THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 3 MARCH 2020



Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 32/21ºC

Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari; Uttarayana Tithi: Phalguna Shuddha Ashtami till 1.44 pm Star: Rohini till 10.27 am Varjyam: 4.15 pm to 5.54 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.57 am to 9.43 am: 11.14 pm to 12.03 pm Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

> Rajjab 7,1441 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.33 am **Zohar:** 12.38 pm **Asar:** 4.44 pm Maghrib: 6.28 pm Isha: 7.36 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.23 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.32 AM MOONRISE TODAY 12.13 PM **MOONSET** TOMORROW 12.43 AM

COUNTER POINT



No citizenship certificate needed to our party leaders... they are all Indian by birth!

Nirbhaya rapists'

hanging put off New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday deferred till the hanging of four convicts in the Nirbhaya

gang rape and murder case pending disposal of a convict's mercy plea. The convicts were to be hanged on Tuesday. However, after the apex court rejected his curative plea, Pawan Gupta

filed a mercy petition before the President. Full report on Page 8

Modi will quit all social media

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that he was thinking of exiting social media and would take a decision on Sunday. "This Sunday, thinking of giving up my social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube. Will keep you all posted," Mr Modi tweeted from his official handle. Sources said the decision was prompted by hate messages.

GE's Jack Welch

passes away

Boston: Jack Welch, who transformed General Electric Co. into a highly profitable multinational conglomerate and parlayed his legendary business acumen into a retirement career as a corporate leadership guru, has died. He was 84. His death was confirmed on Monday by GE. The cause of death was renal failure, his wife Suzy said. - AP



WORLD 12 **Buttigieg exits race, Biden back in contention**



SPORTS 15

Kohli & Co. trip on grass as India go up in smoke **TABLOID**

'Be more disciplined'



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VIRUS ARRIVES IN YOUR CITY

Sec'bad man came from Dubai, took bus from Bengaluru, exposed 80 others directly

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Telangana on Monday recorded its first case of coronavirus, with young male, employed in a software company confirmed as being infected by it. The 24-year-old man is currently in an ICU of the isolation ward at the Gandhi General Hospital (GGH), where his condition, according to health minister Etala Rajendar, was stable.

The state's first Covid-19 patient is a resident of Mahendra Hills in Secunderabad and lives with an extended joint family, Mr Rajender said. According to the minister, the man flew from Dubai to Bengaluru and then came to Hyderabad by bus. The news was first

announced by the Union ministry of health about the positive Covid-19 case in Hyderabad. Confirming this, Mr Rajendar told a press conference in the city on Tuesday that "there was no cause for alarm because of the case"

The state government is on top of the issue and has taken every possible precaution. We are taking more steps to prevent the spread of this disease. All those known to have come in contact with the patient are being monitored for their health and steps are being taken to test them There are enough facilities in hospitals to deal with more cases, if need be," he said.

The health minister said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has reviewed the development and instructed all departments related to health, transport, education and others that deal with matters involving large gathstrict measures to control the disease. He said the Chief Minister has assured that funds would not be a problem in fight-

ing the virus. After repeated prodding from reporters, Mr Rajendar said, "We have a total of 80 people who are being 'tracked' as those who were in close contact with the patient. These include members of his family, 20 staffers from Hospital in Secunderabad, where he was admitted for four days before being referred to the Gandhi Hospital, and 27 people who travelled with him in a bus Bengaluru to Hyderabad."

The Covid-19 'patient zero' for Telangana, according to the health minister, caught the disease during his trip to Dubai in the middle of

February. The man went to Dubai on February 15 and stayed there for "four or five days" meeting with his colleagues, including some from his company's Hong Kong office.

Telangana had no case of the virus that was locally transmitted. This man acquired it in Dubai from



12 people were told to stay at home

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Twelve people were chased on Sunday night by officials of the district medical and health department, of whom four had returned from Italy, one from Thailand, two from the Middle East and five others from Singapore, who were contacted and

checked for symptoms. According to sources, people, who had to leave for Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh for darshan but were asked to stay at home

for 14 days. A senior health official on condition of anonymity explained, "This family group of four are close to a

where he flew to Bengaluru. He stayed there for two days and

came to Hyderabad in a

On arrival at Bengaluru

from Dubai on February

20, the man was apparent-

ly asymptomatic for five

days and spent the next

two days visiting his com-

office

"On February 22, he

travelled to Hyderabad in

a bus and was at home for

five days. He visited

Apollo Hospital as an out-

patient for a check-up, because he had developed

a fever and other symp-

toms. Following couple

more visits as an out-

patient, he was admitted in Apollo. He was there for two days — February 27 and 28 — before being

referred to the Gandhi

Hospital on Sunday," Mr

bus on February 21,

Rajender said.

pany's

Bengaluru.

SYMPTOMS

• Fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

PREVENTION

Wash your hands regularly

such as coughing and sneezing.

 Cover mouth and nose when you are coughing and sneezing

 Thoroughly cook meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness

powerful political family in the state, and they had to be told to not go. This was quite a task, as orders came from senior officials from the state. Their travel history was to destinations where the coronavirus cases are very high. It was a risky proposition.'

These members were contacted on Sunday night and asked about their

had been cleared at the airport level screening too. But officials insisted that they have to self-isolate and stay at home for next 14 days. The epidemiology wing

symptoms. They had no

symptoms and replied that

they were all fine. They

of the government has got officials, who will call them night and day, and insist that they do not move out of their homes.

"since people are aware of the impact of coronavirus, we have so far not faced any resistance. There is cooperation from people. We have told them to get in touch with us if they develop cough and cold in the next few days."

One each in Delhi, Jaipur test positive

DGCA expands screening to passengers from Iran, Italy

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

Three cases of coronavirus were reported in the country — one each in Delhi, Telangana and

Rajasthan. The person from Delhi has a travel history from Italy. Further details of his travels are being ascertained," said health minister Harsh Vardhan.

The Air India crew who had flown the Vienna-Delhi flight on February 25 on which the Delhi patient was the passenger have been asked to stay in isolation at their homes for 14 days, officials said.

Later in the day, the Rajasthan government announced that an Italian tourist, who was admitted in a Jaipur hospital, was tested positive for Covid-

The 69-year-old man has been placed under isolation at the government-run Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur. The man is part of the group of 20 tourists, who are now in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

Aviation regulator DGCA, meanwhile, "decided to expand the universal screening of all passengers arriving in flights from Italy and Iran (also) besides the flights from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Nepal,

Malaysia."
With previously reported three coronavirus cases from Kerala, who were discharged from hospitals after recovery, the total number of cases detected in India so far has risen to six.

SENSEX GIVES UP GAINS, RUPEE AT 15-MONTH LOW

DC CORRESPONDENT

Equity markets tumbled in a knee jerk reaction in the last half an hour of trade after two new corocases reported in Delhi and

Telangana.
After the news break, the Sensex ended 153 points down at 38,144 as panic selling gripped the market. The Sensex had gained 785.88 points till then after a gap up opening across the Asian markets. Nifty-50 closed at 11,132.75 down 69 points.

Tracking domestic indices, the rupee weak-ened sharply against the US dollar and closed 55 paise lower at 72.73, which is the lowest level since November 13, 2018.

Gold, however, gained ₹391 per 10 gm in Delhi to ₹42,616 while the international rates revisited

■ More reports on page 14

The Union health minister also advised people to take precautions and in coronavirus report to the nearest public health facility. "People may pose their queries at the health ministry's 24x7 control room at 011-23978046 or email at ncov2019@ gmail.com," the health minister added.

Gandhi doctors want isolation ward shifted

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The Gandhi Hospital doctors fear that the first Covid-19 case will affect their out-patient department and opine that common people are not going to opt for treatment in the hospital. Murmurs in different medial departments began soon after they saw the Union health ministry release on Twitter.

Senior, junior, resident and post-graduate doctors started calling each other to check whether the positive Covid19 case was indeed at Gandhi Hospital. There were angry mur-

ILLEGAL HOUSE

murs of protests and hushed voices of anger that the 'isolation ward' must not be in Gandhi Hospital as it was a general hospital. With 1,050-bed strength, there are a large number of patients in the hospital, some said. The hospital gets more than 1,000 outpatients every day along with their family and relatives.

The case led to debate amongst Gandhi doctors that in such cases, 'isolation wards' must be in campuses like the Chest Hospital at Erragadda or hospital at Vikarabad.

The doctors worried that

since Gandhi Hospital was in the heart of Secundera bad. As this virus had become widespread quickly across China, it would not be ideal to have an isolation ward where so many people frequent.

A senior doctor said, "The isolation ward on eight floor will not be attended by many. Only those who are on duty will go there. There is already a lot of panic. We have surgical masks for hospital staff. Is it safe? Many coronavirus cases come as suspects but are confirmed later. Till then, they are in touch. What is their safe-

Congress leaders were exposing illegal construction at Janvada

China lockdown hits tech students

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The coronavirus epidemic is having a disastrous effect on local electronics industry. From wholesalers and retailers to hobbyists, no one has been spared. But the real trouble is being faced by the engineering student community. In a few weeks, when

fourth-year engineering students start working on their final-year projects, they will have trouble sourcing various components they need to make them work. electronics Multiple

importers and retailers said that the supply of components has all but dried up. Consignments have gotten smaller and more expensive. Some said components are retailing at anywhere between 10 and 30 per cent higher rates than usual. Some niche components are altogether unavailable.

Most colleges expect project submissions, along with detailed reports, starting April. Importantly, since the topics are decided much ahead, there is little scope for change.

> Page 5: Prices of electronic gizmos rising

Financially-distressed techie kills wife, 2 kids and himself

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Reportedly distressed over his poor financial position, a 36-year-old techie working at IBM poisoned his wife and two children before consuming poison himself at his house in LB Nagar. The deceased were identified as Kotra Pradeep (36), his wife Swati (28), son Kalyan Krishna (six) and Jaya Krishna (18 months).

The deaths were discover

ed on Monday, two days after they occurred. The incident was reported from Has-

thinapuram in LB Nagar. According to the LB Nagar police, Mr Pradeep, who hailed from Devarakonda in Nalgonda district, was working as a software engineer with IBM and living in his own house.

Monday morning, Satish, deceased Swati's younger brother, visited their home after he failed to contact either his sister or brother-in-law on phone. He knocked on the door for more than two hours. When he did not get any response, he grew suspicious and informed the police, who broke open the door and found all four family members dead. A dairy containing a suicide note and pesticide bot-

tles were recovered from the ■ Page 4: Bodies found decomposed at home

Revanth held at TRS leader's farmhouse **DC CORRESPONDENT** HYDERABAD, MARCH 2 High drama followed, when Congress MP A. Revanth

Reddy and former MP Vishweshwar Reddy tried to hold a press conference in front of a private farmhouse allegedly owned by a prominent TRS leader, in Janvada village under Cyberabad police limits on Monday. Both the Congress leaders took mediapersons to

open place adjacent to it. As soon as both leaders reached the place, the Narsingi police asked them to vacate the place. At this juncture, lots of jostling followed between the police and the Congress leaders, along with their followers, when Mr Vishweshwar Reddy sustained minor injuries

to his leg. Revanth MrReddy alleged that a prominent TRS leader had constructthe farmhouse and held a

Mr Revanth Reddy alleged that a prominent TRS leader had constructed a mansion in the land, which falls under the GO MS number 111, which prohibits permanent constructions within 10 km radius of the Himayatsagar and Osmansagar lakes.

ed a mansion in the land, which falls under the GO

MS number 111, which prohibits permanent constructions within 10 km radius of the Himavatsagar and Osmansagar lakes. The Congress MP from Malkajgiri alleged that this TRS leader and minister

had constructed a threestoreved mansion, spread over one lakh square feet, under survey numbers of 301, 302, 312, 313 in Janvada.

The Congress leader said that this leader built the mansion over 25 acres of land, registered in the name of some of his friends and family members. Mr Revanth Reddy said

that the Firangi canal reaches Gandipet from the Chinna Samudram Cheruvu, which is adjacent to the mansion. Mr Reddy further alleged that this TRS leader had threatened Manipal Reddy, and some other land owners, and forcibly took their lands.

Page 5: Revanth, Konda arrest comes during a presser

HIGH-LEVEL

MEETING ON

COVID-19 TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The State Government

has called for a multi-

department meeting on

Tuesday to discuss the

steps that are in place

and those that may be

needed to control any

confirmation of the first

coronavirus case in the

Top officials from health, education, trans-

port, police, revenue, municipal administra-

tion & urban develop-ment, I&PR, panchayat raj & rural development and tourism depart-

ments have been sum-

moned for the meeting that is to commence at MCR HRD Institute around 10 am. It will

deliberate on combating

Covid-19 and the state's

Health Minister Etala

Rajender told reporters on Monday that the gov-ernment will look at

steps to be taken with

respect to locations like

schools, as well as public

places where large num-ber of people gather, after the State's first Covid-19 case was

preparedness.

following

possible spread Covid-19 disease

Telangana

SHORT TAKES

CHARMME'S POSTS TAKES SOCIAL MEDIA BY STORM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

A leading movie heroine of Telugu cinema Charmme Kaur released a video on social media as soon as the news of the positive case of corona virus in Telangana came in on Monday afternoon. The video shows the star in a jubilant mood at hearing this news and congratulating everyone.

Not surprisingly, netizens' comments on this curiously insensitive behaviour called her irresponsible, inhuman insensitive. Some even questioned whether this is a stunt to gain some public attention.

Padmini Nagupalli, executive committee member, Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce, said, "How could she be so insensitive at this point of time when the whole world is in fear of a pandemic? We know that the cinema plays a major role in our society, and she as a known personality could have done some aware ness video on this. It is so saddening to see that video."

Sandhya, a social activist, called it "cynical on her part, when we all know how dangerous this virus is, and in countries like India which has no sophisticated mechanisms to control it." After a few hours the video was taken off by the movie star as the rage of netizens grew. Feeling the heat she tweeted: "I have read all ur comments n I apologize for the video posted.. it was an act of immaturity for a very sensitive topic, n hence shall be careful in my further reactions as it was of least knowledge to the rounds created..(sic)".



NO MECHANISM TO CHECK VISITORS TO CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

A clueless state government on Tuesday admitted that there vas no mecnanism in piace to check passengers arriving in the city, or other parts of the State via buses or trains after flying into India from Covid-19-affected countries.

Following a 24-year-old city techie testing positive for the disease and his travel history from Dubai to Bengaluru by a flight and subsequent arrival in Hyderabad in a private travels bus, health minister Etela Rajendar was asked at a press conference on Tuesday about measures to identify such individuals or keep a track of them upon their arrival.

"We follow Union government guidelines. We are checking passengers arriving at the international airport from about 10 countries as per GoI guidelines," he said.

Mr Rajendar did not respond to repeated questions on whether any steps will be taken to check buses and trains arriving from other parts of the country either into the city or other parts of Telangana carrying passengers who may have flown in to other parts of the country from Covide-19-affected coun-

First Covid-19 case creates panic

Fear is now about 'suspected cases' and those travelling without knowing that they carry the virus

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Panic has gripped the city with the first case of Covid-19 being announced. People shared the details on social media and many of them asked those who have cough and cold to self-isolate and not go out of their homes.

Those who have been coughing in hospitals are also being told to cover their mouth and not cough all around. The presence of the virus in the state has left the people wor-ried. Already handker-chiefs are being used as masks. Even hand sanitizers have gone off the shelves as people are carrying it with them to wash their hands.

The preventive tips were highly searched on internet and there were requests from friends, relatives and family members from other states to be safe. A senior doctor from a private hospital explained, "Covid-19 was to come to India and it was only a matter of time. There will be 100 other cases out there but they are still not confirmed The death rate is only two per cent. Senior citizens and pregnant women have to take be extra careful. Those who suffer from diabetes and hypertension, transplant patients and any other co-morbid con-ditions have to be careful as there are complications in such cases.

Those frequenting hospitals apart from the medical staff like relatives of patients, employees of non-government organisations, insurance and other administration staff of various other departments have to also exercise care as they are going into zones from where infection can spread.

The maximum fear is now about 'suspected cases' who are asymptomatic and are travelling without knowing that they carry the virus and have the capability to transmit it. This is the biggest challenge and it can be tackled by ensuring good immunity, proper hand hygiene and cough manners.

HOW TO PREVENT

Cover your nose when you sneeze and use a tissue paper when you cough and it must immediately be thrown into dustbins.

If you have persistent cough and cold, self-isolate as it

Do not go out and do not stress your

body. • If there is fever, consult a doctor immediately.

If you have come in touch with anyone who has come from Covid-19-affected countries, immediately inform the government health authorities and get yourself assessed.

Self-isolation of 14 days is

recommended for those who have come in touch with those coming from Covid-19-affected countries. Clean and disinfect

the surface of table, chair, glass and other objects in the house with cleaning or disinfection spray. Do not indulge in mass gatherings and be careful in markets, bus, railway and metro

WE appeal to people with any fever accompanied by cold or cough to immediately get themselves checked by a doctor.

stations.

ETALA RAJENDER. Health Minister



Doctors at the entrance of an isolation ward where a Covid-19 patient is undergoing treatment at the Gandhi

Prepared to curb virus: Minister

DC CORRESPONDENT

The State Government is fully geared up for containment of COVID19 disease in the state, Health Minister Etala Rajender said, after the first case of the disease in the state was confirmed here in the

city on Monday. 'We already have 40 beds each in isolation wards in Gandhi, Fever and Chest hospitals in the city. Our officials have also contacted the Indian Army with a request to use a 100-bed facility the Army has in Artillery Centre here in the city. There are enough number of pulmonologists, and other doctors and there is no shortage of

medicines equipment such as respi-

Rajender appealed to people to practice good hygiene and wash their hands frequently. appeal to people with any fever accompanied by cold or cough to immediately get themselves checked by a doctor. Anyone with a cold, or a cough, should not sneeze or cough in the open but cover their mouth with a handker-

chief," he said.
The minister urged for calm and said that there was no need for any panic as every possible step was being taken to contain the disease and not allow it to



Health minister Etala Rajender addresses a press conference on Coronavirus at the DMHO office in Koti

SUNITA GOES FOR VIRUS CHECK-UP

reported in the city.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Ms Sunita Krishnan of Prajwala, the anti-trafficking organisation, reported herself at the Gandhi Hospital at 9.40 am on Monday as she had a mild cough and was running a temperature after her visit to Bangkok. She was screened at the airport and she also filled a selfdeclaration form.

But she felt uneasy as she had gone to a country affected by Covid-19 and felt that she must get

Ms Krishnan said, "I looked up at the ministry of health Twitter account and got a toll-free number. They connected me with Dr Sri Harsha who asked me to report to the Gandhi Hospital. The urgency with which the staff must respond is missing. It took quite a while for a doctor to come and assess my condition and take me to the isolation ward." There are different rooms in the isolation ward and each of them is occupied. She is

in a room by herself. The tests were carried out only at 1.30 pm. The staff came in full protection gear. "They all look like they have come from Mars. There is no information dispensed here. Doctors and paramedical staff who come to examine stand very far and no one utters a word. It is real isolation. People only stare at each other not knowing who has

RISE IN MERCURY CAN PREVENT VIRUS SPREAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Part of the Telangana State Government's efforts to contain any possible spread of COVID19 disease, caused the novel Coronavirus, of which a case was detected in the city on Monday, continue to depend on the hope that the rising temperatures will help in stopping the disease in its

Repeating his assertion from the past that the increasing temperatures on account of summer would halt the spread of Coronavirus in Telangana, state Health Minister Etala Raiender told a press conference on Monday that the rising temperatures and the low humidity in the state will help contain the of the spread deadly

Price of masks shoots up Health officials, as virus fear grips city

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

While the corona virus may have officially arrived in Hyderabad only on Monday, the fear and paranoia have been here for many weeks. This fear has caused the price of face masks to skyrocket by nearly 500 per cent in some cases. Several surgical supplies

retailers and wholesalers told *Deccan Chronicle* that many manufacturers are choosing to sell the masks on their own, at high prices. Some even said they simply stopped stocking them. Customers from all walks of life are reportedly visiting shops desperate to buy even one mask. Srinivas Rao who works in a shop in Kukatpally said the price of three-ply masks, considered the most effective, has skyrocketed. "We would buy them at wholesale at ₹3

SEVERAL SURGICAL supplies retailers and wholesalers said that many manufacturers are choosing to sell the masks on their own, at high prices.

per piece. Now even if we are willing to pay ₹18 per piece, we are unable to buy them," he said.

Mr Rao complained that middlemen/brokers are making merry due to the prevailing conditions.
"Since there is worldwide demand for masks, most of the masks are being exported. At least 35 countries are getting masks from Hyderabad, leaving very few for retailers. The middlemen who are facilitating these transactions are minting money," he

Also, many retailers said the market is flooded with

inferior masks. One retailer from Hyderguda said, People are so afraid that they are willing to buy any mask they find. A bad mask is as good as not having one.' Such is the frenzy that

three retailers who were called by this reporter to inquire about the situa-tion, got so excited at hearing the word "mask" that they asked whether this reporter had any to sell to

A retailer from Sree Nidhi Surgicals in Surgicals Chandanagar said that a few months ago, she would buy three-ply masks at ₹120 per packet. "Now, we have refused to sell them. Wholesalers are asking ₹1.800 packet! per Considering the margins we can possibly make, it just isn't practical selling them," she said. She added that one customer recently came in asking for three lakh masks.

docs in a tizzy KANIZA GARARI I DC tive. Another sample was also sent to National

HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Declaration of one confirmed case of corona virus Covid 19 by central health ministry via a press release has led to 'bruised ego' for health department and doctors of the state unable to come to terms with the announce-

Caught unawares, doctors of Gandhi Hospital were upset and senior doctors left to meet health minister Etala Rajendra to brief him. They were alerted by the social media release of the announcement. Virology department has certified laboratory by the central government for carry out the tests and its senior staff was extremely angry snubbing junior doctors on inquiry about the case. patient's throat swabs were tested in the

hospital and it was posi-

of a confirmed case from NIV and declared the same. But the laboratory in Gandhi Hospital was yet to get the confirmation from Pune. The tests sample reports from NVI are sent online for immediate action to

Virology Institute in Pune.

The central government

received the information

the hospital. The confirmed case was

not declared by the doctors as they had to follow the protocol of alerting the state health minister Etala Rajendra. In the afternoon, the health minister was also caught off guard as he had no idea of a positive case. There was a medical review meeting going on in Koti and the minister was a part of it. The declaration sent all senior doctors and health officials in a fire fighting

Inter Board creates app to help students locate exam centre; Candidates won't be allowed to carry cellphones

9.5 lakh students set to take Inter exams from tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Intermediate students should be in the exam hall at 8.45 pm, 15 minutes ahead of the commencement of the exams on March 4. Students will not be allowed even a minute later than 9 am, the Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) said.

Students were asked to work out on the travel time to the centres and start early from home. The Board has created an app to help the students locate the exam centre. The app can be from Google Play Store.

Talks were held with the



at a meeting ahead of the Intermediate examinations, at S. SURENDER REDDY Nampally on Monday.

Telangana State Transport Corporation to provide additional shuttle

Road rural areas during the time Candidates will not be

printed or written material, pagers, calculators or any electronic gadget into the examination hall. Officials on duty will also not be allowed to carry mobile phones into the hall. If students are made to sit on the floor in the examination hall, the officer concerned would be suspended, a BIE official said.

Police and revenue offiwere requested to photocopy centres the exam centres between 9 am to 12 noon. Students can download the hall tickets from the

pal's signature.

as counsellors.

Students feeling stressed or scared to face the exams tsbie.cgg.gov.in without having the necessity of securing the princi-

STUDENTS CAN SEEK COUNSELLORS ADVICE AT HELPLINE NUMBER the student strength is

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) has launched a helpline number on Monday which will be handled by six experienced psychologists to act students committed sui-

can talk to the counsellors on the phone number 7337225803. Earlier, the BIE appointed counsellors in about 2,500 colleges where

more than 100. The board has also appointed student counsellors after training them to talk to their peers. Teachers have also been trained to counsel students. The BIE wants to prevent a repeat of last year when 21

cides after the results were

Students can lodge complaints on the websitebigrs.telangana.gov.in. A control room has been created at the BIE head office.

released.

NEW TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE SURE THE RESULTS ARE ERROR-FREE Indra Reddy. Till last year,

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The Intermediate Board has retained only the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) for the evaluation of the results this year, following the errors of last year when a firm called Globarena Tech was initially given the job.

This year, two technologies are being used to cross verify the results to make sure that they are error free, the BIE officials said at a meet conducted by the education minister, Sabitha

only the intelligent character recognition (ICR) system was in use. This year, the officials will

also use optical mark recognition (OMR) readers. CGG officials said they were using these technologies simultaneously so that the results can be crosschecked. In case of any mismatch, the results would be processed again. Last year. some students were marked absent and fail (AF) and absent and pass (AP) which created confusion.



POWER SHUTDOWN

Vasanthipuri Sub-Station 10 am to 11.30 am Indiranagar, Lalapet Kaman, Ganesh Temple, Isuka Bavi.

Gymkhana Sub-Station 11 am to 11.30 am Balamrai, Balamrai Kaman, Viman Nagar, Paigah Colony, Margadarshi Colony, Shoppers Lane, Happy Enclave, P&T



AYUB KHAN IS IN-CHARGE VC OF MANUU

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Academic and mathematics professor Ayub Khan has been appointed as in-charge vice chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) as per the directions by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). He has been appointed as officiating vice chancellor under the Statute 2 (7) of Manuu Act, 1996. Prof. Khan was appointed as pro vice chancellor of Manuu on March 27, 2019. Earlier, he was serving as mathematics professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He was associated also with Delhi University.

IT PLATFORM TO MONITOR SCHEMES IN REAL-TIME

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The National Institute of Rural Development and Pancha-yat Raj (NIRDPR) in Hyderabad announced that it has developed an IT platform for real-time monitoring of nati-onwide programmes related to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). Named the Kaushal Bharat, it is an enterprise resource planning (ERP) plat-

The platform will be used to capture data on projects under the DDU-GKY and collate it. The ministry of rural development will reportedly conduct inspections at its training centres using Kaushal Bharat from April.

director-general said the platform would also have a mobile application for inspection of training centres and placement verification. States also don't have to pay anything to use this platform.

THE PLATFORM will be used to capture data on projects under the DDU-GKY and collate it.

HC flags civic officials' power to raze buildings

'Draconian' provision being vested with authorities

VAMSHIDHARA I DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The Telangana High Court observed that the amended Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019, which allows demolition of illegal constructions without giving notice to the owners, was a "draconian power" vested with municipal authorities.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Mohan Chandra Parth-asarathy which challenged Section 178 (2) of the Telangana Municip-

alities Act, 2019. The petitioner submitted that the principles of natural justice should be followed, and apprehended that the law may be mis-

Reminding the govern-

THE PETITIONER submitted that the principles of natural justice should be followed, and apprehended that the law may be misused.

• HE SAID a person must be heard before taking

ment of the Constitutional necessity that a person must be heard before taking any action against him or her, the bench said that the powers granted in the law fell foul of the rights guaranteed to a citiunder Constitution i.e., the principles of natural justice."

Chief Justice Chauhan said, "Even a hardcore dacoit cannot be hanged without a trial... Where is the fairness? The aspect of principles of natural justice have been totally ousted by the Telangana state government."

Putting up firm stand,

Advocate-General B.S. Prasad reminded the court of its rebuke the other day, when it came down heavily on GHMC officials and other municipal authorities for not dealing firmly with those resorting to illegal con-

structions.

The Advocate-General "When the State has come up with a strong law, with an intent to keep the violators of law at bay, now the court is asking the State to follow principles of natural justice." He also submitted that the Bombay Municipal Act had similar provi-

sions. Reacting immediately, the Chief Justice said, "We are aware of the fact that there are a lot of illegal constructions. At the same time, we are also equally aware of the arbitrary powers vested with the municipal authorities. Therefore, the question

would be, do we place cer-

tain limitations on the exercise of powers."

He said that the amended law spoke about setting up the Municipal Building Tribunal to deal with issues of deviations from the rules and violations. The High Court had been

told several times that the tribunal would be constituted soon but it had not been done so far, the Chief Justice said.

The High Court also pointed out that the state

was making constitutional and statutory bodies unfunctional by appointing the posts. The Advocate-General

informed the bench that the rules have not yet been framed about the procedure to be followed up to act on deviations and assured the court that he will advice the state government to frame rules adhering to the observations of the court.

hearing was adjourned to March 11.

HC DISPOSES PIL AGAINST SBI'S **NPR NOTICE**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

The Telangana High Court on Monday disposed the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), which challenged issuance of a public notice by State Bank of India (SBI) to its customers asking them issued by National Population Register (NPR) as part of KYC docu-

The division bench, headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan, was dealing with the PIL filed by Mr Khaja Aijazuddin, advo-cate from the city. It sought directions from the High Court to set aside that condition asked by the bank.

When the Court came to know that the SBI notice did not mandate submission of NPR document and denotes that any one of the stipulated documents be submitted, the Chief Justice told the petitioner to ignore it and there would be no loss if

Plagiarists trouble Urdu Academy

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

A syndicate of plagiarists is skimming off lakhs of rupees every year from the Urdu Academy's scheme of financial aid for publishing Urdu books. Every year the Urdu

Academy provides financial aid for publishing books in the Urdu language. Under the partial monitory aid scheme, the Academy provides a grant of ₹15,000 for books 96-176 pages and ₹18,000 for books of more than 177 pages.

The Academy has allocated ₹25 lakh for this scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage writers and authors of Urdu who are financially unable to publish their work. The Academy releases the aid in two instalments, on submission of the draft of the selected book and on submission of the printed book. An Expert Committee selects the books deserving of finan-

It provides financial aid not only to authors, but

also for compiling and editing the literary works

of others.
There are complaints that people are copying the contents of rare and old books, compiling it in

ting the script claiming it is their own work. Some of them have submitted the same draft for

book format and submit-

consecutive years by changing the title page.
These content thieves do not hesitate to submit the contents of PhD and MPhil theses by scholars in universities on such famous writers as Mirza Ghalib,

Premchand and Sadat Hassan Manto, which are available on the internet.

In the past, some have even compiled the articles of various writers that were published in newspapers.

Social activist Ahmed Arshad Hussain says that the basic difficulty is that no tool has been developed so far to check plagiarism in Urdu.

He suggested strengthening the terms and conditions of the grants to check such practices.

KTR inspects cable bridge works

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Municipal administra-tion and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao made a surprise inspection of the ongoing works at the Durgam Cheruvu cable-stayed

While carrying out the inspection, the minister instructed officials and contract agencies to ensure that there are pedestrian ways and lighting systems to ensure complete safety for users of the bridge. He enquired about the various stages of the ongoing

engineers informed Rama Rao that the cable-stayed bridge is in the final phase of completion.

The minister emphasised that officials must complete construction of the bridge on time, if necessary by increasing manpower and deploying additional equipment. Mr Rama Rao also

walked along the Jubilee Hills road number 45 to



Municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao meets officials during his surprise visit to check the progress of the Durgam Cheruvu cable-stayed bridge work on Monday.

surprise visit. He inspected construc- people. tion works on the flyover coming up on road num-

Inorbit mall as part of his it be completed on time convenience

minister told TRANSCO officials that ber 45 and instructed that they expedite shifting of

power lines, so that works pending on the flyover

could be completed. The officials assured the minister that the power

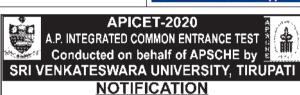
lines will be shifted with-

in two weeks. The minister said completion of all these works will help ease traffic congestion in the IT

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? We have it for you

DECCAN CHRONICLE

(IBPS & SBI) Daily topic-wise tests and discussions Daily doubt clarifying sessions Batches starting on 4th & 5th March load the TIME4BANK App now



Applications are invited for AP Integrated Common Entrance Test (APICET) for admission into 1st year of MBA/MCA*Course and 2nd year lateral entry into MCA* Course for the academic year 2020-21. Eligible candidates are informed to submit their applications through online mode only by paying the application registration and processing fee of Rs 550/- through Payment gateway/credit/debit card/net banking. The detailed information regarding APICET-2020 is available on the website https://sche.ap.gov.in/icet

Commencement of Submission of Online Applications

Last date for submission of Online Applications Without late fee: 02-04-2020 With late fee of Rs. 2000/-: 12-04-2020 With late fee of Rs 5000/-: 20-04-2020 With late fee of Rs 10:000/-: 25-04-2020

APICET-2020 EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD ON 27th April 2020 FROM 10.00 A.M TO 12.30 P.M & 2.30 P.M TO 5.00 P.M *Subject to AICTE & APSCHE rules and regulations.



Man held for trying to loot city ATM

Hyderabad: A 30-year-old man, who had broken an ATM at Dundigal, was caught red-handed by police during the earlier hours of Monday. According to police, assis-

tant sub-inspector K. Y. Venugopal and home guard Brahmam were on patrolling duty at Suraram when they noticed a man entering the Axis Bank ATM at around 3.20 am on Monday. They got suspicious when even after 15 minutes he did not come out of the ATM. The two policemen then went closer to the ATM only to find the money-dispensing machine broken. Seeing the policemen, the man tried to run away. But the police duo chased and caught him. The accused has been identified as M. Ramesh, 30, a resident of Dundigal area. The 30-

year-old man had managed to break the ATM machine but could not lay his hands on the cash. Ramesh has been arrested and produced before a court.

SHE 'TEAM RUN' AT CHARMINAR ON MARCH 6

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

In view of the International Women's Day, the Hyderabad She Team is organising the fifth edition of the She Team Run at Charminar on March 6

In a curtain-raiser event held at Hyderabad police headquarters here, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar said that the She Team is committed to ensuring the safety of women in the city and as part of the awareness campaign, a run at Charminar is being organised on March 6, which is the fifth edition of the She Team Run, which will be held in view of the International Women's Day on

The run named as 'Run for Women Safety' will start at 6 am. The run will be of 2 km and 5 km. The students are invited for the run.

Later, the Commissioner launched the T-Shirts and Medals and the poster for the

TASK FORCE **RESCUES CHILD LABOURERS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Fourteen children who were forced to work as labourers at bangle-making units in the city were rescued and two Bihar natives who trafficked in children were apprehended by the Hyderabad Task Force police on Monday. The Task Force sleuths and

the Chatrinaka police raided two bangle making units located at Patel Nagar and Raghavendra Colony on

Monday.
They found 14 children from Bihar, all aged below 14, working at the units under hazardous conditions.

Force Additional Commissioner of Task Deputy Police G. Chakravarthy said the bangle units are owned by Tarun Chowdary, 30, of Ghatkatari village in Bihar and Suntush Mangi, 27, of Horma village in Bihar.

Mangi and Chowdary migrated to the city a few years ago and have been running this

About two months ago, they went to their native place and convinced parents of poor children to let them take the children to work in Hyderabad for ₹5,000 per month.

The children were sent to a home while the accused persons have been arrested, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Bahrain man held for rape

Illegally confined 25-yr-old victim, raping her multiple times: Police

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

A 60-year-old Bahrain national was arrested on Monday for raping a 25year-old woman from the city and also branding her with cigarettes when she tried to resist. The police also arrested a salesman who sheltered the Bahraini, while a couple who are charged with trafficking in women are

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

On Monday morning,

when K. Satish visited the house of his sister

Kotra Swati and brother-

expected to talk to her

for some time. However,

they did not open the

He waited for some

time and tried again.

There was no response.

He tried for two hours

and finally called the police. They broke open

the door, only to see all the four family members

On hearing the news, the families of Pradeep

and Swati went into shock and said they

could not believe they

faced any problem that

forced them to take the

Pradeep's father K. Yadaiah said he had never mentioned any

family issues. He said

Pradeep had borrowed

₹45 lakh to invest in

business because he was

not satisfied with work-

ing elsewhere and want-

ed to start his own unit. Mr Yadaiah said Pradeep owned his house. He had converted

his personal loan to a home loan and borrowed

₹22 lakh which he had

invested as a safety

"If he had said anything about his strug-

gles about financial mat-

ters, the family would

definitely have helped

him. We never thought of this," the family

Pradeep's neighbour

Ramesh said, "His fami-

ly was well off and

would have helped him.

We never saw the spouses fighting, in fact they

are a most adorable cou-

ple." Every day the chil-

dren used to play out-

side. We last saw them

Saturday

member added.

on afternoon,

measure.

extreme step.

door when he knocked.

Pradeep, he

According to the police, on October 21, Ebrahim Shukralla Mohamed Bairam, 60, a retired nurse from Bahrain came to the city and checked-in at a hotel in Nampally. Ebrahim contacted Saber, a resident of Nabeel Colony to arrange a woman for marriage.

About a week ago, he moved to Barkas and took shelter in the house of Salam Bin Sayed Bafanna, who works as a

Family says it never thought

techie had financial issues

The family in happier times.

From page 1

Mr Pradeep's body was

found on a mat on the

ground, in front of his

mother's framed photograph. The bodies of

Šwati and Jaya Krishna

were found lying on the

bed, while baby Kalyan

Krishna' body was on

the ground on another

mat. The bodies were

sent to the Osmania

General Hospital mortu-

The police said that Pradeep was struggling with debt and going

through financial crisis.

He said in the note that

he had made some

wrong choices in attempting to clear debts accrued when con-structing a house and in

ary for autopsy.

Close ones felt he would never take the extreme step

salesman. Saber and his wife Sameena, who were acquainted with the family of the 25-year-old victim and her elder sister Nafisa (name changed), contacted them and asked them to visit his house, as he had a client who wanted to buy their house.

The police said that on February 25, Nafisa and her sister went to Saber's house where he introduced them to Ebrahim,

who put forth a proposal to marry one of the siblings, but they rejected his proposal. The same Saber's Sameena called Nafisa's younger sister and asked her to visit. She then took her to Ebrahim.

When her sister had not returned even late at night, a worried Nafisa contacted Saber, but he denied knowing the whereabouts of the vic-

Sunday, Nafisa heard that her sister was illegally confined in a house in Barkas. When she went there, Ebrahim was present. Learning that her sister was illegally confined by Ebrahim, who had raped her multiple times, and also branded her on the foot with a cigarette

when she resisted him, Nafisa lodged a complaint on Sunday night," the police said.

PHOTOJOURNALIST HACKED TO DEATH IN MULUGU DIST.

DC CORRESPONDENT,

A photojournalist, B. Sunil Reddy, was hacked to death by unidentified persons in Mulugu district on Monday night.

Sunil had accompanied Devender, who had lent money to the owner of a bakery. They both met the police regarding the issue in the evening and later met the bakery owner to negotiate the repayment. It was said the accused

60th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Mrs.CH. MANIKYA D.O.B: 03-03-1960 D.O.D: 08-10-2011 | still hear your voice and see your face, The best mom in the human race. You loved me hrough all the highs and lows, How much I mis you no-one but you and I know. Happy Birthday Amma

by Daughter, Son-in-Law & Grandson: Ph: 9573200258, 9573280258 (CA 3278



DOD: 24th Feb 2020 10th Day on 4-3-2020 12th day on 6-3-2020 With love from

JOSYULA's FAMILY



Sri Gyankumarji Agarwal DOD: 01-03-2020 Your sweet memories shall always be cherished in our hearts

Inserted by :
AMBIKA FOOD INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD. TRIAMBIKA FOODS PVT. LTD. TRIVENI UDYOG LLP

LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED PAREN

DASARI RAJARATNAM DASARI GNANARATNAN LOVED MOTHER SMT DASARI GNANARATNAI

Smt. D. Indira & Late Dr. R.D.V.J. Prasada Rao, Dr. D.S. Sujatha Grand Children: Hemanth, Niha & Adhit 7th Anniversary

ASHLEY JUSTIN MASQUIREN 31-3-1929 - 3-3-2013 Fondly Remembered by Stafford Reid & Family Members

Father held for killing daughter

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, MARCH 2

Twenty-two days after 19year-old college student Muttu Radhika was found killed in her own home in Karimnagar, the police arrested her father M. Komuraiah for the murder.

Police said Komuraiah told them that he had spent a huge amount of money to treat Radhika as she was suffering from polio. A surgery was also performed last year. She had recovered and joined a college. However, she fell ill again. Unable to pay for her treatment again, Komuraiah

CONDOLENCES

BOLLEDU

on Ist March 2020

but you are always in our hearts.

Classmates of 1984

St.Patrick High School, Secbad

Beloved Parents

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Memory of our beloved parents

from Family Members

Ph.No. 9849484653

Reuben & Shanthamma.

e will miss your presence

OSEPH SUKUMAR

decided to kill Radhika, the police said.

Police commissioner V.B. Kamalasan Reddy said the police hunch that Radhika was murdered by someone known to her came true with Komuraiah's arrest, Mr Reddy said.

Radhika's body was found in her house in Karimnagar with her throat was slit on February 10. Her parents informed their neighbours who called the police. Komuraiah initially told the police that they found the body when they returned home from work and claimed that she was murdered during a robbery.

OBITUARY

M.D. (Osm) M.R.C.P. (U.K.) 1928-2020

Expired on 02-03-2020

Prof. Emeritus of Medicine Osmania

Medical College

Hon. Consultant Nizam's Institute of

Medical Sciences

Former Dean Faculty of Medicine O.U.

Former Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, O.M.C.

Former Physician and Superintendent

Osmania General Hospital.

In grief, Family Members

Ph: 98494 84440

PRAYER MEETING

Sri Gyankumarji Agarwal

DOD: 01-03-2020

A prayer meeting will be held Today 3rd March 2021

between 12 noon to 1 pm at Red Rose,

Opp. Public Garden Main gate, Nampally, Hyd.

Inserted By: Sunil, Jitesh, Divesh,

Manish Agarwal & Family Members.

Ph. 9848035351, 9866700700, 9550060000, 9866577777

'The memory of the Righteous is a Blessing.' The Holy Bible

In Fond Remembrance

Bro. Paul Abishegam God Servant

Bethesda Prayer House, BHEL

Praising the Lord for guiding & inspiring us and for leaving a rich spiritual legacy for us

6th Anniversary

Late: Sri Naran Yadagiri Goud

Inserted by:

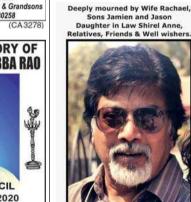
Called to Glory: 3-3-2018

D.O.B: 14-3-1950

WARANGAL, MARCH 2

took Sunil into their house and later killed





[17.07.1950 ~ 01.03.2020] Lt. Col. Jagan Rao [Retd]

Uthavna



SHRI MEGHRAJ AGARWAL D O D: 29-02-2020 Tuesday, 3rd March 2020, from 01:00 to 02:00 pm at Haryana Bhavan, Secunderabad Followed by Prasad

Premvati Agarwal (Wife) Satish & Seema (Son & Daughter in law) FIRM: GOLDEN STEEL CORPORATION 9550041100

Shri GULAB CHANDJI

9th of Feb. 2020. Uthavana toda

Haryana Bhawan, Paradise tween 12 noon-1 pm.

Satish Chand (Son)
Sunita & Sangeeta (Daughters
State Photo Service
Ph: 040-27843831

Savitri Devi (Wife) Satish Chand (Son)

Shradhanjali

Wife: N. Shakunthala Sons - Daughter-in-Laws **Daughters - Son-in-Laws** Sisters, Grand Sons, Grand Daughter **UTHAVANA** and Family Members



కీఇతేఇత్రీ బాతెట్టి విత్వనాధం గుప్త గారు మా నుండి దూరమై 10 సం.అు గడిచినను ు జ్ఞాపకాలు మా మదిలో పదిలంగా ఉన్నాయి జ్ఞావకాలు మా మదిలొ వదిలంగా ఉన్నా. మీ పవిత్ర అథ్మకు శాంతి చేకూరాలని భగవంతున్ని ప్రాల్ధిస్తూ... అకుల దయానంది గుప్త – బీరచుడి బాశెట్టి గోపాల్ – బజయలక్ష్మ

బాలెట్టి గూపుల – జిజెయల్మ బాలెట్టి మసోపూర్ – సుపర్ణ బాలెట్టి పొలనాథ్ – రేయిక

INTEQAL PUR MALAL

HABEEB JAFFAR AL HAMED

Superintendent Panchayat Raj Dept., (Retd Passed away on 2nd March 2020 Namaz-e-Janaza offered at Jamia Masjid, Barkas, Tadfeen at Barkas Khabrastan. Fateha ziyarat on 03-03-20 at 4pm at Jama Masjid, Barkas. Contact : Habeeb Abdul Qadar (Son 9391054179

Teen ends life after failing in examinations

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Upset over failing in three subjects in the Intermediate examinations, a 19-year-old boy committed suicide by hanging at his house in Saidabad on Sunday night. He had applied for the exams beginning on March 4 and was preparing of them, his parents

According to Saidabad police, the victim, T. Bharath, was a resident of Poosala Basthi. He was studying

Intermediate at Sri Chaitanya College in DD Colony of Amberpet. During the board examinations in 2019, Bharath could not clear three subjects.

For over a week, his behaviour has been different at home, as he

Decomposed bodies

starting his company.

Police said that as per

Pradeep's note he did

not want his children

and wife to become a

burden on his father,

who lives in Nalgonda.

So, he took the extreme

step of poisoning the

trio before taking his

Police teams recovered

ragi porridge and potato

curry, which they sus-

pect were laced with

Early investigations revealed that neigh-bours had seen the fami-

ly alive on Saturday

afternoon, after Kalyan

Krishna returned from

school. He was still in

his school uniform and

a target board was on the bed, indicating that

own life.

pesticides.

found at residence

On Sunday night, his parents, went out of the

looked depressed and did

not talk much with his family members and was not moving freely with them, said the police.

house for a walk after having dinner. Sometime later, Kavitha returned home and found her son hanging from the railing of the metal steps in the house, said a police

FINANCIAL | STRESS | Deceased from Ranga Reddy, worked as driver

Man jumps from flyover, dies

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

A man committed suicide by jumping off a flyover at LB Nagar Ring Road in Hyderabad at midnight on Sunday, March 1

The deceased has been identified as Narender Goud from Ranga Reddy district, who worked as a car driver in Hyderabad. place at 02. 30am

He was taken to Orange Hospital and his family informed. The incident took

He was taken to Orange Hospital while his family was informed. The incident took place at 2. 30 am

He took the step after being frustrated by family issues and financial hardship.

According to his father

after being frustrated by family problems and financial hardship. According to Inspector

Ashok Reddy, Narender was married to Parvathamma, and they had a four-year-old child. They migrated to Hyderabad to earn a better living and lived at Sagar complex, BN Reddy Nagar, LB Nagar.

Polagoni Malliagh, his son

had taken the extreme step

with the financial issues and he was totally vexed with his life. Narender was declared Sunday, Narender Goud drive to the flyover

dead at 5 am and the body shifted to Osmania Hospital for autopsy. A case has been the police.

bridge on his Splendor bike

(No. AP11/5283), parked, and jumped from the bridge

onto Nagole Road. There

was a suicide note in his

shirt pocket which said that

he has no patience to deal

POLICE SEIZES SIX PASSPORTS DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

the children had been

had called him at noon,

but the latter's voice

seemed tense. But he did

not reveal anything to his friend," said V.

Ashok Reddy, inspector,

He said that Swathi

and two children were

killed on Saturday after-

noon on, while Pradeep

killed himself later the

same day. The bodies

were in a decomposed

condition and the doctor opined that the Pradeep

killed himself hours

Pradeep has been charged with the mur-

der of his family, and a

case of suspicious death has been registered.

after his family.

NRI CELL OF

LB Nagar police.

"A friend of Pradeep's

playing.

The NRI Cell that deals with cases of dowry harassment and domestic violence by NRI husbands, has ensured the seizure of passports of six persons and had non-bailable warrants issued against 32. So far, 574 cases were

registered against NRI husbands including 73 at the Women Safety Wing that functions under the NRI Cell. The other 417 cases were registered in the 17 women police stations across the state. The women police sta-

tion at Hyderabad Central Crime Station has received 137 cases, the highest in the state, followed Saroornagar police station in Rachakonda with 78 cases, and the NRI Cell with 73 cases.

South Zone Women PS

received 65 complaints, Gachibowli eight, two women police stations at Warangal 42, Karimnagar women PS 21, Adilabad Women PS Khammam and Nalgonda PS seven

SHRI MEGHRAJ AGARWAL You lived well, aughed often & loved much Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure.

Rajkamal Agarwal & Family Sanjeev Gupta & Family

STUDENTS TEAR, BURN

CAA COPIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Students of Nizamia Tibbi College on Monday tore and burnt the copies of CAA during their ongoing protest against the CAA, NPR and NRC. The students have been protesting after classes since 56 days, demanding the revoking of amendments carried out in the Citizenship Act. Students claimed that the Centre did not carry amend-ments with a good intention. The CAA is just a step towards

a Hindu rashtra, they alleged. Mr Zubair Alam a Unani student, said, "we have been protesting against this annihilating and destroying law." He claimed that due to the NPR and the NPR and the NPR and the NPR and the NPR. and the NRC not only Muslims but also the people belonging to Dalit communities, nomadic tribes and migrating poor would affected, as they provide citizenship only to people of selected communities who admit that they were illegally staying in the country and had staying in the country and had entered from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. "In case are they granted citizenship, they will lose the fruits of reservation and other privileges and liberties as granted to Indians," he said.

PRICES OF ELECTRONIC GIZMOS RISING

From Page 1

Kaiser of Roland Electronics in Koti said, "Final-year stu-dents are generally supposed to begin work months ago. But most of them wake up only in late January or February. They will find that prices of many components have increased. And the situation will only get worse in coming

Multiple engineering students that *Deccan Chronicle* spoke to admitted that they were yet to get started on their project work.

Mounika, an electronics and communications student from a college located in Ibrahimpatnam, said, "my group (of three) had decided the project topic in December but we haven't begun work yet. But a few of my classmates told me some parts are not

available in the market."
Another student, Phanindra, from a college in Kompally, said that his team had bought some parts, but at a considerable premium.

Kaizer explained the supply-side constraint saying that his company works with suppliers in Chinese cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Ningbo. "They are trying hard to secure more supply for us, but the authorities there are very strict. Even when they send a consignment, it has to be routed from other Asian countries, which is causing further delay," he

Essential equipment such as Raspberry Pi boards, a credit card-sized computer used by many student developers, is seeing a steep price rise. Retailers said that two authorised sellers of the boards have increased costs by at least 15 per cent. These boards are used by students of almost all

branches.
Pawan from MS Components had a similar story to narrate. He said he was finding it hard to source supplies. "If we order for 1,000 pieces of a component, we are only getting 500. We are paying 10 to 15 per cent more for them. Hence, we are increasing the retail prices proportionately," he said.

However, there are some retailers who find themselves in a better position.

Aditya Agarwal from Agarwal Electronics said that his shop was luckily stocked up in December. "Currently, we are still selling at normal prices. But if the situation doesn't improve in two weeks which seems unlikely, we will face problems," he said.

KCR works out caste formula for RS seats

CM under pressure to nominate major industrialists

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I

HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

As the date for issuing of notification for Rajya Sabha elections approaches, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is being pressured by his party leaders and close associates for a Rajya Sabha seat.

The election notification will be issued on March 6, the same day the Assembly Budget session will start.

According to TRS circles, Mr Rao is most under pressure from industrialists close to him such as Mr Divakonda Damodar Rao, chairman and managing director of Namaste Telangana, the Telugu daily newspaper, and Mr

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Ruling party MLA Balka

Suman reprimanded Congress MP A. Revanth

Reddy for making base-

Addressing the media

at Telangana Bhavan on

Monday, Mr Suman said

that in the copy given to the media by Mr Revanth Reddy, it is

clearly mentioned that

the eight acres of land in

Shankarpalli have noth-

ing to do with the farm house of the leader.

the leader had clearly

mentioned the land details in his election

affidavits and had said it

was not a secret.
The MLA pointed out

that the land owned by

the leader's wife and the

farm house were eight

kilometres apart. Mr Revanth Reddy was try-

ing to fool everyone and

Mr Revanth Reddy said

that despite repeated

orders from the High

Court and the Supreme

Court over the demoli-

tion of illegal construc-

tions in the areas that

fall under GO MS 111,

none of the officials had

From Page 1

Mr Suman said that

a prominent leader.

Jupally Rameswara Rao, founder chairman of My Industries.

Elections, if necessary, will be held to two Rajya Sabha seats. The TRS is expected to win both of them unopposed, given its strength in the Assembly.
Sources close to the CM

say he is working out caste combinations to finalise the names for the two seats. The caste equations being considered by him are: Reddy and Backward Caste (BC); Velama and BC; Reddy and Scheduled Caste (SC) and; Velama and SC.The TRS has five Rajya Sabha members three from the Backward Caste (Mr Banda Prakash, Mr B. Lingaiah Yadav and Mr

Police officials turn up to arrest Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy when he was

briefing the media on an alleged land grab by a prominent political personality in the state, in Janvada village about 60 km from Hyderabad on Monday.

TRS says no illegality

in leader's farmhouse

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

president

Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior leader Shabbir

Ali condemned the pre-

ventive arrests of Congress MP A. Revan-

th Reddy and former MP Konda Vishweshwar

Reddy by the Cyberabad

The Congress leaders

questioned the police for stopping the MP from

addressing the media on

trying to divert atten-

tion away from the issue

of his Gopanpally land

Mr Suman demanded

Revanth, Konda arrest comes

dared to touch the man-sion owned by this

While the Congress

leaders were mediaper-

sons, police reached the

location and asked them

to leave. They asked the police what their objec-

tion was when they were

scam, he alleged.

during a media conference

young TRS leader.

police on Monday.

Uttam criticises

Revanth's arrest

an alleged illegal con-

struction. If the TRS

leaders were committed

to public service, they should investigate the

issue and give a clarifi-

cation before the media.

the government investi-

gate the construction of

a farmhouse by a prominent leader at Janvada,

which is under GO No

111, meant to protect the

that Mr Reddy should

explain to the people his

fraudulent land dealings

The police replied that there was a security

problem given whose

mansion it was. the lead-

ers asked the police who

they were providing security to. After argu-

ments, the police took

away both leaders and

before making

private place.

environs

smansagar.

Himayatsagar

They demanded that

Srinivas), a Velama (Mr Santosh Kumar) and a Lakshmikantha Rao).

As there are already three RS members from the community, a BC candidate may not be chosen this time. Dr K. Kesava Rao, TRS Rajya Sabha member who is going to retire in April 2020, is also from the BC community. If the Chief Minister wants to give a Rajya Sabha ticket to the BCs, Dr Kesava Rao will be re-nominated.

Regarding the Velama community, Mr Santosh Kumar is from the community and is a relative of the CM. Damodar Rao, Rameswara Rao and Ms K. Kavitha, the other are Velamas.

From the Reddy com-

Ponguleti Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy is the front-run-ner. If his name is cleared whether the CM will consider another forward caste member for the second seat is a matter of speculation in the TRS.

There is no Scheduled Caste community member in the Rajya Sabha from the TRS, and Mr Rao may prefer one seat for the forward caste and one for a member of the SC community. TRS leaders say they won't be surprised if one Rajya Sabha seat is given to a Reddy community member and the other from the Velama group. Representation to the SC community will be given Council, they said.

IT WAS NOT GENOCIDE:

DC CORRESPONDENT

The BJP took strong Delhi riots. "Owaisi is provoking

his selfish agenda,"
MLC and Greater
Hyderabad unit president N. Ramachander Rao said on Monday.

Taking a dig at Mr Owaisi, who asked Muslims not to show any papers to whoever visits their house for collecting data, he said that they wanted to enjoy all benefits by showing papers for ration and getting treat-ment in hospitals. Muslims are being misled in order to derive political mileage, he

differences between peo-Hitec City," he said.

BJP CITY CHIEF

HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

objection to the word 'genocide" used by MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi in connection with the

and misleading innocent Muslims to achieve

Criticising Mr Owaisi for his comments on the RAF flag march near Charminar, the BJP leader said that the exercise was only a confidence-building measure. "His comment shows

that he wanted to create le of Charminar and HiTec City as he had wondered why there was no flag march at Secunderabad station or

MP STATE POLICY AND PLANNING COMMISSION

M.P. State Policy & Planning Commission (MPSPPC) intends to recruit consultants for various positions under its Project Monitoring Unit (PMU). Online applications shall be shortly invited on M.P. Online portal from eligible candidates for the following positions in the prescribed formal.

No. of Position Remuneration (Annual CTC)* S. No. Designation / Post Principal Consultant Consultant * 7% increase per annum
Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for subsequent rounds of interviews. MP State Policy and

Only shortisted candidates will be invited for subsequent rounds of interviews. Mr. Planning Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason(s). Opening and closing dates for application and other details will be mentioned on M.P. Online Portal www.mponline.gov.in some time in Second Week of March 2020.

Member Secretary MP State Policy and Planning Commssion Government of Madhya Pradesh G-23510





CENTRAL TEACHER ELIGIBILITY TEST

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct the 14th edition of Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) on 05-07-2020 (Sunday). The test will be conducted in 112 cities all over the country. The online application process for CTET July 2020 examination has been started from 24.04 (2020).

It is hereby informed that due to some administrative reasons, the last date for submitting online application is further extended from 02-03-2020 (Monday) to 09-03-2020 (Monday) upto 23.59 Hrs and the fee can be paid upto 13-03-2020 (Friday) till 15.30 Hrs. The final verification of payment of fee by the candidate can be done upto 16-03-2020 (Monday) till 15.30 hrs. The facility of online correction, if any, in the particulars uploaded by the candidate will be available from 17-03-2020 (Tuesday) to 24-03-2020 (Tuesday) on CTET website i.e. www.ctet.nic.in. No correction shall be allowed under any circumstances after this date.

Further, in case the confirmation page is not generated after depositing the requisite fee, the candidates are advised to approach the Deputy Secretary (CTET), CBSE between 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs from 17-03-2020 (Tuesday) to 24-03-2020 (Tuesday) along with the proof of payment of fee i.e. candidate copy of E-Challan, if payment was made through E-Challan for

The Information Bulletin containing details of examination, languages, syllabus, eligibility criteria, examination fee, examination cities and important dates are available on CTET official website www.ctet.nic.in. The interested candidates may apply through online mode

> DIRECTOR (CTET) SECRETARY, CBSE

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH Adv. No.ICMR/DIR/2020/1-Pers. VACANCY CIRCULAR

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 14th April, 2020 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare invites application(s) up to 14th April, 2020 till 5.30 PM for three Posts of Director at the following Institutes in Level 14 of Pay Matrix (Rs.1,44,200-2,18,200) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible to ICMR

1) National Institute of Pathology, New Delhi
 2) National Institute of Pathology, New Delhi
 2) National Institute for Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases, Jodhpur (formerly known as Deserl Medicine Research Centre (DMRC), Jodhpur)
 3) National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai

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OR
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) 16 years R&D experience in the relevant areas (mentioned in Annexure I) from a recognized institute, (preferably 5 years in a managerial position to handle R&D projects independently) including 2 years regular service in the Pay matrix level13-A or equivalence as per DoPT guidelines as amended from time to time.
Out of above experience, five years should be in Managerial Research position viz., PI or Co-PI of Scientific studies.
'Regular 2 years Masters of Public Health (MPH) with one year experience or MRCP or subjects approved by MCI will be

considered equivalent to MD/DNB

'In case applicants are from Private Sector or Laboratories/Institutions abroad, the Screening Committee shall decide the

Age <u>limit</u>. Upper age limit is 58 years. The crucial date for determining the age limit shall be as per the guidelines of Department of Personnel and Training issued from time to time. Age relaxation will be in accordance with Government of

India instructions and the prescribed age may be relaxed in exceptional cases for experienced and qualified candidates by Duration of the Contract: The initial appointment will be for a duration of 5 years or till superannuation, whichever is earlied

A second form for maximum of 5 years of till superannuation, whichever is earlier may be considered by a review committee, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria as per Recruitment Rules. During this tenure, if the incumbent is from ICMR, he/she will hold lien of his/her substantive post'at ICMR.

Interview for the posts of Director, NIP, New Delhi, NIIRNCD, Jodhpur & NIRT, Chennai will he conducted on 20 of 4 age.

For activities, aims & objectives, other details of the respective Institute/Centre and detailed advertisement . please visit ICMR website at www.icmr.nic.in

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Note: Winners shall collect the prizes within 30 days. For more details call: 9849998024

PRICE PROBLEMS | Party flags plight of red gram, tomato growers elp out farmers, says Cong

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

India Congress Committee Committee secretary Sampath Kumar alleged that farmers in Telangana state are struggling hard to sell their farm produce as Minister Chandrasekhar Rao has completely neglected the

agriculture sector. He demanded that the state government procure

all the red gram produced by the state's farmers without fixing a ceiling price and provide a minimum

support price.
Speaking about tomato farmers, he said, "Tomato farmers are left in the lurch with the abrupt fall in the price. The TRS government has failed to provide seeds on a subsidy basis or purchase farm produce at a minimum support price." The state government has

agricultural implements, which had been provided by previous Congress governments, the Minister thinks that only tractors are agricultural implements, he added.

Mr Kumar also alleged: "As they will get commissions, the TRS government is concentrating only on the distribution of tractors.' He said that expecting a

response from Minister K.T.

Twitter, "I raised a few issues, for which I did not get any reply so far."

Pointing to the recent chicken and egg fair organ-

ised by the poultry industry in Hyderabad, Mr Kumar said: "KTR responded to MP G. Ranjith Reddy, and minister Etala Rajendar's appeal to save the poultry industry, then why is he not responding on farmers



SHORT TAKES **HC QUASHES QUOTAS IN PR ELECTIONS**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA. MARCH 2

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday ruled that reservations in elections to the Panchayat Raj institutions should not exceed 50 per cent. It set aside the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government's earlier order fixing reser-

vations at 59.85 per cent.

The judgment delivered by a division bench headed by Chief Justice J.K. Maheshwari cleared decks for panchayat raj polls in the state though it put the government in a tight spot While the state would lose ₹3,000 cr if elections were not held before March 31, the

entire administration is busy with the house sites programme for weaker sections and public examinations to SSC and intermediate students. The legislators would also be busy with the Budget session scheduled to com-

mence later this month.
Sources told The Deccan Chronicle that the government might initiate the poll process and approach the Centre with a request to release the 14th Finance Commission funds. The officials were said to have kept ready the reservation formula with 50 per cent and conveyed their readiness to hold elections. "We are actively con-sidering a proposal to hold elections to mandal and zilla parishad immediately and gram panchayats at a later date," sources said adding that a final decision would be taken after holding discussions in the cabinet on Wednesday.

Municipal administration Minister Botsa Satyanarayana told mediapersons that the government would honour the verdict and take steps to complete election process within a

No new welfare plans for AP in next fiscal

Govt's focus will only be on sustaining on-going schemes

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 2

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is unlikely to announce any new welfare initiatives in the next fiscal even as he is determined to aggressively pursue monetisation of government lands for augmenting Andhra Pradesh's revenues.

The Chief Minister, according to sources, has been convinced by his finance managers to restrain from piling additional burden on welfare, whose cost has almost touched ₹ 45,000 crore in the current financial year. Focus will now be only on sustaining the on-going schemes.

The finance department is giving final touches to the state's 2020-2021 budget, which will be introduced in the assembly in the next few days. Sources say the Chief Minister has given his nod to bring down the outlay to less than ₹2 lakh crore as against current year's outlay of ₹2.25 lakh crore. "For decades, succes-

sive governments have kept on increasing the budget fearing criticism from Opposition that spending is being com-promised," a senior official pointed out. But the Chief Minister has, however, decided to be realistic this time. Income and expenditure trends available so far indicate that

only about 60–65 per cent

Jagan to monetise govt lands in prime locations

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 2

The state government will aggressively pursue monetisation of government lands, both vacant as well as with buildings, which have been identified in all major cities and towns.
Chief Minister Y.S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy has held a detailed discussion on putting govern-ment lands to effective use with National Building Construction Company chairman and managing director P.K. Gupta, who called on the CM here on Tuesday.

In the first phase, government lands in prime areas of major cities will be monetised through NBCC, which will create

of the estimated revenue

will be realised. This will automatically have a bearing on the 2020–21 budget outlay.

The estimated revenue

in the first ever budget of

the Yuvajana Sramika

Rythu Congress Party

(YSRCP) government for 2019–2020 was ₹1.78 lakh

crore. Of this, ₹85,000

crore have been realised

till end of January due to

and sell commercial ernment is over, because space. If an area has huge potential, the government will relocate its existing offices and take up commercial development on such areas, sources indicated.

AP had taken up the "Mission Build Andhra Pradesh" initiative with NBCC in November last year. Following up on the project, it took up the elaborate exercise of identifying vacant government lands, small parcel sites with dilapidated government buildings, and lands with government office buildings in good condition.

"We have identified potential lands. We will have better clarity once the house sites' programme of the state gov-

cut in devolution of

funds and grants from

the centre, besides a fall

in the state's own rev-

Sources said the gov-

ernment is expecting

that financial stress in

the next fiscal will ease

out. The present government has cleared half the

arrears of ₹ 40,000 crore

passed on to it by the pre-

vious TD government.

of some of the lands might be used for that scheme," a revenue official told Deccan Chronicle. "We have also proposed to take up immediate construction on few sites, whose potential is very high," he stated. The state government is

hoping to increase its revenues by promoting construction activity on a large scale. Apart from the Mission Build Andhra Pradesh initiative, the housing department is hoping construction activity will witness a fillip, thereby increasing tax revenues from large-scale construction houses on sites allotted to weaker sec-

"In addition, we lost about ₹15,000 crore due to certain self- goals, which would not be repeated next year," a senior official said, referring to developments like nonavailability of sand for months together, which badly hit construction activity that resulted in a cascading effect on Andhra Pradesh's



GSLV-F10 launch vehicle is seen moving towards the launch pad from the Vehicle Assembly Building at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Shar, Sriharikota.

Isro readies launch of hi-tech earth focus satellite

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 2

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is gearing up to launch the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (Gslv-F10) with Geo Imaging Satellite (Gisat-1) from the Second Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharíkota.

The launch is tentatively scheduled at 5.43 pm on March 5, subject to weather

conditions. Weighing about 2,268 kg, Gisat-1 is the first state-of-the-art agile earth observation satellite which will be placed in a geosyn-chronous transfer orbit by the Gslv rocket.

Subsequently, the satellite

will reach its final geostationary orbit about 36,000 km above the earth using its on board propulsion system.A four-metre diameter Ogive shaped payload fairing is being flown for the first time in this flight, which is the

FURNITURES & FURNISHINGS

14th of the Gslv.

Operating from geosta tionary orbit, Gisat-1 will facilitate near real time observation of the Indian sub-continent, under cloud free condition, at frequent

Registrations for witness ing launch of the mission from Launch View Gallery in SHAR in Sriharikota have commenced. Further details can be accessed fromhttps://www.shar.gov.in/V SCREGISTRATION/

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ELECTRICALS





Selection of Haj assistants

Hyderabad: Telangana State Haj Committee Chairman Mohd. Masiullah Khan has informed that the interviews of Khadimul Hujjaj will be held on March 4 between 10 am and 5 pm at Haj House, Nampally, Hyderabad. In this programme, TSHC chairman, two members of Central Haj Committee and TSHC executive officer B. Shafiullah will be present. The draw of lots will be held on March 5 at 3 pm in the presence of the media. A total of 207 applications have been received for Khadimul Hujjaj category

of which 184 applicants are

eligible for the interview.

NRIs seek non-availability certificate

Municipal officials say there has been rise in number of people coming to register births

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC

Fearing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR), people are thronging to the city to register their births.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation in a span of six weeks has issued 120 non-availability certificates, which primary process prior to the registration of birth of those born outside India and children

Municipal officials say there has been a huge increase in the numbers since two days, and 200 says 150 above applications have been issued.

On average 200 non availability certificates are issueď annually but in two months alone 120 have been issued. According to section 20

the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, there is a special provision for registration of births and deat-hs of citizens who hs of citizens who are born or have died out-

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ON AN average, 200 non-availability certificates are issued annually, but in the last two months alone, about 120 have been issued.

THE MUNICIPAL CORP-**PORATION** would issue the non-availability certificate to the applicants, who would then be asked to visit the District Collectorate, where a Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) will conduct a survey.

side the country.

In the case of any child of Indian parentage born outside India, in respect of whom information has not been received as prounder Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955), the parents of the

child when they return to India with a view to set-tling down here, may at any time within 60 days from the date of the arrival of the child in India, get the birth of the child registered under provisions of this Act.

Similarly, if the child the District Collectorate,

was born in India and the provisions of section 13 can apply to the birth of such child after the expiry of the period of the afore-

said 60 days. Section 13 says, any birth of which information is given to the registrar after the expiry of the period specified, they could be registered on payment of such late fee.

The municipal corporation would issue the nonavailability certificate to the applicants and they would be asked to visit where a person of the rank Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) will conduct a survey.

After conducting the survey, if the revenue official is satisfied, the application will be redirected to the civic body for the issuance of a birth certificate for children who are born outside India.

Authorities also claim that a birth certificate issued by the Indian Embassy in any country is val-

id across the globe. Such birth certificate issued by the embassy

getting registration.

Since many people are ignorant of this provision, they been thronging the civic body and paying brokers in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and

Revenue department.
The middleman collects whopping ₹15,000 for Officials stressed that the due process has to be followed for children who were delivered at home in





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SHORT TAKES **6 OFFICERS IN** J&K UNDER CBI **SCANNER**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

A day after arresting two for mer district magistrates of Kupwara—Rajiv Ranjan and Itrit Hussain Rafiqui—as part of its investigation into two cases related to an alleged gunlicensing racket in Jammu and Kashmir, the CBI is contemplating registering multiple FIRs to probe the racket.

Sources in the agency said, "Role of at least six more public servants, posted in J&K, is now under the scanner of the agency. The agency sleuths have collected fresh evidences against six more public servants and fresh FIRs may be registered very soon." The CBI on Sunday arrested Rajiv Ranjan and Itrit Hussain Rafiqui (both public servants) in connection with the case.

I-T RAIDS AT CHHATTISGARH CMO OFFICER

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC **BHOPAL, MARCH 2**

Income-Tax (I-T) sleuths who had earlier sealed the house of Soumya Chourasia, deputy secretary in Chhattisgarh Chief Minister's Office (CMO) when they were unable to find her last week, conducted raids at her residence in Bhilai nearly 30 km from Raipur, in Chhattisgarh, on Monday after she surfaced.

The officer visited her residence along with a team of electronic media and tried to contact the I-T officers to break the seals of her house, official sources said on Monday. The sleuths later entered her house and conducted the raid which was going on till latest reports came in.

In another development, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking strong exception to the manner in which the tax officers conducted raids at different places in the state without taking the officials of the state government into confidence.

TEEN KIDNAPS NEPHEW TO SKIP EXAM

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC

Class XII student in a Madhya Pradesh village hit upon a wild idea, to abduct his minor nephew, to skip the board examination that commenced on Monday.

The 17 year old boy, a resident of Tudila under Jaura police station in Morea district in the Chambal region, kidnapped his three year old nephew late on Sunday night and held him in captive in a farm in his locality, police said on Monday. A letter recovered from the house from where the kid was abducted however led to the plot unravelling.

"The letter said the accused should not be allowed to appear for the board examination. We suspected the hand of the student and interrogated him. He spilled the beans say ing that he took the step to skip the examination". Morena district superintendent of police Asit Yadav said. The victim along with his family had come to the village to attend a

VARSITY SEEKS 'NO DRUG' USE **AFFIDAVIT**

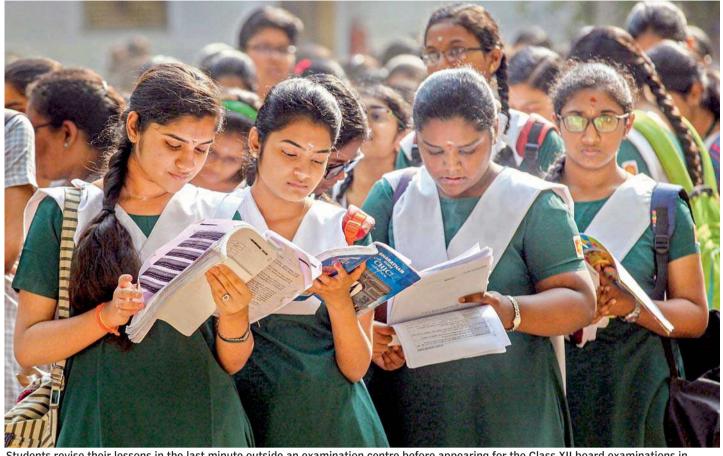
DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

A circular issued by Calicut University asking students to file an affidavit stating categorically that they will not use drugs or consume liquor before seeking admission in next academic year, has trig gered a major controversy.

Not only the students but their parents should also submit an affidavit that their wards will not use drugs and consume alcohol in campus The decision to ask for affi davit was taken as per the recommendation of the meeting of university's anti drug abuse committee meeting

February 3 The affidavit will broadly say, "I will not involve in activities like consumption of drugs or its trade or supply . In case if I indulge in such activities I will be liable to face action without any prior notice."

Last minute revision



Students revise their lessons in the last minute outside an examination centre before appearing for the Class XII board examinations in

HC stays Nirbhaya hangings

Says no convict must meet his creator with grievance 'against courts'

New Delhi, March 2: The hanging of the four convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case scheduled for Tuesday was deferred for the third time in six weeks by a court in yet another twist in the case marked by apparent delaying tactics by the condemned prisoners.

Postponing the execution till further orders, Sessions Additional Judge Dharmender Rana on Monday said the hanging cannot be carried out pending disposal of Pawan Gupta's mercy plea before the President, observing any con-demned convict must not meet his "creator" with grievance against courts for not acting fairly on Earlier, in the day, moved

the opportunity texhaust legal remedies. plea before President Ram Nath Kovind, shortly after his curative petition was dis-

New Delhi, March 2: After the Union Health

Ministry announced on

Monday that a Delhi resi-

dent has tested positive

for novel coronavirus, the

Air India crew who had flown the Vienna-Delhi

flight on February 25 on

which he was the passen-

ger have been asked to

stay in isolation at their

homes for 14 days, offi-

February 25 Vienna-Delhi

flight will remain in isola-

tion for 14 days at their

respective homes. If, dur-

ing this period, they show

any symptoms related to

novel coronavirus infec-

tion, they have to immedi-

ately contact doctors," the

Meanwhile, Maharas-

htra health department

on Monday said of the 137

The crew members of

cials said.

officials told.



Nirbhaya rape and murder case victim's mother at the Patiala House Court, in New Delhi on Monday.

Court.
The curative plea for commuting the death sentence was heard in chamber by a five-judge bench. It is the last legal remedy available for a convict to get any reprieve.

The hanging of the four men--Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Vinay Kumar Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and

to quarantine themselves

DGCA SAYS that all

Italy, Iran will undergo

thermal screening

passengers coming from

navirus infection, 132 have tested negative so far,

while more than 64,000

passengers have been

screened at the airport

here for the deadly

Acting on the Centre's

guidelines, state officials

have screened 64,098 pas-

sengers at the Mumbai

since January 18, days

after the coronavirus

(COVID-19) outbreak was

reported from the Chinese city of Wuhan in

December-end, the health

department said in a

According to the depart-

ment, of the 137 people

airport

pathogen.

statement.

the state for possible coro- only seven are under Iran."

travellers quarantined in quarantined until now,

international

missed by the Supreme Pawan, who are lodged in Tihar jail, was fixed for March 3 in Tihar jail.

Barring Pawan, the other three had in the previous weeks moved curative petitions and mercy pleas which were all dismissed.

The court in its orders observed that the four convicts cannot be hanged since a mercy plea of one or the other convict was pending. — *PTI*

Vienna-Delhi AI crew told Diggy: BJP bid to to quarantine themselves topple Nath govt

observation at isolation facilities — four in Pune,

two in Mumbai and one at

Meanwhile, the Aviation

regulator DGCA said on

Italy and Iran would

screening for novel coron-

Passengers from 10 countries — China, Hong

Kong, Japan, South Korea,

Thailand, Singapore, Nep-al, Indonesia, Vietnam

and Malaysia — are alre-

ady being screened at

The DGCA stated in a

circular on Monday, "In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19

disease in India, it has been decided to expand

the universal screening

of all passengers arriving

in flights from Italy and

Indian airports.

that passengers coming from

thermal

Monday

undergo

avirus.

SC rejects organ donation plea

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the petition filed by a former high court judge seeking a direction to Tihar jail authorities here to give an option to four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case to offer their bodies for medical research and donate their organs.

"By way of PIL you can't seek such direction. If they (convicts) want to do it they can express such things by them-selves or through their family members," said a bench comprising Justices R Banumathi and A S Bopanna. When the counsel for

RABINDRA NATH

CHOUDHURY | DC

BHOPAL, MARCH 2

Digvijay Singh on Monday claimed that

the BJP was plotting to

topple Kamal Nath gov-

ernment. The former

Chief Minister alleged

that the BJP was offering ₹25 cr to ₹35 cr each to Congress MLAs in

Madhya Pradesh to

switch sides and pull

down the state Congress government,

which enjoyed wafer-thin majority in the

Chouhan (former chief

minister and BJP nati-

onal vice-president) and Narottam Mishra

(former minister) are

wooing Congress MLAs

to split the CLP in MP,"

he told reporters.

Congress

house.

'Shivraj

veteran

Saldanna, former judge of the Bombay High Court — continued with the submission, the bench said the petition by a former judge was "miscon-

"To execute a person is the saddest part for the family. You (petitioner) want their body to cut into pieces," the bench said, adding that "have some human approach. "Organ donation has to be voluntary," it further

The petitioner had asked the apex court to consider the "desirability of making it as a condition precedent in the case of all executions." — PTI

"Each Congress MLA is being offered ₹25 cr

to ₹35 cr by BJP. But,

they (BJP) should

remember that MP is

not Karnataka and

Congress MLAs in MP are not for sale," he

said while referring to

the split in Congress

Legislature Party (CLP) in Karnataka

leading to fall of Kumaraswamy govern-

Chouhan, however,

claim, describing it as

'outrageous.' "He (Singh) is adept in

spreading canards. He

often gives such outra-

geous statements to

remain in news. He

may be making such

baseless allegations to

prove his relevance meiore the Minister," Chasaid.

Chouhan

ment recently.

rubbished

Same SC bench to hear Art 370 plea

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court will hear a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories even as the court declined the plea to refer the matter to a larger seven-judge bench.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramana declined to refer the matter to a larger 7-judge bench noting that there was no conflict in the position taken by earlier two benches of the strength of five-judges each on the interpretation of Article 370 of the Constitution — now abrogated.

Veteran journalist Prem Shankar Jha, NGO People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association had urged the court that the matter be

referred to 7-judge bench as two benches, each with a strength of five-judges, took a divergent view on Article

The two cases in which Article 370 was touched are Prem Nath Kaul versus Jammu and Kashmir in 1959 and Sampat Prakash versus Jammu Kashmir in 1970.

While the 1959 case related to the J&K Big Landed Estate (Abolition) Act, the main contention on which the law was challenged was that the Yuvaraj did not have the Constitutional authority to promulgate the said Åct.

The 1970 case also known as Sampat Prakash case was rooted in preventive detention — the detention of the petitioner under the J&K Preventive Detention Ac.

Besides Justice Ramana, the bench also comprising Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant rejected

J&K: Omar detained due to past conduct

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

Describing former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as a "very vocal critic" of the abrogation of contentious Article 370 of the Constitution, the J&K administration on Monday told the Supreme Court that he has been detained con-sidering his "past conduct and possibility of such con-

and possibility of such conduct being repeated on release" which may "prejudice the public order."

The J&K administration said this to a top court bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra, which is hearing a plea by Sara Abdullah Pilot challenging the detention of her brother and former J&K Chief Minister under PSA.

Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, District Magistrate, Srinagar, had filed the reply on behalf of J&K administration. Justifying the detention of Omar Abdullah, the J&K administration has said that there was ample "material and grounds" considering his "past conduct and the possibility of such conduct being repeat-ed on release and there by prejudicing public order in the UT of J&K."

The J&K administration told the top court that former chief minister has not made any representation against his detention before the Advisory Board.

Sara Abdullah had moved the *habeas corpus* petition and has challenged the invoking of PSA against



E-TENDER CUM RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online offers are invited from Manufacturers/ Direct Importers Authorized Distributors/ Dealers for supply of medical equipments and supportive items such as Stereozoom Microscope, Autoclave Machine, Semi Automatic Rotary Microtome, Open Surgical Instruments, Dynamography System Mechanical Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Compression Device etc. for various departments of

For detailed information like name of Equipments, date of submission, earlier concerned advertisement numbers against those re-tenders are invited, earnest money deposit and opening of tenders etc., you may please visit the e-tender portal www.etender.up.nic.in. The above details will also be available on our website www.sgpgi.ac.in for reference only. The offer will be accepted online only on e-tender portal with terms & conditions as mentioned in tender documents. Director reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders in part or full without assigning any reason thereof.

Advt. No.: I/52/JDMM/2019-20

DIRECTOR

Dated: 27 February, 2020



DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS O/o Pr. Controller of Communication Accounts, Telangana Circle Kavadiguda Telephone Exchange Compound, Bholakpur, Hyderabad-500080 email: dbacca.ts-dot@nic.in

PRESS NOTE 3rd & 4th Quarterly Pension Adalat-2019-2020 will be held on 27-03-2020 (Friday)

27-03-2020 (Friday)

Department of Telecommunications, Telangana Circle 3rd and 4th Quarterly Pension Adatat will be held on 27-03-2020 (Friday) from 1030 hrs to 1300 hrs in the Office of the Pr. Controller of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecommunications, Kavadiguda Telephone Exchange Compound, Hyderabad-500080, to address the grievances of DoT BSNL pensioners. The grievances of DoT & BSNL pensioners (except BSNL VRS-2019 pensioners) relating to pension and allied matters may be sent to Accounts Officer (Pension). O/o Pr. CCA, Telangana Circle, Department of Telecommunications, Kavadiguda Telephone Exchange Compound, Hyderabad-500080, so as to reach this office on or before 14-03-2020 (Saturday), Grievances received thereafter will not be placed 14-03-2020 (Saturday). Grievances received thereafter will not be place Pensioners are requested to mention "3rd & 4th Quarterly Pension Adala"

Sd/- Joint Controller of Communication Accounts

RIFLES | SCAM | CAG report states that 25 INSAS rifles missing

Pinarayi rejects CBI probe

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rejected the Congress-led Opposition demand for a CBI probe into rifles and live cartridges going missing from armed police battalion. Vijayan said his government had taken the issue seriously and ordered the probe. A police official has been arrested in connection with the allegations and a departmental inquiry has been ordered against

11 police personnel.

While replying to questions by Opposition members during question hour on the opening day of the 27-day session, the Chief Minister slammed the UDF for Minister raising "baseless charges." Earlier, the proceedings began with the Opposition members coming to the House holding banners and placards to demand a probe by the central investigating agency into portions of the CAG report, which highlighted the rifles going missing, being leaked before being tabled in the

said that the Crime Branch was conducting a comprehensive inquiry into the allegations of the weapons going missing, and the Opposition should wait for the outcome of probe.

Vijayan said of the 660 INSAS rifles in possession of armed police battalion, 647 were physical counted by the crime branch team under the supervision of senior police officers recently. During verification, it was found that 13 rifles were issued to the armed police battalion which is stationed in Manipur for

Vijayan accused the previous UDF government of trying to "cover up" the complaint of missing cartridges when the issue first came to light in 2015. On the allegations that some of the portions of CAG report getting leaked, the Chief Minister said the matter should be examined as it

was not a good practice. The CAG had disclosed in its report on February 12 that 25 INSAS rifles and 12,061 live cartridges were missing Special Armed Police Battalion stationed in Thiruvananthapuram.



NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) invites e-tender from qualified & experienced Architect / Interior Design Concerns / Firms / Company to participate in the selection of Architectural / Interior Designers for providing services on turnkey basis, item-rate contract for designing & execution of Common Facility Centre projects as detailed below.

	SI. No.	Tender Reference No.	Location	Approx area	Estimated cost
	1	GJEPC/CFC Project / Rajkot / 2019-2020/001 dt 3-Mar-20	Rajkot	2500 to 3000 sq.ft	Rs. 1.25 Crores
	2	GJEPC/CFC Project / Delhi / 2019-2020/001 dt 3-Mar-20	Delhi	1400 to 1500 sq.ft	Rs. 80 lacs
	3	GJEPC/CFC Project / Hyderabad / 2019-2020/001 dt 3-Mar-20	Hyderabad	1800 to 2000 sq.ft	Rs. 1.05 Crores
ı	4	GJEPC/CFC Project / Jaipur / 2019-2020/001 dt 3-Mar-20	Jaipur	2500 - 3000 sq.ft	Rs. 1.35 Crores

The scope of work is inclusive of designing & preparation of drawings for interior, electrical, low voltage systems (CCTV, Access control, fire detection, EAPBX), HVAC etc., providing estimated BOQ as per design proposed by bidder and supervising & execution

of the same on turnkey basis at site

These are separate e-tenders and bidders need to apply for and participate for each location separately. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the GJEPC web site / URL- https://www.gjepc.org/tenders.php and (URL-https://gjepc.eproc.in) from 03-Mar-2020 to 17-Mar-2020. Duly filled-in tender shall be submitted through on-line through (URL-https://gjepc.eproc.in.) on or before 30-Mar-2020 -14:00 hrs

For e-tendering queries E-mail - <u>nimesh.bhardwaj@c1india.com</u> or <u>gieposupport@c1india.com</u> or call 0124-4302000 Ext. 103 PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT IMPLEMENTING/NODAL AGENCY

Indian Diamond Institute GIDC Katargam, Sumul Dairy Road, Surat - 395008. Ph.: 0261 - 2407847 / 48

Email: info@diamondinstitute.net

Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council
Tower No. AW 1010, G-Block,
Bharat Diamond Bourse,
Opp. Nabard, Bandra-Kurla Complex,
Bandra - East, Mumbal-400051,
Ph.: 022 - 26544600 Email: sivakumar.srinivasan@gjepcindia.com

SHORT TAKES

MAMATA: DELHI RIOTS PLANNED GENOCIDE

RAJIB CHOWDHURI I DC KOLKATA, MARCH 2

Breaking her silence, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday described the Delhi riots as a "planned state-sponsored gen-ocide" orchestrated in the "Gujarat model." She slammed the BJP for not apologising for the carnage while launching attack on the saffron party which was missing during the riots in the Capital, days of her meeting with Union home

minister Amit Shah last week. Launching her party's new campaign 'Banglar Gorbo Mamata' (Mamata is Bengal's Pride) a day after the 'Aar Noi Annay' campaign of the BJP was launched, the Trinamul supremo announced a scheme to provided shelter to those who became homeless in the riots. She said, "I think the way people were massacred in Delhi for the last few days is a planned genocide because it was state-sponsored. The Delhi police comes under the Centre.

She told the Trinamul work-"Besides the CRPF, the CISF was also there. But all remained inactive. Later it was painted in communal colours. We condemn it. Why hasn't the BJP apologised for the riots till date? They often come here to declare shamelessly to capture Bengal. The BJP has been trying to replicate the Gujarat model of riots across the country including Bengal."

INDIA SAYS NRC HAS NO EFFECT ON BANGLAS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

Seeking to allay concerns and fears in Bangladesh ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit there on March 17, New Delhi on Monday assured Dhaka that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process in Assam will have "no implications for the govern-ment and people of ment and Bangladesh".

The assurance was furnished by Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla who travelled to Dhaka on Monday and delivered an address at the Bangladesh Institute for International Studies (BISS).

The assurance made it cléar that India will not expect Bangladesh to take back those in Assam who are not found to be Indian citizens after the NRC process in Assam.

However, there was no direct foreign secretary to the controversy over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) law passed last year by India that has also caused massive concern in Bangladesh. The CAA law names three countries including Bang-ladesh but Indian diplomats have been assuring Dhaka in order to prevent any misunderstandings between the two countries who enjoy the best of ties.

THREE BJP MEN **HELD FOR 'GOLI MAARO' SLOGAN**

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, MARCH 2

Three BJP workers were arrested by the Kolkata Police late on Sunday night registering an FIR against them for shouting the controversial "goli maaro" slogan at Esplanade en route to the rally addressed by Union home minister Amit Shah at Shaheed Minar Ground in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Two of them were remanded in two days in police

custody by a city court later. The arrests have left the BJP fuming. The three accused were Pankaj Prasad, Dhruba Basu and Surendra Kumar Tewary. A senior police officer said, "This illegal act of shouting the provocative slogan Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalo ko (shoot the traitors)' is a cognisable offence.'

One Indrajit Kumar Mal, 29, a resident of Jawaharlal Nehru Road, lodged a complaint with the New Market

police that covers Esplanade. The accused trio were booked under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), 506(ii) (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC. On Monday when they were produced at the Bankshall court, nearly 30 lawyers of the BJP legal cell fought for their bail. The judge sent Pankaj and Surendra to the police custody till March 4.

Delhi violence rocks Parliament

BJP, Congress MPs push, shove each other in Lok Sabha seeking Amit Shah's arrest

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

There was uproar in both Houses of Parliament on Monday over the Delhi riots, with the Lok Sabha witnessing unprecedented scenes when members of the treasury and Opposition benches almost came to blows while the latter was protesting in the well of the House.

The go-ahead for the protests by the Congress was given by party chief Sonia Gandhi at a meeting in the morning where she said that MPs should demand nothing less than the resignation of Union home minister Amit Shah.

The House was adjourned till 2 pm over the death of sitting JD (U) member Baidyanath member Baidyanam Prasad Mahto, the MP from Valmikinagar in

When the Lok Sabha reassembled at 2 pm, the Opposition, led by the Congress, began protesting and shouting slogans seeking the resignation of Mr Shah. The members belonging to the Congress, DMK and Trinamul were carrying placards saying "Save Democracy", "Home minister resign" and "No

more hate".

Mrs Sonia Gandhi and former party president Rahul Gandhi were present in the House as were senior leaders of other parties like Samajwadi Party's Mulayam Singh

The Speaker after dismissing all the adjournment motions of the Opposition leaders tried running the House nor-mally with Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman introducing the Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas Bill and health minister Harshvardhan introduc-Medical the Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill and Mineral Laws Amendment

When West Champaran BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal was speaking on the finance Bill, Congress MPs Hibi Eden and Gaurav Gogoi went towards him and tried to block him on camera with a banner demanding the resignation of the home minister. Mr Jaiswal then made a comment on Mrs Sonia Gandhi and Mr Rahul Gandhi and very soon all hell broke lose as the two party MPs rushed towards them to separate them and both sides almost came to

Following this, there seemed to be a free for all as MPs from both Opposition and ruling sides pushed and shoved in the well. The Speaker them adjourned the House

The drama continued even after the House was adjourned as MPs traded barbs and many like BJP MPs Ramesh Bidhuri and Ashwini Chaubey and Congress' Mr Eden and others continued to argue.

Even as this was going on, another battlefront opened with Congress Kerala MP Ramya Haridas claiming that BJP MP Jaskaur Meena had "physically assaulted" her during that time. Ms Haridas later wrote a complaint to the Lok Sabha Speaker to this effect. The BJP MP denied and has since then filed a counter complaint.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said he was pained to see the situation in the House. "This is the temple of democracy. There are



Trinamul Congress leaders protest against Delhi violence at Parliament by blindfolding themselves and keeping a

CJI says SC 'not equipped' OVER 1,300 HELD IN CONNECTION to deal with riots or stop it

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde on Monday said that the court was not equipped to handle the public "pressure" expecting them to step-in and deal with the situation arising from the communal riots in Delhi and prevent them from recurring. Stating that courts can

deal with a situation after it happens, Chief Justice Bobde, heading a bench comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant said, "Courts come on to the scene after the thing is done and courts have not been able to prevent such thing."

The oral observations by the Chief Justice Bobde

certain rules and tradition. You should not come to the Well. As you are responsible representa-tives of people here, it is your collective responsi-bility to maintain peace this, he adjourned the House till Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters later, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that the party demanded that the violence in Delhi should be discussed in the Lok Sabha as it was a very important issue and the world was talking about it.

"The government should put forward its views on it. We were trying to make this request, but the government did not allow us to do so and kept making one excuse after another, he said. The Rajya Sabha too had to be adjourned for the day after Opposition parties members remained adamant with their demand for Mr Shah's resignation and kept shouting slogans against the Modi government.

As the Upper House assembled in the morning, chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu disallowed the discussion on Delhi riots as demanded Opposition, saying the issue was important but the priority should be to

We are not saying peo-ple should die. We cannot stop things from happening. We cannot give preventive reliefs... We can only deal with the situation after it occurs, the kind of pressure on us, we can't handle that... it's like Court is responsible.

> — S.A. BOBDE Chief Justice of India

came in the course of a mentioning by senior counsel Colin Gonsalves, appearing for a group of victims of the recent riots in Delhi, seeking an urgent hearing of their

CJI Bobde said, "We are not saying people should matter see into Jamia we are not equipped to eral weeks.

SHASHI BHUSHAN | DC

BJP leader Kapil Mishra,

riots in northeast Delhi,

has been provided 24x7

After assessing threat perception to his life, the

saffron party leader has

been provided with "Y"

category security — which entitles him to have six

security personnel round-

the-clock to guard him in

It is reliably learnt that Mr Mishra had been advised to carry along with

him security personnel for

his personal safety after he

was attacked while protest-

ing outside Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal's residence way back in 2017, when he himself was an

Aam Aadmi Party MLA.

"At that time, he had out-

rightly refused to accept

the security cover. But just

a few days ago, he himself

made a request that he be

provided security as he

life," a senior police officer,

requesting anonymity, told

was fearing threat to his

and outside the city.

NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

security.

Riot-tainted Kapil

handle. We cannot stop things from happening. We cannot give preventive pressure on us... We can only deal with the situation after it occurs, the kind of pressure on us, we can't handle that... it's like Court is responsible."

Pointing to the limitations of the court, CJI said that they were reading media reports and are aware of the kind of comments being made.

Expressing his "disappointment" over Delhi HC adjourning the hearing on a petition relating to Delhi violence by six weeks, Gonsalves pointed out that earlier the HC adjourned a matter seeking inquiry into Jamia violence by sev-

that he was receiving thr-

eats to his life on phone,

WhatsApp and email, both from India and abroad. He

also tweeted that he does

not fear the hate campaign

He has been provided

with two Personal Security

Officers (PSOs), who will

remain with him round-

the-clock. Besides this,

there are four more securi-

ty personnel to ensure his

safety. "As per the security protocols, one of the PSO's

will be armed with an

automatic rifle, while the

others will be carrying

pistols with them," said a

As per the home min-

istry's guidelines, security cover is divided into four

categories — Z-plus (highest level), Z, Y and X.

On February 23, Mishra led a gathering in support

of CAA at Maujpur Chowk

in the Jafarabad area, after

which violence erupted

between pro and anti-citi-

launched against him.

WITH DELHI RIOTS New Delhi, March 2: Nearly 1,300 people have been arrested or detained

so far in connection with lence in northeast Delhi. Authorities maintained that the situation remained calm in the area

with no fresh violence for Police has been conducting flag marches and holding meetings with locals in areas which witnessed a deadly communal vio-

lence over the ameded citizenshiip law last week. "The Delhi Police has registered 369 FIRs and arrested or detained 1,284 persons in connection with the northeast Delhi

violence," an official said.

The police, however, did
not reveal any information about those held, sparking demand by political parties and activists that they make public details of these people as per law.

gets 24x7 security COCA-COLA HEAD this newspaper. Mishra, who joined BJP last year, tweeted on Sunday (March 1) morning **FLAGS RIOTS IMPACT ON BIZ**

Mumbai, March 2: Days after communal clashes in New Delhi, beverages major Coca-Cola Global chairman James Quincey on Monday flagged the impact of the riots on businesses, hoping India resolves its issues in a

'democratic" manner. Quincey underlined that it is India's democratic credentials that make his firm look at the country as a market with long-term potential.

The comments came in response to a question on the impact of riots on the beverages segment. "If there are disruptions in the functioning of a society, there will be some degree of problems for all businesses. India is a vibrant democracy and it needs to work out what is going on. It is hoped that things get worked out in an appropriate democratic manner," Quincey told reporters. — PTI

NORTHEAST | ENTRY | Minister says plan will only lead to more unemployment

Sikhs draw up own security strategies

VIKRAM SHARMA I DC

On Sunday night, when rumours flew thick and fast across northeast Delhi about fresh trouble, Sardar Khushpal Singh, a 27-year-old resident of Harinagar, suggested to the Sikh community mem-bers to take cover in nearby gurudwaras for safety. "We will all be together in the gurudwara which will keep us safe," he said even as the sound of sirens from passing police patrol vehicles filled the air.

But the elders in the community — who had seen worse earlier — had a word of caution. During the 1984 riots, taking shelter in gurudwaras what had proved costly for hundreds of Sikhs. Back then, they were told by policemen to leave the gurud-waras and return home, "assuring" them all was well. When they started leaving the place of worship, they came under bru-tal attack by blood-thirsty mobs. To this day, many Sikhs allege that police deliberately asked them to leave the gurudwaras.

As tensions continue to simmer in parts of northeast Delhi, the Sikh community members neither depended on the Delhi police nor did they leave anything to chance — just in case they were to come under attack from any mob. The community drew up with their own strategies and precautionary measures to ensure safety of thousands of people who live in areas close to Bhajanpura, the epicentre of last week's riots which left 47 dead and over 300

THE COMMUNITY neither depended on the Delhi police nor did they leave anything to chance - just in case they were to come under attack from mobs.

chalked out keeping in mind the 1984 pogrom in which 3,000 Sikhs died in Delhi alone.

Wherever our commu-

nity members were living

in societies, we had entry and exit points closed. The next challenge was what would we do if we came under attack by the mobs. Every night, we assembled in our societies with our kirpans (daggers), sticks and other objects and were prepared to thwart any attempt to target us," Mr Khushpal Singh, who runs a manufacturing unit in Delhi, told *Deccan Chronicle* over telephone. Going by the way things were spiralling out of control, they feared the community could be targeted

to incite passions. His relative in Hyderabad, Sardar Roshan Singh, has been calling up Khushpal's

requesting them to come to Hyderabad but he refused saying there was nothing to worry and they would be safe as they are 'fully prepared".

"When it was suggested that all Sikhs can take shelter in gurudwaras if they feel unsafe in their houses, the elders recalled the 1984 riots and said it would be a grave mistake. The Delhi police cannot be trusted and therefore, we should stay back in our homes, but make arrangements for securing the Sikhs," said Maninderpal injured. Only, this time, Singh, who runs an auto-their strategies were mobile business in Delhi.

3,000 distress calls following rumours

New Delhi, March 2: Delhi police got over 3,000 distress calls on Sunday from people panicked over pelting across the national capital, officials said.

Around one-fifth of these calls on the emergency 100 and 112 numbers came from Shaheen Bagh in

South East Delhi and nearby areas in South Delhi, they said on Monday.

Panic gripped residents across the capital on unday evening false rumours of violence but the police denied any incident and appealed for calm, days after riots in northeast Delhi claimed at least 47 lives.

BSF compensation



BSF inspector-general D.K. Upadhyay gives a cheque of ₹10 Lakh to BSF jawan Mohammad Anees, whose house was burnt down during clashes in Delhi on Monday. -PTI

Shops set ablaze in Shillong violence

Shillong, March 2: A 28-year-old man was stabbed with a broken glass bottle in the Mawprem area here, as sporadic incidents of violence were reported from across Meghalaya in the after-math of clashes between tribal and non-tribal groups that has left three people dead, police said

on Monday. Four shops rented to non-tribal businessmen were set on fire in Photkroh town in South West Khasi Hills District in the early hours, they said. Police said nobody

was injured in the incident. "A 28-year-old man was stabbed with a broken bottle by an unknown miscreant on Sunday evening, while he was walking in the Lower Mawprem area. He suf-fered shoulder injuries and is under treatment at the Civil Hospital," assistant inspector general of Police (AIGP) Gabriel Iangrai said. There were also reports of stone pelting on vehicles plying along the national highway near Puriang village in East Khasi Hills

District.

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, MARCH 2 Assam finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Monday ruled out the possibility of intro-ducing Inner Line Permit (ILP), which is currently enforced in several northeastern states to regulate the entry of non-natives and protect the identities of indigenous people, in

Assam. Mr Sarma said, "There will be no ILP. How can Assam have the ILP system...it can't. In fact there

is no proposal to govern-

Inner line permit ruled out in Assam ment for ILP in Assam." Pointing out that enforcing ILP in the state will

only bring negative development Mr Sarma said, "How will work continue in Guwahati? Assam's unemployment figure will shoot up by three folds if people cannot come to tea gardens, Oil India Limited, ONGC...if investors and traders cannot come here. Assam is the gateway to northeast. How can there be ILP here."

Mr Sarma further said that even the MHA panel on providing constitutional, legislative and admin-

 THE CLARIFICATION came in the wake of reports that a high-power committee formed by MHA to give recommendation on implementing the clause 6 of the Assam Accord proposed introduction of ILP in Assam

istrative safeguards to Assamese identity, which recently submitted its recommendation to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, has not made any straight reference to ILP. "In my interaction with some members of the

was told that the commit-tee has made no direct reference to ILP for the state," Mr Sarma added. The system of travel restrictions, a British law, Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) of

1873, was still prevalent in several areas of the state for 147 years until it was withdrawn by a Presi-dential order in December 2019. At present the sys-tem is in force in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. Recently the system was extended to Manipur. The clarification of the minis ter came in the wake of media reports indicating that a high power committee formed by ministry of home affairs to give recommendation on implementing the clause 6 of the Assam Accord has proposed introduction of ILP in Assam also. However, a member of

the committee and senior advocate Nilay Dutta said, "I have noted with concern that completely misinformed and speculative discussions are going on on the recommendations of the Committee."

Chronicle

BJP now brings hate & division to Bengal

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched the campaign for the 2021 elections to the West Bengal Assembly with Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserting that his party will come to power with two-thirds majority in the state. Mr Shah's confidence must have its base in the slogans raised ahead of the rally he addressed in Kolkata where his partymen imported the infamous, criminal war cry of Delhi: goli maro saalon ko (shoot those traitors). It's not long ago that the nation witnessed the impact of the incendiary slogan, introduced by the party's leader in the national capital, Kapil Mishra, directed against the people assembled at Shaheen Bagh on a peaceful protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Mr Mishra's voice was not that of a loner: Union minister for state for finance Anurag Thakur and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath also made use of the same language with impunity. And what was the result? More than 40 people have lost their lives and hundreds injured in the riots that lasted three days. Thousands have been rendered homeless while institutions including schools will take time to return to its normal ways of functioning. The government has not yet offered a cohesive answer as to why it was not able to anticipate or contain the violence.

It's quite depressing that the ruling party at the Centre, which got a decisive mandate in the Lok Sabha elections held hardly a year ago, has chosen to rely on the slogan that brought the national capital into chaos to another state. It has steadily refused to act against such leaders who went on giving provocative speeches; it has chosen to repeat the strategy in a crucial border state to romp home at the hustings instead. Prime Minister Narendra Modi never misses an opportunity to preach to the nation his pet theme: Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. He insists on taking everyone along. Even Mr Shah had publicly admitted provocative and divisive slogans may have hurt the party's chances to win the Delhi election. While the sermons go one way, the party and its karyakartas have no qualms in taking an extremely divisive path for a possible go at power in the state which is yet to toe the

West Bengal also reflects what is rotten with the Opposition ranks. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress have been in the forefront of the protests against the CAA but she sounded evasive when asked if the Union home minister ought to resign over the Delhi riots which were obviously linked to the protests. That Ms Banerjee does not want to be seen on the same page as the rest of the Opposition on such a crucial issue offers little solace to the people who want them to mount a joint movement to force the ruling party to see reason and change course. Between the ruling and Opposition parties, there is little to hope for the nation, if West Bengal is an example.

Grass undoes Indian batsmen

rass is for cows." Indian batsmen would happily endorse the homily as they have such a phobia towards a tinge of green on a cricket pitch. The Kiwis may be flightless birds but they tend to take off in their home atmosphere. And they repaid in kind Indian cricket's propensity to squeeze out home advantage in Test cricket by preparing those nasty "Bunsen Burners" of pitches that let the ball spin like a dervish from day one. True to form, Indian batsmen were at sea in seaming conditions that call for grit more than bravado and intelligent application of

strokes more than blind belief in talent.

No wonder then that Team India, still the top-ranked Test side and runaway leader in the world Test championship, were made to bite the dust on the green pitches of New Zealand. Their collective batting performance was so far below par that they were shot out for under 200 in three innings and the only time they passed 200, they were competitive to the extent of grabbing a slender first innings lead. That is when the Kiwi quicks hit back with intense spells that exposed an ancient Indian weakness against fast bowling. As batsmen oscillated between periods of stubborn defence and flashes of wild strokes, the fast bowlers hastened their doom.

Captain Virat Kohli seemed chastened enough after the series defeat to accept they had been outplayed. After the first Test, he had been boorish in assailing the media in his belief that poor performance in one Test was just an aberration. His own poor form that saw him average under 10 runs an innings did not help the cause. Even less so his tendency to believe that he was never LBW and so wasted reviews. India is still a favourite to figure in the Test championship final in the 2021 summer at Lord's. The only prayer would be that the pitch should not be too green and the ball should not swing and seam too much.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Viewing the Afghan prism with new eyes



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

hortly after the February 29 US-Taliban agreesigned in Doha (Qatar), aimed at ending 18 years of American occupation and returning peace to Afghanistan after 40 years of fighting that had commenced with troops of the former Soviet Union entering the country in December 1979, Donald President Trump made an extraordinary observation in Washington.

The US leader said, "If bad things happen, we will return to Afghanistan." This cannot be viewed with any seriousness, and the Taliban know it. In the past eight years, America has made no secret of its keenness to exit the Afghan quagmire and last week's agreement has come after more than a year of gruelling negotiation with the Taliban, facilitated by Pakistan. It was also President Trump's to end manifesto America's foreign wars, and Afghanistan has been the longest running of them all — a military stalemate that has cost \$2 trillion and thousands of lives on all sides.

Not to put too fine a point on it, imperium has been forced to retreat. The Taliban have messaged their boys: "American empire has been defeated". This is an important reason why India must plan to play its second innings in Afghanistan with acumen. this time not aided by the weather.

Favourable conditions had prevailed in India's first outing on account of the US presence. Increasingly, in the past two decades, India unlike other independent-minded key neighbours of Afghanistan like Russia, Iran and China, or cynically

behaved Pakistan — has sailed closer and closer

to the American wind. This has not gone unnoticed in Kabul, and has chagrined many, including some of New Delhi's best friends as the Taliban spread their influence through battlefield successes. The distinctly beneficial effects of the protracted (but progressively stale) US presence slowly began to be discredited and discounted at the street level. The politicould hardly remain unaffected.

India's strong connect with the broad contours policy Afghanistan — although tactically, when needed, India did back Russian, Iranian and sometimes even Chinese positions can disadvantage New Delhi once America is seen to be less of a factor after the February 29 agreement. Nevertheless, and this may seem paradoxical, there could exist leeway India's close ties with the US to be leveraged with the various Afghan parties, including the Taliban, provided US economic aid and political support does not cease or drastically diminish after the US troops' eventual withdrawal.

A further proviso is that the Taliban themselves change and show an inclination to accept the vastly changed landscape of their country, where a veritable transformation has occurred in the socio-political sphere (thanks to America's presence) since the militants were ousted from power in 2001, although monumental challenges

remain. The Taliban's acceptance of India may greatly depend on this happening. It cannot be overlooked that India is still valued by common Afghans for its extensive

developmental work in all provinces of Afghanistan and for its democracy (no other

Afghanistan is a democracy), although questions have lately been raised about some of New Delhi's recent domestic policy actions and orientation.

While in the past two decades this country has developed an enviable equation with all sections of society and politics in Afghanistan, with the Taliban it has no equity. It can develop some if the Taliban are persuaded that India stands with the Afghan people through thick and thin and India will stand by a genuinely sovereign Afghanistan. This of course cannot materialise if the Taliban do not modify their understanding of Pakistan, whose princi-pal aim is to plot India's ouster from Kabul.

For the most part, the Taliban has been viewed in India as a dangerous terrorist group which is cahoots with Pakistan. In policy circles, however, some concern has been expressed that this is too formulaic a stance. After all, in its domestic sphere, India has considerable expertise in negotiating with nearly every ideological variety of rebel. This lesson could have been put to use in dealing with Afghanistan's insurgents too, but the opportunity was not explored. It may now be time to do so with energy and imagination if India does not wish to find itself stranded in Kabul after the diminution of US power.

Under the US-Taliban accord. some 5.000 Taliban prisoners are to be released by the Americans shortly, and

With all concerned (including Russia, China and Iran) viewing the Afghan prism with new eyes and welcoming recent events as a possible harbinger of peace, India can also be realistic

an intra-Afghan dialogue is to commence in Norway. The Taliban may be expected to have the upper hand in these talks with the other political groups (including the government in Kabul, whose representatives may only be entertained in their personal capacity and not as official representatives).

It is entirely conceivable that several of the that groups power Afghanistan in recent years, and have opposed the Taliban, may seek to do separate deals with the them, knowing the group's military capabilities, in order to remain in the game as an interim government — a distinct probability — is sought to be formed in Kabul, wholly delegitimising the recent controversial election revalidated which

President Ashraf Ghani. For the Americans, this will be par for the course, although they had supported the election. Their only concern is that anti-UŠ international jihadist outfits should not again be permitted to gain a foothold in Afghanistan by the Taliban. This seems, really speaking, more a face-saving device press for in negotiations rather than a demand in substance since such outfits have practically ceased to exist. With all concerned

(including Russia, China and Iran) viewing the Afghan prism with new eyes and welcoming recent events as a possible harbinger of peace, India can also be realistic. Since 2001, it has, on a point of principle, backed the government of the day in Kabul, eschewing value judgments. Even with the Taliban emerging as lead players, this point players, this point remains effective since the Taliban, in a changed Afghanistan, may be expected to shed some of their rigidities. Continued US aid to Afghanistan and India keeping firm with its developmental agenda even under the Taliban can help moderate the former insurgents.

RELIGION FOCUS

Violence driven by religious intolerance and bigotry has divided communities causing unrest. It hurts our reputation globally, damaging our secular values and weakens our unity something that has been our biggest strength. Debating over religious dominance, nationality and other unnecessary issues will not only be useless and immoral but will also distract us from focusing on economic development and other national issues that we need to deal with.

Rudra Krishna Hyderabad

TRUMP'S AGENDA

The US signing an agreement with the Taliban to pull out US armed forces from Afghanistan will be a big blunder. It will indirectly encourage Taliban groups to rise spread terrorism in Afghanistan and Kashmir. How could the US sign an agreement with a terrorist group? It looks like Howdy Modi and Namaste Trump events were only to catch the Indian vote bank in the US for Donald Trump.

T. Kailash Ditya Hyderabad

CRICKET SHAME

One month ago, Team India was on top of the world with a 5-0 T20 cricket series win against New Zealand in New Zealand. Then the downfall started with ODIs and continued in the Test series. In ODIs the bowlers let the team down and in Tests the batsmen. Also, poor shot selection by batsmen cost the team dearly. Congrats to the Kiwis for bouncing back after the loss in the T20 series.

S. Nageswara Rao Hyderabad

Nationalisation no panacea: PM

NEW DELHI, March 2. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi reaffirmed Government's determination to achieve socialism through democracy and economic growth with social justice.

50 YEARS AGO IN hour-long

Chronicle reply to the five-day debate in the Rajya Sabha on the address to Mrs. Gandhi President's Parliament, Mrs. Gandhi declared that her Government would follow the directions of the people" who have begun to She categorically denied the charged that she toppled the Government in Uttar Pradesh.



Murder, he wrote

n his seminal work, *The End of* India, which was published a year before his death, •Khushwant Singh recalled the carnage of Partition with these words: "I thought the nation was coming to an end." Decades later, Khushwant was forced to watch the same kind of carnage unfold, by design, in Narendra Modi's Gujarat during the 2002 pogrom against Muslims. Like a latter-day Cassandra, he warned that "with a triumphant Modi as their mentor, they will repeat the Gujarat experiment all over India, unless we stop them." And as with Cassandra, no one listened, and so, years later, we see the Gujarat model repeated in Delhi itself.

And why not, given that it has and always does work so very well? Take the demolition of the Babri Masjid and the ensuing riots, which catapulted the BJP into the limelight and, perhaps more impor-tantly, forced the political "mainstream" to fight on the BJP's ideological turf ... a battle they could never hope to win. And then come the Gujarat riots, which cemented Modi as a warrior for Hindu supremacy, a mythical king reborn who would avenge centuries of humiliation and save the Hindus from extermination in their own land. To an outside observer, that belief seems ludicrous. How can the overwhelming majority, one that controls all levers of state power, be threatened by a largely powerless and under-represented minority?

But it is this snake oil, poisonous to the very touch, that sells and sells well. The credit goes to the RSS, which has worked diligently and with great patience, sowing the seeds of a toxic Hindutya that has now grown into a festering forest, its roots choking all other life and its canopies blotting out the sun itself. It is under this shade that a slow-motion genocide flowers. Hate, fear and murder are good for the vote bank, it seems.

And, as in Gujarat, it is aided and abetted by the very police force that should be preventing it. In countless videos we see the police escorting mobs of Hindutva extremists who proudly boast of the police's support. In another we see uniformed police officers smashing CCTV cameras to allow the mobs full rein without fear of identification.

In another video we see several young men, all Muslim, badly beaten and bloody, lying on the ground as triumphant policemen stand over them forcing them to sing the Indian national anthem. "Do you still want *azadi*?" asks one of the policemen as he strikes his victim. No," the helpless man replies. The other, a man called Faizan, who was too badly injured to respond to his torturer's jibes, later died in a local hospital. Speaking to NDTV, his mother said, "He and the others were beaten up badly. He was beaten with iron rods. His legs were broken. His entire body had turned

black because of the beatings."

The judiciary, what we would assume to be the last line of defence here, is busy either ignoring or indemnifying Modi's actions and those who defy that trend are pun-

ished. Take Justice S. Muralidhar, who heard petitions on the Delhi violence and slammed the Delhi police. He was transferred on the same day that a bench headed by him expressed "anguish" over the Delhi police not registering FIRs against incendiary hate speeches by three BJP leaders. This then, is what complete state capture looks like when the state is fascist to its core.

But how is all this possible in an age where the media is watching and camera phones are omnipresent? Well, first one makes the media itself an ally, and the majority of India's electronic media are now staffed by the harlequins of hate, the jesters of genocide who have ranted, raved and lied their way into creating the grounds for the pogrom we saw in Delhi, and which we will see repeated, however sporadically, across India. Forget Amit Shah and Kapil Mishra, it is on Tahir Hussain that the media focus on, because how dare anyone resist a mob out to lynch them and theirs?

On social media, which too is dominated by Sanghi supporters, victims are blamed, genocide is cheered and fake news proliferates making it seem as if those being slaughtered are responsible for their fate. Much of this propaganda is then picked up and amplified by the mainstream media in an effort that would make Radio Rwanda proud.

Here then is the Gujarat model for the modern era, and it is replicated time and again simply because ... it works. Many Muslim families, their homes and livelihoods burned to ashes, are leaving the neighbourhoods in which they have lived for decades. The message has been received and it is that we can do whatever we want. whenever we want, even with the world watching. And for every heart-warming story of coexistence, there are dozens more of hate and carnage. "The avalanche has started, and it is too late now for the pebbles to vote.'

By arrangement with **Dawn**

IN BRIEF

Samsung starts building R&D centre

Hanoi, March 2: Samsung Electronics has started building a \$220 million research and development centre in Vietnam, the South Korean tech giant's local unit said on Monday. Construction of the centre in Hanoi will be completed by the end of 2022, Samsung Vietnam said in a statement, adding that the centre will employ between 2,200 and 3,000 people. Samsung is the largest single foreign investor in Vietnam, with investments totalling \$17 billion, it said. The centre is the largest of its kind in Southeast Asia and will enhance the company's research capability in such

2 in Amazon down with Covid-19

areas as artificial intelli-

data and 5G, it said. The

ing of the R&D centre.

gence, internet of things, big

Vietnamese government ear-

the commencement of build-

lier on Monday announced

Washington D.C. March 2: Amazon.com said late on Sunday that two employees in Milan, Italy, have contracted Covid-19 and are under quarantine. "We're supporting the affected employees who were in Milan and are now in quarantine," company spokesman Dan Perlet said The world's biggest online retailer said it was unaware of any U.S. employees who had contracted the virus. On Friday, Amazon told employees to stop non-essential travel, within the United States and beyond. The company also confirmed on Sunday it is moving some recruiting interviews to video rather than in person. The United States on Saturday hiked its travel

Soon, free WiFi in flights in India

advisory and urged U.S. citi-

regions of Italy. - Reuters

zens not to travel to the

Veneto and Lombardy

New Delhi, March2: The central government on Monday permitted airlines operating in India to provide in-flight Wi-Fi services to passengers, according to an official notification. "The Pilot-in-Command may permit the access of Internet services by passengers on board an aircraft in flight, through Wi-Fi on board, when laptop, smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, e-reader or a point of device is used in flight mode or airplane mode," the notification stated. While taking the delivery of its first Boeing 787-9 aircraft at Everett on last Friday, Vistara CEO Leslie Thng had told reporters that it would be the first plane in India to provide in-flight Wi-Fi



FB REMOVES NETANYAHU POLL VIDEO

Jerusalem, March 2: Facebook has removed a video by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for claiming that he was very close to victory, in violation of election laws that forbid the publication of data, according to a media report on Monday. Israelis voted on Monday in parliamentary elections. Netanyahu claimed on Sunday that his ruling Likud party's internal polling showed he was a stone's throw away from a Knesset majority that would allow the formation of a right-wing government. "Our data from three hours ago shows we are at 59.7 seats, he told supporters, referring to his bloc of right-wing and religious parties. We are very close to victory, the prime minister claimed. Discussing polling data is forbidden as per Israeli election laws during the seventy hours preceding polls. Facebook said that they had received a complaint asking that they remove campaign material that violated the

local law, and therefore

reported. - PTI

removed it, Ha'aretz Online

Lundmark new Nokia CEO

Suri, who headed the group for 6 yrs to step down in September 2020

Helsinki, March 2: Nokia Chief Executive Rajeev Suri will step down in September and be replaced by Pekka replaced by Pekka Lundmark, who used to work for the Finnish company and is the current CEO of energy group Fortum, Nokia said on Monday.
Suri has been in the role

for six years and was previously head of Nokia Siemens Networks.

The Finnish company has been struggling to regain investors' confidence after issuing a surprise profit warning in October that slashed off a third of its value and forcing the company to admit some delays in its 5G development.

Nokia faces intense competition from Sweden's Ericsson and China's Huawei in the race to deliver 5G telecoms networks to operators around

the world. Lundmark, head of Fortum since 2015, held multiple executive posi-tions at Nokia between 1990 and 2000, including vice president of strategy and business development at Nokia Networks.

Lundmark led Fortum to embark on a bold attempt to gain control of its German rival Uniper, resulting in a power dealock between the companies that has yet to be resolved.

his time at Lundmark led Before Fortum, cranemaker Konecranes for 10 years

"He has a record of lead-





- Pekka Lundmark is currently President and CEO of Fortum, a leading energy company based in Finland.
- As per media reports, he consistently delivered robust total shareholder returns and positioned Fortum to be a strong player in the transforming global energy sector.
- Previously, Lundmark served as President and CEO of Konecranes, a global material-handling technology firm.
- Interestingly, from 1990-2000, he held multiple executive positions at Nokia, including Vice President of Strategy and **Business Development.**

ership and shareholder value creation at large business-to-business companies; deep experience in telecommunications net-works, industrial digitization, and key markets such as the United States China; Nokia Chairman Risto Siilasmaa

said in a statement. The chairman also cited

his focus "on strategic clarity, operational excellence and strong financial performance." Nokia's October surprise

profit warning forced it to halt dividend payouts. "We view the change of CEO positively due to the fact that in its current sit-

uation Nokia needs a greater redirection which

embarks from changing the management," said analyst Mikael Rautanen of Inderes.

2014: Nokia appoints Rajeev Suri, the CEO of its

mobile networks division, as the group's new chief executive following the completion of the Microsoft

2015: Nokia sells its mapping and location serv-

2016: Nokia agrees to buy Franco-American rival

Alcatel-Lucent - a deal intended to help it compete with Sweden's Ericsson (ERICb.ST) and China's

2017: Nokia launches the world's fastest net-

work chips, breaking into the Juniper (JNPR.N) and

Cisco (CSCO.O) dominated core router market and

Huawei [HWT.UL] in the networks market.

giving a boost to its network business.

ice HERE to a consortium of German automakers.

"At the same time, the news strengthens our earlier assessment that the company has more than just temporary problems," he added.

Nokia shares were lifted last week after Bloomberg

News reported that the Finnish telecom network equipment maker was considering asset sales and mergers.

However, a source close to the company told Reuters there was no truth to the report. The Finlandbased mobile handset maker declined to com-

AT&T launches online TV services

New York, March 2: American multinational conglomerate launching a new internet-delivered TV service Monday as it struggles with a shrinking DirecTV satellite business.

The new service, AT&T TV, will have most of the same channels offered on DirecTV, but it will come over the internet rather than a satellite dish. AT&T has been testing the service in 13 markets

and is now making it available to anyone.

AT&T will send subscribers an Android streaming TV box to use the service. The free device will also come with Netflix and other streaming apps, the way Comcast's X1 cable box

The company is trying to adapt to the shift to streaming video, as sub-scribers to traditional cable and satellite TV services fall.

In May, it's launching HBO Max, a-month streaming service that will marry HBO shows with original programs and TV shows and movies from WarnerMedia.

AT&T also has an online package that started as a cheaper service with fewer channels than a traditional bundle, but it is shedding customers after price increases.

AT&T is now trying to downplay that service in favor of the new AT&T

Customers don't need to be AT&T internet or wireless customers to sign up, although there are dis-



WHAT IS VIDEO **STREAMING SERVICE?**

- A video streaming service is an on demand online entertainment source for TV shows, movies and other streaming media.
- These services provide an alternative to cable and satellite TV. Use of streaming services often requires fees, either per view or subscription. The availability, content and price of services may vary from one region to another.
- Some services feature wide hardware support for numerous devices such as smart TVs, streaming media receivers, computers, tablets and smartphones.

counted packages available. And the company is promoting the service by saying it won't count against AT&T data caps.

— AP

LINKEDIN GOING SNAPCHATTY



Professional networking site LinkedIn is testing the "stories"feature.

While Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp (where it is called 'status') already have the story feature.

Instagram and WhatsApp last for 24 hours at a time. According to Pete Davis,

Stories on Facebook,

Facebook-owned

senior director for product management at LinkedIn, stories offer a lightweight, fun way to share an update without it having to be perfect or attached to your profile forever.

Stories were first introduced by Snapchat in 2013 and became an instant success. So much so that Facebook was interested to Snapchat.

Instagram was the first social media app to take a cue from Snapchat and introduce the stories feature in August 2016. It later also



- Stories clicked instantly with Instagram, with the idea leading to its direct competitor Snapchat losing out on several users in next 2 years.
- In early 2017, Facebook as well as another app owned by it, WhatsApp, launched the feature. WhatsApp decided to name it 'status'.
- Nevertheless, Facebook and its other apps were initially panned for copying a successful feature from a direct



The sequencing of the Stories

is great for sharing key moments from work events, the full-screen narrative style makes it easy to share tips and tricks that help us



work smarter, and the way Stories opens up new messaging threads makes it easier for someone to say, "and by the way... I noticed you know Linda, could you introduce me?

PETE DAVIS, LinkedIn official

'Monday effect' may be impacting your deliveries

Washington, March 2: The 'Monday effect' — that letdown of returning to work after a weekend along with other factors may lead to longer times between ordering and shipping, and more errors in order fulfilment, according to a study.

Researchers, including those from Lehigh University in the United States, found that process interruptions that occur when operations are shut down over the weekend, along with human factors hurt supply chain performance on Mondays.

The study, published in the journal *Information* Systems Research, is the first to look at the impact of the "Monday Effect" on supply chains, sequence of processes that move a product or service from creation to customer.

The researchers used a dataset of more than transaction records gathered during a 12-month period from the US General Services Administration to look at variations in operations performance by days of

They also analysed order and fulfilment data from one of the largest supermarket chains in team, including

researchers from the University of Maryland University California, San Diego in related impacts, said

MONDAY MORNING BLUES

Researchers, including those from Lehigh University in the United States, found "Monday blues" hurts supply chain performance on Mondays.

• The study, published in the journal Information Systems Research, is the first to look at the impact of the "Monday Effect"

The researchers used a dataset of more than 800,000 transaction records gathered during a 12-month period from the US **General Services** Administration to look at variations in operations performance by days of the week.

US, found Effect" "Monday Lehigh University. Mondays, it turns out,

was prevalent and significant. For example, time between receipt of a purchase order and shipping is 9.68 per cent longer on Mondays than other weekdays, on average, said Oliver Yao, a professor at are subject to both process- and human-

that weekends create bottlenecks at distribution

centres that are tackled on Mondays as orders are processed, picked, staged and shipped to customers. Humans completing processing activities are impacted by adjusting to returning to work, more prone to errors and less

The researchers noted

efficient, they said. Most supply chain managers are unaware of this impact, but they can take steps to counteract the "Monday Effect", Yao said. The most effective way

to reduce the Monday performance gap, researchers explained, is integrating technology solutions, such as auto-mated order processing systems.

Yao found using electronic markets can improve Monday performance by as much as 90 per cent.

For example, technology reduces the Monday performance gap by 94 per cent in order-to-shipping time, 71 per cent in complete orders fulfilled, and 80 per cent in the portion of shipments that have incorrect numbers of products, he said.



AMAZON SET TO FIGHT \$277M **EUROPEAN UNION ORDER**

Brussels, March 2: Thursday seek to overturn an EU order to euros in back taxes to Luxembourg at Europe's second-highest court.

European Commission said in its 2017 ruling that the tax deal, which covered the period from May 2006 to June 2014, meant almost three-quarters Amazon's business went untaxed.

The EU competition watchdog said the Grand Duchy allowed the U.S. online retailer to shift a significant portion of its profits from a subsidiary to a holding company without paying tax, giving the company an unfair advan-

At issue was the royalty paid by the subsidiary Amazon EU on certain intellectual Europe Holding Technologies, a company which the European Union said had no employees, no offices and no business activi-

Amazon said in its filing to the General Court that the EU had not proven its case, which it claims is riddled with legal and factual errors. hearing Luxembourg, of case T-318/18, will run to Friday. The company said the EU ruling also breached principles of legal certainty, because it relied on a flawed reference framework.

accused enforcers of discrimination by using 2017 OECD guidelines for a tax deal agreed Luxembourg in 2003. In addition, Amazon said the EU has no case as the 10-year limitation period

has expired. Apple, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Starbucks and scores of other multinationals have also been caught in the EU crackdown in recent years over their tax deals with countries in the bloc.

Researchers claim AI, ML could advance sleep care FUTURE READY AI may help treat sleep disorders

Washington, March 2: Artificial intelligence (AI) may help improve the efficiency and precision in sleep medicine, resulting in more patient-centred care and better outcomes, according to researchers.

The data collected during polysomnography the most comprehensive type of sleep study — is well-positioned analysis enhanced through AI and machineassisted learning, according to a statement from the American Academy of

Sleep Medicine. "When we typically think of AI in sleep medicine, the obvious use case is for the scoring of sleep and associated events. said lead author and committee Chair

the processes of sleep laboratories and free up sleep technologist time for direct patient care," said Goldstein, an associate professor University of Michigan in

"This would streamline

Because of the vast amounts of data collected by sleep centres, AI and machine learning could advance sleep care, resulting in more accurate diagnoses, according to the statement published in the

Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine. AI could also boost prediction of disease and treatment prognosis, char-

acterisation of disease

subtypes, precision in sleep scoring, and optimi-

sation and personalisation

of sleep treatments, the

statement said. Goldstein noted that AI could be used to automate sleep scoring while identifying additional insights from sleep data. "AI could allow us to

derive more meaningful information from sleep studies, given that our current summary metrics, for example, the apnea-hypopnea index, are not predictive of the health and quality of life outcomes that are important to patients," she said.
"AI might help us under-

stand mechanisms underlying obstructive sleep apnea, so we can select the right treatment for the right patient at the right time, as opposed to one-size-fits-all or trial and error approaches," G-old-

The researchers noted that important considerations for the integration of AI into the sleep medicine practice include transparency and disclosure. testing on novel data, and laboratory integration.

The statement recommends that manufacturers disclose the intended population and goal of any programme used in the evaluation of patients. They should also test

programmes intended for clinical use on independent data, and aid sleep centres in evaluation of AI-based software performance, researchers said.

'They hold great promise for medicine in general,"she explained.



IN BRIEF

Nigeria 'bandit' attack kills 50

Kano (Nigeria): At least 50 people were killed in attacks by armed 'bandits' on villages in Nigeria's northern Kaduna state on Sunday, local officials said. "So far 50 bodies have been recovered but the figure is not conclusive and is very likely to rise as rescue efforts are still under way," Zayyad Ibrahim, a lawmaker in the Nigerian parliament, said on Monday. Local counsellor Dayyabu Kerawa said the attacks were in retaliation for villagers allegedly assisting local military operations against the so-called bandits.

Laden doctor on hunger strike

Islamabad: The Pakistani doctor who helped the CIA track and kill Osama bin Laden has launched a hunger strike from his prison cell, his lawyer and family said on Monday. Shakeel Afridi has been languishing behind bars for years since his fake vaccination programme helped US agents track and kill the Al Qaeda leader in 2011. "It is to protest the injustices and inhumane attitudes being committed against him and his family," his brother Jamil Afridi said. His attorney Qamar Nadeem also confirmed the hunger strike. Afridi was jailed for 33 years in May 2012 after he was convicted of having ties to militants, a charge he has always denied. His sentence was later reduced by 10 years. Some US lawmakers have branded the case as revenge for his help in the search for the Al Qaeda chief.

7 Rohingyas shot dead in B'desh

Cox's Bazar: Bangladeshi elite police on Monday shot dead seven suspected Rohingya gangsters involved in drug and people smuggling, a spokesman for the force said. Tensions are rising in south-east Bangladesh two and a half years after hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees fled a military offensive in Myanmar. The latest gunfight came after a recent spike in human smuggling as gangs lure refugees onto rickety fishing boats for often dangerous sea journeys to Malaysia. The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) said it was involved in a three-hour shootout with members of a bandit group led by notorious Rohingya gang leader known as Zokir. "So we have recovered seven bodies with bullet wounds. RAB spokesman Abdullah Sheikh Sadi said. He added that it was unclear if Zokir was among the dead.

N. KOREA FIRES 2 **PROJECTILES INTO THE SEA**

Seoul, March 2: North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles on Monday, the South's military said, weeks after Pyongyang threatened to demonstrate a "new strategic weapon" and its deadline for Washington to offer sanctions

relief expired. The launch was the nuclear armed North's first for more than three months and came as nuclear negotiations with the United States remain at a standstill. The two devices were fired eastwards over the sea from the Wonsan area on the east coast and flew 240 kilometres (150 miles) at a maximum altitude of 35 kilometres, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

They were "believed to be short-range ballistic missiles,' a JCS official said. South Korea's security ministers expressed "strong concern' that the North was "carrying out actions giving rise to military tensions," the presidential Blue House said.

Japan's defence ministry said there was no indication of anything coming down in its waters or exclusive economic zone, but added: repeated launches of ballistic and other missiles by North

Korea are a serious issue.' The launch came as Pyongy ang battles to prevent a Covid-19 outbreak and days after the one-year anniversary of the collapsed Hanoi summit betw een leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump. Negotiations have since been deadlocked over sanctions relief and what the North would be willing to give up in return, despite a high-profile June meeting in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula.

End to truce: Taliban to target Afghan forces

Taliban said on Monday they were resuming offensive operations against Afghan security forces, ending the partial truce that preceded the signing of a deal between the insurgents and Washington.

The declaration comes only a day after President Ashraf Ghani said he would continue the partial truce at least until talks between Afghan officials and the Taliban kick-off,

supposedly on March 10. It ran for one week ahead of the signing of the historic accord in Doha and continued over the weekend. "The reduction in violence... has ended now and our operations will continue as normal," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP. "As per the (US-Taliban) agreement, our mujahideen will not attack foreign forces but our operations will continue against the Kabul

administration forces." Fawad Aman, deputy spokesman for the defence ministry said, "We have not had any reports of any big attacks in the country yet." Since the deal signon Saturday, Taliban have been publicly celebrating their "victory" over the US. Under the terms of the deal, foreign forces will quit Afghanistan within 14 months, subject to Taliban security guarantees and a pledge by

the insurgents to hold talks with the Kabul gov-ernment. The dramatic fall in attacks due to last week's partial truce offered Afghans a rare opportunity to go about their daily lives without fear of violence.

Ghani warned the insurgents Monday that he was not committed to a key clause in the Doha deal involving the release of thousands of Taliban prisoners. -AFP

3 killed, 11 hurt as bomb goes off Khost, March 2: A bombing at a football match killed three people and injured 11 others on Monday in eastern Afghanistan, a police official told AFP, as the Taliban announced an end to a par-

tial truce in the country. "A motorcycle rigged with a bomb exploded during a football match," said Sayed Ahmad Babazai, and Afghan forces preceded the signing of a landmark deal on Saturday.

details of the toll. Abdul Fatah Wakman, president of the Khost Football Federation said the three killed were brothers. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the

attack. The limited truce

between the Taliban, US

But on Monday the Taliban said they would resume attacks against Afghan forces, a day after President Ashraf Ghani committed to continuing the truce till talks between Kabul and the Taliban kick off, likely

Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg participates in the Edmund Pettus Bridge crossing reenactment marking the 55th anniversary of Selmas Bloody Sunday in Alabama. He announced his campaign's end in a speech at the Century Center in Indiana.

Buttigieg exits Prez campaign

Gay candidate's withdrawal to shake up race, boost challenger Biden

Washington, March 2: Pete Buttigieg, the openly gay US presidential candi-date, on Sunday ended his campaign to be the Democratic nominee giving a major boost to fellow centrist Joe Biden.

The 38-year-old Buttigieg's surprise decision was set to shake up the race this week when 14 states vote on "Super Tuesday." It is expected to further boost the fortunes of Biden after the former vice president scored a resound ing victory in South Carolina's primary on Saturday in the contest to see who faces President Donald

Biden has emerged as the chief moderate challenger to frontrunner Bernie Sanders, the firebrand leftist who has taken the race by storm and is looking to score big wins on

Trump in November.

SUPER TUESDAY

The US territory of American Samoa will have its caucus that day; as a territory it will not participate in the general election in November.

The Democrats Abroad primary, for Democrats living outside of the United States, will also begin voting on March 3, and conclude on March 10.

States of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia will all hold their presidential primaries on that date.

1,357

of the 3,979 pledged delegates to be awarded to the candidates in the Democratic primaries will be allotted on Super Tuesday.

1,617 gates could be awarded to the candi-

• The two most populous states in the country, California and Texas, allot 415 and 228 delegates, respectively, on Super Tuesday.

Tuesday in states such as crown jewel California. Buttigieg, a military veteran and former mayor of Bend. Indiana.

addressed supporters in his home town. "The truth is that the path has narrowed to a close — for our candidacy, if not for our

cause," he said. Buttigieg did not mention Sanders by name in his speech, but he has publicly stated he

believes the

dates.

tical approach would fail in a match-up against Trump. "We need a broadbased agenda that can truly deliver for the American people, not one that gets lost in ideology,

senator's "inflexible" poli-

Buttigieg however stopped short of endorsing Biden or any other candidate. He emerged as a major player by narrowly winning the Iowa caucus es, earning widespread attention for his unflustered and professional approach in an often bitter Democratic nomina tion battle. But his third place finish in Nevada and a worse showing in South Carolina confirmed he had struggled to build a broad coalition, including support from black voters a key Democratic demographic.

Migrants rush, army deployed

Kastanies (Greece), March 2: Thousands of migrants were trying to a way across Turkey's western border with Greece Monday, with only dozens managing to pass through either border fences or fording rivers, after Turkey opened its side of the frontier to migrants and refugees to leave the country for Europe. Turkey declared its bor-

ders open to pressure the European Ûnion into helping it handle the fallout from the war in neigh-bouring Syria. Thousa-nds of Turkish troops are supporting the last rebel forces holed up there in the northwestern province of Idlib against the onslaught of Russian-backed Syrian government forces.

The offensive into the last Syrian rebel areas has driven almost one million civilians to flee toward the sealed border with Turkey, threatening that country which hosts already 3.5 million Syrian refugees with a new and dramatic influx of displaced people. Thousands of migrants have massed at the Turkish-Greek border since the border opening, and hundreds more crossed from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek isl-ands in dinghies over the weekend.

Greek authorities said that in the 24 hours from 6 am local time Sunday, they thwarted 9,877 attempts to cross the north-eastern land border, either through the river or through the border fence. Authorities arrested 68 people and charged them with illegal entry

CHILD DIES AS MIGRANT SHIP

SINKS IN LESBOS Ile De Lesbos (Greece), Mar 2: A young boy died when a makeshift boat packed with dozens of migrants capsized off the coast of Lesbos, the Greek port police said, as the number of people attempting to cross into Europe from Turkey Europe

children were "unconscious" found the vessel overafter turned at around 08:30 am local time (0630 GMT) in the Aegean Sea. One of them could not be revived, while the other was taken to hospital, a spokeswoman said.

A further "46 people are safe" following the accident, the official said. No details were given on the nationality or age of the

into the country. Therose Ngonda, a 40-year-old woman from Cameroon, made it into Greece by wading across the Evros river that runs along the two countries' border. Speaki-ng in the morning, her feet still wet from the river crossing, she said she had been told migrants had 72 hours from Friday to leave the country. She got on one of dozens of buses and mini buses that have been ferrying people from among about 2,000 people, including families with young children and



Migrants receive food distributed by NGOs near the Pazarkule border gate in Edirne, at the Turkish-Greek border on Monday

PAK TO REQUEST UK FOR SHARIF'S DEPORTATION

Lahore. March Pakistan will request the British government to deport Nawaz Sharif, a senior official said while alleging that the "absconding" former prime minister was playing a "fixed match" regarding his illness while in London.

Casting doubts on the illness of the 70-year-old three-time former prime minister, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information Firdous Ashiq Awan said Sharif has neither undergone any heart surgery nor was he admitted to hospital for any emergency during

the last three months.
Sharif left for London
in November last year for treatment after the Lahore High Court allowed him to go abroad on medical grounds for four

Jerusalem, March 2: Israelis started voting on Monday in an unprecedented third parliamentary elections in less than a year to break the deadlock on government formation, with the country's longest serving Prime Minister Benjamin Netan-

vahu fighting for his polit-

ical survival amid indict-

ments on graft charges. Neither Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party, nor his main challenger, Benny Gantz leader of the Blue and White alliance — were able to put together majority coalitions following the last two elections.

NEITHER NETANYAHU nor his main challenger, Benny Gantz were able to put together majority coalitions following the last two elections

The final opinion polls suggested the latest round is too close to call. Some 10,631 polling stations opened today morning at 7 am Israel time to enable about 6,45 million eligible voters to cast their ballots. There will also be 14 special polling stations for Israelis quarantined due to possible exposure to Covid-19. Exit polls will be immediately

Israelis vote in third general polls after 10 pm, with final expected Tuesday morning.

Israel's highly divided polity threw two inconclusive elections result in April 9 and September 17 polls with nobody managing to muster support of 61 Knesset members. If the results of the third round of polls are aligned with current predictions, the stalemate is likely to linger which complicates the pitch for the Israeli prime minister who will go on trial in just two weeks after Monday's vote.

Netanyahu, 70, stands trial over a series of corruption allegations, which

he has denied. He claimed on Sunday that his party's internal polling showed that he was a hair's breadth away from a Knesset (Israeli Parliament) majority that would allow the formation of a right-wing government, an announcement that led to charges of breaking election laws against him. Attorney Shachar Ben Meir filed a petition agai-

nst Netanyahu with the Central Elections Committee on Sunday accusing the Netanyahu of breaking election laws that forbid the publication of polling data in the three days before an election. -PTI

MANILA MALL SECURITY GUARD SURRENDERS, FREES HOSTAGES

Manila, March 2: A sacked security guard who shot one person and took about 30 others hostage at a Manila shopping mall on Monday surrendered to authorities. ending a day-long standoff that terrified shoppers and drew a massive

police response. The guard walked out of the V-Mall, where he was allowed to speak briefly to the press before heavily armed officers tackled and arrested him.

He complained about be-

ing mistreated by his employers. Hostages were also led out of the building, but police did not say wh ether any of them had been hurt nor the exact number caught up in the

The drama started when the suspect shot a securitv guard, who was rushed to hospital in stable condition, said Francis Zamora, mayor of the San Juan City. Zamora told reporters the hostage-taker was upset after losing his

PUBLIC I HEALTH Presently, abortion allowed in cases of rape or if mother's health is at risk

Argentina abortion: Prez proposes legalisation

Buenos Aires, March 2: Argentina's President Alberto Fernández has said he will send a bill to abortion to Congress within the next

10 days. Mr Fernández, who was sworn in as president in December, has previously described abortion as "a matter of public In Argentina, abortion is

allowed only in cases of rape, or if the mother's health is in danger. It is largely prohibited across Latin America, except in restricted cases. If the bill is passed, Argentina will become the largest country in the region to legalise abortion.

"Abortion happens, it's a fact," the president said in his first annual address to Congress. "A state

should protect citizens in general and women in particular. And in the 21st Century, every society needs to respect the individual choice of its members to decide freely about their bodies," he said.

Mr Fernández also promised to introduce a programme to improve sex education. A previous attempt to change the law

in Argentina, where the population is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, failed. In 2018, a bill to legalise

abortion within the first 14 weeks of pregnancy was narrowly approved by Congress, but was later rejected by the country's Senate. Unlike last time, however, the country's president is behind the bill.

abortion in Argentina was reignited in February last year, when an 11-yearold rape victim gave birth by C-section. The girl, who had been raped by her grandmother's 65-year-old partner, had requested an abortion but the procedure was repeatedly delayed over questions about the identity of her guardian.

Cuba, Uruguay and Guyana are currently the Latin American onlv countries to permit abortion in the first weeks of

While some other countries allow abortion in the case of rape or risk to the mother's life, it is combanned Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti.

Agencies

IN BRIEF

Singapore cases increase to 106

Singapore: Singapore's Health Ministry confirmed four more Covid-19 cases on Sunday, including a Japanese national and two maids from Myanmar and the Philippines. Three of the latest cases are from a cluster at Wizlearn Technologies in the Science Park hub within the residential and industrial region on the west coast. The other is a 54-year-old Japanese who was in Singapore on a work pass, reported the Channel News Asia. Among the new cases is a 25-year-old maid from Myanmar, who was in the Indonesian island of Batam, from February 21-23. Another is a 41-year-old Filipino woman, also on a work pass here but does not have any travel history to China.

Indonesia has first infection

Jakarta: Indonesia on Monday reported its first confirmed case of Covid-19, after health officials hit back at questions over its apparent lack of infected patients. A 64-year-old woman and her daughter, 31, tested positive at a Jakarta hospital, said health minister Terawan Agus Putranto. "This morning I received the test results and they were positive," he told reporters in the capital. "Both are in good condition...they don't have serious breathing difficulties." Officials said that the pair may have been in close contact with a Japanese national who has since tested positive after returning to Malaysia. Last month, Indonesia criticised a US study that questioned why the Southeast Asian archipelago of over 260 million, with strong links to China, had not recorded a case of the virus.

Chilean writer Sepulveda falls ill

Lisbon: Chilean writer Luis Sepulveda, who lives in northern Spain, has contracted the new Covid-19, according to the health authorities in Portugal where the best-selling author recently visited. The 70-year-old author started showing symptoms of the virus on February 25 after he had returned to his home in Spain's Asturias region from a literary festival in neighbouring Portugal. The regional Asturias government announced on Saturday that it had detected the first Covid-19 case in the region, without identifying him. "The patient is stable. His wife, a 66-yearold woman is also displaying

admitted to hospital, it added. The Portuguese authorities called on all those who had been in contact with Sepulveda during last month's Correntes d'Escritas literary festival in Porto to make thegal hasn't registered a single confirmed case of the Covid-19 outbreak while Spain has had 73 cases. Sepulveda was

exiled from Chile in 1975 because of his political activities.

tested," and both have been

ENERGY MEET SHELVED OVER CONTAGION

Houston, March 2: Growing ries, including in the US where two persons have died from the disease, has prompted the organisers to cancel one of the world's most prestigious annual energy conferences to be

held here. The 39th CERAWeek energy conference, which brings toge-ther oil ministers and industry executives, was set to be held in Houston from March 9 to 13, with delegates from over 80 countries expected to attend. "In light of growing concerns around Covid-19, we've made the difficult decision to cancel CERAWeek 2020 and CWAgora," CERAWeek said a tweet. The organisers said on Sunday they spent several weeks focusing on the health and safety of conference attendees and speakers, established a medical partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital and created an extensive protocol. However, IHS Markit, the Lo-

ndon-based information and insights company and the organiser of the conference, determined that the Covid-19 was moving quickly around the world. "We have made this decision reluctantly and after deep consideration. We recognise the dedication and importance of the CERAWeek community. We thank you for your engagement and your commitment to CERAWeek," IHS Markit said in a statement.

2nd person succumbs to Covid-19 in US

Researchers say contagion may have been circulating for weeks undetected in greater Seattle area

Seattle, March 2: Health officials in Washington state said Sunday night that a second person had died from the Covid-19.

Researchers said the virus may have been circulating for weeks undetected in the greater Seattle area. In a statement, Public Health-Seattle & King County said a man in his 70s died Saturday. On Friday, health officials said a man in his 50s died of Covid-19. Both had underlying health conditions, and both were being treated at a hospital in Kirkland, Washington, east of Seattle.

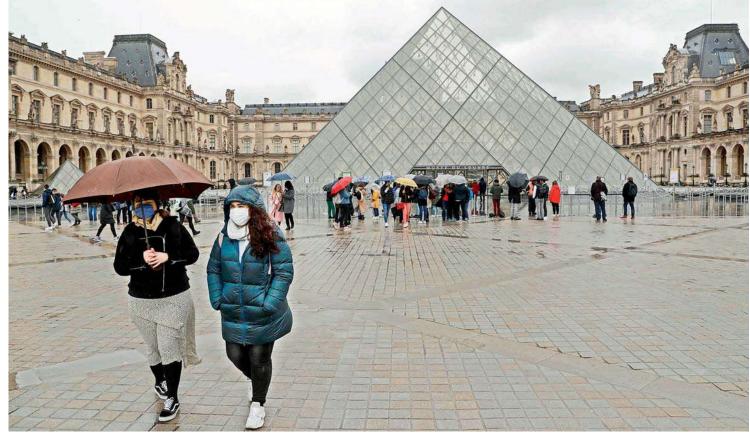
Washington state now has 12 confirmed cases. State and local authorities stepped up testing for the illness as the number of new cases grew nationwide, with new infections announced in California, Illinois, Rhode Island. New York and Washington state. Authorities in the Seattle area said two more people had been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, both men in their 60s who were in critical condition, and two health care workers in California were also diagnosed. A man in his 50s died in Washington on Saturday, and health officials said 50 more people in a nursing facility in Kirkland, Washington, are sick and being tested.

On Sunday night, the International Association of Fire Fighters said 25 members who responded to calls for help at the nursing facility are being quarantined. The first US case was a Washington state man who had visited China, where the virus first emerged, but several recent cases in the US have had no known connection to travellers. In California, two health care workers in the San Francisco Bay area who cared for an earlier Covid-19 patient were diagnosed with the virus on Sunday, the Alameda and Solano counties said in a joint statement.

The health care workers are both employed at NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville, California, and had exposure to a patient treated there before being transferred to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, the statement said.

That patient was the first person in the US discovered to have contracted the Covid-19 with no known overseas travel. Alameda County declared a state of emergency on Sunday follre, authorities announced Sunday a third case in Illinois and Rhode Island and New York's first cases as worried Americans swarmed stores to stock up on basic goods such as bottled water, canned foods and to-The hospitalised patient

in Rhode Island is a man in his 40s who had travelled to Italy in February. New York confirmed Sunday that a woman in her late 30s contracted the virus while travelling in Iran. The patient is not in serious condition. She has respiratory symptoms and has been in a controlled situation since arriving in New York, according to a statement from the governor's office. As the fallout continued, Vice President Mike Pence and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar sought to reassure the American public that the federal government is working to make sure state and local authorities are able to test.



Two people walk away from the Pyramid, the main entrance to the Louvre museum, located in central Paris on Monday. The Louvre was closed for a second day running after staff refused to work due to Covid-19 fears.

MAN RETURNS FROM ITALY, TESTS **+VE IN MOSCOW**

Moscow, March 2: Russian authorities on Monday confirmed the first case of Covid-19 in Moscow, saving the patient had recently returned from Italy. The anti-coronavirus force said in a statement quoted by Russian news agencies that the "young man" had fallen ill on February 21 while on vacation to Italy. The man, who resides outside Moscow, returned to Russia on February 23, and started showing signs of a respiratory viral infection, it said. He sought medical help and was hospitalised

on February 27.
Testing confirmed the infection on Monday and his symptoms were not severe. Russia has so far managed to avoid a large number of infections and in-troduced travel and visa restrictions. It repatriated and quarantined a number of passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan.

Chinese gets death for stabbing 2 Sect leader repents at outbreak control checkpoint

Beijing, March 2: A Chinese court has sentenced a man to death for fatally stabbing two officials at a checkpoint set up to control the spread of the new Covid-19 outbreak. The virus has infected over 80,000 people and killed nearly 3,000 in mainland — prompting a wide network of temperature checks, travel restrictions, residential checks and clo sures nationwide.

Many villages and communities have also implemented their own blockades and tough measures to keep people out, fearful that travellers could infect their communities. On Sunday a court handed down a death sentence to a 23year-old man after he stabbed two officials at one local village checkpoint. The incident happened on February 6 when Ma Jianguo was driving a minivan through a checkpoint at he, southwestern Yunnan province, where he was stopped. After Ma refused to cooperate with officials,

his passenger began tryi-

China toll at 2,912 after 42 fatalities

Beijing, March 2: China has reported 42 new fatalities from the novel Covid-19 outbreak, taking the death toll in the country to 2,912, Chinese health officials said on Monday, as the rapid spread of the epidemic wreaks havoc globally causing over 3,000 deaths. The deadly virus has spread to more than 70 countries and infected more than 88,000 people. China's National Health Commission said on Sunday it received reports of 202 new cases.

ng to remove the roadblock, the court said, and the local official started filmiand the other man on his mobile phone. A furious Ma stabbed the official — a local poverty alleviation cadre — in the chest and abdomen with a knife

killed 3,000 globally.

Virus has hit over 70 countries and infected more than 88,000

32,652 patients still being treated and 44,462 patients discharged

By Sunday, 98 confirmed cases with two deaths in Hong Kong, 10 confirmed cases in Macao SAR, and 40 in Taiwan with one death.

and then attacked another official who came to the victim's aid. The two died urt said that though Ma "voluntarily surrendered and truthfully confessed", the killings were "extremelv vicious".

FOREIGNER WITH SIGNS IN EGYPT QUARANTINED

Cairo, March 2: Egypt on Monday reported its second case of novel Covid-19, more than two weeks after announcing the first confirmed infection in Africa. The foreigner is showing "minor symptoms" and has been quarantined, the ministry and the World Health Organisation said in a joint state ment. Other people who had contact with the patient are undergoing medical tests, it added.

Egypt announced its first confirmed case of novel Covid-19 on February 14. The patient, a Chinese national, was released last week after recovering, the statement said. Cairo has ench and Canadian authorities after they both announced seven confirmed cases from travellers com-

ing from Egypt.
With the number of cases rising in the Gulf, Qatar imposed a temporary ban on visitors coming from Egypt via transit points on Sunday citing the spread of Covid-19. Kuwait stopped short of a flight restriction but added extra screening measures for travellers boarding their flights from Egypt. Egyptian Health Minister Hala Zayed travelled to China on Sunday amid mounting criticisms and satirical posts on social media of her ministry's handling of the outbreak

At a press conference at Cairo airport, she praised Beijing's efforts to contain the spread of the virus. The global death toll from the epidemic surpassed 3,000 on Monday after dozens more were killed in China and cases soared

for spreading virus **Seoul, March 2:** The leader of a secretive South Korean sect linked to more

than half the country's 4,000-plus Covid-19 cases apologised Monday for the spread of the disease. Shincheonji head Lee Man-hee's plea for forgiveness came after Seoul city authorities filed a murder

complaint against him for

failing to cooperate in containing the epidemic. South Korea's case numbers — the largest total anywhere outside China — are expected to rise further as authorities carry out checks on more than 266,000 people associated with the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, which is often condemned as a cult.

"I would like to offer my sincere apology to the people," said Lee, his voice breaking. "Although it was not intentional, many people have been infected," the 88-year-old said, twice getting to his knees to bow ong, his head to the floor. "I seek the forgiveness of the people." "I am very thankful to the government for its efforts," he added. "I also seek the forgiveness

of the government. Lee is revered by his fol SOUTH KOREA reported nearly 500 new Covid-19 cases Monday, sending the largest national total in the world outside China past 4,000.

• FOUR MORE people had died, the Korea **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** said, taking the death toll to 22.

OF THE 476 new cases announced Monday taking the total to 4,212 - more than 90 percent were in Daegu and the

neighbouring province of North Gveongsang. lowers as the "Promised

Pastor" who has taken on the mantle of Jesus Christ and will take 144,000 people with him to heaven on the Day of Judgement, which he will usher in within

A 61-year-old female member developed a fever on February 10 but attended at least four church services in Daegu — the centre of the outbreak — before being diagnosed.



A paramedic checks the temperature of an official before a meeting with Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha at the Government House, Bangkok. -AFP

Iran council member close to Khamenei succumbs

Tehran. March 2: Iranian state radio says a member of a council that advises Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has died after after falling ill from the new Covid-19. The report Monday said Expediency Council member Mohammad Mirmohammadi had died. He was 71. The council advises Khamenei, as well as settles disputes between the supreme leader and parliament. His death comes as other top officials have contracted the virus in Iran

WHO sends first medics, supplies to Tehran

Dubai, March 2: The World Health Organisation on Monday sent its first planeload of aid to Iran to help fight Covid-19, dispatching six medics with tonnes of medical equipment and test kits aboard a UAE military aircraft.

As supplies worth more than \$300,000 were loaded onto the plane in Dubai, Robert Blanchard of the WHO warned that global supplies were running low. "What we see now is

66 dead amid 1,501 confirmed cases of the new Covid-19 in the Islamic Republic. That's according to Iran Health

Ministry spokesman Ali Reza Azizi, who gave the figure at a news conference Monday in Tehran.

that demand has greatly exceeded our available stocks... and we are struggli-

around the world. — AFP

BATTLING | FLOODS | Architect, who preaches mindful development, hopes to save Bangkok Thai secret weapon in climate change battle

Bangkok, March 2: Bangkok's future hangs in the balance. Rising sea levels, unchecked development, groundwater extraction. and rapid urban population growth has left millions vulnerable to natural disasters — scientists warn the city itself may not sur-

vive the century. New analysis by the Nestpick 2050 Člimate Change City Index says the Thai capital could be hardest hit by global warming. And while it is not alone facing such a threat — Venice, New Orleans, and Jakarta are predicted to be underwater by 2100 — it does have a secret weapon in its battle to negate the impact of a hotter planet: Renowned architect Kotc-

preaches mindful development over mindless construction. "We are talking life and death in this situation," says the 39-year-old who is hoping to bring Bangkok back from the brink, as scientists warn extreme weather — flooding and droughts - could ravage the city, leaving as much as 40 percent submerged in the next decade.

Kotchakorn says: "I don't want to face it with fear. At this moment we have a chance to make change... We have to do it right now to show the coming generations that this is possible. It is not about sitting and waiting and doing the same thing." No one can accuse the Harvard graduate of resting on her laurhakorn Voraakhom who els: She made her name sh-



Bangkok's unchecked development (L) and Thai architect Kotchakorn Voraakhom

owing how the effects of climate change can be mitigated by ensuring the issue is at the heart of city planning. She and her firm Landprocess created the internationally acclaimed Chulalongkorn University

Centenary Park, an 11acre (4 hectares) space in central Bangkok, which tilts downward at a threedegree angle, allowing rainwater to flow through the flanking grass and wetlands. Water that's not absor-

down to a pond at the base of the park, where it can be stored and filtered for use during dry spells or re-leased gradually. In cases of severe flooding, the park can hold up to a million gallons of water.

Kotchakorn rails against Bangkok's unchecked development — over 10 million live in the metropolis packed with skyscrapers, factories, malls and hotels warning that an "addiction to growth" is jeopar-

dising its ability to thrive. "We think about how we're going to have more growth in our annual development... What if we shift the orientation from growth to really consider our actions on the environment, listen to the land

"It doesn't mean I am against development but I want it to be very meaningful, very mindful, and at the right pace — so we don't actually kill our future." Today her ideas have been embraced at home, and abroad — she gave an acclaimed TED talk in 2018, and last year TIME Magazine included her in its "100 Next" list of global rising stars.

But convincing clients, authorities, and other businesses to see the big environmental picture has not been easy in a megacity obsessed with economic targets and expansion. Driving change as a woman in a patriarchal society has been an additional challenge. -AFP

BLAME DISEASES FOR DAYTIME SLEEPINESS

Boston, March 2: Expe-

riencing daytime sleepi-

ness may be associated

with the risk of many di-

seases, including diabet-

es, cancer and high blood pressure in older people, according to a study. The condition called hypersomnolence is defined as excessive daytime sleepiness even after seven or more hours of sleep It can be debilitating for some, affecting how they perform at work and in other activities. "Paying attention to sleepiness in older adults could help doctors predict and prevent future medical conditions," said author Maurice M.

Ohayon of Stanford Uni-

versity, US.

TUESDAY | 3 MARCH 2020 | HYDERABAD

quick BITES

INDICATO	25	%
Sensex	38,144.02	-0.40
Nifty 50	11,132.80	-0.62
S&P 500*	2,975.93	0.73
Dollar (₹)	72.17	0.79
Pound Sterling (₹)	93.18	-0.19
Euro (₹)	81.09	1.44
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	42,616▲391	0.91
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	50.42	0.75
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.346	-0.025
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.065	-0.061
* As of 9:30 pm IST		

Non-subsidised LPG price cut by ₹53 less

State-owned oil firms cut the rates of non-subsidised cooking gas by Rs 53, wiping away a third of the record Rs 144.50 per cylinder price hike effected last month. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder now costs Rs 805.50 against Rs 858.50 previously The Centre's subsidy payout will fall by Rs 50 per cylinder to Rs 240. Jet fuel (ATF) prices has been slashed by a steep 10 per cent, or by Rs 6,590.62 per kilolitre, to Rs 56,859.01 per kl.

Vivaad Se Vishwas scheme Bill moved



Moving the Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the direct tax dispute resolution scheme, announced in the Budget, "will give settlement option to all those with disputed tax." As many as 4.83 lakh direct tax cases worth Rs 9.32 lakh crore are locked up in appellate forums such as Commissioner (Appeals), ITAT, High Courts, SC and recovery tribunals.

RBI receives ₹1.71 lakh crore in third LTRO

The Reserve Bank of India said it has received Rs 1.71 lakh crore in the third long-term repo operation (LTRO) conducted for an amount of Rs 25.000 crore. The central bank received 66 bids in the three year tenor LTRO, which has reversal date on March 1, 2023. "The total bids that were received amounted to Rs 1.71.965 crore, implying a bid to cover ratio of 6.9," the RBI said in a release.

PowerMin flags concerns over NTPC stake sale

The power ministry has raised concerns over the proposed strategic divestment of government equity in NTPC, PFC and PowerGrid, which may bring down its stake to below 51 per cent. A final call on the proposal is yet be taken as the ministry has conveyed its reservations to the finance ministry. "There are issues. There will be some advantages and there will be some disadvantages," power secretary S. N. Sahai said.

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■ Supply chains shifting to India as part of strategy change

Manufacturing may get leg-up from China woes

ASHWIN J PUNNEN

India is emerging as the top destination for compa-nies shifting or diversifying their supply chains to escape US tariffs on Chinamade goods and disruptions from the coronavirus

A UBS study concludes that India could be a major beneficiary of China Plus-One strategy of global

companies.
The US CFO Survey of UBS Evidence Lab finds that 76 per cent of the respondents have either shifted their supply chain or are planning to shift in response to protectionist policies emanating from the US-China trade war.

Trade data also confirms an increase in exports of tariff-imposed products to the US from India. UBS said it analysed

earnings transcript of 44 global companies to spot nuances in language that signal a potential relocation of manufacturing to India. "There are incremental references of India and trade war," the UBS report said, while it is expecting India's export to pick up and drive India Inc

"It is too early to call

Factory activity stays strong

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

The country's manufacturing sector activity slowed in February from a near eight-year high in January. The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, declined to 54.5 last month from 55.3 in January. 'This is the 31st consecutive month that the manufacturing PMI has remained above the 50point mark," IHS Markit said on Monday.In the PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion.

whether India will have major success, but the next three years should be better than the past five years," it added.

The strong manufactur-

In Asia, India is among the most sought after destination for moving products out of China, while data suggest that Indian export to the US market has seen a significant increase post

like Enterprises, Dixon Tech, V-**India Mfg PMI** Guard and Havells India are trying to cash in on the China Plus-One strategy of global companies. 52.7 China Plus-one strategy 51.2

51.4

51.4

52.1

52.7

52.6

48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

ing sector expansion seen

in India at the start of the year was maintained in

February, with rates of

growth for factory orders,

exports and output hold-

ing close to January's highs, IHS Markit said.

the imposition of US tariffs

Since China is getting

expensive, people are shift-ing to a China Plus-One

Many Indian firms in

electronic, chemical and

durable sectors are seeing

a surge in sourcing

enquires from global firms.

on China, experts said.

strategy, experts said.

Source: Nikkei, IHS Market/ KBK Graphics

is about still using the resources allocated in China, but adding lower wages to the mix.
"We are optimistic that

exports can have a huge potential market going forward on a long-term basis since the world is moving towards the China Plus-One strategy. We have already started talks with various original equipment manufacturers for export opportunities," said Amber Enterprises, a contract manufacturer of air-conditioners, in its earnings call with analysts.

Momentum is building up with top global firms like Apple, Intel, Samsung, Lenovo-Motorola Panasonic revealing plans to set up facilities in India.

The Centre has set a target of Rs 26 lakh crore (\$400 bn) turnover by 2025 for domestic manufacturing in electronic system design and manufacturing. The value of electric equipment being made domestically has risen to Rs 4.58 lakh crore in FY 19 from Rs 1.90 lakh crore in FY 15.

Rupee sheds 55 paise, hits 15-month low over Covid-19

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, MARCH 2

The rupee weakened sharply against the US dollar on Monday, tracking domestic indices that fell after two fresh cases of coronavirus were confirmed in India. The currency closed 55 paise lower at 72.73 against the dollar, the lowest level since November 13, 2018. This is the third consecutive day of decline in the rupee, los-

ing 1.6 per cent of its value. Experts warned that any escalation in capital flight from emerging markets could spook the rupee amid weakening macro economic indicators. The domestic core inflation has been sticky and if inflation surprises further on the

upside, the real rate differential between the US and India could narrow, resulting in capital flight.

Other emerging markets are in the initial stage of becoming the victim of a contagion effect, occurred in 2018.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have sold

13,011 crore last week while on Monday they sold stocks worth Rs 1,355 crore.

"The spread between off-shore and onshore forward points is between 10-12 paise indicating massive unwinding of offshore carry positions," said Abhishek Goenka, founder and chief executive officer at IFA Global, a forex consulting firm.

'Going ahead, as per seasonality pattern, the rupee ideally should appreciate against the USD as corporates would be receiving remittances ahead of FY19-20 closure of accounts. In the last 10 years, the rupee has appreciated seven times against the dollar in March,

driving gold prices. Two

Trivedi, senior research

analyst, commodities and

Profit-booking over, gold surges again

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, MARCH 2

Recession fears emanating from the spread of coronavirus epidemic saw gold spurt on Monday after having crashed last week. In the Indian market, it gained Rs 1,000 per 10 gm while the international rates revisited \$1,600 levels after a major correction

last week.

In the Multi Commodity
Exchange (MCX), gold
futures were trading high-

els on Friday. It touched Rs 42,350 per 10 gm from Rs 41,300 on Friday. Gold prices had fallen on Friday from the recent highs of Rs 43,750 on February 24. In the international mar-

ket, gold had moved down from its recent high of \$1,692 per ounce on February 24 to a low of \$1,564 on Friday. Monday saw bounce back to \$1,612.

"The spread of coron avirus across more number of countries has been

cases were reported in India as well. Prices have been moving up earlier. However, last week hedge funds had gone for heavy profit-booking to balance the losses in the equity markets. This led to the fall in gold prices," said Jateen

currencies, LKP Securities. "Prices are likely to move in a broad range of \$1550 and \$1650 this week," added Trivedi.

Unemployment rate rises to 7.78% in Feb.

SANGEETHA G

In an indication of the economic slowdown in the country, the unemployment rate rose to per cent February, up from 7.16 per cent in January, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

In rural areas, the unemployment to per cent in February from 5.97 per cent in the previous month, while in urban areas, it fell to 8.65 per cent from 9.70 per cent.

India's economy has expanded at its slowest pace in more than six years in the last three months of 2019. The coronavirus further threatens to slow the economy, raising concerns over growing unemployment rate.

However, government is still holding on to a two-fiscal old data on unemployment. Answering questions in Parliament on Monday, the government said the estimated unemployment rate on usual status (principal status subsidiary status) basis for persons of age 15 years and above was 6.1 per cent in 2017-18. based on the National Office's Statistical annual Periodic Labour

Force Survey (PLFS). The government said that it has constituted inter-ministerial committee to draft the national employment

Sun Pharma flags BP drug shortage

Bengaluru, March 2: Drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd reported a shortage of its generic version of hyper-tension drug pindolol on Monday, due to a lack of pharmaceutical ingredients while stressing the shortfall does not stem from China.

Indian companies are the main suppliers of generic drugs to the world and procure almost 70 per cent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for their medicines from China. The coronavirus out-

break has disrupted international businesses dependent on Chinese supplies and industry experts expect Indian generic drugmakers to face supply shortages from China if epidemic drags on.

haven't seen any major disruption in API supplies due to the coronavirus out-break in China," Sun Pharma reiterated on Monday, without giving details on the reasons for the shortfall in pindolol ingredients. "We have sufficient inventory of API and raw materials for the short term." it added.

Last week, the US Food nd Drug Administration announced the first coronavirus-related drug shortage in the United but declined to name the drug in question, leaving industry players debating which medicines were at

Sun Pharma reiterated that there had been some impact on supplies for a few APIs, but again gave no details.

Market gains wiped out global central banks will

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, MARCH 2

The stock market tumbled in a knee-jerk reaction in the last half an hour of trade as two new coronavirus cases were reported in Delhi and Telangana.

The infected person from Delhi has a travel history from Italy, while the one from Telangana has a travel history from Dubai, according to the Union health ministry. Reports also said an Italian tourist travelling in Rajasthan was a suspected case.

After the news break, the Sensex fell 1,297 points from the intra-day 39,083.17 to a low 37,785.99, as panic selling gripped the market. The Sensex had gained 785.88 points till then after a gapup opening, on cues from the Asian markets, but had to, in the end, settle 153 points, or 0.40 per cent, down at 38,144.

Oil up over 2%

New York, March 2: Oil cent on Monday, reversing an early fall to multi-year lows as hopes of a deeper cut in output by Opec and stimulus from central banks countered worries about damage to demand from the coronavirus outbreak.

Brent crude futures rose \$1.16, or 2.3 per cent, to \$50.83 a barrel by 11:10 a.m. EST (1610 GMT). The session low of \$48.40 was its lowest since July —Reuters

The Nifty-50 closed at 11,132.75, down 0.62 per cent, or 69 points, as it came down 397.75 points from the intra-day high of 11,433 points. "Global markets had

rebounded on hopes that

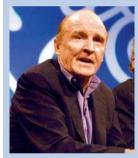
take actions to stabilize financial markets hit by worries of the impact of coronavirus on global economy. However, with new cases of coronavirus getting confirmed in India, market sentiments got severely dampened and gave up all the gains," said Siddhartha Khemka, head -retail research, Motilal

Oswal Financial Services. All the sectoral indices except the IT index fell while the broader market fall was even sharper with Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Small-cap 100 down 0.7 per cent and 1.2 per cent NSE's Volatility index

India VIX soared 8.47 per cent to 25.20 indicating

higher near term volatility in the market, over fear that the consequences of coronavirus, which has now spread to 68 countries, on global economic growth is beyond assessment.

GE's Jack Welch no more



Jack Welch

Roston March 2: Jack Welch, who transformed General Electric Co. into a highly profitable multinational conglom-erate and parlayed his legendary business acumen into a retirement career as a corporate leadership guru, has

died. He was 84. His death was con-firmed on Monday by GE. The cause of death was renal failure, his wife Suzy told The New York Times. Welch became one of the nation's most well-known and highly regarded corporate leaders during his two decades as GE's chairman and chief executive, from 1981 to 2001. He personified the so-called "cult of the CEO" during the late-1990s boom, when GE's soar-

ing stock price made it the most valuable company in the world. A chemical engineer by training, Welch transformed the company from a maker of appliances and light bulbs into an industrial and financial services pow-During his tenure,

GE's revenue grew nearly fivefold, and the firm's market capitalisation increased 30-fold. Welch's results-driven management approach and hands-on style were credited with helping GE turn a financial corner, although some of the success came at the expense of thousands of employees who lost their jobs in Welch's relentless efforts to cut costs and rid GE of unprofitable businesses. In 1999, Fortune magazine named Welch as its "Manager of the Century." For his first book, Jack: Straight From the Gut, Welch received a \$7.1 million advance. Though it released on September 11, 2001 morning, it became a best-seller.

CENTRAL BANKS PROMISE STABILITY

SIMON KENNEDY & **LUCY MEAKIN**

Global central banks promised to act as needed to sta-bilise markets rattled by the coronavirus as the OECD warned the world economy faces its "greatest danger" since the financial crisis over a decade ago.

In an emergency statement, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said the Bank of Japan will "strive to provide ample liquidity and ensure stability in financial markets." The Bank of England followed by saying it's working with UK and international authorities to "ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect

Rate cut bets spur steep Libor fall

March 2: Money markets are pricing in a half-point cut in US central bank interest rates this month and have baked in about a percentage point of reductions by the end of July. Bets on easing by the Federal Reserve surged on Monday, while the three-month London interbank offered rate—a

key benchmark for tril-lions of dollars in financial products-plunged by

the most since 2008. The moves came after centralbank policy makers around the world indicated that they will act as needed to stabilize financial markets. Three-month dollar Libor rate fell by 20.9

basis points on Monday to 1.25375 per cent, the lowest since June 2017. The drop was larger than on any day since Dec. 2008. —Bloomberg

financial and monetary on Friday, Federal Reserve Chairman

Jerome Powell opened the door to cutting interest rates to contain what he called the "evolving risks" to economic growth from the virus. The Paris-based OECD now expects the weakest global growth this year since the 2009 recession, and said a "long lasting" epidemic would risk a worldwide recession.

The prospect of central banks' action halted the worst rout in stocks since that crisis. But the selloff resumed on Monday, with

US futures falling and Treasuries rallying. Money markets now see

the Fed lowering its main rate by 50 basis points this month, and give a 70 per cent chance the European

by 10 basis points. Economists at Goldman

Central Bank will pare its

Sachs Group Inc predicted the Fed will ultimately slash by 100 basis points in the first half of the year. The BOE will cut by 50 basis points and the ECB by 10 basis points, it said.

There is even speculation that the Fed will move before its policy makers gather on March 17-18, and some economists see the potential for international policy makers to coordinate cuts for the first time since 2008. Investors increasingly bet the central banks of Australia, Canada and Malaysia will ease at meetings this week.

Karnataka plans Nano Park

CHANDRASHEKAR G BENGALURU, MARCH 2

To take nano technology to new heights, a nano park would be established on the lines of IT-BT park, said Dr C.N. Ashwath Narayan, deputy chief minister and IT-BT, science and technology min-

Participating at the Bengaluru India Nano 2020 Mr Narayan said that the government is also mulling over coming out with a new science and

technology policy. The nano park proposal is being chalked out with

Prof C. N. R. Rao, national research professor and chairman of Karnataka's Vision Group of Nanotechnology. We expect

research centres to be established in Bengaluru to promote the ecosystem for Nano technology and to strengthen the industry," said Mr. Narayan. Prof Rao will help the government in formulat-

ing the policy and identify-

ing priority areas to build

core competencies and fos-

ter research in this

advanced discipline, so as

to address present and

future development needs.

The government's focus

is also to make Bengaluru and Karnataka as a leader of nanotechnology with collaboration and co-operation of premier institutes in Bengaluru, such as Indian Institute Science, Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, NCBS and oth-Chief Minister B. S.

Yediyurappa said the pro-

posed park would be in col-

laboration with the Union

government. Establish-

ment of common instru-

mentation facilities will

also be considered, he said.

CHANDRASHEKAR G BENGALURU, MARCH 2

Considering the need to achieve zero emission in Bengaluru, the commerce department is aiming at setting up electric vehicle (EV) cluster with incubation spaces for start-

Speaking to this newspaper, Gaurav Gupta Gupta, principal secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, said the incubation spaces at the proposed EV cluster Harohalli at the Outskirts of the city will

have ample logistics and infrastructure for startups for research-oriented activ-

EV cluster on the anvil

This cluster is being set

big companies to

"Perhaps, Karnataka has 50 per cent of electric vehi-

up in consultation with the industry and is already at the advanced stage identifying which of the components can be reared at the cluster. This enables the

associate with smaller companies and create employment opportuni-

EV capital of the country. technology evolving and the incubation facilities help the industry to come out with better and cheaper solutions. Tackling range anxiety is the primary motive,"

said Mr Gupta.

cles in India and it is the

In this regard, the state government has written to the Union Ministry of Power to strengthen the charging infrastructure and to tackle the problems. The commerce and industry department has sought for subsidy from both the Union and state govern-

Selectors to be shortlisted today

Mumbai: The BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will finally get down to the work of picking two national selectors at its first meeting here on Tuesday. The three-member CAC, which is supposed to pick the selectors as per the BCCI constitution, has not had much to do since its appointment on

January 31. The committee comprising former India cricketers Madan Lal, R. P. Singh and Sulakshana Naik will be shortlisting the candidates for personal inter-

views. Lal, who had earlier said that 44 applications have been received for two positions, confirmed on Monday that he will be travelling to Mumbai for the meeting.

"Yes, I will be going for the meeting but I don't know the details yet," he said. However, a BCCI source confirmed that the meeting is scheduled to shortlist the can-

didates. The CAC is looking for replacements of outgoing selection panel chief MSK Prasad and fellow panel member Gagan Khoda. - PTI



M. L. Jaisimha

Tribute to Jai on birth anniversary

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Hyderabad pays homage to the best cricket captain India never had and cultivated stylist M. L. Jaisimha on his 81st birth anniversary on Tuesday. Jai, as he was fondly known as in cricket circles, passed away on

July 6, 1999. Even two decades after his demise, fascination for Jaisimha lives on. "Romantic in me chooses M. L. Jaisimha over Sachin Tendulkar," declared Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at a conclave. VVS Laxman's tweet read,

"Biography of M. L. Jaisimha, hero to Satya Nadella, Sunil Gavaskar and me, now on Amazon," when My Way - the niography of (Amazon, Rs 199) went online. It is among cricket's top 30 best-

sellers of all time. After his 1959 Lord's debut, Jaisimha became the first cricketer to bat on all five days of a Test against Richie Benaud-led Australia at Calcutta. Jai packed a panache all his own, be it as Test player, South Zone captain, Indian team manager, national selector, TV commentator or when promoting the Charminar Challenge series, the corporate world's pioneering effort in cricket sponsorship. Jaisimha was made Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC, England) in

Secunderabad's most loved sporting son grew up in the lap of luxury at Marredpally's Lakshmi Vihar, a 10-bedroom mansion (later to become SBI's Staff Training College) with a fleet of eight cars adorning its driveway. Post retirement Jaisimha became President of the prestigious Secunderabad

His father M. G. Lakshminarsu, a relative of Mokshagundam Vishweshwaraya, built the Begumpet Airport, the Tungabhadra Dam and commissioned a 5000 KW thermal power plant on the shores of Hussainsagar.



Up in smoke

Kohli & Co. trip on grass, Kiwis sweep series

Christchurch, March 2: A star-studded India was outplayed by seven wick-ets inside three days in the second Test against New Zealand here with the home team making a mockery of the visitors' world no.1 status to complete a memorable series

New Zealand prevailed by seven wickets, chasing down a modest target of 132 in just 36 overs, after India's second innings folded for 124 in less than an hour on the third day. India, perched at the top of the World Test Championships right now, were humiliated 0-2, found wanting yet again when up against high-quality

"We accept it upfront and if we have to win away from home, we have to do that. No excuses, just learning moving forward. In Tests, we weren't able to play the cricket we wanted to," India skipper Virat Kohli said after the match.

seamers overseas.

Tom Latham (52 off 74 balls) and Tom Blundell (55 off 113 balls) had a good batting session as Mohammed Shami didn't bowl post lunch due to a ball-impact injury while batting. A solid 120 points took New Zealand's tally to 180 even as India stayed on top with 360 points courtesy their series wins against the lowly West Indies, depleted South Africa and a below-par Bangladesh.

he feel good factor of a 5-0 T20 series victory seemed like ancient history as a dream start turned into a virtual nightmare for Kohli's bunch that has always taken immense pride in performing well in overseas conditions. However, a look at India's overseas performance indicates that whenever the ball swings and seams. reputations end up in tat-

It happened in England only four half-centuries in 2014 and 2018 and now Zealand have series with techniques of



New Zealand pose with the trophy after winning the Test series 2-0.

exposed them one more time. The main culprit was the batsmen, and Kohli had no qualms in admitting it. "The batsmen didn't do enough for the bowlers to try and attack. The bowling was good, I thought even in Wellington we bowled well. Sometimes if you bowl well and things don't happen, you have to take it in your stride," Kohli said.

More than the margin, the manner of surrender will come back to haunt the current Indian team. which leaves this part of the world with a lot of unanswered questions. It's not only about technique of some top players against the moving deliveries but also about their mindset when put under the pump. There were across four innings in this

some of the players like Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal against seam and swing leaving a lot to be desired. Kohli's 38 runs in four innings was one of the biggest set-backs for the visitors in the series. Prithvi Shaw is a work in progress when it comes to his decisionmaking on deliveries on the fourth stump. The short ball, which the Kiwis used liberally to get rid of him.

INDIAN BATSMEN'S WORST SERIES Series/Venue Opponents Result AVG

Corres, remae	орронения	11000110	711 4
2002-03 in NZ	NZ	0-2 (2)	13.37
1969-70 in India	NZ	1-1 (3)	16.61
2019-20 in NZ	NZ	0-2 (2)	18.05
1952 in England	England	0-3 (4)	18.70
1932 in England	England	0-1 (1)	18.80
			_

KOHLI'S DISAPPOINTING TEST SERIES

Series	M	Runs	AVG	H.S	
Australia in India in 2016-17	3	46	9.20	15	
India in NZ in 2019-20	2	38	9.50	19	
India in England in 2014	5	134	13.40	39	
India in Bangladesh in 2015	1	14	14.00	14	
India in West Indies in 2011	3	76	15.20	30	
·					

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

India lacked discipline: Former players

Former India cricketers, including Bishan Singh Bedi, VVS Laxman and Sanjay Manjrekar, on Monday questioned the Virat Kohli-led side's tactics after it was humbled 0-2 in the Test series in New

"How does one explain complete Kiwi dominance over No 1 Test team? I am struggling to press the right button. Could someone please help without

ciously unkind to any individual?," Bedi tweeted.
"Meanwhile, let's praise

NZ for cool and calculated commitment and staying calm/humble," he added. Laxman felt India were not disciplined enough in the series.

"Many congratulations to the @BLACKCAPS on beating India and winning the Test series comprehensively. India couldn't show the discipline required to stick it out and will be disappointed," deeply Laxman tweeted.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra said Kohli's team did not even compete in the series, the tours of England and South Africa

"India under Kohli competed in most Tests over-seas....but this series was different. India only participated. Batting and the

lower-order let India down," said Chopra.

Batting and the inability

to dismiss the tail quickly

hurt India the most. In a Q and A session on Twitter, former batsman Manjrekar had a word of advice for the national team. "Trying too hard to get the tail out? Best to stick with normal plans that you have for top order. Tail Enders now are not so easy to dismiss with a

bouncer followed Yorker," he said.

India played just one warm-up game before the Test series but Manjrekar said away tours are not all about planning, "It's not just about planning. It's about making the best with what you have. Indian conditions throw up certain kind of players with certain instincts and styles. Go to NZ you have to reinvent yourself," he

Kohli loses cool at media interaction

Christchurch, March 2: India captain Virat Kohli on Monday got annoyed after being asked about his animated celebrations over Kane Williamson's dismissal on day two of the second Test before clarifying that match referee Ranjan Madugalle had no issues with what happened.

However, when Williamson was asked when about the incident, New Zealand captain downplayed the incident, say-

played the incident, saying it was "typical of Virat, who plays the game with lot of passion".
Following India's seven wicket loss here on Monday, one of the local journalists sought Kohli's reaction on allegedly swearing at Williamson and that did not go down well with the away team well with the away team

well with the away team captain. India lost the series 0-2.
"What do you think? I am asking you the answer," the irritation was writ large on Indian skipper's face as he came up with a sharp retort.
"You need to find out an answer and come up with a better question. You can't come here with half questions and half details of what happened. Also if you want to create controversy, this is not the right place. I spoke with the

match referee (Madugalle) and he had no issues with what happened," said Kohli.

It was on day two when Williamson was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah and Kohli was animated as ever in his animated as ever in his celebrations. Kohli also gestured the crowd to quiet. When Williamson was asked about it, he simply laughed it off. — PTI

WE CAN'T LIVE IN DENIAL, SAYS INDIA SKIPPER

Christchurch, March 2: A disappointed Virat Kohli on Monday admitted that his side was "completely outplayed" by New Zealand in the two-Test series and they can't live in denial about "not being brave enough" to counter adverse condi-

The Indian batting was in complete shambles in the two-Test series and the skipper said that with a packed schedule, the team management will have to find solutions despite time constraints.

"Õbviously quite disappointed with how we played in this series. I feel like we were completely outplayed in this series," the Indian captain was honest and forthright in his assessment following the seven-wicket loss in the second Test here. "We obviously didn't

play the kind of cricket we do as a team. The thing to take away from here is to not shy away from things that have gone wrong and instead address them straight up, and not be in denial," he Asked to point out what

exactly went wrong, Kohli felt the outlook towards a series in adverse conditions was 'not ideal' "I think the outlook as

far as I am concerned, and as far as I saw things happening, was not ideal for us in this series. We were not positive enough," he said. — *PTI*

> SCORE**CARD**

India (1st innings): 242

New Zealand (1st innings): 235 India (2nd innings): Prithvi Shaw c Latham b Southee 14, Mayank Agarwal Ibw b Boult 3, Cheteshwar Pujara b Boult 24, Virat Kohli Ibw b de Grandhomme 14, Ajinkya Rahane b Wagner 9, Umesh Yadav b Boult 1, Hanuma Vihari c Watling b Southee 9, Rishabh Pant c Watling b Boult 4, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 16, Mohammed Shami c

Tom Blundell b Southee 5, Jasprit Bumrah (run out) 4. Extras (b-9, lb-12) 21. Total 124 in 46 overs. FoW: 1-8, 2-26, 3-51, 4-72, 5-84, 6-89, 7-97, 8-97, 9-

Bowling: Southee 11-2-36-3, Boult 14-4-28-4, Jamieson 8-4-18-0, De Grandhomme 5-3-31-0, Wagner 8-1-18-1.

New Zealand (2nd Innings): Tom Lathamc Pant b Umesh 52, Tom Blundell b Bumrah 55, Kane Williamson c Rahane b Bumrah 5, Ross Taylor (not out) 5, Henry Nicholls (not out) 5. Extras (b-1, lb-8, nb-1) 9. Total 132/3 in 36 overs. FoW: 1-103, 2-112, 3-121.

Bowling: Bumrah 13-2-39-2, Yadav 14-3-45-1, Shami 3-1-11-0, Jadeja 5-0-24-0, Kohli 1-0-4-0.



New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson.

Pacer Gaja leads Gujarat's fightback

Rajkot, March 2: Medium pacer Chintan Gaja grabbed a fifer to lead Gujarat's fightback after they conceded a 52-run first-innings lead against Saurashtra on the third day of their Ranji Trophy semi-final here on

Monday. Gaja (5/15) reduced Saurashtra to 66 for 5 in their second essay at the end of the day three as the hosts took an overall lead of 118 at the SCA Stadium in Khandheri. The 25-year-old Ahmedabad-born bowled in the right areas handsomely rewarded for his efforts. His included Harvik Desai (0), Kishan Parmar (0),

RANJI BRIEF SCORES

Bengal 312 and 161 in 54.4 overs (Sudip Chatterjee 45, Anustup Majumdar 41, Shahbaz Ahmed 31; Abhimanyu Mithun 4/23, Krishnappa Gowtham 3/15) vs Karnataka 122 and 98/3 in 38 overs (Devdutt Paddikkal 50 batting).

■ Saurashtra 304 and 66/5 (Chetan Sakariya 32 batting, Chintan Gaja 5/15) vs Gujarat 252 (Rujul Bhatt 71, Chintan Gaja 61; Jaydev Unadkat 3/86).

Avi Barot (1), Vishwaraj Jadeja (6) and first-innings centurion Sheldon Jackson (0) to reduced Saurashtra to 15 for 5. Bengal take firm control

At Kolkata, hosts Bengal tightened their grip by reducing Karnataka to 98 for three after setting them a stiff 352-run target on day

three of the contest. Bengal could manage just

161 but the massive 190-run first innings lead meant that Karnataka now mountain to climb. Anustup Majumdar, who staged a fourth rescue-act this season with an unbeaten 149 in the first innings, hit a combative



Karnataka's Abhimanyu Mithun appeals for a wicket against Bengal during their Ranji semifinal.

Reigning champions Australia in semifinals, New Zealand out

Melbourne, March 2: Defending champions Australia advanced to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup semifinals after knocking out New knocking out New Zealand with a four-run win in their must-win final Group A match here

on Monday.

Beth Mooney's brilliant half-century proved the difference as four-time champions Australia halted New Zealand in a chase of 155 four runs short. Moonev hit 60 off 50 balls in the must-win match.

Wareham's three for 17

Leg-spinner

Georgia Africa or England in



sent the top-order into collapse and ensured a semifinal berth for the hosts, who will face either South

Brief scores: Australia 155/5 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 60, Anna Peterson 2/31) bt New Zealand 151/7 in 20 overs (Georgia Wareham 3/17, Megan Schutt 3/28).

SHORT TAKES

Sanathnagar win basketball title

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Sanathnagar Playground under GHMC added yet another feather in their cap by winning their first ever All India Basketball Championship held at Nanded, Maharashtra. In both the semifinal and final of the K. Shanker Rao Chauhan Memorial Tournament, Sanathnagar prevailed by one point. In the summit clash, they rode on good performances from Shiva Kumar (23) and Basanth Kumar (15) to beat Mumbai Police 58-57. Earlier in the semifinal, powered by P. V. Nikhil Sai (23) and M.

Hyderabad Bulls beaten by Kings

Prudhvishwar (25) they defeat-

DC CORRESPONDENT

ed Mumbai 76-75.

Karimnagar Kings defeated Hyderabad Bulls 60-22 in their Telangana Premier Kabaddi League Season III match at the Kotla Vijay Bhasker Reddy Indoor Stadium here on

The winner lead 33-8 at half-

Munish Kumar of Karimnagar was adjudged best raider of the match for his 15 points while Shiva Kumar, also of Karimnagar, was named best defender for saving six points. In another match, Mancherial Tigers beat Gadwal Gladiators 42-31 after leading 22-15 at

half-time. Nitin Panwar of Mancherial was the best raider of the match with 14 points while his teammate Subham was adjudged the best defender. Nalgonda Eagles also won. They beat Warangal Warriors 52-35, riding on Mallikarjun's 23 points and good defending by Sai Ram. The Eagles were 26-14

Jr shuttlers bag Dutch bronzes

ahead at half-time

New Delhi: Young Indian shuttlers Tasnim Mir and Mansi Singh won a bronze medal each in the girls' singles event at the Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 in Haarlem, Netherlands. It was the first time India won two bronze medals in girls' singles at this BWF Junior International Grand Prix tournament. Mir put up a gritty show against

the third seed So Yul Lee but it was not enough as the

Korean pulled off a 19-21, 10-22 win in 36 minutes in the semifi-11th seeded Mir, gold medallist at the

Dubai International Series last year, has had a sensational run at this tournament and showed exceptional fighting spirit against higher-ranked players, a release from the **Badminton Association of India** said. — PT



Vennam Jyothi Surekha

Surekha shatters two Natl records

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 2

Vennam Jyothi Surekha, Vijayawada based international archer and Arjuna Awardee created two national records in the selection trials at Sonepat in Haryana to make the Indian team for the Archery World Cup to be held from May 10 to 17 in Antalya, Turkey. Surekha secured 12/12 points to be ranked No.1. She scored 709/720 to break her own national record of 707/720. Surekha's 709 is also the same as the Asian record. She broke another record in the double fifty round by scoring 1411/1440 (4Q36) surpassing

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Editor: Aditya Sinha

her earlier mark of 1405/1440.

The world record stands at

Reality check

Madrid outplay sloppy Barca to snap their unbeaten run and regain top spot in La Liga

Madrid, March 2: Real Madrid won the Clasico and might have saved their season as they ended their slump in the best way possible on Sunday by beating
Barcelona 2-0 and returning to the top of La Liga.
Vinicius Junior's
deflected fining and a stormage time goal from

stoppage-time goal from Mariano Diaz decided a frenzied contest at the Santiago Bernabeu, where Madrid found new life after a Champions League defeat by Manchester City had left them on the brink of crisis. "It's been a tough week," said Real Madrid manager. Zinoding

manager Zinedine
Zidane. "We talked about
how we had an opportunity this weekend and we took it." Victory put them one point clear at the top of the table and shifts focus back to Quique Setien's Barcelona, who were out-fought and, at times, outplayed. "The reality is we lost a lot of confidence

with the ball," said Setien. "We entered a

Madrid's

Mariano Diaz (bot-

tom) celebrates with teammates after scoring

against Barcelona in their

La Liga match at

Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Sunday.

nervous spell and that's when the goal came." Lionel Messi's rasping shot was saved by Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in the first half but it was the Argentine's opposing captain, Sergio Ramos, who was thrash-

ing his arms in celebra-tion after the final whis-His reaction was an indication of the importance of this victory, not only for the effect it has on the standings but on the dynamic of the title race, which had seemed to be switching firmly in

OPPORTUNITY MISSED

favour of Barca.

Cristiano Ronaldo, now of Juventus, was watching from an executive box and Madrid could have done with him during a period in which they had won only one of their last five games.

Zidane said on
Saturday this Saturday this match would not

the trophy in May

but a Barca win and

Vinicius Junior's deflected finish and a stoppage-time goal from Mariano Diaz decided a frenzied contest at the Santiago Bernabeu, where Madrid found new life after a **Champions League** defeat by **Manchester City** had left them on the brink of crisis.

a five-point gap might well have been difficult to close. Yet from the start Barcelona seemed keener to kill

mirates

THE RESULTS Real Madrid (Vinicius 71, Mariano 90+2) **Barcelona**

Espanyol (Savic 24-og)
Atletico Madrid (Niguez 47)

(En-Nesyri 13, 90+3, Ocampos 45+1) Osasuna (Aridane 64, Torres 74-pen)

the game than win it, playing for time in the hope of keeping the contest tight, when they might have been better off attacking their opponents' fragility.

"The Madrid we faced in the first half was one of the worst Madrids I have faced at the Bernabeu," said Gerard Pique. "I don't say it as criticism, we

problems,

have

we've missed an opportunity."

There was more tension

than creativity in the early stages as Fede Valverde crashed into Arthur Melo before fellow Spain full-backs Dani Carvajal and Jordi Alba were both booked after a

disagreement.

Madrid had the better of the play and regularly broke at speed through Vinicius down the left but constantly they failed to make the final pass, with Isco once left with his head in his hands after Marcelo opted not to pull the ball back.

SLOW BARCA

Barcelona's passing was slow and their lack of urgency obvious. At one point Messi bent to tie his bootlaces and re-spotted the ball before tak-

ing a corner.
— AFP



Manchester City captain David Silva lifts the trophy as his teammates celebrate their win after the English League Cup final against Aston Villa on Sunday. - AFP

League Cup high for Guardiola's men

Sunday

goals from

on St thanks

City have now won eight

of the last nine trophies

on offer in English football under Guardiola,

who has now won 29 tro-

phies in his managerial

"(Since) we won the first title here against Arsenal in the League

Cup we played 11 competitions and won eight. Is

a lot," said Guardiola.

'For this club it is

not just about one title it is about

want to win.

knows we have the

showing every

game we play

'Everybody

and Rodrigo.

London, March 2: Pep Guardiola hailed his Manchester City side's THE RESULT **Aston Villa** legacy after lifting a third straight League Cup by beating Aston Villa 2-1 at Wembley **Manchester City** (Aguero 20, Rodri 30)

After City sped into a 2-0 lead inside 30 minutes, Mbwana Samatta pulled a goal back for Villa, but their wait for the club's first silverware since 1996 goes on. "I'm disappointed. Everyone wrote us off, but there was a lot of belief in that dressing room," said Villa boss Dean Smith.

"Unfortunately have a mountain to climb against a team like Man City when you go 2-0

behind.' Guardiola made eight changes from the side that won 2-1 at Real Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday with Kevin de Bruyne among those left on the

However, it mattered little as City had the luxury of recalling Aguero, Raheem Sterling and David Silva to the starting XI, and the gulf in class showed.

Guaraioia s changes also handed a rare start to Phil Foden and the 19-year-old more responsibility to fight, to than justified his selectry to win the titles. Eight tion with a man-of-theout of 11 is something match performance.

ASIAN OLYMPIC | BOXING QUALIFIERS

Amit gets top billing, Mary second

March 2: World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) has been given the top billing in the men's competition while the iconic M.C. Mary Kom (51kg) seeded second in the women's event of the Olympic Asian Qualifiers for boxing here

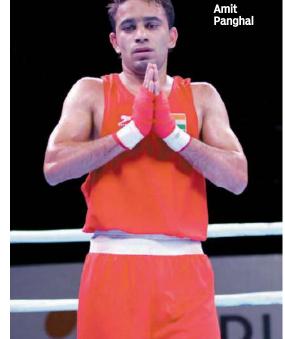
Eight men and five women from India will be aiming to secure Tokyo Olympics berths at the continental event being conducted by the International Olympic Committee's Boxing Task Force.

Tuesday.

While Panghal is the lone Indian man to be seeded, two-time world bronze-medallist Borgohain Lovlina (69kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) have been seeded second and fourth respectively in the women's competition.

The Indian team arrived in Jordan on Friday last week after a training stint in Assisi, Italy, a country battling the novel coronavirus outbreak which has claimed over 3,000 lives across the world since discovered in being Wuhan, China.

"Everything is fine here. The team is in high spirits and we are looking forward to a strong performance," Indian High Performance Director



Santiago Nieva said. finalists to decide the "We have worked on

some areas to ensure that our opponents do not stand a chance," he asserted. The tournament has 63

box-offs

quota places on offer and a boxer will be assured for a Tokyo ticket on reaching the semifinals In some weight cate-

gories, depending on the

size of the draw, there

between losing quarter-

could

Olympic berths. The Indian hopes will

spearheaded by Panghal and Mary Kom, both proven and consistent performers on the big stage. Panghal became the

first Indian male boxer to claim a world silver medal in September last year, while Mary Kom collected a record-shattering eighth world medal a month later in the same year.

SANGWAN'S 1-YR DOPING **BAN LIFTED**

New Delhi, March 2: The one-year doping ban on former Asian silvermedallist boxer Sumit Sangwan was on Monday lifted after he proved that his intake of a banned substance was unintentional in a hearing conducted by the National Anti-Doping Agency here. "Sumit has been cleared

and his ban lifted as he has convinced the NADA panel that the diuretic he tested positive for was a case of unintentional intake," Boxing Federation of India official said.

Sangwan was banned for a year in December 2019 after testing positive for Acetazolamide, listed as a diuretic and masking agent under World Anti-Doping Agency's 2019

Prohibited List.
"I am relieved, a huge weight is off my shoulders. I knew I wasn't in the wrong. I am glad I emotional Sangwan said.

could prove myself," an The suspension, however, cost Sangwan dearly as the 2012 Olympian missed out on appearing for tri-

als for this year's Tokyo

Olympics.

Azlan Shah Cup hockey postponed due to virus

New Delhi, March 2: The Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament on Monday became the latest sporting event to be affected by the novel coronavirus out-break, pushed from April to September in the wake of the deadly disease which is

spreading across the world. The tournament, which was scheduled to be held in Ipoh, Malaysia from April 11 to 18, will now be held from September 24 to October 3, the organisers said in a statement. India, a regular at the event, was not supposed to participate this year.

..Ĭt is in the best interest of the players, officials and all parties involved that the 29th edition of of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Men's Hockey Tournament 2020 to be postponed, Orgainsing Committe chairman Dato' Haji Abd Rahim Bin Md said in a statement.

"The outbreak of COVID-19 which is spreading rapidly in Korea and Japan. The health and well-being of the teams, especially Australia, Canada and Japan should be taken into consideration as not to jeopardise their preparafor the Olympics," he added.

The Organising Committee apologised for the inconvenience but said the decision was taken keeping in mind the current crisis across the world.

AFTER QATAR, THAILAND MOTOGP ALSO CANCELLED

Bangkok, March 2: Thailand's MotoGP was postponed over the new coronavirus on Monday as motorcycling's premier championship took its second hit in two days from the deadly outbreak.

A day after the season-opening Qatar MotoGP was axed, Thailand organisers postponed the March 20-22 race in Buriram without setting a new date.

"I don't say it's cancelled, I just say it is postponed until time allows us to do (the event)," Anutin Charnvirakul, chairman of the Thailand MotoGP organising committee, said.

'It's because of the coronavirus," added Anutin, who is also Thailand's deputy prime minister and health

"We need to postpone it today until further notice." The move means both of the season's first two races have been shelved. The next race on the schedule is in Austin, Texas on April 5.

TWO ASIAN SQUASH **EVENTS DELAYED**

Two squash events — the Asian — Team Championships Malaysia and the Asian Individual Championships in China have been postponed due to

coronavirus outbreak. Asian Championships was scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur from March 25 to 29, while the Asian Junior Individual Championship was to be staged in Quingdao, China from June

29 to July 3. The decision was taken at Annual

Meeting of the Asian Squash Federation . The ASF said that fresh dates for both the events

ASIAN RACE WALK MEET CALLED OFF

will be announced later.

The Asian 20km Race Walk Championships in Japan scheduled for March 15, where 13 Indians were to take part, has been cancelled due to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Tokyo Olympics-bound Bhawana Jat was to lead the Indian challenge in the event earlier scheduled to be held in Nomi city.

— Agencies