HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 14 MARCH 2020



Min: 21.7°C **RH:** 47% Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 35/22ºC



Vikari; Uttarayanam Thithi: Phalguna Bahula Shasti till 4.26 am (next day) Star: Vishaka till 12.24 noon Varjyam: 4.14 pm to 5.47 pm Durmuhurtam: 6.28 am to 8.03 am Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am **HIJRI CALENDAR** Rajjab 18,1441 AH

Fajar: 5.25 am **Zohar:** 12.35 pm **Asar:** 4.45 pm Maghrib: 6.31 pm **Isha:** 7.39 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.24 AM MOONSET TOMORROW 9.16 AM **MOONRISE** TODAY 10.18 PM

IN BRIEF

Goyal mulls ban on ticket agents

New Delhi: Railway minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday that he is considering barring private vendors and agents from booking train tickets for passengers, noting they are no longer needed when tickets can booked by anyone on a mobile. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, he said those who need help in buying tickets can go to "common service centres" which are run by government. — PT

SPEAK OUT



Dear Readers, For next Speak Out, write to us about difficulties in getting admissions in schools, high fees and other challenges as parents to: DCSpeakOut@gmail.com

Exports see 1st rise in 7 months

New Delhi: India's exports rose for the first time in seven months in February growing by 2.91 per cent to \$27.6 billion, according to the commerce ministry data. Imports too grew by 2.48 per cent to \$37.5 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$9.85 billion as against \$9.7 billion in February 2019. — *PTI*





No foreign visits, no study tours... all ministers are confined to their chambers!

was on Friday released from a 32-week-long deten-

tion after the authorities

revoked an order issued by

Srinagar's deputy commissioner in last September

imprisoning him under the

Before being formally

National

detained under the PSA

Conference chief had spent

41 days in house arrest. He

and hundreds other J&K

82-year

Parliament.

WORLD 11

Greece's 1st woman president sworn-in



SPORTS 14 Sindhu bows out

of All England

TABLOID

If virus continues, better to call off IPL



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2nd Covid-19 death recorded in Delhi

Several states shut down schools, parks, gyms; SC will hear only urgent matters

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

India on Friday registered its second death related to Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), after a 68-year-old woman died in Delhi.

The woman had contacted infection from her son, who too has tested positive for Covid-19. Her son has a travel history to Switzerland and Italy between February 5 and 22. He initially was asymptomatic, but later developed fever and cough.

His entire family was also screened. Since his mother also had fever and cough, both son and mother were admitted. The lady later developed pneumonia and was shifted to intensive care unit where her sample also tested positive for Covid-19. The woman also had other comorbid conditions such as hypertension and diabetes.

The total number of deaths in India due to Covid-19 is now 2 while 81 positive cases have been reported till date.

Two more people — one each from Noida and Bengaluru — have been tested positive for coronavirus on Friday.

The virus-infected person from Noida works with a private firm in Noida. He had travelled to France and China. Around 700 employees of the private company he worked with have been asked to work from home.

The Covid-19 patient in Bengaluru works with Google India. The 26-yearsoftware engineer returned from Greece in the first week of March.

A total of 4,000 people who came in contact with 81 positive cases are under rigorous observation across the country, while 42,000

munity surveillance. In an attempt to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection, more Indian states have announced strong measures to enforce

'social distancing" Though the Union health ministry said there is no need to panic, Karnataka, Delhi, Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar and Puducherry have ordered closure of schools, colleges, cinema halls, gyms, swimming polls and even parks to prevent crowds

BCCI POSTPONES IPL MATCHES, **CALLS OFF 2 ODI**s

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

pervasive coronavirus has claimed a big wicket - it has knocked down cricket. Season 13 of the cash-rich IPL, scheduled to begin on March 29. has been suspended until April 15 while the two remaining One-Day Internationals in the series against South Africa have been called off.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India has decided to suspend IPL 2020 till 15th April, as a precautionary measure against the ongoing coronavirus situation," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in

a statement on Friday.
"First priority is safety...
nobody has a choice,"
BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said.

IPL franchise Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness felt the event Wadia should be shelved if it threatens public safety. "No human life is worth sacrificing for IPL which should not take place if the situation doesn't improve in two-three weeks," he said.

The states have also ordered the closure of malls, pubs, and many events have been cancelled.

The Supreme Court said it will hear only urgent matters and no persons except concerned lawyers will be allowed inside the courtrooms.

On Friday, the government also announced the der crossing points with neighbouring countries till April 15. Out of the 19 crossing points that will remain functional, four are with Nepal and two with Bhutan. India has invoked already Epidemic Disease Act to ensure health advisories are enforceable. The Act gives power to the state to detain a person and forcefully quarantine or put them on medication.

■ More reports on Page 8



A man wearing a facemask as a preventive measure against the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus waits inside a train at the Fort railway station in Colombo on

31 kin of 1st Covid victim are isolated

ATHER MOIN & B. ARAVINDA SHETTY HYDERABAD/BENGALURU, MARCH 13

The daughter and son-in-law of India's first coronavirus fatality, Qazi Muhammad Hussain Siddiqui, have been kept under surveillance as "high risk" in a special ward of the staterun ESIC Hospital in Kalaburgi, Karnataka.

They are among 21 persons kept in isolation. Of a total 46 persons Siddiqui came into contact with, 31 are family members whose blood samples were Institute of Virology (NIV) for the coronavirus test.

Coming under scrutiny was Siddiqui's travel history. According to his son, Dr Faisal Hamid Siddiqui, the deceased arrived from Saudi Arabia on February 29 after performing Umrah. After a few days, however, he felt uneasiness. His family took him to the family physician, but by midnight March 8, his cough worsened and

he was taken to hospital.

Dr Faisal claimed that
two private hospitals in
Kalaburgi refused to
admit him. A third did, but after doing a CT scan he was advised to shift to a hospital in Hyderabad.

The family says the patient was forcibly discharged; the hospital says they forcibly took him Dr Faisal also claimed

that doctors at both Gandhi hospital and Apollo Hospital were reluctant to admit him once they saw he had the coronavirus, so he was admitted to Care hospital (the family admits it did not tell doctors there that he might have the coronavirus). Once Care hospital realised he had the coronavirus. it discharged the patient, according to the family.

PM MODI REVIVES **SAARC FOR FIGHT AGAINST VIRUS**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

For four years, India shunned the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc). But on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi significantly proposed that "the leadership of Saarc nations chalk out a strong strategy to fight coronavirus", adding that "we could discuss, via video conferencing, ways to keep

our citizens healthy". Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka responded immediately with enthusiasm. New Delhi was monitoring what Islamabad's reaction would be, though some were cautious not to expect much from Saarc as a forum in the near future.

Saarc has been in cold storage since 2016 due to India-Pakistan tension; a Saarc summit hosted by Pakistan that year was cancelled after India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and

Bhutan pulled out. Mr Modi on Friday tweeted: "...Together, we can set an example to the world. and contribute to a healthier planet." In response, Nepal's PM KP Sharma Oli ready to work closely with Saarc member states to

tant endeavour.. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa tweeted: "Thank you for the great initiative Shri @narendramodi... Let's unite in solidarity during these trying times.

Parents want schools to shut

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Business in schools and colleges across Telangana, including the city of Hyderabad, is going on However, unhindered. after the state govern-ments of Karnataka, Delhi, Odisha and Maharashtra have announced partial shutdowns in their respecthe global epidemic coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, parents of school and college going students are demanding that the government wake up and take

similar steps here too. Achyutha Rao, a child rights' activist and honorary president of Balala Hakkula Sangham, on Friday demanded that the Telangana state government conduct examinations for all students as soon as possible and announce holidays thereafter. He also demanded that schools be disallowed from organising gatherings such as annual days as a precautionary mea-

Several parents said that they were wary of sending their children to school Some primary and pre-primary schools have already closed down for around 10 days after conducting

Madhavi, mother of an eight-year-old, who daugh ter is studying in a school in Himayatnagar, said, "I am not comfortable send ing my daughter to school after it reopens. If Karnataka could announce holidays for schools, so can and must the government

of Telangana.' Mallikarjun, a parent of a five-year-old studying in Banjara Hills, asked, "why should schools be taking such a big risk when entire countries are clos-

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CITY I.T. STAFFERS FACE FEVER TESTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

After the Karnataka death and the coronavirus scare in the city two weeks ago, IT comtemperature-screening staffers at work, sending several of them home to work remotely.

Report on Page 2

ing down? Is it not better to stay safe than feel sorry later? What is the disease strikes some children while at school — who will be responsible?"

Meanwhile, some representatives of teachers' organisations said that

ing for announcement of holidays. G. Sadanandam, Joint Action Committee of Organisation Teachers (JACTO), said, "we are, however, asking the government to see that ongoing SSC and intermediate exams be conducted with precautions. We don't want students to be crammed into crowded also be allowed to use face masks. Ch. Ravi of the Telang-

they are currently not call-

Federation (TSUTF) said that a complete shutdown of schools would affect children adversely. "Beca-use of RTC strike a few months ago and delay in opening of schools last summer due to high temperatures, studies have been affected severely. If there is a shutdown, it will cause a lot of problems to

ana State United Teachers

protect our citizens from this deadly disease. Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih said: "Thank you, PM @narendramodi for taking the initiative on this impor-

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | DC

Depositors of beleaguered

The government said six financial institutions—mostly private lenders—

and

cent at ₹500 crore. Apart from private banks investors Radhakishan Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and Azim Premji Trust will own three per cent each at an investment of ₹500 crore each, a source

close to the development

■ Full report on Page 12

Curbs at Yes Bank may go Mahindra Bank 3.4 per

NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

Yes Bank have a reason to cheer: The RBI may withdraw curbs on cash withdrawal within three working days of the central bank notifying the rescue plan, which got the Union Cabinet's approval

have teamed up with state-owned SBI to rescue the bank. They would infuse ₹11,750 crore capi-

tal into Yes Bank.
ICICI Bank and HDFC Ltd will own six per cent each at an investment of ₹1,000 crore each, Axis Bank 4.70 per cent at ₹600

Farooq set free after opp. protests

August 5 last year. Soon after his release, Mr Abdullah said that his 'free dom' was 'incomplete' until and unless all other politi cal prisoners are also released from detention.

"This freedom is incom plete... it will be complete when Omar, and Mehbooba ii (Mufti) and all others who are in prisons either in the state or outside it or (detained) in MLAs hostel and various other buildings or put under house arrest are also released." he said. 'I hope government of

India will take action soon

to release everyone if it

wants the people of the

state to live as free people.'



n ryograpaa. Benefits include cash discount, exchange bonus and benefits for government employees, whichever is applicable. Loan is at IV of engines shown are only for representational purposes. "Vehicle Registration of BSA variants to be completed on or before 31st March 2020 are Unlimited to the Complete of the State of the Complete of the Comple SABOO HYUNDAI TALWAR HYUNDAI

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Hi-tech City 90609 56789 90609 56789 Gachibowli 90609 56789

040-6681 1111 98850 77777, 92480 77777 99488 66620, 91000 85208 96660 22254, 91006 77714 99488 86620, 81068 99556 91006 77708, 80082 77436

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC Union Territories (UTs) on SRINAGAR, MARCH 13 Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah

stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). The Opposition parties had been protesting against his detention in National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah with his wife Mollie Abdullah (left) and daughter Safiya Abdullah (right) speaks to media in Srinagar on Friday after his detention

> politicians and activists after the Centre stripped the state of its special status and split it up into two detained by the authorities ahead or soon

under PSA was revoked by J&K administration.

■ Full report on Page 6



Gov. postpones public meetings

SHORT TAKES

Hyderabad: In view of the advisory issued by the ministry of health and family welfare on March 5, to avoid mass gatherings till the spread of Covid-19 is contained, all meetings of **Governor Tamilisai** Soundararajan which have mass gatherings have been postponed.

PJTSAU postpones convocation

Hyderabad: The Professor Jayshankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJT-SAU) has announced that it has postponed its convocation, which was scheduled to be held on March 18.

COVID TEST LAB AT GANDHI HOSPITAL SOON

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Confirmation tests for Covid-19 will be carried out in another laboratory in Gandhi Hospital which is being readied after which samples will not be sent to National Institute of Virology in Pune. The state wants all the tests

to be carried out in Telangana so that it is clear what the numbers are.

According to sources in the department, "The waiting time in NIV is longer as there are so many samples coming in every day. We are not getting results and the person is kept in self-isolation at home. To ensure that each confirmed case is tackled immediately, these steps are being taken

Another reason is the control over sharing of data as it is leading to severe panic in people and that is affecting social and economic life.

For this reason, the state wants to have a complete hold on the systems which will help them contain and also control

ONE MORE SUSPECTED CASE IN JAGTIAL

DC CORRESPONDENT JAGTIAL, MARCH 13

One more suspected case of Covid-19 infection was registered here in Jagtial district

A native of Lingapur village, Pegadapallimandal, arrived from Dubai 15 days ago to his native place. From the past few days, he has been suffering from severe fever and cold.

Suspecting that he has been infected with coronavirus he went to the government hospital on Friday.

In February, a person fromGopalaraopet arrived from Dubai. After test ing him, doctors detected symptoms of Corona viral infections and immediately shifted him to Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad for further test-

Meanwhile, the district administration became alert and kept a special vigil on persons arriving from foreign countries to their native places in the district and are conducting the medical tests on them.

The district collector, G.Ravi on Friday conducted a special review meeting with officials of various departments and ordered them to create awareness among the people about the precautionary steps to be taken for preventing the spread of Covid-19 virus.

As soon as people are found with symptoms of the coronavirus infection, they must visit nearby hospitals. About 14 beds are also arranged in a special ward established at the government hospital in the district headquarters for suspected patients, he said.

How Covid+ve man roamed free in Hyd?

The 76-year-old patient came from Karnataka and moved openly in different hospitals in Hyderabad

KANIZA GARARI | DC

At a time of heightened tension described by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as 'an epidemic... a global health emergency', when entire nations on the globe are shutting them-selves down into forced quarantines, the Telangana State government, led on this front by its health minister Etala Rajendar, officials of the health department, besides medical officers and hospitals staff owe the people of the state an answer to a simple question – how did they allow a 76-year-old patient of Coronavirus (Covid-19) move from Karnataka to Telangana, get admitted here and then leave on his

own. Most medical experts and panicky citizens are asking how this was possible, and if the officials even realize how badly this single case might prove in spreading the virus, as the man, along with his family, travelled back and forth between the two states after returning from Saudi Arabia, having all symp-toms; and yet never in isolation. And in his travels, he had opportunity to spread the virus to a score

or more others.
Travel history shows that the patient was admitted to a hospital in Bidar, Karnataka, where he developed acute respiratory syndrome (ARS). He was brought to Hyderabad, a city 146.3 kms away, and was moved between three different hospitals located in Jubliee Hills and Banjara Hills openly and freely. The patient spent 45 minutes in the emergency

room of Care Hospitals, in Banjara Hills. The patient was attended upon by the duty doctor on emergency, and other emergency ward paramedical staff.

According to sources, the duty doctor spoke to doctors in Bidar, who revealed that the symptoms of patients are those of severe breathlessness, which are similar to those

of Covid-19 virus.

The family of the patient was offered the isolation facility in Care Hospitals at Banjara Hills. But the family decided to take the patient back.

According to senior docthe family was advised to go to the Gandhi General Hospital, which also they refused. coordination between the government and other hospitals as a huge gap in tackling a



A woman with a baby in her arm wears a mask to protect herself from viral infection at the Gandhi Hospital on Friday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

viral epidemic like Covid is glaringly exposed here as the patient and family

just walked away.
Government officials have now been told the eight medical staff comprising of doctors, nurses and other staff in the emergency ward to selfisolate at home for 14 days, days after the patient died and was con-firmed as India's first Covid-related death.

Government medical and health department officials also visited the two other two hospitals to find out all those who must have contacted the patient when he went there. The ambulance in which the family travelled from hospital to hospital in Hyderabad was from

A senior doctor, a specialist in infectious diseases, on condition of anonymity, explained, "a severe respiratory dis-tress means there is more virus emitted from the body. Karnataka should

34 CONTACTS KEPT IN **ISOLATION**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

So far, 34 contacts who came in touch with the 76-year-old patient and his family who died on Tuesday have so been traced. All these contacts have been put under strict home isolation. There is staff from two other hospitals also which came in contact with them, which has now been asked to stay at home for 14 days.

The government of Telangana claimed that all contacts are stable and under active surveillance.

have taken strict note of an infected patient going away. What if this 76-yearold becomes a super

GOVERNMENT **OFFICIALS** from TS have visited the hospital twice and evaluated the condition of their staff who attended the patient.

spreader? The contact tracing will not be effective as there are two states involved and they will blame each other."

It is a lesson for all government health officials that when there are suspected cases, they must be properly followed and not allowed to go, the doctor said. With total number of Covid-19 positive cases touching 81 in the country, there is a possibility of second wave of spread from contact which is a worry. A senior doctor explained, "We have more cases but they are asymptomatic. We will only know them when symptoms emerge but till then they will keep passing the

Officials discuss preventive steps

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

officials Health Telangana State along with representatives of World Health Organisation (WHO) had a workshop on Covid-19 virus where the need to get samples from those who have come in contact with Covid-19 patients and a history of travel have to be taken were discussed.

The need was emphasised as there are too many people coming to Gandhi Hospital on suspicion that they may have the virus. With private hospitals also to be allowed to collect the samples, it was stressed that they must be properly

A senior health official explained, "It is important to define the criteria

government hospitals

government hospital.

by the state government.

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Fake news on Covid-19 is sparking panic in Hyderabad. This time it is

a rumour that a student at

Nizam College is infected

with the coronavirus The

Hyderabad cybercrime police who received a complaint about the fake

news have registered a

On Friday, fake news

was spread on social media, including

Facebook, that a student

from Nizam College is

case for investigation.

• THE NEED was

emphasised as there are too many people coming to the Gandhi Hospital on suspicion that they may have the Coronavirus. as the testing kits are expensive and they have to be used properly.

People are scared and those who have symptoms of cough and cold are rushing for testing."
Five suspected cases came to Gandhi Hospital

on Friday and the test results of 23 cases in Telangana are still awaited.
More than 117 people in

Telangana State are under home quarantine and there are 26 persons with symptoms and samples taken for testing who are in isolation at home.

GUIDELINES BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO STATES

Passengers who come to health centres in

history to Covid 19 countries must be

hypertension, diabetes and any other

kept in home isolation for 14 days.

segregated and sent for isolation in the

Moderate risk: Asymptomatic passenger coming from Covid-19 affectied country and

whose age is above 60 years suffering from

co-morbid condition must be kept in a dedicated quarantine facility and monitored

• Low risk: Asymptomatic passenger but travelled to Covid-19 affected country must be

Fake news of Covid

sparks panic in NC

infected with Covid-19.

The false news created panic among the students

which was brought to the notice of the college prin-

cipal. The principal got

the information verified

and it was later found that

some unidentified per-

sons have used the name

of a person who does not

study in the college and

tried to spread false infor-

mation with malicious

intent. Cybercrimes ACP of Hyderabad K.V.M. Prasad said, "A complaint

has been received about

• **High Risk category:** Fever, cough, shortness of breath, acute respiratory illness, travel

WORK REMOTELY, IT COMPANIES TELL TECHIES

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

After the Karnataka death and the Coronavirus scare in Hitec City two weeks ago, Hyderabad's companies are now tempera-ture-screening staffers at work, sending several of them home to work remotely.

An employee running a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit is directed to the company's medical centre and then sent home. While there were no directives asking them to work from home, many employees were contemplating it all the same.

A Dell employee working the night shift said, "When we walked in today, we were screened for our temperatures. We were told this will continue for a few weeks."

An employee of Google's Nanakramguda office said they were screened for their temperature for over a week. "Due to the nature of our work, my colleagues and I are required to physically be present in the office," she said. "But to prepare for a possible shutdown, we were asked to submit information such as internet speeds at our home, bandwidth and so on. There has also been a pilot run to see if working from home affects our work," she said.

Companies are continuing to cancel non-essential parties and get-togethers. They are liberally distributing hand sanitisers. A Cappemini employee said they were given free round-theclock access to a doctor. We have been told that we can go to the doctor in case we exhibit any flulike symptoms," he said.

The Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) general secretary, Krishna secretary, Krishna Yedula, said that meas-ures such as temperature screening have not been prescribed to any company. "These companies say they have received instructions to do so from their head offices. We have left it to their discretion.

Yedula said SCSC's coordination committee was set to meet on Saturday morning as part of its regular efforts to monitor the

situation.

"We will discuss the Bangalore situation," he said. "I don't think dayto-day operations will be affected in Hyderabad.'

INDIA 5TH NATION

TO ISOLATE COVID

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

VIRUS STRAIN

The strain of Covid 19 virus has been isolated by the Indian council of research's (ICMR) national institute of virology (NIV) making India the fifth country in the world to

isolate the strain.

The other countries that have isolated the virus are Japan, Thailand, United States of America and China. Isolation of the gene will help to check the

'key domain' of the virus and examine whether it is the same as in other countries. Since the virus has jumped across different

countries, it is important to check whether it has mutated in the last two months. A senior biologist explained, "The virus is very difficult to cultivate in the laboratory as it is a very complex mechanism.

The isolation will give an idea whether it is the same strain of virus in the other countries."

ICMR states that isolation is the first step towards expediting the development of drugs, vaccines and rapid diag-nostic kits in the country.

Poor quality masks, sanitisers flood markets intervention of the gov-

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, supply chain disruptions and the sud-den rise in Covid-19 patients in India, not only have prices of medical masks and hand sanitisers shot up, the domestic market is now flooded with sub-standard and lowquality products as some retailers and unorganised mask manufacturers are cashing in on the virus

There are unethical forces at work playing with the market and creating artificial shortages and thus giving a bad name to many sincere manufacturers, some of

Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) with their concerns on the falling standards of quality and safety.

The sudden mushrooming of unorganised manufacturers like a 'cottage leading to industry' extreme hikes in pricing, low quality products, shortages, and reports of profiteering. Many ethical distributors and re-sellers have discontinued selling masks and sanitisers as they do not wish to be labelled unethical and exploitative.

Concerned with the huge surge in prices over recent weeks, AiMeD, representing the interests of over 700 medical device manuare contacting facturers, has sought the

ernment's drug prices regulator, the national pharmaceutical authority (NPPA), in capping prices and ensuring quality, as the ramifications on consumers, health workers and indus-

try are adverse.

"We have written to the union health ministry about the complaints we have received on the hoarding of medical devices and basic protective equipment, including masks and gloves and hand sanitisers by distributors and traders. We have requested the government to monitor the situation and take stringent action against wrongdoers," said Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator, AiMeD



People protect themselves by wearing masks at the Gandhi Hospital on Friday.

Thermal screening in 3 more AP airports soon sengers are being subjected thermal screening at domes-

DC CORRESPONDENT IJAYAWADA, MARCH 13

The Andhra Pradesh government announced on Friday that it is proposing to establish additional thermal screening facilities to screen air passengers for Coronavirus (Covid-19) at both the international and domestic airports located at Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajahmundry and Kadapa

in the state soon. With the spread of Covid-19 directly linked to air passengers returning home after visiting affected foreign nations, all such pas-

to thermal screening at international across the country. Those suspected of being affected are then sent for home isolation based on symptoms they exhibit. The Andhra Pradesh gov-

ernment recently asked the officials of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to keep a check on air passengers from affected nations travelling in domestic aircraft too in order to reach their hometowns and villages by traveling in domestic flights as a precautionary

In a case at the Vijayawada international airport, a male passenger from male passenger from Germany landed in New Delhi on a flight, and subsequently traveled to

. Vijayawada airport on a domestic flight, which landed in the late hours on March 12. As he was suffering from mild cold and cough, he was advised to undergo home isolation and put under observation for a period of 28 days by local health authorities.

To avoid the risk of spread of Covid-19, the state gov-ernment had decided to request the AAI to set up

tic airports, and accordingly, AAI authorities are making arrangements for it.

Vijayawada airport director G. Madhusudhana Rao said, "the AP state government asked us to find out the possibility of setting up of thermal screening of domestic air passengers arriving at Vijayawada airport. We are working on it as a precautionary measure to avoid the risk of spread of Covid-19."

AAI authorities maintain that they are ready to set up thermal screening facility at various domestic / interna-

tional airports in the state by providing requisite space the state government comes forward by providing necessary equipment and manpower for taking up

screening. Vijayawada and Tirupati airports are deemed international airports, no international flights currently operate from or to these destinations.

Authorities say that once thermal screening is set up, it would helps screen all passengers irrespective of origin of their arrival, whether from another nation or from within the country.

Covid-19 patient cured, discharged hospitals under surveil-

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

The patient who tested positive for Covid-19 and was kept in the isolation unit of Gandhi Medical College and Hospital is now cured.

His two test samples have been reported negative and the Gandhi hospital has discharged him late on Friday night, according to sources.

Due to the constant media glare and also the

lance even senior health officials of the Telangana State are visiting different hospitals in the city late at night. This is because there

are too many of them whom they find are tracking them with cameras and this has made it difficult for them to carry out their work.

For this reason, some of them have decided to carry out works late at



DON'T NEGLECT HEALTH, SAYS GOVERNOR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Friday regretted that despite awareness among people and availability of advanced technology, the country is facing many challenges because of increasing non-commu-

nicable and lifestyle diseases. Inaugurating the 42nd conference of the Indian Cooperative Oncology Network (ICON), she said, "Unfortunately we tend to ignore our health we will be a surviving the said of t health as well as warning signs, assuming that nothing will happen to us. When a small lump or unusual bleed-ing is allowed to fester, it has the ability to spread. A potentially curable disease quickly becomes difficult to treat or even turns incurable. This is the big health care problem facing us today," she stated. Tamilisai Soundararajan

appreciated the theme of ICON conference — Patient Centric Approach, which, she said, is exactly what the union government is propagating. She pointed out that under Ayushman Bharath and similar state government schemes, patients are getting up to ₹5 lakh worth of free treatment. This covers the cost of most sophisticated radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Thus, most citizens are able to fight against cancer without spending a single paisa from their pockets.

The Governor underlined the importance of empowering family physicians, doctors at primary health care centres and others in picking up early signs of cancer. Use hub-andspoke model to make cancer centres accessible at the district level, she stated.

GHATKESAR, MOULA ALI GET FOUR-LINE RAIL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

In a major development, the South Central Railway (SCR) had completed and commis-sioned quadrupling (having four railway lines) between Moula Ali and Ghatkesar. The 12.2-km-long addition to the existing double line was built as part of the MMTS Phase-II project at a cost of ₹200 crore. The new electrified double line also has automatic signalling. As part of quadrupling, two additional platforms each have been constructed at Charlapalli and Ghatkesar stations.

An SCR official said the proi ect assumes importance since it the first quadrupled electrified automatic signalling section in the zone. The Moula Ali-Ghatkesar section is considered an important line since it connects Secunderabad, Kazipet, Nadikude (Guntur) and Sanathnagar. The new development is expected to ease congestion in this section. Since this section is fully automatic, more number of trains can be operated as compared to those with conventional signalling systems. Once completed, the MMTS Phase 2 is expected to provide direct rail connectivity to residents of eastern parts of the twin cities.

The new development is expected to ease congestion in this section. Since this section is fully automatic, more number of trains can be operated as compared to those with conventional signalling systems

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Around six years back,

when Yes Bank entered the

car finance segment in Telangana, it did so with a

bang as the bank was financing anywhere betw-

een 500 to 600 cars per month, worth around ₹65

The volume of business,

more or less, remained the

same until eight months

back, when, staring at a cri-

sis, the bank slowed down

and the number of cars was

down to less than 300 cars

per month. It was not just

cars in premium and small

segments but the crisis-hit

Yes Bank was also financ-

ing super bikes like Harley Davidson and Triumph,

Now, following the crisis,

among others.

Hyd to host global aviation summit

KTR says TS will have six more airports; GMR may run Warangal airport like Bidar

DC CORRESPONDENT

IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday said the state government is planning to re-activate old airports, create greenfield air-ports and establish a chain of heliports to connect the remote parts of Telangana.

Speaking at Wings India, the biennial air show, the minister said, "We have proposed three greenfield airports and

revival of three brownfield Airports in Telangana."

The greenfield airports would come up at Bhadradri-Kothagudem, Jakaranpally, Nizamabad and Gudibanda village, Adakkal Mandal, in Mahabubnagar district, while old airports Mamnoor village, Warangal Urban district, Basanthnagar, Peddapally district and Adilabad district would be revived.

He said the state government has appointed the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as a consultant for preparing techno-feasibility studies for existing airstrips (brownfield) and feasibility studies for the greenfield airports.

"We are actively working with various stakeholders to make the Warangal airport functional. With the blessings of ministry of civil aviation. all stakeholders have agreed to work together to operationalise Warangal airport soon with an operating model similar to Bidar airport model," Mr Rama Rao said.

As Warangal is less than 150 km from Hyderabad, it falls



IT minister K.T. Rama Rao (second from left in foreground) and Ficci president Sangita Reddy (second from right in foreground undergo temperature screening at the entry point of Wings India 2020 at Begumpet airport on Friday. - Deepak Deshpande

sion zone of Hyderabad International Airport and gives the first right of refusal to the Hyderabad airport operator GMR Infrastructure.

Since Bidar in Karnataka is also less than 150 km from Hyderabad airport, GMR Group was allowed to operate the airport. If the Bidar

model was followed for the Warangal airport as suggested by the minister, the GMR Group would be operating it.

The government has already

begun the process to acquire land for the Warangal airport. He also thanked the civil aviation ministry for allowGlobal Aviation Summit, which used to be organised in Mumbai. According to Ficci, the

Global Aviation Summit aims to provide a platform to the stakeholders to brainstorm over the future of aviation industry and identify the growth areas. Wings India is a B2B aviation exhibition and conference.

Wings India and the Global Aviation Summit will give us the opportunity to showcase our state and capital city to the aviation industry, as the most vibrant ecosystem in India for aviation and aero-

Mercury fluctuates across Hyd

HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Overall the city might be sweltering, but as it turns out the city has developed its own climate zones. The Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) records have shown a spike in the temperatures in a few areas and a dip in the temperature in other areas.

Over the last 24 hours, areas like Patancheru, Saroornagar and Shaikpet have registered higher temperatures above 34 degrees Celsius. While places like Khilwath, Pedda Amberpet Hanuman Temple and MCRHRD IT Campus, recorded temperatures below 31 degrees Celsius.
"The difference in the climate is

sud-**AREA** TEMP. den green- Patancheruvu 34° and sprucing Saroornagar 34.2° Yousufguda particular Khairatabad 33.8° areas. These are-

Moosapet as are gen- Santoshnagar 34^o erally coo-Shaikpet ler as the Qutubullapur 34.3° the green-

• Gajularamaram 34º cover saps away most heat,"M. Vedakumar, of the Forum for Better Hyderabad, told Deccan

Adding that it was not just greencover that was causing the temperature fluctuation, but in some areas there is extensive use of vehicles which is adding more green-house-

Chronicle.

gases to the environment.
"These gases form a blanket in the atmosphere, which radiates the heat back to the earth, thus heating it up. If vehicles are not allowed, or at least have their pollution levels checked maybe then the temperatures could decline in these areas,' said Mahesh Palawat, chief meteorologist, Skymet (a private weather

After 5 years, govt asks GHMC to build FoBs in metro corridors

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

After wasting five years, the state government has once again asked the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to take up the construction of Foot overbridges (FoBs) in the

Out of 52 FoBs proposed, 38 were found to be feasible which are mostly in the metro corridors. where pedestrians can cross the road taking elevators, escalators and steps at the metro sta-

However, a similar prooosal made earlier was outrightly rejected by both GHMC and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) since FoB projure across the globe. The nodal agencies said that they cannot construct FoBs in metro corridors when there is road crossover at every 1 km

However, the govern-ment released an order on February 28 asking the GHMC to take up the project but not by the projects wing. The maintenance wing of the corporation will execute the project at an estimated cost of ₹83 crore at 38 Though metro stations

which would act as FoBs were existing at Dilsukhnagar bus stop, Kothapet fruit market, Hyderabad Central (Panjagutta), Gandhi Hospital, St Ann's

and near Allwyn X Roads (Miyapur), the corporation has decided to shell out over ₹10 crore of public money and build FoBs at these locations.

Reacting to the illogical proposal, a senior GHMC official, requesting anonymity, said, that the official. civic body would adhere to the instructions given the government even at the cost of public money. Officials even claimed that they have a deadline of two months for the private agencies through the

Highly placed sources the corporation said that since 2012, tenders have been invited at least 50 times but the prischool (Secunderabad), vate agencies expressed ESI hospital (Erragadda) displeasure over the

amounts earmarked and designs proposed. FoBs can be a reality only with strong political will and better co-ordination with all line departments.

Later, the government even handed over the FoBs project to HMDA, in 2017. Citing a lukewarm response from bidders, the HMDA has again handed over the project to GHMC during June The government has as-

ked HMDA to construct eight skywalks at differlocations in the city. However, two agencies showed up till now for which the designs been already finalised. Despite getting a nod from the governyet to see the light of the

JNTU student dies in road accident

CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH

An engineering student of JNTU died in a road accident while he was on his way to offer morning prayers at KPHB on Friday. The biker lost control of the vehicle and fell on the road.

According to the KPHB police, Mun-eeb Basheer, a mechanical engineering student was staying at Kinnera boy's hostel in the campus.

At around 6 am on

booked a rental bike online to attend morning prayers at a nearby mosque.
As the biker was

not wearing a hel-met, he suffered a critical injury to his head, face and other body parts

too.

He was rushed to
Prathima Hospital
for treatment, where he succumbed in the noon hours, said the police.

A case has been registered for the probe, and the body was shifted to Gandhi Hospital mortuary for a post-mortem examination.



red Hai and Umrah tour operators that he would present their plea for GST exemption at the GST council meeting that is scheduled to be held on Saturday.

accepting their

ments, including cheques

and car release orders, for

loans. This has led to a

chaotic situation for hun-

dreds of people, who had their vehicles financed by

Yes Bank, especially those who had only one bank

account (with Yes bank).

They are now forced to run

around other banks, open

new accounts and plead

them to issue cheques in

bulk so that they, in turn,

could issue them to car and

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, some of top exec-

utives in the banking sector

said that Yes Bank stood at

sixth position among pri-

vate banks in car and two-

wheeler finance in Telangana after HDFC, Axis, ICICI and Kotak

Deccan

two-wheeler dealers.



where it would be reviewed by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

In the representation, association president Mohammed Abdul Raz-

Vehicle dealers 'skid' on Yes Bank cheques

representation, Mohammed Abdul Razzak requested that all Haj, Umrah pilgrims visiting Saudi Arabia be exempted from paying GST

zak requested that all Haj, Umrah pilgrims visiting Saudi Arabia be exempted from paying GST. Razzak pointed out that various Haj and Umrah associations have approached the Supreme Court in this regard. The court has directed the

tion within 90 days.

The associations have requested for exemption under the negative list clause 5 (b), which says "any service provided by way of conducting religious ceremonies" may be exempted from paying GST.

The final decision on GST exemption is likely to be taken during the CBIC meeting on Satur-day. General secretary Mohammed Siraj Khan, Mir Adil and Shaik Mahmood were also part of the delegation that met the minister.

Govt to consider Haj GST waiver

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Finance minister T. Harish Rao on Friday assu-

A delegation of tour operators under the Haj Úmrah Group Organisers' Association of Telangana, led by Telan-gana Haj committee chairman Masiullah met the TS finance minister and requested him to

present their case before the GST council meeting,

 The Yes Bank crisis has had a cascading effect on several businesses in Hyderabad. Many businessmen have been complaining that their payments have been abruptly stopped as their clients had accounts in Yes Bank. The cycle of payment has completely stopped and payments have been deferred as our clients say that their money is stuck in Yes Bank. We are now finding it difficult to run day-to-day business as our

was cut down drastically in the last four months. "During the last eight

months, on an average, they were doing a business of about ₹30 crore in Telangana alone. In Andhra Pradesh, it was around ₹10 crore," they said adding that in the car finance segment, Yes Bank enjoyed good business until 2018. As for other banks, they

have a reason to smile, as they would now get to fill the gap in the car and twowheeler finance segment. However, the situation

remains one of turmoil to individuals whose vehicles have been financed by Yes Bank.
"We have stopped accepting all the instruments of

impediment for the customers," said Vinay Saboo, Chairman and Managing Director of RKS Motors in Hyderabad. He said that all banks play an important role in retail financing. "But the automobile industry has not been

been asked to replace those

cheques with those from

other banks. It is a big

impacted as such by the Yes Bank crisis," Saboo said. 'My car was financed

by Yes Bank and I gave post-dated cheques to the dealer last year. Now, I am forced to open a new bank account and it takes time relationship before a relationship with the bank is established. Moreover, banks do not give cheques in bulk soon after one opens an account. This has become a hassle," said Raghavendra Reddy, who is into garment







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automobile dealers across the state have stopped ing, the amount of money

But with the crisis mount-

payments have been stopped," said Ajay Agarwal, who is into kraft paper business

Yes Bank. Customers, who financed by Yes Bank, have

IN BRIEF

Man murdered by drunk friend

Hyderabad: A 35-year-old man was murdered by his friend at Ameerpet on Thursday night. The SR Nagar police registered a case and are searching for the accused who is currently absconding. According to the SR Nagar police, Mohsin, a rag picker and daily wager along with his Abu alias Ghori, was consuming liquor on a footpath near Lal Bungalow in Ameerpet area at around 11 pm. The duo had a quarrel following which Abu slit Mohsin's throat with a blade. Mohsin died on the spot. A case of murder was registered and search is on to nab the accused, said the police.

729 BOOKED FOR WRONG SIDE DRIVING IN A DAY

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

In a day, 729 drivers have been slapped with challans for wrong side driving on the city

roads by the traffic police.
On Thursday morning, Hyde rabad City Police Commissionrabad City Folice confinission-er Anjani Kumar posted on his Twitter handle, "Many road accidents take place because of wrong side driving, help us to make Hyderabad roads safer for your family. Avoid wrong side driving. Yesterday traffic police caught 729 drivers driv ing on the wrong side. Let us join hands to develop culture of law abiding citizens in Hyderabad.

For tens of thousands of road users in the city, taking an illegal turn in the middle of the road and then driving on the wrong side of the carriage way against the traffic flow, in eff ect taking a 'shortcut' to where they want to go on the other side of the road, has become a daily affair despite the possibility of being caught by the pol ice for violating road rules. According to the traffic police, as many as 26,505 such violations

driving on the wrong side have been recorded between January 1 and February 25 this year in the city. The Motor Vehicle Act lists driving on the wrong side under Section 119/177 of the Act. The offence according to the Hyderabad Traffic Police, attracts a fine of ₹1,100 for every such violation.

Driving on the wrong side of the road is dangerous to those indulging in this act. They also put safety of those following traffic rules and driving on the 'right side' of the road at risk.

a traffic police official said. In 2018, the number of people caught driving on the wrong side was 1,27,955, a figure that shot up the next year apparent acts of brazen violations of traffic rules witnessed a significant jump in 2019 with the police registering as many as 2.07.379 such cases that year "We keep conducting traffic awareness programmes but the number of violators only seems to be growing," an offici al said. Last year, the city witnessed 271 fatalities in road accidents of various types from among 2,493 people who were injured in the accidents. Twowheelers topped the type of vehicles involved in accidents at 951, followed by cars at 817 and three-wheelers at 237, according to the traffic police data. While seven people died while driving on the wrong side of the road in the city in 2018, the number came down to five in 2019.

While cases of people driving on the wrong side are common across the city, it is particularly high in some locations, such as near Gandhi Bhayan in Na mpally, Sultan Bazar, Afzalgu nj, Old MLA Quarters, Kachiguda, and Abids. "We see a large number of two and three-wheelers taking a wrong turn to drive against the traffic flow, a traffic police official said The common response we get from those we catch, is that the road dividers run for too long and they prefer to take a quick turn to get to where they want. even if it means violating the rules," the official added.

Heart doc found dead

Parents blame 'depression'; cops recover no note

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

32-year-old doctor working at a private hospital in the city was found dead in suspicious conditions at his home in Petbasheerabad on Friday. Dr D. Subash was living with his parents in the city after he got separated from his wife. According to Petbasheerabad police, the dec-

eased, 32, a resident of

Padmavathi Homes in

Quthbullapur area, was a native of Ramakrishnapur in Mancherial district.

He has been working as a cardiologist with Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad.

In October 2017, Submarried Nithya, who is also a doctor at Aryansamaj, after being in love for some time. However, after a few days Nithya went back to her parents saying that after convincing

her parents she will return but she did not. On Thursday evening, Subash went home from the hospital. On Friday, at around 6 am, when his mother Mallamma tried to wake him up, he did not respond. He was immediately taken to a hospital

the police. Petbasheerabad inspector M. Mahesh said

Suchitra, where the doc-

tors examined and declared him dead, said

that the police did not

recover any note or any other material to conthat Dr Subash committed suicide, and no external injuries were identified on his body. "His parents suspect that he would have died of depression. Only after receiving an autopsy report from forensic doctors, the reason for the death can be found," said the inspector, adding that a case of suspicious death was registered.



A bus coming from Mumbai to Hyderabad caught fire at Patancheru in Sangareddy district on Friday.

Pvt bus catches fire, alert driver saves 26 passengers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

As many as 25 passengers travelling in a private bus had a narrow escape when the bus caught fire at Patan-cheru in Sangareddy district on Friday morn The driver who noticed the blaze parked the bus by the side of the road and asked the passengers to get down, said the RC Puram police.

According to the police, the AC sleeper bus belonging to Orange Travels was coming to

• THE BUS DRIVER said, "Some electrical issue is suspected to be the cause of the fire."

Hyderahad from Mum-At around 6.30 nm the bus reached the RC Puram area, where the driver, B. Anil Reddy, dropped off a passenger and was about to travel further into the city.

Within no time, Anil noticed smoke emitting from the engine and he stopped the bus near a petrol pump on the road noticing smoke. Luckily, at Nagulamma temple. The driver and the as soon as the passengers got down, the bus caught fire and was gutcleaner immediately alerted the passengers ted in no time.' evacuated them from the rear emergency

The bus driver said, "Some electrical issue is suspected to be the cause of the fire.

RC Puram sub-in tor Koteshwar Rao said that the timely response of the driver saved the lives of the passengers. It is suspected that a short circuit could be the reason for the fire. A case has been registered and is being investigated." he said.

In two weeks, SHE teams rein in 46 'Road Romeos'

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

As many as 46 eve teasers have been apprehended so far in the month of March by the SHE teams Rachakonda.

Of the apprehended, 27 were majors and 19 were minors. A few of the apprehended were made to attend counselling sessions along with their family members.

The sessions were conducted by Rachakonda SHE teams, at the Commissioner Camp office, Nagole, LB Nagar, and they were counselled by the professional counsellors from the Bhumika Women's Coll-

Minors who come in conflict with the law will also be counselled by a professional psychiatrist to bring a change in their behaviour.

According to the police, many of the registered cases were of sexual harassment in the name of offering a job and stalking women in the name of love. Both the cases were

undertaken by the complaint lodged by their individually. Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat ordered the initiative of conducting programmes that include necessary processes to bring about change among the apprehended. rriages in rural areas.

The SHE teams also conducted a DECOY operation at Ibrahimpatnam bus stand wherein they apprehended three minor boys, who were passing lewd comments at a bus stand.

door. The bus then went

up in flames. Anil

in turn alerted the fire

brigade, and the fire was

Sruthi, a passenger who was on the bus said,

'We were a group of

three who were coming

from Mumbai and going

to Hyderabad. The driv-

er advised us soon after

put off, said the police.

the police who

informed

The boys were absent from their classes in college. They were counselled in the presence of their parents.

The teams also stopped around 73 child marriages after reaching the spots at the right time and rescued the minors. They are also attempting to make the public understand the problems of child marriage and talked about alarming increase in child ma-

COPS RESCUE WOMAN TRYING TO END LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Quick action by Kandukur police helped re-scue a 35-year-old woman who was trying to commit suicide by hanging herself.

According to police, Sanjeeva, married in 2016, was upset because of marital discord. She locked herself up in her room threatening to commit suicide.

She called up her brother-in-law Venkatesh saying she wanted to end her life. Venkatesh dialled 100 and alerted the police. Police rushed to the spot, broke open the doors and rescued Sanjeeva.

MAN DUPES PEOPLE FOR MONEY, NABBED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

A 25-year-old man from AP, who duped several men by collecting money through sex video chats by impersonating as a woman, was arrested by the Hyderabad cybercrime police on Friday. The accused was using the pictures of anonymous women downloaded through social media platforms and used them to cheat people, said the police.

According to the cybercrime police, the accused Vennala Venkatesh, 25, is a native of Vizianagaram. With an intent to make easy money, he created fake profiles of girls and women by downloading their pictures through social media accounts



neral Service - Centenary Methodist Church Chapel Road, on 14-03-2020 at 10:30 am



DoD: 14-03-1980 Your life is an inspiration to us, filled with your memories, we seek your blessings. ons: Smt&Sri Kanukula Krishna Reddy

Smt&Sri Kanukula Janardhan Reddy Ex-MLC, Telangana Corgress Sevadal Chairman All India Congress Sevadal Chairman,

AICC MEMBER & Kanukula Family Members



SUSAMMA MATHEW DOB: 02-04-1952 DOD: 14-03-2019 Those we love don't go away, they wall beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

serted by : Family Members Ph:9885506972 / 996623834



Late SANJAY SURENDER S/o Raj Kumar Ve love you and miss you. embering you in silent tears

Inserted by: Dad, Mom, Brothers, Sisters-in-law, Nephew & Niece



Sow. ANURADHA NARENDRAJI TANDLE DOB: 07-03-1941 DOD: 14-03-2012 Inserted by: Dr. Vijay Kumar Tandle (Sor Dr. Mrs. P.V. Tandle (Daughter-in-law) Miss. Swetha Tandle (Grand Daughter Dr. Sankalp Tandle (Grand Son)



14-2-1938 - 14-03-2007 Founder of Covells High School,

Sanathnagar, Hyderabad-18.

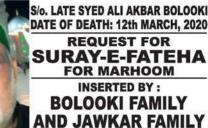
Family Members & Covellites

Mrs. R.E. WILSON (Pramila)

Your Loving Children

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJEWOON SAD DEMISE

LATE SYED HUSSAIN BOLOOKI



9866236161

9th DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE (DINALUU)

SAD DEMISE

U. GIRIJA RAO

(Wife of Late Dr. U. Brahmaji Rao) Left us on 12th March, 2020

loving Wife, Mother and Grandmoth

raghu.rao1012@gmail.com

MEMORIAL SERVICE

SAD DEMISE

S/o R. Johnson lemorial Service at Centenar

Inserted by: Mother, Wife & Children

G. NARAYANA RAO

G. NARAYANA HAU
DOB: 03.01.1937 DOD: 24.03.2019
Ex-Indian Army & Ex-Air India
"Always loved, never forgotten, forever missed"
1st Death Anniversary will be held
on 14.03.2020 LALITHA NAGAR, WMARREDPALLY, SECUNDERABAD.

LUNCH: 12:30 P.M Inserted by: Wife - Sarada Sons: Ravindra, Girish, Sirish Daughters-in-law & Grand Childrer Mr. BASANI INNA REDDY
DOB: 19-09-1945
DOD: 06-03-2020
"Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the
life; He that believeth in me, though he
were dead, yet shall he time" John 11:25
"A day never passed without your memory
you live in our hearts forever"
"May his soul rest in peace."
On Saturday 14th March 2020. Holy Spirit
Church, Mass @ 10 a.m. in Reddypalem
Village, Chintalcheru.
With Love & Affection: Wife: Mrs. Basani
Rojamma from all Family members,
Sons, Daughters, Grand Children &
Near & Dear ones.
Contact: 9705108026, 9000020022

OBITUARY



Dr. KIRON BOLLAPALLI S/o Late Rajmohan & Late Usha Devi Born: 29-07-1969 Died: 13-03-2020 Burial Today 14-03-2020 at 11 am t The Pentecostal Mission Church Burial Ground, Trimulgherry, Bowenpally.



W/o (Late) Mr. Harry Anthic Born: 14 March 1937 Died: 24 March 2019 HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUMMY!

WE MISS YOU Memorial Mass: St. Anthony's Shrine, New Mettuguda, 6 PM Inserted by: Family Members



Mrs. G. SUNITHA ISAAC W/o Mr Maddirala Isaac We all love you and remember you ever day and you always live in our hearts."

Inserted by: Husband: Mr. M. Isaac

lthough we love you dearly we could

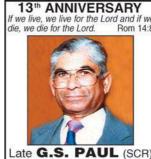
7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Son: Mr. M. Nehemiah Abhishek (Near & Dear) Ph: 9866011310, 9618021915

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY 10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

ot make you stay A golden heart stopped beating, you hard working hands put to rest God broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best Pran Takyar"
Fondly remembered by Wife: Mrs. Alka Takyar
Son: Bobby Takyar Aka (Prem)
Panelcoss Linkers
Ph: 9811718658 Late D.B. ARVIND KUMAR You will always be in our hearts.

Dumpala Family Members Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand Sons & Grand Daughters.



Lay Pastor & Founder
Methodist Church, Begumpet
One of the Founder Methodist
Church, Sanathnagar
B: 20-5-1926 DOD: 14-3-2007 DOB: 20-5-1926 G. Stephen Paul & Family Ph: 8106061868 / 9908815080

20th ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. PETRO LILA PRAMILA Aug 10, 1940 - March 14, 2000 It's her guiding spirit that has been will always be the source

20th Death Anniversary

Sri TAILAM LAKSHMINARAYANA

Inserted by: Nani, Bobby & Madhu Ph: 9849041245/ 9848282569

Ramakrishna Rao Chutke DOD: 14-03-2000 Our Life with you was a blessing. Memories of you now the treasure

Loads of love: Ashish Chutke, Pallavi Chutke, Tanush Chutke, Namish Chutke, Dinesh Chutke, Archana Chutke, Maanvi Chutke, Dhruv Chutke, Yashwanthi Sonney, Lovin Sonney, Ph: 7780567551; 9948728826

We miss you Baba.

Hate speech: Case against Pathan DC CORRESPONDENT of ex-MLA Waris Patce between the Hindu and Balkishan alleged that

HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

The Moghalpura police of Hyderabad registered a case against AIMIM ex-MLA Waris Pathan and BJP leader Kapil Mishra, for allegedly making hate speeches, and also on Hyderabad MP and AIMIM party president Asaduddin Owaisi, for allegedly instigating his party leader to

make hate speech. Balkishan Rao Namdhari, 55, president of SC/ST All india Majlis-e-Inquilabe-Milat (Inquilab) political party, and resident of Bahadurpura moved the Nampally Court seeking against the trio in for the hate speech incidents. In his petition with the

Court, Balkishan mentio-

ned that he has gone thr-

ough the news and videos

han, where he was seen repeating the hate speech in the presence of his party president.

The complainant stated that in an anti-CAA rally held at Kalaburagi in Karnataka, Waris delivered hate speech and MP Asaduddin has instigated him. "The speech is provocative and can cause communal clashes and violen-

Muslim community," said Balkishan to the court. Further, he also men-

tioned the BJP leader Kapil Mishra of Delhi, alleging instigation of violence by delivering hate speech and instigating people of a community to take law in hands, due to which more than 30 people lost their lives in commu-

Mishra led a gathering at the Jafarabad area after which violence erupted between pro-CAA and anti-CAA group which led to the communal violence due to which innocent people lost their lives. Following his petition,

the local court directed the Moghalpura police to register a case against leaders for the investigation.

Congress faults

power tariff hike

Hyderabad: Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and TPCC treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy have condemned the announcement by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao that

electricity tariff and property taxes will go up in the state. They said people of the state have already been hit by rising inflation and ever

increasing fuel prices. The economic slowdown has led to job losses and reduction in income of people. While this is so, Telangana is among the states, which is levying high taxes and surcharges on fuel. The Congress leaders demanded that the TRS government

review its decision and adopt a realistic approach towards achieving growth without putting additional burden on the common man They said the state's finances have been haphazard under the Chandrashekhar Rao government right from the beginning. There is a huge mismatch between the budget estimates and actual

CRPF JAWAN TRIES TO END LIFE OVER LEAVE

revenues. Consequently, it

borrowed loans indiscrimi-

state into huge debts, they

nately, pushing the entire

pointed out.

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, MARCH 13

Alleging that his higher officials were not sanctioning him leave, a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) constable M. Mahesh climbed an overhead water tank threatening to commit suicide at Shanigaram village of Kamalapur mandal in Warangal Urban district on

His family members and villagers pleaded with him to come down and assured him that they would help him but to no avail. Local police reached the spot and convinced Mahesh to climb down. Police promised to speak to his higher officials for getting his leave sanc-

Kamalapur inspector D. Ravi Raj said that the CISF constable was depressed as his leave was not being sanctioned. He was in an inebriated condition when they got him down from the tank and took him into custody. Mahesh is currently discharging duties at Dantewada. He said that this is the second time he came to his native village without informing his higher officials. The CISF officials also filed a missing case at the local police station.

- Kamalapur inspector D. Ravi Raj said that the CISF constable was depressed as his leave was not being sanc-
- tioned. Mahesh is currently discharging duties at Dantewada.
- He said that this is the second time he came to his native village without informing his higher offi-

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

There are ominous indica-

tions that Telugu Desam

(TD) chief N. Chandrababu

Naidu could lose the Leader

of the Opposition status in

the Legislative Assembly.
The final nail will be

Power tariffs in TS to be hiked

KCR says property taxes will also be hiked

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Minister Chandrasekhar announced in the State Legislative Assembly on Friday that power tariffs and property taxes in the state will be going up.
Speaking during a

short discussion on "Palle Pragathi", he maintained that the hike is necessary to provide better services to people and develop villages and

Urging people to bear the hike for sake of development, the chief minister said it will be ensured that people from underprivileged sections are not burdened because of these hikes.

Making it clear that the TRS government does not want to keep people in the dark and make false promises, the CM said, "We need to increase taxes to provide bet-

ter governance and serv-

ices to people. We do not

want to keep people in the dark with regard to

hike in power tariff and property taxes. Reiterating that power tariff will not be hiked • The Chief Minister said taxes must be increased to provide better governance and services to people

for underprivileged sections like Dalits and tribal people, Mr Rao said "Tax hikes will be imposed on only those who can afford to pay." Stating that people

have given mandate to

TRS with the confidence that the party will deliver goods as per their expectations, he warned elected representatives that action will be taken against them if the failed to provide facilities to people. He said "We need not fear about getting votes. Congress promised ₹2 lakh loan waiver to farmers, but we offered only Rs. 1 lakh, that too in four instalments; people still trusted us and given us the mandate in December

2018 Assembly polls."
Assuring the House that the state govern-ment will ensure sufficient funds to gram panthe Chief chayats,

Minister said that they have initiated steps to ensure that every GP receives Rs. 5 lakh grant. Drinking water, nurs-eries and community graveyards have been provided to all 12,751 villages. Arrangements have been made for disposal of garbage in every village.

While seeking people's participation and cooperation in progress of towns and villages in the state, Chandrasekhar Rao told the House that several individuals are coming forward to donate huge sums for development of their villages. He said committees have been constituted with IAS and IFS officers to monitor the programmes taken up under Palle Pragathi. Reacting to remarks of

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka that the state government has taken away powers of elected representatives of gram panchayats through the new Panchayat Raj Act , the CM said powers have certainly been taken away from doing evil acts.



Former Nizamabad MP K. Kavitha receives bouquets on her birthday from TRS Rajya Sabha nominees Suresh Reddy and K. Kesava Rao on Friday. Many leaders, including her brother and TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao took to Twitter to wish her. After being defeated in the Lok Sabha elections, she has been staying

Kesava, Suresh file RS nomination papers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Telangana Rashtra Sa miti nominees for the elections, K. Keshava Rao and K.R. Suresh Reddy, filed their nomina-tions in the State Legislative Assembly on Friday. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had on Thursday announced

that Kesava Rao would

be re-nominated while

former Speaker of AP

Assembly Suresh Reddy would be the other TRS candidate for elections to the Upper House.

The duo filed their papers with Assembly secretary V. Narasi-mhacharyulu. Keshava Rao filed his papers accompanied by TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, finance minister T. Harish Rao and other leaders of the party. Suresh Reddy filed the nomination accompanied by K. Kavitha,

should have 17 MLAs to get

main Opposition status. In

TD won 23 seats. However,

two members Vallabhaneni

Giridhar Rao, resigned from

the last election,

Santosh Kumar, Rajya Sabha member.

After filing their nominations, both the nominees went and met the Chief Minister in his chambers in the Assembly. Prior to that, the two TRS nominees went to the Gun Park Memorial along with K.T. Rama Rao and animal husbandry minister Tala-sani Srinivas Yadav for paying floral tributes to the TS martyrs.

Naidu likely to lose Oppn leader tag struck if three more party Pradesh Assembly, a party headed by Y.S. Jagan Mohan

> Another MLA Karanam Balaram also announced his support to the YSRC, while his son joined the party. At present, TD has 20 MLAs but around three to four are not active in the

DEMAND FOR

TS TURMERIC

BOARD RISES

DC CORRESPONDENT

three

Members of Parlia-

ment from north

Telangana are being targetted by their

NIZAMABAD, MARCH

House. the party and are support-ing YSRC government, PARTY JUMPING Rumours floated on joining the TRS

Cong internal fights angers AICC leaders

MLAs distance themselves

According to rules, for a

party to attain main opposition status, it should have 10

per cent of members from

the total strength of the

from the TD.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has taken a serious view of the internal squabbles among party lead-

ers in Telangana Two days back, former MP V. Hanumantha Rao and MLA T. Jayaprakash Reddy spoke against the party State working president and Malkajgiri MP, A. Revanth Reddy. They took serious objection to the • Former MP V. Hanumantha Rao and MLA T. Jayaprakash Reddy spoke against the State working president and Malkajgiri MP, A. Revanth Reddy.

MP and his supporters for allegedly spreading rumours that some Congress leaders were on the brink of joining

Taking note of this mudslinging, the party's Telangana in-charge R.C. Khuntia on Friday issued a statement cautioning them that this was creating confusion and weakening the party to considerable levels. Mr Khuntia warned that no one from Telangana Congress

should issue media statements. He said that disgrun-

tled leaders must write to TPCC or AICC but not go to

the media.

political rivals on the Board and ensuing minimum support price (MSP) for farm-ers. TRS and the Congress launched agitations on the issue in zamabad Karimnagar a Adilabad districts.

Teachers Chalo Assembly



Teachers, Employees and Pensioners tried to reach the Assembly as part of a call given the Joint Action Committee of Teachers, Employees and Pensioners for Chalo Assembly.

MIM demands CBI probe into TS Wakf irregularities

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

AIMIM party floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi on Friday demanded in the Legislative Assembly a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities of Telangana State Wakf Board.

Participating in a discussion on social, BC and minority welfare, he said there has been widespread encroachment of Wakf lands across the state. This loot by wakf board officials was causing him immense pain and heart burn. In this context, Owaisi

pointed out that an SSC pass employee of the board has been promoted to the rank of assistant secretary in the Minority Welfare

Another employee, who tecting wakf properties, he probe.

qualified from Class III, has been given promotion as office subordinate. And, though the board had no vehicles, it is continuing with two drivers.

He said the board employees have been drawing huge salaries varying from ₹40,000 to ₹1.5 lakh. The MIM floor leader list-

ed out valuable lands owned by the board in Hyderabad city, Ranga Reddy, Nizamabad and Medak districts, spread over hundreds of acres, which have been encroached by vested interests. The board has remained a

mute spectator while some of its officials were even in glove with hand encroachers. Urging the state govern-

ment to take steps for pro-

government constitute Telangana Wakf Council on the lines of Central Wakf Council to save Wakf properties of the state valued thousands of crores.

He asked Chief Minister

demanded that the state

K. Chandrasekhar Rao to initiate steps for taking over guest houses built in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia by the Nizam and certain rich Muslims of Hyderabad, as they were in the wrong hands.

Pointing to encroached lands and mismanagement in the Wakf board, Owaisi demanded that the state government inquire into illegalities either through a sitting or retired High Court judge or hand over the issue to CBI for a

AKBARUDDIN RIDICULES BJP. **CONGRESS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

MIM floor leader in the Assembly Akbaruddin Owaisi on Friday announced in the House that their party will continue their support to the TRS as long as the state government continues its welfare activities for the minorities in the state.

Ridiculing the Congress and BJP for criticising the AIMIM support to the TRS, he listed out around 56 schemes taken up by the state. He said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had responded to every issue raised by the MIM for welfare of minorities. He cited the example of

Shadi Mubarak scheme which helped 1.5 lakh Muslim girls get mar-

Revanth wants case on him quashed

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

Justice G. Sri Devi heard tions filed by A. Revanth Reddy, MP, seeking a direction to suspend the Remand Order and to quash the FIR against his name and further to enlarge him on bail.

Mr Salman Khurshid, senior counsel from Supreme Court, representing Revanth Reddy, informed the Judge that Section 188 IPC was not applicable to this case. Application of Section 188 is the core of the case as it revolves around the alleged drone, which was flown near a cricket ground, which was later intruded into a private area damaging the privacy of a person, who is not a part of the case.

The maximum imprisonment, which an accused in this sort of case has to undergo, is one month and a fine of $\gtrless 200$. The accused has already spent nine days in judicial custody and will be spending another four days there, implying that it is half the On these sentence.

grounds, the petitioner will be eligible for bail, he argued. He further submitted that the law under Section 188 IPC clearly says that a senior public servant should give a complaint in writing whereas in this case it was lodged a police constable. Without a written complaint by an appropriate authority, Section 188 IPC has been imposed and further, a notice under 41A Cr.PC has not been served on the petitioner and further, the police have very conveniently kept on adding various other Sections into the Remand Report without intimating the petitioner, added senior counsel

Public Prosecutor of Telangana, Pratap Reddy, representing the police submitted that the drone had been flown without permission from the competent authority and it was intruding into the privacy of an individual. Moreover, the videos were released to the media jeopardising the private life of an individual, which is not permissible under the

COMPLAINT OF REVANTH ARREST TAKEN TO LS SPEAKER'S NOTICE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 13

The issue of arrest of Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy was taken to the notice of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla by Tamil Nadu MPs Jothimani Sennimalai and B. Manickam Tagore on Friday. During Parliament session, the MPs moved an adjourn motion on Revanth Reddy's arrest.

Speaking in Lok Sabha MP Manickam Tagore said that Revanth Reddy was arrested after a false case was registered against him as he has raised the issue of illegal construction of a farm-

house by a minister. "Due to political vendetta, the TRS has arrested him. You have to protect him. Since the House is in session, it must not happen," Mr Tagore said.



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Maha candidates may get elected unopposed

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 13

Seven members of the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra are likely to get elected unopposed as an independent candidate Rakesh Chavan, who was the eighth candidate, did not file

the forms properly.

He also failed to take the signatures of ten proposers on his nomination paper.

Sources in the state Legislature said that Mr Chavan did not deposit ₹10,000 for the election and therefore, his application will be rejected

after scrutiny. Seven members — three from the BJP, two from NCP and one each from the Shiv Sena and Congress — are likely to be declared unopposed winners

A scrutiny of applications will be carried out on March 16 and candidates will be allowed to withdraw their forms till

March 18. It may be noted that as many as seven Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra will fall vacant on April 2 as RS mem-Hussain Dalwai (Congress), Sharad Pawar and Majeed Memon (NCP), Amar Sable (BJP), Rajkumar Dhoot (Shiv Sena), Ramdas Athawale (RPI) and Sanjay Kakade (inde-

pendent) retire. On the last day of filing nominations for the Rajya Sabha, Congress general secretary Rajiv Satav, Shiv Sena deputy leader Priyanka Chaturvedi, former NCP minister Fauzia Khan and BJP member Bhagwat Karad filed their nomination

Elections to the Rajya Sabha will be held on March 26.

After 7 months, Farooq freed from detention

Former Chief Minister says his freedom is incomplete

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, MARCH 13

Former Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was on Friday released from a 32-weeklong detention after the authorities revoked the issued Srinagar's Deputy Commissioner in last September imprisoning him under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). Before being formally detained under the PSA, the 82-year had spent 41

He and hundreds other J&K politicians and activists of various trade and civil society groups lawyers detained by the authorities ahead or soon after the Centre stripped the state of its special status and split it up into two Union Territories (UTs) on August 5 last year.

days in house arrest.

Soon after his release, Mr. Abdullah while speaking to reporters from the patio of his home along Srinagar's Gupkar Road — declared 'subsidiary jail' last September — said that his 'freedom' was 'incom-plete' until and unless all other political prisoners are also released from detention.

He said, "This freedom is incomplete...it will be complete when Omar (Abdullah), Mehboobaji (Mufti) and all others



Farooq Abdulah's first engagement was to offer prayers at his father Sheikh Abdullah's grave at Hazratbal on banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on

who are in prisons either her in the state or outside it or (detained) in MLAs hostel and various other buildings or put under house arrest are also released."

He added, "I hope Government of India will take action soon to release everyone if it wants the people of the state to live as free peo-

ple."
Flanked by his wife
Molly Abdullah and daughter Safia Khan and

children, Abdullah refused to make any political statement and said, "I will not answer any questions or speak on any political

issue till everyone is

released" He further said that the future course of action by him would be devised only after "everyone is

Expressing his gratitude to those who raised their voice against his detention, Mr. Abdullah

said, "I'm grateful to the people of the state and all the leaders and the people of the rest of the country who spoke for our people and prayed for our freedom. I'm also thankful to Allah for I'm today standing in front of you as a freeman. I want to express my gratitude to media also which reported about our plight and passed on our word to the people and also told them about the prob-

lems faced by us."
Under the PSA introduced in J&K in 1978 initially to deal with timber smuggling but later used by successive govern-ments including that headed by Mr. Abdullah against their political opponents, a person can be detained for a period of six months to two years without the authorities seeking a formal trial.

The authorities slapped against Abdullah, a sitting member of Lok Sabha, on September 15 last year, hours before the Supreme Court was to hear a petition by MDMK leader and Rajya Sabha member Vaiko demanding his release so that he could attend an event in Chennai. His detention period was extended by three months under a fresh order issued by Srinagar's District Magistrate Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on December

Ready for floor test; MLAs held captive: Nath to Guv

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC **BHOPAL, MARCH 13**

The political crisis in Madhya Pradesh triggered by resignation of 22 rebel Congress MLAs, secluded in a resort in Bengaluru, on Friday took its maiden toll with six ministers in the Kamal Nath government the marching getting orders.

Governor Lalji Tandon dropped six cabinet ministers in the state government following recommendations by Chief Minister Kamal Nath, an official spokesman here said.

The six ministers who were removed from the state ministry were among the 22 rebel MLAs, currently lodged in a resort in Bengaluru.

These 22 legislators have earlier sent their resignation to the speaker of Assembly as well as the Governor. Those sacked from the cabinet were Imarti Devi, Tulsi Silawat, Govind Singh Rajput, Rajput, Mahendra Singh Sisodia,

Pradyumna Singh Tomar and Prabhram Choudhury. Their portfolios were redistributed among other

The Chief Minister, meanwhile, submitted a three-page letter to the Governor demanding initiative by the latter to secure 'release' of 22 Congress MLAs, 'held

hostage' in a resort in

Bengaluru.

Mr Nath accused the BJP of indulging in 'horse-trading' of Congress MLAs to topple his government, describing the actions as 'immoral, unethical and illegal'. He said that the BJP had earlier also made

such attempt to destabilise

his government. "In the first attempt, several ruling party MLAs were lured by the BJP with money to switch sides to pull down my government. They were kept in a hotel in Haryana. In the fresh move on March 8, 19 Congress MLAs were taken to Bengaluru in a charted

plane and lodged in a resort in Bengaluru", he added. The Chief Minister said his government was pre-pared to face floor test in the ensuing budget session of the Assembly, scheduled to commence on March 16,

to prove its majority.

delegation of BJP met the Governor and urged him to call for floor test by the Kamal Nath government, saying that it has been reduced to minority following resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.

In another development, Speaker N.P. Prajpati said six MLAs who were summoned to meet him in person on Friday to explain the reason behind their decision to resign from the house, failed to turn up.

"The six MLAs were scheduled to meet me at 3.30 pm. But, they did not turn up. I will issue fresh summons to them", he added. The move to shift the 22

MLAs rebel Bengaluru to Bhopal on Friday was suspended reportedly due to security reasons.
The legislators who were

scheduled to fly to Bhopal in two charted flights returned to their hotel from airport in Bengaluru.

Sources said the MLAs sought deployment of central forces at the airport here and at the place of their boarding in Bhopal fearing their security.

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ELECTRICALS



Sengar, 6 others get 10 yrs jail

Disqualified UP MLA, brother fined ₹10L for death of Unnao victim's father

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

Expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, his brother Jaideep alias Atul Singh and five others have been sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Delhi court for the death of Unnao rape victim's father in custody, saying "no leniency" can be shown for killing a family's

"sole bread-earner' Sengar and his brother will also have to pay ₹10 lakh each as fine within three months to legal heirs of the deceased, including the rape

victim, as compensation. The court also directed the Uttar Pradesh government to take appropriate disciplinary proceedings for medical negligence against doctors who had treated the

father when he was injured

and in judicial custody. The father of the rape victim was arrested at the behest of Sengar in the Arms Act and had died in custody on April 9, 2018 owing to police brutalities in custody.

Pronouncing the judgement in a packed courtroom, district judge Dharmesh falsely

Sharma said, "The victim lost her father. She can't return to her home. There are four kids in the family. three of them are girls...all four are minors.

The judge said, "There can be no denying that rule of law was broken. Sengar was a public functionary and had to maintain the rule of law. The way the crime has been committed, it does not call for leniency.

The court handed down the same sentence for two policemen charged with criminal conspiracy implicating

father in an Arms Act case; the cops were out on bail.

Last week, Sengar and six others had been convicted of culpable homicide (not amounting to murder) and criminal conspiracy. The judge had said the father had been brutally beaten, but there was no intention of murder.

Sengar, who has already been sentenced to the "remainder of his natural biological life" for raping the minor Unnao girl, was stripped of his membership on February 25 as the lawmaker of the Uttar Pradesh

Assembly following his conviction in the rape case. On the death of the father

of the Unnao rape victim, the court did not hold the accused guilty of murder under the IPC.

It, however, awarded maximum sentence for the offence of culpable homicide not amounting to murder to convicts under section 304 of the IPC.

The court said Sengar and the co-convicts being public servants were supposed to uphold the law but there was no denying the fact that they

Pehlu case: 2 sentenced to 3 yrs in special home

first punishment awarded in the notorious Pehlu Khan lynching case of 2017, Alwar's Juvenile Justice Board sentenced two teenagers to three years in a special or safe

home on Friday. "The board sentenced both of them to three years in a *vishesh* or surakshit grah (special or safe home) in Jaipur," case officer sub-inspector

Ram Kishore said.
He added that the two were minors when the crime was committed but were in the age group of

were part of the mob that lynched Khan, a 55-yearold dairy farmer, in 2017, and were convicted last week. The IPC sections under which they were held guilty are 302 (murder), 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 341 (wrongful restrain), said Inspector General of Police, Jaipur,

S Sengathir. The case officer said video footage of the scene of crime, which confirmed the presence of the two in the mob, and other evidence formed

He added that a total of involved in the case.

A court set up under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act is hearing the case of the third accused, who is in the age group of 16-18 years. In August last year, six men accused of lynching Khan were acquitted

by a court in Alwar. The six — Vipin Yadav, Ravindra Kumar, Kaluram, Dayanand, Yogesh Kumar and Bheem Rathi were given the benefit

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Urgent cases only in SC due to virus

New Delhi: Taking note of global pandemic novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Supreme Court on Friday decided that from March 16 it will take up for hearing only urgent matters and no persons except lawyers concerned will be allowed in courtrooms. The apex court, which has been mulling over the issue in its meetings held at the residence of Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde on Thursday and Friday, took note of the government's March 5 advisory cautioning against mass gatherings. The SC notification, issued by its secretary general Sanjeev S. Kalgaonkar, said it was decided that its functioning shall be restricted to urgent matters with such number of benches as may be found appropriate. The Delhi HC also decided to restrict its functioning to urgent matters from March 16.

Maneka slams ads

on animal carriers

New Delhi: Former Union minister and Sultanpur MP, Maneka Gandhi on Friday said some government departments and insurance companies are creating false panic by claiming that animals can also get infected or can spread coronavirus. The BJP MP, an animal rights activists, appealed that the Ministry of Electronics, insurance companies and Ministry of Railways not bring out "fake ads" saying that "do not go near live animals." The BJP leader said such false information can to create another form of crisis in India. Also, a delegation of All India Poultry Breeders Association met Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu regarding the impact of "false news" on consumption of poultry products and corona virus on the poultry

India brings back 44 from Iran

Mumbai/New Delhi: The second batch of 44 Indian pilgrims arrived from Iran on Friday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. An Iran Air flight carrying Indian pilgrims stranded in coronavirus-hit Iran landed at the airport in Mumbai on Friday afternoon, an official said. They were later taken to a Navy's quarantine facility in Ghatkopar, a suburb in northeast Mumbai, a Navy official said. Earlier, the plan quarantine facility in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Iran is one of the worst-affected countries by coronavirus outbreak and the government has been working on plans to bring back the Indians stranded there. "Second batch of 44 Indian pilgrims has arrived today from #Iran. Our efforts to bring back the others continue. @India_in_Iran and our medical team - keep up the good work. Appreciate the support of Iranian authorities and their airlines.'

NO PANIC YET IN ASSAM AS NO CASE REPORTED

Jaishankar said in a tweet.

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, MARCH 13

Assam government on Friday said that they have stepped up measures to check the coron avirus outbreak but reiterated that there was no need to panic as so far not a single person in Assam has been tested positive

Informing that state health department has quarantined 741 people, Assam minister of state for health Pijush Hazarika said that the state health department has set up isolation wards in six medical colleges with 48 beds with two beds in each district hospitals in Assam. The minister said that they have already appealed to the people to avoid mass gatherings.

"We are very serious about the matter and have taken all preventive measures across the state," said Mr Hazarika while adding that they have deployed medical teams at all land ports bordering with Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and screening all people coming from the neighbouring countries. "We are also trying to involve the panchayat-level representatives to hold awareness programmes in all rural and urban areas," said Mr Hazarika.

Covid: States heading for lockdown

42,000 across country under community surveillance; educational institutions, theatres shut

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

Even as the Indian, notouch greeting "Namaste" goes viral globally, more and more Indian states on Friday announced strong measures to enforce "social distancing" in order to contain the spread of novel coronavirus after the number of positive cases reached 82.

An employee of a private firm in Noida tested positive for coronavirus. He had travelled to France and China, reports said. Around 700 employees of the private company he worked with have been asked to work from home.

A total of 4,000 people who came in contact with 82 positive cases are under rigorous observation across the country, besides 42,000 people who are under community surveil-

Though the Union health ministry said there is no need to panic as infected persons are getting cured and leaving hospitals, as a matter of precaution Karnataka, Delhi, Punjab, Odisha, Bihar and Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra have started closing down schools, colleges, cinema halls, gyms, swimming polls and even parks to prevent crowds. On Friday, the govern-

ment also announced the closure of 18 of 37 land border crossing points with neighbouring coun-

tries till April 15. India has also decided to stop the India-Bangladesh bus and passenger train services from Friday night till April 15 and close all border haats along the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Myanmar borders.

has already invoked Epidemic Disease Act to ensure health advisories are enforceable. The Act gives power to the state to detain a person and forcefully quarantine or put them on medication in the larger interest of the country to prevent a major outbreak of a disease. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has asked states and Union Territories to ensure that masks and sanitisers are not sold above MRP.

However, on Friday several states followed Delhi and announced the shutting down of places of

which Karnataka. reported country's first Covid-19 related death, announced a complete lockdown of malls, cinema theatres, pubs and night clubs for at least a week. minister Yediyurappa also issued instructions to stop all kinds of exhibitions, summer camps, conferences, marriage events and birthday parties. "We will close all universities for a week in the entire state," he

Similarly, in Odisha, the Naveen Patnaik government announced closure of educational institutions allowed holding exams. Non-essential official gatherings such as seminars, workshops and conferences are cancelled and cinema halls, swimming pools and gyms are closed. Social gatherings and assemblies like religious functions, marriage receptions and parties will be regulated by local

In Delhi, JNU, DU and Jamia Millia Islamia suspended classes. Other universities such as Jindal



Priests wearing protective mask as a precautionary measure against the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), perform rituals at Siddhivinavak Temple in Mumbai on Friday.

IT firms cautious as virus strikes

CHANDRASHEKAR G. and M.B. GIRISH | DC

The dreaded Covid-19 has spread its tentacles and a fresh confirmed corona virus positive contract case has been detected at RMZ Infinity in Bengaluru.

According to an official spokesperson from RMZ, We can confirm that an employee from Google, Bengaluru office has been diagnosed with Covid-19. They were in one of our Bengaluru offices for a few hours before developing any symptoms. The employee has been on quarantine since then, and we have asked colleagues who were in close contact with the employee

Gol will send an Air India flight tomorrow afternoon to evacuate Indians stuck in Milan due to #Covid19. We expect to bring back around 200-250

passengers by this flight — V. Muraleedharan Minister of State for External Affairs

University in Sonepat, Harvana, announced the university would be open but there would be no classes till March 29. The Indian Institute Technology (IIT) has directed students to leave hostels by Sunday as a pre-

ventive measure. States like Bihar that have not reported any case are also on alert and closed down educational institutes, zoos and parks. Goa has asked hotels and industries to take prevenof the coronavirus scare. tive measures in the wake CMNarayanasamy said pilgrims have been advised not to take bath in the tank of the Lord Saneeswarar (Saturn) shrine near

Karaikal. Punjab has also closed down all schools till March

The crowd from airports is also disappearing as people scrambled to change their travel plans.

Google, Bengaluru office had been diagnosed with Covid-19 at RMZ Infinity in Bengaluru. The employee was quarantined and his colleagues asked to quarantine

themselves

to quarantine themselves and monitor their health." "Out of an abundance of caution, we are asking employees Bengaluru office to work from home tomorrow. We have taken and will continue to take all necessary precautionary measures, following the advice of public health officials, as we prioritise everyone's health and safety," the

spokesperson said. All logins to Infinity on

planning for extensive March 13 stands canawareness drive. celled. Almost all the IT compa-

nies have asked their employees to work from home as a precautionary measure and to contain the spread of corona With this, Bengaluru has

five Covid-19 cases. After a techie, his wife and daughter were detected with coronavirus infection. another person who was on a honeymoon vacation to Greece has also been detected with the dreaded virus.

Meanwhile, the local Civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has formed committees to create awareness within and outside BBMP jurisdiction. The threat of Covid-19

that claimed a life in Kalaburagi failed to deter devotees from attending the annual Sharan-abaveshwara chariot fest in the heart of the city on

Deputy commissioner B. Sharath had appealed to devotees against turning up for the fest in large numbers.

Basavaraj Deshmukh, secretary of Sharanabasaveshwara Temple, Kalaburagi told *Deccan Chronicle* that the threat of virus had made no difference to the influx of devotees to Kalaburagi and the number of devotees to the fest was more or less similar to the crowd in yesteryears.

Kerala looks for 91 with virus suspect

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 13

The Thiruvananthapuram district administration has launched an extensive exercise to trace the peo-ple who traveled with the person from UAE who was tested positive Covid–19.

As many as 91 passengers were there in the fight in which the man belonging to Vellanad in Thiruvananthapuram district travelled from Dubai to Thiruvananthapuram. The district authorities said of these 31 persons were in home quarantine while efforts are on to trace 60 others. Among the passengers, 10 were foreigners who are currently in Thiruvananthapuram.

The administration is preparing a route map of the infected person to get an idea about the places he had visited and people he had come in close contact

Meanwhile, three more cases of Covid-19 positive were reported in Kerala on Friday taking the total number of infected persons to 19. One of the infected persons returned from United Kingdom and he is a local resident. He returned on March 10 and was on home quarantines. After showing symptoms he was treated at the General Hospital here and subsequently was shifted to isolation ward of Thiruv-ananthapuram medical college. The other person is a tourist from Italy who was staying in a resort in Varkala. He too was under home quarantine. The third person, who belongs to Vellanad in Thiruvananthapuram, had returned from UAE and was under home quarantine. His preliminary test at Thiruvananthapuram medical college was found positive on • KERALA REPORTED three more cases of

Covid-19 ONE OF the infected person returned from UK

ANOTHER PERSON is a tourist from Italy

• THE THIRD person had returned from UAE

Thursday. The confirmatory test at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Alappuzha has also been found positive.

The Italian tourist who came to Thiruvananthapuram airport on February 27 and had presented suspected symptoms of Covid-19, was put on quarantine at Paripally medical college in Kollam district. He is being shifted to the isolation ward at Thiruvananthapuram medical college.

The total Covid-19 cases in Kerala stands at 22. Three students who had tested positive earlier, were treated successfully and discharged from medical college hospitals earlier. As many as 69 persons were admitted to isolation wards of medical college hospitals in the state on Friday while 5,468 persons are under monitoring.

At a press conference held after the state level review meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the government has decided to screen all passengers at the airport. People from foreign countries will have to comply with all the instructions. "The idea is to ensure that not even a single case is left unchecked or unscreened," he said and added that the airport authorities had also attended the meeting. Mr Vijayan said if detec-

tion and prevention activities are carried out effectively, the state can over-come the situation.

Screening must at K'taka RSS meet

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

Amid Covid-19 scare, the three-day long annual meet of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's highest decision making body Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS) — in Bengaluru from March 15 will see all attendees, including the RSS top brass, getting screened for the coronavirus before

entering the venue. From thermal screening units to hand sanitisers to face masks, arrangements have been made at the venue, which will see around 1,500 elected representatives of the RSS and associated organisations. The ABPS will deliberate and decide in activating its 15 lakh swayamsevaks to about positive bring changes in society.

"Last year, a survey of working swayamsevaks above 30 years was conducted in which 15 lakh swayamsevaks were covered. In the next 2-3 years, our planning is to get them involved in working as

FROM THERMAL screening units to hand sanitisers to face masks, arrangements have been made at the venue, which will see around 1,500 elected representatives of the RSS and associated organisations.

dutiful citizens and responsible towards society through social work in their neighborhood," RSS-Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh (All India Media Head) Arun Kumar said in Bengaluru.

Mr Kumar said information regarding availability of time, skills and interest areas of these swayamsevaks was collected in the survey. In this ABPS. deliberations will be held to activate these swayamsevaks to serve the needs of the society aligning to their areas of interest to bring positive change in the society." The RSS has 11 zones called 'kshetras' under which 44 work units called 'prant' are there for its easy working, and its officers will be part of the

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 Coronavirus cases as on Mar 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm: Haryana Including foreign nationals-Ladakh Haryana: 14 Rajasthan: 2 Uttar Pradesh: 1 Jammu & Kashmir Uttar Pradesh Rajasthan Andhra Pradesh Maharashtra 14 Tamil Nadu Karnataka Kerala Source: Ministry of Health and (Cured: 3) Family Welfare

FEAR FACTOR

Collector orders Kottayam Medical College to provide accommodation to ousted male nurses

Landlord tells nurses caring for patients to vacate



Evacuees leave after they were tested negative for the novel coronavirus at the ITBP facility in Chhawla on Friday. All 112 people who were evacuated from Wuhan last month and admitted to the ITBP quarantine facility tested negative.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Reports of people being mistreated due to Covid-19 scare surfaced on Friday. In Kottayam district, three male nurses who were taking care of Covid-19 patients at the Kottayam Medical College were asked vacate their rented accommodation.

deployed at the hospital in different shift. To their when returned home on Friday to take rest, the house

The male nurses were

owner asked them leave at

With the matter triggering a controversy, Kottayam Collector P.K. Sudheer Babu intervened in the matter and directed medical college authorities to provide them accommodation in the hospital premises. At present three Covid-19 patients are undergoing treatment at the medical college hos-

Also there have been instances of people despite personal tragedies, cooperating with the instructions and restric-

tions imposed by the authorities. Lino Abel returned from Qatar to see his father who had suffered a stroke and was admitted to the Kottyam medical college. From airport he went straight to the hospital but decided not to see his dad who was on ventilator support. Subsequently, Lino had cough and irritation in his throat, and he was in a inform the Covid-19 wing in hospital or keep it to himself. Later he decided

to report to the section.

That night his father

the window of his isolation room, the ambulance carrying his father's mortal remains to their native place. He shared his experience on the Facebook and remarked "Isolation ward is not a concentration camp. Lino says he will feel very bad if his test is

could only watch through

found negative as he could not bid the final goodbye to his father. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan lauded Lino's social commitment and responsibility towards fellow beings.



IN BRIEF

Bangla jails 2 for selling vaccines

Dhaka: Two persons in Bangladesh have been jailed for two years for selling Covid-19 vaccines". Nazrul Islam Rubel, 27 of Mymensingh district advertised the "vaccines" through a loudspeaker at Ganda union in Netrokona district on Wednesday and Thursday, police said. Rashedul Islam, 35, of the same district, started selling the "medicines" at Paharpur Eidgah ground at Ganda on Thursday afternoon. The police arrested the duo and recovered the 'magical ayurvedic type medicines" from them.

Norway reports first fatality

Oslo: Norway has reported its first death from the Covid-19. Prime Minister Erna Solberg said "an elderly person" died on Thursday in Oslo. She, however, did not elaborate further. Protective-Iv. King Harald V. members of the royal family and some government members have been put in quarantine because they had travelled abroad in recent weeks. In Denmark, lawmakers have passed a temporary law under which authorities can force people who are suspected of having the virus to undergo tests.

The law, which is to expire in March 2021, also gives authorities the ability to ban access to public places and stores. The Danish government has already closed all schoo-Is and daycare facilities.

In Rome, Catholic churches shut

Vatican City: All Catholic churches across Rome have been closed to stem the spread of Covid-19 that has killed more than 1,000 people across Italy. The churches will reopen when a broader Italian government crackdown on public gatherings expires on April 3, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the papal vicar for Rome, said in a statement. Catholic faithful have been exempted from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The Vatican had spent days resisting having to take the drastic measure of shuttering places of worship in the overwhelmingly Catholic country. It closed its museums and even the Saint Peter's Basilica - parts of its soaring dome designed by

CALIFORNIA TO CLOSE

Michelangelo — to tourists.

Los Angeles, March 13: Disneyland in California will close its doors beginning Saturday due to new covid-19, the resort said, joining a slew of concerts, festivals and other entertainment events scrapped across the US.

The giant Disney attraction in Anaheim is the world's second-most visited theme park, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each day. It will remain shut at least until the end of March. "After carefully reviewing the guidelines of the Governor of California's executive order and in the best interest of our guests and employees, we are proceeding with the closure of Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure," a statement said on Thursday. California officials late Wednesday had called for large gatherings to be cancelled across the state to slow the spread of the pandemic. No cases of the virus had been reported at Disneyland. Disney will monitor the situation, and on-site hotels will remain open until Monday to give guests time to leave.

85 more succumb to virus in Iran

Number of deaths in Islamic Republic rises to 514 even as world toll crosses 5,000

Tehran, March 13: Iran the new Covid-19 has claimed another 85 lives, the highest single-day death toll in one of the world's worst affected

"Sadly, 85 people infected with the Covid-19 disease have died in the past 24 hours, bringing to 514 the overall number of deaths in Iran," health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said in a televised news conference.

"Across the country, at least 1,289 infected people have been added to the list of confirmed patients," said Jahanpour. "The total number of patients has therefore reached 11,364 cases," he said, adding Tehran province had the most new infections.

The outbreak in Iran is one of the deadliest outside China, where the disease originated. Several politicians and officials both sitting and former, have been infected, with some dying from the illne-ss. The latest suspected case of infection was Ali Akbar Velayati, who advises Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on foreign policy. Velayati fell ill with "mild symptoms" on Wednesday and has been placed in quarantine, according to Tasnim news agency.

Iran imposes lockdown Tehran, March 13: Iran said Friday the security forces will clear the streets nationwide within 24 hours so all citizens can be checked for Covid-19 — its

toughest measure yet to

combat the outbreak.

Global deaths over 5,000 Paris, March 13: The death toll from the Covid-19 pandemic has risen to 5,043, according to an AFP tally based on official sources on Friday.

Romanian PM says he will self-quarantine Bucharest, March 13: Romania's Prime Minister Ludovic Orban said Friday he would self-quar-antine after attending the same meeting as a senator from his party who tested positive for the novel covid-19. "I will put myself in isolation (...) while continuing to exercise my duties," the prime minister told journalists.

120 dead in Spain Covid-19 infections in Spain soared to more than 4,200 on Friday, as the number of deaths rose by some 50 percent to 120, the health ministry said.

1st casualty in Sudan Khartoum, March 13: Sudan announced on Friday its first case of the novel Covid-19 following the death of a 50-year-old man the night before. The Sudanese citizen had recently been in the United Arab Emirates, the health ministry said. — Agencies

LOCKDOWN HELPS COPS NAB MOBSTER

Rome, March 13: A top 'Ndrangheta clan member was arrested in Italy after police, helped by the Covid-19 lockdown spotted the fugitive smoking inside a seemingly deserted safe house. Cesare Cordi had been on the run since August, when a judge issued a warrant for the 42-yearold's arrest.



Europeans 'dirty': Thai minister

Bangkok, March 13: Thailand's health minister has ignited a controversy by warning about the possible spread of Covid-19 from vacationing Europeans "who wear dirty clothes and don't shower". Twe-ets posted on Thursday night by the account linked to the minister, Anutin Charnvirakul, lashed out at Western visitors for not wearing face masks to pro tect against the virus, and warned his fellow Thais that they should be more careful in dealing with We-

for confusing and inconsisterners than with Asians. stent handling of the heal-Thailand's government has come under criticism th crisis. A spokesman for Anutin's Bhumjai Thai Pa-

SINGAPORE SETS STAGE FOR POLLS Singapore, March 13: happen by April 2021 at ce in the near future due

to the virus — the city-st-

ate has so far reported 200 cases. The People's Action

Party (PAP) has ruled

Singapore for decades and

is expected to comfortably

win, with a weak opposi-

tion seen as little real

Changes to Singapore's electoral boundaries were announced Friday, setting the stage for polls soon, with an opposition party saying any move to conduct elections during the Covid-19 outbreak would be "irresponsible". There had been doubts

the election, which must

rty confirmed that the Twitter account 'anutin_c' was operated by the minis-

challenge.

EUROPE NOW VIRUS 'EPICENTRE': WHO

Geneva, March 13: The World Health Organisation warned Friday that Europe was now the "epicentre" for the global Covid-19 pandemic and reporting more daily cases than China did at the height of its outbreak. "Europe has now become the epicentre of the pandemic," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a virtual press conference, describing the deaths as "a tragic milestone". -AFP

GLOBAL IMPACT OF EPIDEMIC

100,000 people may be carrying the new Covid-19 in the US state of Ohio, state health department director Amy Acton said.

Kenya and Ethiopia on Friday announced their first confirmed cases of Covid-19 in East Africa, as the region, so far unscathed by the global pandemic, scaled up emergency measures to contain its spread.

Sri Lanka on Friday temporarily banned entry of people coming from Iran, Italy and South Korea as a precaution against the rapidly spreading Covid-19.

 6 US states — Ohio, Michigan, Oregon, Maryland, Kentucky and New Mexico — have ordered schools to close in an attempt to curb the spread of the new Covid-19 which has infected more than 1,660 people across the country.

Luxembourg has joined its European neighbours in closing schools and limiting visits to the elderly in hospitals and nursing homes.

 South Korea plans to limit the amount of information it releases about Covid-19 patients amid criticism that the details currently shared reveal too much personal information and exacerbate panic.



Japan's Parliament on Friday enacted a law that would allow Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to declare a state of emergency if the Covid-19 outbreak worsens in the country.



Australian Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** on Friday announced a ban on all nonessential gatherings of over 500 people starting from Monday and urged citizens to reconsider foreign travel to limit the rapid spread of Covid-19 pandemic

3,176

7 more fatalities in China on Friday took the death toll to 3,176, while the new confirmed cases were just eight, as the disease continued to abate across the country, including in its epicentre Wuhan.

Temporary halt to Oz min who met Ivanka is sick Trump poll rallies

New York, March 13: al sports leagues, has also President Donald Trump touched the 2020 presidensaid Thursday he is temporarily halting his trademark rallies — as his campaign bows to the Covid-19 reshaping the nation's political landscape.

The rallies have long been Trump's most potent political weapon: They energise the candidate, give him a powerful platform from which to attack his adversaries and allow his team to collect a treasure trove of voter data. But the spread of the virus, which has closed schools and shuttered profession-

tial campaign. The two leading Democratic contenders, Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, cancelled their this week The president's reelection team reluctantly follo-

wed suit, with Trump saying Thursday that multiple events that were in the works are being postponed. "We had about three of them in Nevada, actually. And we had four or five of them of them that we were thinking about," Trump said at the White House.

SCIENTISTS DETAIL FIRST KNOWN PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

Washington, March 13: Scientists have detailed the first known locally-transmitted case in the US of the novel Covid-19 infection, tracing it to a man who contracted the disease from his wife travelling from Wuhan, China.

According to the researchers, person-to-person transmission of the Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2, occurred between the two with prolonged, unprotected exposure while the first patient showed symptoms. They said despite active monitoring

and testing of 372 contacts of both cases, no further transmission was detected. The study, published in the journal *The Lancet*, noted that on January 23, 2020, Illinois reported the US state Chicago's first laboratory-confirmed case, or index case, of Covid-19 in a woman in her 60s returning from Wuhan, China in mid-January, 2020. Subsequently, they said, the first evidence of secondary transmission in the US was reported on January 30. — *PTI*

senior Australian minister has tested positive for the deadly Covid-19 and was placed under quarantine in a Brisbane hospital on Friday, days after his return from America where he met Ivanka Trump and US Barr. Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, who sits on the national security committee, said on Friday he was feeling fine after waking up with

fever and sore throat

Melbourne, March 13: A

"I immediately contacted the Queensland Departme nt of Health and was subsequently tested for Covid-19," he said in a statement. "I was advised by Queensland Health this afternoon that the test had returned positive. It is the policy of Queensland Health that anyone who tests positive is to be admitted into hosp ital and I have complied with their advice. I feel fine and will provide an update in due course," he

said in a statement.

A total of 196 Covid-19 cases have now been confirmed across Australia while three people have died due to the disease in the country. The health officials warn that millions more are likely to contract the virus within the next six months. US actor Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson are in Queensland after being tested positive for the virus. Minister Dutton

PHILIPPINES DIPLOMAT IS CONTAGION'S FIRST +VE CASE AT UN HEADQUARTERS

United Nations, March 13: A Philippine diplomat in New York has tested case at United Nations headquarters in the city, diplomatic sources said. The diplomat, who had last visited the UN on Monday, showed symptoms of flu the following day and saw a doctor.

"She got the call today that she tested positive for Covid-19," said a letter from the Philippines mission on Thursday.
"As of today,

Philippine mission is in lockdown, and all personnel are instructed to self-

travelled to the US on March 5 for a meeting with security ministers of the FiveEyes intelligence alliance — Australia, the United States, Britain, Canada and New Zealand.

Dutton met with United States Attorney-General William Barr and US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka while in Washington DC last week, according to the reports in Australian media.

According to a photo posted by the Australian embassy in Washington, Dutton can be seen stand-

quarantine," said the letter obtained by AFP.

The diplomat works at positive for the new Covid- the UN General Assewhich deals with legal matters. About 3,000 people are employed at the towering riverfront UN headquarters.

Numerous other diplomats from the 193 UN member countries come and go between their own missions in the area and the Manhattan UN complex. The Philippines has confirmed 52 cases of Covid-19 illness. There have been more than 1,600 cases in the United States.

ing close to Ivanka. He returned to Australia at the weekend. On Tuesday, he attended a meeting of federal Cabi-

net in Sydney and travelled in a commercial plane from Brisbane to Sydney. The virus has claimed

4,925 lives and infected 131,500 people across 116 countries and territories. The WHO on Wednesday characterised the Covid-19 outbreak as a "pandemic" and expressed concern over its "alarming levels" of "spread, severity, as well as inaction". -PTI

WIFE ILL WITH **NEW COVID-19**

Ottawa, March 13: Justin positive for novel Covid-19, his office has said, while assuring the public that the Canadian prime minister is fine.

Canada's leader and his 44-year-old wife announced on Thursday that they were self-isolating while she was tested for Covid-19 after a public event. "Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau was tested for Covid-19 today The test came back positive," the Prime Minister's office said in a statement late Thursday, adding she would remain in isolation and her symptoms were mild. "The Prime Minister is in good health with no symptoms," the statement said, noting he would also be in isolation for two weeks and — on the advice of his doctors — will not be tested for the virus.

It follows several provinces in Canada — which so far has reported nearly 150 cases in six states, and one death — unveiling stricter measures to combat the spread of the virus while sporting events and entertainment galas were cancelled. The PM would continue his duties.

NEW ISTUDY The findings suggest elements important for life not present when planet began to form When life's building blocks reached Earth decoded

Berlin, March 13: A large proportion of the elements that are important for the formation of oceans and life, such as water, carbon, and nitrogen, were not alreadv present when the Earth began to form, but were delivered to the planet very late in its history, according to a

While it was previously assumed that water-bearing planetary building blocks, like asteroids, were already delivered to the Earth during the early stages of its formation, the findings, published in the journal *Nature*, suggest that most of the water was only delivered to the

planet when its formation was almost complete. According to the researchers, including those from the University of Cologne in Germany, volatile elements such as water originated on the Earth from asteroids — the 'planetary building blocks' that formed in the outer solar system. However, they said, when precisely these asteroids came to the Earth is a topic widely debated among scientists. "We have now been able to narrow down the time frame much more precisely," said study first author Mario Fischer-Godde from the University of Cologne. "To do so, we compared

the composition of the oldest, approximately 3.8 billionyear-old mantle rocks from the Archean Eon with the composition of the asteroids from which they may have formed, and with the prese-nt-day composition of the Earth's mantle," Fischer-Godde said.

In the study, the researchers measured the abundances of alternate forms of a very rare metal called ruthenium, which was already present in the Earth's mantle by Archean time — which began about four billion years ago with the formation of the planet's crust, and extended to about 2.5 billion years ago. They said this rare element, belonging to the same group in the periodic table as the lustrous metal platinum, is an indicator for the late growth phase of the Earth. "Platinum group metals like ruthenium have an extremely high tendency to combine with iron. Therefore, when the Earth formed all ruthenium must have been completely sequestered into the Earth's metallic core," said Fischer-Godde.

ed on January 30.

However, the scientists said the presence of ruthenium in the Earth's mantle indicated they may have been added after the planet's formation.



Nepal mountains closed to climbers

Kathmandu, March 13: ted to the government ho-Nepal has halted all mou-spital for tests. ntaineering expeditions, including Mount Everest ascents, and stopped issuing on-arrival tourist vis-as after the WHO declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic and urged countries to take precautionary measures.

The Himalayan country attracts mountaineers from all over the world and earns millions of dollars a vear from Everest permits. Nepal has so far confirmed only one case of Covid-19, though dozens of people suspected to have Covid-19 were admit-

A high-level coordina-

tion committee led by Deputy Prime Minister Ishwar Pokhrel during a meeting on Thursday night decided to suspend climbing permits for spring expeditions on Mt. Everest and other mountains. The meeting decided to revoke the already issued or to be issued permits for the spring climbing season. China on Thursday also suspended foreign expeditions on the north side of Mount Everest in Tibet.



Chronicle

14 MARCH 2020

Leadership needed in face of corona crisis

eadership in the face of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc on financial markets and the global economy has been seen to dither even in nations with authoritarian heads of government. The avowed leader of the free world, Donald Trump's approach to the coronavirus crisis threatening health as well as economic prosperity was a defiant denial of what was projected, in medical opinion, as the gravest threat to the world in the new millennium in the form of a runaway pathogen spreading with ease among communities.

Long after the horses bolted, Mr Trump came up with a belated and questionable slamming of the barn door in terms of travel to Europe. It was clear that his early predilection was to stave off an image hit in an election year. Not until a personal threat to his health was feared after a minister in the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's delegation, who had dinner with Mr Trump, tested positive, did the US President spring into action. The US bailout package hammered out after bipartisan consultation recognises the need to mitigate the suffering of people who have either to keep off public places, work from home or isolate themselves if they are showing symptoms.

Mr Trump may have had a populist mate in the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson whose initial scepticism led to his pooh-poohing the threat before he put up his hands saying the outbreak could no longer be contained. It is a dire reflection on the leaders of the free world that the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, is trumpeting now that his country has managed to get over the worst of it after undertaking extreme measures of containment, which might yet be unthinkable in democracies. But that is the point about the sacrifices of containment being far more beneficial than to attempt mitigation. How the Italian health system has been overrun by the crisis is sufficient to make the point about how thorough the first response had to be in the battle against this cross-species organism. That brings us to how India has acted in the face of the crisis with the first Covid-19 death signalling the seriousness of the situation that could spiral out of control. The fact that the muggy Singapore weather has been host to the virus with as much facility as cold Europe is warning enough not to be

fooled by theories about the virus not surviving the heat. It is important then that the Indian leadership provide a clear roadmap in the war against Covid-19 and take larger, even if unpopular, measures of containment. For instance, how long would it have taken for the Centre to call the home minister's son, who is a powerful official in the BCCI, to give up the foolish plans of trying to go ahead with the IPL from end-March, to be played to closed stadiums? When global politics is being turned on its head by the virus, should India be vacillating? Act now when people need to see leadership, clear policy and reassurances.

Does Rajini mean business?

ctor Rajinikanth's debut Tamil movie was *Apoorva Raagangal* or *Unique Tunes* that hit the screens in 1975. Though the actor has come a long way since then, turning a swashbuckling action hero and earning a legion of fans, he has been periodically raising false alarms on his political entry in the past 24 years even as his screen popularity soared. That was after a political coalition that he campaigned for swept the state Assembly elections in 1996, putting him under an illusion that Tamil Nadu politics was beckoning him like crazy.

In a state where cinema and politics often present themselves as Siamese twins it is company for politicisms to scale help from film prographities in

twins, it is common for politicians to seek help from film personalities in the hustings. But Rajinikanth's fans and a slew of self-serving politicians believed that every voter in the state was waiting to hear from the actor to pick their candidate. So, they started egging on their icon to be the candidate himself. But the actor was playing to his own unique tune, which is typical of him, to keep himself away from real politics.

Only by late 2017, after J. Jayalalithaa had passed away and M. Karunanidhi had become ill and confined to his house, did Rajini gather the courage to declare that he would really take the plunge with a view to changing the present system. Since then, he had been giving the impression that he was building a robust party, silently and secretly, to field candidates in the 2021 Assembly elections. That was why his Press conference, called on March 12, evoked great expectations among his fans and many others, including those who have been crying from rooftops that the actor's plunge would clear the murky waters.

But nobody, at the end of it, could make out what the actor is up to. He just played another unique tune and left without answering a single

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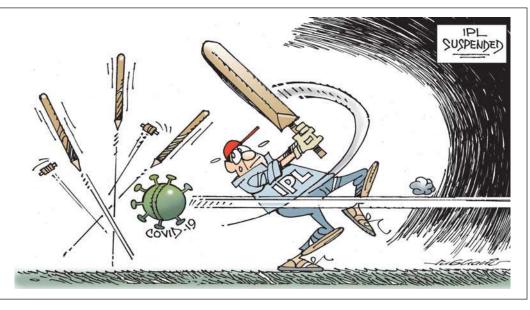
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As corona threat grows; time to unite, not divide



K.C. Singh

he BJP-led government's focus after its 2019 reelection been on its rian electoral majoritarian agenda — triple talaq, eliminating the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and Citizenship (Amendment) Act. As a result, relations between the majority community and the Muslim minority, estimated at 15 per cent of the population, were on edge. The backdrop was the elections in Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. During the February 2020 Delhi election, the BJP used the Shaheen Bagh peaceful sit-down women's agitation to polarise the electorate.

The Delhi election was important for the BJP, having lost Jharkhand. It was equally a dress rehearsal for trouncing Mamata Bannerjee in West Bengal in 2021. Home minister Amit Shah alleged in Parliament that there was a conspiracy to create during chaos President Donald Trump's visit on February 24-25. It equally was bad policing. For instance, when a defeated BJP candidate's threat to Delhi's trans-Yamuna colonies was ignored. Whatever the truth, global attention was once again drawn to the communal tension in under Prime Minister Modi, and his similar inability or unwillingness in 2002 to control the carnage.

President Trump avoided any comment on the Delhi violence, occurring as he took media questions at the US ambassador's residence. His remark that it was "up to India" to take remedial measures let India off the hook, but it was criticised by his rivals back home. However, India couln't totally avoid internationramifications. First Turkey, Malaysia and Indonesia criticised India for not protecting its minorities. Then followed the Iranian foreign minister and eventually Supreme Leader Ali Kham-

enei, who on March 5 urged India to "confront extremist Hindus & their parties & stop the mas-sacre of Muslims in order to prevent India's isolation from the world of India reacted swiftly to the foreign minister's remarks but was restrained after Ayatol-lah Khamenei's sharp comments. The US-Tali-ban accord in Doha five days earlier had altered the geostrategic environment. India needs Iran to play any meaningful role in a post-US Afghanistan as it controls land access and maintains relations with all factions.

More worrisome was the office of Michelle Bachelet, UN high commissioner for human rights, seeking to join the CAA writ before the Supreme Court. She is a two-term former President of Chile, imprisoned along with her mother during the dictatorial rule of Auguto Pinochet. She brings a tremendous personal reputation to defending human rights, reviving debate about the conflict between sovereignty and international oversight of human rights record of UN members. India can berate and ignore her, but at the cost of its moral authority globally. She is in any case echoing Indian constitutional experts' opinion that the CAA breaches the Constitution's secular core. The US resigned in 2018 from the UN Human Rights Council reformed and reconstituted with 47 members in seeking changes. America's angst was over UNHRC often targeting Israel's building activities in occupied West Bank. Although undeniably some gross abusers of human rights do occasionally get elected as its members, it still remains an agent of good.

However, developments in India have a global context. Anti-globalisation and anti-immigration forces have deepened the political divide in most western liberal democracies. Francis Fukuyama in his latest book *Identity*

and Right are moving to extremes. He says the Republican Party under Mr Trump has veered towards the extremist views of the Tea Party, and the Democratic Party to its left, explaining the rise of Bernie Sanders. From multi-culturalism, there is a transition towards new identity politics. Consequently, political correctness is passé racist or homophobic remarks that people remarks that people never made in public are now freely voiced. This has coarsened the public debate, and amongst elected leaders President Trump leads. The same has happened in India, where even senior BJP leaders use public rostrums to openly or sub-liminally feed communal passions. Fukuyama claims that much of Mr Trump's public articulation, in the past, "would have ended the career of any other politician". At the root lies the CAA,

as passed by the government, though rules have so far not been framed. The government argues it is solely intended to benefit the minorities in three neighbouring nations who are victims of religious persecution. This is untenable. First, the same was achievable by a law specifying that refuge was available to all victims of religious persecution, without listing religions and excluding Muslims. Has not India for decades given refuge to Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen? Deductively, Bangladeshi Muslims are the real targets. India's image in Bangladesh and bilateral ties are being impacted. It also undermines Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, one of the friendliest in the neighbourhood. The home minister's assurance in the Lok Sabha goes halfway towards allaying concerns as he has not delinked future а

Political correctness is passé... Fukuyama claims that much of Mr Trump's public articulation, in the past, 'would have ended the career of any other politician'.

Citizens from National Population Register data. Additionally, Mr Amit Shah, in umpteen election speeches, repeatedly linked the CAA to the NRC and NPR. The problem is the criteria being devised to ascertain nationality. Neither passports obtained after due ports, obtained after due police and intelligence verification, nor Aadhaar cards, created after crores of public expenditure, or other such documents are reportedly acceptable as proof of citizenship. Globally, citizenship is determined under *jus soli*, by place of birth, or *jus* sanguinis, depending on descent. France uses a third method of loyalty to the republic: the French language. India now threatens to use *jus san*guinis, exempting non-Muslims from the conse-

ments to prove descent. Muslims thus fear a majoritarian cleansing exercise that the home minister colourfully called extermination of termites". What is the solution? America has 11-12 million suspected illegal immigrants. Fukuyama argues it is ridiculous to think all these people can just leave unless the US undertakes a "project on that scale... worthy of Stalin's Soviet Union or Nazi Germany". He suggests an amnesty and gradual assimilation. Two centuries of nationbuilding and a civil war finally created first US President George Wash ington's idea of the US as open to receive not only the opulent and respectable stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions". Trumpian politics betrays this vision as the BJP too attempts to curtail the idea of India as enshrined in our Consti-

quences of deficient docu-

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

tution. The coming US

election is an inflexion

point for liberal democra-

cies globally, as a re-elect-

ed Trump can be their death-knell. More impor-

tant, with the coron-

avirus tsunami upon us,

isn't it time to unite rather than divide? Mr

Γrump and Mr Modi are

likely to be asked that

question over the next

few months.

RTC AND CORONA

The TSRTC buses carrying lakhs of people daily is a major carrier likely to spread coronavirus (No sanitisation acts carried out by RTC, DC, March 13). Though the executive director (operations) issued the necessary instructions 10 days ago, none of them are implemented. The indifference of authorities is serious.

Dr Oruganty Prasada Rao Hyderabad

Fear is more dangerous than coronavirus itself in India. When the virus spreads through surfaces only and not by air, why is there panic in India? The virus did not originate in India but is brought here by those who stayed abroad. Even after precautionary measures are taken why are people living in fear? People with poor immune system must take care, especially old aged people. The scientists and doctors must find a solution by using their expertise fast. Hoping to hear good news on a vaccine soon.

D.N. Rao

International travel is restricted/ banned by the government till mid-April due to an unforeseen calamity. The airlines should refund the fare with minimum deduction of 10 per cent on the basic fare. Some airlines charge almost two-third of the fare as cancellation charges.

Kanchan

I am shocked to know that Wings 2020 organisers, the biennial civil aviation show, at Begumpet had not taken any safety measures against the dreaded Covid-19. It clearly shows the indifference of organisers for the health of people. Such organisers should be punished when the whole world is taking preventive steps against coro-

PM defends dominant role of public sector

NEW DELHI, MARCH 13 PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI declared here today that the Government's policy to provide public sector a dominant role in industry and trade was designed to ensure 'progress

tempered with justice" 50 YEARS AGO IN Chronicle there was no going

back on it. While the Government was not against profits, it was firmly against exploitation of the consumer. Till such time when the nation was in a position to resort to freer imports and maintain process at reasonable levels, controls and regulatory measures were inescapable, she



A pandemic of fear spreads turbulence in world economy

lobal financial markets have been roiled the past week by extreme panicinduced volatility. Lower locks/circuit breakers have been activated in stock exchanges around the world, oil prices have dropped the most in a single day since 1991, while the yield on the US 30-Year Treasury bond has sunk to below one

per cent for the first time in history. An estimated \$9 trillion has been wiped off the market capitalisation of global stocks in the past two weeks, with the S&P 500 index plunging 20pc since its peak on Feb19. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's KSE-100 index has fallen 10pc since. Not surprisingly, traders have dubbed the price action on March 9 as Black Monday and the recent carnage more generally as a

"bloodbath" The two immediate catalysts for the collapse witnessed on global financial markets are the rapid, contagious spread across the world of the novel coronavirus, and the start of an oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia after the dramatic collapse of the OPEC+ agreement on production cuts.

The two seemingly unrelated developments — the Covid-19 pandemic and the oil price war — are not as unrelated as they may seem at first.

The first development has amplified pre-existing worries about the health of the global economy. These concerns have played into oil market fears about weak demand. The second development (collapse of OPEC+ agreement) has added a supply shock to the disquiet of oil exporting nations. Since the demand for oil and in a second-hand way, its international price — is an important indicator of the health of the global economy, the sharp fall in oil benchmarks has reinforced the prevailing sentiment of gloom and doom.

The categorisation by WHO of Covid-19 as a pandemic will fuel the panic. Given that over 103 countries were reported affected as of March 9, including hard-hit advanced economies such as Italy, compared to 26 each at the time of SARS or MERS, and the extreme containment measures that countries are having to take, the scale of potential economic disruption is unprecedented. Huge losses are being incurred by airlines, hotels, and the wider tourism/hospitality and recreation industries,

among others.
The fact that China was at the epicentre of this virus is leading to fears about the economic contagion spreading far and wide. While China absorbs around 11pc of the world's exports, almost 40pc of its own exports, or nearly \$1tr, are supplied to global companies as part of the latter's supply chains. (This number is down from around 80pc at its peak in the early 2000s.) The closure of factories and all means of transportation between December and end-February would have imposed colossal losses that are unlikely to be recouped with a global economy tipping into a "recession"

According to an estimate by Bloomberg Economics, the Covid-19 pandemic can cost as much as \$2.7tr to the global economy in the worst case, with the loss to China's economy estimated at 2.4pc of GDP.

The more relevant question for us of course is what will be the economic impact on Pakistan? The most visible number that commentators are focused on is the international price of oil. With every decline of \$10 per barrel, Pakistan's oil import bill drops by approximately \$1.3 billion. With benchmark Brent crude trading at \$59 on Feb 20, and having lost almost \$25 per barrel as of March 11, the import bill can fall by over \$3.2bn over the next 12 months if current levels are sustained. Since a fall in the international price of oil is linked to other important energy products that Pakistan imports, such as LNG,

the potential savings are likely to be larger. Lower imported energy prices should translate into a sharp fall in inflation, with the magnitude depending on how much of the fall in international prices is passed on to domestic consumers by the government. The prospect of sharply lower inflation should spur an interest rate-cutting cycle by the central bank, which will ease budgetary pressure on the one hand, and lower the burden of financial charges for businesses. Cheaper imported energy prices will also potentially translate into lower energy costs for businesses and households via a reduction in electricity and gas tariffs. This should also ease the pace of accumulation of circular debt.

These are substantial positives. However, the impact is not unambiguously positive. The upside from lower oil prices will be limited to an extent by the growth-diminishing effects of fiscal consolidation. Global recessionary conditions will also provide headwinds for Pakistan's exports. The lower demand and price of oil could at some stage impact Saudi Arabia's willingness to continue with the generous oil facility it has granted to Pakistan. The enormous impact on the global economy, with the oil export-dependent Gulf

economies hardest hit, could spill over into the country's flow of worker remittances.

In addition, lower oil prices will negatively affect the government's main revenue spinner. However, lower revenue from the import and sale of petroleum will be offset to some extent by raising the petroleum levy, as well as via lower debt servicing costs. Finally, conditions in the global financial markets have prompted significant outflows from the stock of foreign portfolio investment in government securities. Between March 9 and 11, around \$400 million has flown out from the 'hot money' book, or roughly 12pc of the total invested stock in a space of three days. This is possibly the start of the worst case scenario readers will recall I have been warning against since July last year.

An even bigger risk that stalks Pakistan's outlook than all the foregoing near-term ones, however, is that the economic reprieve from falling oil prices could engender complacency in the already fairly underwhelming reform effort this govern-ment is undertaking. If so, that would take us back to where we start-

By arrangement with **Dawn**

IN BRIEF Kim supervises artillery exercises

Seoul: North Korean state media said Friday that leader Kim Jong Un has supervised another round of artillery exercises, the latest in a series of exercises believed aimed at boosting its fighting capability. The Korean Central News Agency said Kim guided an artillery firing competition between army units on Thursday. It said the competition was meant to evaluate the readiness of artillery forces and improve the form, program and method of artillery drills. Kim praised artillery troops for their "militant enthusiasm and attitude" and ordered authorities to hold similar artillery firing competitions on a regular basis, according

1ST DEMOCRATIC THAILAND MARCH **SINCE 2014 COUP**

Bangkok, March 13: Hundreds of pro-democracy protesters marched on parliament in Bangkok on Friday, wearing black T-shirts to mourn the state of Thailand under an army-aligned government, in the first street protest for several years.

Discontent with the government of ex-army chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha is seething, with a progressive opposition party disbanded and the country's economy faltering as the COVID-19 crisis batters the key tourism industry.

Protesters have met inside university campuses in recent weeks but are now edging back onto the streets of the capital, which has played host to rival — and often deadly— rounds of street politics over the last 14 years. Thailand voted Prayut's conservative government into power a year ago. It was the first election since a 2014 coup and held under an army-scripted constitution that critics say gave Prayut an

unfair advantage.
The boisterous but peaceful 'Black Friday' rally, calling for the government to quit, is the latest reflection of his unpopu-larity. "Our families are grassroots people and we're directly affected by government policy and the failing economy," 22-year-old student leader Thip Ubsorn said. Thailand's prodemocracy movements — usu-ally led by students — have often ended in bloody army crackdowns. The powerful military has carried out 12 successful coups in nearly 90 years and remains lodged in the nation's politics.

US hits pro-Iranian facilities, kills six

It was in response to a rocket attack on an Iraqi base

US air strikes targeting pro-Iranian military factions in Iraq early Friday killed one civil-ian and five security per-sonnel, the Iraqi military said in a preliminary toll.

Three of the dead were Iraqi soldiers and two were policemen, the military statement said, adding that 11 Iraqi fighters were also wounded, some of them critically. The civilian was a cook working at an unfinished airport outside the holy shrine city of Karbala, where another civilian was also wounded in the raids. The airport's media

Ghazwan Issawi confirmed the cook's death to press and said the airport had also suffered material damage. "Five missiles hit the administrative building at the airport and 18 cars were destroyed," Issawi said. "We are waiting for security forces to come and begin their investigation," he said. The volley of strikes, which began around 1:00 (2200)GMT Thursday), hit five weapons storage facilities belonging to the Hashed al-Shaabi military network, according

to the Pentagon. It was in response to a rocket attack on an Iraqi base late Wednesday that killed two US military personnel and one British soldier, and which the US blamed on hardline Hashed factions. The attack was the 22nd since October on US interests in Iraq — attack but civilian offibut by far the deadliest. attack but civilian officials had yet to comment country already sque-



Iran on Friday warned US President Donald Trump against taking "dangerous after American forces launched air strikes that they said targeted a pro-Iranian armed group in neighbouring Iraq.
"The United States

cannot blame others... for the consequences of its illegal presence in Iraq and the nation's reaction to the assassination and killing of Iraqi commanders and fighters," foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

"Instead of dangerous actions and baseless accusations, Mr Trump should reconsider the presence and behaviour of his troops in the area," he added.

The statement was issued hours after the Pentagon said the US had launched strikes against the Kataeb Hezbollah armed faction. The United States said the strikes targeted five weapons facilities across Iraq.

US diplomatic offices have come under attack as well as the bases where the 5,200 American troops in Iraq are stationed. The Iraqi government was quick to condemn the rocket It said they were carried out in response to the killing on Wednesday of two it says are Iran-backed factions from the Hashed al-Shaabi network, a state-sponsored umbrella group that includes Kataeb Hezbollah, for recent similar violence. Iran has always denied it backs Iraqi militias. — AFP

hours after they took The military said the US attack was a violation of Iraq's sovereignty that would only lead more risks and threats

A crater and destruction in the Iraqi shrine city of

air strikes against a pro-Iranian group in Iraq fol-

a rocket attack on a US base in Taji.

Americans and a Briton

in a rocket attack on

Taji air base. Wednesday's attack was the 22nd on US installa-

tions in Iraq, including

the American embassy,

since late October.

Karbala, in one of the areas targeted by US military

lowing the deaths of two Americans and a Briton in

While there was no on the retaliatory US ezed by spiralling tenstrikes more than 12 sions between its two main allies, Washington and Tehran. "It leads to escalation and deterioration of the security situation in the country and exposes everyone to

NZ leader: Nation changed after attacks

place.

Christchurch, March 13: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Friday that New Zealanders have become more engaged with the Muslim community in the year since a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques.

Ardern was in Christchurch attending events to mark the anniversary of last year's March 15 massacre, which she has

described as one of New Zealand's darkest days. On Friday she attended a special joint prayer with members of both mosques that were attacked, and on Sunday she plans to attend a

national memorial. Among those speaking during the prayer service was Al Noor mosque survivor Farid Ahmed, whose wife Husna was

killed in the attacks. 'Hate does not achieve any gain for the hater, or for anyone," he said afterward. "If there are any differences, there is another way, and that way is the peaceful way. We should talk, we should dialogue, should ask one another questions, and we should not be afraid of

Ardern said people had told her they had visited mosques for the first time in the wake of the attacks and had found themselves more openly discussing differences of faith. "A year on, I believe New Zealand and its people have fundamentally changed. I can't see how you could have an event like this and not," Ardern said. — AP

Brexit trade deal: EU negotiator's 'ambitious' draft

Brussels, March 13: Chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier said Friday that he had sent an "ambitious" draft of what could be a new post-Brexit trade deal with Britain to

Next week's face-to-face round of EU-UK negotiations in London has been cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic, but both sides are keen to press on.

EU capitals.

There is also, for some officials, an unspoken race to publish a comprehensive draft proposal as both sides seek to gain the initiative in a tricky monthslong negotiation.

We've sent a draft agreement on new partnership to EP & Council for discussion," Barnier tweeted, referring to the European Parliament and the member states. "It shows ambitious & comprehensive future relationship is possible. We must give ourselves every chance of success," he said.

"We will publish the text after our exchanges & look forward to working with UK." Some in Brussels are pushing for Barnier to put out Europe's vision of a close working relationship with Britain under a deal to guarantee a "level playing field" for businesses.

But some member states oppose this, arguing that Brussels should wait to see Britain's proposal for a simple trade deal with no promise of alignment with EU rules

"Publishing the draft is not usual practice at this stage. It will only show that the EU and UK are on different tracks,"

We've some a draft agreement on new partnership to EP & Council for discussion, It shows ambitious & comprehensive future relationship is possible. We must give ourselves every chance of success

> MICHEL BARNIER, Chief EU negotiator

European diplomat said. "Barnier thinks it will show advantage but it doesn't. It will show that what we have is fundamentally different than what they have. If we do, doing so before the UK is especially not wise. Britain and the EU want

to conclude some kind of new trading arrangement by the end of the year, when a post-Brexit transition ends and European trade rules no longer apply. Many business on both sides of the Channel are keen for a close relationship to continue, with matching rules, to minimise disruption to supply chains.

But Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists Brexit means future ties with be those between "sovereign equals", with Britain prepared to pay a price for the right to set its own laws. In Brussels, officials are far from confident that a deal can be done in time. Each side wants to show their domestic audience how ambitious they are to get the deal done by the the end of the year," the diplomat said.



Office of Joint Director, Hydrology Directorate

3th Floor, Block-B, Jal Sansadhan, Bhawan,

Anisabad, Patna-800002 Corrigendum No.-01

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Joint Director,

Hydrology Directorate, Patna-800002. Mob:-+917463889165; 06122252039 Email: - jdhydrologypatna@gmail.com

PR No. 017344(WRD)2019-20

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No. IROAF/SOLAR/FLEXI/DEMU/P11/20

Date: 12.03.2020 IROAF on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender for the works of Design, Supply, modification, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 4.5 KWp on each coach Solar Power Generating System with flexible solar PV panels including rechargeable 110V/120 Ah lithium ion (Lithium Iron Phosphate) battery bank with battery management system and other accessories on the roof top of 450 Nos, trailer coaches of Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMUs) or similar roof profile on Turnkey basis " as per technical specification & condition of tender document Part-II at nominated DEMU depot/Shed at Shakurbasti /Northern Railway, Sonpur/ECR, Pune & Solapur/CR, Metra Road/NWR, Ahmedabad/WR, Siliguri/NFR, Gondia/SECR, Maula Ali & Vijayawada/SCR & Aundiar/NER. Any other DEMU Depot/Shed may be nominated for the execution of Work at the discretion of IROAF. "This tender of works belongs to Mechanical

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Availability of tender document on Website www.ireps.gov.in Date of pre-bid meeting Last date of submission of tender (closing date of tender) Date & time of opening of tender Project completion period

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Total Rs. 2786200.00 (Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred only). 12.03.2020

26.03.2020 (11.00hrs) 18.05.2020 (15.00hrs)

18.05.2020 (15.00hrs)

30 months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance (LOA)

The tender document shall be available for downloading from www.ireps.gov.in w.e.f 12.03.2020. The respective bidders may upload their offer on www.ireps.gov.in from 04.05.2020 to 18.05.2020 till 15.00hrs. For any clarification prospective bidder may contact at 011-23379003, 011-23379006 or sent by Fax No. 011-23379083.

Chief Mechanical Engineer/IROAF

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Greece's first woman president sworn-in

Athens, March 13: Greece's first female president, a former high court judge, was formally sworn in to office Friday, nearly two months after the country's parliament voted overwhelmingly to elect her.

The swearing-in ceremony for Katerina Sakell-aropoulou took place in an almost empty parliament, as part of measures being taken to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. Only a handful of lawmak-

ers and a limited number of journalists were present. Greece has shut down schools, universities, cinemas, theaters, gyms and nightclubs, and authorities have warned people to stay home and avoid large gatherings in an effort to contain the virus outbreak. The country so far has 117

confirmed cases and one death. The presidential swearing-in ceremony was being



Greeces first woman President Katerina Sakellaropoulou.

covered live on state television. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis nominated Sakellaropoulou as a nonpartisan candidate who would enjoy broad support from across the political spe-

All major parties voted in favor, with Sakellaropoulou being elected to the largely

ceremony for Katerina Sakellaropoulou took place in an almost empty parliament, as part of measures being taken to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. Only a handful of lawmakers and a limited number of journalists were present.

ceremonial post in a 261-33 vote in January, well above the 200 votes required. Six lawmakers were absent.

Greece has a low number of women in senior positions in politics, and Mitsotakis had been criticized for selecting a nearly all-male Cabinet after he won general elections in July 2019. In the current Greek Cabinet, all but one of the 18 senior positions are held by men.

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE Name of the work: "Extension of Fertilizer Berth Return ARM" EMD Cost : Rs. 14,14,361/-. Last

Date and time of submission of Bid: 25.03.2020 upto 17:15 Hrs. For details please refer our website: https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/

Executive Engineer Harbour Works Division No. I PPT/PR/715/19-20 Dt. 13.03.2020

🔞 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🔞

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender Notice No. 87 of 2019-20 (Open)-Engg/DDU, On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

Tender No. 78-DDU-SRDEN-II-19-20 Name of work with its location : Balance work of SSM for NI work due to surface connection of DFCCIL with IR under Sr. DEN/III/DDU, 2. Approx. cost of the work ₹5,53,59,154.71 3. Earnest Money ₹4.26.800/-, 4. Date & time for submission of e-tender : 30.03.2020, Up-to 12:00 hrs. 5. Website particulars of e-tendering www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager/ ECR/Pt. Deen Daval Upadhava PR/2408/DDU/Engg./T/19-20/32

🔞 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🔕

e-lender Notice

e-Tender No. 2019/WP/ENGG/KGP/ Ph-II/ WT-17 (open) e-tender(open) are invited on behalf of the President of India with following details. (1) Name of the work with its location : Composite work (Civil, electrical and Mechanical) involving construction of industrial shed with Pre Engineered Building(PEB) Inspection Pit, Electric Sub Station (ESS) Track works Electrification and illumination works Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant and other associated Civil. Electrical & Mechanical works in connection with Augmentation of POH capacity for LHB coaches at Kharagpur workshop(Phase-II), South Eastern Railway. (2) Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 33,37,13,281.43 (3) Eamest Money to be deposited : Rs.16,18,600/-(4) Date & Time for closing of e-tender On 30.03.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. (5) Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded : Tender can only be down loaded and Bidded from IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in For any other information please contact office of Chief Engineer-I/Workshop Projects/Indian Railways, Chamber Bhawan, 4th floor (Engg. Deptt.), J.C. Road, Patna 800001. CAO/ WP/Patna PR/2409/WPO/Engg./T/19-20/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice -tender is invited on Behalf of the

President of India for the under mentioned work:-(01) Name of the work with its

ocation : Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 132/25KV Traction Sub Station with Shunt Capacitor Bank at Saraigarh (Double Transformer) between Saharsa - Forbesganj including Electrical (G) works of Samastipur Division of East Central Railway e-Tender No. EL/C/N/MHX/ETEN/ 69/19-20 (02) Approx. Cost of the work : Rs. 5,30,07,006.5 (03) Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited: Rs. 4,15,000/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively (04) Date and time for closing of tender.: 01.04.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. (05) Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/ CON/ Mahendrughat office, CAO/ CON/ECR office Complex, Patna-04. Dy CEE/Con/North/Samastipur PR/2415/CON/Elect./T/19-20/44

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL GOLCONDA Hydershakote, Near Suncity, Hyderabad - 31

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Army Public School Golconda, requies 15 Housekeeping staff and 03 Security Guards to be employed for the year 2020-21. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to send the tender latest by 31 March 2020.

APS Golconda



CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS (An autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India; Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderaad – 500039, Telangana, India, Te. +91-40-2721 6006, Website: http://www.cdld.org.in

CDFD invites sealed quotations for "Maintenance of Electrical Equipments and Installations"

Name of work: "Maintenance of Electrical Equipments and Installations" for the period from 1* May 2020 to 30" April 2021 at CDFD Laboratory Building Site 'A' and Hostel and Residential Complex, Site 'B', Uppal. Scope of work: Annual Maintenance Contract for Electrical Equipments and

Downloadi Last date for Cost of Tender Date of Approximate Opening o Tender submission of Tender ng of Tenders cost 2% of 12-03-2020 approximate to cost (Rs.1,07,000/-) 01-04-2020 01-04-2020 01-04-2020

for the period from 1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021

upto at 15.00 Hours 15.30 Hour The Tender Document can be downloaded from the CDFD website at the following web_link:http://cdfd.org.in/inside%20htmls/tenders.html and www.eprocure.gov.in. Filled-in Tender hardcopy should be submitted along with requisite DDs drawn in favour of "DIRECTOR, CDFD" in the Office of Incharge-Engineering, Laboratory Building, Uppal Campus. Interested firms may visit the site on every Tuesday and Thursday between 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. with prior appointment. Copy of Firm Registration Certificate along with GST certificate should be enclosed. Amendments / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the

Incharge-Engineering



Rs.53.50

Rs.2000/-

कर्मधारी भविष्य निधि संगठन Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (श्रम एवं रोजगार भत्रालय,भारत सरकार)

(Ministry Of Labour and Employment, Government Of India) क्षेत्रीयकार्यालय/Regional Office (Madhapur) Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad 500027 Phone: 040-27564571-78 E-mail: ro.hyderabad@epfindia.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inquiry under Section 7A of Employee's Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 in respect of following establishment is being held for determination of the dues for the period mentioned against the establishment.

In order to support the Inquiry Authority in determination of the dues, a Commission was constituted by the Inquiry Authority vide order No. TS/RO/HYD/7A Inquiry/52232/2019 dated 24.05.2019. All the employes and workers who have worked in or connection with the worker to be a catallicative or different confident. work of the establishment either directly or indirectly through a work of the satabilishment enter the directly of interfectly through a contractor, during the relevant period and who have not been enrolled or for whom remittances have not been made in accordance with the EPF and MP Act 1952 are advised to appear before the commission of EPF and MP Act 1952 are advised to appear before the commission of inquiry or represent through an authorized person, with vakalatnama / tenable authorisation and with documentary evidences such as appointment orders, salary / wage slips, attendance registers or any other relevant documents for the period under inquiry. Any other person having material evidence in respect of below mentioned establishment regarding evasion or insufficient remittances as per the EPF and MP Act 1952 may also file through Affidavit / Oath.

| Code | Name and Address of the | Period of |
|------|---|-----------------------|
| No | Establishment | Inquiry |
| | M/s. MW High Tech Projects India Pvt. Ltd. (A Company of M+W Group) Registered Office: 10th Floor, Kapil Towers, Financial District, Hyderabad-500034, India | 10/2016 to 03/2019 |

Commission of Inquiry Appointed under Sec. 7A of EPF & MP Act, 1952



(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India) REGIONAL OFFICE: 3-4-763. Bhavishyanidhi Bhawan. Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027

No. TS/HYD-II/PUBLIC NOTICE/2020 Date: 26-02-2020 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

15爾

07/2015 to

Attention of public at large is being invited that inquiry under section 7A of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is being held for determination of dues for the period mentioned The Inquiry under Section 7A of EPF & MP Act, 1952 is deemed to be

| judicial proceeding within the meaning of Section 193 of Indian Pena Code and inquiry authority have the powers vested in a court unde Civil Procedure of 1908. | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| SI. No. | Est. Code | Name of the Establishment (7A) | Period of Inquiry | | | |
| 1 | 1589527 | M/s Smarttrak Energy Private Limited | 09/2017 to 06/2018 | | | |
| 2 | 1324927 | M/s Sai Ganesh Hospitality Services | Date of Setup to till date | | | |
| 3 | 73585 | M/s Mandava Spas and Hotels Private Limited | 04/2014 to 03/2015 | | | |
| 4 | 82394 | M/s JSD Data Infotech Pvt Ltd | 09/2014 to 05/2017 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

1347287 M/s ILLUSIONZ Media India

All the employees and workers, who have worked in or in connection with the work of the establishments either directly or indirectly through a contractor, during the relevant period and who have not been enrolled or for whom remittances have not been made in accordance with the EPF & MP Act, 1952 are advised to appear before the inquiry authority or represent through an authorized person within one week, with such as appointment orders, salary / wage slips, attendance registers or any other relevant documents for the period under inquiry. Any other person having material evidence in respect of the below mentioned establishments regarding evasion or insufficient remittances Vakalatnama / tenable authorization and with documentary evidences establishments regarding evasion or insufficient remittance as per EPF & MP Act, 1952 may also file through Affidavit / Oath within

Sd/- Assistant P.F. Commissioner (Compliance) Regional Office, Hyderabad-II

Chronicle

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 14 MARCH 2020

quick BITES

| INDICATO | IRS | % |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Sensex | 34,103.48 | 4.04 |
| Nifty 50 | 9,955.20 | 3.81 |
| S&P 500* | 2,520.77 | 1.62 |
| Dollar (₹) | 73.90 | -0.44 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 92.76 | -1.80 |
| Euro (₹) | 82.56 | -0.84 |
| Gold (10gm) (₹) | 42,600▼1,097 | -2.57 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl) | * 33.32 | 0.30 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 6.322 | 1.376 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield | d* 0.896 | 0.044 |
| * As of10:10 pm IS | Т | |

Parliament okays 'Vivad Se Vishwas' Bill

Parliament approved the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Bill that will provide an opportunity to taxpayers to settle their tax disputes by paying just due taxes with complete waiver of interest and penalty by March 31. The bill was passed by voice vote and returned by the Rajya Sabha as it was a money bill. It was approved by the Lok Sabha on March 4. The finance minister said the end of the scheme date would be notified later.

Forex reserves surge \$5.69 bn to \$487.23 bn



The country's foreign exchange surged by \$5.69 billion to reach an all-time high of \$487.23 bn in the week to March 6 following an increase in foreign currency assets. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by \$5,419 bn to \$481.540 bn. Foreign currency assets rose by \$5.311 bn to i.135 bn. Gold reserves rose by \$320 million to \$31 bn.The special drawing rights with the IMF were up \$1.447 bn.

Air India bid deadline extended

The government extended the deadline for submitting bids to buy Air India by about oneand-a-half months till April 30 citing demand from interested bidders (IBs) and situation arising out of coronavirus infections. The Centre had on January 27 issued preliminary information memorandum (PIM) inviting EoI for sale of 100 per cent stake in Air India. The deadline for submitting bids was March 17.

Jet Airways' RP seeks 90 days extension

Jet Airways' resolution professional filed an application in **National Company Law Tribunal** (NCLT) seeking 90 days extension for the corporate insolvency resolution process of the defunct carrier. The tribunal comprising Bhaskara Pantula Mohan and Rajesh Sharma, will hear the matter next week. The committee of creditors had on February 18 set the new deadline of March 10 for submission of bids for the airline.

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■ HDFC, ICICI Bank, Axis, Kotak Mahindra to buy stake

Private lenders join Yes Bank rescue bid

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

Depositors of beleaguered Yes Bank have a reason to cheer: The RBI may withdraw curbs on cash withdrawal within three working days of the central bank notifying the rescue plan, which got the Union Cabinet's approval

The government said six institutionsfinancial mostly private lenders-have teamed up with stateowned SBI to rescue the lender. They would infuse Rs 11,750 crore capital into

Yes Bank.
ICICI Bank and HDFC
Ltd will own 6 per cent each at an investment of Rs 1,000 crore each, Axis Bank 4.70 per cent at Rs 600 crore and Kotak Mahindra Bank 3.4 per cent at Rs 500 crore. Apart from private investors like Radhakishan Damani, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and Azim Premji Trust will own three per cent each at an investment of Rs 500 crore each, a source close to the development said.



recommended appointing administrator Prashant Kumar as the new CEO of Yes Bank. "The state-owned lender also detailed how much capital each investor will bring and by when the plan will be executed. As per the proposal, public-sector banks will bring in Rs

30,000 crore as bulk deposits," the source said.

The announcement of investment comes alongside the approval of Yes Bank's restructuring scheme by the Union Cabinet on Friday. After the Cabinet meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala

after the notification of the within three scheme, (working) days the moratorium will be lifted, and within seven days a new board will be constituted therein.' Sitharaman further said,

"The decision keeps at its core the aim to safeguard depositors' interest and ensure a stable financial banking system. The authorised capital of Yes Bank is being raised to Rs 6,200 crore from Rs 1,100 crore in order to accommodate immediate and subsequent capital raising requirement.

Sitharaman also said SBI

of the equity in Yes Bank. On the new board of Yes Bank, she also said, "The administrator will vacate the office within seven days of notification and new board will take charge. Explaining the mode of investment, she said there would be a three-year lock-in period for all the investors. "However, the lock-in period for SBI would be only for 26 per cent of shareholding. It would be 75 per cent in case of other investors," she added.

As per RBI's draft reconstruction scheme for the bank, its authorised capital was to be Rs 5,000 crore. On Thursday, the SBI said it would invest Rs 7,250 crore in Yes Bank, which is much higher than Rs 2,450 crore it had planned initially for 49 per cent stake in the private sector lender that began operations in 2004. In a stock exchange filing, all these private banks said, the decision on the investment was taken at their respective board held meetings

Rana, wife took ₹307 cr in Avantha deal: CBI

ABHISHEK SHUKLA NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

The CBI has booked Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor for allegedly obtaining Rs 307 crore bribe in the purchase of a Lutyen's zone bungalow from a realty firm to go easy on around Rs 1,900 crore bank loans to the seller's group companies, officials said on Friday.

Besides Kapoor, the CBI has also booked his wife Bindu, her company Bliss Abode Pvt Ltd as well as Avantha Realty Ltd and Gautam Thapar, the promoter of Avantha Group, which sold the bungalow, the officials said.

On Friday, the CBI carried out searches at the residence of Kapoor, former MD and CEO of Yes Bank, and his wife Bindu in Mumbai, and offices of Bliss Abode, Thapar and Avantha group companies and Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd in New Delhi and NCR, they said.

In a statement, Indiabulls Housing

Finance, however, said no raid of the CBI has happened on Indiabulls Group or at any of its offices.

But CBI officials maintained that searches took place at Indiabulls Housing Finance office in New Delhi.

The case pertains to a 1.2-acre uber luxe bungalow at 40, Amrita Shergill Marg, which the Avantha group had mortgaged to ICICI Bank and DCB bank at Rs 550 crore, of which Rs 380 crore was outstanding in March 2016, the officials said.

Yes Bank chipped in with a loan of Rs 400 crore as Lease Rental Discounting in which discounted values of future lease rentals proposed to be received by borrower by leasing its property are sanctioned as a loan In order to justify the higher loan amount, Avantha Realty (ARL) allegedly entered in a sham lease

agreement with a group company, BILT Graphics Paper Pvt Ltd, at a whopping Rs 65 crore per annum with five per cent yearly escalation, they said

The agreement was executed on March 22, 2016, two days prior to sanction of the loan from Yes Bank to ARL. Surprisingly, the same property was leased to another Avantha group company for Rs 1.02 crore per annum before, officials said.

"It was essentially a sham agree ment entered into with an intention to defraud and cheat Yes Bank Ltd for justifying loan of Rs 400 crore to ARL for the purpose of acquiring the property by Bindu Kapoor," the CBI FIR alleged. The agency has alleged that when sanctioning the loan, the out standing liabilities of Avantha Group were Rs 1,333 crore towards Yes Bank, which had extended credit facilities of Rs 2,500 crore to it. The firm was ineligible for the loan.

Avantha group used the Rs 400 crore loan to clear loans of ICICI Bank and DCB, following which the charge of the property, which commanded a valuation of Rs 550 crore, was created in favour of Yes Bank, the FIR said.

Tax reimbursement scheme for exporters moves one step ahead

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, MARCH 13

The Cabinet on Friday approved the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported

(RoDTEP) Products scheme, which was announced by the finance minister in September last year. The scheme, which replace Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), may first be rolled out for apparels and made-ups and later for other sectors, hopes the

industry.

After the announcement of the scheme in September, RoDTEP has been waiting for the cabinet approval.



RoDTEP reimburses taxes such as duty on power charges, VAT on fuel in transportation, farm sector and captive power generation, mandi tax, stamp duty on export documents, CGST and compensation cess on coal in power production, central excise duty on fuel used in transportation. It would make Indian products competitive in global markets, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal told reporters in New Delhi.

It is not a promotional scheme like MEIS and hence is WTO-compliant. Under the WTO rules, certain duties like state taxes on power, oil, water, and education cess can be refunded

After a WTO dispute resolution panel had ruled that MEIS was not in compliance with the global trade norms as India has graduated from the category of the least developed countries, it had to be withdrawn for apparels and made-ups by March 31, 2020. "As the data required to fix the rates under

RoDTEP is already available for apparels and madeups, government might introduce the scheme for these products by April 1. For the other sectors, the scheme might get rolled out in a phased manner,' said Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO of Federation of Indian

Export Organisations. According to Goyal, the government will fix the rates by talking to the industry within eight "Stakeholders meeting will be held for fixing the rates. We will take data and see what all cost they bear. We will use the next six-eight months to talk to the industry," he

After panic, market mood changes to exuberance

The stock markets staged one of the biggest intraday recoveries in recent times when the Sensex rebounded from a loss of over 3,300 points to close 1,300 points higher in a volatile session that saw a 5,000-point swing.

Earlier in the day, trading on NSE and BSE was stopped for 45 minutes after benchmark indices fell 10 per cent a few minutes into trading, as panic gripped the market following overnight sell-off in the global markets.

However, when trading resumed after the halt, domestic investors began bargain hunting at beatendown valuations, taking benchmarks in the positive territory.

The Sensex closed 1325 points higher at 34,103, after falling to 29,388 earli er in the session, while the Nifty closed 3 per cent higher, after hitting 8,555 at day's low.

The market regulator and stock exchanges, meanwhile, tried to reassure the market. The Sebi issued a statement saying that stock exchanges have a robust risk management framework in place, which automatically gets triggered in response to move-ment in the indices as well as stocks in the cash and derivatives market. pointed to the Value at Risk (VaR) margin with initial margin to cover 99 per cent risk of a transaction and extreme loss margin to cover the residual risk of a transaction.

Investor wealth in BSElisted companies grew over Rs 3.55 lakh crore on Friday, taking the total market capitalisation to Rs 1,29,26,242.82 crore at the end of the session.

Concern over the economic impact of Covid-19 is expected to keep the market highly volatile.

Brokerages warn against short bets

Mumbai, March 13: three-six months time. Brokerage houses have cautioned investors against getting into the market for short-term gains, as the impact of the coronovirus pan-

demic is still lingering. At this moment, one should buy stocks only with a medium to long term investment horizon and not to make a quick buck, they

advised investors.
"Investors should avoid taking any kneejerk reaction to the cursell-off," Mutual Fund said in a advising that investments should be spread over

Bank of America Securities said it is "not yet" the time to buy, reasoning that the Covid sentiment is still driving the markets and major global mar-kets will first have to contain the pandemic.

Containment of the virus will have an economic cost as it may require drastic lockdowns and also eco-nomic checks. It is not a "kid in toy shop" moment in India, it warned, pointing out that stocks which can deliver steady growth are still far from being cheap.

Bourses halt trading for first time in 12 years

Mumbai, March 13: The domestic stock market halted trading for the first time in more than 12 years on Friday morning after benchmarks hit circuit breakers on panic sell-ing triggered by overnight sell off in the global markets.

BSE and NSE stopped trading for 45 minutes from little past 9.20 am. curb excessive volatility, circuit breakers are triggered on the basis of three thresholds for stock movement —10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent, based on the previous day's closing

For 10 per cent movement before 1 pm, trading is halted for 45 minutes and between 1 pm and 2.30 pm, the break is for 15 minutes, with no halt after 2.30 pm.

Trading would be halted for 1.45 hours if there is 15 per cent movement before 1 pm and for 45 minutes if it happens between 1 pm and 2 pm, and halted for the day after 2 pm.

A 20 per cent movement at any point of time would result in complete halt of tradcomplete nar-ing for the day. Financial

Services Investment Strategist V K Vijaykumar said the last time there was a circuit freeze and trading halt was on January 22, 2008. There was also a brief trading halt on the NSE on October 5, 2012 due to a freak trade.

Rupee recovers on RBI reassurance

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, MARCH 13

The rupee on Friday staged a dramatic recovery and closed higher by 30 paise compared to its previous close of 74.22 on suspected RBI intervention to halt its further deprecia-

tion, said traders. The RBI during the day reiterated that is "closely and continuously monitoring the rapidly evolving global situation and will take all necessary measures to ensure that money, debt and forex markets remain adequately liquid and stable, and continue to function normally.'

It also announced Rs 25,000 crore via variable rate repo operations under its liquidity adjustment facility. The move to offer this short-term liquidity followed its decision to conduct a six month US dollar sell/buy swaps to address the shortage of dollars. The central bank

plans to offer \$2 billion to forex market on Monday, March 16. Banks may buy dollars from the RBI and simultaneously agree to sell the same amount of dollars at the end of the swap period.

Foreign investors have sold close to Rs 40,000 crore in debt and equity since the start of March, data from National Securities Depository Ltd showed. The rupee dropped to a

record low of 74.49 levels at the opening trade, weighed down by worries over the coronavirus pandemic and strong dollar demand globally. RBI's assurance came when trading on the stock exchanges hit a "circuit breaker"as soon as markets opened on Friday.

The currency and stocks later pared losses. The crude oil benchmark Brent Futures surged nearly 6 per cent to trade at \$ 35.11 per barrel. India's 10-year bond yield rose by 9 basis points at 6.32 per cent.

Exports see first rise in 7 months New Delhi, March 13:

Ex-ports rose for the first time in seven months in February. growing by 2.91 per cent to \$27.65 billion (about Rs 1.97 lakh crore) on account of growth in shipments of sectors such as petroleum, engineering and chemicals.

Trade deficit marginal ly widened to \$9.85 billion as against \$9.72 billion in February 2019. The deficit was the lowest in 12 months. The previous low was in February last year.

Commerce Ministry data showed imports rose for the first time in ninth months in February, growing 2.48 per cent to \$37.5 billion (about Rs 2.68 lakh crore). Imports have been recording negative growth since June last year.

PV sales down 7.6%, vehicle despatches fall 19.8%

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, MARCH 13

Passenger vehicle sales fell 7.61 per cent to 1,56,285 units in February and total automobile sales tanked 19 per cent to 16.46 lakh units, with the economic slowdown hitting demand hard and buyers shy-

ing away from purchases. Wholesale dispatches in India from factory gates to dealers, which are counted as sales, were also affected by the lower production in view of transition to BS-VI emission norms that kick in from April

The decline in wholesale dispatches is primarily due to economic slowdown and lower production of BS-IV vehicles, Rajan Wadhera, president at

Some upside on the registration numbers of Vahan, the

national register for sales of vehicles, can be attributed to last-minute purchase by customers trying to advance purchase of BS-IV vehicles, he pointed out.

Production is also affected in February due to the lack of availability of spare parts supplied from China, Wadhera

He said supply chain disruptions may impact the production plans for companies going forward while welcoming the government's step to issue a "notification of force majeure for coronavirus and 24×7 clearance of shipments at all customs formations"

The finance ministry on Feb 19 classified the coronavirus outbreak as a natural calamity, and covered it by the force majeure clause (FMC). The ministry has said this clause can free both the parties in a



contract from contractual liability in fulfilling their obligations. However, the ministry has clarified that there may be a force majeure situation affecting the purchase organi-

sation only.
Suman Chowdhury, president at Acuité Ratings & Research, said the sharp decline in year-on-year production of both commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles at 40.1 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively in February reflects not only the expectations of weak demand in the near term but also the challenges in the supply chain for BS-VI vehicles brought about by the outbreak of the Corona

"If the supply chain disruption gets extended, there can be a significant impact on domestic sales of BS-VI vehicles in the first quarter of FY21," he pointed out.

The marginal improvement in industrial production as evident from the IIP figures of January 2020 is clearly yet to be seen in commercial vehicle demand since the latter sales have dropped by 32.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis. 'What is however, encourag-

ing is the healthy growth in exports in both the passenger vehicles and the two-wheelers at 8.9 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively despite the weak economic environment," Chowdhury said.

Passenger vehicle sales at market leader Maruti Suzuki declined 2.34 per cent last month at 1,33,702 units. Rival Hyundai Motor India also reported 7.19 per cent drop at 40,010 units, while new entrant Kia Motors took the third position during the month selling a total of 15,644

Total two-wheeler sales in February fell 19.82 per cent to 12,94,791 units as compared to 16,14,941 units in the same month last year, Siam said.

leader MotoCorp reported total twowheeler sales of 4,80,196 units last month, down 20.05 per cent. Rival Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India also saw a decline of 22.83 per cent at 3,15,285 units last month.

Similarly, TVS Motor Co also suffered a drop of 26.73 per cent at 1,69,684 units last month.

Overall motorcycle sales last month declined 22.02 per cent at 8,16,679 units as against 10,47,356 units in the year-ago period. Scooter sales were down 14.27 per cent at 4,22,310 units last month as compared to 4,92,584 units in February last year.

Sales of commercial vehicles were down 32.9 per cent to 58,670 units in February as against 87,436 units in the same month last year, the Siam data showed.

Boston Marathon

moved to Sept. **Washington:** The 124th Boston Marathon, scheduled for April

20, has been postponed to September 14 due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) announced on Friday The historic race, first contested in 1897, is the world's oldest annual marathon and typically takes place on the Patriots Day holiday celebrated in Boston and the entire state of

Massachusetts After Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency on Tuesday Boston Mayor Martin Walsh decided the race could not proceed as scheduled in April and the BAA said in a statement it "understands the city's deci-

"On matters of public health and safety we take our guidance from the officials entrusted with protecting the public in this area," said association chief executive Tom Grilk BAA officials have worked with municipal leaders across eight cities and towns where the course for the 26.2-mile event takes place to coordinate plans for September 14 as a

Augusta Masters shelved for now

Washington: This year's Masters tournament, the season's first major golf championship, has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak, Augusta National Golf Club chairman Fred Ridley announced Friday "Considering the latest information and expert analysis, we have decided at this time to postpone the Masters tournament," Ridley said in a state-

The LPGA is postponing it next three tournaments amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including the first major on the 2020 golf calendar, the ANA Inspiration. The LPGA said in a statement that the March 19-22 Founders Cup in Phoenix Meanwhile, all tournaments of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) from March 16 have been postponed indefinitely due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. — Agencies

Athletes will be tested, says WADA

Dusseldorf: Getting very close to strangers is some people's job, even in a global virus out break. Doping testers around the sporting world are trying to avoid infecting themselves or athletes, but that's not always easy when you have to squeeze into a cubicle with a sports star. As the World Anti-Doping Agency's training materials states: direct observation of the urine passing from the Athlete into the collection vessel is critical." With the virus spreading, athletes and sports teams are increasingly quarantining themselves. Anti-doping agencies are grappling with how to keep athletes safe while ensuring quarantine isn't misused by dopers seeking a two-week exemption from testing The Russian anti-doping agency has issued its staff with

GOBERT SORRY FOR CARELESS BEHAVIOUR

disinfectant wipes and face

Los Angeles: Utah Jazz star Rudy Gobert apologised Thursday for potentially exposing people to the coronavirus, a day after news of his infection with Covid-19 prompted the NBA to abruptly suspend the season. In a post on Instagram the 27-year-old Frenchman said he had "no excuse" for disregarding safety warnings about coronavirus earlier this week Gobert had triggered scorn on social media on Monday after pointedly touching every microphone and voice recorder But Gobert's cavalier stunt took a serious turn on Wednesday after it emerged he had contracted Covid-19 moments before Utah's game with Oklahoma City ESPN later reported that Gobert touched players and

"I have gone through so many emotions since learning of my diagnosis, mostly fear anxiety and embarrassment. The first and foremost thing is I would like to publicly apologise to the people that I may have endangered. At the time, I had no idea I was even infected. I was careless and make no excuse.

their belongings in the locker

hope my story serves as a warning and causes everyone to take this seriously," Gobert wrote on Instagram

WHO will decide Games

IOC to follow World Health Organisation advice, says Bach

Berlin, March 13: The International Olympic Committee will follow the World Health

Organisation's recommendation on whether to cancel or postpone this year's Tokyo Olympics over the coronavirus pandemic, IOC chief Thomas Bach said on Thursday.

In an interview with German television ARD, Bach said his organisation has been in regular contact with WHO experts since mid-February over

"We will follow the advice of the WHO," he said, adding that the IOC was now still working towards preparing for a "successful" Games.

With cancellations of Olympic qualifiers piling up as countries unroll drastic measures to halt the contagion, Bach acknowledged that there "serious problems with qualification compe-

"Here we will have to react very flexibly," he adding that this could be through postponing competitions or chang-

ing qualification criteria.
What is key, he said, is that athletes, particularly those from countries hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, must be offered "fair qualification under these very difficult conditions"

Japanese organisers have so far insisted that the pandemic will not derail the Games sched-uled to run from July 24 to

August 8.
On Thursday, US
President Donald Trump became the first foreign leader to suggest delaying the Tokyo Olympics by a

The US leader said that another alternative holding competitions in empty stadiums be even worse than forcing a delay.





Two women take a selfie with the Olympic rings in the background in the Odaiba section of Tokyo on Thursday.

Japan trumps Donald's comment

China three months ago

spread across Asia and then the globe: The Games

will open as schedule on

Television broadcasters

and sponsors have billions

invested in the Olympics,

and the crowded interna-

tional sports calendar has

March President Donald Trump's suggestion to postpone the Tokyo Olympics for a year because of the spreading coronavirus was immediately shot down by Japan's Olympic minister.

The IOC and the organising committee are not considering cancellation or a postponement, absolutely not at all," Hashimoto, Olympic bronze medalist, told a news conference on Friday in Tokyo.

"I just can't see having no people there. In other words, not allowing people. Maybe, and this is just pone it for a year," Trump



told reporters at the White

"We will put in our max-

imum effort so that ath-

letes will have no confu-

Olympic Committee and

Tokyo organisers have

International

sion or uncertainty, Hashimoto said.

House on Thursday.

The

The International Olympic Committee and the organising committee are not considering cancellation or a postponement, absolutely not at all. We will put in our maximum effort so that athletes will have no confusion or uncertainty.

— SEIKO HASHIMOTO, Japan's Olympic Minister on US president Donald



Trump's suggestion of postponing the Olympics

Holding the Olympics

celling the Olympics, which has only happened during wartime. Hashimoto competed in four Winter Olympics as a

without fans has been

floated, as has simply can-

speed skater, winning bronze in 1992, and three stayed on message since little space for pushing the Summer Olympics as a the viral outbreak in games back a year. cyclist.

ponement will ripple in thousands of directions, hitting sponsor, television, 11,000 Olympic and 4,400 Paralympic athletes. staffs, airlines, hotels, and \$1 billion lost in ticket sales. It also hurts 80,000 unpaid volunteers who will miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
The IOC oversaw an

A cancellation or post-

Olympic flame-lighting ceremony on Thursday in Greece, another sign it hopes to go ahead in four-and-a-half-month. The flame is to arrive in Japan on March 20 and will begin a four-month relay March 26.

AUSTRALIAN F1 GP CANCELLED, TWO PUSHED

Melbourne, March 13: The season-opening Australian Grand Prix was cancelled just hours before the action was due to start on Friday over fears about the spread of coronavirus after a McLaren team member tested positive.

The Bahrain Grand Prix scheduled for March 22 has been postponed by Formula One officials on Friday due to the coronavirus outbreak, becoming the third race in less than 24 hours to be called off after Australia and Vietnam.

'Formula 1 and the FIA continue to work closely with the race promoters in Bahrain and Vietnam and the local authorities to monitor the situation and take the appropriate amount of time to study the viability of potential alternative dates for each Grand Prix later in the year should the situation improve," F1 officials said in a statement.

Hamilton on Thursday said he was stunned the race was still scheduled. "I am really very, very surprised that we're here. I don't think it's great that we have races but it really is shocking that we're all sitting in this room. It's a concern I think for the people here. It's quite a big circus that's come here. it's definitely concerning for me," the sixtime champion said at an official pre-race press conference.

DOUBTS LOOM OVER INDIA OPEN BADMINTON

New Delhi, March 13: Delhi government's decision to ban all sports activities due to the novel coronavirus pandemic has raised fresh doubts over the fate of India Open badminton, a crucial event in the Tokyo Olympics qualification

The \$400,000 Super 500 event was supposed to be held without any spectators to avoid spreading

the deadly disease.
"We will go by what the government decides. It is not in our hand. We have to follow the govern-Currently there is no clarity on the visa process of the foreign players and on top of it now the Delhi govt has come up with directive, Badminton Association of

India (BAI) official said. Given the circumstances, the BAI has sought clarity from the sports, health and external affairs ministries regarding the visa process of the foreign players.

NO CHESS EVENTS UNTIL MAY 31, DECLARES AICF

Chennai, March 13: The All India Chess Federation on Friday postponed all national championships till May 31 in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

The AICF also asked the state associations to avoid any state-level events till

April 15. "All the national championships to be held till May 31 stay as postponed and new dates will be notified soon," AICF honorowy, corrective Phone orary secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said in a

release. "As you are well aware the coronavirus has been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation. It is likely to have widespread impli-cations in the times to come but instead of panic we need to take adequate

precautions," he added.

French league is also suspended

Paris, March 13: The uled Champions League French football season has last 16, second legs been suspended "until further notice" because of the coronavirus outbreak, the LFP, which runs the elite Ligue 1 and Ligue 2, announced on Friday.

In a statement, the league said it had taken a "unanidecision to stop playing with immediate effect at an emergency meeting on Friday, having previously said games would continue to be played behind closed doors until mid-April.

Covid-19 has already killed 61 people and infected almost 2,900 in France, according to official statis-

The move came after French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday announced that schools in France would close indefinitely to curb the spread of the coronavirus, and urged people over 70 and the infirm to stay home.

"As the president of the republic stressed yesterday, the collective interest must_be placed above all else. The urgency today is to curb the epidemic, protect the most vulnerable and avoid travel," the league said in a statement.

EUROPEAN MATCHES

UEFA Champions League and Europa League matches scheduled to be played next week have been postponed because of

the coronavirus pandemic. European football's governing body said on Friday. The move comes after two of next week's four schedbetween Manchester City and Real Madrid, and between Juventus Lyon — had already been called off on Thursday.

Two other matches scheduled for next Wednesday. between Barcelona and Napoli Bayern Munich and Chelsea, were initially due to go ahead behind closed doors. "In the light of developments due to the of Covid-19 in Europe and related decisions made by different governments, all UEFA club competitions matches scheduled next week are postponed. Further decisions on when these matches take place will be communicated in due course, UEFA said in a statement.

SOUTH AMERICAN WC

QUALIFIERS PUT OFF FIFA has delayed upcoming South American World Cup qualifiers due to the coronavirus crisis, world football's governing body

announced on Thursday. "Matches originally scheduled to take place during the international window of 23-31 March 2020 are postponed to later

dates," FIFA revealed. The decision follows a request from CONMEBOL, South American football's governing body, to FIFA on Wednesday, to restage the matches at a later date.

The CONMEBOL letter said it expressed the position of its 10 members: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Écuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.



Chelsea's Callum Hudson-Odoi (left) is in isolation after being diagnosed with Coronavirus.

Positive players halt EPL

London, March 13: The English Premier League has suspended all fixtures until April 4 on Friday after a spate of coronavirus cases, including Arsenal man-ager Mikel Arteta and Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi.

Hudson-Odoi, 19, is the first Premier League player confirmed to have the virus. Arsenal's training ground has been closed and their players and staff have gone into self-isolation following Arteta's positive test.

"Following a meeting of shareholders today (on Friday), it was unanimously decided to suspend the Premier League

Chelsea player Callum Hudson-Odoi tested positive for coronavirus. The English football body has suspended the league fixtures until April 4.

Arsenal's manager Mikel Arteta and

with the intention of Arsenal and Chelsea are returning on 4 April, subject to medical advice and conditions at the time,' the Premier League said in a statement. "In this unprecedented

situation, we are working closely with our clubs Government, The FA and EFL and can reassure everyone the health and welfare of players, staff and supporters are our priority," the statement

not the only top-flight clubs affected by the

Manchester City said piratory illness.

two friendly matches at home to Italy and Denmark later this virus. Leicester said on Thursday that three of their players have shown symptoms and are selfisolating as a precaution. it is the Premier League's

one unnamed member of their squad, reportedly Benjamin Mendy, is in self-isolation after a fami-The English Football

aim is to reschedule the displaced fixtures, including those played by Academy sides, when it is safe to do so," added the ment.

League, which heads up the three divisions below

the Premier League, and

Women's Super League

will also be suspended until April 3. England's

month have been post-

However, the authorities still hope to be able to

resume and complete the

"Despite the challenges,

season at a later date.

Premier League state-

South Africa ODI series called off

New Delhi: The two remaining India-South Africa ODIs in Lucknow and Kolkata were on Friday called off owing to the Covid-19 threat after the visiting players "expressed unwillingness" to continue in view of the rising positive cases in the host country.

This is only the second time in three decades that an international cricket series in India has been called off midway, the last being in 2014 by the West Indies team over a pay dispute

with its Board. "With the IPL being postponed, it only made sense that at this point of time, this series is also called off. The country is facing a serious pandemic," a

top BCCI official said. "The South African team was unwilling to take any further part in the series due to rising number of positive cases in India. The players seemed to be in panic mode and wanted to go back home at the earliest,' another Board official revealed on conditions on anonymity. The BCCI later issued a state-ment to say that the series will

be rescheduled at a later date. "Cricket South Africa will visit India at a later date to play three One-day Internationals," secretary Jay Shah said. — PTI

Safety is priority, assures Ganguly

Mumbai: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Friday said the "first priority is safety" after the Board suspended the start of this year's IPL from March 29 to April 15 in wake of the Covid-19

pandemic. "Let's stick to the postponement (at the moment). First priority is safety, so we postponed the games," Ganguly said in his

first reaction. The BCCI also called off the ongoing ODI series against South Africa. Asked whether the IPL franchises are happy, Ganguly said, "Nobody has a

choice.

A senior BCCI official said that only the start date has been pushed while the window remains the same with regard to the IPL. The decision to suspend IPL came hours after Delhi gov-ernment suspended all sporting activity in the national capital due to the ever-growing health crisis. Delhi is home to the Delhi Capitals IPL franchise. - PTI

England cricketers

asked to return

London: England's ongoing tour of Sri Lanka was on Friday called off in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the ECB said, calling the situation The decision was announced while the English cricketers were playing the second day of their final warm-up fixture in

"Due to the Covid-19 pandemic worsening globally, and after discussions with Sri Lanka Cricket, we have today made the decision to return our players to the UK and postpone the forthcoming Test series between Sri Lanka and England," the ECB said in a statement.

Australia women's tour of SA suspended Australia women's limited overs tour of South Africa, starting on March 22, was suspended, Cricket Australia said. - Agencies







(From left) Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and K. L. Rahul at the Lucknow airport on Friday.

- TWITTER

IPL on hold for Corona

BCCI suspends cash-rich T20 league till April 15 Kings owner Wadia

New Delhi, March 13: The under-pressure BCCI on Friday suspended the start of this year's IPL from March 29 to April 15 in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused massive upheaval across the globe.

'The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to suspend IPL 2020 till 15th April 2020, as a precautionary measure against the ongo-ing Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19) situation," BCCI secretary Jay Shah

said in a statement.

The BCCI statement made it clear that it's "suspension" and "not postponement" which means that there is no clarity on whether the event will start on April

Even if it starts on April 15, it is expected to happen behind closed doors without the fans. So far, India has recorded more than 70 positive cases and one death due to the pandemic which has claimed close to 5,000 lives globally. The BCCI will discuss all the modalities of this year's Ministry of Health and edition at the IPL Family Welfare and all

MORE CHALLENGES **EVEN IF IPL STARTS**

on April 15, it is expected to happen behind closed doors without the fans. IF IT STARTS, it could be a 40-day competition as the Future **Tours Programme of** other international teams will make it virtually impossible to stretch it beyond that

Governing Council meeting in Mumbai on

"The BCCI is concerned and sensitive about all its stakeholders, and public health in general, and it is taking all necessary steps to ensure that, all people related to IPL including fans have a safe cricketing experience," Shah stated. "The BCCI will work

closely with Government of closely India along with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,

other relevant Central and State Government departments in this

regard," he added. There is a possibility that the tournament will feature more double-headers than previously planned and at least five optional venues are being kept ready after state gov-

ernments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi refused permis-sion for the games. "The only option left was postponement of the tour-

nament till the visa ban is lifted (April 15). All the franchises have made it clear that there is no point of an IPL without foreign recruits," a senior BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

"In any case, foreign players with Business (B2) visa are not in exempted category. The second reason is that three state governments have decided against having IPL games. So, there are logistical issues that need to be sort-

ed.
"We need some time to figure that out," the offi-



Australia captain Aaron Finch (left) and his New Zealand counterpart Kane Williamson do fist and elbow bumps at an empty Sydney Cricket Ground on

Finch, Kane opt for elbow taps instead of handshakes

Sydney, March 13: During the first ODI of the three-match series between Australia and New Zealand, skippers Aaron Finch and Kane Williamson ditched handshakes, and opted for elbow taps amidst the coronavirus outbreak. Both skippers had a laugh after that. shake hands, however, immediately after, both Finch and Williamson laughed it off after doing so.

"A handshake out of habit, and then a quick joke, between the skip-pers #AUSvNZ," cricket.com.au tweeted.
The entire series

between both countries When the toss happened, both skippers did $\,$ closed doors. -PTT

wants IPL dumped

Rajkot, March 13: "No human life is worth sacri-ficing for IPL which should not take place if the situation doesn't improve in two-three weeks," said co-owner of weeks," said co-owner of IPL franchise Kings XI Punjab Ness Wadia fol-lowing the BCCI's deci-sion to suspend the T20 tournament till April 15 in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Wadia, who spoke to the BCCI officials including Ganguly on Friday, said the situation has to improve for the IPL to take place. "There can be no compromise for even one human life. If we can-cel the IPL and end up saving one life, it will be worth it. That is my personal opinion. It is better to be safe than sorry,' Wadia said.

The IPL governing council meets in Mumbai on Saturday to decide the next course of action. Besides the possibility of cancelling the event, conducting the IPL without council meets.

■ There can be compromise for even one human life. If we cancel the IPL and end up saving one life, it will be worth it. That is my personal opinion. It is better to be safe

than sorry.

- NESS WADIA, **KXIP** co-owner

spectators is also an option after April 15.
"The first benchmark is April 15. If the situation improves after two-three weeks, it could be recon-

sidered, if not then IPL should definitely not hap-

pen," said Wadia. Wadia, along with the rest of the franchise owners, will be meeting the IPL officials on Saturday before the governing

Indian challenge ends as Sindhu loses in quarters

Birmingham, March 13: World champion P. V. Sindhu was on Friday England Championship after being outplayed by a determined Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, who rallied her way to a thrilling three-game win in the quarterfinal of the women's singles here. The 24-year-old Indian

squandered a sparkling start as Okuhara produced a rearguard action to outwit Sindhu 21-12, 15-21, 13-21 in a 68-minute last eight encounter at the Arena Birmimgham. Sindhu's defeat ended

India's campaign at the Super 1000 tournament. Sindhu had come into the match with a 9-7 head-to-head record against Okuhara, having

BADMINTON EVENTS OFF

The Badminton World Federation has suspended all tournaments from Monday to April 12. The suspension of the circuit comes into effect following the completion of the All England Open on Sunday.

in the finals of the 2019 World Championships. Earlier, Indian women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy bowed out of the All England Championship after suf-

fering a straight-game loss in the second round of the competition, here.

World No.29 Ashwini and Sikki lost 13-21, 14-21 to seventh seed Japanese combination of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi in a match that lasted just 38 min-

For Ashwini and Sikki, it was their eighth successive defeat against the Japanese combination. Meanwhile, Six-time champion Lin Dan staved

off two match points as he won his first-round match at the event.

The double Olympic gold medallist and five-time world champion defeated Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, a player half his age, 13-21, 22-20, 21-10 in just over an hour in Birmingham. Lin will now face reign-

ing Olympic champion

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Saurashtra win maiden Ranji title

Rajkot, March 13: Skipper Jaydev Unadkat on Friday produced a lion-hearted spell when it mattered the most against Bengal, leading Saurashtra to their maiden Ranji Trophy tri-umph a year after stumbling at the last hurdle.

The win was achieved on the basis of the first-innings lead here. Bengal had the upper hand going into Day Five after Anustup Majumdar (63) and Arnab Nandi (40 not out) shared an unbeaten 91-run stand in the final session Thursday. But Unadkat, who had sin-

gle-handedly taken Saurashtra into the final with a seven-wicket haul against Gujarat on the final day of their semifinal, rose to the occasion yet again to script a historic victory.

The left-arm pacer had the in-form Majumdar LBW and Akash Deep run out in a space of three balls to turn the game on its head. Unadkat ended as the season's leading wicket-taker

SCORECARD

Saurashtra (1st Innings): 425.

Bengal (1st Innings): Sudip Kumar Gharami c Vishvarajsinh Jadeja b DA Jadeja 26, AR Easwaran Ibw Prerak Mankad 9, Sudip Chatterjee c Vishvarajsinh Jadeja b D. A. Jadeja 81, Manoj Tiwary Ibw Chirag Jani 35, Wriddhiman Saha b Prerak Mankad 64, Anustup Majumdar Ibw J Unadkat 63, Shahbaz b Chetan Sakariya 16, Arnab Nandi (not out) 40, Akash Deep run out (J. Unadkat) O, Mukesh Kumar Vishvarajsinh Jadeja b D. A. Jadeja 5, Ishan Porel Ibw b J Unadkat 1. Extras (b 20, lb 14, nb 1, w 1, pen 5) 41. Total (in 161 FoW: 1-35, 2-35, 3-124, 4-225, 5-241, 6-

Bowling: Jaydev Unadkat 37-10-96-2, Chetan Sakariya 28-10-55-1, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 52-14-114-3, Prerak Mankad 21-7-45-2, Chirag Jani 23-

Saurashtra (2nd Innings): Harvik Desai c sub (A. Raman) b Shahbaz Ahmed 21, Avi Barot c sub (Chakraborty) b Chatterjee 39, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja c Saha b Akash Deep 17, Arpit Vasavada c sub (A. Raman) b Shahbaz Ahmed 3, Sheldon Jackson (not out) 12. Extras (b 8, lb 4, nb 1) 13. Total (for four wickets in 34 overs) 105.

FoW: 1-38, 2-65, 3-82, 4-105. Bowling: Ishan Porel 3-1-15-0, Mukesh Kumar 12-2-33-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 14-5-32-2, Akash Deep 4-0-13-1, Sudip Chatterjee 1-1-0-1.

with 67 scalps at a staggering average of 13.23.

One hour and 10 minutes of play in the decisive morning session yielded 27 runs and four wickets with Bengal all out for 381, giving Saurashtra a 44-run first

innings lead. At the start of the day, Bengal needed 72 runs for the first-innings lead.

In the second innings, all Saurashtra had to do was to bat time before both captains decided to call off the game and shake hands. They eventually did that at tea time after Saurashtra sauntered 105 for four in 34

With the win, Saurashtra ended their Ranji Trophy title drought.

Despite the loss, it was a memorable season Bengal, who reached the title clash after 13 years at the back of stellar performances from the pace trio of Akash, Mukesh, Porel, Tiwary. For Saurashtra, the performers Sheldon Jackson, Arpit Vasavada, and of course, their captain. — *PTI*

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