

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Maruthi Rao death: Amrutha blocked by family while trying to attend father's last rites

Tension mounted during the funeral procession of Maruthi Rao when Amrutha tried to attend the last rites of her father. She was blocked by her family members and some people also raised slogans 'Amrutha go back'.

Amrutha amid police security visited graveyard at Gandhi Nagar in Miryalaguda where the last rites of Maruthi were being held. Soon after she got down from the car, the sympathizers of Maruthi Rao created ruckus at the graveyard blaming that she killed her father.

She was blocked by her family members when she tried to get closer to the body.

Himachal Pradesh governor Bandaru Dattatreya falls sick, rushed to hospital in Hyderabad

Himachal Pradesh governor Bandaru Dattatreya fell sick on Monday and was rushed to Apollo Hospitals in Hyderabad. It is learned that Dattatreya suffered chest pain and is undergoing treatment.

The doctors after conducting all the tests said that it was just gastric trouble and confirmed that his condition is stable. Party leaders and other political personalities are paying a visit to the hospital to see him. He will be discharged from the hospital late in the afternoon. Dattatreya who was serving as the governor of Himachal Pradesh is on a visit to Hyderabad.

Yes Bank shares jumps 30 pc after SBI agrees to take 49pc stake



New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

Shares of Yes Bank on Monday zoomed over 30 per cent after State Bank of India (SBI) said it will pick up

49 per cent stake in the cash-strapped lender for Rs 2,450 crore.

The scrip witnessed a sharp rise, spiking 29.63 per cent to Rs 21 on the BSE.

On the NSE, it jumped 32.20 per cent to Rs 21.35.

SBI on Saturday announced it will pick up a 49 per cent stake in Yes Bank for Rs 2,450 crore and clarified that all the deposits and liabilities of the reconstructed bank will continue in the "same manner".

"Yes Bank has 255-crore shares of Rs 2 per share. SBI will be issued 245 crore shares at a price of Rs 10 per share for Rs 2,450 crore. This will be 49 per cent of the share capital of the reconstructed bank," the State Bank said in a state-

ment. SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar had earlier said that it had set a maximum investment limit of Rs 10,000 crore for Yes Bank reconstruction process.

SBI shares were trading over 4 per cent lower at Rs 258.50 on the BSE.

Yes Bank has been struggling to raise capital amidst its dwindling financial health. It sought to raise USD 2 billion initially during this fiscal, which was then pruned to USD 1.2 billion as it could not rope in any investor.

Oil prices crash after Saudi Arabia launches price war

Singapore: GNS News Agency, March 9

Oil plunged over 20 percent on Monday after top exporter Saudi Arabia launched a price war in response to a failure by leading producers to strike a deal to support energy markets.

The two main contracts both lost about a fifth of their value in morning Asian trade, with West Texas Intermediate sliding to about \$32 a barrel and Brent crude to about \$36 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia launched an all-out oil war Sunday with the biggest cut in its prices in the last 20 years, Bloomberg News reported, after a failure by cartel OPEC and its allies to clinch a deal to cut production.

A meeting of main producers was expected to agree to deeper cuts to counter the impact of the new coronavirus -- but Moscow refused to tighten supply.

In response, the Gulf powerhouse cut its price for April delivery by \$4-6 a barrel to Asia and \$7 to the United States, with Aramco selling its Arabian Light at an



unprecedented \$10.25 a barrel less than Brent to Europe, Bloomberg said.

'Punishing Russia' Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA, said that "Saudi Arabia seems intent on punishing Russia."

"Oil prices... will likely be capped over the next few months as coronavirus stalls economic growth, and Saudi Arabia opens the pumps and offers huge discounts on its crude grades."

Global markets had already fallen heavily in recent weeks due to fears about the

coronavirus, which has killed thousands and has spread around the world since emerging in China late last year.

Tokyo stocks were hit heavily on Monday on fears over the virus and the plunge in oil prices, with the dollar down against the yen.

Just after markets opened, crude prices briefly dropped as much as 30 percent before gaining back some ground -- the biggest fall since the Gulf War in 1991, Bloomberg said.

The new develop-

ments are reminiscent of the oil price war that erupted in 2014 and sent oil prices crashing to less than \$30 a barrel.

The price fall then battered revenues in the Gulf countries, forcing them to resort to austerity measures and borrowing to plug budget deficits.

On Sunday, shares in the energy-dependent Gulf plunged to multi-year lows after the failure to clinch a deal on production cuts, with all seven bourses in the region in the red.

Jammu woman tests positive for coronavirus, India's Covid19 cases totals 43

Jammu: GNS News Agency, March 9

A 63-year-old woman tested positive for Covid-19 coronavirus in Jammu, officials said on Monday. This raises the number of cases in the country to 43.

The woman, who had a travel history to Iran, was among two patients who were declared "high viral load cases" by the administration on the weekend.

They are undergoing treatment at the isolation ward of the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital and are in a stable condition, the officials said.

"The test report of the woman patient is positive, while the report of the other patient is still awaited," a Health Department official said.

Another woman, who had returned from Saudi Arabia, was admitted in



GMC hospital Doda on Sunday and was kept under observation in an isolation ward, the officials said.

Her samples were sent to National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for testing, they added.

After the two patients

were declared "high viral load cases" on Saturday, the administration announced immediate closure of all primary schools in six districts of the Union Territory and suspension of all biometric attendance till March 31 as a precautionary measure.

The two with a travel

history to coronavirus-hit Italy, South Korea and Iran had fled the hospital's isolation ward on Wednesday shortly after their admission, but were brought back within hours of the incident.

Their samples were sent to Pune.

Kerala covid19 cases touch six after 3 year old child tests positive in Kochi

Kerala GNS News Agency, March 9

A 3-year-old child who reached Kochi international airport from Dubai has tested positive for the deadly coronavirus (Covid-19). With this, the total number of patients increased to six. The child with its parents landed at Kochi on March 7.

The swab samples of the child's parents were also sent to National Institute of Virology for testing. The child had mild fever when tested at the screening facility at the airport.

The patient was soon shifted to the isolation ward at Ernakulam government medical college. All the co-passengers on the flight have been kept under observation. The condition of the child is stable. The total number of persons quarantined in the government medical college Ernakulam is 12



Sensex nosedives over 1,500 pts on global equity rout

Mumbai: GNS News Agency, March 9

Equity benchmark Sensex plummeted over 1,500 points in opening session on Monday led by deepening rout in global markets amid volatility due to rapidly-spreading coronavirus and free falling oil prices.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures plunged nearly 30 per cent to USD 32.11 per barrel after top exporter Saudi Arabia launched a price war in response to a failure by leading producers to strike a deal to support energy markets.

Continuing its downward spiral, the 30-share index was plunged

1515.01 points, or 4.03 per cent, to 36,061.61. The NSE Nifty too cracked 417.05 points, or 3.80 per cent, to 10,572.40.

In the previous session, the 30-share BSE barometer settled 893.99 points or 2.32 per cent lower at 37,576.62. Likewise, the Nifty tanked 279.55 points or 2.48 per cent to close at 10,989.45.

On a net basis, foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 3,594.84 crore, while domestic institutional investors bought shares worth Rs 2,543.78 crore on Friday, data available with stock exchanges showed. ONGC was the top

laggard in the Sensex pack, nosediving up to 11 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, RIL, PowerGrid, Tata Steel, L&T, SBI and Tech Mahindra while, Sun Pharma was the sole gainer.

According to traders, investor sentiment took fresh beating tracking the heightened volatility in global markets amid concerns over the rapidly-spreading coronavirus and sinking crude prices.

Incassant foreign fund outflow also spooked market participants, traders said.

Bourses in Shanghai dropped over 2.41 per

cent, Hong Kong 3.53 per cent, Seoul 3.89 per cent and Tokyo cracked up to 5.65 per cent.

Oil prices plunged nearly 30 per cent, adding to global crude prices tanked after Saudi Arabia on Monday cut its price for April delivery by USD 4-6 a barrel to Asia and USD 7 to the United States, with Aramco selling its Arabian light at an unprecedented USD 10.25 a barrel less than Brent to Europe, reports said.

While in India, the Yes Bank crisis has raised concerns over the stability of the country's banking system, adding to the woes of domestic investors, traders said.

A memorable journey to Finland



My visit to Finland, along with my wife Durdana Arshi and teenaged children, son Mohammed Numan Shamsuddin, daughter Manal Mohammad shamsuddin was indeed a memorable one. It was a five-day trip during last week in December last year. We stayed at the iconic Helsinki for a day while we going to Rovaniemi and coming back to Helsinki spent the remaining five days at Rovaniemi, also the home town of Santa Claus.

The most memorable moment in the journey was from Stockholm's to Helsinki, ferry Viking Line (Mariella) we spent all night in ferry to travel to Helsinki my son and daughter first experience in their life, it was fantastic movement for all of us, we travel finland Helsinki, earlier in 2003, we went for honeymoon in Helsinki, Finland and as I was covering the Stockholm's open tennis tournament, since we both journalist, unarguably one of the best cities in the world. A visit to finland all cities including Helsinki cannot be completed without mentioning their water facility. We get pure water and I can say confidently that one never get such good quality anywhere in the world.

Talking about Rovaniemi is nothing short of inspiring. This place, the capital of Lapland was severely damaged in the Second World War but bounced back strongly to become a modern city with world-class facilities. This place is home to Arktikum, a museum cum science centre which explores the Arctic region and the history of Finnish Lapland. The Science Centre named 'Pilke' features interactive exhibits on northern forests. The only missing point in the entire journey was that we missed the famous Northern Lights as they are not clearly visible during this time of the year.

Our visit to Arctic Circle was like the icing of the cake. All the four of us enjoyed the snow and were busy shooting videos before immersing ourselves into the mystic snow. It was a new feeling for us and even though it was chilling cold, we could spend time happily. The memories of visiting Santa Claus Village will forever stay in my mind.

What attracted me the most in this beautiful country is the education system which is also known to be one of the best in the world. They offer free education for students, even at university level. This also applies to international students from EU/EES. Non-EU-nationals can enjoy free tuition fees if the classes are taught in Finnish or Swedish, or doctoral studies in any language.

The latest UN report says Finland is the happiest country in the world. The Nordic countries are in general always at the top, but Finland made a big climb this year from number 5 to number 1. The country has a great reputation of being tourist friendly and language was never a barrier for us with English being their second language and being spoken widely. I was surprised to see there



was no trace of pollution in the country.

The thought about Finnish food might come across any traveller. This nation, as mentioned earlier, is a good hosting country and food certainly plays a major part in it. Finnish cuisine is influenced by Sweden and Russia and draws on what was traditionally available: fish, meat, milk and potatoes, with dark rye to make bread and porridge. Soups are a Finnish favourite and one common in homes and restaurants. A Finnish family on an average consumes 12 kg of coffee every year!

Finland is also known for its glassware, and one of the most iconic and valuable brands is Iittala, which has been making glass since 1881 and now has filled practically every Finnish home with glass items. They last so long that it is common for people to inherit Iittala items from their relatives. In Finland, the winter is long and cold throughout the country; it lasts almost five months even in Helsinki, which lies in the far south. Here, the temperature remains almost constantly around or below freezing (0 °C or 32 °F) from mid-November to late March.

Finland is a friendly nation which treats outsiders as their own. The country aims at attracting investments from Indian and neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, China, Nepal and Pakistan. They also welcome IT professionals with both hands, something I figured out during this visit. The real estate scenario in the country looks promising and as do restaurant business as they are cheaper when compared to any Asian or Nordic country.

Sports Village, a dream that I am part of, feels that the children we train at our centre in Hyderabad will benefit hugely if they can train here during the summer holidays with world's best coaches. We will certainly make it a point to bring a person to make Indian food because there is a tendency that children may miss the same. We are committed to bring some of the finest coaches to Hyderabad and our focus primarily lies in football and tennis. School University, Helsinki is a hub of sporting activities and we need to tap its potential to the fullest.

Finland is also famous for its lakes. There are 1, 87,888 lakes within Finnish territory. That's a lot of lakes, so no wonder that the country is sometimes referred to as "the land of thousands of lakes".

In short, Finland is one country which can satisfy the business needs and recreational needs of one individual and a suitable destination for leisure trip.

Written by Mohammad Shamsuddin
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Sports Village CEO

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Channels off air

As expected, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's telecast ban on two Malayalam news channels, including the most popular one in Kerala, for coverage of the Delhi riots has led to a furore. The order to suspend transmission may have been withdrawn much before its 48-hour-long punishment, but the Centre has a lot of answering to do for what necessitated the action. Labelled as biased and high-handed, the punishment was ordered without establishing the offence committed by the two channels. The order cited 'inflammatory' coverage, but media and political circles attributed it to the channels being critical of the government's handling of events. The challenge posed to the freedom of the press remains an overarching concern.

Since it is the time for raising hard questions, why not also ask the media, in its entirety, to introspect over where it has landed itself and those it claims to serve — the people of India? Barring a handful, television news channels in the country have over the past few years managed to lower the bar to levels that freely attract ridicule, dismay and charges of pandering to the powers that be. When the damage to credibility is self-inflicted, cries of 'media under attack' get lost in the cacophony of right versus wrong, fake versus real, sloganeering versus debating. That puts extra pressure on journalism, but speaking truth to power, and that too loud and clear, is the very foundation the profession rests on. In this case, therefore, the action of the government needs to be condemned unequivocally.

Equally bizarre and excessive has been the action taken by the Uttar Pradesh Police to put up hoardings in Lucknow with photographs and addresses of those accused of damaging property during the anti-CAA protests. Whatever the charges against them, naming and shaming individuals and marking them out as public enemies without even a trial is a travesty. Resorting to such 'street justice' methods, that too by those meant to maintain law and order, needs to be strongly discouraged.

Two new degree courses likely

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

In tune with industrial demand, two new courses — BSc in data sciences and BCom in business analytics — are likely to foray into undergraduate education from the next academic year (2020-21).

The new courses are being designed to suit the requirements of the industry so that graduates easily land jobs. The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) has constituted an expert committee comprising academicians and experts from the industry for designing the course curriculum. To start with, only a few select colleges — autonomous and prominent ones — will be granted permission to offer courses from the next academic year. Admissions to these courses will be based on the merit secured in the qualifying examination.

"Data sciences and business analytics are much talked about in the industry. The idea to introduce the new courses is to make students job-ready and also to prepare the required workforce for the market. The expert committee has been constituted to formulate the course curriculum," said TSCHE senior official.

A leading multinational company has agreed in principle to offer BSc in data sciences in collaboration with academic institutions. "There will be offline and online classes," the officials revealed.

Apart from new courses in emerging technologies, there were plans to introduce vocational and skill-based courses, including taxation, automobile engineering, hospitality management, physiotherapy, garment technology, at the undergraduate level from the next academic year. A proposal was recently sent by the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education to the TSCHE.

Presently, the board is offering 22 vocational and skill-based courses in intermediate colleges across the State. The idea behind the proposal was to help about 96,000 vocational intermediate students continue their higher studies in the same field. This apart, skill-based courses will also help students land a job after completing their graduation. Responding positively to the request, the TSCHE has written to the State universities to look into the board's proposal.

Degree colleges may soon have management quota Hyderabad: The long-pending demand of private degree college managements for management quota seats is likely to be fulfilled this year.

Recently, the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) has sent a proposal to the State government for sanctioning management quota seats to the tune of 25 per cent or 30 per cent from the next academic year in private degree colleges.

An order to this effect is likely to be issued by the government before the commencement of the Degree Online Service, Telangana (DOST) counselling.

According to sources, the private college managements will be given an option to choose either management quota or DOST system for filling up seats in their respective colleges.

Under the management quota, private colleges will be allowed to fill up to 30 per cent seats in each course and the rest will be filled up through the DOST counselling. Currently, there are 1,156 private degree colleges offering various conventional courses with a total intake of more than 3 lakh students.

Police felicitate Public Prosecutors in Nirmal

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Superintendent of Police C Shashidhar Raju felicitated public prosecutors, court duty officers (CDOs) belonging to police department who played a vital role in conviction of criminals, here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Raju informed that 59 accused were convicted by courts, following efforts of the public prosecutors and CDOs. He said that the prosecutors and officers had coordination and were instrumental in courts awarding the punishments including three life terms. He added that the convictions deter crimes in the society and help citizens lead a peaceful life.

Prosecution deputy director Bhadradi said that



both the public prosecutors and CDOs could do improve conviction rate if worked together. People trust the police department when the culprits are punished. He was all praise for the police officers for coming forward to felicitate the advocates and officials involving in

court duties, as per directions of Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy.

Later SP handed over certificates of appreciation to investigating officers and CDOs for rendering outstanding services.

Public prosecutors Ramana Reddy, Sanjay

Vairagi, Ramakrishna, Rajeshwar Rao, Sriram, DSPs Upender Reddy and Narsing Rao, Inspectors John Diwakar, Jeevan Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Venkatesh, Srinivas and many other police officers were present.

Karimnagar Collector asks staff to keep office premises clean

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Collector K Shashanka said cleaning localities was the responsibility of every person and asked collectorate employees to make their office a role model by maintaining office premises clean. The Collector along with Mayor, Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar, Y Sunil Rao cleaned the collectorate premises as part of Pattana Pragathi here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that it was the responsibility of employees to maintain collectorate localities clean. Collectorate area was divided into eight parts and employees were asked to take up sanitation work regularly.

MCK Mayor Y Sunil Rao, Collector K Shashanka and others examining a drainage in collectorate premises in Karimnagar on Saturday.

Each part of the area was allocated to a depart-



ment, he said and asked the workers to take up cleaning programme on every Saturday. MCK commissioner, Valluri Kranthi, Zilla Parishad CEO Venkatamadhava Rao, former Mayor S Ravinder Singh and collectorate employees participated in the programme.

Take steps to check road mishaps, Warangal Cops told

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Police Commissioner V Ravinder has asked police commissionerate officials to focus on containing the growing road accidents. Addressing the DCPs, Additional DCPs, ACPs and other lower rank officials during a monthly crime review meeting here on Saturday, the Commissioner said that they could cut the number of deaths by 50 in the last year comparing to the before last year. "Taking that into consideration, each official has to take steps to contain the road accidents thus save the precious lives," he added.

He asked them to identify the blackspots on the highways and other roads. "You need to set up sign boards and make arrangements like barricades to check the speed of the vehicles at the accident prone areas," he said and also asked the traffic police to intensify the vehicle inspections to check the triple riding, drunk driving and also the vehicles that carry no number plates.

Speaking on checking the crime rate, he suggested the officials to use technology and get command over the latest technology so as to catch the criminals at the earliest. He also advised them to see that the number of the CCTV cameras would be increased with the help of the



locals in the lanes and bylanes. He cautioned them to be careful while dealing with the long pending disputes and also sense the possibility of crime due to such cases in the future. "The police officials at the police station must keep the higher officials in the loop about the grave offences immediately," he added.

DCP (West Zone) Srinivas Reddy, Additional DCPs Venkatalaxmi, Malla Reddy, Bheem Rao, Giri Raju and others attended the review meeting.

Cooperative Sector of TS would stand as a model to the country: Minister

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday said that it was only the TRS, which was not facing anti-incumbency being a ruling party in the elections, due to the welfare schemes and development programmes taken up by the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Speaking at a media conference here, completion of election of DCCB Chairman post, Jagdish Reddy said that the TRS created history in the politics of the country by showing its domination in all elections since 2014.

Generally, the ruling parties would face anti-incumbency in the elections of its second term, but majority of the TRS in the Legislative Assembly elections-2018 increased. The TRS has captured 95 per cent of the municipalities in the state in elections to urban local bodies.

In Zilla Parishad elections, the TRS has won chairman posts of all 32 zilla parishads in the district. The TRS supported candidates were also won as chairman of 95 percent of DCCBs in the state. It indicated the faith reposed in Chief Minister by the people, he added.

He pointed out that the Chief Minister has made Telangana state stand as top in the country in welfare of the people and development in a short span of time.

He has also exuded confidence that cooperative sector of Telangana state would also stand as a model to entire country. Reminding that Mahender Reddy has worked as PACS chairman for three decades, he said that the Chief Minister has recognized his commitment on welfare of the people and provided the opportunity of DCCB chairman. MLC Sheri Subhash Reddy, Government Whip

Maoist carrying Rs 9.50 lakh reward surrenders in Maharashtra

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

A top Maoist carrying a cash reward of Rs 9.50 lakh on his head has laid down arms before the police in Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra on Friday.

The Maoist called Vilas alias Dasru Kolha, aged 44 years surrendered before the Superintendent of Police Shailesh Balkawde along with an assault rifle AK-47 and ammunition consisting of three magazines and 35 rounds, informed a press release.



According to the SP Vilas joined the CPI (Maoist) Party in the year 2000 and was currently working in north Gadchiroli as divisional committee commander. He was involved in as many as 149 serious offences that includes 40 murder cases, 57 encounters, 24 dacoits and eight kidnaps. This was the first time that a naxal has surrendered with an AK 47 weapon in the district. Vilas hails from Vikaspalli in Etapalli taluka in Gadchiroli district and first joined Etapalli dalam, later worked as dalam commander of Tippagad dalam, Chatgaon dalam and was promoted as divisional committee commander, the SP informed.

Telangana CS tells departments to file replies to Assembly queries soon

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed departmental heads to submit details of new Presidential Order to General Administration Department by March 4.

He held a review meeting with the officials at BRKR Bhavan on Saturday over the implementation of the new Presidential Order, replies to pending Legislative Assembly questions, Legislative Council questions, Zero Hour mentions, audit paras and preparation of outcome budget and notes on demand etc.

The CS informed that reports on new Presidential Order submitted by various departments to the General Administration Department and Finance had been sent with some observations to the concerned departments.

He directed the officials to submit the proposals in accordance with rules by March 4 to the General Administration Department. Further, steps would be taken as per the business rules, he said. He also asked the officials to take utmost care regarding the questions raised during the previous Assembly session and also on the present session.

He directed the heads to submit replies immediately and also coordinate with the Assembly officials. The reports on pending audit paras should be sent to the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) immediately.

Detailed information should be incorporated in note on demand and outcome budget. Departments should also prepare brief profile and submit to the government, he added.

Special Chief Secretaries Rajeshwar Tiwari, Shanti Kumari, Principal Secretaries K Rama Krishna Rao, Rajat Kumar, Sunil Sharma, Shashank Goel, Jayesh Ranjan, Vikas Raj, Ravi Gupta, Additional DG Jitender, Assembly Secretary Narasimha Charyulu and other secretaries participated in the meeting.

Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy elected as Nizamabad DCCB chairman

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Assembly speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy's son and Desaipet society chairman Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy was unanimously elected as Chairman of Nizamabad District Co-operative Central Bank (DCCB).

There was a single nomination filed on Saturday for both DCCB chairman and vice-chairman posts and consequently, Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy was declared elected as Chairman and Ramesh Reddy elected as the Vice-chairman.

DCMS elections were also unanimously as only two nominations are filed for DCMS Chairman and Vice-chairman posts. TRS party proposed Nallavelli PACS chairman Sambari Mohan as DCMS chairman and Bibipet PACS chairman Edulla Indrasena Reddy as DCMS Vice-chairman. Amrad PACS chairman Srinivas Goud expected DCMS chairman post and he expressed his discontent for not being elected as DCMS chairman.

Housing and R&B minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy supervised the DCCB and DCMS elections proses, along with Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan and MLC V.G.Goud. Speaking on the occasion, the newly elected DCCB Chairman Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy expressed his gratitude to the Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Municipal Administration minister K. T Rama Rao, R&B Minister Prashanth Reddy and Speaker Pocharam for selecting him as DCCB chairman and said he would strive for the benefit of farmers and development of bank.

Later Bhaskar Reddy took blessings from his father and assembly speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan and R&B minister Prashanth Reddy.

Telangana power demand peaks to 13,168 MW

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Telangana is powering its way into the record books, literally! The State has now set a new record in power consumption with the peak demand soaring to 13,168 MW on Friday, surpassing the peak demand of 13,162 MW on March 13, 2014, in undivided Andhra Pradesh.



Gongidi Sunitha and MLAs Kancharla Bhupal Reddy and Gadari Kishore were also present.

Apartheid-era pictures head to auction

New Delhi: **GNS News Agency, March 9**

An archive of images taken from the photographer's studio of ZJS Ndimande and Sons in Greytown during Apartheid, a system of racial segregation practised in colonial South Africa, will go under the hammer at an auction.

Global auction house Bonhams will sell some of these historically-important studio portraits in London on March 18. The studio, which opened in 1940, was later forbidden from operating under the owner's name as Greytown (now the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa) was considered a white district during the regime. The 1,126 loose images and four albums of men, women and children posing for Ndimande in his studio have an estimate of 6,000-9,000 pounds.

ZJS Ndimande began his family-run photography studio in the 1940s with his son, Richard Ndimande, who later took over the business from his father in 1968.

"Richard Ndimande's pictures were taken under circumstances of duress. But, they have a pride and self-assertion to them that belies the context within which they were produced. Within the confines of the studio a state of utopia reigns, free from the politics of race and space that governed daily life for black South Africans," Ekow Eshun, journalist, broadcaster and curator said.



University student discovers 17 new planets

London, **GNS News Agency, March 9**

University of British Columbia (UBC) astronomy student Michelle Kunimoto has discovered 17 new planets, including a potentially habitable, Earth-sized world, by combing through data gathered by NASA's Kepler mission.

Over its original four-year mission, the Kepler satellite looked for planets, especially those that lie in the "habitable zones" of their stars, where liquid water could exist on a rocky planet's surface. The new finding, published in The Astronomical Journal, include one such particularly rare planet.

Officially named KIC-7340288 b, the planet discovered by Kunimoto is just one and a half times the size of Earth — small enough to be considered rocky, instead of gaseous like the giant planets of the Solar System — and in the habitable zone of its star.

"This planet is about a thousand light-years away, so

we're not getting there anytime soon!" said Kunimoto, a PhD candidate in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. "But this is a really exciting find since there have only been 15 small, confirmed planets in the habitable zone found in Kepler data so far," Kunimoto added.

The planet has a year that is 142.5 days long, orbiting its star at 0.444 Astronomical Units (AU, the distance between Earth and our Sun) — just bigger than Mercury's orbit in our Solar System, and gets about a third of the light Earth gets from the Sun. Kunimoto working on her PhD at UBC, used what is known as the "transit method" to look for the planets among the roughly 200,000 stars observed by the Kepler mission.

"Every time a planet passes in front of a star, it blocks a portion of that star's light and causes a temporary decrease in the star's brightness," Kunimoto said. "By finding these dips, known as transits, you can start to piece together information about the planet, such as its size and how long it takes to orbit," she further stated.

Margaret Thatcher named outfits after world leaders

London, **GNS News Agency, March 9**

Late UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had named some of her outfits after other world leaders, including Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former US President Ronald Reagan, newly released documents have revealed.

The incident is detailed in the latest release from the Margaret Thatcher Archive Trust, which is overseeing the gradual publication of the former leader's private files, the BBC said in a report on Saturday.

Files have revealed that Thatcher, the UK's first female Prime Minister, named more outfits after Gorbachev, the eighth and last leader of the erstwhile Soviet Union, than any other leader, followed by Reagan.

An entry from her private diary records that she wore her "Pink Chanel Gorbachev" during a visit to the Granada Television Studios in Manchester in January 1990. Eight months before, she had worn the same dress when she

hosted Gorbachev in London.

Chris Collins, from the Margaret Thatcher Archive Trust, said that "only certain men" received the accolade of having an outfit named after them. He noted, for example, that Thatcher chose to name a dress she wore when she met French President Francois Mitterrand after Waddesdon Manor, the Buckingham country house where the meeting took place.

When she met President George HW Bush in 1990, she was recorded as wearing her "Black Dull Suit". The former Prime Minister's christening of her wardrobe was not limited to foreign leaders she admired, the BBC report said.

BBC broadcaster Terry Wogan, who interviewed Thatcher in January 1990, had several outfits named after him including a "Wogan Long" and a "Wogan Short". Another entry from 1990 details that she wore her "Wogan Burgundy" to the Bank of England.

Mahathir re-emerges as candidate for new Malay PM

Malaysia. **GNS News Agency, March 9**

Malaysia's interim leader Mahathir Mohamad attends a committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur: Mahathir Mohamad, who resigned earlier this week as Malaysia's Prime Minister, re-emerged as a candidate for the post on Saturday after receiving support from the Pakatan Harapan (PH) ruling coalition.

In response to the statement that he had supported Muhyiddin Yassin, a former Deputy Prime Minister and the President of Mahathir's own Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) party, the 94-year-old said he did not sign any statutory declaration in support of any individual, reports Xinhua news agency.

Mahathir said he had a meeting with the PH coalition on Saturday morning, and was now confident that he has the numbers needed to garner majority support in the Lower House of Parliament.

"I am therefore prepared to stand as prospective candidate for Prime Minister," he said in a statement.

Mahathir led PH to power after winning the general election in 2018.

But his abrupt resignation and the pulling out of his PPBM party from the PH on Monday cost the coalition its parliamentary majority.

In a statement on Saturday, PH, which has proposed



former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as candidate for the premiership after Mahathir's resignation, said that they were now fully backing Mahathir for Prime Minister.

Slovaks poised to oust ruling Smer party in election clouded by graft

BRATISLAVA (**GNS News Agency, March 9**

- Voters look poised to oust the centre-left Smer party that has dominated Slovakia's political landscape for more than a decade in a national election on Saturday overshadowed by anger over high-level graft.

Opinion polls ahead of a two-week moratorium before the ballot pointed to a

rapid rise for anti-corruption movement Ordinary People (OLANO), increasing chances it may form a centre-right majority with smaller conservative and liberal parties to outmanoeuvre Smer.

OLANO founder and leader Igor Matovic has pledged to clean up Slovak politics, an ambition encapsulated in his party's slogan:

"Let's Beat the Mafia Together".

"We can get rid of government that used its power to make itself and connected people rich," he said in the final television debate this week. "Poor people were paying for that, sick people were dying unnecessarily, and young people were leaving Slovakia. Let's turn that around."

The political shift in the

euro zone member state, which has avoided fights with Brussels unlike its central European Visegrad Groups neighbours Hungary and Poland, started with the 2018 murder of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée.

An investigation unearthed communications between a businessman now on trial for ordering the hit and politicians and judicial officials.

US reports fourth case of COVID 19

Los Angeles: **GNS News Agency, March 9**

US health officials reported Friday a fourth case of novel coronavirus of unknown origin, indicating the disease was spreading in the country.

The latest case is a boy under 18 in Washington State who tested "presumptive positive," local authorities said without releasing further details about the patient.

He is currently in home isolation in Snohomish County. The high school he attends will be shut until March 3 while it is deep cleaned, the Washington State Department of Health said.

In neighbouring Oregon, authorities said Friday an adult who had had contact with people at an elementary school had been hospitalized and was also considered "presumptive positive."

"We've been expecting this and we're prepared for it," Oregon's Health Authority director Patrick Allen told reporters.

Earlier Friday, Californian health authorities said an older woman was confirmed infected with unknown origin -- the second such case in the northern part of the state.

"This new case indicates that there is evidence of community transmission but the extent is still not clear," said Sara Cody, director of public health for Santa Clara County.

"What we know now is that the virus is here, present at some level, but we still don't know to what degree," she added.

The two cases in California are close to Silicon Valley, where tech giants like Apple, Google and Tesla are

based.

Travel advisory issued

The United States on Friday warned against non-essential travel to Italy, a top destination for US tourists, over the growing coronavirus epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "recommends that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to



Italy. There is limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas," it said in a statement.

The State Department raised its travel advice a notch for Italy to "reconsider travel," pointing to a "sustained community spread" of the virus there.

Italy has reported 650 coronavirus cases and 17 deaths -- the most in Europe from the epidemic that originated in China, which is by far the most affected country.

Italy has urged tourists not to stay away, even as nearly a dozen cities in the north are under lockdown.

US Democratic presidential contenders Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden

Carolina **GNS News Agency, March 9**

US Democratic presidential contenders blasted the Republican Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus outbreak on the eve of South Carolina's fourth-in-the-nation nominating contest on Saturday.

Joe Biden is banking on the southern state to breathe new life into his struggling campaign and make him the top moderate alternative to national front-runner Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist.

Trump defended his handling of the threat on Twitter on Thursday evening, writing that the administration's actions put 'us way ahead in our battle with coronavirus'.

Sumter: US Democratic presidential contenders blasted the Republican Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus outbreak on the eve of South Carolina's fourth-in-the-nation nominating contest on Saturday.

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Here's what is happening on Friday:

Coronavirus criticism

Biden, US Senator Sanders and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg joined the chorus of prominent Democrats criticizing the administration response to the virus, whose rapid spread reached six new countries and sent global stock markets tumbling again on Friday.

At a campaign event in Sumter, South Carolina, Biden accused President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, who is overseeing the government response to the outbreak, of misleading the American public about the virus threat.

US Democratic presidential contenders Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Mike Bloomberg blast Donald Trump over handling of coronavirus outbreak

File image of former US vice-president Joe Biden. AP

"Trump and Pence decided that the public health experts cannot inform the public on their own what's going on," Biden said. "Now the president won't let other people tell the truth."

Sanders slammed Trump for holding a rally in North Charleston, South Carolina, on Friday night rather than remaining in Washington to address the situation.

"Why is he here? He's here to try and disrupt the Democratic primary," Sanders said at an event in St George. "How pathetic and how petty can you be?"

Bloomberg focused on the coronavirus in campaign speeches on Thursday and Friday and pointed to the sharp drop in stock market prices on Friday as a sign of concern about Trump's competence.

"The stock market has plunged partly out of fear (about the virus) but also because investors have no confidence that this president is capable of managing the crisis," Bloomberg told a rally in Memphis, Tennessee.

Bloomberg, a late entrant in the race for the White House, has not competed in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada or South Carolina, and is pinning his hopes on Super Tuesday nominating contests next week in Tennessee and 13 other states. On Thursday, he campaigned in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Trump defended his handling of the threat on Twitter on Thursday evening, writing that the administration's actions put "us way ahead in our battle with coronavirus."

Earlier in the week, he called the risk from the virus "very low" in the United States.

At present, there are 62 confirmed cases of the virus in the United States, including people repatriated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Japan, U.S. officials said.

Counting on South Carolina

Biden continued to show signs of growing strength ahead of Saturday's primary.

His campaign celebrated a \$1.2 million one-day online fundraising haul, the most contributed by small-dollar internet donors since his campaign launch last year when similar contributions added up to more than \$6 million.

A Monmouth University poll released on Thursday showed Biden with large support from black South Carolina voters, who make up about 60 percent of the state's Democratic electorate.

He was buoyed as well by an endorsement from U.S. Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, who was the 2016 Democratic vice presidential nominee under Hillary Clinton. Virginia votes on Tuesday.

In Sumter, undecided voter Marybeth Berry, 44, told Biden that she sees a "fire" in some of his rivals and asked what drives him.

"Because you see



The ads will run in some of the most expensive media markets in California, Texas and Massachusetts. The new buy is in addition to more than \$3 million the group previously spent in California and seven other Super Tuesday states.

Bernie, you see Elizabeth Warren, you see that fire. That's what I'm looking for," said Berry, a theatre professor at the University of South Carolina Lancaster.

Biden looked Berry in the eyes and said: "The fact that I'm not screaming like Bernie and waving my arms or like Elizabeth, it's not lack of fire."

He said "dcency and honour" drive him and that he hates to see the "abuse of power" against vulnerable people.

"And I'm glad you asked me the question because it's making me mad even answering it," he said.

Berry said she thought Biden's answer was "very, very good" and "powerful," and that she was leaning towards him after hearing him speak, but added she was also considering Sanders.

Her husband, Christopher, an Army veteran who met Biden when he served in Iraq, was already convinced. He voted for Trump in 2016 but is supporting Biden this time.

Biden had poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire and finished a distant second place in Nevada.

Warren calls for Super PAC disclosure

At a canvassing kickoff event in Greenville, an animated Warren fired up a crowd of supporters and volunteers, telling them that "our democracy, our world, hangs in the balance" in 2020.

"I'm Elizabeth Warren, and I'm the woman who's going to beat Donald Trump," she said, repeating a line she has recently begun delivering at campaign events.

Her campaign also called on a new pro-Warren Super PAC to disclose its donors before Super Tuesday. The Massachusetts senator has been criticized for not disavowing the effort given her longstanding criticism of such groups.

The Persist PAC announced it would spend \$9 million to air television advertisements ahead of the Super Tuesday contests.

The ads will run in some of the most expensive media markets in California, Texas and Massachusetts. The new buy is in addition to more than \$3 million the group previously spent in California and seven other Super Tuesday states.

Super PACS may raise and spend unlimited sums of money to support candidates as long as they do not coordinate directly with those candidates' campaigns.

Radhe shoot extended

Salman Khan was slated to complete the shoot of Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai by February 22, but it has now been extended by 17 days. Salman is now making sure that the Prabhudeva directorial is made a lot better before his director goes back home to work on his assignments to the south of the Nilgiris.

The not so impressive performance of Dabangg 3 — released during the anti CAA and NRC wave that first gripped North India in December — resulted in the film not really getting the desired numbers. “Now Salman is looking at everything in detail making sure that Prabhu gets what he wants so he can do the film to his utmost satisfaction. From the dance moves to the action scenes, Salman wants the film to be as good as it gets. Hence the shooting has been extended till March 10. Again, Salman’s pre-occupation with the Bigg Boss show also resulted in an inordinate delay in the shoot,” says a trade source.

Salman is expected to then take on a Sikh cop avatar for Abhiraj Minwala’s film with Aayush Sharma before working on Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali for Farhad Samji, Kick 2 for



Sajid Nadiadwala and the new film with his onetime bestie Sooraj Barjatya.

Shahid Kapoor’s hard at work



After Shahid Kapoor’s injury to his lip healed, the actor is working on longer shifts for Gowtam Tinnanuri’s Jersey, which is a remake of the Telugu film of the same name.

The shooting, which is taking place in Chandigarh, will now move to cooler locations in Uttarakhand. Our man on the spot says, “There is a schedule which is fixed for Dehradun right after this for this emotional sports drama. The shoot shifts to the Uttarakhand capital in the third week of March. It will have a schedule running into almost two months there before the film can be completed, so that the August 28 deadline for the release of the film can be adhered to.”

Shahid is wearing a cricketer’s jersey for the second time in his career. He had done so earlier for the Yash Raj Film Dil Bole Hadippa directed by Anurag Singh and co-starring Rani Mukerji. Super 30 and Batla House actress Mrunal Thakur plays his love interest in the film.

Ahmed Khan defends ‘Do You Love Me’

British music producer TroyBoi and his fans have asserted that the new sizzling Baaghi 3 track Do You Love Me is ripped off from him, but the film’s director Ahmed Khan has his own opinion on the plagiarism ruckus.

“As far as I know, T-Series has fully and legitimately bought the rights of the song. There’s absolutely nothing illegal about it. Having said this, let me clarify that I have nothing to do with this on any level. I didn’t choose the song, T-Series did. I didn’t even choreograph it, my formal assistant, Adil did. Though of course, I was present on the set,” he muses.

Everybody has been complimenting Ahmed on how hot Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani look in the



song. “Disha is looking gorgeous. In Baaghi 2, I had presented her as a simple girl in salwar and kameez. In Baaghi 3, she has transformed into this astonishing diva. She has come a long

way in no time at all,” the director gushes.

As for Tiger, Ahmed turns sentimental. “Sajid Nadiadwala and I have practically seen Tiger grow up in

front of us. As a star and an actor, he has evolved like crazy from his debut in Heropanti to Baaghi 3. We are very proud of him,” he says with a smile.

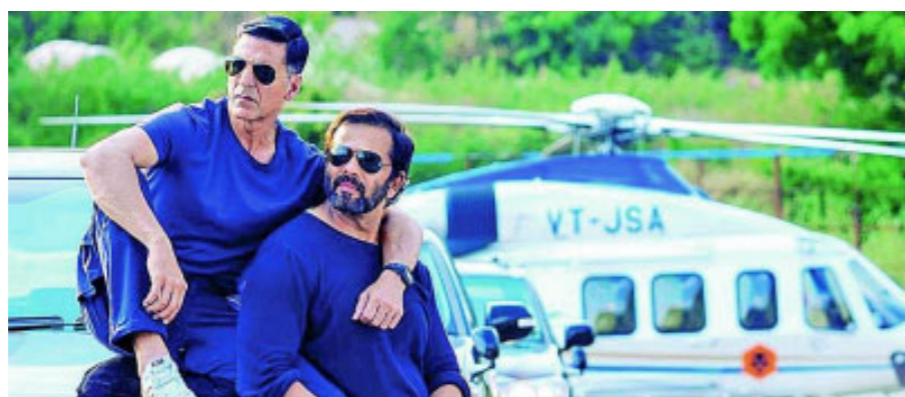
Cops, around the clock

When it comes to releasing a film of a big star, Bollywood prefers to play safe. For decades, Salman Khan has reserved Eid for releasing his films, Shah Rukh opts for New Year, whereas Akshay Kumar generally releases his films during Independence Day or other national holidays. However, this time, the Khiladi of B-town is releasing his most anticipated film, Sooryavanshi, with Rohit Shetty, on March 24 when Maharashtra will celebrate Gudi Padwa — the Marathi New Year. The film will not only release on Tuesday but will also be running in theatres 24/7.

This announcement is in the wake of the Maharashtra government’s new directive that allows shopping malls, restaurants and cinema halls to remain open round the clock.

The film’s director Rohit Shetty took to Instagram stating, “India’s First Cop Universe... A new release day — Not Friday...but Tuesday And A new Initiative — Mumbai 24x7. With ‘Sooryavanshi’ Mumbai theatres will be up and running, 24 x 7...AA RAHI HAI POLICE, 24th March 2020 Evening 6 pm c).”

Soon after, Akshay too shared the news on his Twitter account. He wrote, “Ain’t no time for crime coz Aa Rahi Hai Police! #Sooryavanshi releasing worldwide on 24th March.



Cashing on star power

While this is the first time in decades that a film is releasing on Tuesday, it is also the first to have shows late night. However, one wonders if the audiences will warm up to the idea of watching a film post midnight. According to film distributor Raj Bansal, films like Sooryavanshi can take the risk of screening it round-the-clock. “In the case of Sooryavanshi, this will work because this is one of the most anticipated films. Small films can’t take that risk of running 24/7. But seeing the cast and director’s combination, it is expected to do well,” says Bansal adding that it will be a treat to watch such films at night.

But trade analyst Amul Mohan reveals that having shows late night has been there for some time in Mumbai. “We have shows running till three in the morning, and with Sooryavanshi, they are just jumping into that and making it official be-

cause now, there is more awareness. They are using the situation for their best so more people will go to watch the film,” he opines.

Balancing of economics

While the 24/7 shows open the opportunities for audiences to choose their show timings, will it manage to generate revenue for theatre-owners after considering the overhead costs? “We are seeing this as a development which will offer more flexibility to our patrons with more show timings. However, the official instructions are awaited for us to make a clearer evaluation,” says Alok Tandon, CEO-INOX Leisure Ltd.

Mohan also feels that the film will reap benefits, as the second day of the release is a holiday in Maharashtra.

“Technically, the film is releasing on the holiday and the day prior will have preview shows starting late in the evening. The next day is

the added benefit and makers will hike the ticket prices so they can earn the maximum profit even if people don’t go for late night shows,” says the trade analyst. He further adds that it is a rare scenario when a film is releasing on Tuesday and gets a five-day-long weekend.

Inspired from south Although it is a new practice for Bollywood to have shows round the clock, the strategy has been existing in the south for over decades, specially when the film stars a big hero such as Rajinikanth, Ajith Kumar and Mahesh Babu, among other top stars.

“This is a norm in South. They release a film early in the morning and go till late nights. I think Rohit Shetty and Akshay Kumar are taking the lead from South and now there is a law as well, so it gives them the permission and makes it more valid,” concludes Mohan.

Tiger Shroff and Shraddha Kapoor B’day in Dubai!

Currently, Tiger Shroff and Shraddha Kapoor are in the news as their upcoming film Baaghi 3’s release is around the corner. However, in just a few days, Tiger and Shraddha will be turning a year older and their fans are gearing up for their birthday celebrations. Tiger will be ringing in his birthday on March 2 and Shraddha’s special day falls on March 3. With just a day’s gap in their birthdays, fans of the Baaghi 3 stars are all set for the same. Recently, while promoting their film in Dubai, Tiger and Shraddha celebrated their birthday with the media.

In a video that is shared on social media by fan clubs, Shraddha and Tiger are surprised on seeing a huge cake waiting for them at the press meet. Clad in a green pantsuit, Shraddha looked gorgeous as she sat next to her dapper co-star Tiger. The two stars can be seen making a wish and then proceeding to cut their early birthday cake in the



video. As soon as the Baaghi 3 stars cut the cake, the people around them started singing ‘Happy Birthday’ for the two stars.

Picture perfect!

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan were snapped on the sets of a photo shoot. Accompanying them was their little munchkin Taimur Ali Khan.

Photos of the three of them have been doing the rounds on the internet and well, we cannot wait to see the result of this shoot as well. Meanwhile, something from the BTS shoot has caught our attention and while we are excited, this one is adorable as well.

A video of Taimur watching over his parents geared up in shoot mode while assisting a member of the crew with a wind blower has managed melt several hearts. If anything, this video is adorable for the sheer fact that Tim Tim is assisting while his parents go on with their work for the day. B-town divas Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt



are gushing over this tiny tot as both of them dropped in comments on the video. While Deepika wrote ‘steal him,’ Alia left a comment saying ‘omg’ along with the kiss emoji.

Tulu film catches the eye at Bengaluru International Film Fest

Bengaluru: Among the 200 screenings as part of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) this year, you might have expected a Tulu film to be a bit lost. But Pingara has received a massive response from movie buffs.

Tulu is a language spoken in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and parts of Chikkamagaluru districts. Since the language covers a very small geographical area of Karnataka and is spoken by a small population, availability of theaters is difficult for Tulu movies.

The Tulu film industry has been very vocal about this problem during the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes).

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Avinash Shetty, producer of Pingara, said, “Tulu films find it difficult to release all over Karnataka. We know after the release of Ulidavaru Kandante and Rangi Taranga that people in south Karnataka are very interested in watching movies which reflect a Mangaluru culture. So we are trying to reach out to people with Tulu language movies.”

There were 15 Tulu films released in 2018, and 24 in 2019. But visibility and reach is always a problem. Tulu films can count on barely 60 screens (spread over 13 centres) that will show them.

“Our market is quite small as the language is spoken mainly in the Mangaluru region. We get requests for theatrical releases from people in South Karnataka but the problem arises when we approach theatre owners. We are



always told to approach them only if the movie has already done well in the coastal area. So our industry needs more support from the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC).”

Tulu cinema reached a milestone recently by releasing its 100th film. It took 47 years to achieve that feat. Tulu-speaking people are spread over different parts of the country, with a heavy concentration in West Asia, in addition to the Tulu homeland of Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and north Kasaragod in Kerala.

Pingara revolves around people who worship Daiva (evil spirits) and offers something fresh. The film is directed by Preetham Shetty and stars Neema Ray and Sharan Shetty in lead roles.

Box Office: Thappad First Day Collections

New Delhi: Taapsee Pannu’s much-anticipated flick ‘Thappad’, which hit the theatres on February 28, received a mild response from the moviegoers, minting Rs 3.07 crores on its opening day.

Film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the box office collection of the film on his Twitter account. According to Adarsh, the film started low in the morning show, and gathered speed post noon and registered healthy growth towards the evening and night shows.

The Anubhav Sinha-directorial has Taapsee as



the protagonist who refuses to tolerate domestic violence in the name of love and re-

lationships. The film also features Ratna Pathak Shah, Manav

Kaul, Dia Mirza, Tanvi Azmi, and Ram Kapoor in pivotal roles.

Bollywood actors say ‘Helo’ to regional fans

Bollywood’s leading actresses - Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Rakul Preet Singh, have joined the vibrant community on Helo, and are seen personally engaging with their Indian fans through multiple content formats available on the platform.

A number of celebrities from the Indian film fraternity including Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor, Badshah Tamannaah, Guru Randhawa, Mouni Roy, Vijay Deverakonda, Shilpa Shetty, Neha Kakkar,

Dulquer Salmaan, Sargun Mehta and many more have also joined the bandwagon in the past.

The celebrities have been actively creating and posting exclusive content, keeping their fans updated around useful insights, including their personal life.

Oscar-winning Indian composer A R Rahman has also recently joined the platform and was seen promoting his upcoming film 99 Songs among his regional fans. Helo has launched an

innovative feature called ‘Helo Live’ through which, the celebrities are able to interact with their fans from all over the country collectively and even personally, through one-on-one direct chat during the live session.

Actress Shraddha Kapoor was the first celebrity to go live on the platform followed by Rakul Preet Singh who took to the platform to engage with her fans.

Many Celebrities see this app as the bridge that connects them to their fans

in any part of the country.

Expressing her delight, Shraddha Kapoor said, “As actors, we hardly get enough time to directly engage with our fans across geographies. Connecting with thousands of them together on Helo through ‘Helo Live’ feature is amazing. I had a fabulous experience of sharing my personal stories relating to work life balance and got lots positive comments and reactions from from my fans who form the vibrant community on Helo’.

Six-machine Andre Russell leads West Indies to series win over Sri Lanka

Pallekele: GNS News Agency, March 9

Andre Russell hit six sixes in a blistering 14-ball innings as West Indies smashed their way to a seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka and seal the two-match Twenty20 series on Friday.

West Indies' bowlers limited Sri Lanka to 155 for six and then Brandon King struck 43 off 21 balls and Russell made 40 off just 14 balls as West Indies raced to 158 for three in 17 overs. No batsman has hit six sixes in so few balls in a T20 international.

The tourists also easily won the first game by 25 runs this week. Though West Indies are reigning World T20 champions it was their first series win in the format in more than a year.



Dasun Shanaka was the pick of the Sri Lankan batsmen hitting an unbeaten 31 off 24 balls.

Liton Das and Tamim Iqbal first Bangladeshi opening pair to score a hundred each

Sylhet: GNS News Agency, March 9

Liton Das and Tamim Iqbal became the first Bangladeshi opening pair to score a hundred each as Bangladesh crushed Zimbabwe by 123 runs in the rain-hit third one-day international to complete a clean sweep in the three-match series in Sylhet on Friday.

Liton hit 176 off 143 balls, the highest ever individual ODI score for Bangladesh, while Tamim stayed unbeaten on 128 off 109 balls as the duo put on 292 runs in Bangladesh's highest partnership for any wicket.

Tamim had scored Bangladesh's previous highest score in the second ODI just three days ago.

Liton and Tamim guided Bangladesh to 322-3 in 43 overs before 4-41 from Mohammad Saifuddin ensured victory and gave captain Mashrafe Mortaza a



fitting farewell.

It was Mashrafe's last game as Bangladesh's ODI captain after he announced his decision to step down from the position on Thursday and his teammates rose to the occasion to dominate Zimbabwe.

As Bangladesh's innings was interrupted by rain, Zimbabwe were set a

revised target of 342 in 43 overs under the DLS method, but were bowled out for 218 in 37.2 overs, with Sikandar Raza making 61.

Mashrafe, who oversaw 50 wins as skipper, began the demolition in the very first over before finishing with 1-47, while Taijul Islam (2-38), Mustafizur

Rahman (1-32) were also among the wickets.

"This is a great honour. My boys have been fantastic. They have given everything for the team. I'd like to say my thanks to all the boys," said Mashrafe, who was presented with a special memento by the Bangladesh Cricket Board after the match.

Shikhar Dhawan's 69 fails to see Reliance 1 through to DY Patil T20 title

Navi Mumbai GNS News Agency, March 9

India opener Shikhar Dhawan's 69 went in vain as his team Reliance 1 lost to Indian Oil in the final of the 16th D Y Patil T20 Cup here on Friday. Reliance 1 lost by 11 runs in the summit clash as Indian Oil restricted them to 183/7.

Earlier, Indian Oil scored 194/5 on the back of their skipper Aditya Tare's unbeaten 75.

Dhawan (69 off 41 balls; 6x4, 2x6) single-handedly steered his team's chase as all other Reliance 1 batsmen, including Hardik Pandya (0), faltered at the DY Patil Stadium here. Dhawan was caught in a horrible mix up and was run out. This eventually led to Reliance 1's loss.

The three India players Dhawan, Hardik and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar were making comebacks to competitive cricket in this tournament after sustaining injuries.

Hardik, who had helped Reliance 1 beat BPCL in the semifinal by smashing an unbeaten 158 off just 58 balls, perished for a first ball duck in the final. Hardik gave a sitter off Siddhesh Lad.

Bhuvaneshwar Kumar was expensive with figures of 0/50 from his four overs in the final.

However, for his show in the entire tournament, Hardik won three awards --



Maximum Sixes, Best Batsman and Player of the Tournament.

Pawan Negi was injured while batting, after being hit on his face when he

was trying to make a pull shot. He was immediately taken off the field.

Hardik Pandya smashes unbeaten 158 off 55 balls

Navi Mumbai: GNS News Agency, March 9

Fit-again India all-rounder Hardik Pandya blazed his way to an unbeaten 158 off just 55 balls against BPCL in a semifinal match of the D Y Patil T20 Cup here on Friday.

Pandya, who returned to competitive cricket in this tournament after undergoing a back surgery, struck six fours and 20 sixes during his blitzkrieg to help Reliance One post 238/4 in their 20 overs.

He had smashed his



way to a sensational 105 off just 39 balls on Tuesday in a league game for Reliance One at the RCP at Ghansoli.

Pandya was in red-hot form on Friday also and he punished the BPCL bowlers with an array of sixes. The BPCL bowlers -- Sandeep Sharma (0/37), Sylvester D'Souza (1/56), India all-rounder Shivam Dube (1/40), Parikshit Valsangkar (0/28), Sagar Udeshi (0/45) and Rahul Tripathi (2/32) -- were

hammered by Hardik, who looks all set to make a comeback to the ODI team versus South Africa.

However, India opener Shikhar Dhawan, who is also on the road to recovery from an injury, managed to score just 3 runs for Reliance 1. In response, BPCL were bowled out for 134 as Reliance 1 registered a 104-run victory. While bowling too, Hardik took a wicket and conceded six runs in one over.

PINK LEGAL launched by Mahesh Bhagwat, CP of Rachakonda

The first-ever initiative in India dedicated to women's rights & women's laws



INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

The National Crime Records Bureau reveal that a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes. Yet, majority of the crime against women goes unreported in India. One of the reasons for this is that women are not aware of their legal rights and how to report a crime. An online survey was conducted among urban, educated women in India. 80% of them did not know their legal rights. Therefore, the need to bridge the gap between law and women, by educating women about their legal rights.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Advocate Manasi Chaudhari, Hyderabad based lawyer, Founder & CEO of Pink Legal, launched the first ever initiative and website in India dedicated to women's rights and women's laws. The website is called Pink Legal, which signifies women and the law.

The launch was attended by Mr. Mahesh Bhagwat, CP of Rachakonda as chief guest, Rukmini Rao, a social and rural development activist, Mrs. Sunita Bhagwat, IFS, Commissioner Tourism along with Mr. D. Suresh Babu, film producer and Mrs. Ratna Rao Shekhar, editor of wow magazine as guests of honour, senior members of the legal fraternity, along with around 75 women from different age-groups, who were keen to learn about their legal rights.

Advocate Manasi Chaudhari, who has also assisted Justice DY Chandrachud in the Supreme Court on the landmark Section 377 case, introduced the website to all the guests present, while explaining to them how to use the website to easily understand their legal rights.

Speaking at the launch, Manasi said that "I have always been passionate about gender equality. Pink Legal is my way of contributing towards gender equality by empowering women with the knowledge of their rights."

Chief Guest, Mahesh Bhagwat, spoke a few words about the relevance and need for initiatives like Pink Legal to empower women, he said that Every year March 8th is International Women's Day with a theme and this year this theme is gender equality and he said "Collective will of society, will of government and will of law enforcement and will of prosecution and judiciary together plays a major role for Mahatma Gandhi dream to come true that "women can walk in mid night."

Rukmini Rao, a social and rural development activist, who has worked towards the prevention of violence against women and fought for their rights also graced the occasion by her presence. She congratulated and praised



Manasi for the initiative towards women and their rights.

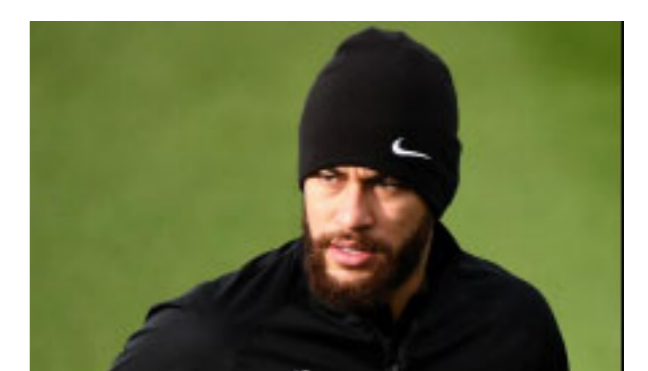
D. Suresh Babu "congratulated Manasi for starting such a nice initiative and he said that it was nice to hear, both the chief guests has spoken on this, Lot of these things are not known to the society, we are all probably not bothered to go in depth, because of our daily lives. Manasi what ever you need in bringing it in vernacular languages or anything in digital media we will support you, he added.

All the women present at the occasion felt reassured about their legal rights. It was truly a special and empowering start to this year's International Women's Day.

Neymar returns to Brazil squad for World Cup qualifying

Rio de Janeiro: GNS News Agency, March 9

Neymar is back in Brazil's squad after a left thigh in-



jury that sidelined him from the national team at the end of last year.

Brazil coach Tite announced his team list on Friday for World Cup qualifiers against Bolivia and Peru. Real Madrid forwards Vinicius Jr. and Rodrigo were left out.

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson will be out because of injury, which should give Manchester City's Ederson a rare chance to be in the starting lineup for the matches on March 27 and 31.

Striker Gabriel Jesus is suspended for the match against Bolivia because of his red card in the Copa America final, but Tite still listed him.

Copa Libertadores champion Flamengo has three players on the list, midfielder Everton Ribeiro and strikers Bruno Henrique and Gabriel Barbosa, known as Gabigol

IPL very much on, all measures will be in place to handle coronavirus threat: Ganguly

Kolkata: (GNS News Agency, March 9

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has no doubts whatsoever that the Indian Premier League (IPL) is on schedule. He told PTI on Friday that all measures will be in place to tackle the novel coronavirus threat which has wreaked havoc on sporting calendars globally.

The glitzy T20 event, featuring both Indian and international stars, gets underway on March 29 in Mumbai. India's coronavirus patient count currently stands at 31, including 16 Italian tourists. Internationally, the deadly outbreak has so far killed more than 3,300 people and infected nearly 100,000 in about 85 countries.

"IPL is very much on. Cricket tournament are going on everywhere. England are already in Sri Lanka. South Africa are here. There are no issues," Ganguly asserted.

"County teams are travelling all over the world. They are travelling to Abu Dhabi, UAE to play. So there is no problem," he added.

MEDICAL TEAM IN PLACE

Asked about the precautionary measures to ensure that players and fans are not affected, Ganguly said a medical team is thrashing out the specifics. "We will take all precautions. I don't know exactly what are the extra measures. It's only medical team which will tell us about that," he said.

"The medical team is already in touch with the hospitals so that everything is available. We will do what the



doctors say. All medical issues will be addressed by the medical team. Every tournament will go on," he added.

There are growing concerns about the fate of the Tokyo Olympics in July-August despite the International Olympic Committee's assertion that the quadrennial showpiece will go ahead as planned.

Australian pacer Megan Schutt wary of bowling to Smriti, Shafali in powerplay

Sydney: GNS News Agency, March 9

Clobbered by Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana in their recent skirmishes, Australian pacer Megan Schutt says she

hates playing against India and doesn't want to bowl at the marauding duo during powerplay when the two teams clash in the Women's T20 World Cup final here on Sunday.

Schutt, who took a crucial 2/17 in Australia's five-run win over South Africa in the rain-hit semifinal on Thursday, has still not recovered from the drubbing

she got at the hands of Verma in the tournament-opener. She was hit for four boundaries by Verma in her opening over of the tournament, and Schutt admitted her concerns about bowling to Indian openers.

"I just hate playing India - they've got the wood over me," Schutt was quoted as saying by the official website of the ICC. "Smriti and Shafali have got me covered. That six Shafali hit me for in the tri-series was probably the biggest one I've ever been hit for.

"There are obviously some plans we're going to revisit as bowlers. (But) clearly, I'm not the best match-up to those two in the Powerplay. They find me quite easy to play," she added.

"We're at that final we've been talking about for so long and against India, which is super fit considering the tri-series we had. It couldn't really be a bigger challenge for us," Schutt said.



Indian Wells tennis tournament cancelled over coronavirus fears

Los Angeles, GNS News Agency, March 9

The ATP and WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, has been cancelled over concerns about the outbreak of the new coronavirus, making it the first major sporting event in the US to be scrubbed due to health concerns. The tournament, one of the biggest outside the four Grand Slams, was cancelled just days before it was due to begin. Officials said in a news release on Sunday that they opted to cancel after the health department of California's Riverside County declared .