

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 16 MARCH 2020

WEATHER

Max: 33.1°C
Min: 21.8°C
RH: 44%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 34/23°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayanam
Thithi: Phalguna Bahula Astami till 3.01 am (next day)
Star: Jyestha till 11.15 am
Variyam: Nil

Durmuhurtam: 12.48 noon to 1.36 pm; 3.11 pm to 3.59 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HJRI CALENDAR

Rajjab 20,1441 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.24 am

Zohar: 12.35 pm

Asar: 4.45 pm

Maghrib: 6.32 pm

Isha: 7.39 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.26 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.22 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 11.44 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.18 AM

IN BRIEF

Petrol price cut by 12 paise

New Delhi: Petrol price was on Sunday cut by 12 paise a litre and diesel rates by 14 paise as oil companies moderated rate reduction amid the fall in global prices to absorb the hike in excise duty on fuel by the government. Petrol in Hyderabad now costs ₹74.14 per litre, while diesel is priced at ₹67.98, according to Indian Oil Corp.

Gold imports decline by 8.8%

New Delhi: Gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), fell 8.86 per cent to \$27 billion (about ₹1.9 lakh crore) during April-February period of the current financial year, according to commerce ministry data. Imports of the yellow metal stood at \$29.62 billion in the same period yearago. — PTI

Gantz to form Israeli govt.

Jerusalem: Israel President Reuven Rivlin on Sunday said he has decided to give opposition leader Benny Gantz the first opportunity to form a new government following an inconclusive election this month. The President's office announced his decision late Sunday after consulting with leaders of all of the parties.

COUNTER POINT



ID, driving, Aadhaar... you must also carry 'no corona certificate'!

WORLD | 13

Elizabeth moved out of Buckingham



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

SPORTS | 16

Shuttler Tai Tzu wins All England



TABLOID

Men won't grab 'em... anymore



Vol. 83 No. 75 Established 1938 | 32 PAGES | ₹6.00

Modi offers Saarc fund for fighting coronavirus

To contribute \$10 million; offers test kits, doctors

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

Urging the neighbouring countries to come together to fight challenges from novel coronavirus (Covid-19), India on Sunday offered to set up a 'Covid-19 Emergency Fund' for the benefit of Saarc nations with an initial contribution of \$10 million which could be used by any of the member-state for its urgent requirements.

"This could be based on voluntary contributions from all of us. India can start with an initial offer of \$10 million for this fund," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during a video conference of the Saarc leaders. Mr Modi said the foreign secretaries of the Saarc countries could coordinate through their embassies on the utilisation of this fund.

The video conference was attended by Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Bangladesh



Medical personnel, wearing protective gears, wait at Jaisalmer Military Station for the arrival of 230 Indians evacuated from Iran in two Air India flights on Sunday. — PTI

PM Sheikh Hasina, and Bhutan PM Dr Lotay Tshering.

Pakistan was represented by its health minister Dr Zafar Mirza, who used the opportunity to raise the lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Mirza said that all restrictions

should be lifted in J&K as "dissemination of information is essential" to deal with Covid-19 threat.

Mr Modi offered to place the Rapid Response Task Force that India is creating and testing kits at the disposal of Saarc members. Mr Modi also offered

provide online training to health personnel of Saarc member states, and create a common platform to coordinate research on controlling epidemic diseases within the region.

■ Page 9: Modi prefers to prepare instead of panic

Jagan slams SEC for deferring polls

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 15

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan on Sunday called the decision of the State Election Commission (SEC) to postpone the elections to local bodies as "unjustifiable", and tried to puncture holes in the explanation given as the ongoing health epidemic of coronavirus (Covid-19), saying the disease was in initial stages in the state and wouldn't create hurdles to the conduct of elections.

Casting aspersions on the neutrality of the State Election Commissioner and hinting that he was biased towards the Telugu Desam party owing to caste considerations, Mr Reddy alleged, "the-then CM Chandrababu Naidu appointed Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar as SEC because both of them belong to the same social group, and now, Ramesh Kumar is showing bias in conducting elections."

The decision to postpone the local body elections angered the YSR Congress so much that it forced the Chief Minister to conduct his first press conference nine months after assuming power.

Mr Reddy lamented that Mr Kumar's statement

The-then CM Chandrababu Naidu appointed Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar as SEC because both of them belong to the same social group, and now, Ramesh Kumar is showing bias in conducting elections.

— Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY, AP Chief Minister

has hurt him as the SEC took the decision without consulting any senior officials about coronavirus.

Mr Reddy also objected to the SEC decision to stop his government from distributing house sites, besides the SEC orders on transfer of collectors, SPs and other officials, saying there was no need to take those action when elections were postponed.

"We are ready to accept these orders only if elections would be completed according to the present schedule," Mr Reddy said.

"The Covid-19 threat in coming days would be due to arrival of our people from various foreign countries, as several countries would start deportation, unwilling to bear expenses of treatment of foreigners," he said.

■ Page 8: Nothing to worry about Covid-19: Jagan



COVID-19 CASTS SHADOW ON MP TRUST VOTE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, MARCH 15

The coronavirus outbreak has cast its shadow over floor test by the "minority" Kamal Nath government, scheduled to be held on Monday.

Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker N.P. Prajapati on Sunday declared he would take a final call on holding the floor test in the House, keeping in view the coronavirus threat, only on Monday.

The Assembly secretary made no mention of the floor test in the business proceedings of the first day of the Budget Session of the House, due to begin on Monday, indicating uncertainty over the holding of the trust vote on that day.

The Speaker had earlier on Sunday tried to parry the question on holding the floor test on Monday, as directed by governor Lalji Tandon.

■ Full report on Page 11

WE CAN'T SCREEN LAKHS OF PEOPLE, SAY SCR, TSRTC

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

People arriving into Telangana by land routes, either by train or bus, could pose a serious challenge to the state's strategy of containment of coronavirus (Covid-19), given the sheer number of passengers arriving using these modes of transportation. It is practically impossible for both the railways and TSRTC to effectively conduct thermal screening, the primary health check method to inspect passengers, for fevers, given the sheer Brodingtonian scale of logistics.

The South Central Railway (SCR) moves over 10.50 lakh people on a daily basis across the zone. The Secunderabad railway station alone caters to over 1.5 lakh on an average daily, mostly within a 16-hour time-frame.

SCR officials said that railways officials are alert to the situation. In the past week, the SCR has launched an awareness campaign for staff and travellers.

■ Page 4: Screening all is impractical, says RTC

3rd person tested positive for Covid

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Telangana on Sunday registered its third positive case of coronavirus (Covid-19). A man from Hyderabad with a recent travel history to The Netherlands, said to be in his 40s, according to health department officials, was tested positive for Covid-19. He is currently undergoing treatment at the Gandhi Hospital, sources said.

He is the second Covid-19 positive patient at the Gandhi Hospital. It may be recalled that on Saturday, a 24-year-old woman from Bhadadri-Kothagudem district, who had come to the hospital for check-ups following some coronavirus-caused symptoms, had tested positive. She had recently returned from Italy, where she was pursuing a degree in medicine.

Meanwhile, officials said that the health status of 28 other individuals, who had come into contact with the 76-year-old man from Karnataka, who had visited the city to seek treatment and passed away later on his way back to Gulbarga three days ago, was being closely

COVID-19 CASES HIT 107 IN INDIA

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

Covid-19 positive cases in India touched 107 on Sunday as Maharashtra reported 17 fresh cases, taking the total number in the state to 31. Kerala now has 22.

■ More reports on Page 9

ly monitored.

At least, two more people from the city are learnt to have been admitted to the Gandhi hospital since Saturday with Covid-19 symptoms.

In its daily Covid-19 status bulletin released late in the night, the Health Department said that a total of test results on 28 individuals were awaited including samples collected from 21 persons who were admitted to Gandhi Hospital and kept under observation in the isolation ward. As many as 63 persons were advised to stay in quarantine at their homes on Sunday, the department said.

COVID | SCARE Fewer guests turn up; many marriages postponed

Virus takes sheen off weddings

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

There were fewer guests than usual at the various weddings held on Sunday, consequent to the Telangana state government's ban on public gatherings as a response to the growing local footprint of the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The government has allowed weddings scheduled till March 31 to go on, albeit requesting families to cap number of guests at 200. This request, however, seems to have been ignored in most cases.

Families with weddings scheduled during the next couple of weeks said they

wouldn't be able to stop guests from coming. Manoj, whose cousin's wedding is planned on March 20, said the family has planned a "big fat" function.

"We have sent out hundreds of invites already. We can't tell our guests to not come. That is simply impossible. Right now, everything is going as planned. We will see what happens," he said. Manoj added that unless the function hall refused to serve them, wedding would go on as usual.

Meanwhile, the wedding planning industry has gone into a tizzy after the announcement. Multiple wedding and event planners said that several clients had postponed

weddings indefinitely. In fact, a few clients had done so even before the announcement.

Chaitanya Kulkarni of Alankaran Weddings said, "since morning, we have received a number of calls asking us to cancel all arrangements."

Mr Kulkarni said that many function halls were returning booking amounts in full, post cancellation, a practice unheard of in the events industry.

Harinath of Vishwa Events said that he had managed arrangements at a wedding in Alwal on Sunday morning. "Several hundreds attended, but all they spoke about was coronavirus. I

think they only came because the government's announcement came only yesterday night and they were unaware of it. In the next few days, either guest lists will get shorter or the weddings will get cancelled," he said.

Ameeth, a city-based event management professional and a choreographer, said it was likely that wedding scheduled in next few days would happen as planned, but without any frivolities.

"Services such as sangeeth choreographers and live music orchestra are being cancelled. There will be no 'extras' at weddings to reduce number of guests," he said.

gsk

WATCH VIDEOS

“SIRF EK HEE KYON?”

During pregnancy, most women receive Tetanus injections. But now, you and your baby can receive protection against 3 diseases: Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis. All three together. While Tetanus is a nerve disease, Diphtheria is a serious throat infection that can block airways and Pertussis is a contagious respiratory disease, which can lead to hospitalisation in infants less than 2 months of age.

Introducing

3 IN ONE PROTECTION FOR MOMS-TO-BE

Helps protect baby too

To know more about 3-in-1 Vaccination speak to your Gynaecologist

Visit: www.gskprotect.in/3in1vaccination

References: • WHO (World Health Organization) website, Tetanus vaccines, Weekly epidemiological record, Feb 2017. • Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Diphtheria, Symptoms (accessed Oct 2019); Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/dp/diphtheria/about/symptoms.html> • Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Complications (accessed Oct 2019); Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/complications.html> Disclaimer: Information appearing in this material is for general awareness only. Nothing contained in this material constitutes medical advice. Please consult your medical practitioner for all medical queries. The doctor shown in this material/trust/media content is being used for illustrative purposes only and is a professional model. A public awareness initiative by GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Limited, Dr. Arvino Bhasani Road, Wari, Mumbai 400 030, India | Please report adverse event with any GSK product to the company at india.pharmacovigilance@gsk.com NP-IN-PTX-ADV-200006, DOP: MAR 2020

Dug-up roads, stunt bikers annoy residents

Rein in the Mad Maxs on Tarnaka

I live near ECIL and travel on the Tarnaka-Moula Ali road. I witness hooliganism at its peak on the roads, with young boys putting others at risk. They ride foursome on a bike at full speed and without helmets and silencers. They also perform stunts. They also spit pan. Every rule in the book is being violated. What are the police doing? Apart from this, I believe youth should know their limits and have respect for others on the road. This unruly behaviour is not acceptable one bit. Safety rules have no holiday. Sometimes pleasure may well become another's pain.

Diana
East Anand Bagh,
Hyderabad

QQSUDA fire suffocates all the residents

There is garbage accumulating around the QQSUDA compound, which is gathered at a place and burnt every morning. This is causing breathing problems to residents in the area. I request authorities to clean the garbage and take it to a dump yard without burning it at the spot. Branches of trees are also hanging on to electric wires in the area. These should also be cut so that they do not pose a threat to passers-by. I'm attaching some pictures for your reference.

Syed Kirmani
22-2-688, Post Office Lane,
Darulshifa, Hyderabad.

Bring new Revenue Act in state soon

A pattadar of lands at Kuntloor village, Abdulapurmet mandal, Ranga Reddy district, I am being victimised by the corrupt revenue department officials, who are hand-in-glove with land-grabbers. During the last general elections, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had reassured that he would bring in a new Revenue Act to protect real pattadars and punish corrupt revenue staff and land-grabbers. Though it is over a year-and-half since the elections, the proposed Revenue Act is yet to see the light of the day. There is no word about it in the ongoing Assembly session.

The government should expedite new Revenue Act process so that land-grabbers and corrupt Revenue staff, who tampered records, will be brought to book. Mr Rao should take up Ranga Reddy district first as it is close to the capital. Moreover, tampering of land records is worst in the district. Action should also be initiated against Ranga Reddy District Collector office for its inaction on the complaints made by genuine pattadars of Kuntloor village, Abdulapurmet mandal, like me. A survey of patta lands as per 1950 records should be undertaken so that the criminal elements are exposed and justice is rendered for real pattadars by way of conclusive titles.

T. Kailash Ditya
Barkatpura,
Hyderabad

Recharging groundwater imperative

Every year, the demand for water increases April and May. But the supply goes down. One of the main topics that people talking about is whether your bore well is yielding water. And the answer most people give is no. Sumps also face shortage of water and tankers have to be booked in advance for filling them with water, that too by paying enormous money. These tankers too pull out borewell water day and night from the ground. Though the government is trying to supply water through taps and tankers, it is not making any conscientious effort to deal with the water problem on a long-term basis. We have to consciously conserve whatever water is available.

Syed Shamsuddin
Maghrabi,
H. No. 11-5-54, Red Hills,
Hyderabad



This is to bring to the notice of the authorities that the residents of Lothkunta are facing problems since the past two weeks because the roads which are dug to lay drainage pipes. The work is progressing very slowly and we have not been getting municipal water. Also, we are unable to bring water from outside due to the condition of the roads.

— V. Anil Kumar, Lothkunta

Inept HMWS&SB adding to our woes



Personnel from Hyderabad Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) cleared the manhole in front of our house sometime back. However, the silt has not been cleared and it is causing health hazards apart from the nauseating smell that is emanating from there. Unfortunately, despite innumerable complaints, no action has been taken and there seems to be no end to this ordeal, which the locals are suffering in silence.

Meanwhile, the sewerage line of a nearby cafe, instead of being connected directly to the main line, is connected to the residential line and that too in the opposite direction.

I hope authorities will bring respite to us by a early date.

M. Ghazi Sharief
Hyderabad

Please restore membership, Club Mahindra Holidays

I availed of an exclusive Club Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited membership in the name of Mohammed Shamsuddin way back in June 2002.

I opted for their highest and privileged — Purple (Apartment Type Studio) — membership that was available for a whopping ₹2,47,450, a very high amount at that time, which, in accordance with their rules, was to be paid in installments.

I was duly issued a certificate of membership confirming my enrolment in the club. The main details were: Season Classification — Purple (Studio); Membership Number: A20224050025; Issued on 06.03.2002; Validity 06/2002 to 05/2027.

However, once I became a member, to my utter shock, the sweet sales talk almost ceased. In no time, the premium Purple membership was changed to Red membership. Neither did I get any communication nor were there messages sent to that effect.

I only received a revised certificate of membership which specified the season classification as red (Studio); Membership Number: A20324050060; issued on: 28.03.2003; Validity: 06/2003 to 05/2028. Though bewildered, after my first payment of ₹20,200 on February 21, 2002, and another for ₹15,150, I issued cheques towards the instalment amounts, the last of which was cleared on February 28, 2003.

However, gradually having become occupied with my business and professional engagements, the Club Mahindra membership was out of my mind.



The certificate that was issued by the company.

In fact, I have never taken any benefit of their facilities that were assured at the time of enrolment.

Recently, around six to eight months back, I found the certificates they had issued in 2002/03. It was then that I remembered about the membership. I called up the office, which has since moved to a new building. That is when I received another shock. Despite my telling the memberships numbers, both Purple and Red, they outright denied my having any membership.

I visited the local office to meet one of the sales representatives, one Mr Sumanth Reddy. Neither was he there, nor were there any replies to my email communications either from Mr Reddy or any of his colleagues. I called up the head office and sought reinstatement of my membership, failing which I threatened to go to the media and also courts

for justice. A reply to my last communication on October 25, 2019, which elicited a regular message from one Ms Lavina Baretto, Member Experience Management, which famously reads: "We wish to inform you that we are unable to fetch your membership details as we have received your email from unregistered email id."

I was just trying to imagine the maturity value I would have received if I had put ₹2,47,450 in Fixed Deposit (FD) 17 years ago. I hope once the media takes up this issue and I am sure that there are many victims like me, who are silently bearing the financial loss, the company will put in a transparent system and stop deceiving gullible people like me. Accountability is terribly absent.

Mohammed Shamsuddin
8-2-293/82/J/B-62,
Hyderabad

Empty plot turns into dump yard

We are staying in Defence Colony, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad, next to an empty plot surrounded by a compound wall. The plot is being used as a dump yard by people in the area. Every kind of trash is left there including diapers and sanitary waste.

This has led to mosquito menace and stray dogs rummaging through the rubbish. We have tried to request people against dumping and even complained to GHMC umpteen number of times including over their app. Every time the app shows that the complaint has been closed without being resolved.

When we contact the helpline, the reply is that GHMC is not responsible for clearing garbage from empty plots. Even the plot owner does not seem to be paying any attention to clear the garbage. We have been left with no other option but bear with the problem. Who are we supposed to contact for our plight?

G. Shailaja
Widow of
ex-serviceman



Thanks DC, error in power bill sorted out

My thanks to *Deccan Chronicle* for highlighting my grievance on your humanitarian page Speak Out dated February 10, 2020. Otherwise, we would have had to pay almost double the amount of our electricity bills. My boy had earlier gone to various offices in Paradise and Musheerabad areas but in vain. In this hi-tech era, the AE could have intervened and dealt with the problem by contacting

concerned authorities online, instead of troubling the consumers to follow up.

Thanks to Speak Out, our billing issue has been resolved. I am also grateful to TSSPDCL for giving credit of the excess amount, which was collected for three consecutive months for connection LZ001470 by ERO 6 Paradise.

Sreenivasulu V. Molugu
Hyderabad

Sewage at Asifnagar

Sewage water has been overflowing on the Asifnagar main road. The long-standing problem has led to breeding of mosquitoes, which can cause diseases like dengue and malaria. I request the authorities to take immediate note of the problem and resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Syed Shamsuddin
Maghrabi
Hyderabad

Power cuts at Yusufnagar

Every day, power is being cut off for about two hours in our area in Yusufnagar. I have made several complaints to the area electricity offices. But they do not appear serious about resolving the issue

despite repeated complaints and representations.

My complaint number is 51087. Please help me in getting this complaint resolved.

Syed Yousuf
Hyderabad

Garbage at Kavadi guda

Padmashali colony in the Kavadi guda area has been facing problems because of the lack of garbage removal. Please help.

Jameel
Kavadi guda

Traffic signal at Chilka guda please!



This is to highlight that in the absence of a traffic signal at Chilka guda crossroads, and the inconvenience it is causing, many accidents are happening because. Vehicles are coming from three sides and there is

no traffic police personnel to regulate the traffic. I wish the authorities take notice, swing into action and restore a smoother traffic flow in the area.

Mohammed Jameel
Hyderabad

State must rein in adamant schools on fees

It's time the govt woke up

Immediate action should be taken against the schools which are collecting huge fees in the name of maintenance of schools. Getting admissions in private schools has become a business. We have to spend lakhs in getting the child admission at the pre-primary level, forget about middle and high school.

The government should maintain fee structure which should not exceed beyond the capacity of the common person. The call to stop fee hikes has been continuing for years. The government should solve the matter soon keeping in mind the interest of the common person.

Idris Saberi,
Hyderabad

'Financially drained out'

It has been an absolute nightmare to think about our kids' education given the exorbitant fee structure prevalent in private schools. On my return to Hyderabad, I was shocked and dismayed at the loot in the name of technological advancements and mandating purchase of all material from the school. It would not be out of place to mention that running schools is a thriving business option. After 15 painstaking 15 years in order to provide sound education to my children, I feel it will be a huge burden on me to continue their college education.

Tanuj Malhotra,
Hyderabad

State should nail private schools

The fees for a three-and-half-year-old kid enrolled in nursery ranges between ₹80,000 and ₹1.5 lakh, which is preposterous.

On their part, initiating moves that smack of unreasonable marketing strategies, many educational institutions bear innovative names and boast of attractive décor and corporate professionalism to draw the attention of parents.

Having kids and educating them is one of the biggest challenges during these testing times. Besides making ends meet, parents are obsessed with providing quality education to children, achieving which is a Himalayan task.

I wonder why some private institutions mandate that uniform, school emblem bags and shoes be bought in the school premises or from vendors chosen by them.

Parents oblige for fear that their children would, otherwise, be subject to punishments.

Some schools provide milk, lunch and snacks and parents have no other option but to avail of such 'facilities'.

As a matter of principle, every year there is a near 10 per cent hike in tuition fees and transportation charges irrespective of factors like economic slowdown or recession.

The strings attached are so enormous that in a family with a single bread-earner, aspiring to provide quality education to their children is nothing short of a luxury!

The government should up the ante and bring to book all educational institutions, howsoever privileged they may be, that indulge in broad daylight robbery in the name of education.

Deepesh Surana
Hyderabad

More govt schools is a positive way out

I have noticed that it is quite easy to get admission in premier schools but difficult to bear the costs charged towards fees.

Every parent aspires to put his children in a good school amid a competitive atmosphere across all subjects and fields. This will ensure that the student is competition-ready on completion of studies.

However, the fee structure is a big let-down what with admission and registration charges, application fee, computer class fee and even transport charges, each of which is on the higher side.

How can a person like me drawing a monthly salary of ₹18,000 afford close to ₹60,000 as fees? I dread to imagine the plight of parents who have more than one child.

My request to the government is to open more government schools in the state and ensure that they have infrastructure facilities on par with private schools. They should also boast of faculty that swears by quality so that students from the poorer strata can also dream big.

Rajeshwar Rao
Secunderabad

Fee hike by managements is extortion

Education has become too costly an affair due to various reasons. Private schools demands depend upon how famous the school is, right from donations to admission forms, monthly fees, term fees, school bus transport charges, mandatory purchasing from the school right from the school uniform set, class-wise set of books at higher prices compared to

market price and go up to the tune of lakhs. Parents are not left with any choice but to bear the expenses to get their child admission. The government should have control over all these schools and set up a cell in every school to monitor and regulate the fees. Government-run schools should be upgraded. Encourage government employees to send their children to government school. Allot more funds for education. Stop bleeding the middle class dry.

D. Manoj Kumar
Secunderabad

Court had to step in

Kudos to the Telangana High Court for preparing a policy on the exorbitant school fees issue. Since long the issue was being ignored because private school managements rule the roost.

This burning issue requires quick action by the court, for which the Telangana state government must come forward to disburden parents. Many private schools are collecting huge amounts under different headings apart from admission.

How can middle class people pay ₹1.5 lakh per year whose monthly income is ₹25,000? It clearly proves that only lakhpatis and crorepatas can send their wards to private schools.

Hope the Telangana state government and the High Court will frame a law at earliest to support middle class Telangana people.

S.M. Arif Hussain
Musheerabad,
Secunderabad

Policymakers must put in place a fee system

Thanks a lot for highlighting about the penchant of educational institutions to hike fees that adds to the sufferings of parents. It is indeed a struggle for parents to shell out exorbitant amounts as fees, which, unfortunately, does even guarantee quality education. My kids study in Sri Chaitanya, Narayanguda and Vasavi Public School, Himayatnagar. I appeal to the policymakers to put in place a system whereupon parents get relief from financial stress and children are assured of getting the benefit of qualitative teaching.

Churchill Samson
Hyderabad

Huge fees are a big challenge

We have no idea when the school gives application forms for new admission. When we go to enquire, the answer is the application forms are over even though the last date to submit the application forms is a long way away. I am struggling to get admission for my ward to any of the good schools and fees again is an impossible challenge.

Sukumar, Hyderabad

'Regulate school fee across spectrums'

One of the biggest achievements of any government would be in regulating fee structure across all educational institutions. However, school and college managements are so smart they would still make a killing by levying "additional costs" besides collecting the tuition fee.

I feel that there should be a cap so that no institution

charges anything beyond fees. As it is, today school fee is higher than what one has to pay for Undergraduate, Post Graduate or other professional courses.

This is one of the reasons why some families migrate to other countries where quality education is provided free of cost.

Raghav
Hyderabad

Short Term Coaching for
ICET (TS/AP) 2020

- 11 Study Material Booklets & 90+ Handouts
- 15 Mock ICETs (Paper Based & Online) & 90 Online topic wise tests
- Regular doubt clarifying sessions

5 Ranks in Top 100 in TS-ICET 2019 Exam

Batches starting on 16th & 18th March

TIME Tel: 40088300/40088400
Management Education Pvt. Ltd. www.timeeducation.com

LB School is in utter shambles

I wish to bring to the notice of the government authorities about the pathetic conditions of Lal Bahadur School at Nimboliadda.

The 50-year-old building is in a dilapidated condition. The walls are cracking, plasters eroding and the ceiling of the classrooms are in a bad condition. No whitewash has been done in the building for past several years.

Unless renovated at the earliest, it could prove disastrous both for teachers and students. We also appeal to the school teachers to ease the mental tension of the students by reducing the home-work given to children.

Besides academics, the school should also focus on sports and extra-curricular activities for the overall development of the students.

Vikram Raj,
Parents Association
Hyderabad



Lingampalli Railway Station spells disaster



It is a virtual hell for those walking around the Lingampalli railway station. For senior citizens like me, it is harrowing to take the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) on platforms four and five as they are without plastic sheets.

There is a threat to lives if one were at FOB on platforms two and three.

The iron gutter on the steps sounds the death-knell. We dread when we have to go to the railways station. Even more pathetic is that come sun or rain, there is no shade anywhere near.

Unfortunately, despite myriad representation, the railway authorities seem oblivious to our travails.

S. Murali Sudhakar
Senior citizen,
Chandanagar

Challaned despite wearing helmet!

I received a challan on March 12) for riding my son's two-wheeler (AP11 AB 1072) without a helmet. I was shocked, to say the least. I was riding with a helmet and it is clearly visible in the photo. When I contacted on TP cell No 9490617346, as provided in the challan, two days later, the staff managing it, admitted to my wearing a helmet and told me to approach the Shamshabad Traffic PS. This was problematic and time-consuming, and I had to bear it for no fault of mine. I hope the concerned traffic police wing will rectify error at their end and give me relief.

Rohan Raj Jawar
Hyderabad

Traffic Apps | Accident Analysis | CAB Registration | Emergency Hospitals | Police Stations | Water Logging Points | Contact Insurance Information Bureau of India | Offences & Penalties | Alternate Routes | Accident Prone Areas | First Aid Tips

Driving Tips | Accident Mapping

eChallan 040-27853416
9490 61 7346

Traffic Violation Details

Vehicle Regn No	AP11AB1072	
Vehicle Make	HONDA MOTORS LTD	
Vehicle Class	HONDA ACTIVA	
Challan No.	CYB12EC209117835	
Violation Date & Time	12-Feb-2020 16:22	
PS Jurisdiction	Shamshabad Tr PS	
Place of violation	KISHANGUDA FLYOVER	
S.No	Offence Description - Section	Fine Amt
1	Without Helmet/Not wearing helmet by rider : S.129/177	200
2	User Charges	35
Total compounding Amount(In Rs.):		235
Total pending challans 1 and amount is Rs.235/-		

DATE : 07-03-2020

HDFC HOME LOANS

INTEREST RATE **8%** P.A. ONWARDS

Save up to ₹2.67* lakh under PMAY-CLSS

Give us a missed call on **09289 120 120**
Visit www.hdfc.com

HDFC HOME LOANS
apni jagah banao

*All loans at the sole discretion of HDFC. The Rates of interest are subject to the credit risk profile as assessed by HDFC. *Subsidy as per the detailed T&C of CLSS as stipulated by the Government of India. For respective detailed T&Cs kindly visit www.hdfc.com
CIN: L7100MH1977PLCO19916. NETWORK HDFC3921-19

DECCAN Chronicle Main sponsor **BAJAJ ELECTRONICS SINCE 1983**

Presents **DC GOLD HUNGAMA**
7th Feb. - 22nd Mar. 2020

FOURTH WEEKLY DRAW
will be held on Monday, 16.03.2020 @ 4.00 pm at:
M/s. Home Decor Express
1-2-605/A/7 to 16, Lower Tankbund, Hyderabad.

Co-sponsors:

- HOME Decor Express Importers & Wholesellers
- DARPAN
- manepally JEWELLERS trusted legacy since 1890
- FortuneArrt POWER + SAVINGS + INNOVATION
- JAYDURGA FURNISHINGS
- COWBOY SOFAS

Requesting all participating retailers to send in their weekly draw coupons to Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd., 36 S.D. Road, Sec'bad, by 1.00 pm on 16-03-2020.

SHORT TAKES
SCREENING ALL IS IMPRACTICAL, SAYS RTC

From page 1

Sanitation staff with masks have been tasked to cleaning all surfaces which people are most likely to come in contact with, like bathroom doors, latches, taps window rods and so on. Railways has stopped giving out blankets to passengers of A/C coaches as they are not washed every day. At stations across the country, railways has set up isolation wards in the event of an outbreak.

However, SCR officials admitted that it was impossible to conduct thermal screening on all passengers. "There are far too many people for that. We don't have resources to do something like that," an official in the operations department said. Another official said that such a measure would create panic among most passengers.

A member of the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee, requesting anonymity, confirmed the same. "There are things which Railways does well and some it doesn't. But it is simply illogical to expect us to thermal-screen all passengers. Railways doesn't have that capacity," he said.

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) has been sanitising its vehicles on a daily basis. An RTC official said, "we move over one crore people each day. The idea of screening everyone, though ideal, is impractical." He indicated that it was unlikely that such an order would be passed.

Another senior official said that such decisions could only be taken by the health department at the secretary and minister level, and refused to comment further. It may be recalled that Tamil Nadu has been screening some rail and bus passengers coming from neighbouring states. TN chief secretary K Shanmugam had announced this decision in view of local spread of virus in neighbouring states.

Closer home, Telangana health minister Etda Rajendar, at a recent press conference, had claimed that it was extremely challenging to screen all those coming into Telangana via road or rail.

COVID: PRICES OF CHICKEN, FISH FALL

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Entirely unfounded fears related to the spread of coronavirus through eating chicken have hit the market for chicken very hard. Prices have plummeted for this otherwise popular non-vegetarian food. The demand for mutton, however, has not been affected so far. In fact, the price for boneless mutton has gone up from ₹700 to ₹800 per kilo, according to Md. Sohil of Afzal Mutton Shop at Liberty near Tank Bund.

Somewhat mysteriously, the demand for fish has fallen. Sundays is typically the day when demand for fish spikes. But the women who clean fish at the city's Ramnagar Fish Market say they clean up to 100 kg each and earn ₹10 per kg for doing so, but their average earning on Sunday was just about ₹200 per person.

Srinivas, who runs a fish retail shop at the market, said, "On Sundays, we have counter sales of ₹70,000 to ₹80,000. But today, we sold just ₹10,000 worth of fish."

He said that till Saturday evening, the seafood market was doing well. But after the announcement by the government, the number of people coming to the market has fallen steeply.

Quarantine for all from risk nations

State goes into aggressive screening mode

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

The Telangana government is moving aggressively to contain potential outbreaks of Covid-19 clusters in the state and has decided to quarantine all international passengers arriving in the city from seven high risk countries — China, South Korea, France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Iran.

So far, the state has been following the Central guidelines with respect to hospital referrals, quarantining and allowing people to go home for observing quarantine procedures in their residences.

The two latest cases of Covid-19 in the state, one from Aswaraopet in Bhadadri Kothagudem district that was confirmed on Saturday, and the other, a man in his forties with travel history to The Netherlands in Europe, were those who did not exhibit any symptoms upon landing and were allowed to go home.

To prevent recurrence of such cases, and as the Novel Coronavirus can manifest itself between two to 14 days of a person being exposed to it, the state government has decided to seek clearance from the Centre for mandatory quarantine at a government facility for all returnees from the seven identified countries.

According to Central guidelines, passengers in Category A are those who exhibit symptoms upon arrival and are sent straightaway to the hospital. Those in Category B are the ones who are 60 years or older and have other existing health conditions. Those in Category C comprise passengers who do not exhibit any symptoms but are required to maintain quarantine procedures at home for 14 days after arrival.

The Telangana government on Sunday wrote to the Centre saying that it would like to quarantine both category B and C passengers as a matter of abundant precaution at facilities it has identified. Among these is

200 docs, police deployed at RGIA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Some 200 doctors and 200 police personnel have been deployed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad for health tests of passengers arriving from abroad and maintaining order. Three entry points have been designated for passenger checks after the passengers are separated into three categories based on their current health status.

On Sunday, Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar reviewed the arrangements at the airport for screening of passengers. Some 64,000 passengers have been screened at the airport since the outbreak of the virus.

Symptomatic passengers are referred to Gandhi Hospital for further treatment, non-symptomatic passengers coming from the risk zone countries are checked and quarantined, and those com-

ing from other countries and do not have symptoms are advised to be house quarantined, said the commissioner. Under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), health workers will check the house-quarantined passengers for 14 days.

All international passengers are screened with thermal imaging equipment and if any symptoms are identified, or scrutiny of their self-declaration forms warrants it, they are sent to the designated hospital in protective equipment such as masks, dress, gloves, headgear, goggles, and shoes, as per protocol.

"Around 200 doctors divided into three teams, and medical staff with sufficient ambulances, are working round-the-clock. About 200 police personnel from the Cyberabad Commissionerate and also from the Central Industrial Security Force are guarding the airport," Mr Sajjanar said.

Cab operators offer sanitisers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Ride-hailing apps which function in the city, have shot off a mail to its patrons, asking them to use hand sanitisers. And, if the driver is showing any symptoms, alert the concerned authorities.

The mail said: "Our drivers have been given hand sanitisers and face masks for their and your safety. We've trained our driver partners on the best practices of personal

and cab hygiene and keep them posted with latest health guidelines to be followed issued by the ministry of health and family affairs. If drivers notice customers displaying flu-like symptoms they must immediately reach out to the 24x7 government help line. Cover your nose and mouth, do not dispose used tissues in the car."

It also asked users to use a sanitizer whenever they come in contact with door handles, seat belts, etc.

the Haritha Plaza hotel at Vikarabad, the Forest Research Academy at Dulapally, and 450 rooms available in the residential quarters at Gachibowli

Stadium. The idea is to keep a close eye on everyone returning from abroad, for their own well being as well as for those around them.

Central govt to report measures to stop virus

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy addressed a press conference on Sunday on various issues. He said the Central government would announce new measures for containing the spread of the Coronavirus after holding discussions in Parliament.

The Prime Minister had constituted two task force teams to monitor the situation, he added.

He said there are no taxes on the manufacture of medicines related to coronavirus, and the Central government has been talking to state government officials from time to time.

He said that all paramilitary forces, including the Central Reserve Police Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and the Border Security Force, have been advised to keep ready quarantine camps for Covid-19 suspects as a preparatory measure.

"We have given instructions to all our paramilitary forces across the country to keep ready quarantine facilities in their

respective areas in case they are required. We have identified certain centres also for the camps and they are ready. They can accommodate any number of people as required by the health ministry," he said.

He said the ministries of health and external affairs have been appointed as nodal agencies to tackle Covid-19 and the Centre has been issuing advisories to all the states and when necessary. Regarding the problems of farmers, the MoS held a review meeting with officials of MARKFED, CCI and NAFED on procurement of cotton and red gram.

Mr REDDY said that we have given instructions to all our paramilitary forces across the country to keep ready quarantine facilities in their respective areas in case they are required. We have identified certain centres also for the camps and they are ready, they can accommodate any number of people as required.

DESPITE COVID SCARE, MANY DONATE BLOOD

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, MARCH 15

As many as 100 persons from all walks of life voluntarily participated in a blood donation drive organised by the Public Garden Walkers' association on Sunday.

President of the association and blood donor motivator at the MGM hospital, Racha Kalyani said that in the midst of coronavirus scare it was a good response from people who did not forget their responsibility to donate blood.

She said, "The turnout was affected as schools and hostels were shut as part of the state government's measures to control the spread of Covid-19. According to the WHO, global blood supplies are decreasing gradually and there could be a shortage."

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15



Mr. JAKKULA MANOHAR
(Former Treasurer 1993-1997 & 2001-2005 Financial Advisor 1997-2001, Medak Diocese, CSI)
DOB: 16-03-1944 DOD: 01-10-2010
We deeply love and miss you, you will remain in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
Wife: Mrs. Emily Manohar,
Sons: Michael, Vijay, Vinay
Daughters-in-Law: Yamini, Theola, Latha,
Grand Children: Aadish, Cutie, Twinkle, Katy, Carol
(CA-3288)

"I have fought the good fight... I have kept the faith"



Late Rt. Rev. G.S. LUKE
Bishop of Domakal Diocese
Dec 15, 1920 -- March 16, 2000
Two decades past yet, your memories are fresh for a life that delights the Lord.
Dr. Mrs. Jetti Indira Oliver and Families
(S/1920/D02015)

"SHRADHANJALI"



Late VITHAL RAO RATKALKAR
IAS Rtd.
Sorrowing Ratkalkar, Palekar, Bhale Rao, Deshpande, Nivargikar Families
Those we love don't go away They walk beside us everyday
Blessing us
Dr. Narendra Ratkalkar - Pediatrician
Dr. Kishore Ratkalkar - Pulmonologist USA
(B/1920/D02015)

20th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
The Memory of the righteous is a blessing. Pro 10:7



Mr. VELUGU N. DEVASAHAYAM
Rtd. Dy. Registrar Co-Operative Societies
DOB: 25-5-1930 DOD: 16-3-2000
DAD YOU ARE A BLESSING TO OUR LIVES YOUR SUPPORT TO FOLLOW JESUS GAVE US HEAVENS WAY
Remembered by Children, Vijay, Annie, Christina, Mary, Vias Families & All Grand Children and well wishers. Cell: 9133560570
(B/1920/D02015)

SAD DEMISE



Mr. RAJENDER PAMPATI
Passed away at Home (USA) on Wednesday 11th March 2020
We Miss You
Sister: Smt. Kacham Sasikala
Bavaguru: Sri Kacham Balalingaiah
Retired Chief Engineer Irrigation Dept.
(B/1920/D02015)

11th ANNIVERSARY



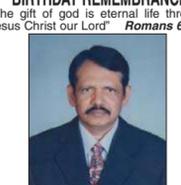
CHETNA
We Love you
JAI SAI RAM
WISHWAJEET RAI SRIVASTAV & NAMEETA

MEMORIAL SERVICE
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psm - 23:6



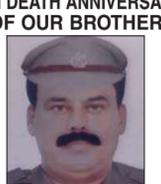
Mrs. VELPULA PRAMILA SAROJINI BENJAMIN
D/o: Mr. Undiny David
Rtd. Teacher St. Georges Grammar School (Girls)
D.O.B: 24.11.1949 D.O.D: 06.03.2020
Service - St. Marks Church Mettuguda on 16th March 2020 at 6.30 p.m.
Kindly treat this as a personal invitation.
By Mr. Samuel Kumar Velpula - USA & Family
Mrs. Sucharitha & Family
Mrs. Sunitha & Family
Mrs. Sujatha & Family

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
The gift of god is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Romans 6:23



Mr. JAKKULA MANOHAR
(Former Treasurer, Financial Advisor, CSI, Medak Diocese)
DOB: 16-03-1944 DOD: 01-10-2010
Grandpa, we still miss you!
Your memories will always be in our hearts
Your Everloving Grand Children:
Aadish, Aakasha, Abigail, Annabel & Carolina
(CA-3289)

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BROTHER



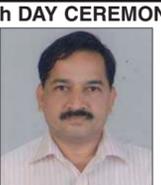
CARLTON EDWARD WARREN
DOB: 02.05.1955 DOD: 16.03.2010
To lose someone we loved so much, Brings pain beyond belief. There are no words to ease our pain our sadness and our grief.
Inserted by:
Jennifer Warren & Loved Ones
(S/1920/D02009)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
"I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever" Psalms 23:6



ANDREA MARIAM AAMER
D/o. Aamer Jamal & Juanita Aamer
13th January 2016 - 16th March 2017
Life would have been different if you were with us. Your Memory shall forever remain till such time we be united again.
Inserted by: Parents & Loved Ones

11th DAY CEREMONY



Sri PASUPULETI SRINIVAS RAO
Expired on 6.3.2020
May his soul rest in peace
11th Day Ceremony on 16.3.2020, 12 Noon at Sai Mitra Towers, Opp. D'Mart, Koushaiguda, Hyderabad. (Lunch follows)
All Family Members
Ph: 8074547692
(S/1920/D02020)

1st ANNIVERSARY



NAGARAM LAXMINARAYANA REDDY
DOB: 09-04-1942 DOD: 28-03-2019
Anniversary ceremony will be held on 16-03-2020, at GAYA
Inserted by:-
Wife: Nagaram Sirekha
Son: Shashikiran - Laxmi
Daughter: Shalini - G. Amrith Reddy
Ph: 9948664279

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ
COMMEMORATION CEREMONY OF
Late ALHAJ MOHAMMED BIN OMER AFIF AL-YAFAI Marhoom Wa Maghfoor



On Monday, 16th March 4 PM after Asar.
RECITATION OF GLORIOUS QURAN at Jama Masjid, Barkas.
Offering of Floral Chadar After Maghrib
Dinner: Follows at Residence.
Omer Garden, Mohammed Nagar, Hyderabad.

ALHAJ ALI BIN OMER AFIF AL-YAFAI BROTHERS & SONS.
Cont: 98667 85786, 99661 66786

In Loving Memory of
Sri. Teegala Chenna Krishna Reddy
Sr. Joint Director of Town Planning (Rtd)
He believed in "Shareera maadhayam khalu dharma saadhanam."
He had the God's gift of good health and led a contented, fulfilling and blissful life. We miss him immensely and pray for his soul to rest in peace.
D.O.B: 10-03-1926 - D.O.D: 07-03-2020

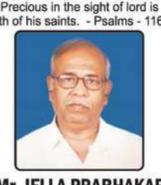
Wife : Smt. Teegala Pramila Reddy
Son & Daughter in Law : T Chandra Shekar Reddy - Radhika Reddy
Daughters & Sons in Law : Dr.Seshi Rekha Reddy - M.Prabhakar Reddy
Dr. Shobha Reddy - Dr.Ch.Ravinder Reddy
Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Family and Friends
12th Day Ceremony : Date : 18th March 2020, Time : 12.30 P.M. at Pingali Venkatarama Reddy Hall, Opp. Indira Park, Lower Tank Bund, Hyd.

MIDHANI
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
C. Sabita
Addl. General Manager (Rtd.)
(1957-2019)

She galloped away into the distant clouds leaving us all in tears...While also leaving behind her smile and cheerful memories for us to cherish. Commemorating her first anniversary of departure the annual ceremony would be performed on 16-03-2020 from 7-00am onwards at Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Lower tank bund, Hyderabad.

Rames Kumar.C (Brother); Shobha Raj (Sister)
Swaroor Jayanthi (Sister); Chetan Roy (Nephew)
+91 97898 95197, +91 98664 13120

2nd ANNIVERSARY
Precious in the sight of lord is death of his saints. - Psalms - 116:15



Mr. JELLA PRABHAKAR
D.O.B:10-11-1947 : D.O.D:16-03-2018
Always remembering
Wife: Mrs. Jella Puspha Leela
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children: Sunny & Minni
Angel & Blessy, Dora & Nora

IN LOVING MEMORY 13th ANNIVERSARY



Late K.V. VENKATREDDY GARU
(Addl. DCP Task Force)
DOB: 6-10-1952 DOD: 11-3-2007
You are always in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
Wife: Sarala Reddy
and Family Members.

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



T. NARASIMHA RAO
Dy. CAO(Rtd.) A.P.S.R.T.C
"Though mortally you are no more, your spirit lives by the values instilled in us."
Inserted by: Family Members
Ph: 9848019810

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Sri. Mansukhlal Vallabhji Doshi
24-04-1926 - 16-03-2004
"Your presence in our hearts, is our Strength"
Inserted by: Doshi Brothers & Family

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
On 16-3-2020



D. SAMBASIVA RAO
DOD: 03-04-2013
Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered ever day. Whom we love don't go away, but in our hearts you are always there. With loads of love
Wife: Mani Kumari, Mother: Varudhini
Son - Daughter-in-law:
DNVS - Pawan Kumar - Bhanu Rekha
Daughter - Son-in-law:
Naga Mrudula - Udai Kanth
Grand Children & Brothers - Sisters

3rd ANNIVERSARY



Smt. Savitri Sahgal
Teacher (Rtd.TGT), K.V. Picket
(W/o. Wg. Cdr. S.P. Sahgal (Rtd.))
DOB: 08-04-1937 Expired on: 16-03-2017
Your loving memories will always stay cherished as we learn new lessons of life. With all the love in our hearts, you walk with us forever.
With fond memories - Your Loved Ones
Mobile: 9849415068 / 9866898949

CAUTION NOTICE

That my client RIDE AUTOMOBILES Pvt. Ltd is authorized dealer for selling Honda branded Two wheeler vehicles having its show room at Habsiguda, Medipally and Ghatkesar Ranga Reddy, Medchal Dist. It is to inform to all the purchasers of Honda Two wheeler vehicles from the above places that as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the concerned transport departments of central and State Governments the registrations of BS-IV vehicles will be stopped after 31-03-2020.

Hence my client hereby informs all the purchasers that if any person not gets registration of the said BS-IV and previous model vehicles, they shall register the vehicles on or before 31-03-2020 at concerned transport registering office, if failed, the vehicle becomes invalid from 01-04-2020 and moreover it is treated as scrap.

If anybody fails to do so, they are personally responsible to face consequences arise thereof in View of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the concerned transport departments of central and State Governments. Further my client is not responsible for any risks or costs of whatsoever, which shall be faced by the un-registered vehicle purchasers.

The caution notice issued by the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the concerned transport departments of central and State Governments.
Date: 15-03-2020 (K. MALLIKARJUNA RAO) Advocate,
Place: Hyderabad. Enrollment No. A.P. 217 of 1989,
Flat No. 211, Sheela Homes, H.No. 2-3-685/5, C.P.L. Venkateswara Nagar, Amberpet, Hyderabad- 500013. Cell: 9440746207 & 895413562.

4th ANNIVERSARY



HEMAKRISHNAN
D.O.B:06-06-1962 D.O.D:16-03-2016
Though God Separated us I am still thinking always about our Old Memories.
Inserted by:
Your Loving Husband Krishnan

15th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Mr. IQBAL KISHEN
Always loved, never forgotten
fore missed.
Inserted by:
Mr. Sanjay & Superna Kishen
Anita and Priyadarshi Sahgal
Ajay and Sita Kishen
and All his Grand Children
whom he loved the most
(B/1920/D02018)

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Sri B. RAJENDRAN
(Ex-AGM - BHEL, RRD)
D.O.D: 16.03.2015
You were in our lives everyday... You are in our memories every minute and... You will be in our hearts every moment
- Madhavi Rajendran (Wife)
- Anjana Rajendran (Daughter)
- Archana (Daughter) Yogesh (Son-in-law) & Friends
(S/1920/D02008)



SHORT TAKES

8 PATIENTS, INCLUDING 2 POSITIVE IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA / NELLORE, MARCH 15

Four persons are being treated in an isolation ward in the Government General Hospital here, even as three others, whose reports came as tested negative for Coronavirus (Covid-19) were discharged on Sunday night. According to sources, seven persons who came from Qatar, Dubai, Malaysia and other countries were admitted and are being treated for past three to four days.

The condition of one of the three located in the isolation ward, a 38-year old woman, was described as 'serious' though her reports are yet to be come from the National Institute of Virology, Pune. The woman was admitted in the pre-dawn hours of Saturday and her condition is critical. She came to her native place, Antarvedi, from Dubai. The doctors suspect she is suffering from meningitis based on her symptoms. But her Covid-19 tests results are still awaited.

Dr M. Raghavendra Rao, superintendent, GGH, Kakinada said that reports of three persons were found to be negative. Initially test samples were sent to Vijayawada, where a new lab has been set up recently by the government, he said. But as per procedure, all samples were sent to Pune for a confirmation test.

He said that discharged persons should not move out from their houses for some more days. He said that people need not panic over the Covid-19 as all arrangements have been made for giving treatment and preventing further spread.

Meanwhile, a mock-drill conducted on Sunday by medical and health officials regarding Covid-19 created a panic among the people. Medical officials, paramedics and common people in the area participated in the mock drill near Danavaipet in Rajahmundry, D. Kesavaram near Kondagunturu in Rajangaram mandal, Ulapalli in Bikkavole mandal, Mattaladoddi near Devarapalli and other areas, where suspected cases of Covid-19 were reported from.

People of Rajahmundry however had a panic, especially when rumours spread that a Danvaipet youth, working as a software engineer, who recently returned from Malaysia, was tested positive for Covid-19. This fake news spread rapidly on social media.

District immunisation officer Dr Mallik said that mock drills were conducted 10 days ago in several places in the district. Currently, 631 persons are in self-quarantine at home in the district, he said.

In the West Godavari district, officials said that 75 persons who returned from Italy on February 29 in four phases. Due to increasing number of Covid cases in Italy, all the returnees have been kept in house isolation for 14 days.

GOVT SILENCES HMRL ON FOOTFALL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

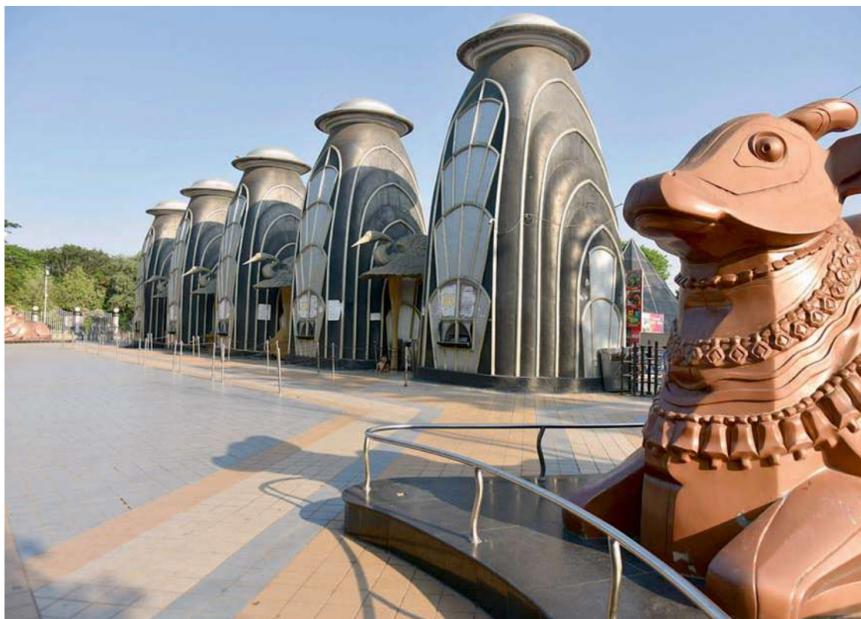
The state government has passed oral instructions to Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) not to reveal the daily footfall number, which has been dropping drastically with every passing day as fears of the Covid-19 grow.

Despite clean-up operations at Metro rail stations, the public is wary of human to human contact spreading the virus.

In the last week of February, the footfall was down by 40,000 and in the past two days, one lakh fewer commuters have travelled on the metro partly because of the holidays. Though the footfall has reduced drastically, the QR based e-tickets increased. The authorities claim that commuters are more willing to purchase e-tickets to avoid physical interaction and long queues at ticketing counters. Highly placed sources in HMRL said that the reduction in footfall has multiple reasons. Apart from fear of the Covid-19, more people have been told by their employers to work from home and fewer people want to travel unless absolutely necessary.

The footfall on the JBS-MGBS line increased to 40,000 when the corridor began, but has now dropped a little. Sources said that since Friday, peak hour traffic on the metro has taken a hit in spite of regular cleaning.

Bustling NTR Gardens wears a deserted look



Usually packed NTR Park on Sundays, the park was shut down following orders by the state government to close down entertainment paks over Covid-19 fears. — S. SURENDER REDDY.

Entertainment parks, zones come to a grinding halt on Tank Bund

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Following the instructions of the state government, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority has shut all its operations on the banks of the Hussainsagar until March 21.

In order to curtail the spread of coronavirus, the municipal authority

has shut major public parks including NTR Gardens, Lumbini, Sanjeevaiah, and all commercial activities on the banks of the Hussainsagar, where the public would gather in huge numbers.

No events and public meetings will be allowed in People Plaza until further instructions from the government. All

eateries and restaurants surrounding Hussainsagar will also be closed for a week. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has shut all gyms, swimming pools and play grounds until March 31. Surprisingly, the corporation has carried out 'Property Tax Parish-karam' programme in

circle and zonal offices, where huge numbers of people gather. The corporation resolved 85 grievances out of the total 1,363 received. The municipal corporation has not given any instructions to close major public parks under its jurisdiction. This will be done only on instructions from the government.

GHMC sanitation men exposed to Covid risk

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Nearly 200 times. That is the number of times — in just one week — when the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) nor the State Health Department has issued a specific advisory on the potential for contracting the disease from sewage discharges from the hospital, leaving the water board to follow conventional methods of cleaning choked sewers and depositing the silt and other waste removed from manhole junctions by the wayside. Though a separate system of contractors is supposed to evacuate such silt within a specified period, this is practically never done.

Admitting that no instructions were issued on additional safety measures for clean-up crews, including those who de-silt the nalas in

the city into which the sewer lines empty, a senior Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation official said: "We will take the issue to the notice of higher authorities for alternative mechanism or put de-silting on hold for a period of two weeks. Until next instructions are received, de-silting of nalas will continue." The GHMC official also said instructions will be given to de-silting agencies to add sanitizers to the existing safety gear.

He, however, made it clear that public safety in terms of health issues remains the responsibility of the State Health Department. While cleaning up of sewer lines is the responsibility of HMWS&SB, cleaning up of nalas is the GHMC's responsibility. Within the city itself, a whopping 39,688.50 cubic metres of silt — that also contains faecal matter — is removed each year from various nalas.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AT CM'S DECISION

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Welcoming Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to keep schools closed until March 30 amidst the ongoing threat posed by the coronavirus, parents of school-going children said that this was a timely and apt decision to make.

"The decision taken by the state government came at the right time," Ashish Naredi, a member of the Hyderabad School Parents' Association told Deccan Chronicle.

As it turns out, most schools of the CBSE have already completed the syllabus for the academic year.

However, parents who have children studying in state-run schools have expressed concerns.

"There are a few state syllabus schools that are yet to complete their portion. The closure might impact them," said Mr Pavan, another parent.

KMPG violates KCR's directives

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

After a three-hour cabinet meet, the Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced several measures to help the state fight the pandemic Coronavirus late on Saturday evening. One among them was to shut down every single educational institution — from primary to universities — including coaching centres and summer camps for at least 15 days, starting Saturday night. The 66-year-old leader had also ordered shut down of cinema halls, suspended all exhibitions, trade fairs, rallies and other events considered as public gatherings. But come Sunday, many private educational centres were open and coaching their students behind closed doors. One among them was the KMPG Coaching Centre, run on the premises of MSR Hostel, right next to the S. R. Nagar Metro Station in the city. It was just another Sunday at KMPG coaching centre. It was 1 pm and the sec-



A picture of KMPG coaching centre

ond batches of students were being tutored behind closed doors. The class that got over at 1.30 pm was for chartered accountancy. "We have about three batches every day depending on the strength and the availability of the teacher. There were about 40-50 students in the class today," Reshmi (name changed) said post the class. "There was no intimation given to us on the classes being shut either today (Sunday) or until March 31 as per the directive of the government. Until we get a proper confirmation from the institute we will attend the classes,"

Apoorva (also name changed) said. When the teacher, who taught the batch was questioned, he replied, "Today our class was not full. After the government's notice some of the students did not turn up. We are actually unsure about the seriousness of the directive for the classes to be closed. On one hand the CM wants the coaching centres and colleges to be shut. On the other, he says Hyderabad has nothing to worry about. Unless we get a clearer picture from the CM or the academy, I guess the classes will continue." The teacher refused to be identified.

BOOKMYSHOW OFFERS TICKETS FOR MOVIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Meanwhile, leading booking platform BookMyShow.com is still offering tickets to movies like Angrezi Medium, Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo; for live shows such as Bloody Swain - Comedy Solo (on March 15) Comedy Night by Harsh Gujral (on March 29) and for a theater workshop by Samahaara Production Oriented Theater Workshop (on March 16) across the city.

When Deccan Chronicle tried to reach the cinema halls and the venues of the shows mentioned above, they were shut for operations. Deccan Chronicle also found 'we are closed' boards outside most of them. And yet the ticket sales were on, on the platform.

Etala calls for social distancing

Strict health screening at RGIA, says minister

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Health minister Etala Rajendar on Sunday called for extremely strict health screening measures at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) to check for any possible or potential cases of COVID-19 and identifying such individuals and providing them with the necessary care and treatment. The minister, during a teleconference with senior Health Department officials, instructed for COVID-19 determination tests on the two Coronavirus positive patients currently under treatment at Gandhi Hospital.

The Rapid Response Teams should trace every contact of the two individuals who are now undergo-

● THE MINISTER also appealed to the people to practice good hygiene and social distancing methods. Calling this a generally good practice even under normal circumstances, anyone with a cold or cough must cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing and they themselves should feel the responsibility of not spreading such conditions to those around them.

He said the Chief Minister announced several closures and other strict conditions only to ensure that any possibility of spread of COVID-19 gets nipped in the bud. The minister also made it clear that people living in and around Vikarabad have no reasons to worry following news of selecting the Haritha Plaza hotel as a site for quarantining people arriving from other countries.

"Nobody who tests positive for the disease will be lodged there. It will be used only as a precautionary quarantine facility," Mr Rajendar said.

cough must cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing and they themselves should feel the responsibility of not spreading such conditions to those around them.

He said the Chief Minister announced several closures and other strict conditions only to ensure that any possibility of spread of COVID-19 gets nipped in the bud. The minister also made it clear that people living in and around Vikarabad have no reasons to worry following news of selecting the Haritha Plaza hotel as a site for quarantining people arriving from other countries.

"Nobody who tests positive for the disease will be lodged there. It will be used only as a precautionary quarantine facility," Mr Rajendar said.

Hygiene drive for sweepers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

With Covid-19 spreading across the world at break-neck speed, a few residents of Methodist Colony took time out from their daily life and distributed handkerchiefs to the road and colony sweepers, on

Sunday. Prior to distribution, the cleaners and sweepers were given a practical example on how soap and sanitiser work. A container filled with murky water was placed in front of them and they were asked to dip a soap covered finger into the water; they were amazed when the dirt

cleared away. "We wanted to educate them about the benefits of using soap and sanitiser, during this day and age of Covid-19."

Since these women go around the entire street sweeping and cleaning," said major (retd) Shiv Kiran.

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)
Category 'A' declared by MHRD, Government of India accredited by NAAC
Girinagar P.O., Pune - 411 025, Maharashtra, India | www.diat.ac.in

POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES - 2020

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology is an autonomous organisation, fully funded by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence established with the objective of imparting Post Graduate Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences on thrust area relevant to Defence, Industries, R&D and also conduct research in the Core areas of Defence Technologies.

In addition to admitting Serving Officers of the Indian Armed Forces, DRDO, DPSUs, Government Departments / Institutions a number of seats in various disciplines are offered to GATE qualified civilian candidates with scholarship.

Master of Technology (M.Tech.) Programmes

DIAT announces admission to the following Post Graduate programmes for the **ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21**, to eligible Indian Citizens.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) Programme - M.Sc. in Food Technology

Dual Degree (DD) programme offered jointly by DIAT and Cranfield University, UK

Master of Science (MS) (By Research) Programme

A few programmes are exclusively meant for sponsored candidates only. Please visit DIAT website www.diat.ac.in for further information including details of Programmes and specializations, eligibility criteria, minimum prescribed marks in qualifying exam and GATE score, admission procedure, Reservation policy, Fee etc. Exclusive girls hostel is available.

More details and important dates will be announced in the **DIAT Admission Brochure** which will be published on DIAT website by 17th March, 2020.

Joint Registrar (Academics)

DECCAN Chronicle Main Sponsor **BAJAJ ELECTRONICS** SINCE 1983

Presents **DC GOLD HUNGAMA**
7th Feb. - 22nd Mar. 2020

Deccan Chronicle's exciting lucky draw, **GOLD HUNGAMA** is back.

A golden opportunity for retailers, showrooms & business establishments to participate in this Gold Hungama to increase foot falls in your stores and get lucky draw coupons for your customers.

Bumper prize 1kg GOLD*

plus exciting prizes every week

Co-sponsors:

HOME Decor Express Importers & Wholesellers
DARPAN
FortuneArrt POWER + SAVINGS + INNOVATION
JAYDURGA FURNISHINGS

manepally JEWELLERS
MASOORI ICE CREAM
COWBOY SOFAS

Retailers, showrooms & business establishments to participate in this Gold Hungama please contact:
9908662244 / 9052134123 / 9849998024

IN BRIEF

TS nod to extend SC, ST quota

Hyderabad: Minister of State for Legislative Affairs Vemula Prashant Reddy, who introduced a resolution in the legislature on behalf of the chief minister, passed the constitutional amendment bill brought by the central government, extending the SC and ST reservation for another 10 years. The legislature unanimously approved the resolution.

DEPRESSED AFTER GF'S DEATH, MAN COMMITS SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Depressed over the suicide of his girlfriend, a person committed suicide by coming under the wheels of a speeding train near James street station on Friday night. The Secunderabad railway police booked a case. Identifying the deceased as T. Bala Krishna, a 19-year-old, had introduced the girl to his parents and had planned to marry her. On March 11, his girlfriend committed suicide by hanging herself at her residence. Subsequently, Bala Krishna went into depression.

The following day he didn't go to office and cried the whole day. His parents tried to convince him against taking any extreme step. On March 13, he went to office and didn't return until late night. When his mother called him he answered her call and informed her that he is on the way home.

The railway police identified him and informed his family members after his demise. Later, the police shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital and handed it over to the family members after an autopsy was conducted.

Two-year-old boy dies after falling into sump

He was playing in house when incident happened

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

A two-year-old boy, who was playing in his house, fell in a water sump and drowned late Saturday night. The boy was brought out from the water and shifted to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

According to Jeedimetla police, the incident took place at around 8.30 pm in

THE BOY was playing in the compound. After some time, his parents found him missing and located him in the water sump. With help of neighbours, they rushed him to hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Ayodhya Nagar. The boy, identified as Chintala Vijay Krishna, was the

son of C Santosh Kumar, a private employee.

When Santosh and his wife were busy with household chores, Vijay Krishna was playing in the compound.

After some time, the couple noticed he was missing and when they searched, they found him in the water sump. With the help of neighbours, he was rushed to Suraksha Hospital in Petbahadurabad, where the duty

doctors examined and declared him dead.

Following information from the hospital, a police team inspected the scene and registered a case, said police personnel, adding that the body was handed over after autopsy at Gandhi Hospital mortuary.

"It is suspected that the boy accidentally slipped into the sump while playing and drowned," said a Jeedimetla police official.

Online conman siphons ₹1.5L from PSU staffer

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

An online conman impersonating a customer care employee siphoned off ₹1.5 lakh from the account of a public sector undertaking employee by luring the latter into revealing his account details.

Complainant Singh informed police that he received a message on his mobile on March 11 stating: "Paytm - Dear Customer, Your Paytm Know Your Customer (KYC) has expired. Please contact customer care No. 8305475059 immediately or your Paytm account will be blocked within 24 hours."

The message included a phone number in the name of Paytm office.

Singh called the given number and a person calling himself Rahul answered as Paytm representative.

"He informed me that my eKYC of Paytm has to be updated and he will guide me through the process. He asked me to open the play store and install an application 'Quick Support' on my mobile," he said.

"I did not know the features of the application and fell prey to his machinations. When I opened the app, a 10-digit code number appeared. As per his instructions, I shared that number with

him. After that he asked me to transfer ₹2 from my Paytm Account," said the complainant.

Later, Singh was asked to give his credit card details.

After that he received an OTP message, which he revealed to the fraudster. Subsequently, he received three messages debiting amounts of ₹49,999 each from his SBI credit card, amounting to ₹1,49,997.

After realising that he was cheated, the complainant blocked his credit card and approached the Hyderabad cyber crime police.

A cheating case under relevant sections of IT has been lodged.

MAN ARRESTED FOR SEX WITH MINOR GIRL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

A 29-year-old man who had sex with a minor girl, a student of a junior college in Shamshabad, was arrested by the police on Sunday.

According to inspector of police, RGIA police station, the man, identified as Hari, sometimes attended to electrical repairs at the girl's private college in Shamshabad where he befriended and entered into a sexual relationship with her.

The victim's family learnt of their daughter's relationship when she complained of stomach pain and doctors at a private hospital they took her to on Saturday, declared she was pregnant.

Ready to soar



Pilots during the Wings India-2020 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. — S.Surender Reddy

65-year-old nabbed for rape bid

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

A sexagenarian, who allegedly tried to rape a minor in a washroom was arrested by Jagadgirigutta police on Saturday night.

According to Jagadgirigutta police, the incident occurred at Roda Mistry Nagar in Quthbullapur. The victim, a nine-

year-old school student, was living in a house adjacent to that of the accused in the same compound.

On Saturday, the victim's mother went for a walk when Babu Miya, a 65-year-old labourer, took the girl to the common bathroom located in the compound to abuse her.

"The panic-stricken girl raised an alarm by screaming. The locals rushed in

her rescue and caught Babu Miya, who was in the bathroom along with the girl.

He was handed over to the police, and the girl's mother lodged a complaint," said Jagadgirigutta Inspector A Ganga Reddy.

The victim was sent for medical examination and counselling, while the accused has been arrested under POCSO Act, he said.

DECCAN Chronicle Presents

DC GOLD HUNGAMA

7th Feb. - 22nd Mar. 2020

Main Sponsor: BAJAJ ELECTRONICS SINCE 1983

FURNITURES & FURNISHINGS

BEDSHEET KA BADA SALE!

Ends 31st March, 2020

FLAT 50% OFF ON BRANDED BEDSHEETS

Bellagio 524	Bellagio 769
Elan 31899	Chivalric 21659
Portico 1389	Portico 699
Lavender 22299	Iris 21999

Summer Comforters

Bellagio 1170	Bellagio 1497
Sandra 2-299	Adore 2-299

BRANDED Pillows & Cushions

Feather Lite Pillows 16/16 Cushions

③ for ₹799 ③ for ₹599

DARPAN FURNISHINGS

THE HOME STYLISTS SINCE 2001

ABIDS M: 88860 02136 | CHANDANAGAR M: 90000 17086 | GACHIBOWLI M: 90000 17082 | SEC'BAD M: 88866 34593

DAIRY PRODUCTS

MASQATI ICE CREAM

We're 8 now, and counting!

FIND YOUR NEAREST MASQATI EXCLUSIVE

- Turkayamjal Factory Outlet
- Banjara Hills
- Salarjung Colony-Tolichowki
- Brindavan Colony Entrance-Tolichowki
- Charminar
- Alijah Kofla
- Santosh Nagar
- Himayatnagar

MASQATI DAIRY PRODUCTS

22-4-470, Alijah Kofla, Yakutpura, Eelabur Chowk, Bibi Bazaar, Near Charminar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500002.

50th Anniversary

FURNITURES AND SOFA

COWBOY SOFAS

CUSTOM MADE SOFAS @ FACTORY PRICES

SPECIALISTS IN RECLINERS & LEATHER SOFAS

799 333 4444

Hitech City Flyover Down - HITECH CITY www.cowbofactory.com

FURNITURES

QUALITY OF VARIETY

www.woodsala.com

TRADE ENQUIRY SOLICITED

Woodsala.com, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Ashok Mehta 9829094487 | Aayush Kothari 9660179093

TOURS & TRAVELS

WHEN YOUR BUDGET IS TIGHT FLY RIGHT VIA OM TOURS & TRAVELS

FOR DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL TICKETS AND INSURANCE PACKAGES TO BKK, DXB & EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

040-23303121 to 24

e-mail: omtourshyd@yahoo.co.in

The BIG Store for little ones. Jaydurga !!

Upto 70% DISCOUNT

Disney print Bed sheets / Duvs / Comforters

Cartoon / Bright Colourful Wallpaper, Stickers

Nursery Print Carpets / Doormats, Anti-skid mats

Kids Curtains / Sheers / Blinds / Cushion covers

Sofa cloth

Re-upholstery

Table covers / mats

Mattress, Pillows

DECOR

Instagram: @jaydurgadecor

Authorised All India Wholesale Distributor for Ddecor Fabrics.

For New Dealership please Contact: 9391049852

JAYDURGA FURNISHINGS

www.jaydurgafurnishings.com

Dharamkaram Road Junction, Greenpark Hotel Road

AMERPET, Ph: 9246359346

FortuneArrrt POWER + SAVINGS + INNOVATION

PROFILE LIGHTS

light your space like never before.

#ImaginationUnlimited

ELECTRICAL LINES

5-4-104/7, Next to Railway Bridge, Ranigunj, Secunderabad - 3

Ph: 040-66996699, Toll Free 1800 5994 699 E-mail: arvlines@gmail.com, W: www.fortunearrt.com

Follow us @Fortunearrt group

DRI seizes ganja worth ₹3.1 cr in Hyderabad

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15:

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence sleuths, Hyderabad, busted a major ganja smuggling gang here on Sunday.

They arrested six persons, including a ganja cultivator, following the seizure of 1,554 kg of ganja worth ₹3 crore at L.B Nagar.

Based on specific intelligence inputs that narcotics were being transported via Hyderabad, a team of DRI sleuths launched an operation and intercepted a truck (TS 12 UC 5662) and a car (AP 29 AB

7351) at LB Nagar Crossroads on Saturday. The car was piloting the truck.

On inspection, the sleuths found several empty cases and some bags concealed under the crates in the truck, which were emanating strong odour. When the truck passengers were questioned, they revealed ganja was concealed in the bags. "We found 1,554 kg of ganja stuffed into 751 packets. The contraband was obtained from Mothugudem village and transported to Bhadrachalam from where he was proceeding to Bidar via Hyderabad," said DRI officials on Sunday.

14-yr-old abused Nepali girl rescued

Perpetrator promised job to lure her to Haribowli area of city and sexually abused her

GEETA VALABOJU | DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

A 14-year-old girl, who was brought to the city from the Basti town in western Nepal nine months ago under the promise of employment, was sexually abused repeatedly after being held in Haribowli area under Mogalpuram police station limits in the city.

According to the police, a person named Shiva who visited the Basti last year, lured the girl to the city

● **ACCORDING TO** police a person named Shiva from Hyderabad who visited the Basti last year, lured the girl to the city promising her a job that can help her family back home.

● **HOWEVER,** instead of providing her a job, Shiva began sexually exploiting her along with several other men. When she tried to escape, he married her and continued to exploit her

caught by Shiva who then married her but continued to exploit her sexually by pimping her out to other men.

Meanwhile, with no information about their daughter, her family filed a complaint in Nepal saying that she was missing. However, all their efforts went in vain. They only heard from her when the girl managed to call her brother to inform him of her plight and that she was being held in Hyderabad. As soon as he

received call from his sister, the brother, accompanied by his mother, arrived in the city on Friday and the family lodged a complaint with Balala Hakkula Sangham, which in turn, took the matter to the notice of additional commissioner of police Shikha Goel. The police traced the location of the phone the girl used to call her brother and rescued her on Saturday and arrested Shiva and remanded him into custody.

According to the girl's

parents, she was last seen when she was playing outside their house in a Basti. Though her father was in Hyderabad, he was not aware that his daughter was in the city until his son and wife came to the city and contacted him.

The girl has since been sent for a medical check-up. According to the parents, the police informed them that they can take their daughter back to Nepal with them once she recovers and is fit to travel.

DECCAN
Chronicle
Presents

DC GOLD
HUNGAMA
7th Feb. - 22nd Mar. 2020

Main Sponsor:

BAJAJ
ELECTRONICS
SINCE 1983

ELECTRONICS

THINK AC THINK BAJAJ ELECTRONICS

LARGEST DISPLAY OF
ACs & COOLERS

LARGE APPLIANCES, SMALL APPLIANCES, MOBILES & IT

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| HYDERABAD | KARIMNAGAR | PUNJAGUTTA | WARANGAL |
| • A. S. RAO NAGAR | • KOMPALLY | • RAJENDRA NAGAR | ANDHRA PRADESH |
| • ABIDS | • KONDAPUR | • PILLAR NO 215 | • GAJUWAKA |
| • ATTAPUR | • KOTHAPET | • RAMANTHAPUR | • GUNTUR |
| • PILLAR NO 138 | • KUKATPALLY | • RC PURAM | • KAKINADA |
| • BANJARA HILLS | • LAKDI-KA-POOL | • RTC 'Y' ROAD | • NELLORE |
| • BN REDDY NAGAR | • M. G. ROAD | • SHAH ALI BANDA | • RAJAHMUNDRY |
| • BODUPPAL | • MADINAGUDA | • SHAMSHABAD | • TIRUPATI |
| • CHANDA NAGAR | • MALAKPET | • SR NAGAR | • VIJAYAWADA-1 |
| • CHINTAL | • MEDCHAL | • SUN CITY | • BENZ CIRCLE |
| • DILSUKHNAGAR | • MIYAPUR | • TOLICHOWKI | • VIJAYAWADA-2 |
| • ECIL | • NACHARAM | • VANASTHALIPURAM | • ELURU ROAD |
| • FORUM MALL | • NAGOLE | TELANGANA | • VIZAG-1 |
| • GACHIBOWLI | • NALLAKUNTA | • KARIMNAGAR | • DIAMOND PARK |
| • HABSIGUDA | • NIZAMPET | • KHAMMAM | • VIZAG-2 |
| • HAYATHNAGAR | • PATANCHERU | • MAHABUB NAGAR | • DONDAPARTHY |
| • JUBILEE HILLS | • PET BASHEERABAD | • NIZAMABAD | |

ANIMAL PET

7995947644 Near D Mart, Sec'bad.
JASMINE PET MART
(A Complete Pet Store for all your Pet needs)

20% OFF ON ALL DOG FOOD

BEAUTY & HEALTH CARE,

herbhair
Herbal Hair Oil
Revitalises, Nourishes, Hydrates & Strengthens the Hair Follicles.
herbhair.in | 88 2222 7777

FURNITURES

SINCE 2 DECADES

ELEGANT
DOORS

Ph:040-27178301, sales@elegantdoors.in

SHOP & WIN



FURNITURES

HOME
Decor Express
Importers and Distributors
of World Class Furniture

Office Visitor Chair
1,900/-

Office Revolving Chair
6,990/-

Office Visitor Chair
3,700/-

INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE
@ **WHOLESALE PRICES**

SUNDAY'S OPEN

HURRYUP FEW PIECES LEFT

6 Feet Heavy Office Table
27,000/- - 35,000/-

5 Feet Office Table
19,900/- - 25,000/-

Corner Table 3 Pieces
5,500/- - 7,500/-

Malaysian Wooden Dining Table 1+6
49,900/- - 65,000/-

Malaysian Wooden Dining Table 1+6
59,000/- - 81,000/-

Malaysian Wooden Dining Set 1+6
32,000/- - 55,000/-

HOME DECOR EXPRESS

96661 16668, 98497 22255, 040 27624494

Opp. Vartha Office, Sai Baba Temple Road, Lower Tankbund, Hyderabad

JUST GOOGLE HOME DECOR EXPRESS FOR LOCATION

★ 0% EMI ★ 6 MONTHS WARRANTY ★ HUGE RANGE IN READY STOCK ★ FREE DELIVERY* ★ AFTER SALES SERVICES

JEWELLERS

Vaddanam Festival

at Dilsukhnagar

Witnesses exclusive handcrafted Vaddanams and wedding sets

manepally
JEWELLERS

trusted legacy since 1890

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

General Bazar
040-2781 3209

Panjugutta
040- 4031 3209

Kukatpally
040-4855 3209

Dilsukhnagar
040-4858 3209

www.manepally.com * online@manepally.com

follow us on /manepallyjewellers

A golden opportunity for retailers, showrooms & business establishments to increase foot falls in your stores and get lucky draw coupons for your customers.

To participate in this Gold Hungama please contact: 9908662244 / 9052134123 / 9849998024

SHORT TAKES

COVID-19 IS NOT A WORRY, SAYS JAGAN

FROM PAGE 1

"The situation would not change in next two to three weeks. Exams would be conducted keeping more distance between students sharing benches."

"If elections has been completed, there would be a chance to take measures at the local level by elected representatives after identifying victims and offering proper treatment. Presently, the Covid-19 is in the initial stage hence there was no big threat in conducting elections," he said.

"People of age of above 60 years would be first affected by Covid-19, especially those already suffering from diabetes, blood pressure, liver, kidney and asthma diseases," he said, adding, "out of the 85,000 people affected by Covid-19 in China, over 65,000 were cured, while 3,000 had died. There is no need to press the panic button."

Mr Reddy, reeling on numbers, said, "over 80.9 per cent of Covid-19 victims recovered under home isolation in China, while 13.8 per cent were hospitalised and only 4.7 per cent were admitted to the ICU, which clearly shows that there is no need to panic."

Giving an overview of the state, the Chief Minister said, "70 samples were collected, of which only one case was tested positive in Nellore. That patient is recovering well. The state started laboratories Tirupati and Vijayawada and another laboratory would be started soon in Kakinada."

He assured that the government has taken all necessary measures to curb the epidemic.

NAIDU HAILS SEC DECISION TO CANCEL POLL

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 15

Opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu hailed the SEC's decision to defer local body elections.

Addressing mediapersons here on Sunday, he said the decision was right as the Union government already declared COVID-19 as a notified disaster. He objected to the threats by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to SEC Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar. "SEC is an independent constitutional body and Mr Jagan has no right to question its decisions."

Mr Naidu dismissed the claim of Mr Jagan that he appointed Mr Ramesh Kumar during his tenure as CM in 2016. He maintained that he had suggested Mr C.R. Biswas's name for appointment as SEC, but the then Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan had picked Ramesh Kumar for the post. The former CM alleged that Jagan levelled baseless allegations against him and attributed everything to a particular caste in his quest to gain political mileage.

Mr Naidu said that Covid-19 turned a global disaster and forced cancellation of the local elections in London, US earmarked \$3.50 lakh crore to fight the virus and all schools, colleges, offices and shops except medical stores were closed in China, Italy and other countries. He objected to the statement of CM Jagan claiming there was no coronavirus effect in the state. "Any state can ignore Covid-19 threat at the risk of causing a huge damage to the country," he observed. "Is election politics more important to the CM than the lives of the public in this situation," he wondered.

● HE OBJECTED to the Andhra Pradesh CM's claim that there was no impact of coronavirus on the state



The newly appointed Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay being welcomed at Gun Park after paying floral tributes.

— GANDHI

KCR an MIM puppet: Bandi

Seeks ban of 'terrorist MIM', sees saffron flag on Golconda Fort

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Newly appointed Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday slammed the ruling TRS party alleging that it had become a puppet in the hands of AIMIM.

Addressing party workers after taking charge as president at the state party office here in the city, he wanted Majlis to be banned for its links with "terrorists and violence".

He declared that BJP will destroy the fortress of ruling party in the state very soon and hoist the saffron flag on

Golconda Fort. Stating that the countdown for TRS has begun, the new state president announced that BJP will soon launch a state-wide exercise to expose the nexus between TRS and MIM and their vote bank politics. He asserted that BJP will dethrone the government of K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who is preserving his power with the support of Muslim votes.

Stating that KCR fears the Lotus and not coronavirus, Sanjay warned that if the state government books cases against BJP workers branding the party as communal, he will not remain a mute

● THE BJP chief wanted the Majlis to be banned for its links with "terrorists and violence".

● HE SAID the countdown for TRS has begun in Telangana

spectator. He said he is prepared to go to jail while fighting the ruling TRS and asked KCR to build new jails, as the existing prisons in the state will not be sufficient to accommodate BJP workers fighting against the government.

The new BJP chief questioned the Chief Minister for performing Yagnas claiming to be the

only real Hindu when these rituals were only to make his son K. T. Rama Rao the CM of Telangana.

He claimed that Congress workers will be joining the saffron organisation in large numbers as their party was starting at "disintegration" in the state.

Sanjay said the screams of women and children of Bhainsa still haunt him. He would soon visit the town again to console the victims and extend financial support to them.

Speaking on the occasion, outgoing president K. Laxman said a ground-level person becoming the state party chief is

possible only in the BJP, which is the greatness of the party. He declared that the forthcoming Greater Hyderabad municipal elections will be the semi-final for the party to face the Assembly polls in 2023.

BJP national general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao, national secretary Satya Kumar, Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy, MPs G. Mohan Rao, D. Aravind and S. Bapurao, MLC N. Ramchander Rao, MLA T. Raja Singh, former ministers D. K. Aruna and M. Narasimulu, and other senior leaders were present on the occasion.

Vikamarka bats for unaided students

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday wrote a letter to the Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao urging him to ensure implementation of Section 12(1)(c) under the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009.

The CLP leader brought to the notice of the Chief Minister that the relevant Section was inserted in the RTE Act 2009 and is aimed at social integration in private unaided schools by mandating

● THE CLP leader wrote a letter to the CM urging him to ensure implementation of RTE Act

● HE SAID Section 12(1) is key to social cohesion

admission of children belonging to socially disadvantaged and economically weaker sections in 25 per cent of the seats in entry-level classes.

He said that the Section was included with the rationale that provision of free and compulsory education to children from disadvantaged and weaker

sections is not merely the responsibility of schools run or supported by the government, but also of schools, which are not dependent on government funds.

He pointed out that the Section was the key to social cohesion and inclusive schooling, which could challenge existing social and economic hierarchies and was consistent with the Constitutional values and ideals of social justice and equality of opportunity.

He said that as per the data Unified District Information System for

Education (U-DISE) for 2016-17, Telangana has about 91,840 potential seats every year spread over 12,573 private unaided schools eligible for the provision.

He said that this shows that there is a potential to provide free quality education to close to one lakh students every year. This is a critical opportunity for the state government to not just create avenues of quality education for poor and disadvantaged children but also to support them to achieve honours through a shared classroom environment.



UTTAM OBJECTS TO CM LINKING CORONA TO CONG

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday severely condemned Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for referring to the Congress as coronavirus of the country.

"KCR is the real coronavirus while Congress is a nation builder," he retorted in a statement here on Sunday.

Mr Uttam Kumar Reddy pointed out that Mr Rao would not be making a speech as Chief Minister in the Assembly, had the Congress not granted statehood for Telangana.

He wanted the Chief Minister to realise that the Congress gave Telangana to fulfil aspirations of people.

Advising the Chief Minister to restrain from indulging in cheap talk against Congress, the TPCC chief demanded that Mr Rao withdraw his remarks and tender an unconditional apology for using such inappropriate words. He also wanted these remarks to be expunged from the Assembly records.

● HE ADVISED the CM to refrain from indulging in cheap talk against the Cong

₹50,000 cr to be spent on Hyd in 5 yrs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday disclosed in the Assembly that the state government has decided to take up the development of Hyderabad under Mission Mode with ₹50,000 crore in the coming five years.

While replying to the discussion on Budget 2020-21 on municipal administration and urban development, he said that the Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was very

keen on developing the Hyderabad as a world class city.

Reminding that the state government has proposed ₹10,000 crore in the Budget to carry out Musi River purification and Musi River Front Project and all other special projects and works in Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration area, he said, "We will prepare comprehensive plans and strategies for the overall development of Hyderabad with the support of the Administrative Staff College of India and other consultant agencies."

The minister said that

the Shah Consultants has already submitted Master Sewage Plan for Hyderabad and the state government is examining it and they will implement soon. He said under the Mission Hyderabad they are planning to develop sewage system on the outskirts of Hyderabad as was done with regard to drinking water facility on the outskirts at a cost of ₹1,700 crore.

"Under the Mission Hyderabad we will ensure the better sanitation system and roads in the city," he promised.

He said that under the

Charminar pedestrian project, 90 per cent works of the Inner Ring Road at Charminar were completed and ₹16 crore were spent on the project and if required they will spend up to ₹30 crore for the completion of the project.

He told the House that under Mission Bhagiratha they could not complete works in 38 towns in the state due to unavoidable reasons and now in the present budget ₹800 crore was proposed for those 38 towns and works will be taken up on war foot basis.

POWER | PLAY MHA reportedly took serious note of YSRC violence against oppn

SEC took Centre nod to cancel polls

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS VISAKHAPATNAM, MARCH 15

The Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) has on Sunday taken the decision to postpone elections to the local bodies in consultation with the Centre. State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar is said to have spoken to the top brass at the ministry of home

affairs (MHA) on Sunday morning and announced the postponement only after the latter gave a go ahead.

Though the SEC cited coronavirus as the primary reason for postponement, official sources told Deccan Chronicle that the MHA took serious note of incidents of violence, wherein candidates of opposition parties were attacked and coerced to withdraw their nominations by

the ruling YSRC leaders and cadre. The BJP candidates coming under attack from YSRC men didn't go down well with the central leadership of the saffron party, sources said. Swift developments took place since Saturday evening, when a three-member BJP delegation comprising MPs G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, C.M. Ramesh and T.G. Venkatesh met Union home minister

Amit Shah and complained against the violence unleashed on their party cadre by ruling party leaders and their followers.

Meanwhile, live footages of ruling party leaders dragging candidates of other parties to election authorities and forcing them to withdraw nominations left the SEC in an embarrassing situation. "When institutions and officials backed by the

Constitution do not act, who will come to the rescue of victims," a senior SEC official lamented.

The Article 341-k of the Constitution makes the removal of SEC a tough procedure, wherein the Parliament alone can remove the SEC chief by passing a resolution, with two-thirds majority, after debating and establishing that the respective SEC had erred.

Department of Atomic Energy
Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice

1. Last Date for Submission of Online Bid against NIT No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11034** is extended upto **10/04/2020** up to **2:00 PM**.
Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details.

[DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/35C1]

Department of Atomic Energy
Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice

1. Last Date for Submission of Online Bid against NIT No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11098** is extended upto **20/03/2020** up to **2:00 PM**.
Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details.

[DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/34C1]

DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR SELECTION OF CONSULTING AGENCY FOR STARTUP INDIA INITIATIVE NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Startup India initiative is intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been entrusted with implementation of the Startup India Program.

The program has achieved significant milestones in last four years and is on progress to realise the targets envisaged in the Startup India action plan. The Government of India has undertaken series of reforms to make India a conducive place for Startups. The focus has been to create awareness about entrepreneurship, improve regulatory regime for Startups, to develop infrastructure required by young innovator, provide funding avenues for Startups, and to strengthen collaboration between Central and State Governments to support new businesses. There is a growing need to do a lot more to achieve the vision of becoming the leading Startup nation.

There are major requirements to transform the Startup landscape and to scale up the Startup India initiative. The related Ministries/ Departments need to achieve their targets under the action plan and build on their capacity to support growing number of Startups. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade being the nodal department for the Startup India initiative is expected to play a proactive role and provide insights to Central Government Department and State Governments to ensure effective implementation of action plan.

In this regard, DPIIT intends to on-board a consultancy, for a period of three years extendable one year at a time (for a total duration of 5 years), to assist and support the department in effective and on ground implementation of Startup India Action plan. The agency will also support the Department in scaling up the Startup India initiative through manifold interventions considered important for building a strong Startup ecosystem.

The salient features of the project, eligibility criteria and prescribed formats for submission can be accessed in the RFP document uploaded on the website: <http://eprocure.gov.in> and <http://dipp.nic.in>.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their responses to the "RFP" on Central Public Procurement Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.in>) on or before **14th April 2020 at 03:00 PM**.

The submissions must be addressed to:
Director (Startup India Section), email: sis-dipp@nic.in
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India
Udyog Bhawan New Delhi-110011
davp 05201/11/0013/1920

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES
NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU)

E-TENDER NOTICE

NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. The suppliers need to get enrolled in the E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. However, EMD in the form of DD, drawn in favour of **PAY & ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NRB, MUMBAI** should be sent by post to our Mumbai Office so as to reach us by the tender opening date. No paper quotation will be accepted.

Sr. No	Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date of Uploading the tender	Opening Date
1	DPS/NRBPSU/03/N2/221-TPT	PCW Pump	11/05/2020	11/05/2020
2	DPS/NRBPSU/12/N2/228-TPT	Copper Conductor, XLPE Insulated Power Cables	11/05/2020	11/05/2020
3	DPS/NRBPSU/01/N/150-A/PT	Carbon Steel Angles, Plates, Sheets & Aluminium Chequered Sheet	07/04/2020	07/04/2020
4	DPS/NRBPSU/12/N/1230-TPT	Fabrication of Bottom End Plugs and Top End Plugs	05/05/2020	05/05/2020

Details of EMD, Pre-Bid Meeting (if applicable) are given on the above portal. Bidders shall ensure that minutes of pre-bid meeting and / or corrigendum if any uploaded on the E-Tender portal would be viewed / verified for any modification before uploading their offer.

For details on Bid Preparation, please see the user manual in the portal. For technical assistance please contact help desk 020-25315555 or email: support.dpsdae@nextenders.com. Website - etenders.dpsdae.gov.in

Part II opening date in the tender will be initiated after evaluation of part-I to only those bidders who have been technically selected. Date of pre-bid meeting if any, is given the tender. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Regional Director, (NRBPSU)

Department of Atomic Energy
Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

e-TENDER NOTICE

Regional Director (P&S), HRPSU, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online tenders as given below:

1. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/EPT/CAP/11081**
(b) Description: **Supply of Ultrasonic Flow Detector - Qty 6 Nos.** details as per tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: **20/03/2020** upto **2:00 PM** (d) Tender Fee: **NIL** (e) EMD: **₹ 1,50,000/-**.

2. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/EPT/ENG/16862**
(b) Description: **Supply of (i) 'S.S. Tie Plate' Upper (Top) Castings as per Drawing No. E-1401-017-0 (Sheet 1 of 2) and C-1401-017-1 (Sheet 1 of 2) - Qty 230 Nos. (ii) 'S.S. Tie Plate' Lower (Bottom) Castings as per drawing No. E-1401-018-0 (Sheet 2 of 3) and C-1401-018-0 (Sheet 1 of 3) - Qty 230 Nos.** details as per tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: **15/04/2020** upto **2:00 PM** (d) Tender Fee: **NIL** (e) EMD: **₹ 2,44,835/-**.

3. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/EPT/ENG/16866**
(b) Description: **Supply of (i) Cylindrical Grinding of 37 Element HPTR Mandrels - Qty 1500 Nos. and 19 Element HPTR Mandrels - Qty 500 Nos. (ii) Machining and Grinding of Extrusion Mandrels for 63x9 and 63x11 blank extrusion - Qty 400 Nos.** each type details as per drawings and tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: **15/04/2020** upto **2:00 PM** (d) Tender Fee: **NIL** (e) EMD: **₹ 1,04,000/-**.

4. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/EPT/CHEM/9442**
(b) Description: **Dilute Nitric Acid as per IS 264 to be supplied in the concentration range of 58-60% to NFC, Hyderabad for a quantity of 12000 MT and to ZC, Pazhayakayal for a quantity of 6000 MT** details as per tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online: **15/04/2020** upto **2:00 PM** (d) Tender Fee: **NIL** (e) EMD: **₹ 20,00,000/-**.

Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details.

[DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/39]

IN BRIEF

Woolen blankets off S. Railways

Chennai: Woolen blankets will no longer be available for passengers in Air Conditioned coaches in the Southern Railway on Sunday announced a series of steps, including disinfecting coaches, to check spread of coronavirus. The blankets would however be given to passengers on demand. Pillows and pillow covers would continue to be supplied, the railways said. The withdrawal of blankets would be in force for a period of one month or until further notice, it said, adding the step had been taken on the advice of the Railway Board.

SC shuts guided tours, its museum

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Sunday decided to suspend the largely popular guided tours of the apex court complex and closed its museum for visitors till further orders in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic. In a fresh circular, the top court issued several precautionary measures based on the Centre's advisory cautioning against mass gatherings to avoid the spread of COVID-19. The SC said non-essential visits to its premises are discouraged and entry of casual visitors shall remain restricted until further orders.

Cine bodies halt all productions

Mumbai: To contain the spread of novel coronavirus, film bodies in India including Federation of Western Indian Cine Employees (FWICE) and Indian Film & Television Directors' Association (IFTDA) on Sunday decided to put shootings of films, TV shows and web series on hold from March 19 to March 31. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Indian Motion Pictures Producers' Association (IMPPA), Western India Film Producers' Association (WIFPA) and Indian Film and TV Producers Council (IFTPC).

5 isolated after travelling abroad

Bhubaneswar: Five persons, who had a travel history of novel coronavirus affected countries, were on Sunday kept under home isolation in Odisha. As per reports, all the persons hail from Binka block in Sonepur district. Out of the five persons, three returned from Russia and Dubai while two others arrived in Odisha from the USA and Bengaluru. As per the directions of the district health officials and the prescribed norms of the government to combat the coronavirus, all the five persons have been kept under home isolation.

BENGAL CIVIC POLLS HANGS IN BALANCE

Kolkata, March 15: Uncertainty looms over the upcoming civic polls in West Bengal as political parties and the State Election Commission are yet to decide whether to move ahead with the elections as per schedule or postpone it by a few weeks amid the coronavirus scare. No official notification or announcement has been made by the State Election Commission (SEC) on the polls so far, but official sources claim the state government is keen on holding the elections between April 12 and 26. A decision is likely to be taken at an all-party meeting convened by the SEC on March 16, they said. "The elections will either be held in April-May, chances of which look quite slim, or it will be postponed," a senior official of the SEC said. The ruling TMC said discussion on the matter is underway. "Nothing has been decided so far. Holding election campaigns right now might be a risky thing to do," a senior leader of the ruling party said. Opposition BJP and the CPM feel elections to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and 107 municipalities are long overdue and the process should not be delayed any further. Both the parties, however, have agreed to abide by the "pro-people" decision taken by the SEC. — PTI

Maha tops coronavirus cases in India

71-year-old man from Buldhana suspected to have died of Covid-19 tests negative

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs MUMBAI, MARCH 15

Maharashtra overtook Kerala as the state recorded the maximum number of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in India on Sunday. With new cases being detected in Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur and Yavatmal, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Maharashtra spiked from 26 to 33 in Maharashtra. Kerala at present has 22 confirmed Covid-19 cases.

The number of people infected climbed to 33 on Sunday, with a 59-year-old woman and a man becoming the latest cases.

Talking to reporters, **B r i h a n m u m b a i** Municipal Corporation's health officer Daksha Shah said, "No new cases have been detected in the city. And those already admitted are recuperating and responding well to the treatment." She added, "There are patients in isolation. Samples of their relatives and families were sent for testing and all tested negative."

Late Saturday night, state disease surveillance officer Dr Pradip Awate informed that five persons from Pimpri-Chinchwad area near Mumbai had tested positive for the virus. Four of them had come in contact with a group, which had returned from Dubai. Some members of this group have already tested positive. Another person had visited Thailand recently, Dr Awate added.

Health minister Rajesh Tope earlier on Saturday evening announced that shopping malls across the state would remain closed till month-end. Grocery stores, which sell commodities of daily need, will remain open, he said.

The state government also issued a directive that all schools and colleges in areas of municipal corporations, municipalities and nagar panchayats shall remain closed till March 31.

Meanwhile, the sample of a 71-year-old man who died on Saturday while under quarantine in Buldhana in Maharashtra for suspected exposure to novel coronavirus has returned negative, a health official said on Sunday.

"His sample, which was sent to Nagpur for testing, has returned negative," Civil Surgeon Premechand Pandit said.



211 students and seven compassionate cases depart by an Air India flight from Milan. A total of 218 Indians, mostly students, brought here from Italy on Sunday have been taken to an ITBP quarantine facility in south-west Delhi's Chhawla area.

450 evacuated from Iran, Italy

New Delhi/Jaisalmer, March 15: Over 450 Indians, including students, stranded in coronavirus-hit Iran and Italy were brought back by two flights on Sunday and were quarantined at separate facilities, according to officials.

A total of 218 Indians, mostly students, from Milan landed at around 9.45 am at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) and were taken to an ITBP quarantine facility in south-west

Delhi's Chhawla area. More than 230 Indians brought back from Iran reached New Delhi at about 3.15 am and were quarantined at the Indian Army Wellness Centre in Jaisalmer, the third batch to be evacuated from that country. They had arrived in Delhi on a Mahan Air flight from Tehran and were ferried by two Air India flights to Jaisalmer, IGI airport officials said. While external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said that a total of 234

Indians were evacuated from Iran, defence spokesperson Col. Sombit Ghosh said, "236 persons have landed in Jaisalmer by two Air India flights this morning."

Jaishankar said the batch comprises 131 students and 103 pilgrims. "234 Indians stranded in Iran have arrived in India; including 131 students and 103 pilgrims. Thank you Ambassador Dhamu Gaddam and @India_in_Iran team for your efforts. Thank Iranian

authorities," Jaishankar tweeted. The minister had told Rajya Sabha that the government was focusing on evacuating Indians stranded in Iran and Italy as these countries are facing an "extreme situation". The centre at Jaisalmer is fully equipped and a functional facility to help Indian citizens undertake the mandatory quarantine period under the supervision of skilled medical authorities. — PTI

With Maharashtra becoming the state with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus (Covid-19) cases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and discussed the state's preparedness to tackle the pandemic.

During the telephonic conversation, the Prime Minister and Mr Thackeray deliberated on measures to tackle the novel coronavirus menace.

After speaking with the PM, Mr Thackeray convened a meeting to review the steps taken to check the spread of Covid-19 in Maharashtra. The meeting, held at Sahyadri

Guest House, was attended by several ministers, including Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, state health minister Rajesh Tope.

Maharashtra has already invoked the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 that gives wide-ranging powers to officials to enforce measures, including that of lockdown and quarantine, required tackling an outbreak.

The state government has also ordered the closure of educational institutions, theatres, malls, parks, swimming pools, gymnasiums etc to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Modi prefers to prepare than panic

FROM PAGE 1

While urging the Saarc nations to come together to respond to Covid-19 and have "collaboration not confusion" and "preparation" instead of "panic", Mr Modi suggested joint deliberations among experts of the Saarc countries on the economic consequences of the Covid-19, an issue that was raised by the leaders of Maldives, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The Prime

Minister said that some countries have made specific requests with regard to medicines and equipments which the Indian government will provide. He added that the officials of the Saarc nations should maintain close contact and develop a common strategy while urging leaders to identify nodal experts in their countries who can have a similar video-conference one week later to follow up on the discussions held on Sunday.

More states shut schools, colleges

DC CORRESPONDENTS with agency inputs AHMEDABAD/GUWAHATI/D EHRADU, MARCH 15

Many state governments continued to shut down educational institutions and other public places in order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Assam chief secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna on Sunday said that government has decided to close all educational institutions, cinema halls, swimming pools and gyms as precautionary measure till March 29. However, board examinations will continue according to schedule.

Informing that no confirm case of coronavirus has been found in Assam so far, Mr Krishna told reporters that a core committee headed by IAS Anurag Goel has been formed to supervise the steps taken by the government to check the spread of coronavirus.

The Gujarat government on Sunday ordered the closure of educational institutions, cinema halls and swimming pools for two weeks starting Monday as part of preventive measures against the novel coronavirus threat, a top official said. The state has also not reported a single positive case of coronavirus as yet.

The Uttarakhand gov-

ernment also declared novel coronavirus an epidemic and shut all multiplexes, cinema halls, degree colleges and technical institutes across the state till March 31, official sources said.

The Haryana government also shut schools, cinema halls and clubs in the state till March 31 as a measure to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection.

The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday directed closure of all kindergarten and primary schools till March 31 as it stepped up preventive measures against coronavirus.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami also issued orders for closure of cinema halls and malls where people gather in large numbers till the month end in taluks in 16 districts bordering neighbouring Kerala and Karnataka, where the number of COVID-19 cases is on the rise, an official release said.

The Puducherry government declared holiday for all pre KG and primary schools in the Union Territory until further orders as part of precautionary steps to contain spread of coronavirus.

Mahe region, an enclave of Puducherry in Kerala has already declared holiday for the pre KG and primary schools

700 ships barred from Indian shores

New Delhi, March 15: To contain the spread of deadly coronavirus, the government has so far prevented more than 25,000 crew and passengers on board over 700 ships from disembarking on Indian shores, a Shipping Ministry official said.

Apart from restricting cargo handling, the government had last week prohibited entry of any international cruise ship, crew or passengers with a travel history to coronavirus-hit countries post February 1, 2020 to its major ports till March 31.

"Till March 13, a total of 25,504 crew and passengers on board 703 vessels arrived on Indian shores

● **TILL MARCH 13** a total of 25,504 crew and passengers on board 703 vessels arrived on Indian shores from China or travel history to impacted countries. They have not been allowed to disembark

from China or travel history to impacted countries. They have not been allowed to disembark as a precautionary measure to contain any possible spread of the virus. They were allowed to anchor at designated places, but no shore passes were issued to such crew and passengers post January 26," the official said.

As per the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO), all passengers and crew aboard the vessels are being scanned, and all necessary facilities are being extended to them, the official said.

All required protocols are being followed and help is being provided in case of fever or sickness, the official added. India has 12 major ports — Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar (earlier Ennore), V.O. Chidambaram, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia) —

which handled 699.04 MT of cargo during 2018-19. There are about 200 non-major ports under the control of states.

The government had last month directed all 12 major ports to immediately put in place screening, detection and quarantine system for disembarking seafarers and cruise passengers as a preventive measure against the coronavirus outbreak.

Directions had also been issued to ports to procure N-95 masks as well as thermal scanners to screen passengers, besides obtaining self-declaration from arriving crew/passengers. — PTI

AIRPORT | TRIP Seventeen in tourist group at Kochi airport stopped from flying

289 offloaded after Brit tests positive

Kochi/Thiruvananthapuram, March 15: A UK national tested positive for coronavirus in Kerala on Sunday and was stopped along with 18 others of his tourist group at the Kochi airport from flying to Dubai after he allegedly jumped quarantine in the hill resort town of Munnar, officials said.

The foreigner who tested positive and his wife have been admitted to an isolation facility at a nearby government hospital while the 17 were sent to a hotel for quarantine after

● **THE FOREIGNER** who tested positive and his wife have been admitted to an isolation facility at a nearby government hospital while the 17 were sent to a hotel for quarantine after

being offloaded from the flight, Kerala agriculture minister V.S. Sunil Kumar told reporters at the airport.

Another passenger, a Keralite also booked on the Emirates flight sched-

uled for departure at 9.20 am, voluntarily opted not to travel and has been advised home quarantine, officials said.

The flight carrying 270 passengers left for Dubai at 12.47 pm after the 20 passengers were offloaded, airport spokesman said.

With the UK national testing positive, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases under treatment in Kerala has risen to 20 and over 300 under are in isolation wards of various hospitals. The resort has been

closed, its employees quarantined and steps taken to identify those who came in contact with the tourists in the state, officials said. Talking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, state health minister K.K. Shailaja alleged the tourists had left the resort without informing the health officials and added the government would probe the matter.

"As soon as we got the positive result, the officials went to take them (the couple) to isolation ward but came to know

NEWLY MARRIED WOMAN WITH COLD TORTURED

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC NABARANGPUR, MARCH 15

A newly-married woman from Odisha alleged that her in-laws tortured and ostracised her on suspicion of being infected by coronavirus.

Puja Sarkar was also allegedly barred from sharing bed with her husband Jayant Kumar Okil. Puja's family reportedly gave ₹2.5 lakh cash, jewellery and valuables worth ₹5 lakh as dowry. However, her in-laws demanded an additional ₹5 lakh.

They left for airport. The resort authorities should have been more vigilant as the government had given strict direction not to allow the foreigners to leave the resorts," she said. The health officials have started tracing those who came into contact with the tourists in Kerala, she added. According to officials, the UK national had been put under quarantine at the resort in Munnar in Idukki district after he consulted a doctor for fever few days ago. — PTI

Kerala tightens border screening

BENGAL SEALS ALL BUT ONE ENTRY POINT TO DHAKA

Thiruvananthapuram, March 15: With increase in number of coronavirus cases, the Kerala government on Sunday launched intensified medical check up at border areas for people entering the state by rail and road.

The government has identified 24 spots in border areas that Kerala share with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and multiple teams each headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) began the checking of vehicles coming into the state.

With a UK national testing positive on Sunday, the number of COVID-19 cases in the state has risen to 20 and as many as 302 people are in isolation wards of various hospitals across the state. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had on Saturday said a set of volunteers will be enrolled to assist the health department and they would be given special training by the officials for screening people in the border areas.

INDO-BANGLA TRAIN SERVICES SUSPENDED

Kolkata, March 15: India-Bangladesh passenger train services between Kolkata and cities in the neighbouring country have been suspended from Sunday as a precaution against the spread of Covid-19, on a Union government directive, an Eastern Railway official said.

The Eastern Railway said services of Maitree and Bandhan Express trains will remain suspended from March 15 to April 15 or till further orders, whichever is earlier. The services of the two trains were suspended as precautions being taken to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus, the ER official said.

While Maitree Express connects Kolkata with Dhaka, Bandhan Express runs between Kolkata and Khulna city of the Bangladesh. — PTI

wards across the state. Out of the total 1,897 samples that were sent for testing, 1,345 returned negative," Mr Vijayan had said on Saturday. — PTI

DECCAN Chronicle

16 MARCH 2020

Farooq freed: Will J&K be back to normal soon?

The release of National Conference patriarch and former J&K chief minister Farooq Abdullah from detention on Friday — a sudden but not wholly unexpected development as it had been hinted at for over three months in the context of New Delhi needing this expedient to navigate a respectable way out of the logjam in Kashmir into which it recklessly wandered in August when it whittled down Article 370 of the Constitution — is a welcome turn in events. After uncertainty and gloom, it makes positive political outcomes in J&K appear realisable.

A day after Dr Abdullah emerged free in Srinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that “at an early opportunity” his government would work with “all sections of the people” of J&K to realise the hopes of statehood — in effect making J&K’s recent status as a Union territory a short-lived affair.

The irony is that the PM’s remarks were addressed to a delegation of Kashmir’s just-launched Apni Party, a conglomerate of self-seeking renegades with little mass appeal brought into being through the Centre’s machinations as a “king’s party” in order to end the old era of Valley politics — dominated by the Abdullaha and the Muftis — and inaugurating a new one by pressing quillings into service.

Dr Abdullah’s release and the PM’s statement yield the surmise that the Narendra Modi government has just had an attack of realism. In that case, the effective shelf life of the Apni Party may be severely curtailed.

Dr Abdullah is in his mid-80s, and suffers from physical ailments. But he remains Kashmir’s most admired leader. His release thus seems a symbolism of some magnitude — a gesture of goodwill and peace toward the people of the Valley, who until recently were sought to be reviled by the ruling BJP.

The National Conference president, after the end of his detention, indicated strongly in his public remarks that he will respond to political stimuli only when two other former CMs — his son Omar and the PDP’s Mehbooba Mufti — as well as dozens of other political figures are also set free. When these terms are met, life in J&K may be deemed to have returned to near-normal in the changed historical circumstance that has come into being after the extinguishing of Kashmir’s autonomy on August 5 last year.

Will the political spectrum of the Kashmir Valley readily or willingly accept the delimitation of Assembly constituencies in J&K before they become due in the normal course in order to satisfy the long-held RSS-BJP agenda to create more seats in the Hindu-dominated Jammu region, thinking this will give the BJP an advantage? Will the Centre agree to hold Assembly polls this year as state polls (under the earlier dispensation) are held every six years in J&K?

It’s unlikely that NC or PDP will accept the political suzerainty of the fledgling Apni Party in an Assembly election. As such, will the BJP defer to the return of normal politics after freeing the remaining political leaders of Kashmir? If this happens, the international pressure on the Modi government may ease.

End rage against science

Our era is marked by commonplace outbursts of denial of reason, envy and hatred for intellectual achievement, overzealous mockery of pillars of wisdom like science and philosophy, and a near civilisational-scale rebellion against everything sensible.

At a time when humanity is facing climate change and epidemics like coronavirus, threats which have been growing on us inexorably and which need a coming together of best minds across borders and continents, there is a frighteningly dominant chorus of anti-reason.

When every section of society — government, politicians, social and health workers, officials, private sector, doctors, researchers and scientists, and people at large — must ensure that every single person is reached out to on a war-footing with right awareness — when it must remove misconceptions — such very sections are becoming a source of nonsensical views.

There surely might be amazing hidden qualities in *gaumutra* — but you cannot have a sip and take off for the moon — or use it as a vaccine against Covid-19. You cannot stuff cotton in the rear and ward off a devil causing this disease. Most certainly, the virus is not divine punishment against any community, even if it were a fair assessment that God should indeed be punishing a lot of people for a lot of things they say and do.

We are living a life today that should feel magical by known standards of science and technology a mere 40 years ago. An-Internet-powered mobile phone in nearly every hand is a miracle of science. Don’t demean it by using WhatsApp to spread anti-science balderdash, or rivalling a TikTok that is pure hatred and bias, aimed at dividing us.

Love for one’s past and roots is beautiful. We were an ancient civilisation that gave the world “zero”, chess, yoga, ayurveda and a lot more. Don’t insult such a legacy by peddling myths, half-truths and brazen falsehoods to tickle cultural hubris and for imaginary self-aggrandisement.

Abolish the alchemist, the witchdoctor and spindocor from prominence in our narratives. Let science speak for truth, and for all of us.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA Editor

T. VENKATESWARLU Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.5272, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-5 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/485051; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTCC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552

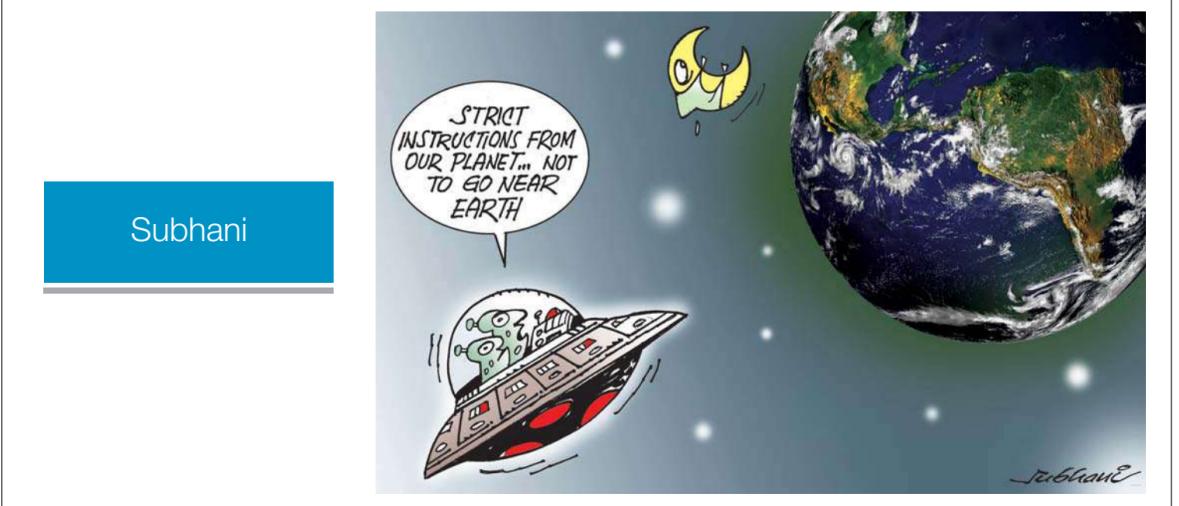
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255

Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph’s Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax: 0495 4019 018

Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08



Subhani

The C-virus impact on lives of urban Indians



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Wish the Corona came with free Tacos” is just one version of the many macabre jokes doing the social media rounds. Another is “Covid-19 has done more for Digital India than Demon”. Put these two together and you get exactly the right way to think about what it’s done to urban India.

First, it has impacted urban areas disproportionately higher — no one eats Tacos in Jhumritaliaya yet — because what the virus does is to deflate the social and economic benefits of globalisation — supply chains paring costs to the bone, networks allowing aggregation of the best ideas, cross border inter-dependence based on comparative advantage, and so on. All these have basically benefited urban India, so it’s us who are now affected the most.

Second, it has taken away a living from those without cushy salaried jobs — that’s around 40 per cent of urban Indian households in the informal urban labour market. Sadly, the government insensitively announced simultaneously that 11 million Central government employees would get an inflation-indexed raise of four per cent — an avoidable blow for those with empty stomachs.

No one is in a rush to hire unknown daily wagers — say a carpenter to fix a sagging door. It can wait. Footfall in public spaces is down. Malls are running on empty. Street vendor sales are hit. The entertainment industry has lost steam — that beaming waiter serving your steaming wok could be a silent transferor of the deadly virus. Entire offices are running on skeletal services with

non-essential staff working from home.

Third, the C virus is like a nationwide Article 370 distancing individuals and families from each other, just as this infamous provision of the Constitution distanced Kashmir from the rest of India till last year. “Social distancing” is the new mantra. Some state governments are advising individuals to maintain a six-foot distance from others to be safe. This eschews any movement outside the house, including for shopping — a problematic decree in densely populated urban India where it is common for four to six migrant workers to live in a tiny 100 square foot space.

The good news about “social distancing” is that it can boost digital India like never before — that is, if only our bankrupt telecom companies get their act together and improve connectivity. It’s tough ordering your breakfast online without a decent quality signal. Goa, that “dream destination”, Goa, has worse telecom connectivity than even remote Himalayan areas of rural India, at least till BSNL fell on hard times and effectively stopped servicing rural customers.

Of course, the C-virus, like all things natural, has its own social selection algorithm. For one, it attacks the old and the weak much more than the healthy. In India, we venerate the elderly but we don’t really care too much about them.

Ask anyone in the BJP’s Margdarshak cohort and they will pour their heart out to you. The Congress, however, is unashamed to venerate its old. Young leaders bide their time till they become “old enough” to rule.

The BJP is the “Young Indian” party which

strives to represent the 65 per cent of Indians below 35. “Maharaja” Jyotiraditya Scindia recently got fed up of waiting and jumped ship to join it just before he turns 50. The average age of the 25-member Cabinet is 61.2 years. So Mr Scindia could hope to reduce the average age a bit. Of course, he is no Smriti Irani, who at 43 is the “baby” of the batch. But he could be the second youngest and much younger than Amit Shah at 56 or Piyush Goyal at 55, and even Dharmendra Pradhan at 50.

Frankly, with millions of young Indians going waste for want of opportunities, it’s not such a bad idea if the old are left to fend for themselves in “Vanprastha” state. After all, the “Elixir of Everlasting Productive Life” is yet to be manufactured, and sadly the engine of that process, in Wuhan, is locked down and Botox is not a substitute since it merely mummifies an old but alive body.

The sad part, however, of the C-virus, is that it relentlessly also attacks the weak. This could be disastrous for us. Till recently, 40 per cent of our children were malnourished — now down to 22 per cent. Even more worrying, the standard mechanism to boost these young minds and bodies, belonging invariably to the economically marginalised classes, was to feed them at school.

But now with schools likely to be shut for an extended period, given the “social distancing” norms, food supplements will also go missing unless the government wakes up and keeps the food supplements going through other means. The bot-

Despite all our talk of self-reliance, we rely imports. The Reserve Bank of India does its bit. It has yet again intervened needlessly to keep the rupee from depreciating to its competitive level of ₹78 to \$1.

tomline is saying “yes” to “social distancing”, but not from the poor, who need an intensified outreach to get them through our imported mess.

Sadly, despite all our talk of self-reliance, we relish imports. The Reserve Bank of India does its bit. It has yet again intervened needlessly to keep the Indian rupee from depreciating to its competitive level of ₹78 to \$1. Overvaluing our currency encourages imports and discourages exports — exactly the opposite of what we need to boost demand for products made locally and create jobs.

We know why the RBI is keeping the INR strong. It seeks to artificially reduce the cost of oil imported into India even though oil prices have fallen through the floor. The idea is to allow the government to maximise its excise revenues (levied on the value) from oil products without increasing the retail price.

Excise duties have already been raised to soak in the bonanza from the power struggle within the oil-producing countries, primarily Saudi Arabia and Russia, who are out to beggar each other to be top dog on global oil matters, including the optimum level of crude to be pumped.

The RBI’s pusillanimity doesn’t end there. It has retained the repo rate at 5.15 per cent, when there is a crying need to drag it lower so that retail and industrial borrowers — who are the engines of demand — do not face a real interest rate higher than 0.5 per cent plus inflation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s well-publicised call for South Asia to work together — rather than call the chief ministers of Indian states — on controlling the C-virus is all right. But his instinct to internationalise everything rather than looking deeply into strengthening the domestic plumbing is not helpful.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

LETTERS

CORONAVIRUS SCARE

The shutdown in Telangana state may help prevent the spread of coronavirus to some extent. There is no guarantee it will vanish after March 31. In a world ruled by fear, if shutting down public places was the only way out, then people would stay back without fighting it. A better way out was to ensure people follow precautions. Food that contains more vitamin C should be taken to prevent the virus. Staying at home is not the solution.

Sharon Sucharitha Hyderabad

The shutdown in TS is essential given the rise in the number of affected people in the country. The recovery seems complicated. Even though it affects business, health is precious than business.

D. Chand Manoj Kumar Secunderabad

FUEL PRICES

The Centre plays a foul game by raising excise duty on petroleum products whenever there is a slump in crude prices globally. When the determination of prices is left to OMCs, it should be left to the markets and the Centre should not interfere through backdoor methods. Our economy is run by selling public properties, duties on petroproducts and taxes on liquor.

Vedula Srinivas Hyderabad

Naik against scrapping linguistic States

By a staff reporter HYDERABAD, MARCH 14 “RIGHTLY or wrongly, linguistic States have been formed and there is no wisdom in undoing these things,” observed Mr. V. P. Naik, Maharashtra Chief Minister today.

Speaking at the Press Reporters’ Guild here, Mr. Naik expressed himself against the appointment of a second States’ Reorganisation Commission.

He said that any disputes between the States should be settled on principles of geographical contiguity and the relative majority of the population of a particular village.

Stating that these principles were suggested by Maharashtra Government way back as 1957, he said even now the Maharashtra Government would stick to it.



Aisha Khan

Climate change a moral mandate, involves making difficult choices

Rapidly changing climate is a burning subject being discussed by policymakers, activists, industry, academia, researchers and the media. At international climate meets negotiators painstakingly try to reach agreements on major issues and at the country level nations struggle to achieve voluntary targets for reducing emissions, but so far results have not been encouraging.

The pre-industrial concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was about 280 parts per million. During the past 800,000 years, carbon dioxide fluctuated between 180ppm during the ice ages and 280ppm during the interglacial warm periods. When scientists first started measuring atmospheric CO2 in 1958 at the Mauna Loa mountain-top observatory in Hawaii, the CO2 level was 316ppm, not very much higher than the pre-industrial level of 280.

In May 2013, the level jumped to 400ppm and in September 2016 crossed the symbolic red line of

400ppm. Today, it stands at 413ppm, and at the current rate of CO2 emissions, growth levels will hit 500ppm within 50 years putting us on track to reach temperature increase of more than three degrees Celsius, a level that will be catastrophic for all life on the planet. This is the scenario that we face and yet there is reluctance to revisit the model of development that has brought us to this state.

The problem lies with our financial model and our endless quest for growth that is predicated on the assumption that a successful economy must keep growing by at least 3pc annually. In other words, the economy must double itself every 20 years to remain afloat. The logic of this economic model based on exponential growth does not take into account the finite resources of the planet and builds on a pattern of production and consumption that is challenging the limits of the natural habitat and proving to be incompatible with life on Earth. Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz

has been calling for a shift from GDP to ecological and social impact of economic activity as a measure of economic progress, but corporate interests, big banks, reliance on a debt-based currency and rampant consumerism come in the way of breaking the mould and reinventing our money systems to make it more ecologically sound and economically even.

The present trajectory of growth also poses a moral dilemma. At the international level the question we need to ask is whether high-emitting countries have the right to continue releasing CO2 into the atmosphere just because they have the financial resources, access to technology and human capital to make the necessary adaptive change, albeit at the cost of inflicting extreme hardship on millions who lack coping capacities. At the national level countries will have to choose between exclusive and inclusive policy options for coping with climate change. Should approaches preserve the vested

interests of the privileged or adopt measures that protect the rights of the poor? These are some of the tough choices that governments around the world will have to make in this decade.

Politics and politicians will play an important role in setting the stage for actions that will unfold over the next two decades, based on the choices made by the present leadership. The old model of development has outlived its utility and technology will be helpful in providing some alternative choices, but it will not provide solutions for maintaining our present lifestyles. The politics of money and morality will define the future socioeconomic landscape and the fate of the voiceless millions. In the end, addressing one key question will provide the answer to the climate conundrum. Should climate change be viewed as a moral mandate by nations? ‘Yes’ will lead to fair and ‘No’ to unfair outcomes.

As we approach COP26 to be held in November 2020, it is time to look

back on the journey from Paris to Glasgow and take a more holistic view of national commitments and the possibility of achieving emission-reduction targets within the present system. Just as the Paris Agreement was a triumph of French diplomacy, the COP26 offers the UK an opportunity to inject new life and hope into an agreement that is losing its lustre after five years of fatiguing negotiations and no greenhouse gas reductions.

For Pakistan, it is important to review its commitment submitted in 2015 and make it more realistic and achievable. It also needs to finalise work on its National Adaptation Plan and share it with stakeholders. The steps taken by the government to make Pakistan clean and green are praiseworthy but follow-up will be needed to ensure that there is no disconnect between intent and action. The key operative word in climate action is ‘urgency’.

By arrangement with Dawn

IN BRIEF

4 Gujarat Congress legislators resign

Ahmedabad: Four Congress MLAs in Gujarat have tendered their resignation to Assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi ahead of the election to the four Rajya Sabha seats in the state to be held on March 26. The four MLAs resigned on Saturday, which Trivedi has accepted. "Four Congress MLAs tendered their resignation to me on Saturday, and I will announce their names in the Assembly tomorrow," he said. With this, the strength of the Congress party in the 182-member Gujarat Assembly has come down to 69 from 73.

Drunk man's BMW stolen from roadside

Noida (UP): Some unidentified miscreants allegedly fled away with a BMW car after the man driving it pulled up to urinate on a roadside here, police said on Sunday. According to officials, the incident happened on Saturday night in Sector 90 under Phase 2 police station limits, when Rishabh Arora, a stock broker, was returning in the car from a party in an inebriated condition. The luxury car is owned by Arora's brother-in-law and there is a ₹40 lakh loan pending on the vehicle.

FAROOQ SEEKS HELP TO BRING BACK PRISONERS

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, MARCH 15

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday asked leaders of various political parties to make a joint effort to ensure that local political prisoners now lodged in different jails across the country are brought back to Jammu and Kashmir. "While we would like to see them all released as soon as possible, pending that they should be shifted to J&K. This is a humanitarian demand and I hope others will join me in placing this demand in front of the Government of India," he said in a signed statement. Making a passionate appeal to fellow politicians to support the demand, he said: "Before we allow politics to divide us, I appeal to all political leaders to unite behind the call to Centre to bring back all detainees from J&K in prisons outside pending their release." The 82-year-old Kashmiri leader who was freed from 32-week-long detention on Friday, was talking about his own experiences.

Bhim chief starts Azad Samaj party

Party to run parallel to Bhim Army

New Delhi, March 15: Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad launched his political outfit the Azad Samaj Party on Sunday — the birth anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram. Before launching his party at an event held in Safai village in Noida, the 37-year-old Dalit leader made Kanshi Ram's photograph his Twitter profile picture. He also launched the party flag — a white band between two blue strips with Azad Samaj Party written in the middle. Azad said the Bhim Army will run parallel to the party and continue to fight for Dalit rights and enrol new members. Earlier in the day, Bhim Army members claimed that police had locked the gates of the venue and pasted a notice: "Event cannot be held as large gatherings are prohibited in view of coronavirus". The gate was, however, opened later. Azad, who rose to prominence during clashes between Thakurs and Dalits in Uttar Pradesh's Sahar-



Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad launches his political party, the Azad Samaj Party, during a programme in Noida, Sunday. — PTI

anpur in May 2017, had filed nomination against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi during the 2019 general elections, but withdrew later. In December 2019, the Bhim Army chief was arrested by the Delhi police, when violence erupted during an anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act march in old quarters of Delhi after his address to protesters from the stairs of Jama Masjid. He was granted bail by a Delhi court in January. The advocate-turned-

politician has been critical of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, "for not doing enough for the Dalits". Mayawati had earlier termed Azad a "BJP agent" and cautioned her supporters not to "fall prey to his designs". The Bhim Army had earlier said that it would contest the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls along with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party as part of a larger alliance — the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha. — PTI

Coronavirus casts shadow over MP trust vote today

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MARCH 15

Coronavirus has cast its shadow over floor test by 'minority' Kamal Nath government, scheduled to be held on Monday. Speaker of MP Assembly N.P. Prajapati on Sunday declared that he would take a final call on holding floor test in the house keeping in view the threat of corona virus, on Monday. Hours after Madhya Pradesh governor Lalji Tandon asked the state Congress government to prove its majority in the house on Monday by saying that it has reduced to 'minority' following resignation of 22 Congress MLAs, ministers in the Kamal Nath cabinet demanded suspension of the ensuing Budget Session of the Assembly, scheduled to commence on Monday, citing threat of corona virus infection. The ensuing Budget session of the MP Assembly should be suspended to avoid corona infection," state law minister P.C. Sharma told reporters here. He said the issue was discussed at the meeting of State Cabinet held here in the morning under the chairmanship of Chief

Minister Kamal Nath. State assembly speaker N.P. Prajapati said he was concerned over health of members of the House due to threat of corona virus infection and ordered measures such as screening of MLAs and others entering the house and wearing of masks by them. Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava said the Kamal Nath government was trying to escape floor test citing corona threat and said it would amount to violation of governor's directive to hold floor test in the House. Chief minister Kamal Nath however sought to settle issue of 22 rebel Congress MLAs lodged in a resort in Bengaluru in Karnataka before holding the floor test. "I have urged Union home minister to secure release of 22 Congress MLAs lodged in a resort in Bengaluru, before the floor test. My government is ready to face trust vote and I am confident of proving majority," he added. In another development, a delegation of Opposition BJP met the governor on Sunday demanding that the voting during floor test should be done by raising hands by the MLAs since the Kamal

Nath government might take plea of dysfunctional of voting machine in the house to defer floor test. Meanwhile, around 92 Congress legislators who were put in two resorts in Jaipur in Rajasthan shifted to Bhopal on Sunday to attend the ensuing budget session of the house. The party issued a whip on them to attend the assembly as well as for the floor test. The BJP is also likely to shift its MLAs lodged in a hotel in Gurgaon to Bhopal by Monday. The party also issued whip on its legislators for floor test in the house. The Samajwadi Party (SP) which has one MLA in MP assembly issued whip in him to vote in favour of Kamal Nath government during floor test. Sources said senior BJP leaders including Union ministers N Tomar and Dharmendra Pradhan were holding deliberations with solicitor general of India in Delhi on the situation in MP. The ruling Congress has strength of 114. However, 'resignation' of its 22 MLAs have threatened to reduce its strength to 92. The Kamal Nath government is supported by two BSP MLAs, one SP legislator and four Independents.

Nirbhaya: Hangman to report 3 days earlier

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

With just five days left for the execution of death sentence in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, Delhi's Tihar Jail authorities on Sunday said they have asked the hangman to report three days ahead of the scheduled hanging. The four convicts in the case — Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Sharma (26) and

Akshay Kumar Singh (31) — are set to be hanged till death at 5.30 am on March 20. The execution of their death warrants has been deferred thrice so far due to delays by them in exhausting legal remedies. After the fresh death warrant was issued, the jail authorities have written to their counterparts in Uttar Pradesh requesting for the service of hangman Pawan Jallad. Director-general (Prisons) Sandeep Goel said

that Pawan Jallad, a hangman from Meerut, has been asked to report at Tihar Jail on March 17, three days ahead of the scheduled date of hanging. The dummy executions will be conducted again after the arrival of the hangman. A jail official said that the health check-ups of the convicts is being done once in a day and they are being counselled on a regular basis. Of the four convicts, Mukesh, Pawan and Vinay have had

their last face-to-face meetings with their respective families. The authorities have written to the family of Akshay about the date for final meeting before the scheduled date of execution. The jail authorities have also not stopped the convicts' weekly meetings with their families yet. On the day of hanging, the jail superintendent is expected to wake up the convicts at about 3 am and then

asked them to freshen up. Prisoners will be allowed to take a bath — if they want they will be provided hot water. Then, they will be served their favourite breakfast. As per the procedure, the convicts will be allowed some time alone so that they can remember their family members and closed ones. If desired by the convicts, they will be provided with some religious books and allowed to recite prayers.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath leaves for the Cabinet meeting in Bhopal on Sunday. — PTI

NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCREDITATION
announces
5th WORLD SUMMIT ON ACCREDITATION
10th to 12th September, 2020
at
"The Ashok" Hotel
(Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021)

THEME : ACCREDITATION: A TOOL TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCREDITATION

The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is an independent organization engaged in quality assurance of professional education in India through accreditation. National Board of Accreditation (NBA) has been accorded Permanent Signatory Status of Washington Accord since 13th June, 2014. The Washington Accord is an international accreditation agreement for professional engineering academic degrees, between the bodies responsible for accreditation in its signatory countries. NBA has adopted internationally prevailing outcome-based assessment and accreditation, in which excellence in technical education is evaluated based on the results of the assessment of educational outcomes, rather than on prescriptive input standards.

WOSA series brings together eminent speakers from industry, corporate and academia from India and overseas to facilitate free discussion on subjects relating to best practices in accreditation and means to improve quality of education through these practices. The discussions and global participation in WOSA 2020 will bring about new ideas and help in establishing new trends of identifying opportunities and challenges in professional education world-wide.

The summit shall have the following Sub-Themes:

- Sub-Theme 1 — Harmonization of Accreditation Process
- Sub-Theme 2 — Industry Perceptions of Accreditation in Technical Education
- Sub-Theme 3 — Contribution of NIRF in Enhancing Quality in Indian Technical Education
- Sub-Theme 4 — Implications of NEP for Accreditation in Professional Education

Who should participate?

- Educational institutions aiming for quality assurance and quality enhancement
- Industry and corporate willing to contribute to improvement in quality of education and produce industry relevant graduates
- Policymakers
- Educational Administrators
- Eminent scholars having interest in professional education

Registration Details:	Important Dates:
• Registration Fee for Delegates: Rs. 15,000/- per person + 18% GST, i.e. Rs. 2,700/- = Rs. 17,700/-	For Registration:
• 20% discount on Early Bird Registration.	• Start date for registration : 16th March, 2020
• Registration fee for Foreign Delegates is USD 300.	• Last date for Early Bird Registration : 1st August, 2020
• Delegate accompanied by the Spouse will be charged Rs.5000/- plus 18% GST i.e. Rs. 900/- = Rs. 5,900/- or USD 100 for accompanying spouse.	• Last date for Online Registration : 09th September, 2020
• For every group of 6 from the same organization, registration fee would be charged for only 5 participants.	For Submission of Paper:
	• Start date for submitting full paper : 6th April, 2020
	• Deadline for submitting full paper : 7th August, 2020
	• Notification to authors : 21st August, 2020
	• Last date for presentation Submission* : 1st September, 2020
	* Paper which has been either invited or approved by the Editorial Board for Oral or Poster Presentation during the summit.

For Registration please login to www.wosa.nbaind.org

Call for Papers:
WOSA 2020 invites papers in the prescribed format. The selected authors will also be given an opportunity for presentation in the various technical sessions during the summit. The authors are requested to ensure that the contents are relevant to the main theme and/or sub-themes. The guidelines could be seen at the website www.wosa.nbaind.org.

Contact Details:
National Board of Accreditation, WOSA Secretariat,
NBCC Place, East Tower, 4th Floor, Bhisham Pitamah Marg, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi 110003, India
Tel +91 11-24368606, 43084902, 24360620-22, email: wosa2020@nbaind.org;
www.wosa.nbaind.org
davp 21315/11/0008/1920

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Government of India
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Investor/Depositors whose shares, unpaid dividends, matured deposits or debentures etc. have been transferred to Investor Education and Protection Fund under Companies Act, 1956/2013 can now claim online refund

For Investors : How to File the Claim?

- Register yourself on IEPF Website: www.iepf.gov.in
- Fill the new web form IEPF-5 ONLINE
- Attach scanned copy of requisite documents with form
- Take print out of auto generated advance receipt and indemnity bond (IEPF website->Forms->Web Forms IEPF-5 -> MCA Services)
- Send all documents to the company
- Company to e-verify the claim in 30 days
- On the basis of verification report, refund of shares and amount by IEPF Authority

Note: Claimants are advised to file e-form IEPF-5 only when all documents are available

FOR COMPANIES: How to Process?

- File the details of nodal officer in new e-form IEPF-5 (IEPF website -> Forms -> Register for filing web form.
- e-verify the form IEPF-5 within 30 days of filing of the form.
- Company to retain all original documents.

For ANY QUERY Claimants can call Toll Free Number 1800-114-667 or log on to www.iepf.gov.in or send mail to Email: iepf@mca.gov.in

Note: Claimants are requested to BEWARE of any middlemen or broker for settlement of claims. The process of filing the claim to IEPF Authority is simple and transparent. The requirement of documents is enumerated in the Instruction kit as well as in the FAQ section.

davp 07110/11/0013/1920

IN BRIEF

Poisonous liquor: 17 die in Nepal

Kathmandu: At least 17 people have died after consuming toxic homemade liquor in southern Nepal, police said. The victims consumed the toxic homemade liquor during the Holi celebrations on March 10 in Dhanusha of southern Nepal. Twenty-eight other drinkers have fallen sick, the police said, adding that they are currently undergoing treatment. According to the Dhanusha district police office, 13 people died in Chhreshwornath Municipality and the rest in Musahari of Janakpurdharm Municipality-7. Earlier on Saturday, police said that three died on Friday night, while one died in the course of treatment on Saturday. However, 13 others died on Sunday while undergoing treatment.

Russian opposition protesters detained

Moscow: Moscow police detained dozens of people at a protest against "political repressions" near the headquarters of the Russian security service, including a well-known human rights activist. The protest demanding to free political prisoners was called by supporters of men convicted this year on terrorism charges, many of whom said in court they had been tortured by the FSB security service. Mostly young protesters turned up to participate in picketing near the FSB building, with some unfurling signs calling the security service the "Federal Service of Lawlessness" while others shouted "Shame!" The OVD Info website, which tracks detentions at political protests, listed 49 people as detained by police, adding that some were hurt in the altercations.

US stops Russian jets near Alaska

Washington: Two pairs of Russian military reconnaissance aircraft have been intercepted near Alaska, the North American Aerospace Defense Command said Saturday. The Russian aircraft entered and remained in the air defense identification zone, a security perimeter in international airspace, for about four hours, the joint US-Canadian command said. NORAD's "F-22s, supported by KC-135 Stratotankers and E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft, intercepted two pairs of Russian Tu-142s entering the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone on Saturday, March 14th," the command reported. The Russian aircraft never entered sovereign US or Canadian airspace, the command said. But they "loitered in the vicinity of the US Navy's ICBM where they are conducting submarine exercises," NORAD said.

HUMANS, HYENAS LEFT AFRICA AT THE SAME TIME

London, March 15: Hyenas left Africa about the same time when prehistoric humans left the continent for the first time about two million years ago, according to a study that may help better understand how large animals historically moved across the planet. In the study, published in the journal *Science Advances*, scientists sequenced the complete genomes from both modern spotted hyenas in Africa, and fossils of the extinct cave hyena from Europe and Asia. "Our new study shows that prehistoric humans and hyenas left Africa at approximately the same time," said Michael Westbury, study co-author from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. "And like humans, spotted hyenas have had extensive and complex migration between continents. We can observe repeated gene flow events between Africa and Eurasia," Westbury said. They said the two hyenas — spotted and cave — were previously believed to form a closely related evolutionary lineage. Earlier studies, according to the researchers, showed that the two types of hyena were genetically intermingled. However, in the current study, with more genetic data, the scientists have reported that this genetic intermingling is limited, revealing an ancient separation between the two Hyena kinds.



Imam of the Al Noor mosque Gamal Fouda (right) and Tu Tangata motorcycle club president Derek Tait exchange a hongi outside the mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Sunday. — AP

NZ marks terror attack anniv

People of Christchurch honoured the 51 worshippers who were gunned down

Christchurch, March 15: People in the New Zealand city of Christchurch honoured the 51 worshippers who were killed in a mass shooting a year ago in small but poignant ways Sunday, after a planned national memorial event was canceled due to fears it might spread the new coronavirus. Outside the Al Noor mosque, dozens of leather-clad bikers from the Tu Tangata club performed a traditional Maori haka. They were welcomed by mosque imam Gamal

Fouda, who said people of all beliefs and cultures were stopping to pay their respects, and they were all united as New Zealanders. One of those who survived the shooting at the Linwood mosque was Mazharuddin Syed Ahmed, who said that marking anniversaries was not typically a Muslim tradition but they were doing it so the wider community could grieve and remember. He said the shootings had provoked an outpouring of love and compas-

OF COURSE, we lost our loved friends, family, people and community. But we are also seeing so much good has come out of it. So looking at the positive part of that. Today, it is such a privilege to be in this country

SYED AHMED, Survivor

ion. "Of course, we lost our loved friends, family, people and community," he said. "But we are also seeing so much good has come out of it. So looking at the positive part of that. Today, it is such a privilege to be in this country." Temel Atacocugu, who survived after being shot nine times at the Al Noor mosque, said the anniversary had provoked strong feelings. "We are sad more than we are angry," he said. "It's very emotional. When I woke up this morning, I'm speechless. I can't explain what I feel." Prime Minister Jacinda

Ardern said Saturday the decision to cancel the memorial event planned for Horncastle Arena was pragmatic and precautionary. New Zealand has had eight confirmed cases of Covid-19. All of those cases have been connected to people returning from abroad and so far there haven't been signs of a local outbreak. Ardern has enacted strict border rules in an attempt to prevent the disease from taking hold in New Zealand. — AP

Syrian war, in 10th year, still has global impact

Beirut, March 15: In a world gripped by a pandemic, global unrest and a fast-moving news cycle, it can be difficult to remember that the war in Syria is still happening. Even before the coronavirus outbreak took over daily lives around the globe, the conflict, which began in early 2011, had largely fallen off the world's collective radars — reduced to a never-ending fight involving an ever-more complex web of players and refugees that few remember once lived in a country they called home. But as it enters its tenth year, the war — which gave rise to the Islamic State group and triggered the worst humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st century — has shown it is still creating new tragedies that can have an outsized impact on global politics. Earlier this month, Turkish and Syrian troops were clashing in Syria's northwest. That brought NATO member Turkey and Russia, which back opposing sides of the war, to the brink of direct confrontation, and produced an unprecedented wave of displaced people. Arguing that it faces a potential new influx of refugees from Syria, Turkey announced it would no longer stop its vast migrant and refugee popu-



Syrians protest and burn tyres in an attempt to block traffic on the M4 highway, which links the northern Syrian provinces of Aleppo and Latakia. — AFP

RUSSIA AND TURKEY on Sunday launched their first joint military patrol along the key M4 highway in Syria's Idlib region, following a ceasefire agreement earlier this month, Russian news agencies reported.

RUSSIA SENT military police and armoured vehicles to the patrol, which started from the settlement of Tronba in Idlib, the last rebel stronghold in the country.

homes, and a staggering 80% of the population live beneath the poverty line, according to the United Nations. Half the country lies in ruins. A political process does not exist. Contrary to what some may hope, the Syrian war is nowhere near its end-game. A cease-fire brokered by the Turkish and Russian presidents in Moscow last week may have put the brakes on the Syrian government's devastating military campaign to retake the northwestern Idlib province. But the halt is not a long-term solution, and the war's final and most devastating chapter is yet to come. In the three months before it was paused, the Syrian offensive triggered the largest single wave of displacement of the entire war. — AP

SYRIA ELECTIONS POSTPONED OVER CORONAVIRUS

Damascus, March 15: Syria said Saturday its parliamentary elections scheduled for next month would be postponed as part of measures to protect the war-battered country against the coronavirus epidemic. The president's office said on its official social media accounts that the vote will be pushed back to May 20, from the original date of April 13. In other "social distancing" steps adopted by Damascus, which has not to date reported any case of the disease, weekly Friday prayers in mosques have been suspended as well as prayer gatherings. The polls, to be held across government-run areas, are the third such elections in Syria since the March 2011 start of its nine-year war that has killed at least 384,000 people. Assad's forces today hold more than 70 percent of Syrian soil following Russian-backed victories against rebels and jihadists since 2015. On Friday, the government closed schools, universities and technical colleges until April 2. — AFP

Biden, Sanders to debate against backdrop of Covid

Washington, March 15: As the two remaining Democratic presidential candidates return to the debate stage, their party, the stakes, and the world look much different than in their last meeting less than three weeks ago.

GEORGIA DELAYS PRIMARY POLLS OVER EPIDEMIC

Washington, March 15: Georgia has become the second US state to delay its presidential primary election over fears of the novel coronavirus.

The fast-moving Covid-19 was something of an afterthought in that debate; now the escalating crisis is likely to dominate Sunday's contest. Rising infections in the United States and around the world have prompted a dramatic slowdown of global travel, upended financial markets, and raised questions about President Donald Trump's ability to lead the nation through a prolonged period of uncertainty. Just two Democrats — former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders — remain to make the case that they are best-positioned to challenge Trump in November. Five other candidates who joined them on stage in the February 25 debate in South Carolina have dropped out, with many rallying behind Biden's surging candidacy.

The southern state had been scheduled to hold its vote on March 24, but has pushed it back nearly two months, as authorities across the country grapple with whether or not to postpone their states' primary elections.

The move comes just a day after four other states — Florida, Ohio, Illinois and Arizona — said they would go ahead with their votes, which are scheduled for next week. Louisiana, meanwhile, became the first state to announce a postponement on Friday, when it declared an official disaster and an 11-week postponement of its vote, originally scheduled for April 4. The delays come amid fears that the coronavirus pandemic could wreak havoc on the Democrats choosing a candidate to challenge President Donald Trump in the November election. — AFP

For both Biden and Sanders, the debate is a moment to display their leadership skills in front of what could be one of the largest audiences of the primary. They'll aim to draw a contrast with Trump, but also with each other, arguing that they have the right experience, temperament and policy prescriptions to lead the nation through a crisis. "Moments like these don't come around often in campaigns and this is a perfect opportunity to show millions that you have what it takes," said Robert Gibbs, former White House press secretary and campaign adviser to President Barack Obama. "They must show voters they are the answer to what is missing right now by being calm,

honest, ready to lead and empathetic." The Covid-19 crisis rapidly upended plans for Sunday's debate. First, the Democratic National Committee announced that it would hold the contest without a live audience. Then the debate was moved from a large venue in Arizona, one of the states holding a primary Tuesday, to a television studio in Washington because of concerns about cross-country travel. — AP

honest, ready to lead and empathetic." The Covid-19 crisis rapidly upended plans for Sunday's debate. First, the Democratic National Committee announced that it would hold the contest without a live audience. Then the debate was moved from a large venue in Arizona, one of the states holding a primary Tuesday, to a television studio in Washington because of concerns about cross-country travel. — AP

UN: 300 migrants held, sent back

Cairo, March 15: Libya's coast guard intercepted over 300 European-bound migrants off the country's Mediterranean coast and returned them to the capital, Tripoli, the UN migration agency said.

The IOM said earlier this month that its estimated death toll among migrants who tried to cross the Mediterranean past the "grim milestone" of 20,000 deaths since 2014. In recent years, the European Union has partnered with the coast guard and other Libyan forces to stop the flow of migrants. Rights groups say those efforts have left migrants at the mercy of brutal armed groups or confined in squalid and overcrowded detention centers that lack adequate food and water.

The president's office said on its official social media accounts that the vote will be pushed back to May 20, from the original date of April 13. In other "social distancing" steps adopted by Damascus, which has not to date reported any case of the disease, weekly Friday prayers in mosques have been suspended as well as prayer gatherings. The polls, to be held across government-run areas, are the third such elections in Syria since the March 2011 start of its nine-year war that has killed at least 384,000 people. Assad's forces today hold more than 70 percent of Syrian soil following Russian-backed victories against rebels and jihadists since 2015. On Friday, the government closed schools, universities and technical colleges until April 2. — AFP

It said that some managed to escape at the disembarkation point, as the boats were brought back to shore. "It is unacceptable for this to continue despite repeated calls to put an end to the return of vulnerable people to detention and abuse," said Safa Msehli, a spokeswoman for the IOM. Libya, which descended into chaos following the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, has emerged as a major transit point for African and Arab migrants fleeing war and poverty to Europe. Most migrants make the perilous journey in ill-equipped and unsafe rubber boats.

It said that some managed to escape at the disembarkation point, as the boats were brought back to shore. "It is unacceptable for this to continue despite repeated calls to put an end to the return of vulnerable people to detention and abuse," said Safa Msehli, a spokeswoman for the IOM. Libya, which descended into chaos following the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, has emerged as a major transit point for African and Arab migrants fleeing war and poverty to Europe. Most migrants make the perilous journey in ill-equipped and unsafe rubber boats.

The IOM said earlier this month that its estimated death toll among migrants who tried to cross the Mediterranean past the "grim milestone" of 20,000 deaths since 2014. In recent years, the European Union has partnered with the coast guard and other Libyan forces to stop the flow of migrants. Rights groups say those efforts have left migrants at the mercy of brutal armed groups or confined in squalid and overcrowded detention centers that lack adequate food and water. The EU agreed earlier this year to end an anti-migrant smuggler operation involving only surveillance aircraft and instead deploy military ships to concentrate on upholding a widely flouted UN arms embargo that's considered key to winding down Libya's relentless war. — AP

OLD IS GOLD The Bodleian hopes to raise between GB£ 40,000 and 50,000 for manuscript conservation

Fundraising drive to conserve Mughal miniature

London, March 15: The UK's renowned Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford is focussing its annual fundraising drive on rare manuscripts this year, with a 17th century Mughal miniature collection from India at the heart of the conservation efforts. Known as "The Douce Album", the manuscript of exquisite miniature paintings and calligraphy was assembled for a member of the imperial family of Shah Shuja, the second son of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan and wife Mumtaz Mahal — most famous for the Taj Mahal in Agra. It is described as

an album of unrivalled artistic quality from an age that represented the high point of the Mughal dynasty and contains a varied collection of 41 of the highest-quality miniature paintings and exquisite calligraphy within a contemporary lacquered binding. The Bodleian hopes to raise between GB£ 40,000 and 50,000 as part of its Annual Fund campaign to go towards the conservation of Bodleian's historic manuscript collection, including the album. "Since its creation for a Mughal prince in the 17th century, this unique

album's exquisite art works and calligraphy have continued to be viewed, admired and studied," said Hannah Litvack, Development Officer at the Bodleian Libraries. "After four centuries of handling, its condition has become a cause of concern with evidence, amongst other things, of flaking paint and broken sewing threads, which cause the text-block to 'slide' every time the album is browsed and closed. "We need to conduct a full assessment to investigate the condition of the paint layer, the lacquered binding, the paper substrate," Litvack explains. This will be followed by conservation treatments to stabilise all the parts in order to safeguard the treasure from the Mughal court, bequeathed to the Bodleian Libraries in 1834 by distinguished antiquary and bibliophile Francis Douce. It was designed for royal viewing and represents the work of some of the finest artists and calligraphers of the time. According to the library, the album has long been the subject of study by art historians and, because of its beauty and provenance, it is frequently requested

for major exhibitions. Alongside the pages of calligraphy in beautiful Nasta'liq script bordered by palmate and floriate designs in lapis and gold, most of which are signed by the master calligrapher Mir Ali of Herat, are intricate pictures executed in opaque watercolour and gold with some showing scenes from the Persian epic 'Shahnamah'. The Mughal court's fascination with Western art is also expressed in other paintings in the album, which employ Western motifs including a portrait of St. Matthew, and another of the Virgin Mary. — PTI

for major exhibitions. Alongside the pages of calligraphy in beautiful Nasta'liq script bordered by palmate and floriate designs in lapis and gold, most of which are signed by the master calligrapher Mir Ali of Herat, are intricate pictures executed in opaque watercolour and gold with some showing scenes from the Persian epic 'Shahnamah'. The Mughal court's fascination with Western art is also expressed in other paintings in the album, which employ Western motifs including a portrait of St. Matthew, and another of the Virgin Mary. — PTI



A picture of the 17th century Mughal miniature. — PTI

IN BRIEF

Indian tests +ve in the UAE

Dubai: An Indian national, who returned to the UAE after a holiday abroad, has tested positive for the novel Covid-19, according to media reports. The country so far has 85 confirmed Covid-19 cases. The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHaP) on Saturday confirmed that the Indian national has tested positive for the disease. "All those who were in contact with the patient have been examined and have all tested negative for the virus," the MoHaP said in a statement.

Steer clear of Europe: ISIS

London: The Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group has issued a travel advisory for its operatives to steer clear of Covid-19-hit Europe, described as "the land of the epidemic". According to The Sunday Times, the latest issue of the ISIS 'Al-Naba' newsletter refers to a new set of "sharia directives" warning against travel to Europe. The Middle East-based terror outfit, which has in the past encouraged operatives to plot attacks in Europe, also instructed those of its followers who may have become ill with Covid-19 not to leave the region to prevent the disease from spreading.

God's punishment: Zimbabwe min

Harare: Zimbabwe's defence minister has called the Covid-19 pandemic a "punishment" of the US and Europe for imposing sanctions against members of the ruling regime over human rights abuses. Covid-19 has infected more than 150,000 people worldwide and killed almost 6,000 since it was first detected in China last December. "Covid-19 is the work of God punishing countries who imposed sanctions on us," said Zimbabwe's defence minister Oppah Muchinguri on Saturday, speaking at a rally in the northern town of Chinhoyi.

QUEEN MOVED TO WINDSOR CASTLE

London, March 15: Queen Elizabeth II has been shifted out of Buckingham Palace in London to Windsor Castle as the United Kingdom plans for isolation measures for people over 70 amid the country's death toll from Covid-19 hitting 21, nearly doubling from 11 within a day.

The 93-year-old monarch and her 98-year-old husband, Prince Philip, are likely to be placed in quarantine at the royal Sandringham Estate in Norfolk in the coming weeks as tougher measures are put in place to fight the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK affecting over 1,140 people.

"Other events will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in line with the appropriate advice," a Buckingham Palace statement said as it announced diary cancellations for the monarch. Some reports indicate that her move from the palace in the heart of London, which has a large staff and frequent visitors, was part of a regular weekend getaway for the Queen to Windsor on Thursday.

However, other reports indicate that the situation will be kept under constant review before she is brought back to London and may instead be shifted to Sandringham, with a much smaller level of staff.

"She is in good health but it was thought best to move her," a royal source was quoted by 'The Sun' as saying.

Trump tests negative for contagion

Physician says a week after dinner with Brazilian delegation, the President remains symptom-free

Washington, March 15: US President Donald Trump has tested negative for the novel Covid-19, the White House physician said, hours after his administration declared the Covid-19 pandemic a national emergency on Friday. Trump, 73, had taken the Covid-19 test on Friday night. The results came out in less than 24 hours. "Last night, after an in-depth discussion with the President regarding the COVID-19 test, he elected to proceed. This evening, I received confirmation that the test is negative," Dr Sean Conley, the presidential physician, said in a memorandum to White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham on Saturday.

"One week after having dinner with the Brazilian delegation in Mar-a-Lago, the President remains symptom-free," he said. "I have been in the daily contact with the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the White House Task Force, and we are encouraging the implementation of all their best practices for exposure reduction and transmission mitigation," Conley added.

Trump had resisted being tested for the virus that has killed at least 51 Americans and infected over 2,500 others. The deadly novel Covid-19 has claimed over 5,300 lives and infected more than 142,000 people across 135 countries and territories, with the World Health Organisation describing the outbreak a pandemic on Wednesday.

As part of the precautionary measure to stop the deadly disease from spreading, doctors are advising people to avoid shaking hands. Trump considered to be a germophobic and not a good supporter of shaking hands over the past few days has been seen shaking hands with people. "Why are you shaking hands, sir?" a reporter asked Trump during a White House news conference Saturday afternoon. President Trump defended his habit of shaking hands, saying this is a cultural habit that is tough to be done away with. "Because it almost becomes a habit, and you get out of that habit. And, frankly, I was a non-handshaker, for the most part. I've never believed that shaking hands — once you become a politician. And I notice it too: Political people walk up to me, they want to shake my hand. I said, 'Well, you know,'" he explained. "People come up to me, they shake hands, they put their hand out. It's sort of a natural reflex, and we're all getting out of it. All of us have that problem. Somebody comes up to you, they put their hand out — you probably tend to just shake it. And we're all getting out of that," he said. "Shaking hands is not a great thing to be doing right now, I agree. But people put their hand out. Sometimes I'll put the hand out. You don't think about it. People are thinking about it more and more. We have to think about it; it's important," he said, referring to the age old cultural practice which is tough to die down. "Getting away from shaking hands is a good thing, and possibly that's something that comes out of this. Maybe people shouldn't be shaking hands for the long term because it does transmit flu and other things,"



A health official checks the body temperature of a train passenger amid concerns over the spread of the Covid-19, at the Karachi railway station on Sunday. — AFP

2k cases in lockdown Spain

Madrid, March 15: Spain on Sunday reported some 2,000 new Covid-19 cases and more than a 100 deaths over the last 24 hours, the latest spike in Europe's second-most affected country after Italy.

The new figures raise Spain's number of Covid-19 infections to 7,753 — and its death toll to 288 — after the government imposed a near-total nationwide lockdown, banning people from leaving home except to go to work, get medical care or buy food. Spain has followed Italy and imposed a near total nationwide lockdown to fight the spread of Covid-19 by banning people from leaving home except to go to work, get medical care or buy food. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced the restrictions on movement on Saturday following a huge spike in the number of infections in

● TWENTY NEW cases of the novel Covid-19 surfaced in Pakistan on Sunday, bringing the total number of Covid-19 infections in the country to 53. The number of cases have doubled in Pakistan's southern Sindh province, with 18 new positive cases detected on Sunday.

late in the streets... must be followed starting today," he said in a televised address after a Cabinet meeting that lasted more than seven hours. Spaniards may leave home to go to work, "buy bread", go to the pharmacy and get medical care but "not to go have dinner at a friend's house", he added.

Police would ensure the restrictions are obeyed, the prime minister said. "The measures which we have adopted are drastic and will unfortunately have consequences... but our hand will not shake to prevail against the virus," Sanchez added. "We will win this battle... but it is important that the price we pay for this victory be as little as possible." All stores except for pharmacies and supermarkets will close nationwide, the premier said. Bars, restaurants and all shops except

for supermarkets had already shut on Saturday for two weeks in the Madrid region, which accounts for over half of all infections.

Most regional governments in Spain had already followed the example of Madrid and closed their schools. Spain's response to the Covid-19 has so far had wide differences between regions due to the country's complex system of sharing power between the central government and regional governments, which control education and health issues. But by declaring a state of emergency, Sanchez's government has the power to take over healthcare and use security forces to enforce orders. It is only the second time that the government has evoked it since the country returned to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. — AFP

People arriving from abroad had previously been allowed to undergo the mandatory two-week quarantine at home, but now only those in "special circumstances" will be exempted from being sent to facilities where they must pay for their stay, state-run Beijing Daily reported Sunday. Only four new domestic cases

were detected, all in Hubei province's capital Wuhan, the city where the virus first emerged in December before growing into a national crisis and a pandemic. All the 10 deaths were in Wuhan, bringing the national toll from the disease in mainland China to 3,199.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland reached 80,778 by the end of Saturday, including 3,199 people who died of the disease in the last three months, 10,734 patients still undergoing treatment and 66,911 patients discharged after recovery, it said. By the end of Saturday, 141 confirmed cases, including four deaths, had been reported in Hong Kong Special, 10 confirmed cases in the Macao and 53 in Taiwan, including one death. "No locally transmitted confirmed cases have been reported in Hubei outside Wuhan for 10 consecutive days," Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission, said Sunday at a press conference.

— PTI

China returnees: 2-week quarantine

Beijing, March 15: China on Sunday reported 10 more fatalities due to the novel Covid-19, taking the death toll to 3,199, while the imported cases rose to 111, prompting authorities to order a compulsory 14-day quarantine in "special facilities" for foreigners arriving here from Monday. China's National Health Commissions (NHC) said 20 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 infection and 10 deaths were reported from all over the country on Saturday with 16 imported cases reported in the mainland.

Among them, five were reported in Beijing, four in Zhejiang Province, three in both Shanghai and Gansu Province, as well as one in Guangdong Province. By the end of Saturday, 111 imported cases had been reported, NHC said. With the increase in imported cases, Beijing local government has announced to send all international arrivals into the city to quarantine facilities starting Monday as part of stepped-up measures against Covid-19 cases from abroad.

People arriving from abroad had previously been allowed to undergo the mandatory two-week quarantine at home, but now only those in "special circumstances" will be exempted from being sent to facilities where they must pay for their stay, state-run Beijing Daily reported Sunday. Only four new domestic cases

were detected, all in Hubei province's capital Wuhan, the city where the virus first emerged in December before growing into a national crisis and a pandemic. All the 10 deaths were in Wuhan, bringing the national toll from the disease in mainland China to 3,199.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland reached 80,778 by the end of Saturday, including 3,199 people who died of the disease in the last three months, 10,734 patients still undergoing treatment and 66,911 patients discharged after recovery, it said. By the end of Saturday, 141 confirmed cases, including four deaths, had been reported in Hong Kong Special, 10 confirmed cases in the Macao and 53 in Taiwan, including one death. "No locally transmitted confirmed cases have been reported in Hubei outside Wuhan for 10 consecutive days," Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission, said Sunday at a press conference.

— PTI

Iranians told to stay home; 113 more die

Tehran, March 15: Iran on Sunday urged its citizens to stick to guidelines and stay at home to stop the new Covid-19 spreading, as it announced another 113 deaths from the outbreak. The latest death toll announced by the health ministry took to 724 the official number of people to have been killed by the disease since last month.

People "should cancel all travel and stay at home so that we may see the situation improving in the coming days," ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said in a televised news conference. Jahanpour also reported 1,209 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 infection, raising the total to 13,938.

"The good news is that more than 4,590 of the overall confirmed cases have recovered" and the patients have been discharged from hospitals, he added. Tehran province had the highest number of new infections with 251 fresh cases. Khorasan Razavi province, home to the holy Shiite city of Mashhad, followed with 143 cases.

"The cases there will probably increase," the official said, calling on everyone to cease from travelling to the northeastern province. Mashhad's Imam Reza shrine receives many devout Iranians every year, especially around the country's New Year holidays which start on March 20. The outbreak in Iran is one of the deadliest outside of China, where the

VATICAN EASTER REVELRY: NO CONGREGATION

Rome, March 15: The Vatican said Sunday that its traditional Easter week celebrations would be held this year without worshippers due to the Covid-19. "Because of the current global public health emergency, all the liturgical celebrations of Holy Week will take place without the physical presence of the faithful," the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household said in a statement. The office is in charge of coordinating most of Pope Francis's public schedule and his audiences with heads of state and other dignitaries.

The Vatican also said: "Until April 12, the general audiences and the Angelus presided over by the Holy Father will be available only in live streaming on the official Vatican News website." According to latest tally, there have been 1,441 deaths in Italy due to Covid-19, and more than 21,000 Italians have tested positive. — AFP

disease originated. Jahanpour called on Iranians to "take the Covid-19 seriously" and especially be mindful of elderly relatives who are most vulnerable to the infection. — AFP

GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS

● Indonesia's transport minister Budi Karya Sumadi is in intensive care after testing positive.

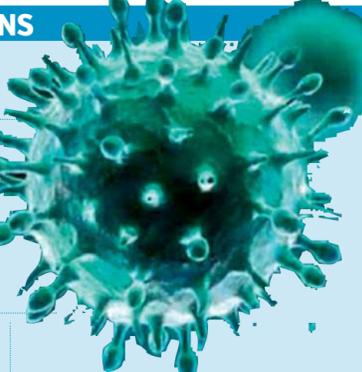
● Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's wife Begona has tested positive. **21,000** have been infected in Italy, the most affected country in Europe where deaths climbed past 1,400.

● Poland planned to close its borders at midnight. The Czech Republic and Slovakia have taken similar action.

● 1,100 have been afflicted by virus in Britain while the death toll in that country has nearly doubled to 21.

● 230 Greece's infection total approached with three deaths. ● Denmark closed its borders and halted passenger traffic as it recorded its first death.

● President Donald Trump announced that the US, which days ago barred travellers from most of Europe, will extend the ban to Britain and Ireland. The US has seen 60 deaths and more than 2,100 cases.



Anxious French vote in local elections

Paris, March 15: France went to the polls in nationwide local elections on Sunday, defying a mounting health crisis caused by the Covid-19 outbreak that still risks keeping many voters at home.

President Emmanuel Macron, for whom the two-round election is a crucial mid-term test, has insisted the polls to choose mayors and municipal councils go ahead to assure democratic continuity in the country. Despite fresh restrictions announced Saturday evening — including the closure of non-essential public places such as cafes, restaurants, cinemas and gyms — polling stations across the country open-

ed at 8:00 am (0700 GMT). Officials have insisted that voting will take place under tightest sanitary conditions, despite widespread fear that polling stations are ideal germ-spreading venues and a particular risk for older people. Macron said on Thursday that scientists had assured him "there is nothing to prevent the French, even the most vulnerable, from going to the ballot box". Municipalities announced measures to try to keep voters infection-free, including regular disinfection of voting booths, ensuring a safe distance between voters waiting in line, and providing sanitising hand gels on entry and exit. — AFP

ENORMOUS STRAIN The staff express concern over virus fatalities, on facilities and personnel

Italy health workers on the edge of exhaustion

Rome, March 15: A worn-out nurse slumps over her keyboard in a widely shared image symbolic of the extreme fatigue that Italian healthcare workers are facing as they battle Europe's worst outbreak of the novel Covid-19 pandemic.

The picture is of Elena Pagliarini, a nurse in the northern region of Lombardy which has been worst hit by the disease. Nationwide Italy has more than 1,400 deaths from the virus and 21,000 infections, with a quarter of the country's intensive care beds taken up by those with the illness. In normal times Lomb-

● ELENA PAGLIARINI, a nurse in Lombardy, says, "I actually don't feel physically tired, I can work for 24 hours straight if it's necessary but I won't hide the fact that right now I'm anxious because I'm fighting an enemy that I don't know."

ardy is the economic heart of Italy, equipped with one of the world's best health systems. But those who staff it — like Pagliarini — are under enormous strain. "On one hand I was an-

noyed to see my photo everywhere, I was ashamed of showing my weakness," Pagliarini told the Corriere della Sera newspaper. "But then I was happy because I got beautiful messages from people who empathised with me," she said. "I actually don't feel physically tired, I can work for 24 hours straight if it's necessary but I won't hide the fact that right now I'm anxious because I'm fighting an enemy that I don't know," she added.

She's just one of many healthcare workers who have expressed their concern at the toll that the out-

break is taking, on facilities and personnel alike. "It's almost two weeks since I've seen my son or my family because I'm worried about infecting them," Daniele Macchini, a hospital doctor in the northern city of Bergamo, (also in Lombardy) wrote in a widely-shared Facebook post.

"I settle for photos of my son which I look at through my tears, and a few video calls," he says. A nurse in the Tuscan town of Grosseto, Alessia Bonari, posted an image on Instagram of her face bearing marks from a long day of wearing a surgical mask. — AFP



Medical staff attend to Covid-19 patients.

quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	34,103.48	4.04
Nifty 50	9,955.20	3.81
S&P 500*	2,711.02	9.29
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)*	33.85	1.90
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.322	1.376
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.963	-0.621

* As of Friday/Saturday

Clean energy developers get new guarantee

To improve business environment for clean energy projects, the government has decided to treat letter of comfort (undertaking) issued by state-run shadow banking firms PFC, REC and IREDA at par with bank guarantees. Developers need bank guarantees for placing bids for clean energy projects offered by SECI and NTPC. Developers get bank guarantee on the basis of letter of comfort issued by the three agencies.

Gold imports dip 8.8% to \$27 bn in April-February



Gold imports fell 8.86 per cent to \$27 billion (about Rs 1.90 lakh crore) during the April-February period of this financial year. Commerce ministry data shows imports of the yellow metal stood at \$29.62 bn in the corresponding period of 2018-19. The decline in gold imports has helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit to \$143.12 billion during April-February from \$173 billion a year ago.

Notification issued for NCLAT Chennai bench

The Centre has notified the constitution of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Chennai bench, which comes into effect from March 18. The Chennai-based bench would hear appeals against the orders of the NCLT benches having jurisdiction of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. The NCLAT bench at New Delhi shall be the principal bench.

Aramco reports 20.6% drop in 2019 profit

Saudi Aramco reported a 20.6 per cent drop in its net profit for 2019 due to low oil prices and production levels. These are the first annual results announced by the energy giant after its \$29.4 bn initial public offering and listing on the Saudi Tadawul market in December. Aramco posted net profits of \$88.2 bn last year compared to \$111.1 bn in 2018. "The decrease was primarily due to lower crude oil prices," Aramco said.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

AT1 bonds issue, rupee may deepen FPI selling
Market mood sours on virus, Yes Bank resultsRAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, MARCH 15

The market outlook has again turned negative for Monday due to the rapid spread of coronavirus within the country and the consequent travel and assembling restrictions as well as developments relating to Yes Bank, which reported extremely negative financial numbers in its third quarter results.

Yes Bank further confirmed that additional-1 (AT1) bonds aggregating to Rs 8,415 crore will have to be written down completely for its government-approved restructuring scheme to begin.

Existing Yes Bank shareholders also cannot sell more than 25 per cent of their shareholding if they have more than 100 shares in their demat account, this may hurt investor sentiments in the market, said analysts.

Coronavirus infection cases in Maharashtra jumped to 32 and total confirmed cases in the country stood at 109 on Sunday evening. Schools, colleges, theatres, muse-



ums, gyms and pools have been closed across Maharashtra.

Despite a bounce back seen on Friday in the equity market, with benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty-50 gaining close to 4 per cent after a panic selling, and US market benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average gaining over 9 per cent, market sentiments may turn negative on Dalal Street, as massive foreign portfolio investors selling, to the tune of Rs 6,027.58 crore, was witnessed on Friday.

Foreign portfolio investors have net sold equities worth Rs 24,776.36 crore in March so far, as per depositories data. They have also pulled out a net sum of

Rs 13,199.54 crore from the debt segment during March 2-13.

The Indian currency, which touched an intraday low of Rs 74.49 against the US dollar on Friday and made some recovery on dollar selling by the central bank to Rs 73.92, will be keenly watched by the foreign investors, who are at risk of losing money from rupee depreciation.

The good news for India at present is that global oil consumption is in for a free-fall, heading for the biggest annual contraction in history, as more countries introduce unprecedented measures to fight the coronavirus outbreak. Brent crude oil futures at Rs 32.75 per barrel may help India in

the medium-term as it pays a hefty bill on oil imports.

Analysts expect the market to remain volatile this week and accordingly, advised retail investors to be cautious. "Markets would take a while to recover from this significant price damage. While volatility may continue in coming days, we could see intermittent relief rallies, however these are likely to be short-lived. In such times of global volatility, retail investors should keep calm and not panic," said Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Temporary relief was seen in the global markets... Investors are still advised to be alert since the volatility, as measured by the volatility index has reached all-time highs. Sentiments around the spread of the virus will continue to drive the markets and any signs of the rate of infections falling will be a positive," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Yes Bank expects bad loan troubles to persist

New Delhi, March 15: Troubled Yes Bank expects pressures from sour loans to continue through FY21, even as yet one more private lender, IDFC First Bank, said it will by equities worth Rs 250 crore in beleaguered bank.

Yes Bank on Saturday declared the highest loss for any private sector lender at Rs 18,654 crore for the December quarter.

The bank's administrator and CEO-designate Prashant Kumar is confident of the bank's survival after a Rs 10,000-crore capital infusion.

The bank witnessed withdrawals of over Rs 72,000 crore of deposits in the last six months to Rs 1.37 lakh crore, but the Rs 10,000 crore capital infusion, coupled with over 1,000 branches and a strong customer base makes Kumar confident of Yes Bank continuing to be a "going concern".

"The proposed capital infusion and the bank's strong customer base and branch network will enable the Bank to continue its business for the foreseeable future, so as to be able to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in its normal course of business," the bank said, quoting Kumar's assessment.

Construction, transport to be hit by shutdown

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

The prolonged shutdown in China following the coronavirus outbreak may significantly affect select sectors like construction, transport and chemical manufacturing, while iron and steel sectors could see a moderate impact, a report said.

Five import items are heavily dependent on China—electrical machinery; machinery and mechanical appliances; organic chemicals; plastics; and optical and surgical instruments. These items collectively account for 28 per cent of India's import basket.

"We expect construction, transport manufacturing, chemical manufacturing and machinery manufacturing are likely to be worst-affected by the possible shutdown in China," said the report by ICICI Securities.



margin to 1.4 per cent from 3.3 per cent a year ago.

In a stock exchange filing, IDFC First Bank said, "duly authorised committee of the board of directors" had at its meeting on March 14, "approval for an equity investment of upto Rs 250 crore comprising upto 25 crore equity shares at a price of Rs 10 each and face value of Rs 2 each, under the proposed Scheme of Reconstruction of Yes Bank Ltd."

Earlier on Saturday, Federal Bank had committed to invest Rs 300 crore in Yes Bank.

Apart from IDFC, ICICI Bank will invest Rs 1,000 crore, HDFC Rs 1,000 crore, Axis Bank Rs 600 crore, Kotak Mahindra Bank Rs 500 crore, Bandhan Bank and Federal Bank Rs 300 crore each in Yes Bank.

—Agencies

US bond traders see Fed rate cut

LIZ MCCORMICK
MARCH 15

Investors are counting on a steep Federal Reserve rate cut this week as policy makers move to support the economy in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. But what there is much less certainty about is where Treasury yields head next.

The world's biggest government-debt market is coming off one of its wildest stretches ever, featuring a dive to record low yields and the widest weekly range in 30-year rates in the past two decades. The turbulence was so severe that some sectors of the market were hard to trade in.

After the Fed last week pledged trillions of dollars of liquidity and the Trump administration moved to facilitate more federal aid for states and municipalities, investors will turn their focus to the central bank's March 18 decision. Futures traders align with most economists in predicting it will slash rates by a percentage point. But



the reaction in Treasury yields — a benchmark for global borrowing costs — is anyone's guess.

"I don't think anybody can say what the next move in yields is going to be," said Tad Rivelle, chief investment officer for fixed income at asset manager TCW Group Inc. "The Fed, however, is going to do its darndest to take them down and will take out another bazooka to do it."

The 10- and 30-year yields enter the week at 0.96 per cent and 1.53 per cent, respectively. Both ended last week higher after collapsing to record lows, and

SBI Card to list today amid market volatility

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, MARCH 15

SBI Card shares will list on NSE and BSE on Monday amid tough market conditions and is expected to provide direction to the primary market in the days ahead. Listing premium for the issue would now depend on the market conditions on Monday morning, given the negative sentiment in the market last week followed by a bounce back on Friday.

Most brokerages gave a buy call on SBI Cards & Payments Services Ltd's initial public offering in early March the price band of Rs 750 to Rs 755 and the first issue by a credit card company in India raised Rs 10,354 crore, and was subscribed 26.54 times. But since then, Indian and global equity markets corrected by around 20 per cent.

Though the Indian market saw huge selling pressure till Friday morning, a dramatic recovery in the second half may augur well for SBI Card investors. But market analysts are not so bullish about the listing premium on SBI Card, given the market conditions and some find the valuation of Rs 755 per share, the price fixed for

Overseas travel policies a losing biz for PSU insurers

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 15

Public general insurers, especially United India Insurance, recorded high loss ratio in overseas travel policies in 2018-19 against their private counterparts.

The aggregate incurred claims ratio of public sector insurers in overseas travel was 122 per cent in the last fiscal, while the private general insurers recorded 53 per cent claims ratio and standalone health insurance companies 36 per cent.

Claims ratio is the percentage of claims costs incurred in relation to premiums earned.

Among public insurers, United India Insurance registered the highest claims ratio of 314 per cent for a net earned premium of Rs 6.75 lakh, the company made claims valued Rs 21.19 crore. This pertains only to its individual business as it did not do any business in group insurance schemes.

Among other PSU insurers, New India recorded a loss ratio of 66 per cent, National 51 per cent and Oriental Insurance 48 per cent.

Private insurers generally had comfortable loss



ratios barring a few. Chola MS registered 114 per cent claims ratio by earning a premium of Rs 2.46 crore against claims of Rs 2.77 crore. ICICI Lombard earned aggregate premium of Rs 117.56 crore against claims of Rs 56.86 crore-48 per cent loss ratio.

Bajaj Allianz recorded 29 per cent loss ratio, Bharti AXA 87 per cent, Tata AIG 62 per cent, Future Generali 42 per cent, Reliance 39 per cent and HDFC ERGO 37 per cent.

Among standalone health insurance companies Apollo Munich's claims ratio stood at 60 per cent and that of

Religare at 21 per cent. The insurers earned a total net premium of Rs 626.39 crore in overseas travel.

As far as domestic travel is concerned, the net earned premium stood at Rs 114 crore as only a few private general insurers were active in the space. These included Acko, GoDigit, ICICI Lombard, Reliance and Tata AIG. Apart from Religare Health Insurance, none of the standalone health insurers and the public general insurers did any business in domestic travel.

The total loss ratio of the insurers stood at a comfortable 14 per cent.

Oyo entices Japanese hotels with cash

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, MARCH 15

As bookings plunge in coronavirus-stricken Japan, Oyo Hotels is promising cash to hotels there to join its booking platform. While the company backed by Japanese investor Softbank is undergoing a slew of cost-cutting measures ahead of a proposed IPO, it is also making investments to establish itself in Japan.

In order to get more hotels onto its network and expand its reach in Japan, Oyo will pay new members a lump sum equal to a proportion of their past year's revenue. This Oyo Partner Support Program is available immediately and will run indefinitely, a Bloomberg report said.

"Japan is an extremely important market for Oyo and we intend to contribute to it over the long term," Oyo's founder and chief executive officer Ritesh Agarwal said in a statement last week. "This is our response as a global hotel group to Japan's lodging industry in the time of crisis," he said



referring to the coronavirus infection.

Oyo has been struggling in Japan despite the support of SoftBank. Oyo's push for rapid growth in the market was hampered by technical problems and public backlash from hotels.

However, outside Japan, especially in China, which is hit by the coronavirus most, Oyo has not announced any such measure. In fact, it is retrenching people in both China and India in an effort to become leaner and more attractive before presenting itself before the bourses in two to three years.

Its consolidated losses had grown 538 per cent from \$52 million in FY18 to \$335 million in FY19.

Six N-power projects for ₹1.5 lakh cr sanctioned

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MARCH 15

The central government has sanctioned Rs 1.5 lakh crore for six nuclear power projects intended to produce 9000 MW power. These power projects have received administrative approval and financial sanction of Rs 1,54,621 crore, a government communiqué said.

The projects include two light water reactors of 1000 MW capacity each at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu for a total cost of Rs 49,621 crore. Projects in Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, Kaiga in Karnataka and Gorakhpur in Haryana will have two pressurised heavy water reactors each of 700 MW capacities. MahiBanswara in Rajasthan will have four such reactors of 700 MW each. The total cost of these projects will be Rs 1,05,000 crore, the government said last week.

Currently, five projects are under construction for



a total cost of Rs 99,779 crore.

The five projects at Kakrapar in Gujarat, Rawatbata in Rajasthan, Gorakhpur in Haryana, Kudankulam and Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu will add a total capacity of 6700 MW.

Currently, the country has nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW and capacity utilisation in 2019-20 up to January was 1788 MW.

Dream domestic flight

Inspirational captain Unadkat pilots Saurashtra to Ranji Trophy high

SHORT TAKES



Aaron Finch

When Indians gave Finch nightmare

New Delhi: Australia's white-ball captain Aaron Finch has revealed he had nightmares during India's 2018 tour when pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah were taking his wicket "for fun". Opening the innings, the Australian captain struggled across all three formats during the India series, specially while trying to navigate Bhuvneshwar's inswinging deliveries. "I'd wake up in a cold sweat, he's (Bhuvneshwar) got me out a lot with the ball moving back in," Finch said in Amazon's recently released docu-series titled 'The Test'. The Indian seamer had scalped Finch's wicket four times, including during all three ODIs and one T20, in the six-match limited overs series. Finch also said that he would wake up at night just thinking about facing Bumrah the next day. "There were times that I'd wake up in the night thinking about getting out. Thinking I'm facing Bumrah again tomorrow, he's getting me out for fun," Finch said. India enjoyed an unprecedented summer, winning the Border Gavaskar Trophy 3-1, their first-ever Test series win on the Australian soil. — PTI

Lynn fires Lahore into PSL semifinals

Lahore: Chris Lynn smashed a 52-ball century and propelled Lahore Qalandars to their maiden semifinal appearance in the Pakistan Super League with a thumping nine-wicket win over table toppers Multan Sultans in an empty Gaddafi Stadium on Sunday. Lynn bludgeoned eight sixes and a dozen boundaries against a second-string Multan bowling attack and finished unbeaten on 113 off 55 balls as Lahore breezed to 191-1 in 18.5 overs. Earlier, lefthanded batsman Khushdil Shah hit a beligerent 70 off just 29 balls and lifted Multan's total to 186-6. Lahore finished the league stage in third place with 10 points and will now meet Karachi Kings in the second semifinal on Tuesday. Lahore won three of their last four matches by chasing down targets of 180 runs-plus in a remarkable turnaround of form after losing three in a row at the start of the tournament. Lahore has finished last in all four previous editions of the PSL since 2016. "It's great to get triple figures. I love playing in the day, but it was important to get to that semifinals after five years of trying. It was difficult (playing in an empty stadium) but you have to create your own energy when fielding," Lynn said. — AP

Rajkot, March 15: The inspirational leadership of Jaydev Unadkat coupled with the fearless attitude that past teams did not possess and the lesser-known players turning into game-changers resulted in Saurashtra laying their hands on the coveted Ranji Trophy. Saurashtra had become a force to reckon with over the past 10 years and the final that they won on Friday was their fourth in eight seasons, yet they had to wait excruciatingly long for laying their hands on the most coveted trophy in domestic cricket.

Unadkat and Co. lost the final to Vidarbha last year but the belief remained firmly intact that they were good enough to go all the way. Saurashtra perhaps needed the 'X factor' to crack the final code and that was provided by their leader and lead pacer Unadkat, who turned the match on its head on day five of both the semi-final and final, ending the competition with 67 wickets at a remarkable average of 13.23. He had 39 scalps at 17.17 last year.

More than the numbers, it was his ability to come up with breakthroughs when his team needed the most, like on Friday when he ended a threatening 98-run stand between Anushtup Majumdar and Arnab Nandi to get the title-winning first innings lead. "I was telling myself that if I could challenge myself and bowl the ball of the season. I was telling myself before every single delivery," said Unadkat, when asked about his mindset going into day five with Bengal needing 72 runs and two well-set batsmen in the middle. "The dream season could only have been special if you actually win the title. At the end, we had had three defeats in finals and it doesn't feel good. It is a long season where you have put your blood and sweat. This season, I have given everything mentally and physically. I wouldn't have enjoyed any sort of record if I hadn't won. I wanted to do it one more time for my team," he said.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

With Ravindra Jadeja away on national duty, left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja kept the pressure up from one end, taking 32 wickets. He had picked up 59 scalps 12 months ago. Even Pujara when he was available chipped in, scoring 575 runs at 63.88. His partnership with Vasavada set up the final for Saurashtra. Pujara's 66 off 237 balls is one of his slowest knocks in domestic cricket but had immense value in the context of the game and it came as he battled fever and sore throat. Talking about his effort a day after he had to leave the field due to illness, Pujara said: "It was very tough on me. I am someone who likes to lead from the front, but here, I had to bat lower down the order." "Day two when I walked in, it was not easy, I felt a blackout, so it was tough. But you have to be motivated and lead from the front, set a good example. Once you had 350 plus, we knew with our remarkable bowling attack, we were in a good position." — PTI



Members of Saurashtra take a selfie after their victory over Bengal in the Ranji Trophy final in this file photo.

— TWITTER

Unadkat and Co. lost the final to Vidarbha last year but the belief remained firmly intact that they were good enough to go all the way. Saurashtra perhaps needed the 'X factor' to crack the final code and that was provided by their leader and lead pacer Unadkat, who turned the match on its head on day five of both the semi-final and final, ending the competition with 67 wickets at a remarkable average of 13.23. He had 39 scalps at 17.17 last year.

More than the numbers, it was his ability to come up with breakthroughs when his team needed the most, like on Friday when he ended a threatening 98-run stand between Anushtup Majumdar and Arnab Nandi to get the title-winning first innings lead. "I was telling myself that if I could challenge myself and bowl the ball of the season. I was telling myself before every single delivery," said Unadkat, when asked about his mindset going into day five with Bengal needing 72 runs and two well-set batsmen in the middle. "The dream season could only have been special if you actually win the title. At the end, we had had three defeats in finals and it doesn't feel good. It is a long season where you have put your blood and sweat. This season, I have given everything mentally and physically. I wouldn't have enjoyed any sort of record if I hadn't won. I wanted to do it one more time for my team," he said.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

Unadkat's sensational run in the tournament, the performance of the lesser-known stars went a long way in Saurashtra securing the trophy. Southpaw Arpit Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semis and final; all-rounder Chirag Jani, opener Harvik Desai, veteran Sheldon Jackson, who amassed 800 plus runs for the second successive season. They all made the difference in the end.

TOP 5 BATSMEN OF RANJI SEASON						
Batsman	M	Runs	AVG	H.S	100	50
Rahul Dalal (Arunachal)	9	1340	95.71	267*	4	5
Taruwar Kohli (Mizoram)	9	998	71.28	307*	3	5
Puneet Bisht (Meghalaya)	9	976	69.71	250	2	6
Paras Dogra (Puducherry)	9	967	80.58	200	4	3
Sarfraz Khan (Mumbai)	6	928	154.66	301*	3	2

TOP FIVE BOWLERS OF THE SEASON					
Bowler	M	Wkts	AVG	SWI	Best
Jaydev Unadkat 10 (Saurashtra)	10	67	13.23	7	7-56
R. Sanjay Yadav 9 (Meghalaya)	9	55	12.65	5	9-52
Harshal Patel (Haryana)	9	52	14.48	4	7-29
Diwesh Pathania 9 (Services)	9	50	15.82	4	5-36
Manisankar M (Tripura)	9	49	17.02	3	7-63

Unadkat announces engagement

New Delhi, March 15: The 28-year-old Saurashtra pacer Jaydev Unadkat on Sunday announced his engagement. Taking to Instagram, the bowler shared a picture with his partner and captioned the post, "6 hours, 2

meals & 1 shared mud cake later." Unadkat has been in great touch as he led his state team, Saurashtra, to their maiden Ranji Trophy title with an first-innings lead win over Bengal in the final. The pacer has scalped 67 dismissals at an

average of 13.23, the most by a pacer in the history of the competition and the second-most overall. Indian skipper Virat Kohli's childhood coach Rajkumar Sharma on Saturday heaped praise on Unadkat and said that the pacer should now be

included in Men in Blue's squad. "I congratulate Saurashtra for their stellar performance in the Ranji Trophy, especially Unadkat, who bowled crucial spells and picked 67 wickets," Rajkumar Sharma said. — Agencies

Support from IPL owners commendable



Hemant Kenkre
Silly Point

Finally, the Lord bowled a 'Chinaman'. The outbreak of the Covid-19 disease that originated in China looks like an unplayable delivery, one that has turned the wrong way, baffling the world. Like daily life, businesses and more, sport (including cricket) across the globe too has been affected badly. The last time, the game of cricket had a major disruption in its international calendar was during the second world war. England, the mother country of the noble game did not play a Test match (which was then the only format), after their clash against the West Indies, for almost seven years till they faced up to India at Lords. From August 1938 till June 1946 there was a complete international blackout for English cricketers, the first true professionals of the game. All test playing nations of those days took a hiatus for a similar period and came back, post 1946 to take the game to another level. Coming back to the present, the game is once again under threat. The war today is not being fought not in the battle fields but in quarantine wards of hospitals across the globe, no thanks to the virus. Top tournaments like the NASCAR, Boston and

London Marathons, NBA, EPL and many more have either been postponed or suspended. Cricket too is seeing its fixtures, viz., the India vs South Africa One Day International series, the England/Sri Lanka one, the West Indies domestic season and more. For Indian cricket fans and the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) in India, the biggest question was the holding of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that was scheduled for a March 29 start. Wisely, the BCCI has now deferred their main money maker to April 15 and has adopted a wait and watch stance. The decision will depend on the spread (or lack of it) of the COVID-19 virus in the country. BCCI has also deferred the Irani Trophy and is in a tizzy with the re-planning of the IPL whose brand value in 2019 was ₹475 billion (US\$ 6.7 billion) according to Duff & Phelps, a global advisor on valuations. The 2020 edition, which happens to be the 13th edition of the tournament is probably valued at much more and there is a lot, from the BCCI's and the team owners perspective, at stake from a commercial point of view. BCCI took the right step in having a meeting with all



Chris Lynn of Lahore Qalandars celebrates after scoring a century during the Pakistan Super League in Lahore. — AFP

team owners in Mumbai where they discussed, threadbare, the possibility (or lack of it) of hosting the IPL post April 15. It was heartening to read the reactions of the lot who have put public safety above profit and have put in their might to stop the deadly virus from spreading. Kolkata Knight Riders owner and matinee idol Shah Rukh Khan was first off the block, tweeting: "The meeting by BCCI and IPL was to reiterate what all of us feel...safety first of the spectators, players management & cities we play in. All directives of the health agencies & govt to be followed." His sentiment was also endorsed by other franchisees like Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab. There are many theories that are being floated as far as IPL 2020 in the current scenario is concerned. Have a shorter version, is one of them. Play at few selected venues is the other one. Like BCCI did on the last day of the Ranji Trophy final at Rajkot, the IPL can be held in an empty stadium is another brainwave. At this point in time, none of these matter as

it just takes one infected person to spread the virus. BCCI President, Sourav Ganguly has stated that they will be monitoring the situation on a weekly basis and will comply with the directives of governmental agencies. It also needs to be noted that there will be a lot of foreigners who will be part of the tournament including players and broadcast and logistics professionals. There has already been one case where Aussie batsman, David Warner's, visa application was rejected by the Indian consulate in Australia following the Indian governments directives. The BCCI is on the right track and the support they have received from the team owners is commendable. Tackling the 'chinaman' in tough conditions is always going to be challenging. The BCCI has put its front foot forward and is holding on, hoping for the pitch to ease out. Meanwhile, a short break from the game will give the cricketers a much deserved break and refresh the palate of the fan who is constantly inundated with some form of the game at all times.

Dhoni leaves camp after big league is suspended

Chennai, March 15: Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Sunday left the Chennai Super Kings training camp following the suspension of the 13th edition of IPL till April 15 in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Dhoni, who had arrived in Chennai for CSK's preparatory camp early this month, left the base in front of his cheering fans. "It has become your home, sir!" Keep whistling, as #Thala Dhoni bids a short adieu to #AnbuDen," Chennai Super Kings wrote on its Twitter handle along with

a short video. The video showed fans lining up to catch a glimpse of Dhoni as he signed autographs and interacted with the fans. The BCCI on Friday postponed the start of this year's IPL from March 29 to April 15 in wake of the pandemic, which has caused massive upheaval across the globe. **SOUTH AFRICANS HEAD HOME VIA KOLKATA** For their journey back home from Lucknow, the South African cricketers have chosen "safest city" Kolkata as their stopover,

from where they will return to their country via Dubai. Instead of New Delhi or Mumbai, the Proteas preferred to fly via the eastern metropolis as it is yet to record a single positive case for Covid-19. "They will land here tomorrow and will leave the next morning. The BCCI is trying to make arrangements closer to the airport," CAB president Avishek Dalmiya said. The first ODI in Dharamsala was washed out. The BCCI later called off the remainder of the series. — PTI



Sanjay Manjrekar

Sanjay feels BCCI is not happy with his performance

New Delhi, March 15: Dropped from the BCCI commentary panel for the South Africa series, former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar on Sunday said he always considered commenting a privilege and accepted the decision as a professional. "One of the most accomplished voices among Indian experts, Manjrekar, who got embroiled in controversies in recent years for some of his views on air, was axed from the BCCI's commentary panel for the South Africa series recently. "I have always considered commenting as a great privilege, but never an entitlement," the 54-year-old wrote on his twitter handle. "It is up to my employers whether they choose to have me or not & I will always respect that. Maybe BCCI has not been happy with my performance of late. I accept that as a professional," he added. — PTI



Former Hyderabad cricketer and fielding coach N. S. Ganesh (centre, right) poses with trainees at the Sarojini Cricket and Fitness Academy after being felicitated by its secretary G. Kiran Reddy (centre, left) for his services to City cricket in Hyderabad on Thursday. Ganesh advised the youngsters to be committed and make full use of the facilities at their disposal in their endeavour to become good cricketers.

SHORT TAKES



SFR Snehit

Snehit bags third place at Oman TT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Hyderabad table tennis player S. Fidel R. Snehit bagged the third spot in the Under-21 category at the Oman Open in Muscat.

Snehit went down fighting against the World No.1 and compatriot Manav Thakkar 2-3 — 11-7, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8, 12-14 — in the semifinals, narrowly missing a chance to beat him.

Earlier in the quarterfinals, Snehit defeated Hazin Jeremy of Canada 3-0 — 11-6, 11-2, 13-11. "I went to the table with a proper game plan after a discussion with my coach Somnath Ghosh to slug out against Manav, who is super form. In the decider, I fumbled a bit to lose a fantastic game. I missed a great chance for which I am feeling very sad," Snehit said.

In the men's section, Snehit reached the main draw and lost to Chew Zhe Yu Clarence of Singapore 2-4 in the Round of 64.

Hyderabad Globe score a big win

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Hyderabad Globe also registered a thumping 7-0 win over Deccan Sporting in a Telangana Football Association's 'B' Division Shiva Kumar Lal league championship match played at the Gymkhana ground in Secunderabad.

Sarif Tadvri scored a hat-trick, in the 46th, 57th and 70th minutes; Gaurav scored a brace, in 34th and 49th minutes; while Afzal and Sohrab got a goal each, in the 23rd and 50th minutes of the match.

Maisaram Football Club also defeated Saidabad FC 7-1. Abdul Rahman scored a hat-trick for Maisaram FC with goals in the 18th, 22nd and 71st minutes. Fahad Somali got a brace, in the 27th and 43rd minutes; Syed Bawazer and Rahman Bawazer got one goal each in the 21st and 46th minutes respectively. Abdul Kamal scored the only goal for Saidabad, in the 36th minute of the match.

In another game, Royal United beat Feelkhana FC 2-0 with Wahid Ali Khan scoring both the goals, in the 18th and 40th minutes.

Shastri Soccer Club also won. they beat Royal United 2-1. Antony Sebastian (25th) and Akhil Sam (70th) were the goalscorers for Shastri while Yousuf Ali got the lone goal for Royal in the 53rd minute.

NBA PLAYER POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS

Los Angeles: Detroit Pistons player Christian Wood has tested positive for the coronavirus, becoming the third NBA player to contract Covid-19.

The Pistons, without identifying Wood, issued a statement on Saturday saying that one of their players had tested positive.

Woods' agent Adam Pensack told the Detroit News on Saturday that his client is the one, adding "he feels 100 per cent fine."

A player on the Detroit Pistons, who is under the care of team medical staff and in self-isolation since Wednesday night, was tested for Covid-19," the Pistons said in a statement. "A preliminary positive result came back on March 14.

"The health and safety of our players, our organization, those throughout our league, and all those potentially impacted by this situation is paramount. We are working closely with team medical staff, state and local government and public health officials and the NBA on reporting. The individual will remain in isolation and under the care of team medical staff," the statement added.

— AFP

IOC dials emergency

Bach plans conference call for Tokyo update

Lausanne, March 15: With less than five months to go before the Tokyo Olympics, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach plans emergency talks with member organisations, sources close to the IOC said on Sunday.

The IOC plans a conference call on Tuesday to "keep the international federations informed of the situation, as well as the National Olympic Committees and athletes," one source close to the IOC said.

The IOC "will take stock of the actions taken" to respond to the coronavirus crisis "and the federations will have the opportunity to ask questions," added a source close to one international sports federation.

The IOC "conducts a regular dialogue with all the Olympic partners and regularly informs them of the situation," added an IOC spokesman.

While many international sporting events have been postponed or cancelled, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promised on Friday that Tokyo would host the Olympic Games as planned in July and August, despite questions raised by the pandemic.

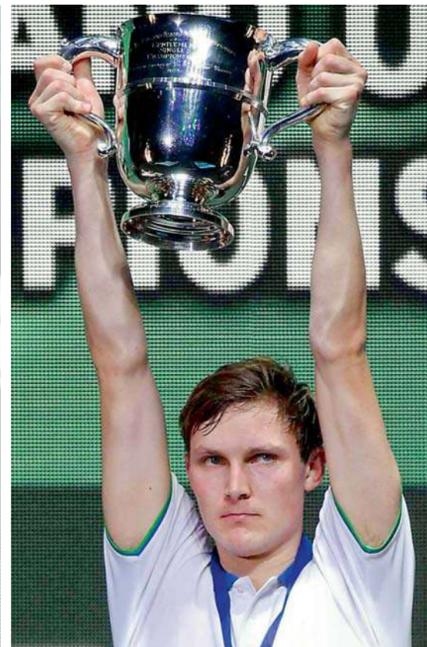
Thomas Bach said on Thursday that his organisation would follow the recommendations of the World Health Organisation regarding a possible postponement.

He acknowledged, however, that the cancellation of qualifying events due to the epidemic was already posing "serious problems".

The issue of qualifying will be a focus of Tuesday's telephone meeting.



Left: Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying poses with the trophy after defeating China's Chen Yu Fei 21-19, 21-15 in the women's singles final at the All England Championship in Birmingham on Sunday. Right: Viktor Axelsen holds aloft the trophy after beating Chou Tien Chen 21-13, 21-14 in the men's singles final.



— AP, AFP

Axelsen, Tai All England champs

Birmingham, March 15: Viktor Axelsen of Denmark claimed his maiden men's singles title at the All England Championship, while two-time former winner Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei regained the women's singles crown, here on Sunday.

The Axelsen, a former world champion, beat top seed Chou Tien-chen 21-13 21-14 in a lop-sided final to add another feather to his hat.

THE RESULTS (all finals)

- Men's Singles: Viktor Axelsen bt Chou Tien Chen 21-13, 21-14.
- Women's singles: Tai Tzu Ying bt Chen Yu Fei 21-19, 21-15.
- Women's doubles: Yuki Fukushima/ Sayaka Hirota bt Du Yue/ Li Yin Hui 21-13, 21-15.
- Mixed doubles: Praveen Jordan/ Melati Daeva Oktavianti bt Dechapol Puavaranu-kroh/ Sapsiree Taerattan-achai 21-15, 17-21, 21-8.

Tai Tzu, playing in her fourth final, overcame Chinese Chen Yu Fei 21-19 21-15 to claim her third

title at the prestigious tournament.

The season's first Super 1000 World Tour tournament is the last event before BWF suspension of all World Tour and sanctioned tournaments.

Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota beat China's Du Yue and Li Yin Hui 21-13 21-15 to claim the women's doubles crown, while Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti defeated of Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai 21-15 17-21 21-8 to win the mixed doubles title.

— PTI

Van Dijk dreads title sans fans

London, March 15: Virgil Van Dijk fears Liverpool will be forced to celebrate their first English title for 30 years in an empty stadium as a result of coronavirus chaos.

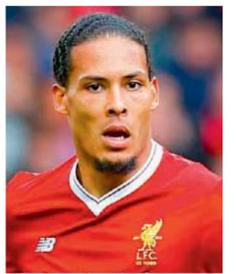
All Premier League games have been postponed until at least April 3 due to the spread of the global pandemic.

Premier League chiefs are set to meet on Thursday to discuss if it will be possible to continue the season and, if so, in what format.

Games could be played behind closed doors, which would mean Liverpool, who are 25 points clear of second placed Manchester City, winning the title without their fans being present. "That is a depressing prospect for Liverpool defender Van Dijk.

"If we won it in an empty stadium and the fans weren't there, I'd be gutted for them," he told several British newspapers on Sunday.

"No one wants to play games without the fans. Until a decision is made on how we go on from here, then we just have to deal with it. But when it happens, we are still bringing



If we won it in an empty stadium and the fans weren't there, I'd be gutted for them. Until a decision is made on how we go on from here, then we just have to deal with it.

— VIRGIL VAN DIJK
Liverpool player

the title to our fans, definitely," he added.

Liverpool could have wrapped up the title on Monday with a win at Everton if Manchester City were beaten by Burnley on Saturday, but both those games were postponed, along with the rest of the Premier League programme.

— AFP

PLAYERS TREATED LIKE GUINEA PIGS: ROONEY

London, March 15: Former Manchester United star Wayne Rooney claims the British government and football authorities have treated players like "guinea pigs" during the coronavirus crisis.

Rooney felt the authorities should have acted quicker and said that he would "never forgive" the authorities if his family fell ill as a result.

"Why did we wait until Friday? Why did it take Mikel Arteta to get ill for the game in England to do the right thing? For players, staff and their families it has been a worrying week — one in which you felt a lack of leadership from the government and from the FA and Premier League.

"After the emergency meeting, at last the right decision was made — until then it almost felt like footballers in England were being treated like guinea pigs," he further added.

— AFP

Winners all



Members of the State Bank of India (Hyderabad) cricket team pose after being declared joint winners along with SBI Bangalore in the All India SBI inter-circle tournament held in Chandigarh recently.

Jaison, Bharat rule pool

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

Jaison Malhotra and Bharat Ramakrishna scored emphatic victories in the Bally's Entertainment Ultimate 10 Ball India Open pool championship being played at the Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall in Punjagutta, Hyderabad, under the auspices of Telangana Cue Sports Association.

Both Jaison and Bharat blanked their opponents, scoring 7-0 wins over Manikanta Annamraju and Ayush Sinha respectively.

Others to score impressive wins were Tarun Rumalla, who beat Vamshi Krishna Kambhampati 7-1; Arun Dhar who rapped D. Rahul 7-1 and Aamer Javed, who annihilated Abhishek Khanna with the same score.

India's top 128 players — including Sumit Talwar, Diyya Sharma from Chandigarh, Kamal Chawla from Bhopal, Rafat Habib from Chennai, Laxman Rawat from New Delhi and Himanshu Jain from Hyderabad — are competing on the best avail-



Aamer Javed lines up a shot during his match at the 10 Ball Pool India Open championship at the Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall in Hyderabad.

able equipment procured from around the globe in this tournament. The event is being staged in two formats — a double elimination all the way to the Last 8 followed by the knockout rounds of quarterfinals, semifinals and finals.

THE RESULTS

- Round 1, Race to 7: Jaison Malhotra bt Manikanta Annamraju 7-0, Bharat Ramakrishna bt Ayush Sinha 7-0, Tarun Rumalla bt Vamshi Krishna Kambhampati 7-1, Aamer Javed bt Abhishek Khanna 7-1, Arun Dhar bt Rahul D 7-1, Kaushik Kolipaka bt Sreevidya Amarapalli 7-4, Suhas Chandra bt Sushel Vellanki 7-6, Abhishek B bt Sunil Kunthetha 7-2, Arpit Seth bt Shivangi 7-3, Abhishek Ahuja bt Rajveer Dutta 7-2, Khaja

Moinuddin Mohammed bt Bibin Radhakrishnan 7-0, Hemant Kumar bt Suhas Raj 7-3, Prakash Agarwal bt Yash 7-3, Venu Kanumula bt Shreyansh Giria 7-4, Aiman Singh bt Karthikeya Panyam 7-5, Harshdeep Singh bt Saiteja Gurapu 7-6, Chirag Khurana bt Andy Chin 7-3, Abed Ali bt Venkata Ramcharan Sirasapalli 7-4.

Other matches: Laxman Rawat bt Kaushik Kolipaka 7-1, Shivam Arora bt Suhas Chandra 7-1, Anuj Uppal bt Abhishek B 7-1, Kamal Chawla bt Arun Dhar 7-0, Abhishek Ahuja bt Saurabh Mishra 7-1, Arvind Kumar bt Hemant Chavan 7-2, Chetan Chhabra bt Khaja Moinuddin Mohammed 7-4, Faisal Khan bt Hemant Kumar 7-2, Laxman ML bt Prakash Agarwal 7-0, Dilip Kumar bt Venu Kanumula 7-3, Ranveersingh Marwa bt Khaleel Feroz 7-6, Varun Kumar bt Vijaya Kumar Kalavala 7-5.

Go Further

PRESENTING

2020 FORD ENDEAVOUR

Discover the extraordinary performance.
All-New EcoBlue Diesel Engine | 10-Speed AT with SelectShift®

Introductory price starting at ₹29.55 Lakhs* valid till 30th April. **Book Now!**

2.0L, 125kW (170PS), 420Nm Torque

10-Speed AT with SelectShift®

BI-LED Headlamps

FordPass™ 100% Connectivity

3-year/100,000km Warranty

286 307 327

FORD CREDIT | FORD ASSURED Certified Pre-Owned Cars

HYDERABAD		KARIMNAGAR		MAHABUBNAGAR		MANCHERIVALLI		NALGONDA		NIZAMABAD	
Begumpet, Moday Ford, 9022913979	Kondapur, Moday Ford, 9819049061	LB Nagar, Moday Ford, 9022920259	Somajiguda, Moday Ford, 9022915628	Tollichowki, Moday Ford, 9022913689	Kothi Rampur, Moday Ford, 9022913984	Appanna Pally, Moday Ford, 9022913691	Yedira, Moday Ford, 9022913985	Maruthinagar, Moday Ford, 9022913985	Addanki By-Pass Road, Sanvi Ford, 9022914321	Bardipur Village, Prime Ford, 9022914175	
TIRUPATI			WARANGAL								
200 feet, Main Road, Renigunta, Raja Srinam Ford, 9022914240			Mulugu X Road, Sriharsh Ford, 9022900999								

*Terms & Conditions apply. Above mentioned ex-showroom price is of Ford Endeavour 2.0i 4x2 Diesel Titanium Automatic. The introductory price is valid on bookings and deliveries till 30th April 2020. Price increases by ₹10,000 from 1st May 2020. Ford Endeavour BSVI is available only in Diesel. The colours are indicative only and may vary due to printing constraints. Accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Please refer to the product brochure available on www.india.ford.com for detailed information. Ford India Private Limited ("Ford India") reserves the right to extend, cancel, terminate or suspend this limited period price, which is valid till 30th April 2020, at any time without any prior notice. Google and other related marks are trademarks of Google LLC. Ford India requests you to follow traffic rules for your safety. For more information about the 2020 Ford Endeavour and its features, please contact your nearest Ford authorised dealer.

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20
Printed and Published by
T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited.
Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press
situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village,
Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal
Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and
Published at 36, S.D. Road,
Secunderabad-3.
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.
Editor: Aditya Sinha