estates (Builders & Developers) 9391015374, w.w.r.kestates.c.com (W/2021/A00151)

BANJARAHILLS 400, 500 North 600 West jubileehills 200 South, 400South KBR park view, 500East 600East 717 East 1200East 1500West, Filmmagar 110yards Journalist colony 300 Nandaghiri 600North Madhapur 100yards kuchavilli 500East Gachibowli jayashri 900yards Jubileehills and Banjara Hills independent houses 10Cr to 50Cr, All commercial plots, with sellers. Contact: 9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2021/A001053)

BANJARAHILLS JUBILEEHILLS Prime Location 350yards 500yards 700yards 1000yards 1500yards 2000yards 2500yards 3000yards 3500yards 4000yards 4500yards 5000yards 5500yards 6000yards 6500yards 7000yards 7500yards 8000yards 8500yards 9000yards 9500yards 10000yards 10500yards 11000yards 11500yards 12000yards 12500yards 13000yards 13500yards 14000yards 14500yards 15000yards 15500yards 16000yards 16500yards 17000yards 17500yards 18000yards 18500yards 19000yards 19500yards 20000yards 20500yards 21000yards 21500yards 22000yards 22500yards 23000yards 23500yards 24000yards 24500yards 25000yards 25500yards 26000yards 26500yards 27000yards 27500yards 28000yards 28500yards 29000yards 29500yards 30000yards 30500yards 31000yards 31500yards 32000yards 32500yards 33000yards 33500yards 34000yards 34500yards 35000yards 35500yards 36000yards 36500yards 37000yards 37500yards 38000yards 38500yards 39000yards 39500yards 40000yards 40500yards 41000yards 41500yards 42000yards 42500yards 43000yards 43500yards 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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## DOUBLE BEDROOM

**DOMALGUDA, GAGANIAHALA** Colony, Plot D6, Raghavendra Kanya, Secapuri, 2 BHK, 24 hrs water, car parking, Rent Rs.14k, Contact 9849048445, 9618694350, (B/2021/C01033)

**2 BHK** Flat for Rent at 3rd floor with Lift and car parking, recently renovated with excellent ventilation at Street No.3, Himayathnagar. Contact: 8978312454, (A/2021/C00595)

**FURNISHED APARTMENT** For Rent 2bhk with car park lift. Siraj Plaza Apartment, Street No.3, Himayathnagar, Ph:9820508166, (W/2021/A001138)

**TOILET TWO** bedroom flat at Himayathnagar Pentijo Enclave, opposite Telugu Academy. Contact: 9858988395 / 8106988260, (S/2021/C02391)

**HIMAYATHNAGAR NEAR** bank of Baroda 2BHK Flat Two Balconies 3rd Floor For Rent For Vegetarian Small Family Expected rent 15000/ negotiable contact sms 9848047892 (HYMM/2021/C07355)

**2BHK SPACIOUS** Flat in Chandralok Apts 3rdFloor (with) at Paradise circle, Secunderabad, Near to Metro station and market. Bachelors on rent. Ph:8008272000, (HYMM/2021/C07303)

**DELUXE FLAT** For Rent/ Sale On 2nd Floor, 2BHK Ready To Occupy @Hyderabad kota SunCity, Near Bhavani School, With All Facilities Ph:8919209015 (HYMM/2021/C07323)

**KHAIRATABAD, ANAND** Nagar 2BHK, Study 1350sqft, semi furnished, 24hrs water, near metro/MTS, small family with small car preferred. Ph:8885301350, 9346368539 (W/2021/A001061)

**1BHK & 2BHK** for Rent with fully furnished beside Lingampally Railway Station. Contact: 9701648279/ 9010166617 (HYMM/2021/C06829)

**VIJAYANAGAR COLONY**, (Masabank) 2BHK, 2nd floor, Rent Rs.14,500/- plus maintenance Rs.1100/- pm Car parking, lift, 24 hours water. Preferred Software/ Government Employees/ Small Family. Ph:9704277252, (S/2021/C02377)

**2BHK RENOVATED** Flat For Rent, Car Parking, Ground Floor Opp. Coconuts Tower, Masabank. Ph:9038605056, 90386049361, (HYMM/2021/C07305)

**ZAKIA APARTMENTS** 2BHK flat for rent 2nd floor with all amenities at Masabank near Police Officers Mess Hyderabad. Contact: 9849516256, (HYMM/2021/C07268)

**MASABANK - SRINIDHI** apts, opp.Garden towers, 2bhk, 2nd floor 1000sqft for rent Expected rent 15000 plus maintenance contact: 9300055997, 9966198162 (HYMM/2021/C07357)

**METTUGUDA 2** BHK 1st floor E/F flat vaastu, lift, 1015 sqf, adequate water, near Metro. Employees, vegetarians preferred. Ph:9848196903, 9441332605, (S/2021/C02394)

**NEW BOWENPALLY,** Bhavana Enclave, Spacious 2 BHK Accommodation available for rent. Contact: 9948028449, 27953282, (W/2021/A001042)

**2BHK SPACIOUS** Flat with carparking, 24hrs water in centrally located Punjagutta near Sabba Temple. Vegetarians preferred. Contact: 9849155827, 9849994415, (HYCL/2021/C02978)

**WELL VENTILATED** 2 BHK Flat for Rent, 2nd floor, two Wheeler parking, no lift, Eden Bagh, Ramkote, opp Gitanjal Complex. Ph:9701257612, 9396514828, (B/2021/C00979)

**SEMI FURNISHED** 2 Bed room Flat at Sindi Colony Main Road, Asha Apartment, 1st Floor, 001 Flat beside Heritage Fresh, 2nd Paradise, Secunderabad. Contact: 9391177187, 9885130636, (HYCL/2021/C02993)

**SOMAJIGUDA 2** BHK flat with spacious balcony for rent/ Lease, lane adjacent to Irmmanzu Metro Station, opposite Kriti Krithi Restaurant. Contact: 9441207684, 7615816568, (B/2021/C01012)

**TWO BHK** Flat 301 Chabas Urmla Apartment 24hrwater Car parking lift cupboards besides Kirti jewellers b mkt Somajiguda rent 9951662909, (HYMM/2021/C07177)

**FULLY FURNISHED** Wardrobes, Bed, A/C's, TV, Fridge, pots, pan, BHK West, Marriyalin, Secunderabad, Tirumala Apartments. Contact: Arvind: 9000157797, 9959976506, (S/2021/C02363)

**THREE & MORE**

**FLORA GATED** Community 3BHK with 3 alc/pooja room, 1935sf, 2 balconies in Alkapur Township, Manikonda. Ph: 9849467868, (W/2021/A001153)

**HIMAYATHNAGAR, DOMALGUDA,** 2000 Sft Semi Furnished 3 Bedroom, 3 baths, drawing, dining hall, modular kitchen, pooja room, 1935sf, 2 balconies in Alkapur Township, Manikonda. Ph: 9849467868, (W/2021/A001153)

**AVAILABLE 3** bedroom with attached Baths ground floor Apartment in Rukmini Devi Colony, Phase-1, AOC Centre, West Marredpally. Secure Community with clean and decent surroundings with Schools and Hospitals. Full Ventilation if required. Rent Rs.25,000/- per month. Contact: 985061962, 9912045638, (S/2021/C02408)

**ASHOKNAGAR 3BHK** 1600sf Stfhloor Kalyan abodes, 1-10-250/1, Near Sub- Registered Office 24hrs Water fully furnished carparking good ventilation. Ph:9866269136 (HYMM/2021/C06549)

**BANDLAGUDA** JAGIR, Vaisnava OASIS, Apts. 1625 Sft, 3BHK, Full wood work, 2 A/C's, 3 Geysers, 2 Car parking. Contact: 9849397055, (HYCL/2021/C02668)

**BANJARA HILLS** Rd No1, Behind Sakshi Building, 3BHK Ground floor flat, newly renovated. Contact 8688825579/ 8978662615, (HYMM/2021/C07313)

**BANJARAHILLS, ROAD** No.4, main road spacious bright 3 BHK, 3 balconies, 2 bathrooms, wardrobes, marble floor, 24hrs water, common party hall. Rent Rs.26,000/- Call: 9849318628, (B/2021/C00900)

**BANJARAHILLS, ROAD** No.5, Rock View Residency, 2200 Sft 3BHK 24 hrs water, lift, power back up, 2 car parking, wardrobes, modular kitchen. Ph:9908649671, 8179311202 (S/2021/C02298)

**2300 SFT** Deluxe 3BHK Flat with Parking for Rent @Road No: 11, Banjara hills, in 1st Floor Ph:8466893770, (HYMM/2021/C07109)

**BANJARAHILLS, ROAD** no.5 Brand new 2BHK gated community 2300 sf west facing Rent:Rs.1 Lakh, 1 servant room, Banjara hills road no. 14, 3 BHK east facing Rs.45,000/-, Banjara hills road no. 10, 3 BHK Rs.40,00/- Banjara hills surrounding area 3/4 Bedrooms Flats available. Ph:9347536995, 9959935655, (A/2021/C00597)

**NO'S- 1800sf 3bhk, with 2 balconies, de luxe vaasthu flats for rent** in Revanth Residency, Madinapura Enclave, Rock Town, Nagole. Contact: 9040-+917729087590 (HYMM/2021/C07233)

**BANJARAHILLS, ROAD** no.5 Brand new 2BHK gated community 2300 sf west facing Rent:Rs.1 Lakh, 1 servant room, Banjara hills road no. 14, 3 BHK east facing Rs.45,000/-, Banjara hills road no. 10, 3 BHK Rs.40,00/- Banjara hills surrounding area 3/4 Bedrooms Flats available. Ph:9347536995, 9959935655, (A/2021/C00597)

**1 BHK, Banjarahills, opp Virinchi Hospital & 3 BHK Lanco Hills, Manikonda, Road Facing, Semi Furnished, Parking, 24X7 water, security, centrally located. Ph:7935576154, 9989187966, (B/2021/C01040)**

**BRAND NEW** 3 BHK- 2000 sft flat for rent at Srinagar Colony, Posh locality, serene environment. Must see. Call: 9922770903, (S/2021/C02343)

**LAHARI PEARL** Heights 3 BHK Entire Flat 2nd floor, 1500 Sft, Near Katriya Hotel, Somajiguda. Immediately Available. Contact: 7207861059, 7337061059, (A/2021/C00605)

**SOMAJIGUDA RAJBHAVAN** road, Lamka beside Jaya Gardens, 3Bhk 2000sqft, NE 100% Vastu, Woodward, 24x7 Water, Car parking, ph:9963038389, (HYMM/2021/C07086)

**BARKATHPURA, SEMI** Furnished 3 Bedroom flat, 1st floor, E/F, 1 car parking, all facilities available in NLC Residency, Contact: 9844020784, (A/2021/C00543)

**3 BHK** Flat for Rent with Garage as per Vastu at Solanki's Gulmohar, A Block 401, Brahmawadi, Begumpet, Secunderabad. Ph:9989493241, (S/2021/C0235)

**3 BHK** Flat 2100sqft, Semi Furnished, Motial Nagar Colony, Near Airport, Begumpet Contact 917709833- mantri0802@gmail.com (HYMM/2021/C07092)

**DOMALGUDA, HIMAYATH** Nagar-Nagilla SriRanganayam, 1400 sqft, 5th floor, N/E corner. Begumpet/ Nagilla tower, 1200 sqft 5th floor, 2bedroom, cupboards, car parking, gated community, 24 hrs water, family friendly. Ph:9849038983, no brokers. (S/2021/C02403)

**2BHK SPACIOUS** Flat in Chandralok Apts 3rdFloor (with) at Paradise circle, Secunderabad, Near to Metro station and market. Bachelors on rent. Ph:8008272000, (HYMM/2021/C07303)

**DELUXE FLAT** For Rent/ Sale On 2nd Floor, 2BHK Ready To Occupy @Hydersda kota SunCity, Near Bhavani School, With All Facilities Ph:8919209015 (HYMM/2021/C07323)

**KHAIRATABAD, ANAND** Nagar 2BHK, Study 1350sf, semi furnished, 24hrs water, near metro/MTS, small family with small car preferred. Ph:8885301350, 9346368539 (W/2021/A001061)

**GACHIBOWLI, JANARDHANA** Hills, Opp. Cyberabad Commissionerate of Police, Flora Essence Apartments, 3 BHK, flat, No.52, 1665 sf. Ph:9989060606, (S/2021/C02299)

**TELECOMMARN, GACHIBOWLI**, 3BHK Flat, with Car parking, lift available immediately, contact: 9885148111, 9885462891 (V/2021/A001126)

**GACHIBOWLI NEAR** Flyover Behind South India Shopping Mall 3BHK, 3Bath, 2 Bed, 2 Bath, 24x7 Water, Car parking, ph:9940344343, (HYCL/2021/C02974)

**3B/BR FULLY** furnished, 24hrs water, car parking, Hall, Kitchen, Dining, Pooja room, sofa, Bank, Modular Kitchen, Gated complex, 24x7, 1600sf, 2 Bed, 2 Bath, 24x7 Water, Car parking, lift available immediately, contact: 9885148111, 9885462891 (V/2021/A001126)

**JUBILEE HILLS**, Film Nagar, 2nd floor, 1000 sqft, available for Rent preferred for families only. Contact: 9908995588, 7386178455 (V/2021/C00008)

**INDEPENDENT HOUSE**

**SINGLE BEDROOM**

**A.C.GUARDS, NEAR** Shantinagar Police Quarters, Second Floor, 750 Sq.Ft., consisting of bedroom, Hall, Kitchen, WC, Store with all amenities for Hindu Families. Contact: 9429040500, (A/2021/C0108)

**SIKHVILLAGE 56** Chandulal bowl, Secunderabad. One BHK full furniture, 2 Bed, 2 Bath, 24x7 Water, Car parking, lift available immediately, contact: 9908995588, 7386178455 (V/2021/C00008)

**INDUSTRIAL HOUSE**

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## MULTIPLE VACANCIES

**A LEADING** Construction Company requires Freshers. Experienced Male/ Females, GM/AGM, Sales/ Marketing Managers, Team Leaders, Property Advisors, Team Callers, Site Engineers, Salary (Min.20,000/- to 50,000/-PM) +2% Commission. On sale value, for Real Estate & Construction Com. office at ECIL Ph:9100995553, 9100887772, 9121022275, Interviews on Sat to Sun from 10am to 6pm. (HYMM/2021/C07242)

**FULL TIME** Housemaid/ Nanny Job in Qatar:for a Female. Good cooking& expert in babysitting& child care skills for a Hyderabad family in Qatar. knowledge of household, able to speak& understand English& Urdu well. have good previous experience. Good salary, accommodation, food provided with extra perks/benefits. Ph: +919100551860, +91367717861, W/A+85261033057. (HYCL/2021/C02867)

**WANTED FEMALE** Stock Assistant & Female Telecaller. Koundinya Enterprises, Behind Vijanti cinema Theatre, Nacharam, Hyderabad. Contact: 7306690222, 9849771075. (HYCL/2021/C02931)

**WANTED ACCOUNTANTS** & Civil Engineers. Experience 3-5yrs for Reputed Construction Company. A.S.M.R. Constructions, 103, Vijaya Apts, D.K.Road, Ameerpet. Ph:9848041569, 8121234564. (HYCL/2021/C02934)

**URGENTLY REQUIRED** Experienced salespersons for pharma & kirana genera. store. Should be able to manage independently. Contact: 9000057510. (HYMM/2021/C06832)

**REDDY LABS** Require Sales manager/offer experience in FMCG industry. BSC Graduates Microbiology/chemist (B.A./B.Com) with computer Knowledge. PlotsNo.17, IDA, Moula Ali. Contact: 9441887082 (HYMM/2021/C07015)

**LOOKING OUT** for proving new talents and energies. We are hiring for our offices at Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad. Drop us your Resume at: info@chiragdesignstudio.com Vacancy: Senior Architect, Senior Designer, Front Office Executive, 402, The Downtown, Banjara Hills, Road No.5, Hyderabad. Ph:918078500 & 94. Kharavelanagar Up School, 4th Street, Kharavelanagar, Bhubaneswar. Ph:919853040484. (HYCL/2021/C02917)

**IMMEDIATELY WANTED** experience for freshers & sales executive qualification degree good salary harshaaccessoriesh@gmail.com contact: 8500018700/700-703653807 9348889393 (HYMM/2021/C07107)

**STAR HOMEOPATHY**, Corporate Clinic Requires Team Leaders No.5, Callcenter Executives No.-30, Front Desk Officers No-5, for Telugu & Kannada process. And Digital Marketing No-3, Age upto 35yrs. Walk-in Interviews Daily at Secunderabad Corporate Office. Timing: 10am-4pm. Contact: 7688621188. Send-Resume to: gnooperations.starhomeopathy@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C02919)

**WANTED COLLECTION** Executive's And Telecallers For DRA & Non DRA Candidates Can Also Apply Contact: Ph:971456799, 9014536699 (HYMM/2021/C07111)

**REQUIRED CHIEF** managers/managers, working employees part time, unemployees part /full time, retired employees &house wives full/part time. Ph:9441617677 (HYMM/2021/C07218)

**REQUIRE FOOD** technologist for bakery division, degree/ diploma in food technology, with minimum of two years of experience. Gmail: Preverbeneesingh@gmail.com Contact: no. 9246342148 (HYMM/2021/C07239)

**URGENTLY REQUIRED** Counselors, Telecallers, Admin. Officers for Reputed Coaching Institute located in Ameerpet & Diluskhnagar. For details contact: 9700077833. 844. (HYCL/2021/C02942)

**TELANGANA MEDIA** english paper urgently required experience page layout designers. sub editors video editors. cum graphic designers. Web designer reporters in all over telangana and hyderabad female office incharge cum personal secretary. Marketing team house keeping boys are ladies call 09900022214. 09032722214 office sr naga (HYMM/2021/C0286)

**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** Requires: 1.Civil Engineers& Supervisors to execute the Infrastructure works (Laying of U.G, Sewer lines, Storm water& Domestic Water lines, OHT, Electrical Ducts, cables& WVM, BT road works, Kerb laying) in a Residential Layouts& office work. Mechanical Experience above 5years. Duration: 6months. 2.Electricals for site work. Send your resumes on i f o @ a d v i t h o m e . s c o m (HYMM/2021/C0753)

**REQUIRED MARKETING** Executives & Store Helpers For Hydrogen springs @ Kavurihills, Madhapur Fixed Salary+Incentives. Ph:7799322224. (HYMM/2021/C0284)

**REQUIRED PATIENT** Coordinators(F), Deg./Physiotherapist. (F)D Trainee Therapist,Customer Care Executives. (M/F) 10+28 above for Ayurvedic Health Center @Mokha Ph:9439432345 (HYMM/2021/C06985)

**WANTED 1 SALES** Manager, Automobiles experience mandatory, 2 Sales Executives, 3 Telecallers, 4 Service Advisors, 5 Mechanics/Technicians For Deccan Bajaj R.Road &Mettaguda, Secunderabad. 9652600073 (HYMM/2021/C07080)

**WANTED SALES** Representative and Collection Boys For city/ out station for Wholesale Textile business. Wanted Experienced with good skills in operating & ms office skills. Walk-in for interviews on 21st, 22nd, 23rd Feb 2021 between 10:00-5:00pm Paramount Textiles #3-4-224, Kylash Market, Subhash Road, opp. mahankali police station Secunderabad- 500003 Phone: 9700038717, paramountex @ g mail. co (HYMM/2021/C07112)

**REPUTED PVT** Ltd Company for its Defence Project at Kanpur requires Engineering Graduates/ Diploma holders/ B.Sc chemical having 3 to 10 yrs experience in O&M furnaces/ chemical reactors/ Electrical heated vessels. Persons having SCADA knowledge preferred. Apply complete bio-data, expected salary email: kanpur@hpheyd.com (HYCL/2021/AT00118)

**REPUTED PVT** Ltd Company for its Defence Project at Kanpur requires ITI Fitters/ Electricians having 2 yrs industrial experience. Apply complete bio-data, expected salary email: kanpur@hpheyd.com (HYCL/2021/AT00119)

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**WALK-IN INTERVIEW** at Kendriya Vidyalaya Hyderabad for Indian/ English/ Social, Sanskrit & Telugu Data Entry Operator/ Sports Coach/ Yoga Teacher/ Computer Instructor/ Education Counselor/ Staff Nurse/ Music/ Dance Coach part time Contractual Basis on 25/02/2021 from 9.00am onwards. For Details Visit School Website: http://hyderabad.kvs.ac.in (HYCL/2021/C02954)

**REPUTED PVT** Ltd Company for its Defence Project at Kanpur requires Engineering Graduates/ Diploma holders/ B.Sc chemical having 3 to 10 yrs experience in O&M furnaces/ chemical reactors/ Electrical heated vessels. Persons having SCADA knowledge preferred. Apply complete bio-data, expected salary email: kanpur@hpheyd.com (HYCL/2021/C02954)

**REPUDIED PVT** Ltd Company for its Defence project at Kanpur requires, ITI Fitters/ Electricians having 2 yrs industrial experience. Apply complete bio-data, expected salary email: k a p u r @ h p e h y d . c o m (W/2021/AT011 @ h p e h y d . c o m )

**REPUDIED MANUFACTURING** Company @ Suchitra requires Manager HR, Senior Accountants Officer. Candidates having 6-10 years experience in Manufacturing units. Contact: 9701211899, 9248033474. (S/2021/C02346)

## OTHER VACANCIES

**WANTED SITE** Incharge with 6-10yrs experience in Real Estate Sector (Farm Plots with Sandalwood Plantation maintenance). Must be able to lead team &independently get the job done from the civil workers. Contact: Ph:961899553, Email: hr@usmifra.com Walk-ins from Mon-Fri. (10.00am-6.00pm). (HYCL/2021/C02957)

**WANTED COOKS** with experience of Chats and Juices for a New Trendy Restaurant at Tirumalgerry, Hyderabad. Accommodation can be provided. Salary upto 20,000. Contact: 800512121 (HYMM/2021/C07199)

**WANTED EXPERIENCED** Caterer for Orphan home, 15000 to 18000 Salary food and Accommodation Preferably Ex-Servicemen. Contact: 9396601234 (HYMM/2021/C07326)

**WANTED EXP.** Teachers for Higher Classes (All Subjects). St. Peters School, Yellamangala, Kukatpally (7673992821. (HYMM/2021/C06707)

**RACHANA GRAMMAR** High School Balaji Nagar Yeluru requires Trained Teachers for all subjects for Classes Nursery to 10th Transport Facility available from Dammaguda. ph:9704900666, 9949900666 Email: r a c h a n a g r a m m a r @ g m a i l . c o m (HYMM/2021/C06667)

**SAI MODEL** High School, Old Bawali Nagar Yeluru requires Trained Teachers for all subjects for Classes Nursery to 10th Transport Facility available from Dammaguda. ph:9704900666, 9949900666 Email: r a c h a n a g r a m m a r @ g m a i l . c o m (S/2021/C02312)

**WANTED EXPERIENCED** Baptist Pastors with B.D Recognized by Serampore University. Age above 50 years to serve as Senior Pastor in Centenary Baptist Church, Secunderabad. Last date for submission 27/2/2021. Application may be forwarded to The Secretary Central Baptist Church 61/1, St. Mary's Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana. Ph:9492324326. (S/2021/C02371)

**REPUTED SCHOOL** in Secunderabad required Teachers very good in English and Hindi pundits for classes from primary to High School. Ph:23530453, Cell 728888281. Email: azra.scholar@gmail.com (B/2021/C01032)

**REQUIRED TRAINED** Senior Experienced Graduate/Post Graduate lady teachers to teach Science, English, Social, Hindi & Computers for higher classes for Akrapur branch. Attractive Salary offered. Contact with testimonials. Azra Public School, Asifnagar, Mephatipam, Hyderabad. Ph:23530453, Cell 728888281. Email: azra.scholar@gmail.com (B/2021/C01032)

**GITANJALI SCHOOL** Primary, Begumpet (ICSE) requires for year 2021-22 trained B.Ed and experienced teacher for English communication 1 primary mother teacher grade1, 2)English &Social Studies grades 3)English &Science grade6, 4)Part-time computers grade 3-6 5)Part-time Telugu grades 1-6 walk-in interview 9393418425 careers@gitanjalischools.com (W/2021/AT01155)

**WANTED GOOD** looking Female Receptionist Hindi English must work at hyderabad contact: 9581984956 (HYMM/2021/C07148)

**WANTED FEMALE** Receptionist with good communication skills, good salary (Morning/ Afternoon shift) for Sameer Hospital at Mephatipam, Opp: Andhra Bank, Asif Nagar Road. Contact: 9177373017. (HYMM/2021/C07212)

## RECEPTION-CUM-TEL-OPRTRS

**REQUIRED BACK** end staff ( M/F ) at SAMSON services, Gachibowli, Salary 12K to 15K. Age 30yrs Below, able to speak Telugu, Hindi & Ms-office knowledge. Ph:9849253502, 9985341261 (HYMM/2021/C07340)

**WANTED GOOD** looking Female Receptionist Hindi English must work at hyderabad contact: 9581984956 (HYMM/2021/C07148)

**WANTED FEMALE** Receptionist with good communication skills, good salary (Morning/ Afternoon shift) for Sameer Hospital at Mephatipam, Opp: Andhra Bank, Asif Nagar Road. Contact: 9177373017. (HYMM/2021/C07212)

## SECRETARIES

**SALES MAN**, stores male & back office girls 5-7ys. exp tally knowledge and e tendering & good communication skills mail your Cv to sinergiprojects@gmail.com phone: 807465531 (HYMM/2021/C07085)

**WANTED PERSONAL SECRETARY** having good personality, service mindedness, computer knowledge, Intelligent, own vehicle. Secunderabad residing only need apply. Best salary working lunch provided. Contact: 8099999007. (W/2021/AT001070)

**REQUIRED SEMI Qualified/ Company Secretaries for Employment.** Contact: 8074361930, 9705820039, c a d e v a n n a @ g m a i l . c o m (B/2021/C00990)

## SECURITY

**HYDERABAD GOLF** Association 9-14-7/Golf, 7 torbs Golondra sealed tenders are invited from registered security agencies for hiring security staff for day &night security of entire area workshop &offices of HGA. Supervisors-4, Guards-21, for 1 year. Interested agencies may submit their tenders at office by 27th Feb 2021 by 5:30pm. Ph:9030032705. (HYMM/2021/C07288)

## STENOS & TYPISTS

**WANTED STENOGRAPHER** experience 5-10 years, age 35-40 years, Graduate English, Medium, Well Versed in Computer Operations, Lower Shorthand Higher Typing. Apply with proof of residence, education, experience resume to: Infotech Solutions, Office 302, Kabra Complex, Raniapuram, Hyderabad. Contact: 9701211899. (S/2021/C02373)

## TEACHERS

**WANTED TEACHERS** for All Subjects for Classes I to X. Contact: Vikas High School, Santoshnagar, near Ed-Bazar, Water tank, Hyd-23. Ph:9014363343, 9989193806, kumtakulakaleela@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C02734)

## WANTED TEACHERS to teach F/L Hindi, Telugu & Social for High school. Contact: St. Francis Grammar High School, Madanapeta, Saidabad, Ph:9393633193, 8688984455. (HYCL/2021/C02859)

**WANTED TEACHERS** to teach F/L Hindi, Telugu & Social for High school and 6- 7 classes Science. Contact: St. Francis Grammar High School, Madanapeta, Saidabad, Ph:9393633193, 8688984455. (HYCL/2021/C02859)

**WANTED TEACHERS** to teach F/L Hindi, Telugu & Social for High school and 6- 7 classes Science. Contact: St. Francis Grammar High School, Madanapeta, Saidabad, Ph:9393633193, 8688984455. (HYCL/2021/C02859)

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**SRI SARASWATHI** Vidhya Mandir Required Teachers to Teach Primary & High School, For All Subjects English Medium, Accountant With Computer Knowledge Contact: 040-23748736/ 8297444066. Keesav Nagar (HYCL/2021/C02976)

**TRAINED TEACHERS** For Maths, Science, Telugu (I-VII), Phys/10k, 9th/10th, Nagari High School, Srinivasa Nagar, Jagadgirigutta, Ph:3978018866. (HYCL/2021/C02897)

**WANTED QUALIFIED** Physical Science teacher for high school near BHEL. Contact: 9866693668. (HYMM/2021/C07262)

## OTHER V

# DECCAN Chronicle

21 FEBRUARY 2021



Ranjona Banerji

**Off the beaten track**

## Concrete threat coexists with bignonia, birdsong

You are so lucky that you moved to Dehradun from a city, I get told all the time. As cliches go, it's a great line. I see the foothills of the Himalayas every time I look out of the window. I am surrounded by countryside. I have a garden full of flowers.

Especially after the pandemic, you read articles or you hear about people from Gurgaon, Delhi, Meerut, looking to move to Dehradun. I get calls from friends about the availability of land or flats. The horrors of pollution and the rat race have been brought home in full force after almost a year of "work from home". They use the line I myself used when I moved here six years ago: all you need is a good Internet connection.

I know, you're looking for the poetry. The dawn chorus, the bird song through the day, the evening choir, which depending on the season could start at three in the afternoon or three hours later. Every November, you wait for the Himalayan Whistling Thrush to make its annual visit. Winter has begun when you hear its beautiful call early in the morning. Then the song stops but the bird stays, hopping the garden, and glinting when the Sun catches its brilliant dark blue with speckled wings and a yellow beak.

Some sounds are all-India sounds but evocative of the seasons and their gifts nonetheless: the thok-thok of the Coppersmith Barbet, the cooing of the doves, the summer frenzy of the Brainfever Bird, the persistent call of the Koel. Others like the plaintive Grey Hornbill or the did-you-do-it cry of the Red Wattled Lapwing come and go through the year.

The birds alone, even if you are ignorant from one page of Salim Ali to the next, are worth it.

It's the sheer privilege of course. The privilege of knowing that even if the mountaintops are covered in summer or winter haze, the air is clear and fresh. That when visitors arrive for the first time, the enormous hit of oxygen makes them sleepy.

And it's those little pleasures that are hidden privileges. Garden privileges. Of camellias and magnolias. Of discovering daffodils and tulips when your orientation is tropical. Of making your own compost from kitchen and garden waste. Of having the time to meander. Of staring at the sunbirds while they feed on the vine or pose on the passionflower.

But, there has to be a but. It's not all sapsuckers and sappy stories. There are those harsh realities of the countryside. Of the lack of basic amenities. Health, education, migration for work. Of environmental destruction and the resultant devastation.

Why did I move to Dehradun all those years ago? I moved to live with my parents. I left Mumbai, the city I have also felt the closest to, left my friends, my colleagues, my little flat with its verandah garden, to start a new chapter. For me, it was family and that's a different kind of poetry. Not romantic lyricism but something far deeper, more elemental.

And it has been a struggle, as it was for my Mother when she made the move from Calcutta post-retirement. You have to rejig your mind and your expectations. From the ridiculous — o lord, there is not one decent restaurant — to the sublime — where are the art galleries to feed my soul.

And for me, where is Arif who brought me my breakfast bun pao every morning, on his cycle, fresh from the bakery? Tiwari ji who took me to work in his taxi every morning, and was always a phone call away for any emergency? Or Yadav ji, ready with his taxi for the day when family came to visit? Or Baba who would travel miles for any electrical emergency, and had saved up enough to buy an old small flat that I had once lived in? Or Lalji, who smiled his way through every carpentry disaster? Or Anita, who cooked like a dream and then fulfilled her own dream with a little food stall near a school?

Living in Mumbai was heady, a mix of enterprise, collaboration and trust every day. Going home from work by public transport at any time of the night. Putting in those commuter miles, whether by train or bus or auto or taxi. Three hours a day or more, gone. How did we do it? How do people still do it? And that buzz. That ineffable, glorious, unquantifiable, addictive buzz of big city life. I have not found it in any other Indian city. They have other attractions. Soul perhaps, entitlement definitely. But not buzz.

Dehradun has no buzz. It has higgledy-piggledy growth. Almost none of it is organic. It is all concrete boxes. It has locals trying to adjust to the status of a capital. Some hate it.



Some love the increased scope of income and business. Most rue the degradation of a slow life because of increased speeds and influxes.

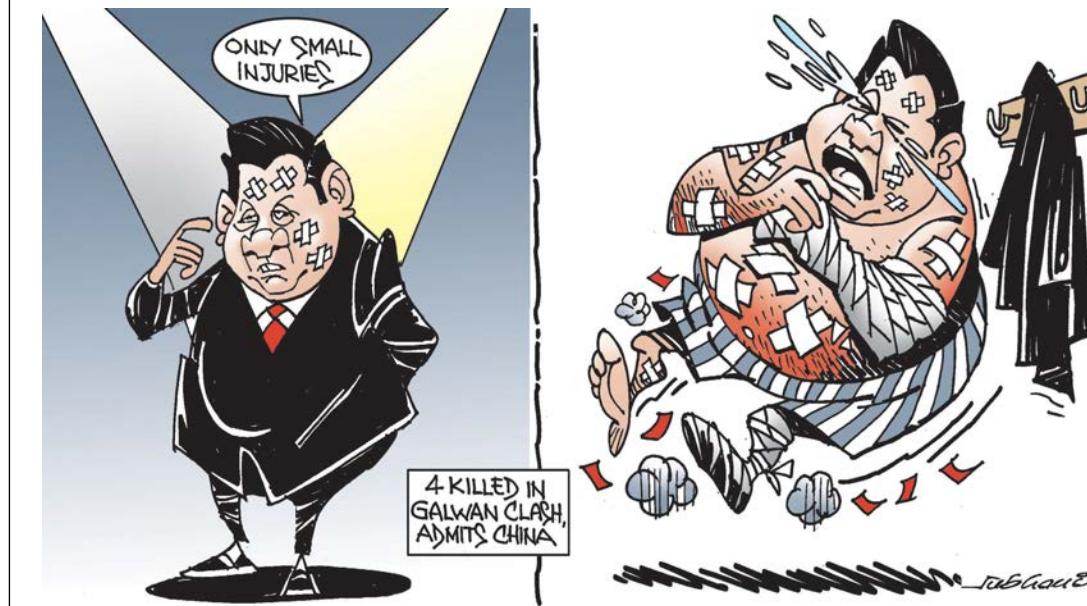
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**It is good that the Ram Temple at Ayodhya is being built largely through public donations. This was the model for the reconstruction of the Somnath temple in 1951. The initiative to rebuild it was taken by Sardar Patel; Gandhiji approved of it, but asked that the funds for this purpose be raised through voluntary donations, rather than an outgo from the government exchequer. This advice was followed, and K.M. Munshi, a minister in Nehru's cabinet, spearheaded the raising of funds and the rebuilding of the temple.**

**The same model is reportedly being followed for the Ram temple. The cadres of the RSS, the BJP and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, are in the forefront for raising funds from the public. Many ordinary Hindus are more than willing to make contributions. Many non-Hindus may also be willing to contribute. So long as this entire exercise is carried out voluntarily, on the bedrock of genuine public support, it should pose no problem.**

**But there are disturbing stories doing the rounds of coercive methods being employed. It has been reported that bands of "bhaktas" are combing residential areas and housing societies asking people to donate, and judging them by their response and the quantum they give. It has been reported that stickers are put on the doors or entrances of those who have paid, thereby marking out those who have not. In a close-knit residential habitat, this identifies people who are not "adequately" Hindu, or sufficiently demon-**

## Subhani



## Not much righteous about Ram temple funds drive



Pavan K. Varma

**Chanakya's View**

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**strative about their devotion to Lord Ram. Such people then face social ostracisation, and are portrayed as betrayers of the faith.**

**If these stories are true, it is a matter of deep concern. The noble cause of building the temple cannot be sullied by mob intimidation bordering on extortion. Most Hindus hold Shri Ram in great reverence, and may wish to donate; but those that do not want to hand over cash to people they don't know, or are unsure about their credentials, or unconvinced about the accountability of the money they give, are entirely free not to donate, and cannot and should not be penalised for it. The use of stickers or crosses to identify those who do not comply has very ominous implications.**

**Besides, Hinduism by definition is a religion of choice. Even in temples, there is no compulsion to put money in the donation box, however prominently it may be placed. Many Hindus worship Rama; for others, the subject of devotion is Shiva; and, for still others it is Devi. At one level, of course, all Hindu gods stand for that one divinity which is omnipresent and indivisible. This is the Nirguna — attributeless — Brahman. But Hinduism consciously**

**derogates this pervasive cosmic consciousness to the Saguna or attribute-full level, to enable devotees to worship a more accessible god. At the saguna plane, each Hindu is free to choose more than one god, or elevate any one of them to primary status. For instance, in West Bengal, a great many people are devotees of Durga. Is there anything wrong if a Hindu in Kolkata chooses to donate a part of his meagre disposable income for Durga Puja rather than a temple?**

**Moreover, what kind of precedent does such an exercise set? Today, the aim is to raise money for the Ram temple. Tomorrow, if the same cohort comes around to ask for money to celebrate the birth of Rama, Ram Navami, who will stop them? If at Dussehra, the same gang fans out to raise money for a yatra or a function, how can ordinary Hindus, afraid of being marked out for not being "sufficiently devotional", resist their demands? Even powerful politicians have spoken out openly against the manner in which money is being asked for. Fear and unlawful pressure cannot be a basis for religious or spiritual pursuits.**

**The real danger is that Shri Rama, the compassionate (*deen dayala*) merciful (*kripalu*), and the epitome of rectitude (*maryada purushottamam*), is being used as a means to make Hinduism a prescriptive religion. Such a development is mutilating to the cerebral essence of Hinduism. The tragedy is that those who assume to dictate to**

**Hinduism allows for Hindus to be atheistic, pantheist, monist, polytheist, agnostic or animist; and is more than happy with those who see God everywhere or nowhere and do not even wish to visit a temple**

**other Hindus on how they should behave in order to be "good" Hindus, don't know the fundamentals of Hinduism in the first place. More often than not, their evangelical illiteracy is orthodox, upper-caste, patriarchal and ritualistic. Little would they know that Hinduism allows for Hindus to be atheistic, pantheist, monist, polytheist, agnostic, animist, or any combination of the above; and, at the level of philosophy, Hinduism is more than happy with those who see God everywhere or nowhere and do not even wish to visit a temple.**

**Shri Rama's aura should not be sullied by the taint of money and politics. It would have been much better if the government had issued explicit instructions that donations for the Ram temple, by those who wish to make them, would only be valid by online transfer, with an electronic receipt. It would have been good, too, if the government had set up a more transparent mechanism for donors to know how their hard earned money — in times when petrol and diesel prices are skyrocketing — has been utilised for the construction of the temple. Herds of people of a particular political orientation, roaming the streets and neighbourhoods demanding money with little accountability, is not something that Shri Rama would have wanted for his temple.**

**The writer, an author and a former diplomat, is in politics**

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**come when one is greeted by a Tamilian singing Hindi songs.**

**Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has finally bestirred herself and begun touring Uttar Pradesh in an effort to revive the party in the electorally crucial Hindi heartland state. She recently reiterated Congress support for the agitating farmers at several mahapanchayats in Western UP and later travelled to Allahabad where she took a holy dip in the Sangam on the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya. According to Congress insiders, Priyanka will be spending more time in the state with an eye on next year's Assembly polls. As a result, the Congress office in Lucknow has been renovated and a special vehicle has been purchased for her travels. Priyanka's communications team has also been beefed up. Social media experts, filmmakers and researchers have been specially drafted for the UP challenge. This team's task is to build the Congress profile in the state. Not an easy task given that the party has**

**been out in the cold in UP for over three decades.**

**D**espite Congress president Sonia Gandhi's intervention, differences between Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh and his aide noir Navjot Singh Sidhu are yet to be sorted out. Harish Rawat, Congress general secretary in charge of Punjab, has held a series of meetings with Amarinder Singh to arrive at a compromise formula but to little avail. The former cricketer is keen on taking over as president of the Punjab Congress but the chief minister has said an emphatic "No" and has instead grudgingly offered to accommodate Sidhu in the Cabinet. But Sidhu is not keen on joining the Captain's Cabinet. Sonia Gandhi wants Sidhu to be rehabilitated soon as Assembly elections in Punjab are due next year, especially since there is talk that if he does not have his way, Sidhu will start addressing farmers' meetings in the hope of emerging as a rallying force for the peasantry currently agitating against the Centre's farm laws. While the Central leadership is worried, it could prove difficult

## LETTERS

### PUNJAB LESSONS

Three lessons can be learnt from the Punjab civic poll results. One, the Congress can win big and take the first step to revive the party. Second, the BJP must realise people are rejecting the party as laws are made in an autocratic way. The third lesson for all parties is to depend more on local stalwarts to win elections.

**G.V.N. Murthy**  
Hyderabad

### JAGAN'S REIGN

We need to point out that AP is at a huge disadvantage to attract investments (*Jagan reigns supreme, Naidu's hubris meets its comeuppance, DC, Feb. 20*). Not many large industries were set up in the last 20 years. There is not even a good airport. The Congress and TD governments did not concentrate on this. With excellent infrastructure in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Pune, AP will find it difficult to attract investments. Hence, the CM is concentrating on small, aqua, agri, dairy, food processing and pharma which are the state's strengths. Added to this he is also trying to develop ports and industrial clusters.

**A.R.R. Datta**  
Hyderabad

### COSTLY IPL AUCTIONS

Cricket was considered a gentleman's game, but it has now become a gamble with film actors with a lot of money involved (*Morris turns costliest IPL buy, DC, Feb. 19*). With the auction of human beings like slaves, it can no more be a gentleman's game.

**Dr. Mohammed Abdul Mujeeb Siddiqui**  
Hyderabad

Players were bought in auction in the range of ₹20 lakh to 16.25 crore. The players get a share of the revenue through advertisements from companies. Instead of investing in IPL, the companies can get more popularity and fame by sponsoring Covid vaccine for poor people.

**Dr. O. Prasada Rao**  
Hyderabad

### HYDERABAD TREE CITY

I request citizens to plant more saplings on the outskirts (*Hyderabad now India's Tree City, DC, Feb. 19*). Hyderabad has always been friendly, encouraging varied team managements, driving scientific development and solutions. It is a role model for easy and healthy development for the world.

**Sreelekha P.N.**  
Secunderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### Forward Bloc Chairman assassinated

**CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 20**  
Forward Bloc Chairman and veteran freedom fighter Hemanta Kumar Bose was assassinated near his residence at Shyampukur in North Calcutta at about 11:00 this morning.

The murder came as a culmination to the run of savage violence which has held the State in its vicious grip for over a year and claimed about 170 lives in the last seven weeks.

Mr. Bose, who was a candidate for the Shyampukur Assembly seat, had held since the first General election.

to persuade Amarinder Singh who is feeling emboldened after the Congress swept the civic polls.

**I**t is ironic that at a time when the Congress has come out in strong support of the farmers agitating against the Centre's farm laws, the party's department/cell mandated to study and take up issues pertaining to farmers and agriculture has been headless for nearly a year now. The party's All-India Kisan Congress was headed by Nana Patole who was subsequently named Speaker in the Maharashtra Assembly when the Congress joined the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party to form a coalition government in the western state. Patole resigned as Speaker after he was appointed president of the MPCB. Most departments/cells set up by the Congress are virtually defunct, having little to offer in terms of programmes or activities. It appears they exist only to placate members with posts which, in reality, do not mean anything.

**Anita Katyal** is a Delhi-based journalist

Anita Katyal

**Political Gup-Shup**

**BJP for Sourav as Bengal CM; Cong farmer cell has no chief**

## SHORT TAKES

**ULFA-I THREATENS TO KILL CAPTIVE EMPLOYEES**BY MANOJ ANAND  
WITH AGENCY INPUTS  
GUWAHATI, FEB. 20

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam - Independent (Ulfa-I) has threatened to take the "ultimate step" next week on the two employees of the Quippo oil and gas drilling company who are being held captive by the outfit, prompting senior Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to appeal to their release.

The Pares Barua-led outfit has demanded a ransom of ₹20 crore for the duo's release and had earlier set February 16 as the deadline.

The two, drilling superintendent Pranab Kumar Gogoi and radio operator Ram Kumar, of the Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure, were kidnapped by Ulfa-I rebels on December 21 last year from Kumchaika hydrocarbon drilling site in Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh. While Gogoi is a native of Assam, Kumar hails from Bihar.

**CONGRESS BANDH IN MP RECEIVES BACKLASH**RABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, FEB. 20

The half-day bandh call given by Congress to protest against the fuel price increase on Saturday evoked mixed response in Madhya Pradesh. Though petrol stations remained closed, normal life remained unaffected in most places.

Congress workers and leaders who were enforcing bandh in their respective areas were seen facing resistance from local businessmen at some places.

One Krishna Pachouri, a local businessman, lodged a complaint with the Korada police station in Bhopal alleging misbehaviour by Congress men who were trying to intimidate him to close his shop. Yogesh Bhatia, a cloth merchant in Jabalpur, lodged a complaint against some Congress workers in Ranji police station alleging intimidation to force him to close his shop.

**INDIA WITNESSES SPIKE IN DAILY COVID-19 CASES**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 20

Daily Covid-19 cases in the country climbed to about 14,000 after nearly 22 days, taking India's tally to 1,09,77,387. Recoveries surged to 1,06,78,048, according to Union health ministry data that was updated on Saturday.

A total of 13,993 new cases were registered in a span of 24 hours and there were 101 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The active case-load remains below 1.5 lakh, at 1,43,127. The 101 new fatalities included 44 deaths from Maharashtra, 15 from Kerala and 8 from Punjab.

Worryingly, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have recorded an "upsurge" in daily new cases of Covid-19, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

**CSR SHOULD NOT BE MANDATORY: AZIM PREMJI**

New Delhi, Feb. 20: IT czar and philanthropist Azim Premji on Saturday said companies should not be legally mandated to engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) as such contributions to society need to "come from within."

Premji, who donated ₹7,904 crore in donations last year (₹22 crore a day), also highlighted that the Covid-19 crisis was a "wake up call" to look at fundamental issues like the need to improve public systems like health, and changing the structure of society to become more equal and just.

"I do not think we should have a legal mandate for companies to do CSR. Philanthropy or charity or contribution to society must come from within, and it cannot be mandated from outside. But that's my personal view."

As now, this is the law and all companies must follow it, Premji said.

He added that it is important that individual and personal philanthropy is separated from a company's CSR efforts.

**Fight against high fuel prices**

Activists of Indian Youth Congress clash with police personnel during a protest against the hike in fuel and LPG prices, in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

**Get out of election mode: Patnaik**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, FEB. 20

political angle."

The 75-year-old CM, who was elected for the fifth consecutive term in 2019, added that it's high time elected governments stop behaving like political parties.

"Elections are an essential feature of democracy. However, the hallmark of a mature democracy is that once elected, the governments are meant to work for people, beyond the party line, but 'every crime is being politicised and every action of the government is being seen from a

the same. Every crime is being politicised, every action of an elected government is being seen from a political angle. This kind of atmosphere is one of the biggest threats to the pace of development and peace in the country. It's high time the country gets out of this election mode and allows elected governments to function," he said.

Though the CM, who heads the regional Biju Janata Dal as its founder president, a key rival of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), did not mention any political party, his remarks were a direct rebuff of the saffron party's persistent attack on his government and other non-BJP state governments over various issues.

BJP leaders have been constantly attacking the BJD government on various issues, including chit fund and mining scams, irregularities in procurement of healthcare hardware and mismanagement Covid-19 crisis.

**SECURITY BEEFED UP AT BACHCHAN'S RESIDENCE**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, FEB. 20

Security was tightened at Hindi films actor Amitabh Bachchan's Mumbai residence on Saturday in the wake of Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole calling an "autocrat" and evoking a sharp reaction from the CPM leadership.

Sreedharan said it would be a tragedy if Left Democratic Front (LDF) were to come back to power again in Kerala after the Assembly polls scheduled to be held soon.

In an interview with a regional channel, the well-known engineer, who is set to join BJP next week, said the Chief Minister was depending on the flared advice of bureaucrats.

Sreedharan heaped praise on the Opposition

**'Metro Man' courts row, calls Vijayan an autocrat**DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 20

Ahead of his entry into the BJP, 'Metro Man' E. Sreedharan courted controversy by calling Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan an "autocrat" and evoking a sharp reaction from the CPM leadership.

Sreedharan said it would be a tragedy if Left Democratic Front (LDF) were to come back to power again in Kerala after the Assembly polls scheduled to be held soon.

In an interview with a regional channel, the well-known engineer, who is set to join BJP next week, said the Chief Minister was depending on the flared advice of bureaucrats.

Sreedharan heaped praise on the Opposition



E. Sreedharan

Congress-led United Democratic Front. He said former chief minister Oommen Chandy was highly regarded. Chandy, Ramachandran, Aiyar, Mohammad and PK. Kunhalikutty wanted good to happen to the state, he said.

He said Vijayan's LDF government had blocked important projects. They opposed the Nilambur

Nanjangud railway line which pained me. In place of Nilambur-Nanjangud, they wanted the Thalassery-Mysore railway project.

Sreedharan said he was expecting to be nominated either from Palakkad or Malappuram. "I am contesting to become a part of the government," he said and added that there was a branding of BJP as a communal party and this image needs to be changed.

The CPM reacted sharply to Sreedharan's comment against the Chief Minister. "He may be a good engineer but unfortunately he has no sense of history. A person who is calling Kerala Chief Minister autocratic, is joining a party whose credentials are well known," the party said.

Sreedharan heaped praise on the Opposition

**TN: Declare Godavari-Cauvery plan as national project**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, FEB. 20

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the Godavari-Cauvery river linking project as a National Project so as to benefit lakhs of people in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Addressing the sixth govern-

NITI Aayog, he said river Cauvery and its tributaries had to be rejuvenated on the lines of "Namami Gange" and requested the Centre to accord sanction and extend financial assistance to the State at the earliest.

"We are meeting after a year, during which period the world has been struck by the most extensive pandemic we have seen. A

series of timely and effective measures taken in Tamil Nadu by calibrated relaxations, effective RT/PCR testing, tracking and conduct of fever camps have ensured total control of the spread of Covid in our State," he said.

He said the State had been ranked Number One in the Good Governance Index released by the Government of India and

had bagged the 'Best Performing State' title in the National Water Award, 2019.

The State received the highest share of investment proposals (16 percent) in India during April 2020 to September 2020, as per the CARE ratings report, he said, adding that through the on-line single window portal, investment of ₹22,332 crore and employ-

ment potential of 76,835 persons had been cleared.

He also listed the various business projects launched in the State like the Multi-Modal logistics park being developed near Chennai in around 150 acres of land.

The Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, is a historic enactment to protect the fertile agricultural

lands and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and agricultural labourers in the Cauvery delta," he said.

Palaniswami said Lakhs of farmers were successfully enrolled under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme and compensation of ₹9,365 crore was disbursed in the last 4 years to 54.12 lakh beneficiaries.

**Foreign minister Jaishankar begins two-day visit to India's south-western maritime neighbour****Indian tourists boost cash registers in Maldives**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 20

Even as External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar began his two-day official visit to the Maldives on Saturday, Indian tourists are setting the cash registers ringing in the tourism-dependent economy of India's tiny south-western maritime neighbour.

As per statistics of 2021 so far, a whopping 30,000 Indians have visited the Maldives till mid-February out of a total of

1,38,000 foreign tourists this year, the highest number from any foreign nation visiting the Maldives. Even with the pandemic, a total of 62,905 Indians, largest number of tourists, visited the Maldives in 2020.

It became possible due to the creation of an 'Air Travel Bubble' to facilitate the movement of people from both sides for the purpose of employment, tourism, medical emergencies and so on.

Maldives was the first neighbouring country

with which an air bubble was operationalised and this boosted their tourist inflow.

India had also undertaken a series of economic and financial initiatives at the peak of the pandemic

primarily driven by tourism. These included the extension of soft loan of US\$250 million for budgetary support of the Maldives for the implementation of Greater Male Connectivity Project which is the largest civilian infrastructure project in the Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands by the construction of a bridge-and-causeway link spanning 6.7 km, through a financial package consisting of a grant of US\$100 million and a new Line of Credit

of US\$400 million. In addition, Maldives was the first country to receive Covid vaccines from India, with New Delhi gifting one lakh doses to the tiny archipelago nation. Indo-Maldive ties have become extremely close ever since President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih assumed office in November, 2018.

After completing his two-day visit on Sunday, the EAM will visit the small Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius on February 22-23.

**Disha bail plea order on Feb. 23****Cops allege she deleted evidence like emails**

New Delhi, Feb. 20: If highlighting farmers' protest globally, then she is "better in jail", activist Disha Ravi told a Delhi court which on Saturday reserved for February 23 its order on her bail plea in the toolkit case after police alleged that she was part of a plan to instigate violence in India and had deleted "evidence" like emails.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana posed some scathing questions to the probe agency during the hearing on Ravi's plea, asking if it was only acting on "suspects, inferences, and conjectures" and questioned how the toolkit was connected to the violence during the farmers' march. "...Unless I satisfy my conscience, I don't move ahead," the judge said.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, told the court that the hyperlinks in the toolkit connected people to Khalistani websites that propagate hatred towards India. "This was not just a



Disha Ravi

reducing the bar that somebody can't have a point of view different," the counsel said.

Ravi was arrested in Bengaluru on Saturday by a Cyber Cell team of the Delhi Police for allegedly creating the toolkit and was brought to Delhi. She was booked on sedition and other charges.

Opposing Ravi's bail plea, the police alleged that she was preparing the toolkit with those advocating Khalistan. It alleged that Ravi deleted WhatsApp chats, emails and other evidence and was aware of legal action that she could face. Why did Disha Ravi cover her track and delete evidence if she did not commit wrong, the police said, alleging that his shows her guilty mind and sinister design.

"My part is that I sought support from Greta Thunberg, that too for farmers' protest and not for Khalistan," the defence counsel countered, and claimed that Ravi acted due to fear of being wrongly prosecuted. — PTI

**TMC poll slogan: 'Bengal wants its own daughter'**

Kolkata, Feb. 20: The Trinamool Congress on Saturday launched its slogan for the upcoming assembly elections — 'Bangla Nijer Meyekei Chaye', adding to the shrill insider vs outsider debate while portraying Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the daughter of Bengal. The slogan, which translates to 'Bengal wants its own daughter', with Banerjee's photo was put up on hoardings across Kolkata as the state's ruling party officially launched it from its headquarters off EM Bypass.

"The people of the state want their own daughter who has been by their side for the last several years as their chief minister. We don't want outsiders to call the shots in Bengal," TMC secretary-general Partha Chatterjee said. The Trinamool Congress is engaged in a bitter political fight with the BJP, pitching the opposition party's leaders as outsiders who are on "election tourism" to the state.

"The upcoming election is not a big factor for the Trinamool Congress. The entire country is watching how the Constitution can be protected and the outcome of the polls will prove that," TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Subrata Bakshi said.

Mukherjee said that while other parties are struggling to find a chief ministerial face, the Trinamool Congress has Banerjee who knows the pulse of the people of Bengal. Mukherjee said she knows how to protect the women. — PTI

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

10.20, 4.20, 10.20PM KOMPALLY 1.35PM

PLATINUM 4.30, 8.10 1.40 11.15 TIVOLI 7.45PM

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

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

10.05, 4.30, 7.15PM BVK 1.50, 10.50 NOMA TALKIES-MALLAPUR 11.25, 3.45, 10.15PM

SREERAMANA 11.15, 2.15PM SENSATION 11.00, 6.00, 9.00 METRO 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

KRISHNAGARM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 KUMAR 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

SRINIVASA 70 MAHALAXMI 11.15, 2.00PM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

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

SRILAKSHMIKALAMANDIR 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM TALLURI 70MM SV CINESQUARE 2.15, 9.15PM 11.00, 9.00PM

SAI SURYA ENTERTAINMENTS RELEASE



**SAPTHAGIRI 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**KONARK 70**-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**INJRA VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
KACHIGUDA-2.45PM

OAMB 10.30, 1.15, 4.20, 7.25, 10.20PM

ASIAN CINEMAS Gpr-7.20pm|Radhika-7.20pm Sivaganga-6.15pm

Cinesquare-7.35pm|Mcube-10.35pm

PVR Rk-4.35pm|Central-2.20, 7.35pm

Icon-6.45, 10.00pm Musarambagh-1.55, 10.45pm

Irrummanzil-1.10, 4.25pm|Prestone-4.20pm

Inorbit-10.15, 7.35, 10.50pm

Forum-10.00, 1.05, 4.20, 7.35, 10.50pm

Galleria-11.55, 7.35, 10.50pm

LAXMIKALA 6.15PM KOMPALLY 7.35PM

PRASADS-11.30, 5.15, 11.00PM

Chandanagar-3.15, 9.30pm

Balanagar-10.35, 1.25, 7.45

Kothapet-10.35, 1.30, 7.50pm

INOX Gvk-11.25, 3.00, 6.35, 10.10pm Mp-10.10, 4.15, 10.20pm

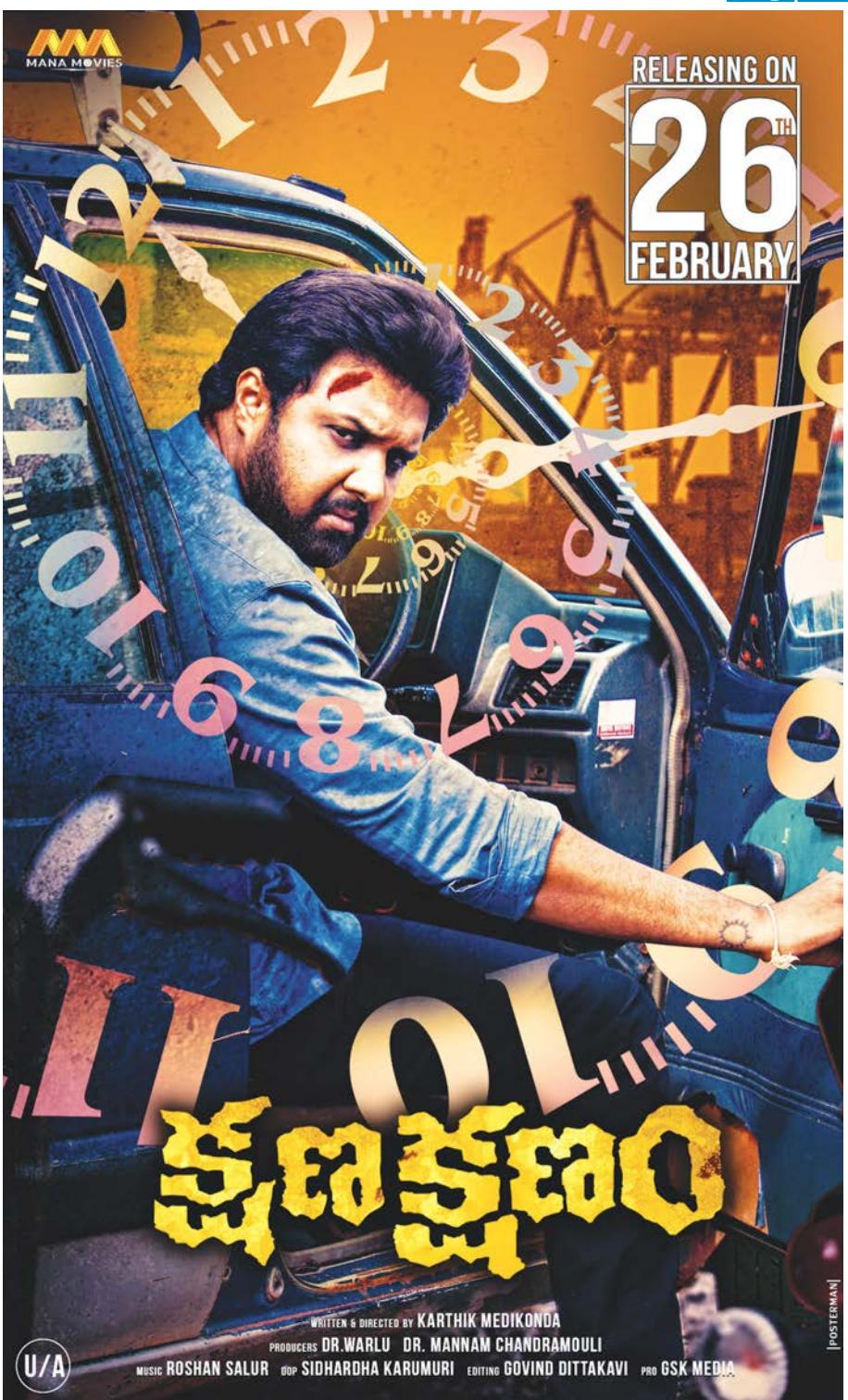
Gsm-11.45, 3.20, 6.55, 10.30pm

PLATINUM 9.10, 2.35, 8.10pm TIVOLI 10.50, 4.45 10.45pm

Cinepolis Ccp-4.30, 10.40pm|Dis-6.45, 10.05pm Mantra-1.10, 4.30, 10.15pm Sudha-10.45, 4.25, 10.10pm

BIG Cinemas 10.10, 1.15pm ASIAN 6.30 Pm 1.05 Pm

GLOBAL GLOBAL CINEMAS RELEASE



RELEASING ON  
**26<sup>TH</sup>**  
FEBRUARY

### MASS ENTERTAINER



SAI SURYA ENTERTAINMENTS EAK

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

10.20, 4.20, 10.20PM KOMPALLY 1.35PM

PLATINUM 4.30, 8.10 1.40 11.15 TIVOLI 7.45PM

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

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

10.05, 4.30, 7.15PM BVK 1.50, 10.50 NOMA TALKIES-MALLAPUR 11.25, 3.45, 10.15PM

SREERAMANA 11.15, 2.15PM SENSATION 11.00, 6.00, 9.00 METRO 70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

KRISHNAGARM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 KUMAR 70MM 11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

SRINIVASA 70 MAHALAXMI 11.15, 2.00PM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

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

SRILAKSHMIKALAMANDIR 11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM TALLURI 70MM SV CINESQUARE 2.15, 9.15PM 11.00, 9.00PM

SAI SURYA ENTERTAINMENTS RELEASE

### EMOTIONAL HIT



MYTHRIL MOVIE MAKERS Sukumar's Writings

2nd WEEK

**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM)

11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

OAMB 10.55, 1.35, 1.50, 4.00, 4.45, 7.00, 7.40, 10.05, 10.35PM

ASIAN 11.45, 2.30, 5.15, 5.45, 8.00, 1.45PM 9.45PM

ASIAN CINEMAS GPR-10.50, 1.40, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25PM RADHIKA-10.40, 1.40, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20PM

SIVAGANGA-11.00, 6.00, 9.00PM MCINE-10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM

CINESQUARE-10.45, 11.00, 1.40, 4.35, 7.35, 10.20, 10.35PM

PVR FORUM-10.00, 11.15, 1.10, 2.25, 4.20, 5.05, 7.30, 8.00, 10.40, 11.00PM

MUSARAMBAGH-12.00, 3.10, 4.10, 6.20, 7.20, 10.30PM

GALLERIA-10.20, 11.30, 1.30, 2.40, 4.40, 7.50, 10.00, 11.00PM |PRESTON-1.30, 4.40, 7.50, 11.00PM

ICON-12.00, 1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30PM

CENTRAL-10.20, 11.10, 1.30, 4.40, 7.50, 11.00PM

INORBIT-10.20, 11.30, 1.30, 3.50, 4.40, 7.00, 7.50, 11.00PM |RK-1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40PM

IRRUMMANZIL-12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 7.30, 9.30, 10.40PM

ASIAN 11.00, 1.55, 4.50 MOOSAPET 10.30, 1.30, 4.25, 7.20, 10.15, 10.35PM

ASIAN CINEMAS 10.40, 1.35, 4.35, 4.50, 7.30, 10.25PM

ASIAN CINEMAS MOOSAPET 2.15, 9.15PM

INOX GVK-11:00, 1:15, 2:30, 6:00, 7:10, 9:30, 10:40PM

MP-11:20, 12:45, 2:50, 6:20, 7:15, 9:50PM

GSM-10:45, 11:30, 12:30, 3:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00PM

PVR CINEPOLIS CCPL-10.00, 1.10, 4.05, 7.30, 10.40PM

SUDARSHAN 10.00, 1.10, 4.05, 7.30, 10.40PM



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

BRAMARAMBA 70MM

KONARK 70MM-DSNR

MUKTA J2 RAMAKRISHNA 35-ABIDS  
VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI  
INJRA KACHIGUDA

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

OAMB AMB-GACHIBOWLI

Sivaganga | mcube mall  
Gpr mall | Radhika  
Cinesquare-Uppal

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

INOX Gvk mall | mp mall  
Gsm mall

Prasad's Multiplex OASIAN CINEMAS Laxmikala Cinepride

Ccpl | Dsl | Sudha Mantra Mall

MIRAJ CINEMAS Chandanagar | Geetha Dilshuknagar

PLATINUM Sri sai balaji films thru Ganesh Baari

Vijetha 70mm Vyjayant 70mm  
Borabanda Nacharam

Super 70mm Amba 70mm  
Balapur Mehdipatnam

Sreerama Complex Jyothi 70mm  
Amberpet R.C.Puram

Sampaorna 70mm Rajyalaxmi 70mm  
Vanastalipuram Uppal

Talluri 70mm Alankar 70mm  
Ecil x roads Langerhouse

Bhujanga 70mm Sairam 70mm  
Jeedimetta Miyapur

Vimal 70mm VLS Sridevi 70mm  
Balanagar Chikalgudga

Ramakrishna 70 Sreeprema 70mm  
Abids-1 Show only Tukuguda

Krishna 70mm Sivarajani 70mm  
Alyabed Isnapur

Jyothi 70mm Sivasakthi 70mm  
IDA Bollaram Kapra

Mahalaxmi 70mm Sangeth 70mm  
Kothapeta R.C.Puram

Narthaki 70mm Seeramulu 70mm  
Alwal Moosapet

Yadagiri 70mm Priya 70mm  
Santosh nagar Mallepally

Srinivasa 70mm Sensation Complex  
Uppal Kairatabad

Venkateswara 70-Gummadihdhala  
Karthikeya exhibitors release



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

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

OAMB 4.35 PM TIVOLI 4.50 PM 4.25, 7.30PM  
GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE

3rd WEEK

PRASAD'S 2.45PM

GSM-2.15PM PLATINUM 12.00 PM

4.35 PM TIVOLI 4.50 PM 4.25, 7.30PM  
GEETHA FILM DISTRIBUTORS RELEASE

10.40 PM, 1.30 PM, 4.40 PM, 7.25 PM,  
7:40 PM, 10:10 PM, 10:40 PM

10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:20 PM,  
7:25 PM, 10:20 PM

10:25 AM, 1:45 PM, 5:20 PM

10:25 AM, 1:45 PM, 4:35 PM

10:25 AM,

**SHORT TAKES**  
**UKRAINE FREEZES ASSETS OF PUTIN ALLY MEDVEDCHUK**

Kyiv, Feb. 19: Ukraine's national security council on Friday placed sanctions on Viktor Medvedchuk, a politician and tycoon who is a close friend of Russian President Vladimir Putin, freezing his assets for three years and preventing him from doing business in the country.

The security council accused him of financial terrorism, but details were not immediately available.

The move came two weeks after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky ordered the closure of three Medvedchuk-owned television channels that he accused of spreading propaganda financed by the aggressor country, a reference to Russia.

**ULTRAS KILL 5 PAK SOLDIERS IN BALOCHISTAN**

Karachi, Feb. 20: At least five Pakistani soldiers were killed and two others injured when suspected terrorists carried out attacks through remote-controlled bombs in two separate areas in the restive Balochistan province.

The first attack took place in the Bypass area outside Quetta when a remote-controlled bomb fixed to a motorcycle was detonated near a Frontier Corps (FC) convoy in which a soldier was killed and two others injured. The explosion took place near an FC vehicle on patrol duty.

In the second attack in the remote Kahan area of Kohlu district, terrorists attacked a FC checkpost at night in which four soldiers were killed.

**RAINS FLOOD INDONESIA'S CAPITAL**

Jakarta, Feb. 20: Whole neighbourhoods of Indonesia's capital Jakarta and dozens of major roads were flooded on Saturday after torrential rains pounded the Southeast Asian city overnight.

More than 1,300 residents have been evacuated to temporary shelters, with parts of the capital under four to nine feet (1.2 to 2.7 metres) of water.

Images showed rescuers on rafts battling to evacuate the elderly and children from submerged houses in hard-hit southern and eastern areas of the city, and dozens of cars were seen submerged on waterlogged streets.

National rescue agency spokesman Yusuf Latif said the floods were triggered by extreme downpours.

**SPYING CHARGES ON 4 EX-INTEL TAIWAN OFFICERS**

Taipei, Feb. 20: Four retired Taiwanese military intelligence officers — including a major general — have been indicted for spying for China, prosecutors said Saturday.

The quartet were charged with developing a spying network and collecting confidential information for Beijing, the Taipei district prosecutors' office said. The two sides have been spying on each other since the Nationalists fled to the island to set up a rival government in 1949, having lost a civil war on the mainland to the communists.

Two Taiwanese former colonels were recruited by a Chinese national security official in the southern province of Guangdong, the government lawyers said.

**RUSSIAN AIR HIT IN SYRIA KILLS 21 I.S. JIHADISTS**

Beirut, Feb. 20: A wave of air strikes by government ally Russia killed at least 21 Islamic State group jihadists in the Syrian desert over the past 24 hours, a monitor said Saturday. The 21 were killed in at least 130 air strikes "carried out over the past 24 hours by the Russian air force targeting the Islamic State group" in a vast area stretching from the central province of Homs to the border with Iraq, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The raids, which continued into Saturday, follow a series of IS attacks Friday on government and allied forces that killed at least eight members of a pro-Damascus militia.

More than half of the jihadists were killed in strikes on the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, near the Iraqi frontier.

**NEW VARIANTS**

**Region saw very few infections when Covid first hit a year ago**

**Virus surges anew in central Europe**

Prague, Feb. 20: Authorities in central Europe warned on Friday that they are seeing a surge in Coronavirus cases across their region amid the discovery of new variants.

The Polish health minister, Adam Niedzielski, said the first case of a variant first found in South Africa had been discovered in Poland, and that some 10% of all cases now involve the variant that emerged in England.

We are entering a crisis situation again. It is up to us where the peak of this third wave will be Niedzielski said.

The Czech Republic, one of the hardest-hit countries in the 27-member European Union, moved Friday to further tighten

restrictive measures amid a surge of the English variant. The government said the worsening situation has forced it to abandon its plans to reopen all stores as early as next week.

Neighboring Slovakia is also badly hit. It became the country with the most Covid-19 deaths by size of population in the world this week amid a surge of the English variant.

The number of Covid-19 patients in Slovakia's hospitals reached a new record high of 3,900 on Thursday a situation that has prompted leaders to appeal for outside help. So far, Austria, Poland and Hungary have agreed to deploy medical staff to Slovakia.

In Hungary, where a

steady decline in daily infections and deaths from December reversed course early this month, there are now fears of a new surge even as the country began receiving shipments of Russian and Chinese vaccines. We are clearly in the ascending phase of the third wave, Chief Medical Officer Cecilia Müller told an online press briefing Friday.

Czech Health Minister Jan Blatny said residents will also have to wear better masks in places where large numbers gather, including stores, homes and public transportation. He said cloth masks used so far by many will no longer be good enough and medical-grade masks, safety respirators or two sur-

gical masks will instead be required.

We've agreed that it's necessary to do all we can to prevent the infection from spreading, Blatny said. In Poland also a debate has opened about the need to require better masks. The health minister said there would only be recommendations for now, but the government wants to discourage the use of scarfs and plastic face shields.

The central European region saw very few infections when the virus first arrived in Europe a year ago, only to see a huge spike in infections and deaths in the fall of 2020. In the Czech Republic, the three hardest-hit countries, on the border with

**Court rejects Navalny appeal**

Moscow, Feb. 20: A Moscow court on Saturday rejected Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's appeal against his prison sentence, even as the country faced a top European rights court's order to free the Kremlin's most prominent foe.

Navalny was sentenced earlier this month by a lower court to two years and eight months in prison for violating terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany from a nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation. Navalny, 44, an anti-corruption crusader and President Vladimir Putin's most vocal critic, appealed the prison sentence and asked to be released. The Moscow City Court's judge on Saturday only slightly reduced his sentence to just over 2 1/2 years in prison, ruling that a month-and-a-half Navalny spent under house arrest in early 2015 will be deducted from his sentence.

Navalny's arrest and imprisonment have fuelled a huge wave of protests across Russia. Authorities responded with a sweeping crackdown, detaining about 11,000 people, many of whom were fined or given jail terms ranging from seven to 15 days. Russia has rejected Western criticism of Navalny's arrest and the crackdown on demonstrations as meddling in its internal affairs.

In the past, Moscow has abided by the ECHR's rulings awarding compensations to Russian citizens who have contested verdicts in Russian courts, but it never faced a demand by the European court to set a convict free. In a sign of its long-held annoyance with the Strasbourg court's verdicts, Russia last year adopted a constitutional amendment declaring the priority of national legislation over international law.



Alexei Navalny

European Court of Human Rights ordered the Russian government to release Navalny, citing "the nature and extent of risk to the applicant's life."

The Strasbourg-based court noted that Navalny has contested Russian authorities' argument that they had taken sufficient measures to safeguard his life and well-being in custody following the nerve agent attack. The Russian government has rebuffed the Strasbourg-based court's demand, describing the ruling as "unlawful and 'inadmissible' meddling in Russia's affairs."

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—AP

**Oppn to Biden budget nominee**

DURING HER confirmation hearings, Tanden apologised for spending years attacking top Republicans on social media.

TANDEN HAD also disparaged some Democrats on social media, most notably Sen. Bernie Sanders from Vermont.

BIDEN, ASKED Saturday whether he would pull Tanden's nomination, said he wouldn't.

notably Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent from Vermont. Biden, asked Saturday whether he would pull Tanden's nomination, said he wouldn't.

Moments earlier, the White House had issued a statement defending her. "Neera Tanden is an accomplished policy expert who would be an excellent Budget Director and we look forward to the committee votes next week and to continuing to work toward her confirmation through engagement with both parties," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

Tanden would be the first woman of colour to lead the OMB, which leads efforts to ensure an administration's priorities are reflected in legislation and regulations. The Senate Budget Committee is scheduled to vote on her nomination next week.

—AP

This after 'polar plunge' burst pipes, left millions shivering without power



— AFP

**Kerry: China, India, Russia, need to lower emissions**

United Nations, Feb. 20: The world's big emitting countries, including China, India, Russia and Japan, need to really step up and begin to lower greenhouse gas emissions, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry has said as he called on all nations to raise their ambition to fight against climate change.

Kerry on Friday joined UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for a special virtual event to mark the United States rejoining the Paris Agreement.

cut it. That is not the way that we get to go to Glasgow, Kerry said.

The United Kingdom will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November this year. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

— PTI

**Russia says detected first case of H5N8 avian flu in humans**

**ARGENTINE HEALTH MINISTER RESIGNS**

Buenos Aires, Feb. 20: President Alberto Fernández removed Argentina's health minister Friday after a well-known local journalist said he had been given a Coronavirus vaccination preferentially after requesting one from the minister.

— AP

**MAR. 8 LOCKDOWN IN TORONTO**

Toronto, Feb. 20: A lockdown and stay at home order is being extended in Toronto, Canada's largest city until at least Mar. 8.

Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott said Saturday that extension was a difficult but necessary decision.

important scientific discovery," saying "time tell" if the virus can further mutate.

The discovery of these mutations when the virus has not still acquired an ability to transmit from human to human gives us all, the entire world, time to prepare for possible mutations and react in an adequate and timely fashion," Popova said.

Located in Koltsovo outside the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, the Vektor State Virology and Biotechnology Center has developed one of Russia's several Coronavirus vaccines.

— AFP

break was recorded among the birds in December.

The workers did not suffer any serious health consequences, she added.

Popova praised "the

**Give Latifa's proof of life, UN to UAE**

UAE's mission to the UN on Thursday.

Earlier this week the BBC released excerpts from video diaries Sheikha Latifa said were recorded in a locked bathroom inside the Dubai villa where she was being held. She was detained by commandos off the coast of India in 2018 after she tried to flee Dubai in a yacht. "We raised our con-

cerns about the situation in light of the disturbing video evidence that emerged this week," Elizabeth Throssell, a spokeswoman for the UN rights office told reporters.

We requested more information and clarification about Sheikha Latifa's current situation.

"We did ask for proof of life," she added. Friends of the princess have said they are concerned for her safety because she hasn't been heard from since she stopped responding to text messages six months ago.

The 35-year-old princess is the daughter of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the hereditary ruler of Dubai who also serves as prime minister and vice president of the United Arab Emirates.

— AP

they are concerned for her safety because she hasn't been heard from since she stopped responding to text messages six months ago.

The many serious challenges facing our nation." It's the first real test that Biden has faced on a nomination, with most of his picks for Cabinet positions sailing through the chamber with bipartisan support.

Tanden had also disparaged some Democrats on social media, most notably Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent from Vermont. Biden, asked Saturday whether he would pull Tanden's nomination, said he wouldn't.

Moments earlier, the White House had issued a statement defending her. "Neera Tanden is an accomplished policy expert who would be an excellent Budget Director and we look forward to the committee votes next week and to continuing to work toward her confirmation through engagement with both parties," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

Tanden would be the first woman of colour to lead the OMB, which leads efforts to ensure an administration's priorities are reflected in legislation and regulations.

The Senate Budget Committee is scheduled to vote on her nomination next week.

—AP

**3 SEPARATE KABUL BLASTS KILL 5, HURT 2**

Kabul, Feb. 20: Three separate explosions in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday killed at least five people and wounded two others, a police official said.

No group claimed responsibility. The first blast targeted a civilian car wounding both travellers inside the vehicle. The second explosion targeted a car in a northwestern Kabul neighbourhood in which national army soldiers were travelling, killing two soldiers. A civilian passerby was also killed.

The third explosion destroyed a police car in western Kabul killing two police officers. Kabul police said investigations were underway.

— AP



## SHORT TAKES

**Suryakumar, Ishan in Ind T20I squad**

New Delhi: Young wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Rahul Tewatia were on Saturday named in India's 19-man squad for the five-match T20 series against England. Yadav finally breaks into the team after consistent performances for Mumbai in domestic cricket as well as MI in the IPL.

■ **THE SQUAD:** Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), K. L. Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, T. Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini and Shardul Thakur. — PTI

**Manu miffed with Air India officials**

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics medal prospect Manu Bhaker has demanded action against two Air India employees for allegedly "harassing" and "insulting" the pistol shooter while she tried to board a flight to Bhopal from Delhi.

The 19-year-old Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics gold medallist pistol shooter eventually managed to board the aircraft on Friday evening after the intervention of Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Manu, one of the country's brightest medal hopes at the upcoming Games, thanked Rijiju for his prompt intervention but is also hoping for action against the Air India officials at Delhi airport. Later, Air India, too, apologised for the conduct of its staff. — PTI

**Pak may push for T20 WC relocation**

Karachi: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani said they will push for the upcoming T20 World Cup's "relocation" to the UAE if India doesn't provide a written assurance that its team, fans and scribes will be granted visas for the event. During an interaction at the PCB headquarters, Mani said his board had expressed their views to the ICC. "We are not seeking written assurance for the visas of the national team only, but for the fans, officials and journalists as well."

Mani added, "We have told the ICC that India should give written assurances by the end of March so that we know where we stand or we will push for the relocation of the World Cup from India to UAE," he said.

India will host the T20 WC in October-November. — PTI

**Pakistan League hit by Covid-19**

Karachi: One player has tested positive for coronavirus while another player and an official were quarantined after breaching disease protocols ahead of the start of the Pakistan Super League in Karachi on Saturday. Six teams are vying for the title in the sixth edition of the Twenty20 league, which runs from February 20 to March 22 in Karachi and Lahore.

"A player from a franchise team who had shown symptoms and was in isolation has tested positive," the Pakistan Cricket Board said in a statement. "He will now remain in quarantine for 10 days and will require two negative tests in order to rejoin the side."

The identity of the player was not disclosed. — AFP

**Live on TV**

**TENNIS**

Australian Open: Men's doubles final from 9.30 am; Men's singles final from 1.30 pm on Sony Six, Sony Ten 2, HD

**CRICKET**

South Africa T20 Challenge: Cobras vs Titans from 1.30 pm; Warriors vs Dolphins from 5.55 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

**FOOTBALL**

English Premier League: Arsenal vs Manchester City from 10 pm; Manchester United vs Newcastle United from 12.20 am (Monday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

Italian League: AC Milan vs Inter Milan from 7.30 pm on Sony Ten 1; Atalanta vs Napoli from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

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# O! SAKE TIME

**Japan's Naomi dominates Brady to win Oz Open again**

Melbourne, Feb. 20: Japan's Naomi Osaka dismissed Jennifer Brady in straight sets to win the Australian Open and underline her growing hold on women's tennis on Saturday.

Osaka edged a tight first set but controlled the second to win 6-4, 6-3 in 77 minutes in front of 7,381 fans at Rod Laver Arena.

Third seed Osaka preserves her 100 percent record in Grand Slam finals after winning the 2018 and 2020 US Opens and the 2019 title in Melbourne.

The reigning US Open champion, who beat her idol Serena Williams in the Melbourne semi-finals, has now won two of the last three Grand Slams as her status and reputation soars.

"We played in the semis of the US Open a couple of months ago and I told everyone that you're going to be a problem," Osaka told Brady at the trophy presentation.

"And I was right. It's really incredible to me to see your growth over the past few months, it's really cool for me to see."

Osaka, 23, is only the third player after Monica Seles and Roger Federer to win their first four major finals, and will now rise to second in the world rankings.

She saved two match points in the fourth round against Garbine Muguruza and swept past Williams in straight sets in the semis.

On Saturday, Osaka wore down fellow big-hitter Brady, and then lifted her racquet above her head in celebration of her win as the crowd roared.

After sealing back-to-back Slam titles twice, Osaka has won half the majors she's contested since beating Williams to win her first in 2018.

"Thank you for coming and watching, it feels really incredible for me," she told the crowd, which was capped at half-capacity over coronavirus concerns. I didn't play my last Grand Slam with fans so just to have this energy really means a lot."

**US OPEN REMATCH**

The Japanese survived a



Japan's Naomi Osaka celebrates with the winner's trophy after her women's singles final match against Jennifer Brady of the USA in the Australian Open on Saturday. — AFP

seesaw start to gain control, reeling off six straight games en route to the title.

It was a rematch of last year's epic US Open semi-final, described by some as the best match of 2020, but Osaka triumphed far more comfortably on this occasion.

Before the match, Osaka

had pinpointed her return as the key, but she was helped out by a shaky Brady who lost her serve in the fourth game after two double faults.

But Brady, the 22nd seed, hit back with a break and she continued to pile pressure on Osaka's serve.

A brilliant lob winner,

showcasing her trademark athleticism, gave a pumped-up Brady a break point in the ninth game, but Osaka held on.

Brady then played a sloppy game on serve to hand over the set to Osaka, who had a 20-0 record at Melbourne Park when winning the first set.

— AFP

You don't go into a final wanting to be the runner-up. For me, I feel like every opportunity that I play a Slam is an opportunity to win a Slam.

— NAOMI OSAKA after winning the Australian Open crown

## MIXED DOUBLES TITLE FOR RAM & KREJCICOVA

Melbourne, Feb. 20: Barbora Krejcikova and Rajeev Ram won their second Australian Open mixed doubles title in three years on Saturday with a 6-1, 6-4 win over home pairing Sam Stosur and Matthew Ebden.

For Krejcikova it was her third Australian Open title in a row after combining with Nikola Mekic of Croatia to win the mixed doubles a year ago. She had lost in the women's doubles final with fellow Czech Katerina Siniakova on Friday to Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka, but put her disappointment behind her in just 59 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

"We had a year off as a team, but she didn't have a year off and won this thing last year," Ram said of Krejcikova at the presentation ceremony.

— AFP

## LOW-KEY CELEBRATION FOR OSAKA

Melbourne, Feb. 20: Japan's Naomi Osaka said she's living her "dreams" after winning the Australian Open, adding that she'll celebrate with anime and pizza. "I'm really just living my dreams," she told Channel Nine after her win.

"I'm always shaking a little bit (at the end). Thank God I had three match points."

Reinforcing her reputation herself as tennis's leading light, having won four of her last eight Slams she's played, Osaka warned she was not satisfied. But after her triumph, Osaka planned a low-key celebration.

"I'm probably going to watch some anime... Maybe (eat) pizza... And go to sleep." — AFP

## VIJAY HAZARE | TROPHY

# Tilak and Milind fashion Hyd win

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 20



The lefties got it right. Consistent performer Thakur Tilak Varma smashed another century while seamer C. V. Milind scalped five wickets as Hyderabad made a winning start to their campaign in the Vijay Hazare Trophy by beating Tripura in Surat, Gujarat, on Saturday.

Opener Tilak thumped 10 fours and five sixes in his 156 that came off 145 balls to bolster the side's total to 349 for 5 in 50 overs after being put in to bat. Captain Tanmay Agarwal (86), B. Sandeep (41) and Himalayan Agarwal (38) played supporting roles.

Tripura found the total too steep, especially up against Milind's deliveries and were all out for 236 in 42 overs. Milind returned with fine figures of 5 for 43 as Hyderabad collected four points.

### RINKU IS THE STAR AS UP STUN KARNATAKA

Meanwhile in Bengaluru, Rinku Singh smashed an unbeaten 62 as Uttar Pradesh stunned defending champions Karnataka by nine runs via the VJD Method in their rain-truncated Group 'C' opener.

Chasing 247 in the stipulated 50 overs, Uttar Pradesh had a slow start

and were 150/4 in 32 overs, but then, the Kolkata Knight Riders' left-hander took charge of the proceedings, hitting seven boundaries and one six in his 61-ball knock.

Rain halted play at 45.2 overs with UP placed at 215/4, which was nine runs more than the par score of 207.

UP's opening duo of Abhishek Goswami (54 off 67) and Karan Sharma (40 off 74 balls) initially struggled to get going against the Karnataka new ball bowlers. Abhimanyu Mithun and Prasidh Krishna, managing only nine runs in the first five overs.

### BRIEF SCORES

■ Hyderabad 349/5 in 50 overs (Thakur Tilak Varma 156 — 145b, 10x4, 5x6, Tanmay Agarwal 86, Himalayan Agarwal 38, B. Sandeep 41, R. A. Dey 2 for 45) b/ Tripura 236 in 42 overs (Bikram Kumar Das 65, Milind 67, C. V. Milind 5/43 — 80-43-5, T. Ravi Teja 2/60, B. Sandeep 2/47). Points: Hyderabad 4, Tirupura 0.

■ Karnataka 246/8 in 50 overs (Aniruddha Joshi 68, Devdutt Padikkal 52; Shivam Sharma 3/40) lost to Uttar Pradesh 215/4 in 45.2 overs (Rinku Singh 62 not out, Abhishek Goswami 54, Karan Sharma 40) by nine runs (VJD Method).

■ Odisha 258/8 in 45 overs (Sandip Pattnaik 66, Gourav Choudhury 57, Kartik Biswas 45 not out) lost to Kerala 233/4 in 38.2 overs (Robin Uthappa 107, Sachin Baby 40; Sourav Kanjoa 3/43) by 34 runs (VJD Method).

■ Bihar 189 in 45.5 overs (Anuj Raj 72, Shabbir Khan 46 not out; T Pradeep 6/43, Amit Mishra 3/30) lost to Railways 190 for no loss in 29 overs (Mrunal Devdar 105 not out, Pratham Singh 72 not out) by 10 wickets.

■ Goa 263 in 49.1 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 81; K D Eknath 43; Atit Sethi 3/50; Krunal Pandya 3/62) lost to Baroda 264/5 in 48.3 overs (Vishnu Solanki 108, Krunal Pandya 71; Amit Verma 2-39, Amulya Pandrekar 1-35) by five wickets.

■ Chhattisgarh 231 in 48.5 overs (Shashank Chandrakar 92, Ashutosh Singh 47; Arzan Nagwaswala 6/54, Chintan Gaja 2/50) lost to Gujarat 232/7 in 48.1 overs (Dhruv Raval 38, B H Merai 38; Veer Pratap Singh 2/38) by three wickets.

■ Jharkhand 422/9 in 50 overs (Ishan Kishan 173, Anukul Roy 72; Virat Singh 68; Gourav Yadav 4/73, Shubham Sharma 1/44) beat Madhya Pradesh 98 in 18.5 overs (Abhishek Bhandari 42; Venkatesh Iyer 23; Varun Aaron 6/37, Bal Krishna 2/8) by 324 runs.

■ Punjab 288/4 in 50 overs (Gurkeerat Mann 139 not out, Prabhjeet Singh 71; Baba Aparajith 15, R Sai Kishore 1/31) lost to Tamil Nadu 289/4 in 49 overs (N. Jagadeesan 101, Baba Aparajith 88; Shahrukh Khan 55 not out; Siddharth Kaul 2/47, Karan Kalia 1/44) by six wickets.

■ Vidarbha 331/6 in 50 overs (Yash Rathod 117, Faiz Fazal 100; C Stephen 3/66, Girish Reddy 2/79) lost to Andhra 332/7 in 49.2 overs (Ricky Bhui 101 not out, Hanuma Vihari 65; Darshan Nalkande 3/76, Aditya Thakare 2/76) by three wickets.

## CLARKE FINDS IT HARD TO SEE SMITH PLAYING IN NEXT IPL

Melbourne, Feb. 20: Former Australia captain Michael Clarke finds it difficult to see premier batsman Steve Smith playing in the next IPL after fetching just ₹2.2 crore in the recent auctions, which left many surprised. Clarke was surprised that a batsman of Smith's calibre could not command more than what Delhi Capitals paid to buy him and felt he might pull out of the event.

"I know his T20 performances haven't been as good as he would have liked — last year's IPL he wasn't great. I'm very surprised he has gone for the amount of money he has. But when you look at what he was getting (last season) and his role as captain of Rajasthan, don't be surprised if there's a little hamstring strain the day the plane is meant to fly to India," Clarke said. — PTI

## Novak faces 'challenger' Medvedev in final



Novak Djokovic

during the past fortnight as he prepares to defend his crown against a man on a 20-match unbeaten streak.

The Serb heads into the showpiece on Sunday evening with the phenomenal record of never losing a final on Melbourne's famous blue courts in eight attempts spanning 13 years.

Djokovic will also be

playing his 28th Grand

Slam final, in contrast to the Russian's second.

But the 33-year-old, who

swept past qualifier Aslan Karatsev in the semi-finals, said while experiencing dropping five sets as he battled an abdominal injury that nearly forced him to pull out.

After his semi-final, Djokovic said he was feeling better than at any time

in the finals or semi-finals just makes me feel more comfortable being on the court," he said.

Medvedev is unbeaten

since last November,

including a straight-set

drubbing of the Serb at the ATP Finals in London, with Djokovic deeming

him "the man to beat".