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## Floor test? First show invite, support: SC

Court hears Sena-NCP-Congress petition, but wants to see Guv's invitation to form government, CM's proof of support

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

The Supreme Court on Sunday directed the Centre to place before it the letter by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari inviting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to form the government and also letter submitted by Mr Fadnavis claiming majority support.

A special bench comprising Justices N.V. Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjeev Khanna sought the two letters to be placed before the them by 10.30 am on Monday, when the court will hold a further hearing on the petition by the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress seeking a direction for a floor test within 24 hours. "As adjudication of the issues and also the interim prayers sought by the peti-



CJI S.A. Bobde offers prayers at the Srivari temple at Tirumala on Sunday.

— DC

tioners to conduct a floor test within 24 hours has to be considered after perusing the order of the Governor as well as the let-

ters submitted by Mr Devendra Fadnavis... we request Mr Tushar Mehta to produce those two letters by tomorrow morning at

10.30 am, when the matter will be taken up, so that the appropriate order will be passed." The court asked solicitor-

general Tushar Mehta to place before the court the two letters — one by Mr Koshiyari and the other by Mr Fadnavis — as it noted that no lawyer had appeared for the Maharashtra government.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Shiv Sena, informed the court that the petitioners had served copies of their petition to all the parties — the Centre, the Maharashtra government, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and deputy chief minister Ajit Anantrao Pawar.

In the course of the hearing, Mr Mehta informed the court that he has no instructions from the governor and he was appearing in his capacity as solicitor-general.

■ Page 6: Sibal dares Fadnavis to display majority

## Sharad blasts Ajit for bid to 'sow confusion' in ranks

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

In a fresh twist to the power struggle within the NCP, Maharashtra's new Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday asserted he was still with the party and that Mr Sharad Pawar continued to be his leader. However, his claims were promptly shot down by the senior Pawar, who claimed that Mr Ajit Pawar was "trying to mislead the people".

While Mr Ajit Pawar said the BJP-NCP alliance would provide a stable government in the state, Mr Sharad Pawar countered it

by saying there was no question of an alliance with the BJP in Maharashtra.

Ever since he was sworn in as deputy CM, Mr Ajit Pawar had gone incommunicado. However, he got active on the social media after 30 hours by posting a series of tweets. He changed his Twitter bio to "Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra," but described himself as a "Nationalist Congress Party Leader".

Initially, he thanked top BJP leaders, including PM Narendra Modi, for their congratulatory messages. "Thank you Hon. Prime Minister @narendramodi

ji. We will ensure a stable Government that will work hard for the welfare of the people of Maharashtra (sic)," he tweeted. But his later tweets raised more eyebrows. He said: "I am in the NCP and shall always be in the NCP and @PawarSpeaks Saheb is our leader. Our BJP-NCP alliance shall provide a stable Government in Maharashtra for the next five years which will work sincerely for the welfare of the State and its people (sic)."

■ Page 6: NCP Leaders' bid to woo Ajit goes in vain

## Speeding CEO saved by airbags

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Kalvakuntla Krishna Milan Rao, who purportedly rashly drove his car off the Biodiversity flyover and killed a woman on Saturday afternoon, is the relative of a prominent personality. He was on the flyover, with which he was unfamiliar, for the first time ever, and drove at a breakneck speed of 104 kmph.

The founder-CEO of a city-based firm was going from his Jubilee Hills residence to a business meeting at his office near Meenakshi Towers. Rao's red Volkswagen (TS09EW5665) collided and dragged along the flyover's railings for several metres before toppling over and falling a few metres opposite a car showroom near Biodiversity junction.

Pasala Nagavenkata Satyaveni, a housewife who was standing at the bus stop, was killed instantly. Eyewitnesses said she was hit by the branch of a tree that was uprooted by the car. Satyaveni's daughter



Kalvakuntla Krishna Milan Rao

Pranitha, standing alongside, escaped with minor injuries. Autorickshaw driver P. Balu Nayak and software engineer K. Kubra suffered fractures from the debris.

Milan Rao himself was saved by the car's airbags and suffered a fracture to his clavicle. He is at a nearby private hospital. Milan Rao is the CEO and co-founder of Empower Labs, which dubs itself as "India's first augmented reality gaming company".

He was recently engaged to a Karimnagar woman and was scheduled to marry in February 2020.

■ Page 4: Milan Rao to be arrested once discharged

## Police for tighter rules against DUI

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24:

Despite severe punishment by the courts, motorists seem unworried at the prospect of landing behind bars, and continue to drink and drive.

It would be possible to deter drunk driving if the law was enforced strictly, rather than allow individuals multiple violations. Police feel suspension of driving licence on first violation will go a long way to effective enforcement.

Close to 45,000 persons were caught so far this year for drunk driving in the Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda police commissionerates during traffic enforcement drives. At least a quarter of them (10,429) were jailed.

The traffic police has made little impact as the number errant drivers increase every year.

Remember the death of innocent nine-year-old Pammi Ramya? On July 1, 2016, Ramya, her mother Radhika, her uncle P. Rajesh, and her grandfather P. Madhusudhan Chary, were returning

home from school when a speeding car driven by a drunk youngster had an accident and fell onto Ramya's car on the other side of the road at Nagarjuna Circle. The youngster was returning from a party. Chary, Rajesh and Ramya lost their lives.

This incident forced the police to be more vigilant. In 2018, about 47,000 persons were caught and around 10,500 persons were convicted and jailed. This year alone, the courts have cancelled 1,840 licences for multiple violations.

In an incident on November 10 at Raidurgam, a drunken techie P. Abhilash rammed his car into six persons, including two youngsters taking selfies on the newly-constructed Raidurgam flyover. The youngsters were thrown off the flyover and died on the spot.

Cyberabad Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), SM Vijay Kumar says that motorists violating road safety rules are not hesitant about paying penalties in court.

■ Page 4: Act can suspend licence on first violation

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## Patient with rare blood type saved

### Pregnant woman had developed risky condition in fallopian tube

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

In what could be an incredible tale of blood, doctors at the SLG Hospitals in Bachupally successfully saved the life of a pregnant woman using the rarest-of-the-rare Bombay blood group, on Sunday.

She had reportedly developed a rare condition while she was nine-weeks pregnant in an abnormal location, the fallopian tube.

"The patient had a rare blood group, 'Bombay blood group' and this is not available in blood banks usually," Dr Suvarna Rai, consultant obstetrician at SLG hospitals said. "This blood group is found in a rare one out of 10,000 individuals and it is estimated that only 15 to 20 people of this blood group are available in Hyderabad."

The Bombay blood group presents itself as either O+ve or O-ve blood group, and it only shows Bombay blood group upon detailed enquiry, she said. "Hypothetically speaking, when the first test shows O+ve or O-ve and it is administered, the patient rejects it. The blood clots, confirmation that the patient has a rare blood group," said Dr

What should those with this rare blood variety do?

■ People with Bombay blood group should form regional support networks (dedicated websites are available) for emergencies. They should always maintain healthy levels of haemoglobin and be vigilant against adverse events that could demand blood transfusion.

Rai. People of this blood group are universal donors but cannot accept any blood type other than Bombay Blood group. When the 39-year-old woman was hospitalised, her fallopian tube ruptured leading to "torrential" bleeding inside the abdomen and necessitating immediate surgery.

"Such a condition mandates transfusion of blood in large quantities to neutralise blood loss," she said.

■ Page 4: No bank has Bombay blood group

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Traffic signal lights at Patny Junction are not working properly, especially the signal lights towards YMCA, which have been dysfunctional since a long time. —Mir Zakir Ali

# DOGS, DRAINS AND DODGY ROADS

## Thank you DC for making an impact

I would first like to thank *Deccan Chronicle* for putting across the woes of commuters at Safilguda Raliway gate through Speak Out. This evening, it was a pleasant surprise for me to see the way open & ready for use. Thank you *Deccan Chronicle*. But for your intervention, the authorities would not have acted so swiftly.

— Sarada Old Safilguda

## GHMC, please lay a new road

We, the residents of Owaisipura, Masab Tank want a solution to an issue that we have been facing for a year-and-half. In August 2018, the road in Owaisipura near Chacha Nehru Park was dug up to lay a new road. The new road is nowhere to be seen and on top of this, the drain lids have surfaced on the road, leading to accidents during the night.

When I was clicking the picture, miscreants approached me and hurled abuses for clicking the picture and they told me not to write a complaint. I request the police to patrol our area regularly to check for ganja smokers and anti-social elements.

Abandoned vehicles parked at the stretch of Chacha Nehru Park have become a haven for these activities, especially after sunset.

—Residents of Owaisipura Masab tank

## Illegal workshop causing pollution

We the residents of Hashamabad, near Masjid-e-Khadriya, under Chandrayangutta police station limits, would like to bring to your notice that an illegal almirah workshop in a residential area is causing huge noise pollution. We have already booked a complaint with the police (Case no HYD2335PC1910539). We request the authorities to take stern action quickly.

—Shaik Aliuddin Chandrayangutta

## Blockage at Tarnaka flyover

Now that the Tarnaka flyover is fully functional and the metro work is done, it is time the Tarnaka crossroads beneath the flyover is opened since commuters are put through a lot of hardship in taking a long U-turn, leading to wastage of fuel and time. In one trip, commuters are forced to cover nearly four extra kilometres due to the U-turns. I hope the traffic police remove the blockage at Tarnaka crossroads and make it comfortable for the commuters and save fuel and time.

— T. Kailash Aditya Barkatpura

## Dengue, malaria due to dumping

Mosquito breeding due to the garbage dumping in front of my house is causing dengue, malaria and other diseases. Multiple complaints have been raised but to no avail. I request the authorities to focus on solving the garbage issue and safeguarding the environment.

— Harsh Vardhan East Marredpally

## Traffic jam due to pipeline work

Three months ago, near the Ameen Unani pharmacy clinic at Bazharghat X road, about 25 pipes were laid on the road. The construction of the drain has not yet started and it has led to congestion on the road.

Traffic jams are routine now and traders in the area are finding it difficult. Authorities are requested to take action at the earliest.

I do not expect that attention will be paid to this request anyway.

— Syed Shamsuddin Maghrabi



## Snarl due to flyover work

I am making a request to the authorities to take this issue seriously. It has become a daily routine for us to be stuck in traffic on the stretch between Passport office and Shaikpet circle due to the ongoing flyover work. For the sake of commuters, please finish the work as soon as possible or make alternate plans.

— Dastagir Nawaaz Lungar Houz



## Strays scare women and children

I would like to bring to the notice of authorities the issue of stray dogs on the Prakash Nagar temple road in Begumpet. It is becoming increasingly difficult to visit the temple with the stray dog menace. Women and children can't move on the road all day long starting early morning.

— Sujata Yadagiri



## Old Bowenpally too face the danger of dog bite

We the residents of Old Bowenpally, Division 119, would like to bring to the attention of the authorities the unending stray dog menace in the area. Packs of stray dogs are making life hell for locals and children are most vulnerable to the danger of dog bite. The authorities should swing into action and bring relief to the locals. I request *Deccan Chronicle* to highlight the issue so that the GHMC will do the needful at the earliest.

— Mohammed Wasif Ali Old Bowenpally

## Illegal parking create hurdles for Gudimalkapur residents

I am a resident of Vijayasree Apartments, Santoshnagar Colony, Gudimalkapur road, Mehdiapatnam. There are two roads passing through the colony which lead to the vegetable and flower markets in Gudimalkapur.

Authorickshaws, motor-cycles, school buses and other private vehicles ply in large numbers regularly on these two vital roads.

At any given point of time, one may notice that two or three water tankers, half a dozen pri-

vate taxis and auto-rickshaws are invariably parked on these roads, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and obstructing vehicular movement. The vegetable and flower consumers after making purchases at these markets, stop by at

the intersection near our apartment to urinate, causing inconvenience to womenfolk.

The open space nearby the apartment, presumably stuck in legal issues, has become a dumping ground for garbage, which the Greater

Hyderabad Municipal Corporation staff does not bother to clear. I request *Deccan Chronicle* to highlight this issue to draw the attention of the authorities.

— R.J. Janardhana Rao Mehdiapatnam

## Manhole leakage in Upparpally left unaddressed for years



The issue of overflow of drainage from manholes at Ashok Vihar II, NMDC Colony, near Pillar No. 195 of PVNR Express Highway, has been pending for months now.

We have already been facing a similar problem opposite BNR Apartments for many years.

In both cases, we have raised complaints in writing to HMWS&SB and GHMC, Rajendra Nagar Division, which has included our colony in the Swachh Telangana programme. Multiple requests could not yield any result and the issue remains a threat to the health of locals. When will the authorities swing into action and when we will be relieved of these problems?

— Guruswami Sankara Upparpally



## Drainage overflow in Maa Santoshi Colony

It is disappointing that the authorities haven't responded to our requests in over a month. We have registered a complaint on the drainage overflow issue in Maa Santoshi Colony, Phase I, Risala Bazar, Bolarum. With danger of attracting dengue and viral fevers, mosquito breeding is only adding to the woes besides the stink. I request the authorities to take necessary action.

— Savan Kumar

## Dysfunctional borewell turns garbage spot in Chintal Basti

A borewell was dug in the lane next to the government degree college in Chintal Basti, Khairatabad, in 2002 and was equipped with a submersible motor and we all have benefited from it. Since 2010, the motor has remained dysfunctional and the same was informed to the authorities but no action has been taken till date. The area around the borewell is now piled up with garbage and if the same continues, it will turn into a garbage dumping spot. I request the authorities to clear the borewell or make it operational. I shall be grateful if the needful is done.

— Kadaram Haridhar Chintal Basthi, Khairatabad



## Open plot turns into dumpyard

This is to bring to the notice of authorities the issue of dumping waste on an open plot on the Chilkalguda-Mylargadda road, opposite Amruth Wines. Over the years, the plot has turned into a dumpyard. As a result, a foul smell emanates from the place. The stretch, which has no footpaths, is narrowed due to encroachments by shop keepers. It is making life hell for people to walk on the road, especially in the evening hours. I request the authorities to remove garbage at the earliest.

— Kothari Rangarao



## DC impact: Stray dogs issue cleared

I would like to thank *Deccan Chronicle* for publishing my letter on the stray dog issue. The car parked near the dumpyard was towed away and as a result, the garbage was cleared and the dogs disappeared.

— Raju Singh



## Dumping, illegal parking makes it hard to commute

We, the residents of Bholanagar (First Lancer), near Nasheman Hotel, have a graveyard in the locality that has been turned into a dumping yard and a parking lot, causing regular traffic jams. Moreover, this road, which leads to Road No. 12 Banjara Hills, serves as a shortcut to commuters. We request the authorities to clear the debris and shift the dustbin to elsewhere. Also, we request the traffic police to clear the illegally parked vehicles from the graveyard.

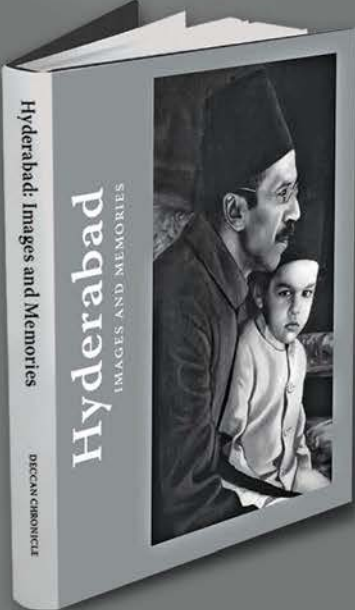
— Zaheer Ahmed Bhola Nagar



# Hyderabad

## IMAGES AND MEMORIES

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## Meeting time

MoS home affairs and Secunderabad MP G. Kishan Reddy addressed a meeting with Iron and Steel Merchants Association



Whenever municipal polls are announced, BJP is prepared to give a big fight

— N. Ramachander Rao  
BJP MLC

## IN BRIEF

### No bank has B'bay blood group

From Page 1

“However, ‘Bombay blood group’, is not available in any blood bank. The patient was given ‘plasma volume expanders’ as a substitute to maintain desired levels, along with iron-enhancing injections to ensure her condition did not deteriorate rapidly,” Dr Suvarna Rai added. “In the surgical procedure, the doctors removed her ruptured fallopian tube to minimise further blood loss, knowing the blood transfusion would be a major challenge,” she said. Post-surgery the patient has been kept under watch by experts who will monitor her road to recovery, which is expected to happen within two weeks. The Bombay Blood group enigma has been the key element of movies, most recently in Vidya Balan’s *Kahaani* (2012) and the 2007 Telugu film *Okkadunnadu*.

### FOUR BIKERS HURT AFTER COLLISION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Four bikers suffered injuries when they collided into each other while one of them was taking a turn on the Tank Bund during early hours on Saturday.

None of the four were wearing helmets and both bikes were speeding.

The incident came to light only when the footage of the accident went viral on social media, hours after the mishap at Ranigunj.

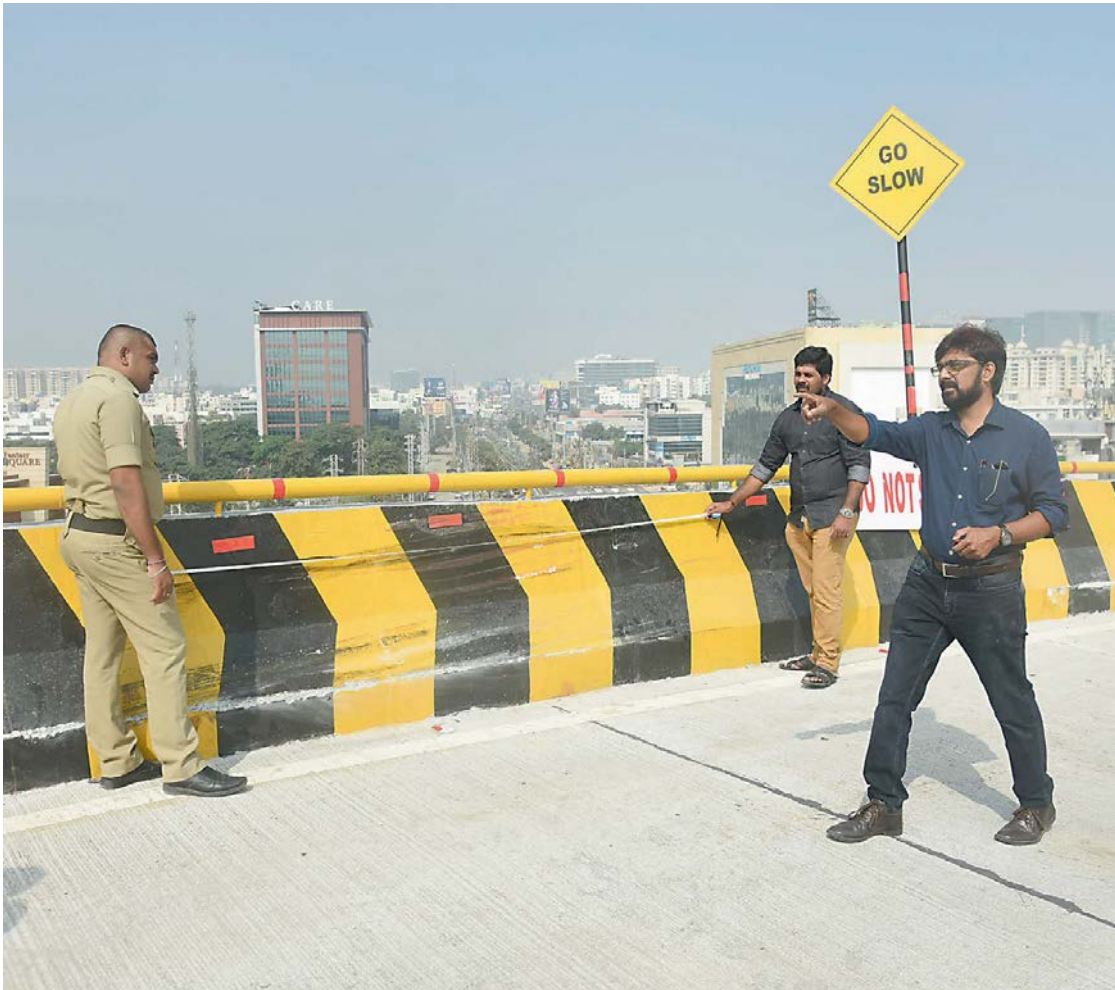
According to Gandhinagar police, two youngsters, Sai Teja and Bhanu Prakash, of Uppal, came to Tank Bund on Saturday night.

At around 3.44 am, when they were taking a U-turn on the road to go towards Ranigunj side, another bike, on which Siva Kumar and Aryan were heading towards Ambedkar statue side from Ranigunj area, collided with them.

The bikes collided at great speed causing a huge impact and all four fell on the road.

Prakash suffered a fracture to his leg, while the other three received mild injuries. Passersby alerted the Gandhinagar police and the injured persons were shifted to different hospitals for treatment. Gandhinagar inspector, S. Sreenivasa Rao said that the all the youngsters suffered injuries during the accident but all are stated to be out of danger.

A case has been registered for investigation.



Experts analyse the spot on the Biodiversity flyover from where the car fell on Saturday.

— R. PAVAN

# CCTV cameras will be installed at all flyovers

Cameras with software can calculate vehicle speed

JAYENDRA  
CHAITHANYA T. | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The Biodiversity flyover, the only flyover in the city with CCTV cameras installed, also has technological advancement that is coming in handy to the police. The cameras are integrated with software to calculate the speed of the vehicles travelling on the flyover and automatically generate reports on a vehicle's speed.

The newly constructed flyover at Gachibowli is the only flyover that has cameras in the city. After Saturday's accident where a speeding car fell off a flyover, claimed the life of a woman and injured several others, the police could immediately find out the reason for the accident.

The software aided in finding out the speed at which the car (TS09EW 5665) was moving. It was 105.8 kmph. The driver lost control, the car hit the railing and, because of the speed at which it was moving, flipped over and landed on the road, uprooting a tree which killed a woman, and moving on to injure several others.

In the last one week, the Cyberabad police have issued over 550 speeding tickets to motorists who travelled above the prescribed speed of 40 kmph on the Biodiversity flyover.

Another flyover in Cyberabad where several accidents take place is the Kukatpally-Madhapur flyover, which does not have any e-surveillance. The Cyberabad police said that the new software can be integrated

## People wary of standing at flyovers or Metro lines

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The substandard construction of city flyovers and metro stations has citizens in constant fear about standing beneath them. Over a span of two months, two persons have lost their lives due to the apathy of nodal agencies, the GHMC and HMRL. In both accidents, underneath Ameerpet metro station and off the biodiversity flyover, home-maker women lost their lives without their fault.

On Saturday, Satyavani (40) died when a speeding car fell off a flyover, uprooted a tree on its way down, a branch of which smacked her in the face with such force that her head was severed. On September 22, G. Mounika (24), died when a hoarding fell off from wall of the Ameerpet metro station. The sharp edge of the piece fell on her head

■ Municipal administration and urban development minister, K.T. Rama Rao, directed the GHMC to set up an independent expert evaluation committee to study the flyover's design

from about 9 meters height and killed her instantly.

In a knee-jerk reaction in both incidents, both nodal agencies ordered a high-level enquiry to examine the substandard construction and rectify it. The HMRL has rectified the structures at 10 metro stations including Balanagar, Parade Grounds, Rasoolpura, Hitec City, Gandhi Bhavan, LB Nagar, Osmania medical college, New market, and Tarnaka by forming six specialised engineering teams.

A railing collapse in Chandralok complex

during 2016 claimed the life of 40-year-old A. Durgaiah, a security guard with a private agency, heading home after work. He died on the spot when a concrete portion of the railing fell from the sixth floor of Chandralok complex on his head.

All these incidents worry citizens. “We have been leaving our houses with a constant fear of death, which could come from any unexpected quarter. We are exposed to structural damages in city infrastructure, buildings in dilapidated condition, over-speeding vehicles, open manholes, unfenced nalas, open stormwater drains, pot-holes and several others,” said Dr Shalini Kommu, resident of Trimulgherry. “Despite paying taxes for the better civic amenities, every Hydrabad-badi has a sense of insecurity,” said K. Naveen Chowdary, a social activist.

where possibilities of the occurrence of road accidents is high, and also with cameras at black spots, to generate the speeding tickets,” said a senior police official from Cyberabad.

Explaining the advantage of the software, the official also said that it automatically calculates the speed of the vehicle between the two points where cameras are installed. Continuous

monitoring of the Biodiversity flyover is on by the personnel stationed at the central command control centre and a public addressing system is also put to alert the motorists if they stop on the flyover. “The nearest patrolling personnel will be also alerted to ensure visiting the spot where a vehicle stops and address the issue if there is any breakdown,” the official added.

## Flyover accident: Cases filed against errant driver

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

“The businessman from the city who drove his car at high speed and ended up killing a bystander on the road at Biodiversity junction was booked in a case by the Raidurgam police for causing death due to the negligence and endangering the lives of the public.

The police have also collected the blood samples of the businessman and sent them for analysis to find if he was under the influence of alcohol when he was behind the wheel.

On Saturday, Krishna Milan Rao Kalvakuntla, a businessman, drove his car (TS 09 EW 5665) at high speed, lost control and rammed into the protective railing of the Biodiversity flyover. The car was flung into the air, tipped over the flyover and fell on the road, uprooting a tree on its way down, killing a woman, V. Satyavani,

■ THE police have collected the blood samples of the businessman and sent them for analysis to find if he was drunk while driving

■ The CEO drove his car at high speed, lost control and rammed into the protective railing of the flyover

trol and rammed into the protective railing of the Biodiversity flyover. The car was flung into the air, tipped over the flyover and fell on the road, uprooting a tree on its way down, killing a woman, V. Satyavani,

## Nine-year-old boy dies after falling from apartment lift

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

A nine year-old boy died after falling in an elevator shaft from the third floor of a residential apartment at Raidurgam on Sunday. The boy, who was playing along with his elder sister, opened the door of the elevator and was looking down when it hit him while moving down, said Raidurgam police.

According to police, Sesha Bhattacharya, a priest, along with his wife, Priya, and four children including Dhanush, 9, moved to TVS Lake View Apartments located at Panchavati Colony in Raidurgam about one and a half months ago. There are four blocks in

■ THE SI said that the door should open only when the elevator stops on the particular floor.

the premises with 28 flats in each block. The family was living on the seventh floor of the B1 block, and each floor has seven flats.

The police said that the incident took place at around 5 pm when Dhanush along with his elder sister was playing on the fourth floor.

“The boy was constantly pulling the elevator door and it suddenly opened while the lift was above. Unaware of this, Dhanush peeped through the shaft and the elevator which was

moving downwards hit him and he fell to the ground floor from the third floor. He died on the spot with a severe head injury” said Raidurgam sub-inspector Saidulu.

The SI said that the door should open only when the elevator stops on the particular floor.

A case of suspicious death has been registered currently and based on the outcome of the investigation, sections of the case will be altered if necessary, the police officer said.

Dhanush, the third child of the couple Bhattacharya and Priya couple, was learning Vedas at home. He was about to join a Veda pathashala soon.

### MILAN RAO TO BE HELD AFTER DISCHARGE

FROM PAGE 1

Raiduram Inspector S. Ravinder said that since Milan Rao is still undergoing treatment, an oral questioning has been conducted. He was recovering and able to talk.

Meanwhile, Raidurgam police have registered a case against Milan Rao for causing death by negligence. “Once he is out of the hospital, we will effectively arrest him,” said the inspector. Rao faces a possible two years of imprisonment.

### MV ACT: LICENCE SUSPENSION ON 1ST VIOLATION

FROM PAGE 1

Following that they behave cautiously by avoiding the main roads to avoid the police.

Under section 19 of the Motor Vehicles Act, the licence-issuing authority has a provision to disqualify/suspend the license of a motorist for drunk driving, even if it is a first violation. Currently, that is not happening, for some mysterious reason.

It is the courts that are suspending the license of the drivers caught for multiple drunk driving violations. “Suspending the license for drunk driving in the first instance, and not waiting for the motorist to repeat the offence may deter cases,” said the DCP.

### PANEL ON SCs TO STUDY ATROCITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, NOV. 24

National Commission for Scheduled Castes member K. Ramulu will review issues related to atrocities on SCs at Adilabad on November 25. He will review the schemes also.

#### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



**P. ARUL KUMAR** (Babul)  
They say time fades away memories. Our heart still ache in void. The vacuum you created in our lives cannot be fulfilled living with a hope that we will meet again soon.  
**WE MISS YOU BANGARU**  
9700315891  
(CA-3077)

#### 11th DAY CEREMONY

A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Prov 31:30



**P. LALITHA**  
W/o P. Sunder Raj  
DOB: 7.8.1933 DOD: 15.11.2019  
Memorial Service on 25.11.19 at Kondapur Walter School at 6.30 PM.  
By: Loved Ones, Ph: 8790470977  
(S/1920/D01289)

#### 6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Lalaji-Ke SHANKER RAO**  
S/o Lalaji-Ke Nagoji  
(Prop. National Plastic Stores)  
DOD: 25.11.2013  
“Your Memories are always in our hearts forever”  
— Inserted by —  
Wife: LALITHA  
Sons, Daughters, Daughter-in-Law,  
Sons-in-Law and Grand Children  
Ph:9392544178

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF



**JAMAN JYOTI KALAVATHI**  
DOB: 28.08.1939 DOD:25.11.2012  
You will be remembered by all of us till our life time. We pray God for your soul to rest in peace.  
**Amma we love you & Miss you**  
— Inserted by —  
Son: Om Prakash, Manju, Ankita, Aditya & Family Members.  
ADITYA TRADERS  
Ph: 9052818123, 9676723330

#### 4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Late Smt. GADDAM SUSHEELA BAI**  
DOD: 25.11.2015  
W/o. Late Gaddam Venkat Swamy  
“Always alive in our heart”  
— Inserted by —  
Daughter: Gaddam Shoba Rani  
Son: Gaddam Vinod Kumar  
Daughter-in-Law: Gaddam Kavya Sree  
Grand Children:  
G. Shashank, G. Shashvat  
A tribute of love from her beloved Gaddam Family  
(S/1920/D01295)

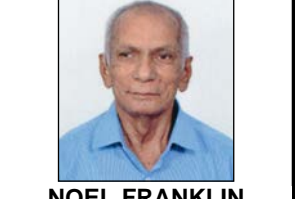
#### 9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Mrs. IVY PAUL**  
Beloved W/o. Mr. J.B. Paul (Late)  
Bitragunta, S.C. Railway  
MUMMY, not even a day out of 2,922 days has passed without recollecting your sweet smile and struggle to the family.  
**Mona Celli Irene Tony and Chinna and Family Members**  
Ph: 0012147270992, 9884208088  
(S/1920/D01293)

#### OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
2 Timothy 4:8



**NOEL FRANKLIN**  
DOB: 19.12.1938  
In God's care on 24.11.2019  
Mass at 11:00 a.m. on 25.11.2019 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sithphalmandi, followed by burial at Mettuguda Catholic Cemetery.  
Family Members  
900080335, 9618407289  
(CA-3076)

#### REMEMBRANCE



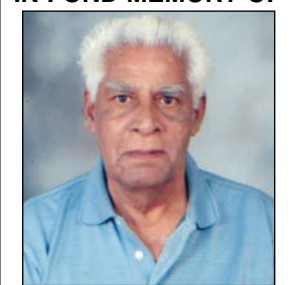
**Mr. D. AMARNATH**  
S/o Late M.N. Damodharan  
Slept: 25/11/2006  
Amar Anna may your soul rest in eternal peace  
“Amar Amar Hai”  
Inserted by: M. Rakesh (Brother)  
9666298272  
(S/1920/D01298)

#### 10th DAY CEREMONY



**SABGANI SRIKANTH**  
DOB: 14.06.1973 DOD: 16.11.2019  
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words & missed beyond measure.  
10th Day Ceremony will be held on 25.11.2019 @ 12 noon at Residence Himayath Nagar, Swetha Apts.  
Inserted by: Alexander Salons  
9849072445, 9347267117  
(S/1920/D01287)

#### 2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN FOND MEMORY OF



**M.T. JOHN**  
(71 D Bansilalpet)  
Inserted by:  
**Wife & Children**  
(S/1920/D01282)

#### 1st Death Anniversary



**AKKELAGUNTA EBENEZER JAIPAL**  
DoD: 25/11/2018  
Memorial service on 25/11/2019 at Baptist Church vanastalipuram from 6 pm to 8 pm (dinner follows)  
Inserted by: Priyatham (Son) 9533710716 & Family Members

#### 10th ANNIVERSARY



**P. DEVDAS**  
DOD: 25.11.2009  
In fond memories of you and the blessing you were to us. Thanking our heavenly Father and you for all your deeds  
— Family  
(S/1920/D01288)





## Demand

**Sangareddy MLA T. Jagga Reddy demanded immediate payment of salaries to the RTC employees and to resolve their issues**

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# Politics

PAGE  
5



RTC workers will hold protests across the state under the slogan of 'Save RTC'

— Ashwathama Reddy  
TSRTC JAC convener

## WEATHER



Max: 39.4°C  
Min: 16.9°C  
RH: 52%  
Rainfall: Nil

**Forecast:** Partly cloudy sky with mist or haze during the morning hours.  
Max/Min 29/17°C

## ASTROGUIDE

**Vikari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Kartika Bahula  
Trayodasi till 10.42 pm  
**Star:** Swathi till 10.58 pm  
**Variyam:** 4.12 pm to 5.42 pm

**Durmuhurtam:** 12.25 pm to 1.09 pm and 2.38 pm to 3.22 pm

**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am

## HJRI CALENDAR

Rabi-ul-Awal 28,1441 AH

## PRAYERS

**Fajar:** 5.23 am

**Zohar:** 12.13 pm

**Asar:** 4.03 pm

**Maghrib:** 5.45 pm

**Isha:** 6.56 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM**

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.27 AM**

**MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.54 AM**

**MOONSET TODAY 4.47 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



Each independent MLA who supports us will get ministry of state with independent charge!

## IN BRIEF

## WINTER IS HERE IN HYD AS MERCURY DIPS

T.S.S. SIDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Winter has finally set in in Hyderabad and the temperatures will continue to drop in the city, say officials of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

On Sunday, the minimum temperature reached 16.9 degrees celsius and the maximum temperature was 29.4 degrees celsius.

Officials of the department said that the second week of November is when the temperature usually falls, triggering the start of the winter season. The start of the winter season is usually marked by a shortening of daytime and lengthening of nights.

On Sunday, the sunset was at 17:39 hrs and the sunrise for Monday was logged at 06:26 hrs, which is short of twelve hours. Simultaneously, the moonrise was 03:55 hrs and moonset at 16:02 hours, a little over 12 hours. "There is a vivid temperature drop this time of the year. This is a usual phenomenon; it is just the start of the winter season. As the month progresses, the temperature will continue to drop," Dr K. Naga Ratna, Director, IMD told *Deccan Chronicle*.

With cold climes engulfing the city, it is that time of the year, the time to bring out your sweaters and shun fans and air-conditioners.

The change in the weather could also be seen along the roadsides where various winterwear stalls were set up.

■ **IMD OFFICIALS** said that the second week of November is when the temperature usually falls, triggering the start of the winter season. The start of the winter is usually marked by a shortening of daytime.



A person donates essential items to RTC employees, who have not received their salaries since two months, at Ranigunj depot on Sunday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

# KCR goes ahead with RTC privatisation plan

5,100 routes likely to go to private parties

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, is likely to call for a Cabinet meeting in next week to discuss the privatisation of 5,100 Road Transport Corporation (RTC) routes against the backdrop of Telangana High Court paving the way for granting route permits to private stage carriers.

The court ruled that the state government had ample power under the Motor Vehicles Act to



K. Chandrasekhar Rao

grant permits to private stage carriers, but it had a constitutional obligation not to privatise more than 50 per cent of RTC routes.

The court also upheld the decision of the cabi-

■ **THE CABINET** also decided to continue the RTC with the private partners at a 50:50 ratio to maintain level play and create healthy competition in public transportation.

net dated Nov 2, 2019 in which it had resolved to issue permits for 5100 routes of the RTC to private bus operators.

The cabinet also decided to continue the RTC with the private partners

at a 50:50 ratio to maintain level play and create healthy competition in public transportation.

After the RTC workers went on strike on Oct 5, the Telangana state road corporation invited applications to hire 2248 private buses for the corporation and it had received around 22,332 applications from private operators. The chief minister decided to call the cabinet to finalise the modalities to grant permits to private operators and called for applications for permits.

## AP CM JAGAN ADHERES TO LIQUOR BAN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

AP home minister Mekathoti Sucharita said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy would stick to his promise of reducing the number of liquor shops and bars in stages. He said that the operating time of these outlets has been reduced to bring down liquor consumption. She said that YSR Congress government has formed Madyapana Vimochana Prachara committee to bring about awareness against liquor consumption. Thus, too, fulfills the government's promise in the manifesto.

# Khuntia may be relieved of state affairs in-charge

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Before taking a final call on the appointment of a new president for the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee, the Congress high command is likely to replace R.C. Khuntia who is currently in-charge of Telangana affairs.

Sources in the Congress disclosed that the party is thinking of bringing a young and new face to look after party affairs in Telangana.

According to sources, the party high command is said to be considering Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, former MP from

Maharashtra and in-charge of Gujarat, Gaurav Gagoi, MP from Assam, and R.P.N. Singh, in-charge of the Jharkhand Congress, to replace Mr Khuntia. R.P.N. Singh is a senior leader and Rajiv Satav is a Congress working committee (CWC) member, while Gaurav Gagoi is a young leader.

After appointing one among the above as the Telangana in-charge, the party will likely take the opinion of the heads of the various party units in the state, as well as the opinions of the district Congress presidents and senior leaders and then decide on the appointment of the new chief

for Telangana.

There are several Congressmen in the race for the top post. They include Congress Legislative Party leader Bhatti Vikramarka, MLAs T. Jagga Reddy and D. Sridhar Babu, MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and A. Revanth Reddy and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao.

D. Sridhar Babu and Revanth Reddy are front-runners in the race.

Sources revealed the N. Uttam Kumar Reddy will likely be made AICC general secretary and will be appointed in-charge of one of the northern states.

# Farmers reject land acquisition plan

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Farmers of Pratap Singaram have rejected Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority's proposal of foregoing their lands in exchange for 30 per cent plotted area developed over 593 acres of their village.

Incidentally, HMDA is planning to develop plots over 1,500 acres of land belonging to three villages including Pratap Singaram under its Land Pooling Scheme. The authority has offered plots in the ratio of 70:30 to be shared between HMDA and land owners within the villages. However, farmers, including public representatives of the area cutting across party lines, want the ratio to be 30:70 in their favour, in addition to ₹5,000 per month aid to villagers for up to three till the land is fully developed.

Farmers also contend that while per acre market rate of the land in the area is ₹5 crore, HMDA is offering them only ₹24 lakh per acre.

Following this, HMDA authorities held a Grama Sabha in the area on Saturday, so that vil-

lagers could okay the Land Pooling Scheme proposed by it. The meeting was attended by HMDA authorities, former MLA M. Sudheer Reddy, local leaders and a huge number of farmers. HMDA reiterated its proposal to develop 593 acres into plots and provide all civic amenities. The metropolitan authority would give 30 percent of the plotted area to donors of land while it would hold 70 percent of the plots, which it would auction. The authorities sought consent of farmers to the LPS proposal, wherein farmers would get compensation, which is double the government market value.

Farmers rejected this proposal outright. They made a counter offer saying they would give up their lands to metropolitan authority if 70 per cent of the developed plots were handed over to them.

Their contention was that by giving up their land, they would be losing their livelihood of cultivating it for any income. One of them, Nagender Reddy said barring residential areas, the entire Pratap Singaram village is cov-

■ **HMDA authorities** held a Grama Sabha on Saturday, so that villagers could okay the Land Pooling Scheme proposed by it. The meeting was attended by former MLA M. Sudheer Reddy, local leaders and farmers.

ered by agricultural land. "How can we leave our village, which has been producing 73,000 quintals of paddy, for urbanisation," he asked.

Nagender Reddy said the proposal of HMDA would displace the entire village. After giving up their land, farmers will have to wait for three years to get developed plots. "What should the farmers do during the development period, sit idle?" he asked.

Village sarpanch Shivashanker said villagers would not give their consent to HMDA until the authority came up with an amicable proposal. "We are not ready to give up our livelihood for urbanisation until decent compensation is given," he remarked.

A similar stand has

been taken at Grama Sabhas held in the other two villages in Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.

HMDA officials point out that farmers or owners with small portions of land can form groups and partner with HMDA under the Land Pooling Scheme and reap its benefits. They would get plots with the brand 'developed by HMDA', which would increase the market value of their plots. They would get well-serviced housing plots with world-class infrastructure like water supply, power, sewerage, parks, sewerage treatment plants, and so on, which would enhance land value and salability. Officials point out that there is a potential for development of commercial and institutional activity around the LPS area. Land reserved for social infrastructure like parks, playgrounds, community halls will be a part of the scheme.

An official underlined that sharing of developed plots between landowners and HMDA can only be in a definite ratio based on the project cost.

# TRS seniors, new faces gear up for showdown

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The TRS high command's diktat to senior leaders and former MLAs to work under the current MLAs is said to have led to a war between the old timers and new faces of the party.

Senior leaders who have been with the party since its inception are irked that the 12 Congress MLAs who defected to the TRS after the December 2018 elections and they have been expressing their distress and displeasure to those close to them.

The cultural differences between the Congress and the TRS are also said to have contributed to the hostility between the old and new faces. Sources in the party say that the old timers and former MLAs are struggling to protect their cadres from being lured by the newly joined MLAs in their respective segments to support them.

The followers of former minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao recently held a meeting and openly said that they have been facing problems with the Paleru MLA K. Upender Reddy who had won against

■ **SOURCES** in the party say that the old timers and former MLAs are struggling to protect their cadres from being lured by the newly joined MLAs in their respective segments to support them.

Tummala Rao on a Congress ticket and then joined the TRS.

They alleged that Upender Reddy did not consider them while constituting the party constituency committee and have demanded that the party high command take action against Upender Reddy.

Leaders of the other constituencies in the same district are also facing internal problems with the attitude of MLAs Banoth Haripriya Naik, Vanama Venkateswar Rao and R. Kantha Rao.

Sources in the party revealed that there was not a healthy atmosphere between Nakrekal ex-MLA V. Veeresham and current MLA Ch. Lingaiah in Nalgonda district and there was a visible division of the party cadres into the Veeresham group and the

Lingaiah group.

According to sources, there are also differences between MLC Karne Prabhakar and Munugodu ex-MLA K. Prabhakar Reddy, and in Vikarabad district between Tandur MLC Pilot Rohit Reddy and MLC Mahender Reddy.

In Kollapur segment in Mahabubnagar, the TRS cadres are said to be divided into two groups: those who support former minister J Krishna Rao and those who support MLA K. Harshvardhan Reddy.

In Yellareddy constituency relations between MLA J. Surender and former MLA E. Ravinder Reddy are said to be strained and there was a clash when it came to appointing the party constituency committees. Sources disclosed that former speaker S. Madhusudan Chary was upset with the attitude of senior MLA G. Venkatarama Reddy as the former had neglected Mr Chary was upset that senior MLA G. Venkatarama Reddy had neglected him. The situation is heated up in Hyderabad, LB Nagar constituency with differences being intensified between MLA Sudheer Reddy and Ram Mohan Goud.

# BJP readies for municipal polls

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Seeing the municipal polls as a run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state wing is preparing its cadres to give a tough fight to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) and the Congress in the ensuing elections to Urban Local Bodies in the state.

The BJP has been holding meetings of leaders and workers, Lok Sabha constituency-wise in the state.

BJP senior leader and MLC N. Ramachandra Rao said that the party has listed out the problems each municipality and corporation faces, and in the old municipalities and corporations, it has listed the promises and development

programmes that are still pending in order to expose the failures of the ruling party.

He said that based on the inputs from the cadres with regard to problems of each ward, the party will prepare the manifesto for each municipality and Corporation.

Mr Rao explained that in the second round of meetings they will identify the candidates who will be contesting in all the municipal wards in which elections will be held after the High Court gives its final decision with regard to civic body polls.

Party leaders are of the opinion that as the BJP has a considerable vote bank in the urban areas, it would likely perform well there if party cadres are well prepared.

## DR RAMA GETS THE TITLE OF 'KALASAGARA'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Renowned Carnatic musician Dr Pantula Rama was on Sunday absorbed in the select league of extraordinary musical luminaries like M.S. Subbulakshmi, Madras Lalitangi Vasanthakumari aka MLV, Pattamal, M. Balamuralikrishna, Sonal Man Singh, and Sudha Raghunathan. He was conferred with the coveted title of 'Kalasagara' by Kalasagaram, at the inaugural of the annual nine-day music festival being held at Keyes High School. With Kalasagara, Dr. Rama, who has earlier won the sobriquets 'nightingale of Andhra', and 'melody queen', has achieved the highest glory on a stage like Kalasagaram.

చదివేది.. చదివించేది.. చదివాలనిపించేది

**ఆంధ్రభూమి**

సచిత్ర వారపత్రిక

వెల. 15 రూపాయలే

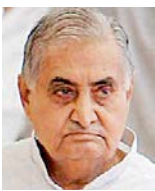
- విజ్ఞప్తిపైనే ఇతివృత్తాలతో సినియర్స్
- అల్పాక్షరాలతో అనంతార్ధంలా
- భగవత్ సాక్షాత్కారం కలిగించే 'అలయ దర్శనం'
- ఉత్సాహం కలిగించే కథలు
- సిల్వర్ స్క్రీన్ హిట్ టాపిక్స్
- వారం వారం మీ రాసుల స్థితిగతులు తెలిపే 'గ్రహవాణి'
- ఇవేకాక ఆరోచింపజేసే మరెన్నో వ్యాసాలు

ఇలా ఎన్నో ఎన్నెన్నో మీ అందరికీ ఇప్పిద్దామని నవరస సీమాహారం

ససరివార సమేతంగా చదవదగిన వార పత్రిక ఆంధ్రభూమి

**వెంటనే కొని చదవండి**





## Big Loss

Former MP chief minister  
Kailash Joshi, 90, dies  
after prolonged illness



No power can now  
stop construction of  
a grand Ram temple  
in Ayodhya  
— **Rajnath Singh**  
Defence minister

## Ban on Bodo group NDFB extended

**New Delhi:** The union home ministry on Sunday extended the ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) by another five years. "The NDFB has been indulging in illegal and violent activities, intending to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India in furtherance of its objective of achieving a separate Bodoland", said the ministry in a notification, extending the ban on the north east militant group.

## JNU forms panel to resolve conflict

**New Delhi:** The Jawaharlal Nehru University on Sunday announced the formation of a seven-member 'high-level' committee for resolution of the ongoing conflict between students and the varsity administration. As per a circular issued by JNU registrar, the committee has to get suggestions from student representatives to find solutions to the impasse over a proposed hostel fee hike among other issues. The committee has given time till Sunday evening to the students to send suggestions. A three-member committee constituted by the HRD ministry on November 18 to restore normal functioning of the varsity is likely to submit its report soon.

## N-E STUDENT BODY PREPS TO BLOCK CAB

**MANOJ ANAND | DC**  
GUWAHATI, NOV. 24

With protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill escalating across the north-east, a powerful North East Students Organisation (NESO) delegation has rushed to New Delhi to drum up support in Parliament to block passage of the controversial bill. Saying the student leaders have reached New Delhi and were seeking appointments with all NDA and non-NDA political parties to lobby against the CAB, NESO chairman Samuel Jyrwa said they had met senior JDU leader K.C. Tyagi who assured them the JDU would continue to oppose the bill. All Assam Students' Union (AASU) chief adviser Samujjal Bhattacharyya and its president Dipankar Kumar Nath are also part of the delegation.

## UNION OFFERS TOMATOES FOR PoK TO PAK PM

**RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC**  
BHOPAL, NOV. 24

Tribal farmers of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh have made an 'offer' to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to help the latter end the unprecedented tomato crisis facing his country, suggesting him to barter Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with the pulpy vegetable. In a letter to the PM of Pakistan, the Jhabua farmers' union said their offer of "tomato for PoK" would not only help bring down the skyrocketing prices of the vegetable in his country but also normalize relations between India and Pakistan. The letter has also set some other conditions to resume supply of tomato to Pakistan from MP. Besides deportation of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim to India by Pakistan, the farmers also sought apology for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. The offer by Jhabua farmers comes in the wake of tomato prices in Pakistan touching as high as ₹400 per kilo these days, making Mr Khan a butt of jokes by people in his country.

# Speaker's role to be under close scrutiny

Experts say allegiance to ruling party becomes a hurdle to pursue complaints of anti-defection law

**APRAMEYA RAO | DC**  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

After Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar purportedly split the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and formed the government with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the anti-defection law is all set to dominate the discourse around the upcoming floor test.

The law, enacted in 1985 to check the menace of "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" culture in Indian politics, provides a legal framework for legislators to form a new party or merge into another without losing their seats. However, at least two-third members of the legislative party have to come together in order to avoid disqualification from the House.

The Speaker plays a key role in determining whether an individual member or a faction has violated the anti-defection law or not. When the state Assembly goes for the floor test, the Speaker's role will be under close scrutiny.

Shreehari Aney, the former advocate general of Maharashtra, said that the Speaker would disqualify the rebel MLAs who defy the whip. "But the anti-defection law comes into play only when the party would approach the Speaker with a complaint. Only then would the Speaker take any action," he said.

While there is no procedure laid down for handling complaints of MLAs defying the party whip, Mr Aney said that the Speaker issues a notice against whom there is a complaint, hears out their cases and seeks credible evidence. Based on the evidence, the Speaker may disqualify or vindicate the MLA under the scanner.

However, there is no time limit stipulated for the Speaker to decide any case, Mr Aney noted and added that the duration of resolving a case of defection varies from case to case.

"If MLAs do not admit to defying their whip, everything would boil down to evidence. So, a case may



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a meeting with BJP MLAs at Vasant Smriti in Dadar, Mumbai on Sunday. — **DEBASISH DEY**

## Sena committed sin of abandoning Bal Thackeray's thoughts, says BJP

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

As the power struggle in Maharashtra intensifies, the BJP has expressed confidence that its government would complete its five-year term.

The BJP held a meeting of its newly elected MLAs at its office Vasant Smriti at Dadar on Sunday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by most of the 105-elected members of the BJP, barring six MLAs.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Shelar said that

the strategy to comfortably pass the floor test was discussed and decided in the meeting.

"We also passed a resolution congratulating Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar on taking oath as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. The state witnessed a festive atmosphere when Mr Fadnavis took oath as the CM," he said.

The party also accused the Sena of committing the 'sin' of abandoning its founder Bal Thackeray's thoughts of aligning with the BJP by going with the

Congress and the NCP for the sake of acquiring power in Maharashtra.

"The Sena committed the sin of abandoning Bal Thackeray's thoughts of aligning with the BJP and insulting the popular mandate by going with the Congress and the NCP," he said.

Mr Shelar expressed confidence that Mr Fadnavis will win the floor test with a majority in the 288-member Assembly.

"The legislature party meeting deliberated on strategy to be adopted during the floor test," he said.

He also justified the BJP's move to align with Ajit Pawar, saying even the Sena has joined hands with Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

He also said that Ajit Pawar's whip would be applicable to MLAs of the NCP by virtue of him being the 'leader of the NCP legislature party'.

"BJP leaders Sushir Mungantiwar and Suresh Khade could not attend the meeting due to some pre-occupations while four MLAs could not attend it due to personal reasons," Mr Shelar said.

plait and takes no action."

Moreover, both Mr Aney and Mr Chhokar concurred that decisions taken by the Speaker can

be challenged in the courts only on limited grounds, partly because that would mean the interference of the judiciary into the legislature.

## 'Why is BJP shying away from floor test?'

**FROM PAGE 1**

However, later during the hearing, he clarified that he was appearing for the Central government.

The court, for the time being, kept in abeyance the prayer seeking a direction to Governor Koshiyari to invite the "Maha Vikas Aghadi", comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress, that said it had the support of over 144 MLAs to form the government under the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray. In a House of 288 MLAs, 144 is the halfway mark.

Mr Sibal, appearing for the Sena, and Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the NCP and the Congress, sought a direction for the floor test within 24 hours; while senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for a group of BJP and Independent MLAs, urged the court to issue notices and give two to three days to place all the relevant records before the court.

As Mr Rohatgi asserted the Governor's discretion to invite someone to form a government and administer the oath was immune from challenge under Article 361 of the Constitution, Justice Ramana said: "The Governor can't invite anybody and appoint him Chief Minister. That (appointment) has to be proved on the floor of the House."

Mr Sibal asked that if Mr Fadnavis claimed majority support at the time of taking the oath, why was the BJP now shying away from facing a floor test. Daring Mr Fadnavis to display his majority support on the floor of the House, he

**■ KAPIL SIBAL,** appearing for Shiv Sena, said the act of the Governor in recommending the revocation of President's Rule smacks of bias, and is contrary to all norms established by the judgments of the Supreme Court.

said the alliance would demonstrate that a majority of the newly-elected MLAs were with them, Mr Sibal said.

"The act of the Governor in recommending the revocation of President's Rule smacks of bias, is malafide and contrary to all norms established by the judgments of the Supreme Court from time to time."

"If they have majority, let them display it. We can demonstrate a majority on the floor of the Assembly," Mr Sibal said, throwing the gauntlet at the BJP. Citing the case of Karnataka in 2018, as well as Goa, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, Mr Singhvi said that the common thread running through all these cases was the direction for a floor test within 24 hours.

The four ingredients that a Governor must take into account before swearing in a person as Chief Minister is "satisfaction", "written document of majority support", signatures of supporting MLAs and their parade involving physical verification of majority support.

"Governor Koshiyari did not do any of them," Mr Singhvi told the court, pointing to the questionable way that the entire thing was executed.

## NCP'S BID TO WOO AJIT GOES IN VAIN

**FROM PAGE 1**

His comments created a lot of confusion within the NCP as they indicated Sharad Pawar was aware of his nephew's actions. However, the NCP chief promptly came forward to clear the dust.

"There is no question of forming an alliance with BJP. NCP has unanimously decided to ally with @ShivSena & @INC Maharashtra to form the government (sic)," Mr Sharad Pawar tweeted. "Shri Ajit Pawar's statement is false and misleading in order to create confusion and false perception among the people (sic)," he added.

Earlier, the efforts of NCP leaders to bring Mr Ajit Pawar back to the party yielded no results. Senior leaders Jayant Patil and Dilip Walse-Patil met Mr Ajit Pawar at his residence to persuade him to change his mind. But their efforts yielded no positive results.

Mr Rohit Pawar, the grand-nephew of Mr Sharad Pawar, meanwhile, also appealed for unity both within the family and the party. Making an emotional appeal to Mr Ajit Pawar, he said: "Since childhood, I have seen how Mr Sharad Pawar was never lacking in anything — whether personal or political. When I lost my grandfather Appasaheb Pawar (Mr Sharad Pawar's brother), it was 'Pawar Saheb' who first consoled my father Rajendra. I have witnessed how, when Ajit Pawar lost his father Anantnar, again it was 'Pawar Saheb'

## Raut claims 165 MLAs' support

Mumbai, Nov. 24: Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed the Sena-NCP-Congress combine has the support of 165 MLAs to prove majority in the Maharashtra Assembly, and said the BJP's "gamble" of breaking Ajit Pawar from the NCP will backfire.

Addressing reporters here, Raut alleged that Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari allowed the new government (headed by BJP's Devendra Fadnavis) to be formed on the basis of "bogus" documents shown by Ajit Pawar.

He also said the deadline of November 30 given to the government to prove majority is only to enable defections.

"The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress have 165 MLAs. If the Governor calls for an identification parade, in 10 minutes we can prove our majority," Raut said.

He said Ajit Pawar

made the "biggest mistake of his life" by betraying Sharad Pawar, a people's leader.

"Breaking Ajit Pawar from the NCP is the last gamble of the BJP which will backfire," the Rajya Sabha member said.

Ajit Pawar "misled" his party MLAs, he alleged, adding that most of them had returned to the NCP fold. Raut also said that November 23 was a "black Saturday" in the history of Maharashtra.

The BJP has no right to call the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi as 'black day', he said.

Ajit Pawar's volte face created fissures in the NCP, whose chief Sharad Pawar distanced himself from his nephew's dramatic action, saying the decision to back Fadnavis was his personal choice and not that of the party.

— **PTI**

## AN ACTION-PACKED DAY IN MAHA

**A DAY AFTER BJP LEADER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS AND NCP LEADER AJIT PAWAR WERE SWORN-IN AS CM AND DEPUTY CM RESPECTIVELY, THINGS REMAINED TENSE IN MUMBAI.**

**9.30 am:** Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut says Ajit Pawar supported the BJP due to fear of going to jail.

**9.30 am:** NCP MLA Baban Shinde, a supporter of Ajit Pawar, meets party chief Sharad Pawar at his residence. BJP associate MP Sanjay Kakade also meets senior Pawar.

**9.50 am:** NCP MLA Anil Patil, who accompanied Ajit Pawar for the oath ceremony, tweets saying he is with the party.

**10.30 am:** NCP Leader Dilip Walse Patil reaches Ajit Pawar's residence.

**11 am:** Jayant Patil, the newly appointed NCP legislative party leader, reaches Raj Bhavan, to meet the Governor along with the support letter of party MLAs.

**11.05 am:** BJP MLA Ravindra Chavan reaches Hotel Renaissance at Powai, where the hotel where NCP MLAs have been put up.

**11.15 am:** Senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan alleges Ajit Pawar made misuse of MLAs' letter. Claims the Maha Vikas Aghadi has a majority.

**1 pm:** BJP leader Ashish Shelar says that chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has the support of 170 MLAs and he will prove the majority.

**3 pm:** The meeting of BJP legislative party, headed by CM Devendra Fadnavis, starts at Vasant Smriti, the party office in Dadar.

**3.40 pm:** Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray holds a meeting with Sharad Pawar and the NCP MLAs at Hotel Renaissance.

**4.11 pm:** Ajit Pawar tweets thanking PM Narendra Modi. Later, he says he is still with the NCP and Sharad Pawar is his leader.

**6 pm:** Sharad Pawar replies to Ajit's tweet saying his statements are misleading.

**7.30 pm:** Reports emerge that Sena MLAs may be shifted to Hotel Lemon Tree after complaints of suspicious activities at Hotel Renaissance. Another report emerges of NCP MLAs shifting to Hotel Grand Hyatt.



NCP leader Jayant Patil at the meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Sunday.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. ECR/CAO/CON/TS/2019-20/08  
E-TENDER NO. 14/19/0252/TS (e-open)  
SEALED OPEN TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK:  
S.No. (1). Name of work with it's location for OPEN TENDER NO. 14/19/0252/TS (e-open) : Manufacture and supply of :  
1.6 Prestressed Concrete Sleepers for 1 in 8.5 Derailling Switch for B.G. 60 Kg. UIC/52 Kg rail to RDSO's Drg. No. T-6068 (latest Alt.) and IRS Spn. Sl. No. T-45-1996 (3rd revision Nov/16) 2.0 Prestressed Concrete Sleepers for Switch Expansion Joints with dowels (1 set = 06 nos. sleepers) for B.G. 60 Kg. UIC/52 Kg rail to RDSO's Drg. No. T-4149 (latest Alt.) (2) Approx cost of the work for OPEN TENDER NO. 14/19/0252/TS (e-open): Rs. 2,65,08,437.00 (3) Earnest money to be deposited for OPEN TENDER NO. 14/19/0252/TS (e-open): Rs. 5,30,170.00 (4) Date and time of closing of e-tender : At 15:00 hrs. on 12.12.2019 for all tenders. (5) Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. - The complete details of tender document is available on website <http://www.ecrsps.gov.in>. CAO/Con/South/MMHX, Patna PR/1721/CON/Engg./T-19-20/40

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.**  
Chief General Manager/Master Plan/IG/ Hyderabad.  
E- Tender Notification No: 07/19-20 of CGM/Master Plan/GHTSSPDCL (Short Notice Bid) SPDCLML01414: E-tenders are invited for Sp.No.07/19-20 : Construction of control room, compound wall and other civil works for the proposed 33/11 kV indoor sub-station at NIA, H-tech City in Master Plan/ Ranga Reddy circle and Sp.No.08/2019-20 : Erection of 33/11 kV indoor SS with 2x8 MVA power transformers, 1No. 33/11 kV indoor switchgear with 8 feeders, 33 kV & 11 kV lines at National Investigation Agency(NIA) at H-tech City in Operation Kondapur Division of Cybercity Circle under Master Plan SD-1 of WCGH Division in RR Circle. Bid uploading start date : 25.11.2019 at 15:00Hrs. Last date for uploading of bid : 02.12.2019 at 15:00Hrs (7 days). Hard copies submission date : 03.12.2019 at 12:00 Hrs. Technical Bid Opening Date : 03.12.2019 at 15:00 Hrs. Note: Any further information in this regard can be obtained on website [www.tssouthernpower.com/tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tssouthernpower.com/tender.telangana.gov.in). ID No. SPDCLML01414 Sd/- Chief General Manager, Master Plan, Hyderabad

**Digital India**  
Power To Empower

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
To provide select UMANG services through AI based Voice Assistant-ChatBot

**NeGD**  
National e-Governance Division  
Creating Digital Governance  
NATIONAL e-GOVERNANCE DIVISION  
4th Floor, Electronics Niketan, 6 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is an autonomous business division within Digital India Corporation, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, for supporting and assisting MeitY in the Program Management of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) and supporting coordination of Digital India Program.

NeGD invites bids against Request for Proposal (RFP) from IT/Technology Companies in the area of AI/ML/BoTs/Voice Assistants to provide select services through Artificial Intelligence based Voice Assistant-ChatBot for award winning UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) application.

For updates in RFP, interested parties may download the reply to queries/corrigendum & RFP document from the following Websites  
<https://negd.gov.in/active-tender>, <https://digitalindia.gov.in/opportunities/rfpseois>, <https://meity.gov.in/tenders>  
In future keep visiting above websites for any updates.

e-mail: [umang@digitalindia.gov.in](mailto:umang@digitalindia.gov.in)  
Telephone: 011-24301936, 24303704

Last date of receiving proposal: 14 January 2020

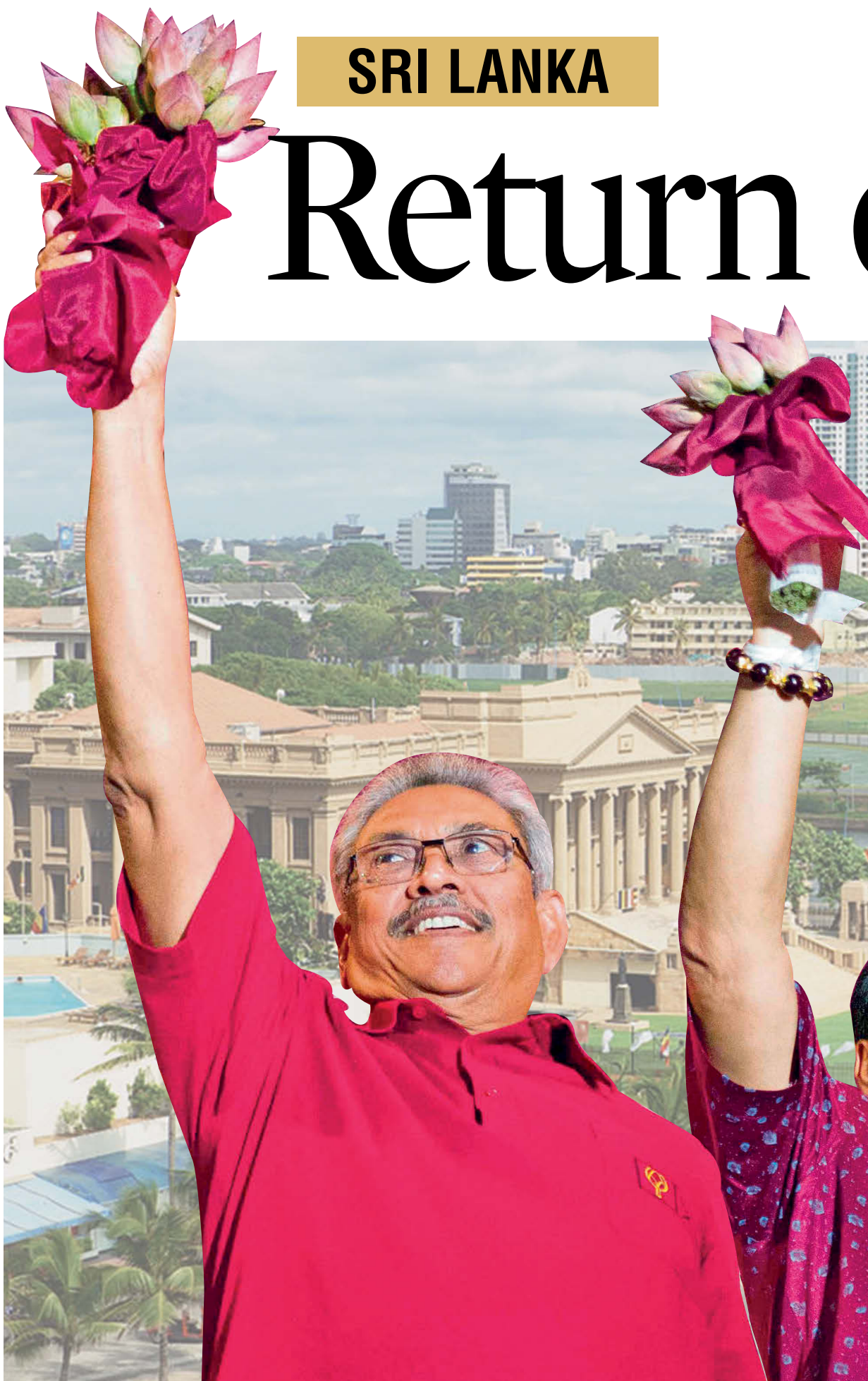




There was a clear divide between the way the Sinhala majority and Tamil minority people had voted. Consequently, it makes it clear that only a Tamil Eelam will offer a permanent solution to the problems faced by the Sri Lankan Tamils. — Dr S. Ramadoss, PMK founder

SRI LANKA

# Return of the Rajas



N. Sathya Moorthy

In more ways than one, it is the return of the native for Sri Lanka. Barring the election of lesser-known veteran, outgoing President Maithripala Sirisena in Elections-2015, the nation's politics has revolved round known parties and personalities - not necessarily in that order. In the new President, Gotabhaya Nandasena Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka and its international interlocutors have a mixture of both.

They all have known him, and also have perceptions of him, from his days as war-time Defence secretary under brother and President, Mahinda Rajapaksa (2005-15). While being 'pro-active and decisive' on the security front, the world too knows little of the man's political vision, mission and delivery mechanisms, as was the case with Sirisena. But then, he is not going to be a push-over, whether inside the country or outside.

Much has been written about the Rajapaksas and all controversies surrounding them, in terms of war-time crimes and accountability issues, the 'China factor' and the rest. Independent of the truth or otherwise of the matter, two facts stand out. One, Sri Lanka has voted them back to power, with Mahinda Rajapaksa declaring himself brother Gota's Prime Minister - if the latter was elected to power - long before the poll process had commenced.

Two, after the failure of the outgoing Government of President Sirisena and his estranged Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, it should once again dawn on the war-victimised Tamils in Sri Lanka and the international community that it is back to the Rajapaksas when it comes to finding a constitutional solution to the 'ethnic issue' in the island-nation. That is to say, if the war-victims in the

Rajapaksas cannot deliver a negotiated settlement to the vexatious issue, no other leader and party could be expected to do so - as the past five years have shown, since.

The new President has between now and September 2020, when alone the Geneva-based UNHRC is expected to take up the 'war crimes probe resolution' for an actionable update, based on the resolution passed in March this year. However, Gota, his Government and the party will also be tied down to the stalled Provincial Council elections and also parliamentary polls, which are due by August 2020 but could come through much earlier.

More that the processes, until the new President and his team has a comfortable majority in Parliament, whether in the outgoing one or not, but definitely in the upcoming one, his arms and feet would be tied. It is another matter what kind of political solution that his party and Government envisages, and what 'minimalist' demands that the Tamil polity and society would see as acceptable.

## West at a crossroads

Having flagged war-crimes probe, at times independent of a political solution for the Tamils of the island-nation, the West has been put at a crossroads since. When the US-led West moved the UNHRC resolutions after their calculated post-war gamble to flag it as the UN Security Council (UNSC), even if informally, failed owing to veto-threats by China and Russia, the Mahinda regime in Colombo flatly declared their decision to boycott it.

Now at the commencement of Gota's poll campaign, they reiterated the same. President Gota R has since appointed commander of the Sri Lanka Army's 55th Division, Maj-Gen Kamal Gunaratne (retd) as the new Defence Secretary. He would be working with Army chief, Lt-Gen Shavendra Silva, who was the commander of the equally controversial 58th Division during war-time.

The latter was an appointee of the outgoing Government. The US and the rest of the West did declare that it would be difficult for them to work militarily with Sri Lanka with Silva's continuance in office, but did not go beyond words at the time. The

Sirisena-Wickremesinghe duo, otherwise at loggerheads during their last months and years in office together, did not react, or bother.

## China angle

The question then arises if China would return to occupy the centre-stage in Sri Lanka's foreign policy affairs despite President Gota's declaration that his Government would stay neutral. There again, the 'international community' especially has more to introspect. The Rajapaksas still cannot explain convincingly how and why they needed to fast-track China-funded Hambantota Port Project, a legacy from the previous administration of President

Chandrika Kumaratunga (CBK) - but a dream of all Sri Lanka for years and decades earlier.

Yet, when the 'duo leadership' went in for a snap 'debt-to-equity' deal with China on Hambantota and handing over Sri Lankan territory to Beijing, no member of the international community felt cheated, or protested. What more, the Government also went in for a further \$ 100-m China loan for building expressways of the kind that the Rajapaksas had excelled in.

## Shifting 'goal-posts'

Yet, it the world and also global human rights watch-dogs and also local communities and NGOs felt more at ease with the outgoing Government compared to the Rajapaksas, it owed to the 'sense of freedom and openness' that they had come to represent even before the polls - and one aspect of public life that they preserved till the end. For the international community at times including the Indian neighbour, the Rajapaksas came off as shifting their self-set goal-posts time and again, be it on the post-war political settlement to the ethnic issue or on the China-related geo-strategic security concerns.

The lid blew off on the Beijing-centric security front when the Rajapaksas allowed Chinese subs to berth at the Colombo Port, despite India reportedly expressing concern. On the burning ethnic issue, they were not entirely wrong but did not seem to have briefed the progress purportedly made in the political negotiations with the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), representing the war-affected community.

With the result, when the TNA walked out of the talks unilaterally, blaming it all on the Rajapaksas and demanding international war-crimes probe, the Rajapaksas were not only peeved reportedly - but also felt being used until the world was ready to arraign them. Today, all stake-holders need to realise that much has been lost to pre-suppositions and mis-communication, to put it mildly. The Rajapaksas, the TNA and the West all need to revisit the last five years and more, and all-acceptable solutions to multiple issues entangling Sri Lanka to the present are hidden somewhere there.

India, as a neighbour, stake-holder, benefactor and beneficiary, all rolled into one, need to do it all - from soul-searching to ethnic facilitation, if and if only called, and go beyond to clarify its demands and positions on the geo-strategic front. There can be hopes of better coordination and collaboration, now that the two nations are known to have common concerns and seemingly shared intelligence (whether or not acted upon) and approaches to 'internal security issues' of the 'international terrorism' kind, as displayed at the 'Easter Sunday serial-bombings' in Sri Lanka, where the Indian alerts went unheeded, all the same.

(The writer is a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Initiative)

## THIRD TIME PM

**Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa was also prime minister between 2004 and 2005 and again for 52 days during last year's political crisis before the Supreme Court ruled his appointment unconstitutional. He will now head a minority government as elections cannot be held before March 2020. After that, President Gotabaya is most likely to call early elections to facilitate Mahinda becoming the PM and ultimately replace Executive Presidency with Westminster system where the PM is the Chief Executive.**

## HOW SOUND IS LANKAN ECONOMY?

**International credit rating agency Fitch warned that the new president Gotabaya's pledges to increase social spending, public-sector wages and pensions could jeopardise cutting Sri Lanka's public finances. Earlier this month, the IMF released the latest tranche of a \$1.5 billion bailout that was suspended in October 2018 during a constitutional crisis last year. Coupled with expected bond issues this should ease near-term concerns about Sri Lanka's debts. "But external debt repayments are substantial at \$19 billion in 2020-2023 against reserves of \$7.8 billion," Fitch said. It said that any rollback of economic reforms of the previous government could have implications for Colombo's relations with the IMF.**

# Heed this message from the island



R. Bhagwan Singh

Babus in the Indian Foreign Ministry and also the Home Ministry would do well to give a good reading of the statement tweeted on November 19 by Namal, the influential son of Mahinda Rajapaksa. In fact, study it deeply and look for connotations between the lines. They are not too deeply hidden in the two-page document scripted deliberately in Tamil.

The statement was addressed to the politicians in Tamil Nadu, telling them they have been all along making sensational statements in the media to exacerbate the relations between the two nations and their people, only to serve their own selfish-opportunistic ends and have done precious little to truly help the Tamils in Sri Lanka. At least now, they should "function with responsibility to help our people live their future in peace and prosperity".

Namal was pretty hard in hitting out at these Tamil politicians; in fact, even naming the MDMK chief Vaiko, VCK leader Thol. Thirumavalavan, PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss and Tamil National Alliance leader Pazha Nedumaran, as being prominent in

this group. He accused them of "doing nothing for our people, except using them as pawns" to further their own selfish agenda and causing disaffection and hatred among "our people"— obviously meaning the Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

He went on to recall the visit to Sri Lanka of a Parliamentary delegation on behalf of the DMK after the (Eelam) war ended in 2009. The team had included Thirumavalavan who "heard us in a friendly manner and understood our side of the story". "So, it shocks us looking at his opportunistic statement issued now", said Namal, reminding TN politicians it's time now they shed their "irresponsible and provocative" conduct of issuing hostile statements and, instead, contribute their mite to better the lives of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. This is 'kaalathin-kattaayam' (compulsions of time), he told them, "politely, lovingly and respectfully".

But why bother so much about this statement from Namal Rajapaksa in a tiny treatise on what ails Indo-Lanka relations? Well, this favourite progeny of the Island's strongman is being groomed to take over from dad in some years; so, it's no exaggeration to say the statement was thoroughly examined by Mahinda both in its content and the tone before release.

The Rajapaksas are well aware that Namal's anger would be picked up by the rulers in Delhi as well and the latter would understand that notwithstanding the fact that it erupted in

response to the hostile statements from the named TN politicians, it also pointed to a serious remedy to one of the major 'irritants' in the soured relations between the First Family of Sri Lanka and the Government of India.

Rajapaksa Jr was not just reminding the TN politicians about 'this kaalathin-kattaayam', he was addressing a larger audience in India, particularly in its ruling echelons, about the new compulsions created by his uncle Gotabaya's victory in the Presidential poll and dad's swearing-in as the Interim Prime Minister. The family has cut out, in precise political dimensions, not just the future of its own members but that of the island nation.

The family is aware that not many in the North and the East had voted for 'Gota' on November 16. And that while it was essential for a contestant to cross the 50 per cent vote share to be declared the winner, he got 52.25 per cent while main rival Sajith Premadasa managed just 43.8 per cent share of votes polled. And that Sajith had the backing of India, which is why the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) representing most of the Tamil people in Sri Lankan Parliament, announced support for Sajith while reiterating the charge that Gotabaya had captured, as the then Defence Secretary, the 'genocide' of Tamil civilians to end the Eelam War (May 2009).

The Muslims dominating the Eastern Province too have expressed

fears that the attacks on them by Buddhist monks and other extremist elements would return if the Rajapaksas come to power.

The first statement made by both Mahinda and Gotabaya on winning the elections was to assure all the people that they would get equal opportunities irrespective of their community and region. "Our future government, including the President, will demonstrate transparency and goodwill in every act", promised Namal in the midst of his anger at TN politicians. And Gotabaya stressed that he's the President of Sri Lanka and not just of the Sinhala people. Prudent diplomacy would allow the Family to prove sincerity vis-à-vis those assurances of peace and development.

India has made the right move in this direction when its foreign minister Dr S. Jaishankar called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on his first day in office after being sworn in on November 18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had telephoned him the previous day, almost as soon as the poll results were announced, to congratulate and also invite him to Delhi on what could be his first foreign trip as President. The invitation has been accepted and the Sri Lankan President would visit the Indian Capital on November 29, according to Jaishankar, who also met Mahinda and his son Namal on this trip. And yes, protests have also erupted in Tamil Nadu with the pro-LTTE parties and leaders demanding that PM Modi

should refrain from hosting Gotabaya.

Referring to his meeting with the Indian Foreign Minister, Mahinda tweeted saying that "strengthening of the already existing bilateral relations between our two nations was discussed". The Rajapaksas have always maintained that India is a brother up north and the mutual relations are tied tight with the umbilical cord, while China and Pakistan are close friends.

That brings us back to the kaalathin-kattaayam; the urgent need to repair the relations with Colombo and its rulers, the Rajapaksas. This is necessary to strengthen collaborations in dealing with not only regional economic progress and marine defence, but also the stalking menace of Islamist terror. One must only check with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to know the seriousness of this issue — India had cautioned Colombo well in advance that terror strikes would happen during the Easter but the warning went unheeded and more than 250 people perished in suicide bombings. The NIA has discovered the deadly links between terror modules in Sri Lanka and South India. Coming to the issue of regional security interests, India would have to push the Rajapaksas to revisit the agreements with China in the areas of defence and infrastructure investments. That's easier said than done as international agreements are pretty hard to scratch out.

In an interview with (then)

President Mahinda Rajapaksa early 2010, about a year after the Eelam war ended, this writer pointed to the large presence of the Chinese in the infra project sites and their families shopping in the Colombo malls, with babies in prams. "Mr President, we in India have a problem with you. You are close to the Chinese", I remember telling him.

Pat came the reply. "Ah, you know every project I gave the Chinese, I first offered to India. You guys did not take it. I must develop my country, no? So, I had to go the Chinese..."

The babus of Delhi only had a calculator sitting on their desks to add up the figures behind each Lankan project and say, "OMG, that's way beyond us". The Chinese had calculators too but they also had a centralised decision-making system controlled by their President, which cleared proposals and projects real quick. And it's said they also had limitless access to grease funds.

These, mainly, are the issues that India must keep in mind while preparing the banquet speeches during the Gotabaya visit. For the Chinese, Sri Lanka is just a small island that's become important on its String of Pearls. For India, the little island has huge strategic importance in multiple areas, including regional security and combating terror, not to forget the Tamil question.

(The writer is Executive Editor, Deccan Chronicle)



Tell the audience what you're going to say, say it; then tell them what you've said

It [Communism] did not offer an answer to the question: Why should a man be good?

# DECCAN Chronicle

25 NOVEMBER 2019

## The sorry spectacle in Maha tarnishes India

In light of the fact that Maharashtra governor B.S. Koshiyari on Saturday swore in the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis as chief minister and NCP's Ajit Pawar as deputy Chief Minister in circumstances that suggest a new low has been hit in Raj Bhavan's conduct, it was expected the Supreme Court would direct that this absurd government prove its majority on the floor of the House without any further delay.

Regrettably, the court did not do so when the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress approached it Saturday night for an urgent hearing. It agreed to hear the matter on Sunday, but ended the day in about an hour without passing a final order.

Instead, it asked for the submission of two documents: Mr Fadnavis' letter to the governor claiming majority support, and the governor's letter agreeing to swear in the Chief Minister and his deputy (at 8 am Saturday in a hush-hush manner after the Centre revoked President's Rule at 5.47 am, which suggests duplicity).

Knowing these details is important in constructing the scene of the crime, as it were, and in gaining a full political understanding of the murky story.

However, what is indubitable is that a floor test must be held since, at the level of technicality, a government has already been sworn in.

If a floor test is inescapable, then it follows it must be done without allowing time for the purchase of MLAs and the breaking of parties, a practice for which the BJP's top leadership has gained unprecedented notoriety since 2014. In not ordering a floor test right away, the Supreme Court appears to have given in to the pleadings of the solicitor-general and the BJP's counsel. Both appeared to be pressing for more time through their arguments.

On Monday morning the Supreme Court will continue the hearing. Pleadings may ensue on the documents sought by the court. Based on these it is possible the court may cast doubts on the governor's action. While that may be no bad thing, that is not the plea of the parties that sought the urgent hearing.

The hearing was sought for a floor test post-haste. The Supreme Court has failed to oblige. This raises questions as it gives the experts at inducing defections more time to ply their trade.

The events between Friday night and the moments at dawn on Saturday do not place President Ram Nath Kovind in a positive light either. He succumbed to the Centre's pressure to sign on the dotted line to end Central rule in Maharashtra — practically in his sleep. Prime Minister Narendra Modi used his emergency powers to recommend ending Central rule under Article 356 of the Constitution without taking the matter to the Cabinet, but where was the emergency?

Alas, the way the story has unfolded, key national institutions have been placed under the scanner while the Maharashtra Assembly has not been constituted yet, although the results came out on October 24. Such an unconscionable delay in MLAs taking the oath lessens our democracy.

## Rein in those rogues

Milan Krishna Rao, 27 years old, a tech entrepreneur, was rushing for a meeting when his red-coloured compact car flew off the newly inaugurated Bio-Diversity fly-over, landed on the road below, killing Mrs Satyaveni, who was waiting with her daughter, while on a search for a house in the locality. This was a second gruesome accident on the flyover. A few days ago, a zooming car hit four youth who had stopped their motorcycles to take selfies — two were thrown off and fell down — dead.

Every day, across our country, people go out on roads of all kinds for the business of their lives. Every day newspapers are filled with reports of such mindless deaths, caused by erratic irresponsible drivers — some drunk, some driving faster than they should for adventure, and many others, plain irresponsible. Often, they kill innocent pedestrians, smaller vehicles, innocent bystanders, who surely don't deserve it.

We are a nation of law-breakers. We drive aping our powerful leaders, for whom the roads are cleared, zooming past at lightning speed, sirens blaring. We ape them, honking our way out of impossible jams, at menacing speeds; and feel powerful. Such people shame us, threaten us and make a case that we perhaps do not deserve anything better than bullock carts.

It is a feeling of terror with which most of us drive, walk and tread out, with the greatest achievements of humanity — automobiles, flyovers — becoming an instrument of death, and both the incidences and probability of death in a road accident rising for each one of us.

Yes, the police have to adopt a no-nonsense approach to rash and drunken driving and stringently enable law and act against those who rationalise that talking on a mobile while driving, not wearing a helmet or a seat-belt is harmless.

Till then, we as a society can only paraphrase Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, and pray, "Father, don't let my country die... on its roads."

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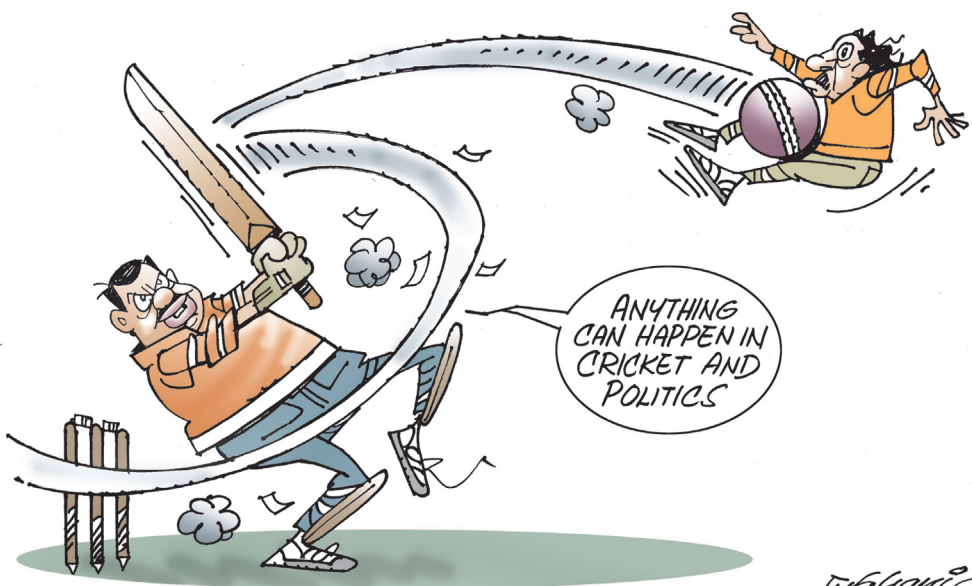
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Subhani



## 'Pawar' play is the pivot of this game of thrones



Dhaval Kulkarni

There is something about uncle-nephew relationships in Maharashtra's politics. Some begin on an earnest note as a nephew is pitched in politics by a dotting uncle, but the subsequent falling out is bitter. One such example is Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray.

But the present political imbroglio in Maharashtra, where Ajit Pawar, nephew of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar, rebelled against his uncle to join hands with the BJP, is different from the usual uncle-nephew saga.

The NCP had almost sealed a deal with the Shiv Sena and the Congress, a month after the Assembly results were declared, signalling an end to the stalemate in Maharashtra. This was caused by the Sena's dogged refusal to honour its pre-poll alliance with the BJP.

A day later, Ajit Pawar seemingly revolted against his party and the authority of his uncle in an early morning coup. He was sworn in as deputy CM to chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Sharad Pawar had openly pitched Shiv Sena boss Uddhav Thackeray as the combine's chief ministerial candidate. Needless to say, this loss of face will be intense for the Sena, which is the primary adversary of the NCP in large swathes of Maharashtra.

Despite Pawar Senior vehemently stating he was unaware of Ajit's moves, even dispassionate observers of the Maratha strongman's brand of power play will question this claim of a man famed for having his ears to the ground. Though Mr Pawar has moved to shepherd his legislators and take action against the politically ambitious Ajit, the final picture may be clear only during the

floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly. Chinese whispers doing the rounds since the Shiv Sena launched parleys with its former ideological foes NCP and Congress suggested that a section of NCP leaders, who feared being probed by Central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate for alleged misdeemeanours, could break ranks to join the BJP.

While negotiations between the three parties were on, Congress leaders said they were non-plussed at Mr Pawar dragging his feet on sealing the power-sharing pact.

Despite his long innings in politics, Mr Pawar, who has often been described as a 24x7 politician by even his political adversaries, certainly cannot count consistency as one of his virtues.

Hence, adding to the fog of mystery around the developments is Sharad Pawar's own track record, something that has relegated him to what his sympathisers claim, is the best Prime Minister India never had.

Since Mr Pawar plunged into electoral politics by becoming an MLA from Baramati in 1967, his career has been characterised by frequent volte faces.

In 1978, Mr Pawar, then in the Congress (Reddy), toppled his party's alliance government with the Congress(I) to become Maharashtra's youngest chief minister. Then, he secured the support of the Janata Party, which included leaders from the Jan Sangh, the BJP's ideological predecessor.

After his government was dismissed by Indira Gandhi in 1980, Mr Pawar merged his Congress(S) into the parent party led by her son Rajiv Gandhi six years later. In 1999, he revolted against Rajiv's widow Sonia, and was expelled from the Congress. However, within months, his NCP forgot its bitterness to join hands with the Congress for power in Maha-

ashtra. During the time that they ruled the state till 2014, the NCP spared no opportunity to corner the Congress despite being allies.

In 2014, when the BJP, Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP, fought the state Assembly elections on their own, Mr Pawar pulled out another rabbit from his hat.

Senior NCP leader Praful Patel extended outside support to the BJP, which had emerged as the single-largest, yet short of the halfway mark. This brought down the negotiating power of the Shiv Sena, which was the second in terms of bench strength, by conveying that if it dithered on joining the Devendra Fadnavis-led government, the NCP would seize the opportunity.

Senior BJP leaders admit the NCP-BJP bonhomie continued well until 2017.

Like most relationships, Ajit Dada's blow-hot, blow-cold relationship with his uncle is an open secret. Inducted into the state Cabinet in the 1990s after a brief stint in the Lok Sabha from Baramati, the mercurial Ajit, whose outspokenness often transcends the thin line with arrogance, gradually rose in the ranks, edging out seniors.

In 2004, when the NCP secured two seats more than the Congress, it rather inexplicably handed over the chief minister's post to the latter. This was attributed to Pawar Senior's move to cut his ambitious nephew and other contenders to size. The relationship between the two was strained further after Mr Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule entered Parliament.

Mr Pawar's sympathisers claim "Saheb" wants to see "Supriyatati" as the first woman chief minister of Maharashtra, overriding Ajit's claims.

In 2010, when the

**Though Mr Pawar has moved to shepherd his MLAs and take action against the ambitious Ajit, the final picture may be clear only during the floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly**

Congress scalped then CM Ashok Chavan in the Adarsh housing society row, Ajit staged a coup by forcing his uncle's hand to become the deputy chief minister, forcing out senior leader Chhagan Bhujbal. However, Ajit's frequent outbursts, including one where he questioned if they should urinate in empty dams, led to a controversy. Charges of impropriety in execution of irrigation projects to the tune of around Rs 70,000 crores in a department once controlled by him also found Ajit in the eye of a storm.

The defeat of Ajit's son Parth in the Lok Sabha elections, and the victory of Mr Pawar's other grandson Rohit (grandson of NCP patriarch's older brother Appasaheb) in the Assembly polls also carry an undercurrent of discord and simmering tensions within the family.

While the jury is out on whether Mr Pawar was hand-in-glove with his petulant nephew or was indeed outfoxed by him, the NCP chief's often dismissive statements about staking claim to power with the Shiv Sena and his long meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ostensibly to seek aid for distressed farmers, has set the cat among the pigeons.

The Marathi movie *Sinhasan*, penned by journalist-author Arun Sadhu, is a political thriller which unspools a fictional but similar game of thrones being played in Maharashtra. As former foes come together for power and pelf, their selfish, petty ambitions in stark contrast with the squalor of Mumbai's toiling classes, the protagonist, political reporter Digu Tipnis, is eventually driven insane in this cult classic.

This is perhaps a rational reaction for any sensitive real-life Digu Tipnis, who may be watching the game unfold from the sidelines as farmers commit suicide, the economy still tanks, and slums expand due to distress migrants.

*The writer is a journalist based in Mumbai and the author of 'The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas'*

### LETTERS

#### TERRIFYING MISHAP

The accident on the Biodiversity flyover at Gachibowli is not only terrifying but creates a scare among people who travel long distances to offices in Hitec City on a daily basis (*Bystander killed in freak car accident, DC, Nov. 24*). Life is precious. The traffic police must crack down heavily on over-speeding and reckless driving.

Syed Hassan Ahmed  
Abids, Hyderabad

#### EASE CONGESTION

A vast stretch of land is available towards Keesara side to establish new industries and research organisations. It is close to Dr A.S. Rao Nagar, Malkajgiri, Sainikpuri, Kapra, Moula Ali, Dammaiguda, and Kushaiguda, among others. Eighty per cent of the city's population are from middle and lower middle class groups and have hands-on skills to work for such enterprises. The zone is close to the education hub, with several post-graduate and engineering colleges around. It is not a bad idea to shift IT companies to minimise traffic congestion.

K.V. Narasinga Rao  
A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad

#### MAHA SUSPENSE

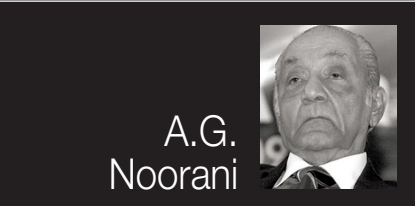
The BJP is back in the saddles of power in Maharashtra, stunningly (*WTFadnavis, DC, Nov. 24*). The split in the NCP engineered by BJP is a masterstroke to gain power in the state. Blaming the BJP alone for this fiasco does not ring well. The Congress, NCP and the Shiv Sena are also responsible for this dramatic installation. The people of Maharashtra repudiated faith in a pre-poll BJP-Sena alliance. The lust for power of Uddhav Thackeray for CM's post in rotation after several rounds talks failed led to the impasse. However, it remains to be seen as to how the BJP sails through in the election of the speaker and floor test.

N.R. Ramachandran  
Hyderabad

Why was Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in such a hurry to swear in Devendra Fadnavis as the Chief Minister and Ajit Pawar as his deputy? It baffles everyone, particularly when the uncertainty has been prevailing for the last one month. The entire scene changed in just one night. A chance was already given to the BJP to form a government. As the state was already under President's rule, Shiv Sena, second largest party in the Assembly with 56 seats, should have been given a little more time to stake its claim. Clearly, the Governor was not neutral in discharging his duties.

S. Nageswara Rao  
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A.G. Noorani

## Who is to judge the misuse of parliamentary privilege?

When the Indian parliament reassembled for its winter session on Nov 18, its upper house resounded with the cry of "where is Farooq?", a reference to 82-year-old Kashmiri leader Farooq Abdullah's house arrest since Aug 5, when the Modi government laid its unclean hands on Kashmir's identity and its very existence.

The event is notable for two reasons. First, it was a rare occasion when New Delhi's notables spoke up for the oppressed Kashmiris. In reality, though, the MPs were voicing a fear for their own rights. This brings me to the second question: is it open to the government to wipe out the Opposition in Parliament by putting in prison opposition leaders without trial?

During the "emergency", a euphemism for dictatorship, Indira Gandhi rushed through parliament

the 42nd constitutional amendment when top Opposition leaders had been put in jail without trial in June 1975. It recast the Indian polity radically and gave her wide powers to ban political parties.

The Supreme Court had rejected a challenge to imprisonment without trial. Earlier in 1952, the Madras High Court had expressed its helplessness. But it did raise the question about the legality of the mass arrest of Opposition leaders as distinct from the arrest of an individual legislator. It said: "If a party in power detains a political opponent or continues his detention with the mala fide object of stifling opposition and prejudicing the party to which he belongs in a forthcoming election, there would be an undermining of the basis of the Constitution." The Supreme Court has expressed no such fears.

In 1933, Hitler imprisoned as many

as 33 members of the Reichstag under emergency laws, in order to push through the Enabling Act which gave him sweeping powers to establish his dictatorship. The law disqualifies from membership of the legislature a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a specified term. But preventive detention is not punishment for a crime. It is preventive, not penal. In 1969, the Supreme Court said: "It must be emphasised that a detenu is not a convict." This is flouted in Kashmir.

South Asia is yet to acknowledge the debt it owes to German jurist the late Dr Dieter Conrad. He wrote with learning and insight on constitutional developments in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India and had friends in these countries. We relied on a British precedent — the case of Capt Ramsay, a member of the House of Commons. He was

detained on the outbreak of the Second World War. He contended that the arrest and detention violated the immunity from arrest enjoyed by parliamentarians. The issue was referred to as the Committee of Privileges. Its report is the basis on which the law on the subject rests in Britain and India to this day.

Hard cases make bad law. In 1939, few had sympathy for Capt Ramsay, who was suspected of being a Fascist collaborator. The committee was swayed by precedents paraded before it — mostly cases of Irish members. The house was not unduly anxious to extend its protection to Irish MPs. But none cared to go through the report itself. The home secretary stated on oath that Capt Ramsay had not been detained for anything said in parliament. He affirmed on affidavit that he was satisfied as to the grounds of detention.

The report observes: "If the real ground of internment had been that the member was likely to prove an embarrassment to the executive in parliament no such affidavit could have been sworn without the commission of gross perjury."

Can anyone doubt for a moment that such "embarrassment to the executive in parliament" was the very reason why the MPs in India were arrested on June 26, 1975, and Farooq Abdullah in 2019?

The report conceded that "no express decision covering the point submitted to your committee has been taken". It relied heavily on a 1641 resolution of the Commons that "privilege of parliament ... is not to be used to the danger of the Commonwealth". But who is to be the judge of the misuse: the courts or the executive?

By arrangement with Daun