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HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 31 MARCH 2021

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### WEATHER

Max: 39.8°C  
Min: 25.6°C  
RH: 20%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky during day.  
Max/Min temps 40/23°C

### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Uttarakanya

Tithi: Phalguna Bahula Tadiya till

2.08 pm

Star: Swati till 9.45 am

Varijyam: 2.48 pm to 4.14 pm

Durmuhurtam: 11.56 am to

12.44 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Sha'ban 17,1442 AH

### PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.11 am

Zohar: 12.30 pm

Asar: 4.41 pm

Maghrib: 6.34 pm

Isha: 7.42 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.29 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.10 AM

MOONRISE 9.18 PM

MOONSET 8.09 AM

### COUNTER POINT



Just to be on the safe side,  
I want to record all  
your promises!

### Probe begins into Suez fiasco

**Suez (Egypt):** Experts boarded the massive container ship Tuesday that had blocked Egypt's vital Suez Canal and disrupted global trade for nearly a week, seeking answers to a single question that could have billions of dollars in legal repercussions: What went wrong? A canal service provider said more than 300 vessels carrying everything from crude oil to cattle were still waiting for their turn.

■ Report on Page 10

### 8 Indian boxers +ve in Turkey

**New Delhi:** Eight members of an Indian boxing squad, including three pugilists, were quarantined in Istanbul after testing positive for Covid-19 during a competition trip but seven of them have recovered and will be back in the country on Wednesday.

**CWG gold-medallist Gaurav Solanki (57kg), Prayag Chouhan (75kg) and Brishesh Yadav (81kg)** tested positive.

■ Report on Page 12

### Prez undergoes bypass surgery

**New Delhi:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday underwent a cardiac bypass surgery at the AIIMS here, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The surgery was successful and his condition is stable. "The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind underwent cardiac bypass surgery today morning (March 30, 2021) at AIIMS, New Delhi. Surgery was successful. He is stable and is being closely monitored," it said.



## Candidates file papers on a sentimental note

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY I DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

● TRS CANDIDATE Nomula Bhagat started the campaign from Abhangapuram after filing his papers on Tuesday. TRS leaders said the Nomula family believes that launching the campaign from the village.

TRS candidate Nomula Bhagat started the campaign from Abhangapuram twice. He lost to Congress candidate K. Jana Reddy in 2014 but wrested the seat in 2018.

Interestingly, Abhangapuram holds sentimental value for Jana Reddy too. The seven-time legislator makes it a point to start canvassing for every election from the same village. Jana Reddy launched his campaign for the

Nagarjunasagar bypoll from this village way back in February.

Jana Reddy performed puja at the Satyanarayana Swamy temple in Nagarjunasagar and in the Anjaneya Swamy temple at Alwala crossroads before filing his nomination — something he has done for every election since.

Such sentiments are particularly strong among politicians. Since 1985, TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has visited a small temple of Lord Venkateshwara at Konapally, a remote village in Nagunuru mandal of Siddipet district, before filing his nomination papers.

## Covid situation worse: Centre

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

In the first warning for the hot season, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday issued a heatwave warning for 24 of the 33 districts in the state in the next 72 hours.

It said heatwave conditions were likely to occur in isolated pockets in the districts of Adilabad, Komaram Bheem, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalle, Bhupalpalle, Mulugu, Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal Urban, Warangal Rural towards the northern part of the state and Jangaon, Mahabubnagar, Nagarjuna, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal in the southern parts.

"Mainly dry weather may prevail over different parts of the state during next five days. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to range between 38° and 43° Celsius and 20° and 27°C respectively," the IMD forecast read.

The heatwave impact would be seen in heat illness symptoms in people who are either exposed to the sun for a prolonged period or doing heavy work in the sun.

According to IMD-Hyderabad director Dr K. Nagarathna, the state is experiencing winds blowing from the north, which is experiencing a rise in the mercury levels. A report by Skymet said that Delhi, Safdarjung, had recorded 40.1°C, 8°C above normal.

"There is a concept of virus shift, drift and shift. There is no such thing as

an Indian strain. It is not a cause to panic. Mutations are sporadic and not significant," he said.

As per the Union health ministry, the presence of foreign mutant variants of Covid-19 in the country is low as out of the 11,064 genome samples sequenced only 807 cases of the UK variant, 47 of South African variant and one of the Brazilian variant have been detected so far.

On Tuesday 355 deaths and 53,125 cases were detected in the last 24 hours. With several states and UTs reporting a huge surge in Covid-19 cases, state health authorities are scrambling to reserve more beds for patients to prevent fatality.

The total number of cases countrywide as on Tuesday is 1,21,48,487 (+53,125) of which active are 5,49,085. The number of deceased has been put at 1,62,502 (+355).

He, however, denied that the mutated strains have a role to play in this surge. He also denied there is an Indian variant of the virus.

"There is a concept of virus shift, drift and shift. There is no such thing as

an Indian strain. It is not a cause to panic. Mutations are sporadic and not significant," he said.

External affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Tuesday said that "for durable peace in Afghanistan, what we need is a genuine 'double peace', that is, peace within Afghanistan and peace around Afghanistan" that "requires harmonising the interests of all, both within and around that country". He was speaking at the ninth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia — Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) on Afghanistan at Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The HoA-IP was launched in 2011 to encourage security, political and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours and assist the war-torn nation.

Afghanistan is geographically considered the "Heart of Asia".

In a blunt assessment of the reality, the EAM said,

"The situation in Afghanistan continues to

shed are daily realities and the conflict itself has shown little sign of abatement, whatever may be the promises. The last few months have also witnessed an escalation in targeted killings of civil society. 2020 sadly marked a 45 per cent increase in civilian casualties in Afghanistan over 2019. 2021 does not look very much better."

Pointing out that "collective success may not be easy but the alternative is only collective failure",

## Modi: Like Judas, LDF has betrayed Kerala

PM dubs Raja an 'outdated 2G missile' of Congress, DMK

DC CORRESPONDENTS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHARAPURAM, PUDUCHERRY, MARCH 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the CPM-led LDF government in Kerala, accusing it of betraying people in the manner in which Judas deceived Jesus Christ.

Addressing his first election meeting in Kerala which goes to polls on April 6, the Prime Minister said if Judas deceived Jesus for a few silver coins, the Pinarayi government betrayed the people for gold, referring to the gold smuggling case involving the Chief Minister's former principal secretary.

Modi also raised the Sabarimala issue accusing the LDF government of unleashing lathis on innocent devotees who were fighting for the protection of traditions, customs and rituals.

In Dharapuram, Tamil Nadu, in a veiled attack, Modi dubbed former Union telecom minister A. Raja, an "outdated 2G missile" of the Congress and the DMK that targeted Tamil Nadu women and slammed the opposition parties for their "anti-women" mindset.

In his first poll rally for the April 6 Assembly polls, Modi rooted for the Tamil language, culture and invoked the welfare legacies of M.G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa, late chief ministers and AIADMK icons.

He underscored the importance of farm sector reform and his government's support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

In Puducherry, targeting senior Congress leader V. Narayanasamy, Modi said the previous party government headed by him was a "disaster" that failed on all fronts and underlined

the National Democratic Alliance's commitment to ensure its growth. Addressing a rally of the National Democratic Alliance, attended by AINRC founder and former chief minister N. Rangasamy, AIADMK and BJP leaders, Modi said he saw a "huge wave" in support of the NDA in the poll-bound states of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, paribartan in the state.

He said: "People of Bengal are eagerly waiting to cast their votes to bring paribartan. I want to make one appeal to the people of Nandigram. It is not only about ensuring Suvedu's victory here, I have my faith in you of making his win sure. But ensure his win by such a record margin that it becomes impossible in the coming days for any politician to neglect the promises he made to the people and no one of those, who gave the slogan of Maa Mati Manush, would dare to mete out injustice for long."

■ More reports on Page 8

Kerala and this Union territory. Training his guns against Narayanasamy, Modi pointed out that the senior Congress leader was not contesting the polls this time.

## INTER 1ST YEAR'S 2 EXAMS IN WFH ASSIGNMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

The Intermediate first year exams for the Ethics and Human Values and Environmental Education subjects will be held in 'Assignment Work From Home' format, the Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) said in a official notification on Tuesday.

Students will be able to write the questions as an assignment and submit to the principal of their junior college physically or by registered post or through mail in pdf format to college from April 1 to April 20.

First year students can download the hall ticket from the website tsbie.cgg.gov.in from April 1, and must mention their hall ticket number on their assignment work, they added.

Second year regular students who have not yet qualified for the examinations can also submit assignment work with their first year hall ticket number, the TSBIE announced.

Old private students can write these exams with their previous second year hall ticket number.

## Court says 50 acres in Survey No. 80 belonged to kidnapped Katikaneni, others

## Wakf, TS have no right on Hafeezpet land: HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

recently kidnapped by Bhuma Akhila Priya, in relation to the land dispute.

The division bench comprising Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao and Justice T. Vinod Kumar set aside the resolution, Muntakab, and the gazette notifying the land as a Wakf property as being illegal, arbitrary and against Wakf Act 1995. It also set aside the entries in the revenue record which were in favour of the government and the Wakf Board and ordered them to not interfere in the peace-

ful possession of Praveen Kumar and others.

The bench has pronounced its judgment on Tuesday, which had reserved its order in a batch of petitions challenging the decision of the Waqf Board in notifying the 140 acres of land in Survey No. 80 at Hafeezpet as its property.

Petitioners Sai Pawan Estates, P.S. Parthasarathy, Praveen Kumar and other individuals, sought directions to the authorities to not interfere in the peace-

fere with their possession of the subject land.

During the arguments, Wakf Board counsel had submitted that the dargah of Hazrat Salar-e-Aulia has an attached Wakf land measuring about 140 acres in the Survey No. 70 at Hafeezpet.

The Wakfnama was originally created by Muneeurunisa Begum, and executed by her in 1955, counsel said, adding that the land belonged to the board. State government coun-





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## IN BRIEF

**70-year-old man electrocuted**

**Hyderabad:** A 70-year-old man, P. Chandra Shekar, suffered electric shock while trying to retrieve a kite stuck in a transformer with an iron rod at his residence in Panjagutta on Tuesday. He succumbed while undergoing treatment at a private hospital. "Apart from the electric shock, he received injuries on the right side of the head," a Panjagutta police official said.

**Engg. tax official held in graft case**

**Hyderabad:** The CBI on Tuesday arrested an executive engineer (electrical) of the Central Public Works Department, Hyderabad, and a superintendent of Central Excise and Central Tax (GST), Honnavar Range, Uttara Kannada, in separate cases of bribery. The CBI said the engineer had allegedly demanded ₹60,000, or three per cent of the final bill amount of around ₹20 lakh, from the complainant for clearing pending contract bills. The complainant had previously paid ₹45,000, and the complainant was caught while accepting the remaining ₹15,000. Searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused, which led to cash recovery of about ₹1.34 lakh and around 27 documents at his office, and cash of ₹30.5 lakh and documents related to purchase of gold jewellery incriminating at his house.

The accused was produced at the special judge for CBI cases, Hyderabad. In the second case, the CBI booked the tax officer on a complaint alleging that the accused demanded a bribe of ₹50,000 from the complainant to waive service tax and penalty on tax returns. The official was caught while accepting a bribe of ₹25,000 as first instalment and produced before a court in Bengaluru.



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar displays the huge amount of cash seized from the accused during a press meet at the Basheerbagh office on Tuesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Noise pollution: NGT acts on DC's report

Traffic cops counselled 200 violators, top cop tells green panel

**T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu action following a *Deccan Chronicle* report of December 18 titled "Noise pollution turns deathly in Hyderabad's residential areas".

The tribunal asked city police commissioner Anjani Kumar to explain the cause of rising sound pollution due to traffic (read unnecessary honk ing).

The commissioner's response has been posted on the NGT's website.

In his response, Anjani Kumar wrote: "In the first five weeks of year 2021, 3,963 cases were booked

● Most cases booked pertained to motorists driving with modified silencers or horns causing noise pollution.

against violators to reduce the noise pollution, i.e. on an average 790 cases per week. This number increased to 3 times i.e. to approximately 2,313 cases per week. It is pertinent to mention that in the year 2020 (on an) average only 52 cases per week were booked."

Most of these cases booked by Hyderabad police pertained to motorists driving with modified silencers or horns causing noise pollution.

The police chief went to

state that an action plan has been prepared and implemented to conduct special drives against violators using vehicles with multi-tone horns and modified silencers, apart from shops that sell these horns.

"Awareness drives were also conducted to educate the public on ill effects of noise pollution and not to use crackers, multi-tone horns, modified silencers etc. Night patrolling teams were arranged with additional force to register cases against violators under various sections of laws as laid down", he said.

Anjani Kumar said that traffic police officers counselled around 200 violators who had modified silencers of their vehicles, causing noise pollution, irritation and inconvenience in residential areas and silent zones.

They were informed that sound level above 65 decibels is injurious to health and sound level about 75 decibels will cause serious health problems, such as hypertension, anxiety and cardiovascular diseases.

Further, public has been informed that as per Section 190 of Motor Vehicle Act 1988, any person, who violates standards prescribed in relation to road safety and causes noise and air-pollution; shall be punishable under the law.

## THREE HELD FOR POSING AS CM'S STAFF

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

A Class V drop-out cheated about 100 victims from the city of ₹2.20 crore by posing as the personal assistant of the Chief Minister and promising them government approved 2BHK flats. The accused, Avushodapu Sudhakar, 36, was caught by the North Zone Task Force along with the SR Nagar police.

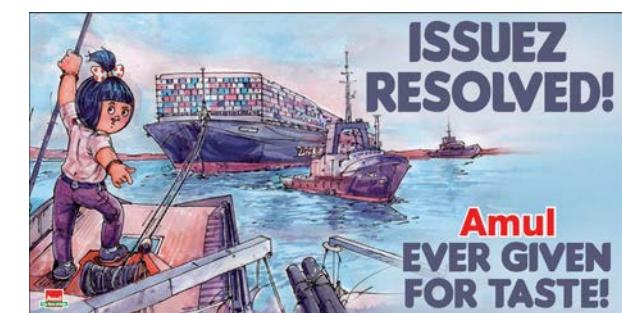
The accused engaged two men dressed in safari suits like security personnel to escort him across the city in a high-end SUV. The duo, S. Naga Raju, 35, and Battala Bheemaaiah, 32, were nabbed.

Officials seized more than ₹1 crore, original property documents worth ₹1.03 crore, an SUV worth ₹14 lakh, 14 mobile phones, one toy pistol, safari suits, three fake ID cards of PA to the CM, four fake ID of police, three fake voter ID cards and a fake secretariat entrance cards from his possession.

## STUDENT HIT BY SPEEDING BIKE

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

A student, B. Rupa, 27 sustained a bone fracture when a speeding two-wheeler dashed against her while she was crossing the road in Banjara Hills. She said the bike that knocked her down had the number TS07 FZ 2937. The incident occurred on February but the complaint was filed on Tuesday.



## MYSTERY SHROUDS CONSTABLE'S DEATH

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

Saidulu got married in December 2020 and preliminary investigations reveal that there are some marital issues between the newly wed couple," said inspector Yacharam S. Lingaiah. Police said no suicide note was found at the spot. Yacharam police have booked a case of suspicious death.

Constable Malikhajuna Saidulu, 30, deployed with the Marriguda police of Nalgonda district, allegedly died by suicide near the Venkateshwara Swamy temple under Yacharam police limits of Rachakonda commissionate on Tues-

day morning.

"Saidulu got married in December 2020 and preliminary investigations reveal that there are some marital issues between the newly wed couple," said inspector Yacharam S. Lingaiah. Police said no suicide note was found at the spot. Yacharam police have booked a case of suspicious death.

Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) is an autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039. Tel: +91-40-27216015 Fax: +91-40-27216006, Website: <http://www.cdfd.org.in>

**ADMISSION FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM – I – 2021 (RSP – I – 2021)**

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its Research Scholars Program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as Research Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph.D. program of Manipal Academy of Higher Education or Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

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2. Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / BINC / JEST / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.

Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme (which is only for a period of two years) OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - B category list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are NOT eligible to apply.

### Selection Procedure

Admission to the CDFD-Research Scholars program beginning in August / September 2021 (RSP – I – 2021) will be based on an interview via video conference; the exact dates will be informed along with the list of candidates shortlisted for the interview. Two shortlists based on (i) CCMB - CDFD Joint entrance exam to be conducted in the last week of May, 2021 (CDFD - LAN Shortlist) and (ii) JGEEBILS 2021 examination conducted on March 7, 2021 (CDFD - JGEEBILS Shortlist) would be prepared based on cut-off scores determined by CDFD.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for RSP – I – 2021 by applying in the prescribed application form which is available online only (<https://uat.examonline.in/CCMB-CDFD/PHD21>).

The Online facility of application will be closed on May 09, 2021. Eligible candidates have to attend the Computer based LAN examination in the last week of May, 2021. Those who qualify the LAN based examination will be eligible to appear for the interview.

Visit the CDFD website <http://www.cdfd.org.in> for detailed advertisement/ General terms and conditions.

## Bike rider held for rash driving

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

The Rajendranagar police booked a two-wheeler rider who caused a lorry crash at Himayatsagar toll plaza on Monday, as well as the driver of one of the heavy vehicles for rash driving.

Footage from CCTV cameras at the accident scene showed the motorcyclist, K. Srivivas, suddenly entering the road near the Gandhi bus stop.

## Man dupes 60 of ₹2.28cr, held

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

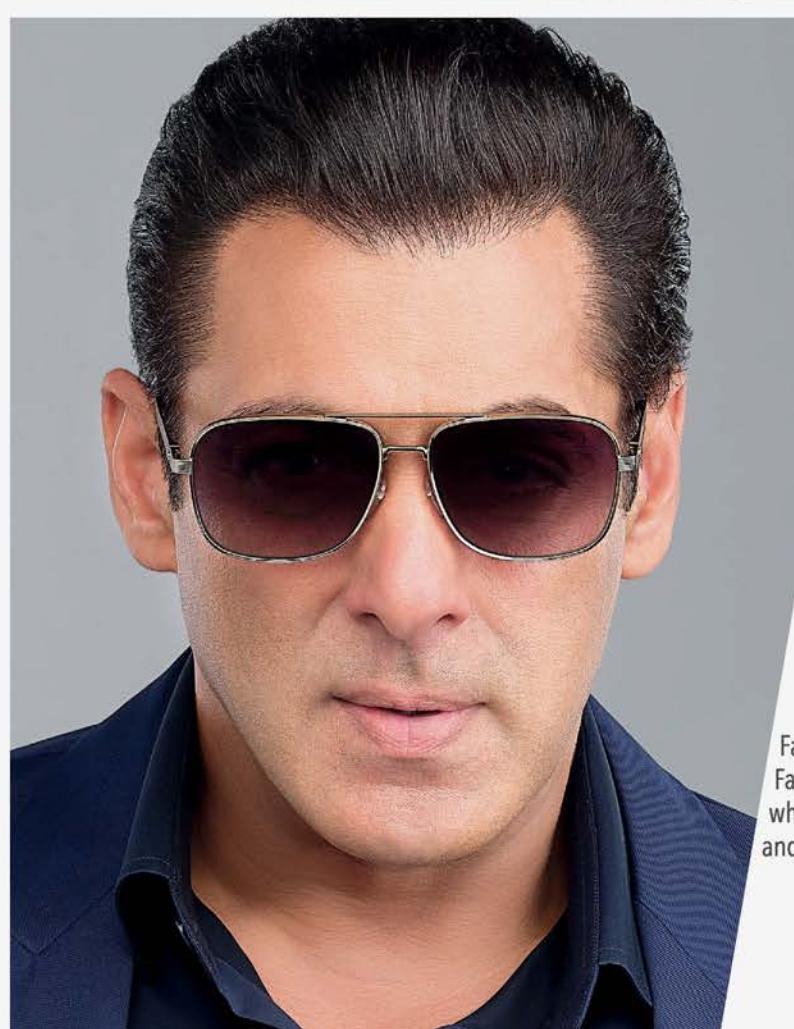
Shaik Mahmood of the Al Madina Marriage Bureau was arrested by the White Collar Offences team of the CCS Hyderabad police for cheating 60 victims of ₹2.28 crore by promising high returns for their deposits.

The arrest was made following a complaint against Mahmood,

Shakeera Begum, Maryam Fathima, Abdul Asif and Shaik Reshma Jani Begum. The other accused were arrested earlier.

The victim claimed that Mahmood allegedly colluded with other accused and induced 60 persons to invest huge amounts in his business and assured them 5 per cent profit per month for 11 months, police said.

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**RETIREMENT AGE INCREASED FROM 58 TO 61 IN STATE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

The state government on Tuesday issued orders increasing the retirement age of employees from 58 years to 61 with effect from March 30.

With this, no employee will retire from state government service for three years, until March 30, 2024.

These orders were issued by principal secretary (finance) K. Ramakrishna Rao in line with the Telangana Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) (Amendment) Act, 2021, passed by the Legislative Assembly last week raising the retirement age by three years. Overall, 21,091 employees will be benefitted in the next three years with 610 employees in this month alone with the hike in retirement age.

**HAJ COMMITTEE FOR VACCINATION BEFORE VOYAGE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

The Haj Committee of India has suggested that prospective pilgrims begin planning on taking both their Covid-19 vaccine shots before embarking on the voyage. If the pilgrimage materialises, they should be prepared to get a RT-PCR test performed within 72 hours of their departure.

According to Dr M.A. Khan, Chief Executive Officer of the Haj Committee of India, the Covid-19 safety protocols suggested were based on advice received from Shahid Aalam, Consul General India in Jeddah.

Dr Khan said news reports from Saudi Arabia indicated that pilgrims have to take two doses of Covid-19 vaccination approved by the WHO, the second dose to be taken one week before arrival in Saudi Arabia. They also have to carry an RT-PCR negative test report, issued within a 72-hour window of their departure.

He said pilgrims have to take a 72-hour quarantine in Saudi Arabia after which they have to another RT-PCR test from the approved Saudi authority. Dr Khan said that there was no official information on this year's pilgrimage.

**SHRC SUMMONS FOREST STAFF FOR TRIBALS ASSAULT**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

The TS Human Rights Commission on Tuesday directed the district forest officer, Nagarkurnool, to appear before it in a case relating to alleged assault of some tribals by forest department personnel in the Amrabad tiger reserve last week.

According to petition from the tribals, about 16 women and eight men were collecting firewood and cooking a meal in the forest when a team of forest department staff that included fire watchers beat them up. The tribals alleged that some were beaten up after their clothes were forcibly removed.

Forest officials reported that they reached the spot where a fire was burning, and came across a group of tribals deep inside the reserve. Officials say that, typically, grass around the mahua trees is burnt which helps in easy picking of the small flowers that fall to the ground.

While some tribals ran away from the site when they saw the forest staff, the women were escorted out along with the bags of mahua flowers they claimed. When they were told that some persons were still in the forest, the staff went back to search for them and brought them back to Mannanur village, the staff said.

The department said that the injuries suffered by some men were the result of their falling down while trying to run away. On Tuesday, the petition filed by the tribals with the TSHRC said that some of them were not in a position to walk after the beating they received from the department staff.

The commission directed the petitioners to approach the local Government Hospital for treatment. It also sought a report from superintendent of the hospital after examining the tribals.

WHILE SOME tribals ran away from the site when they saw the forest staff, the women were escorted out along with the bags of mahua flowers they claimed.

# Jana ranks 'richest' for N'sagar bypolls

TRS candidate declares movable assets worth ₹55.33 lakh

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

Kunduru Jana Reddy, the seven-time legislator and Congress candidate for the Nagarjunasagar byelection, did not earn significant income since the 2018 elections. He still topped the rich list as far assets of candidates for the bypoll were concerned, according to the affidavit that he filed along with his nomination papers on Tuesday.

The Congress veteran, who is 74 years old, is taking on two leaders in their mid-thirties — Bhagat is 37 and Dr Ravi Kumar 36.

Jana Reddy declared movable assets worth ₹36.21 lakh and immovable assets worth ₹30.2 lakh. He had no liabilities, he stated in the affidavit.

Jana Reddy's spouse Sumathi had movable assets worth ₹5.13 crore and immovable assets worth ₹10.45 crore, the affidavit stated.

Among their possessions were 507 grams of gold, two diamond necklaces, three other necklaces, five ear rings, a locket worth ₹30,000 and 1.50 kg silver articles. She had no liabilities.

TRS candidate Bhagat Kumar Nomula declared movable assets worth ₹55.33 lakh and immovable assets worth ₹12.21 lakh and liabilities worth ₹24.52 lakh.

Bhagat's spouse owns a car worth ₹8.5 lakh, 1 kg gold, movable assets worth ₹71.84 lakh, immovable assets worth ₹1.74 lakh, and liabilities



K. Jana Reddy, Congress (top), Dr P. Ravi Kumar, BJP (above left) and Nomula Bhagat, TRS file their nomination papers for the Nagarjunasagar bypolls at Nidamanor Mandal Revenue Office, on Tuesday.

— DC

ties of ₹60 lakh. Bhagat owns an SUV worth ₹37 lakh, and a car worth ₹7.5 lakh.

BJP candidate's Dr P. Ravi Kumar's affidavit

had not been made available by the Election Commission at the time of going to print.

Seventy-eight candi-

dates are in the fray for the Nagarjunasagar Assembly elections though the contest is between the Congress, TRS and the BJP.

## DASOJU SLAMS KCR, KTR FOR FAKE JOB PROMISES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

AICC spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju on Tuesday asked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and minister K.T. Rama Rao to stop issuing "irrational, irresponsible and fake" statements on job notifications, which he alleged were "dubious" and leading to student suicides.

Dr Dasoju criticised them for their "substantial failure in tackling unemployment and for lacking a thorough strategy to address the sensitive and most important issue in Telangana."

He was speaking to the media after speaking to one Sunil, who reportedly attempted to take his life over joblessness. Dr Dasoju was accompanied by OU JAC Leader Dayakar and TS Youth Congress leader Prabhakar.

Dr Dasoju was confident that tribals would support Dr Ravi Kumar, who belongs to the ST community. He accused the TRS and Congress governments of helping the tribals. He alleged that the TRS was trying to grab votes by spending crores, which the party had attempted during the Dubbuk byelections.

Dr Ravi Kumar said that only the BJP could fight for people's causes, and not the Congress or the TRS.

BJP leader Kadari Anjaiah joins the TRS in the presence of Chief Minister, in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Idate Dr P. Ravi Kumar filed his nomination papers at the Nidamanor mandal revenue office. He was accompanied by BJP Legislature Party leader T. Raja Singh and former MLA Kuna Srisailam Goud.

Speaking to the media, Raja Singh alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and Congress candidate K. Jana Reddy were friends, and the TRS chief had fielded Nomula Bhagat as a favour to him.

Elsewhere, BJP candi-

ates that the party was confident that tribals would support Dr Ravi Kumar, who belongs to the ST community. He accused the TRS and Congress governments of helping the tribals. He alleged that the TRS was trying to grab votes by spending crores, which the party had attempted during the Dubbuk byelections.

Dr Ravi Kumar said that only the BJP could fight for people's causes, and not the Congress or the TRS.

## DCCB ex-chief, 23 staff held for ₹7.32 cr scam

A. RAVINDRA  
SESHU I DC  
KHAMMAM, MARCH 30

A criminal case has been filed against former chairman of the District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB), three former chief executive officers and 20 bank directors for misusing bank funds of a minimum of ₹7.32 crore.

A case has been filed based on a complaint lodged by DCCB chief executive officer Aturi Veerababu. It is suspected that the scam is of the order of ₹100 crore.

All the 20 directors, present and former, and the former chairman worked during the term 2013-18. About three directors of the time, Tulluri

406, 409 and 420 sections in the Three Town police station. Out of three CEOs — Vasanth Rao, Ramachandra Rao — Vasanth Rao is still in service and the two other CEOs had retired.

As per the report by Sumitra, the then DCCB chairman and directors spent ₹63 lakh for gifts by violating the guidelines, and another ₹55 lakh in the name of a knowledge tour. The then governing body of the DCCB collected ₹6.13 crore from farmers and shifted this to the funds of C-Star Hospital, a private institution. The Registrar of the Cooperative department has submitted its report to the government.

Brahmaiah, Janagam Koteswara Rao and Mekala Mallibabu Yadav, remain in the present DCCB executive body as directors. Another director Rayala Seshagiri Rao, among the 20 suspect directors, is now chairman of the district committee of marketing societies.

V. Sumitra, who investigated the swindling of DCCB funds as cooperative department registrar, recommended disqualifying the directors. Directors Mallibabu, Brahmaiah and Koteswara Rao may be disqualified by the registrar. Seshagiri Rao working as DCMS chairman may be protected. FIR has been filed by station house officer Sridhar under IPC 403.

FIR has been filed by station house officer Sridhar under IPC 403, present and former, and the former chairman worked during the term 2013-18. About three directors of the time, Tulluri

406, 409 and 420 sections in the Three Town police station. Out of three CEOs — Vasanth Rao, Ramachandra Rao — Vasanth Rao is still in service and the two other CEOs had retired.

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### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



SRIPATHI AMBICA CHARAN  
Happy Birthday Ambi  
We all Love you and miss you.  
Inserted by:  
Sripathi Kalicharan, Anjali & Family members

(S/2021/D01389)

### 11th ANNIVERSARY

### 11th ANNIVERSARY



LATE. MAMIDI BHAGI REDDY Garu  
DOB: 10-11-1947 | D.O.D: 31-03-2010  
"May his Soul Rest in Peace"

Inserted by:  
Mamidi Vijaya Laxmi and Sons & Daughters, Alwal.

(S/2021/D01387)

### 9th ANNIVERSARY



N.N. DASS GOUD  
Retd. Jur. Admin. Police Officer  
DOB: 24-11-1942 DOD: 31-03-2012

We miss you Greatly in Every moment of Our Life

Inserted by: N. Andalamma

Memorial Mass at 7:00 am, on 31/03/2021 at St. Sebastian's Church, Sainikpuri.

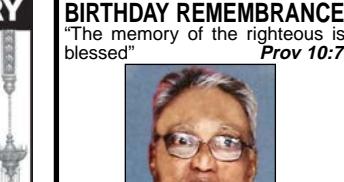
Deeply Mourned by Family Members

Ph.: 988511585

(S/2021/D01353)

### 12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

### 12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



KALAYRU MALLESHWAR RAO BE, LLB  
Retd. Dy. Manager - HAL  
"We Pray God to Make His Holy Soul Rest in Peace"

Inserted by: K. INDRANI & Family Members

Ph: 9873996667

(S/2021/D01366)

### IN LOVING MEMORY



VELUGU N SUDARSHANAM  
Retd. Station Master SC Railway  
We miss you greatly in every moment of our life.

Inserted by: Mrs. Lalitha Sudarshanam

Son, Daughter-in-Law, Daughters, Sons-in-Law & Grand Children

Phone No. 9849413966

(S/2021/D01366)

# TS advises farmers to grow other crops, not paddy alone

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

situation. There is no guarantee that such procurement will continue in future.

The minister explained:

"We can't say whether the centre will continue the existing procurement policy through FCI in future. If centre exits from taking this responsibility, states too cannot procure, as they will incur huge losses. For this reason, it is better that farmers grow diverse crops in future, which have a demand in the market. They must not rely only on paddy like they are doing now."

The minister was speaking to reporters after holding a meeting with senior officials of agriculture, marketing and civil supplies departments to finalise modalities for yasangi procurement. He asked farmers to produce crops that are in demand in the market and fetch a remunerative price in the open market, instead of depending on government for procurement at minimum statutory price (MSP).

Niranjan Reddy pointed out that there is uncertainty prevailing over centre's new farm laws due to cases pending in the Supreme Court. No one knows what the apex court's verdict could be.

### OBITUARY



Mr. PUNNA EMANUEL  
S/o Late Mr. Punna Prakash Rao  
DOB: 05-03-1934 DOD: 27-03-2021

Inserted by:  
Smt. P. Shantha Emmanuel  
(Rtd. Nursing Superintendent  
Govt-General & Chest Hospital)

Son: Mr. P. Jesse Jackson

Daughter: P. Mari Gold & Family

Cell: 9866634583, 900080582

(S/2021/D01388)

### IN EVER LOVING MEMORY

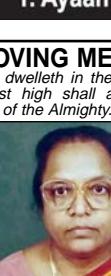


P. SHANKARAIAH P. PADMAJA  
We remember you with Deep Respect in our Hearts

Inserted by Son, Daughters - Sons-in-Law, Grand Children and Near & Dear.

(S/2021/D01388)

### 9th ANNIVERSARY



**IN BRIEF**  
**Constable Saidulu died by suicide**

**Hyderabad:** Constable Malikharjuna Saidulu, 30, deployed with the Mariguda police of Nalgonda district, allegedly died by suicide near the Venkateshwara Swamy temple under Yacharam police limits of Rachakonda commissionerate on Tuesday morning. "Saidulu got married in December 2020 and preliminary investigations reveal that there are some marital issues between the newly wed couple," said inspector Yacharam S.Lingaiah. Police said no suicide note was found at the spot. Yacharam police have booked a case of suspicious death.

**AUTHORITIES NEGLECT GOLCONDA, CENSURED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday censured the Union ministry handling the Archeological Survey of India and the Telangana state tourism and culture department for taking no interest in protecting and safeguarding Golconda Fort, the world-renowned historical monument, and the historical Qutubshahi tombs in the city.

The court came down heavily on these authorities for their neglect even after the court had issued warnings to them in this respect in the past.

The bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayendra Reddy directed them to furnish the restoration plans they have along with the budgets earmarked for the purpose within two weeks from now. The bench also directed the Archeological Survey of India's Director General and the secretary of the state tourism and culture department to appear before the court.

The court wants them to assist it in the task of ensuring protection of these monuments from further dilapidation and also to oversee the restoration work.

## 5-day Brahmotsava



As part of 5-day long Brahmotsava, Sri Yogananda Laxminarasiha Swamis celestial Thiru Kalyotsavam took place at Sri Yogananda Laxminarasiha Swamis Temple at Esamia Bazaar, Koti today. Large number of devotees took part in this Utsava.

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 30**

Even though uncertainty shrouds the reopening of schools and holding SSC exams, the government is hopeful of a more normal session in the next academic session. Textbooks and notebooks that will be distributed in government schools are already in print at the press, and the process will be completed shortly.

A. Devasena, director and commissioner of school education, said.

year, when teachers went back to schools. Digital classes on state-run TSAT and Doordarshan channels have referred to books, to help children keep up with the classes.

Srinivas Chari, director of Textbook Press, said that the books will be disbursed to all government schools by the end of May. The headmasters will distribute the books among students when the next session begins on June 17.

He said that for the next academic year, about 1.43 crore books were being printed, against 1.4 crore last year.

Due to the pandemic and delay in the commencement of online classes officially, books were distributed only in August last

Government teachers are hopeful that schools will be reopened soon, and they

will be able to take physical classes in the upcoming sessions, to better help students learn and cover up the lost time due to Covid-19 in the current academic year.

"It is no doubt that digital classes were a must for government school students, who lost a huge amount of time when compared to private school students, who had resources available at their disposal. But digital classes are not entirely the solution. What students can learn at school, and the way we can be of help to them, is in no way possible in digital classes. Most children don't even attend these classes until they are checked upon when teachers visit their houses," said a government teacher in Sun City.

# Anupam: Stay positive no matter the situation

The actor describes himself as an eternal optimist

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30



Anupam Kher lights the lamp at the annual general session of the Ficci Ladies Organisation on Tuesday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

Describing himself as "an eternal optimist," actor Anupam Kher on Tuesday spoke on 'The Power of Positivity' at the annual general session of Ficci Ladies Organisation and Young Ficci Ladies Organisation here in the city. During a question and answer session, Kher made his point about staying positive no matter what the situation is. "Even a stopped clock shows the correct time twice a day," he said.

During a conversation with Usharani Manne and Apurva Jain, chairpersons of FLO and

YFLO, Kher, said that when people make excuses such as having no time, it is not that they do not have the time, it is just that they do not want to

do something. "If you want to do something, you will find the time," he said, adding that statements such as 'being bored' or 'not in the

mood', in his book, are those that give a person using such terms, a false sense of importance. In the nearly hour-long interaction, Kher, who peppered his talk with anecdotes from his life and work, answered questions from the audience, and also addressed how he faced the Covid-19 pandemic fears. "My first emotion was fear. But I am the eternal optimist," he said. When everything was shut, he began noticing the singing of the birds, how bluer the sky looked. "We have to be careful still," he warned, adding that the world has survived for millions of years and we will survive this one too.

## TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LIMITED (TRIFED)



(Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India)

HEAD OFFICE: NSIC Business Park, NSIC Estate, Okhla Phase-III, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110020, Tel: 011-71600414/415/418

### NOTIFICATION

No.TFD /HO/P&A-AO&N/2021/7402

#### Change of address of TRIFED Head Office, New Delhi

It is hereby notified that TRIFED Registered/ Corporate Head Office has been shifted from 2nd floor, NCUI Building, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016 and the new address is given here under:-

**TRIFED, NSIC Business Park, NSIC Estate, Okhla Phase-III, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110020**

Henceforth, all the communication/correspondence shall be dealt/addressed to the aforesaid new address of TRIFED Head Office, New Delhi.

Executive Director

# Dharani Portal Telangana's Pride Role Model for Nation

Government of Telangana,  
under the visionary leadership  
of Hon'ble Chief Minister

**Sri K. Chandrashekhar Rao,**  
is committed to make revenue  
administration transparent,  
citizen-friendly and discretion-free.

**Dharani Portal**, launched on **29/10/2020**,  
is a simple user-friendly web portal.  
It offers one-stop solution for registrations  
and mutations of agricultural lands.

#### Dharani offers the following services

- Slot booking for Sale, Gift, Mortgage, Partition, Lease & Succession.
- Automatic calculation and online advance payment of duties and fees.
- Once slot is booked successfully, no queries asked.
- Registration accompanied with instantaneous mutation in revenue records.
- Slot Rescheduling, Cancellation and Claim for refund allowed.
- Registration of GPAs namely Development agreement cum GPA (DGPA), General power of attorney (GPA), Agreement of sale cum GPA (AGPA).
- Pending mutations by individuals/institutions for Registrations done prior to Dharani but mutation not done cases.
- NALA conversion Module with advance online payment for conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes.
- Bankers Module for creation and closing of loan charges on agricultural lands by the Bankers.



**Sri K. Chandrashekhar Rao**  
Chief Minister, Government of Telangana

## DHARANI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Transactions 3.86 Lakhs**

**Hits 2.49 Cr**

**Gift 69,699**

**Sale 1,74,064**

**Succession 24,041**

**Mortgage 19,823**

**NALA 10,162**

**Partition 1,488**

**Institutional Registrations 2,735**

**Pending Mutations 1,15,222**

- Grievance module also covers issues related to:
- Digitally unsigned PPB • Missing Survey Nos

#### General Information:

- Track status of applications on "eChallan/Application status" option in Dharani.
- Progress on disposal of applications is informed through SMS on registered mobile number.
- ePPB is issued instantly at the time of transaction and link is sent to registered mobile number of the applicant.
- Applications are received only through Dharani or Meeseva centre, as the case may be.
- For any other grievance, please approach the District Collector concerned, who alone is authorized to redress the grievances related to Dharani.

For more details, please visit  
<https://dharani.telangana.gov.in/>

**Dharani Portal - For Transparent, Corruption-Free Services**

**Chief Commissioner of Land Administration**  
Government of Telangana

Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

# DECCAN Chronicle

31 MARCH 2021

## Let not Covid 2nd wave destroy economy again

The spike in the daily numbers of new Covid-19 infections across the country is truly alarming and it reminds us of the period when the pandemic had peaked last year. The country has seen a steady surge in new cases for the past couple of weeks and the active cases at present are 5,40,720, which is little over half of the September 18 peak of 1,017,754. When Tuesday's new infections of 56,211 are added, India's total Covid-19 caseload has risen to 1,20,95,855. The death toll has reached 1,62,114, or 1.34 per cent of total confirmed infections.

While the infection killed lakhs across the globe, it paralysed the economy and threw many millions out of their jobs and into abject penury. Governments had to announce several special economic packages to bring them back to life; and India was no exception. And the worst affected were the people at the lowest strata of the economic pyramid. The fate of lakhs of guest workers who had to walk back home hundreds of miles away was an experience no one would like to see repeated. From economic to social and psychological breakdown, the micro-organism has sowed seeds of disquiet in societies and families.

The sad part is that we as a people are still at the mercy of the virus despite an expansion of our knowledge base to fight it and the discovery of vaccines. There are treatment protocols that help save lives. There have been research findings that elaborate on the virus activity in the human body once it enters it. We are much better equipped to fight the infection and we now know the consequences which we had not known last year. But still, there is no stopping the virus and its effects.

The Union government has, on its part, speeded up the vaccination programme, and has rectified the technical glitches in the software; at present, one crore people can register for the jab in one day. There are still logistical issues to be addressed and coupled with vaccine hesitancy, they drag down the vaccination programme which aims at inoculating 30 crore people by June this year. The number now stands at 6.5 crore after two-and-a-half months.

The worsening of the pandemic situation could force another national lockdown which the economy, and the nation, can ill-afford. The government and the people must realise it and return to the strict adherence of Covid-appropriate protocols and behaviour.

Some of the developed countries have added "meetings outdoors" to the standard prescription of social distancing, mask wearing and washing of hands. This means group functions will no longer be allowed in closed environs. This measure could help avoid gatherings turning into super spreader events.

The government must consider introducing this idea here too. It must also relaunch the awareness campaign on the Covid-19 protocols and direct the state governments to enforce them. The people have been lax in following them, and the governments have been equally lax in enforcing them. This combined neglect will land the nation in deeper trouble. There will be no justification for that, should it happen.

## Suez lesson proves costly

**P**roof of Murphy's Law could not have come in a worse scenario than in the Suez Canal being blocked by the skyscraper-sized, 2,24,000-tonne container ship *Ever Given*, which is as long as the Empire State Building is tall. As \$9 billion of daily trade was blocked for a week in terms of goods in transit, from crude oil to cattle, nature's helping hand came to the rescue as an unusually high tide followed a full moon. How helpless man was for days as tugs, sand dredgers and various other salvage equipment battled on to refloat a symbol of man's ambition in making things bigger and bigger in order to benefit from economies of scale, which, in this case, includes environmental benefits too in terms of carbon footprint.

The all-Indian crew of the Japan-owned, Panama-flagged giant ship will be among those eagerly awaiting the result of a blame game that will probably be resolved at the end of a thorough probe of what went wrong, how and why. Human error is not ruled out either as the ship was gathering speed to 13 knots on an uneven course in the channel. The explanation that the stacked-up containers could have acted as a huge sail to gusts from dust storms not uncommon to the area may seem logical enough. For all the high fees in hundreds of thousands of dollars, including costs of pilots, to use the canal to save 5,000 km on Europe-Asia journeys Suez Canal pilots, the responsibility of steering is solely that of the ship's captain.

The Suez Canal, completed in 1869, has saved uncountable time and money in cutting global shipping costs and today 13 per cent of maritime trade moves through the crucial waterway. An occasional tanker getting grounded used to be solved with the simple principle of tugging it out but a catastrophe of this size had never been envisaged. This serves up the elementary lesson that bigger is not necessarily better as man is still vulnerable to nature's random acts as much as his vehicles are subject to the laws of locomotion.

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Printer & Publisher

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A.G. Noorani

## India in Nato? Is New Delhi ready for such a major shift?

**W**HILE it is not fair to impute motives to a writer, one cannot help wondering if he is flying a kite, especially given his background. A. Wess Mitchell was US assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia from 2007-2019 and co-chair of the Nato 2020 Reflection Process. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, headquartered in Brussels, has long been in a reflective mood regarding its own fatuous irrelevance.

That did not inhibit him from writing recently in an Indian publication: "When the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) leaders meet later this spring, they will debate the recommendations from a group of experts [which Mr Mitchell co-chaired] that advocates, among other things, extending a formal offer of partnership to India. Such an idea has been discussed before but has always foundered on India's aversion to entanglement in rival geopolitical blocs. It's time to overcome this obstacle."

"China's meteoric rise has dramatically heightened India's need

for closer security relationships with politically reliable, like-minded states. ... Beijing is increasingly willing to depart from its hide-and-bide strategy to directly challenge even the largest of its neighbours."

China's military spending is three times that of India. India's policy of equidistance, with tilts towards Russia and China, is not viable enough to meet the juggernaut of China's power. Hence its moves for ties with the United States, Japan and Australia in the "Quad". Now for the moth-eaten carnet: "While Nato partnerships do not carry the Article 5 guarantee of collective defence against armed attack, they nevertheless come with regular defence dialogues, military-to-military planning and joint exercises that improve readiness, interoperability and predictability. In the event of a conflict, India would benefit from having prior planning and arrangements in place for cooperating with Nato and its Mediterranean partners...."

Nato has spread a web of partners, namely Egypt, Israel, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Finland.

Now comes the crunch. "However, the obstacles to partnership are not only on the Indian side; in the past, some Nato allies have effectively blocked discussion of the matter insisting that any offer of partnership to India be accompanied by similar invitations to Pakistan. This may have seemed attractive to some in the era when Nato militaries were mainly focused on conducting operations in Afghanistan. But with the winding down of operations there, Nato has little in common with a Pakistan that is increasingly radicalised at home and aligned with, and beholden to, China."

"... The Nato leadership should extend to India an offer of opening partnership talks. Doing so would signal that it is seriously evaluating all of its tools, including partnerships, according to how well they equip its members for dealing with a new era of great-power competition...."

"In this emerging competition, India is a vital player in its own right and should be treated as such. But Indians should be under no illu-

sions that a truly nonaligned path remains a viable option."

Nonalignment is a worn-out misnomer. India's non-alignment did not prevent its first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from seeking covertly — behind the back of India's ambassador Asaf Ali — a written alliance with the United States in 1948.

Note that the Nato partnership is shorn of guarantee of help in Article 5 of the Nato Treaty of 1949, which reads: "The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently, they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the party or parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force...."

This is a worthless guarantee as its prime architect, US secretary of state Dean Acheson, had said. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "This naturally does not mean that the United States would automatically be at war if one of the other signatory nations were the victim of an armed attack. Under the treaty we would be bound to make an honest judgment as to what action was necessary to attain that end and consequently to take such action. That action might or might not include the use of armed force."

As Charles De Gaulle remarked, treaties, like roses and pretty girls, last only as long as they last. How did Pakistan's pacts with the United States help in its moments of crisis in the 1965 and 1971 wars?

Treaties are concluded in the national interest purely. Help is extended in the same spirit. In 1962, it took the US long to support India's case on the border and even that was confined to the McMahon Line; not the Aksai Chin in Ladakh.

India has unwisely let skirmishes on an undefined border ratchet its dialogue and diplomacy.

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



## Weak Britain reluctant to confront aggressive China

Sunanda K.  
Datta-Ray

Reflections

**B**ritish history books claim that before the First Opium War against Manchu China in 1839, the Chinese hoped there would be a lot of "talkie-talkee before fightee-fightee". This time around, it is the British who seek discussions and negotiations before the war of words over China's alleged human rights abuses spills over into action.

The United States also drew back when similar arguments erupted with China. One reason was that China held \$3,399.9 billion of the American Treasury's foreign exchange reserves. Another factor was the calculation that the American cost of living would shoot up without access to cheap Chinese footwear, clothing, electricals and household goods.

No wonder British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy skirted around the subject of China. The 100-page review even hinted that Russia was Britain's most serious threat and the reason for acquiring high-tech drones and the expensive paraphernalia of cyber warfare and satellites to control space while increasing the stockpile of nuclear warheads by 40 per cent.

No wonder Britain's response was limited to grieve rhetoric when Beijing imposed sanctions on five ruling Conservative Party MPs, two peers, a barrister and an academic. They can no longer travel to China, and any assets they there will be frozen. "Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike/ Just hint a fault, and hesitate dislike," as in Alexander Pope's poem, Mr Johnson "noted that China has chosen to sanction individuals and entities that are

seeking to shine a light on human rights violations".

Apart from the Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, the British PM must have two other controversies in mind. One is Hong Kong, where the citizens' protests have been continuing relentlessly despite Beijing's crackdown and the enforcement of its harsh new security law, the other the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, which Britain excluded from its 5G networks last year as a result of American pressure backed by Britain's defence establishment. Huawei of course denies any spying activities. While China's response to the exclusion was muted, it denounced a new programme for fast-track British citizenship for certain residents of Hong Kong as "brutal meddling" in its domestic affairs.

Whoever was responsible, the reversal exposed the inconsistency of official British thinking about China. The UK government's last white paper on China was published in 2009, before the CPEC became aggressively authoritarian after Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012. The softer tone of Mr Raab's speech also reflected Mr Johnson's desire to keep his options open as the UK assumes the G-7's annually rotating presidency and prepares to host the next climate change conference in Glasgow later this year, reaches out to the Indo-Pacific destiny that the review eulogises, and

the review eulogises, and

**Boris Johnson cannot be anxious to provoke a China that has recently imposed punishing tariffs on Australian imports of everything from wine to timber and coal, in retaliation for**

**everything from wine to timber and coal, in retaliation for**

**Canberra's calls for an investigation into the origins of Covid.**

while improving our ability to respond to the systemic challenge that it poses," the review says.

A showdown is imminent when British foreign secretary Dominic Raab told the House of Commons that British businesses should not profit from what he called the "industrial-scale" forced labour of Uighurs. However, Mr Raab tactfully refrained from mentioning sanctions on Chinese Communist Party officials allegedly involved in human rights abuses. The omission confused listeners because the government had earlier indicated sanctions under a law modelled on the US Global Magnitsky Act.

Mr Raab's explanation that the possibility of sanctions was being kept "in reserve" did not satisfy Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Conservative Party leader who supports sanctions. He asked in Parliament who in the government might be blocking Mr Raab from following through with the planned measures.

Whoever was responsible, the reversal exposed the inconsistency of official British thinking about China. The UK government's last white paper on China was published in 2009, before the CPEC became aggressively authoritarian after Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012. The softer tone of Mr Raab's speech also reflected Mr Johnson's desire to keep his options open as the UK assumes the G-7's annually rotating presidency and prepares to host the next climate change conference in Glasgow later this year, reaches out to the Indo-Pacific destiny that the review eulogises, and

### LETTERS GARBAGE CITY

Minister for municipal administration K.T. Rama Rao must focus his attention on the tonnes of garbage which is strewn all over Hyderabad as it is no longer a "green city" as claimed by the TRS government. In Europe, municipal waste is recycled or composted. Germany and Austria prefer recycling including composting followed by using waste to generate energy.

**R.J. Janardhana Rao**  
Hyderabad

### STOP INSTIGATING

Rejecting passports for Mehbooba Mufti and her mother citing national security reasons sounds very narrow-minded or for political gain. Please show me one political party that did not criticise the state or the Central government, while in the Opposition. Even police and the Army did innumerable protests for hike in salaries, better comforts and excellent working culture. Stone throwing by citizens of J&K clearly show that they are being instigated, harassed, manipulated and mismanaged. The Centre must stop instigating before J&K flares up.

**Madhusudan**  
Hyderabad

### FOODGRAINS

The Telangana state government did the right thing in deciding to buy in buying foodgrains from farmers at MSP. Why make poor farmers run helter skelter? Prime Minister Narendra Modi and farmers of Delhi and Punjab can break their deadlock by discussing their ideas with the Telangana state government for satisfactory solutions.

**Vasudeva Rao P.**  
Secunderabad

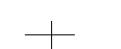
### West Pak troops retreating

AGARTALA, March 30  
West Pakistani troops were retreating everywhere today as Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's liberation forces won control of most of east Pakistan, including the capital city of Dacca.

**50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle**

With their acute sense of history, the Chinese know that they have little to fear. European writers and politicians have spoken down the centuries of "La Perfide Albion", or perfidious Albion.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author



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## Negligent move



Officials of Transco set up an electric pole in the middle of the road, making it difficult for commuters, at Marutinagar Colony in Shaikpet on Tuesday.

— R. PAVAN

# Cops awareness drive says mask mandatory

## Top cop appeals public to take precautions to contain virus

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

Hyderabad police launched a city-wide awareness campaign asking people to wear the mask and maintain physical distancing as the cases of Covid-19 were rising again.

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar appealed to the public to take all prescribed precautions to contain the spread of the Coronavirus.

"All precautions have to be taken as was done in the previous phase for the public to remain

**THE POLICE** started booking cases against persons who were found violating the face mask.

safe. The cases in other states are increasing rapidly and we should be extra careful to curb the spread," he said.

Several surprise checks were conducted by the police at Koti, Inderbagh, Sultan Bazaar, Nampally, Charminar, Abids, Secunderabad, Malakpet, Mehdipatnam among others. The police

started booking cases against persons who were found violating the face mask. The Sultan Bazaar police, who counselled local shopkeepers to maintain a strict mask policy, said the special drive was conducted following the orders and cases were booked against the violators.

The Mirchowk traffic police distributed about 100 masks free. Similar initiatives were taken by the traffic and law and order police at Rein Bazaar and Gandhinagar among other places.

A skit was staged at the Kotopet junction under the LB Nagar police station limits to create awareness on wearing masks. Additional inspector, traffic, Nagamallu, who organised the skit, had two persons, one dressed as a tiger and another as a demon representing Coronavirus as the principal characters.

Rachakonda traffic police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat has warned that those not wearing masks will face prosecution where ₹1,000 is the penalty for non-compliance.

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
TIRUPATI, MARCH 30

With Covid-19 cases rising across the country, the TTD has reduced the number of Sarva Darshan tokens, being issued at Tir

**SHORT TAKES**  
**MANIPUR GOVT RETRACTS ORDER ON REFUGEES**

MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, MARCH 30

In what has led to serious embarrassment for the Manipur government, it has been compelled to withdraw an administrative order barring district administrations and civil society organisations from opening shelters or providing food to refugees from Myanmar who may have crossed the border following the ongoing military action against the agitating civil society protesters against the coup.

The state home department, in an order signed by Gyan Prakash on March 26, had stated that only medical attention could be provided in case of "grievous injuries" on "humanitarian considerations". The notice was addressed to the deputy commissioners of the border districts — Chandel, Tengnoupal, Kamjong, Ukhral and Churachandpur — adjoining the international border with Myanmar.

**NANDED: 18 ARRESTED FOR ATTACK ON COPS**

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

The police have arrested 18 people for the violence and an attack on policemen at Nanded. They have also registered a case against 410 people for attempting to take out a Hola Mohalla procession outside Sachkhand Gurudwara without permission.

According to police, an FIR has been registered under IPC sections for attempt to murder, causing grievous hurt and rioting. The situation around the gurdwara in Nanded is tense but under control at present.

On Monday, several hundred Sikhs gathered at the Gurdwara for Hola Mohalla despite being denied permission by the police. When the police tried to disperse the crowd in a bid to maintain social distancing, the crowd became violent and attacked them.

**NIA SEIZES LUXURY CAR REGISTERED IN WASE'S NAME**

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday seized a high-end car apparently registered in the name of arrested Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze from Navi Mumbai. The probe team had been looking for this Mitsubishi Outlander SUV for the last several days.

According to sources, the car was parked in Kamotha area of Navi Mumbai around 15 days ago. It was discovered after locals informed the police about the abandoned car.

Meanwhile, a special court in the city on Tuesday extended NIA custody of convicted police constable Vinayak Shinde and a bookie Naresh Gaur till April 7. Both the persons have been arrested in connection with Mansukh Hiren's murder case. Hiren was the caretaker of the car, which was found stuffed with explosives near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in South Mumbai. His body was found in the Mumbra creek in Thane on March 5.

**KERALA | POLLS**

**Govt failed to meet aspirations of people: Cong**

**Priyanka launches attack on LDF**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
MARCH 30

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at the CPM-led-LDF government for failing to meet the aspirations of the people of the state during its five year rule.

Gandhi who began her campaign in the state on Tuesday addressed a series of meetings in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Alappuzha districts in support of UDF candidates. She said the LDF government had failed to provide 20 lakh jobs that it had promised to give to the youth after coming to power in 2016.

She said the LDF had sold off the fishermen interests and their means of liveli-

# Mamata woos N'gram voters

Says the people of Nandigram are not to be blamed for her injury

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, MARCH 30

Swinging into damage control mode in Nandigram, from where she is standing in the Assembly election, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee clarified Tuesday that the people of the area were not to blame for her leg injuries on March 10 evening.

The Trinamul Congress supremo, who broke her silence on the leak of her conversation with BJP leader Proloy Pal recently, also stood on her feet as the national anthem was being played, mustering courage for the first time in public in the last 20 days since the leg injuries put her into a wheelchair.

Before the campaign for the second phase polls ended, Banerjee said at Tengnoupal in Nandigram, "After suffering injuries at Birulia, I found my feet swollen badly and blood dripping. The heel was badly injured. But the people of Nandigram are not to be blamed for my injury. I still believe some goons from outside this place planned the attack on me. Nandigram wants me. That is why I am fighting here."

Her latest version on the March 10 incident assumes significance as she held the locals responsible for her injuries in the past few days of the campaign. The injured CM, helped by some TMC leaders, was later seen rising from her wheelchair briefly to show her respect for the national anthem at the dais of her party rally.

Seeing their firebrand leader back on her feet, the TMC workers erupted in jubilation. Soon after Banerjee's campaign ended, TMC workers clashed with some BJP cadres in the area.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at a rally on the last day of the campaign for the 2nd phase of Assembly polls, in Nandigram on Tuesday. — PTI

## NOT NECESSARY THAT ONLY SITTING MLA WILL BECOME CM: DILIP GHOSH

New Delhi, March 30:

Claiming that a "strong undercurrent" for the BJP has now come to the surface in West Bengal, its state unit chief Dilip Ghosh on Tuesday exuded confidence that the party will form the next government in the state and said it is not necessary that only a sitting MLA will become the chief minister.

Ghosh, a sitting MP from Medinipur asserted that the momentum "in favour" of the BJP will continue till the last phase. "After the first phase of polling only the BJP is confident of its victory, whereas the

TMC and its leaders are frustrated. As the election will progress, the trend set by the BJP in the first phase will gain momentum and with every phase of polling TMC workers will themselves realise their defeat," Ghosh said.

To a query on whether a sitting MLA will become the chief minister if the BJP wins, Ghosh, who himself is seen as a strong contender, said, "It is for the party to decide but it is not necessary a sitting MLA will become the chief minister... when Mamata ji became chief minister she was not an MLA."

On the leak of the audio clip, which recorded her plea to Pal to work for her victory, the TMC chief angrily said, "I had some information that the person concerned wanted to talk to

me. I have every right to have that conversation as a candidate. What he did was a criminal offence. I am not at fault. I will not forgive those who backstabbed us here in Nandigram."

## Ex-MP's comments on Rahul stirs row in Kerala

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
MARCH 30

who is contesting from Udumbanchola constituency in Idukki district, the former MP distanced himself from the comments made by Joice George. He said the LDF would oppose him politically and not at the personal level.

With the CM disapproving of his remarks and the issue snowballing into a major controversy, Joice George tendered an unconditional apology.

"I hereby unconditionally withdraw the inappropriate remarks made by me at an election rally on Monday. I also express regret over that," he said while addressing a public meeting in Kumily on Tuesday.

He was indirectly referring to an event held in St Therese's College in Kochi recently in which the Congress MP gave a demonstration of the principle of resistance and empowerment in Aikido, a martial art form. He also made the students do the exercise on the

issue of the CM disapproving of his remarks and the issue snowballing into a major controversy, Joice George tendered an unconditional apology.

"I hereby unconditionally withdraw the inappropriate remarks made by me at an election rally on Monday. I also express regret over that," he said while addressing a public meeting in Kumily on Tuesday.

The Congress leader lashed out at the government for spending crores of rupees on advertisement to refurbish its image. "If you ask me where the government's money is going? I would say it is going for publicity, propaganda and advertisement, she said amid applause from people at Karunagappa.

The Congress general secretary addressed rallies in Kollam district and took part in road show at Kayamkulam.



Priyanka Gandhi arrives in poll-bound Kerala, at Kayamkulam in Alappuzha district. — PTI

hood for ₹5,000 crore to a US company while referring to the MoU signed by the government for deep sea trawling and ship building. The government was later forced to scrap the MoU following widespread protests.

But the deal has exposed the government's real intentions.

## Peaceful ties must: Pak PM to Modi

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Pakistan is "convinced that durable peace and stability in South Asia is contingent upon resolving all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan", in particular the Kashmir issue. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a letter.

He further said Pakistan desires "peaceful, cooperative relations with all neighbours including India". The "creation of an enabling environment is imperative for a constructive and result-oriented dialogue", the Pakistan PM added.

The letter dated March 29 was a reply to PM Modi's letter a week ago to wish his counterpart on the occasion of Pakistan National Day on March 23,

in which he had India wanted cordial relations with its neighbour but that for this, an environment of trust devoid of terror and hostility was imperative.

The developments come in the wake of a sudden perceptible improvement in Indo-Pak ties in the past five weeks following implementation of the ceasefire on the LoC by both countries. The developments further highlight a tangible thaw in ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbours who have seen ties go from bad to worse in the past five years.

The Pakistan PM thanked PM Modi for greeting him on Pakistan National Day which he said was a day for his country's people to pay tributes to Pakistan's founding fathers for envisioning a nation where the Pakistani people could "live in freedom".

**Telangana State Technology Services Ltd., HACA Bhavan, Hyderabad - 500063, Telangana**

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क/...../लेखा/खनिज एवं व्यापार मद/2020-21 बलरामपुर, दिनांक.....

**निविदा आमंत्रण सचिव**

उपरोक्त विषयालय लेखा है कि कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी बलरामपुर के अन्तर्गत जिला चिकित्सालय बलरामपुर के एक्स-डे डीसीटीलीकरण किये जाने हेतु निर्माणकर्ता औं/अधिकारी निविदा सेविकाओं से जिक्र पास दीन नवा/सेल टेक्स/ जी.एस.टी. नवर हो "मोहरबंद निविदा सेविकाओं के साथ अमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसकी विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु बलरामपुर-रामनूजगंज की वेबसाइट [www.balrampur.gov.in](http://www.balrampur.gov.in) से अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

1. भेरे हुए निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि – 09.04.2021(अपवाह्न 04.00 बजे तक)

2. निविदा खाले जाने की तिथि – 09.04.2021(अपवाह्न 05.00 बजे)

नोट : - निविदा खाले जाने की तिथि एवं समय में परिवर्तन किया जा सकता है।

**मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, जिला चिकित्सालय बलरामपुर-रामनूजगंज (छ.ग.)**

G-88333/3

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (LA) Department FORM C NOTIFICATION**

(Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given)  
Gazette No. GHMC-45 Dated: 25-03-2021.  
No.AA/32/2021 Dated: 25-03-2021.

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, that a total of 1382.20 Sq.Yds land is required in the Lalapet Village, Mareddyapally Mandal, Hyderabad District for public purpose namely Proposed 100'-0" Wide Road at (Ambedkar Statue) Lalapet flyover to Moula-Ali flyover. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Lalapet Village, Mareddyapally Mandal, Hyderabad District land measuring more or less 1382.20 Sq.Yds. of Standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	Premises No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Extent Yds per S.D record	Name of person interested	Boundaries		Trees	Structures			
						South	North	East	West	Van No.	Type	Plinth area in Sq.Yds
<b>RIGHT HAND SIDE</b>												
1	12-14-199	owner		46.65	P. Kishore Kumar	Balan ce area	Road	12-4-100	14-98	..	..	IP
2	12-14-100			59.68	B. Sri Ram & B. Ravi Kumar	Balan ce area	Hosp ital	12-4-100	14-99	..	..	IZ
3	12-14-101			127.14	Dr. S. E. Anjaneyulu	Balan ce area	Road	12-4-100	14-100	..	..	Open IP
4	12-1											

## SHORT TAKES

## DAKOTA FIRES: 400 HOMES VACATED

**South Dakota, March 30:** Three separate wildfires in the Black Hills of South Dakota have forced evacuations of more than 400 homes and shut down Mount Rushmore. Several outbuildings and two homes have been destroyed.

## PIO nominated DC dist court judge

**Washington, March 30:** US President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced his intent to nominate Indian-American Rupa Ranga Puttagunta as a federal judge, among 10 other diverse picks for top judicial positions which include African-American and Muslim

American candidates. Among the presidential nominations, 10 are for Federal Circuit and District Court judge posts, and one is for Superior Court Judge for the District of Columbia. These highly-qualified candidates reflect the president's deeply-held conviction

that the federal bench should reflect the full diversity of the American people — both in background and in professional experience, the White House said. If confirmed by the US Senate, Judge Puttagunta would be the first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)

woman to serve on the US District Court for the District of DC, the White House said. Judge Puttagunta currently serves as an Administrative Judge for the D.C. Rental Housing Commission.

— PTI

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## GRAND RELEASING 2ND APRIL

FROM THE MAKERS OF வெளி & வாய்மை

**DEVI 70MM**  
RTC X ROADS  
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM

**BRAMARAMBA 70MM**

**RAJADHANI COMPLEX**

**SRI RAMULU 70MM**

**LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE**

**OAMB AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI**

**PRASAD'S Multiplex**

**TALLURI COMPLEX-ECIL X ROADS**

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

**O ASIAN CINEMAS**

Central-Panjautta  
Inorbit-Madhapur  
Galleria-Panjagutta  
RK-Banjara Hills/Irrummanzil  
Icon-Madhapur/Musarambagh  
Forum-Kukatpally/Preston Prime

GVK MALL-Banjara Hills  
MP MALL-Kachiguda  
GSM-Madiguda

**INOX**

CCPL-Malkajigiri  
DSL-Uppal/Mantra-Attapur

**MIRAJ CINEMAS**

SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR

**BIG Cinemas** you matter!

**MAHALAXMICOMPLEX**

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI COMPLEX-KACHIGUDA

**RAMAKRISHNA 70MM-ABIDS**

**GANESH 70MM SHAMSHABAD**

**SRINIVASA 70MM UPPAL**

**SRI DEVI 70MM R.C.PURAM**

**VIMAL 70MM SRI SAPIOOJA SENSATION BALANAGAR**

**SIVASAKTHI METRO 70MM KAPRA BAHADURPURA**

**SWAPNA COMPLEX KATEDHAN**

**AARDHANA 70MM TARNAKA**

**YAKUTHMAHAL YAKUTHPURA**

**KARTHIKEYA EXHIBITORS RELEASE**

**SUPER HIT**

**SANDHYA 70MM**  
11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

**RAJADHANI COMPLEX**  
11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

**ARJUN 70MM**  
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

**VENKATARAMANA PADMAVATI**  
11.45am, 6.15pm

**LAXMIKALA SRIDEVI 70 (R.C PURAM)**  
11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**RAJ LAXMI 70 SVR SIVASAKTHI 70**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**SENSATION INSOMNIA TALLURI THEATRE**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**SANTOSH 70 (ABIDS)**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30

**METRO 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30

**ANJALI 70MM**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**SWAPNA 70**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

**ARADHNA 70**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**BHUJANGA 70**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 11.30, 2.30, 6.15, 9.15

**SRI LAXMIKALA MANDIR MAHALAXMI 70**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30 11.00am & 2.00pm

**PRASAD MULTIPLEX** - 12.30pm, 5.45, 11.00pm

**AMB** - 10.45am, 1.35, 4.30, 7.10, 10.10pm

**TIVOLI CINEMAS** - 11.00, 2.00, 7.40, 10.30pm

**PVR**

**FORUM** - 10.30, 11.30, 2.20, 5.10, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 10.50pm

**ICON** - 1.30, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10pm

**INORBIT** - 10.40, 1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 8.00, 10.00pm

**GALLERIA** - 11.20, 2.10, 5.00, 7.50, 10.40pm

**CENTRAL** - 11.00, 1.30, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10pm

**PRESTON** - 2.15, 4.00, 8.00, 10.50pm

**S2** - Mallapur - 11.45, 5.20, 8.10, 11.00pm

**MUSARAMBAGH** - 1.00, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30pm

**IRRUM MANZIL** - 1.00, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30pm

**GPR** - 10.20, 4.15, 7.35, 10.15pm

**SHALINI** - 10.15, 2.30, 7.45, 10.45pm

**BALANGAR** - 10.15, 1.00, 7.45, 10.40pm

**CHANDANAGAR** - 12.15, 6.15, 10.00pm

**GVK** - 10.10, 1.05, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20pm

**GSM** - 12.45, 3.50, 6.55, 8.00, 10.00pm

**MP MALL** - 10.10, 1.05, 7.05, 10.00pm

**DSL** - 11.40, 4.00, 6.00, 7.20, 10.15pm

**MANTRA** - 11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20pm

**CCPL** - 11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20pm

**SUDHA** - 11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20pm

**BVK** - 11.00am, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.30pm

**Ameerpet** - 12.15, 2.50, 5.30, 8.10, 10.45pm

## 3rd BLOCKBUSTER WEEK

**THEATRES RECORDS BREAKING**

**DEVI 70MM**  
[ Enjoy 4K Laser Projection & Dolby Atmos Sound ]  
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

**MALLIKARJUNA 70**  
11.15am, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30pm

**KONARK 70MM**  
11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

**MAHALAXMI 70**  
6.00pm, 9.00pm

**LAXMIKALA ASIAN SHA**  
11.30 & 6.30 2.45 & 9.45

**SHIVAGANGA TALLURI**  
Daily 2.15pm 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**VENKATARAMANA ASIAN SWAPNA**  
Daily 3.00pm Daily 2.15pm

**SRINIVASA 70 SRILATHA 70**  
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**SUSHMA 70** 11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

**PRASADS** : 2.30pm, 5.15, 8.00pm

**AMB** - 10.55, 1.50, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

**PVR**

**CENTRAL** - 10.50, 1.00, 7.10, 10.20pm

**FORUM** - 10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40pm

**MOOSARAMBAGH** - 1.10, 4.20, 6.05, 9.15pm

**IRRUM MANZIL** - 1.05, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00pm

**GALLERIA** - 10.10, 1.20, 4.30, 7.30, 10.40pm

**INORBIT** - 1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30pm

**ICON** - 12.15, 6.55, 10.05pm

**PRESTON** - 1.10, 7.20pm

**RK** - 1.35, 7.30pm

**GPR** - 1.20, 7.15pm

**M CUBE** - 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

**CINEPLANET** - 1.35, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30pm

**RADHIKA** - 1.40, 1.30, 4.30, 10.15pm

**MJR** - 1.35, 7.30, 10.20pm

**CINESQUARE** - 10.35, 1.30, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20pm

**GSM MALL** - 12.10, 3.40, 7.10, 10.40pm

**GVK** - 10.40, 2.00, 7.00, 10.10pm

**MP MALL** - 1.10, 7.00, 10.10pm

**DSL MALL** - 12.00, 3.30, 7.00pm

**MANTRA** - 10.00, 1.15, 7.10pm

**CCPL** - 10.10, 1.20, 7.20pm

**SUDHA** - 1.05, 7.10pm

**SHALINI** - 1.00, 4.15, 10.50pm

**BALANAGAR** - 2.15, 4.15, 10.50pm

**CHANDANAGAR** - 3.15pm

**BVK** - 11.00am, 7.00pm

**S2** - 10.20, 4.55, 7.30pm

**TIVOLI** - 11.10, 1.40, 4.40, 7.35, 10.20pm

**PLATINUM** - 10.00, 3.00, 8.15, 10.45pm

**BRIDGE FILMS**

## Myanmar death toll passes 500

Rebel groups threaten retaliation if military junta doesn't stop bloodshed

**Yangon, March 30:**

The death toll in the Myanmar military's crackdown on protesters has passed 500, as armed rebel groups on Tuesday threatened the junta with retaliation if the bloodshed does not stop.

World powers have ramped up their condemnation of the military's campaign against the anti-coup movement that is demanding the restoration of the elected government and the release of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Washington suspended a trade pact with Myanmar and UN chief Antonio Guterres called for a united global front to pressure the junta after more than 100 protesters were killed in a bloody weekend.

“If they do not stop, and continue to kill the people, we will cooperate with the protesters and fight back,” the statement said.

If such groups take up arms, Debbie Stothard at the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) warned that the situation could degenerate into civil war. Two dozen ethnic minority rebellions have flared in Myanmar since independence from British colonial rule in 1948, fighting over autonomy, identity, drugs and natural resources.

The military has sought to cut deals with some armed groups and earlier this month took the AA off the list of terrorist organisations.

**VILLAGERS NOT SENT BACK, SAYS THAILAND**

**Mae Sam Laep (Thailand), March 30:** Thailand's prime minister denied Tuesday that his country's security forces have sent villagers back to Myanmar who fled from military airstrikes and said his government is ready to shelter anyone who is escaping fighting.

His comments came a day after humanitarian groups said the Thai military had begun sending back some of the people who have fled airstrikes by Myanmar's military. “There is no influx of refugees yet. We asked those who crossed to Thailand if they have any problem in their area. When they say no problem, we just asked them to return to their land first. We asked, we did not use any force,” PM Prayuth Chan-ocha said.

But over the weekend it launched air strikes in eastern Karen state — the first such strikes in 20 years — targeting the Fifth Brigade of the Karen National Union (KNU) after the group seized a military base.

travel that has been closely watched not just by our own people but also by the entire world.” China has banned its citizens from visiting Palau, but Taiwan has responded by introducing a travel bubble between the two that will allow visitors to avoid being quarantined. The presence on the trip of the U.S. ambassador to Palau, John Hennessey-Niland, was a further sign of Washington’s support for Taiwan, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the two. China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under Beijing’s control by force if deemed necessary.

“It’s a very sad day for Hong Kong. The election system is completely dismantled,” said former lawmaker and Democratic Party member Emily Lau. “They are going to get rid of opposition voices

because under this new system, which is so oppressive and restrictive, I don’t think any self-respecting individual will want to take part,” Lau said.

China’s top legislature, the Standing Committee of the

National People’s Congress, amended Hong Kong’s constitution to pave the way for the changes. The Hong Kong government is now tasked with revising its electoral laws and holding an election.

head. He said he watched Floyd “slowly fade away ... like a fish in a bag.” Prosecutor Matthew Frank played back Williams’ 911 call, on which he is heard identifying officer Derek Chauvin by his badge number and telling the dispatcher that Chauvin had been keeping his knee on Floyd’s neck despite warnings that Floyd’s life was in danger. She offers to switch him to a sergeant. As he is being switched, Williams can be heard yelling at the officers, “Y’all is

murderers, bro!”

On Monday, Williams said he thought Chauvin used a shimmying motion several times to increase the pressure on Floyd. He said he yelled to the officer that he was cutting off Floyd’s blood supply.

Williams recalled that Floyd’s voice grew thicker as his breathing became more laboured, and he eventually stopped moving.

Williams was among the first prosecution witnesses as Chauvin, 45, went on trial.

— AP

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## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	50136.58
Nifty 50	14845.10
S&P 500*	3,952.54
Dollar (₹)	73.38
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.99
Euro (₹)	86.14
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	44,113 ▼138
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	64.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.143
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.753
* As of 8:30 PM IST	0.032

## Govt may extend current foreign trade policy

The government is expected to further extend the existing foreign trade policy (FTP), which is scheduled to lapse from April 1, for a few more months, an official said. On March 31, 2020, the government had extended the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 for one year till March 31, 2021, amid the coronavirus outbreak and the lockdown. The official said that stakeholder consultation is going on for the new policy.

## Torrent Gas signs pact to take over Sanwariya Gas



Torrent Gas said it has signed an agreement to take over Sanwariya Gas, which has a licence to retail CNG to automobiles and piped gas to households in Mathura. The acquisition adds to the Torrent group's gas distribution network that is now spread over 33 districts in seven states and one union territory. The firm did not provide the value of the deal. Torrent Gas plans to invest Rs 8,000 crore in CGD over five years.

## UltraTech Cement prepays ₹5,000-cr loan

UltraTech Cement said it has prepaid its long-term loans of Rs 5,000 crore. The loan repayment has been done through free cash flows that the company has generated over the last few quarters despite the pandemic, the Aditya Birla Group firm said. But it did not share the deadline by which the long-term loans were to be prepaid. It said the prepayment is in line with the company's policy.

## Tamilnadu Petroproducts to invest ₹435 crore

Chennai-based Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd, a member of the petrochemicals arm of AM International Group, is investing Rs 435 crore to expand its production facilities. As part of the investment plans, the liner alkaline benzene capacity would be increased from 120,000 tonne per annum to 145,000 tpa at a cost of about Rs 240 crore. The project would be commissioned in about 24 months.

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## ■ Global investors court dollar as bond yields spike Dollar rally trips rupee

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

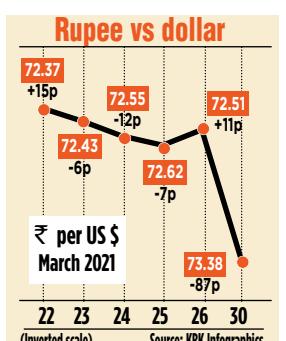
The rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 87 paise against the US dollar as the accelerating pace of Covid-19 vaccinations and massive fiscal stimulus package in the US stoked inflation concerns, causing a spike in US treasury yields. Global investors are moving towards safe-haven dollar, which dampened the appetite for Asian currencies, including the rupee. According to currency experts, the rupee is likely to further weaken and could touch 74 soon.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit

opened at 72.85 against the greenback. It weakened to an intraday low of 73.43, its lowest level since March 9, before finally closing at 73.38. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 72.51 against the dollar.

Oil prices rose as investors expect delays at the Suez Canal to persist despite the large container vessel was freed. Sriram Iyer, senior research analyst at Reliance Securities, said, "The US economy is on track because of the large fiscal stimulus of the government, which is supporting the dollar and hardening the yields, which in turn weighed on the rupee."

"Additionally, worries



Secondly, the month-end importer demand and reduced fiscal year-end exporter dollar selling also weighed on the local currency."

"Additionally, worries

over second wave of coronavirus infections in India have also waned risk appetite and kept investors away from the markets."

Technically, the USD-INR spot pair has given a strong breakout above a pivotal level at 73.00, indicating a strong upside momentum in the counter. Resistance is at 73.50-73.80 levels. INR spot could trade in a range of 73.20-73.70 levels in coming session.

Close to the end of financial year, currency traders may refrain from placing large bets on the rupee, given the lack of clear trajectory on the Indian currency in the truncated trading week.

## FY21 sees record mop-up of ₹1.89 L cr equity capital

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

Photo: Ravi Ranjan Prasad

Despite the entire financial year 2020-21 being overshadowed by the pandemic, Indian corporates managed to raise an all-time high amount of Rs 1,88,900 crore from public equity markets. This was more than double the amount of Rs 91,670 crore raised in 2019-20, according to data base provider Prime Database.

The previous highest amount raised in a financial year was Rs 1,75,680 crore in 2017-18.

"Strong retail participation in IPOs, huge listing gains and highest-ever amount raised through QIPs and InvITs/REITs were the key highlights of the year," Pranav Haldea, managing director, Prime Database Group, said.

Thirty main-board IPOs came to the market during the pandemic-ruined year, raising Rs 31,268 crore. This marked an increase of 54 per cent from the Rs 20,350 crore raised through 13 IPOs in 2019-20. The largest IPO in FY21 was from Gland Pharma, for Rs. 6,480 crore.

The overall response from the public to the mainboard IPOs of the year was very good; 18 IPOs received a mega response of more than 10

times while four IPOs were oversubscribed by more than three times and the balance eight IPOs were oversubscribed between 1 to 3 times.

The IPOs also received tremendous response from retail investors. The highest number of applications was received by Indigo Paints (25.88 lakh) followed by MTAR Technologies (25.87 lakh) and Mazagon Dock (23.56 lakh).

IPOs also saw strong list-

ing performance, led by Burger King (return of 131 per cent) Happiest Minds Technologies (123 per cent) and Indigo Paints (109 per cent).

The IPO pipeline remains strong with 18 companies holding Sebi approval, proposing to raise nearly Rs 18,000 crore and another 14 companies are awaiting the regulator's nod to raise nearly Rs 23,000 crore.

SME IPO activity declined in FY21 compared with FY20; there were only 28 SME IPOs, which collected a total of Rs 243 crore compared with 45 IPOs in FY20, collecting Rs 436 crore.

At the same time 31 companies mobilised Rs 78,731 crore through qualified institutional placement or QIPs, highest ever in a financial year.

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IPOs also saw strong list-

## ByteDance India bank a/cs frozen in tax case

ADITYA KALRA &  
ABHIRUP ROY  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

Indian authorities have blocked bank accounts of ByteDance in the country for alleged tax evasion and the company has asked a court to quash the directive which it fears will hit its operations hard, two sources with direct knowledge said.

ByteDance in January cut its India workforce after New Delhi decided to retain a ban on its popular video app TikTok, first prohibiting last year following a border clash between India and China.

ByteDance still has around 1,300 employees in India, most of whom serve its overseas operations.

In mid-March, two of ByteDance India's bank accounts in Citibank and HSBC were ordered blocked by authorities for alleged evasion of certain taxes in online advertising dealings between the ByteDance unit in India and its parent entity in Singapore, TikTok Pte Ltd, the two sources said.

Other than the two accounts, the authorities also directed Citibank and

HSBC to not allow ByteDance India to withdraw funds from any other bank accounts linked to its tax identification number, the first source said.

In a court filing which is due to be heard soon at the Mumbai High Court, ByteDance India has argued that while it had only about \$10 million in its accounts, the blocking decision was an abuse of the legal process and will make it hard for it to pay salaries and taxes, the source added.

Both the sources declined to be identified as the details of the bank freeze or company's court challenge were not public.

ByteDance India, as well as HSBC, Citibank and India's finance ministry, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The directive to freeze ByteDance India's bank accounts came after tax authorities last year inspected documents at the company's office, scrutinised documents and questioned some executives in relation to the advertising and other transactions with its parent entity, the first source said.

—Reuters

Photo: Ravi Ranjan Prasad

