



**WEATHER**  
 Max: 28.9°C  
 Min: 17.5°C  
 RH: 50%  
 Rainfall: Nil  
 Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty/haze likely. Max/Min temp. 29/17°C  
 (Friday)

**ASTROGUIDE**  
 Vikari: Dakshinayana  
 Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Purnima till 10.39 am  
 Star: Mrigasira till 6.17 am  
 (Friday)  
 Varjyam: 11.56 am to 1.31 pm  
 Durmuhurtam: 10.20 am to 11.04 am and 2.43 pm to 3.27 pm  
 Rahukalam: 1 pm to 3 pm  
 HINDI CALENDAR  
 Rabi-ul-Aker 14:14:58 AH  
 PRAYERS  
 Fajar: 5.32 am  
 Zohar: 12.20 pm  
 Asar: 4.07 pm  
 Maghrib: 5.49 pm  
 Isha: 7.02 pm  
 SUNSET TODAY 5:41 PM  
 SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:37 AM  
 MOONRISE TOMORROW 5:58 PM  
 MOONSET TODAY 6:28 AM

**Joint panel to vet Data Bill**  
 New Delhi: Amid opposition's claims that it breached personal privacy, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday referred the Personal Data Protection Bill to a joint select committee. Communication and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, while moving a resolution in the House, said the bill may be referred to a joint committee of the House. The panel will have 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. — PTT

**Modi gets clean chit on '02 riots**  
 Gandhinagar: The Navati Commission has given a clean chit to the then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi-led government in the 2002 riots in the state where over 1,000 people, mostly of the minority community, were killed. The report was tabled in the Gujarat Assembly by MoS home Pradepsin Jadev on Wednesday, five years after it was submitted to the then government and 17 years after the riots. ■ Full report on Page 6

**COUNTER POINT**  
 Our stand is very clear... we support the Bill inside the House and oppose outside!

**Isro launches spy satellite**  
 New Delhi: India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C48), in its golden jubilee flight, successfully launched 626-kg RISAT-2BR1 and nine other foreign customer satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on Wednesday. RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite, which allows India to have surveillance capability in the region. ■ Full report on Page 2

**Greta is Time's Person of Year**  
 New York: Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who began a global movement by skipping school and demanding action on climate change, angrily thundering "How Dare You" at the world's leaders during the UN Climate Summit for their inaction, was on Wednesday declared as Time magazine's 2019 Person of the Year. At 16, Thunberg is the youngest individual ever to be named Time's Person of the Year. — PTT

**NATION | 6**  
 Richard Branson has Indian roots

**Ex-judge may probe killings**  
 SC seeks Telangana's opinion

**PARMOM KUMAR | DC**  
 NEW DELHI, DEC. 11  
 The Supreme Court on Wednesday indicated that a former judge of the top court would inquire into the encounter killing of four suspected accused in the rape and murder of a Hyderabad doctor.  
 "We propose to appoint a former judge of Supreme Court to inquire into the encounter and he will not sit in Hyderabad but in Delhi," said Chief Justice S.A. Bobde heading the bench also comprising Justice S. Abdul Nazeer and Justice Sanjeev Khanna. Seeking suggestion from the petitioner G.S.Mani and the Telangana government on the name of former judge to hold the probe, CJI Bobde said that he had contacted the former top court judge Justice P.V. Reddy but he has declined.  
 However, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi appearing for Telangana said the court to bear the Telangana government on the steps it has already taken before handing over the probe to former top court judge. The further hearing based on the suggested names of former top court judges would take place on Thursday.  
 While directing on Monday (December 9, 2019) that it would be hearing of the PIL by Mani today (Wednesday), the bench headed by CJI

**FASTER TRIAL IN SAMATHA CASE**  
 The 5th Additional Sessions Judge Court at Adilabad has been designated as a fast-track court for the trial of the accused involved in the brutal rape and murder of a Dalit woman Samatha.  
**Report on Pg 3**  
 Bobde had noted that Telangana High Court was already seized of the matter and hearing it. The petitioners Mani and Pradeep Kumar Yadav — both advocates of the Supreme Court — have sought an independent probe either by a SIT, CBI, CID or a police team of other State into the alleged encounter killing of four suspected accused. The PIL has also sought probe against the Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar. The PIL-petitioners have said that indisputably, no one including them would support the accused persons involved in the gang rape and murder of the innocent young doctor. Yet, however, the PIL says that the "police" "taking the law into their hand, conducting fake encounter is highly unfortunate."  
 A landmark day for India and our nation's ethos of compassion and brotherhood! Glad that the CAB has been passed in the #RajyaSabha. Gratitude to all the MPs who voted in favour of the bill. This bill will alleviate the suffering of many who faced persecution for years. It's tweeted.  
 Calling it a dark day in the constitutional history of India, Congress interim chief Sonia Gandhi said, "The passage of the CAB marks the victory of narrow-minded and bigoted forces over India's pluralism. The bill fundamentally challenges the idea of India." Several Opposition leaders delivered impassioned speeches against the bill that, they said, was contrary to the Constitution and the very idea of India as envisioned by its founding fathers.  
 Mr Shah, who took on the Opposition for questioning the basis of CAB, said it was necessitated because of Partition of country and has corrected a historic blunder. The CAB makes it much easier for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, Muslims, Afghanists, Bangladeshis and Pakistanis to become Indians. It also reduces the 11-year-long wait for citizenship for non-Muslims from these three countries to five years. He blamed the Congress for accepting Partition on the basis of religion and said that CAB will give protection to persecuted minorities from three neighbouring countries.

**Infra firms fail to pay labour cess**

**MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC**  
 HYDERABAD, DEC. 11  
 Major infrastructure companies, including those in the public sector, have evaded ₹588.67 crore in labour cess. The state Vigilance and Enforcement (V&E) department has alerted the labour department to evasion by 62 firms in Ranga Reddy district, 35 in Hyderabad district and six in Warangal district. Despite the alerts, labour officers who are hand-in-glove with political leaders and infrastructure companies have been turning a blind eye.  
 Interestingly, the private firm that constructed Pragathi Bhavan also evaded labour cess. According to the Building and Other Construction Workers' Cess Act, 1986, any construction above ₹10 lakh has to pay one per cent labour cess to the department for the welfare of construction workers. The vigilance report says that private agencies that executed Bheemsa Bhatnagar and Mission Kakatiya in Ranga Reddy district have evaded ₹366 crore; Metro Rail projects evaded ₹163 crore; and telecom companies evaded ₹15 crore.  
 Ranga Reddy district have evaded ₹366 crore; Metro Rail projects evaded ₹163 crore; and telecom companies evaded ₹15 crore. This apart, as many as 35 major infrastructure companies have evaded ₹134.71 crore labour cess during a span of five years. Sources said that several well-known firms have evaded labour cess. For instance, a Shamsabad firm has evaded ₹10 crore. The department will send notices to soon.  
 ■ Page 4: Many small firms evade labour cess: CP(M)  
 ■ Page 7: Muslims have nothing to fear: Shah

**SPORTS | 15**  
 Rahul, Kohli on fire as India take T20 series

**Shah gets Rajya Sabha clear Citizenship Bill amid protests**  
 Modi says it will help persecuted; Congress says idea of India challenged

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
 NEW DELHI, DEC. 11  
 The BJP-led government on Wednesday secured parliamentary approval for the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that makes religion a criteria for Indian citizenship, marking a fundamental shift in India's secular ethos and claims.  
 The Rajya Sabha passed the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) after almost nine hours of debate in which more than 40 MPs spoke.  
 The CAB, which seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims who entered the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014, will now go to the President for his assent.  
 The bill, tabled by Union home minister Amit Shah in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday morning, was passed with 125 members voting in favour of the motion and 105 against it.  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the passage of the bill, calling it "a landmark day for India and our nation's ethos of compassion and brotherhood."  
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**TABLOID**  
 Beauty now just Photoshop deep

**This is not Kashmir**  
 A protester throws a teargas shell back towards the security forces in a clash during their protest march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, near Janata Bhawan in Guwahati on Wednesday.  
 — PTT



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**MANOJ ANAND | DC**  
 GUWAHATI/AGARTALA, DEC. 11  
 Even as the Rajya Sabha was discussing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, massive and spontaneous protests broke out in several districts of Assam, including Guwahati, forcing authorities to impose indefinite curfew in the state's capital.  
 Tyres were burnt and logs placed on roads and rail tracks to stop movement of vehicles and trains across the state. Protesters also burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.  
 The protest in the capital city was so sudden and so vicious that most of the schools which were open on Wednesday decided to declare holiday by 12 noon

**Guwahati is under curfew as Assam burns over CAB**

**ARMY CALLED IN TO CONTROL NORTHEAST**

to avoid any untoward incident with students while returning back. In the violent protests, six vehicles were burnt, including two school buses, by the protesters in front of the state secretariat. Protesters were also seen pelting stones on the police force.  
 The curfew, which was imposed in Guwahati at 6.15 pm, was later extended indefinitely, Assam's additional director general (law and order) Mukesh Agrawal told PTT. Despite the curfew, arson continued in several areas.  
 One column of Army is on standby in Assam's Bongaigaon district and the injured students were rushed to Assam Medical College.  
 In similar protests that rocked Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sibsagar districts, several students sustained injuries in police lathi-charge. The injured students were rushed to Assam Medical College.  
 A day after Assam witnessed total shutdown in

**VIOLENCE**  
 protest against CAB, on Wednesday thousands of students from every college in Guwahati, including those from Guwahati Medical College, Assam Engineering College, took out a massive protest march on the Guwahati-Shillong Road, the city's main road leading to the secretariat in Dispur.  
 The protesting students clashed with the police and the CRPF after they were stopped at Bhangaigarh. Several students were caned by police and tear gas shells were also fired to disperse the crowd.  
 The approximate strength of one column is 70 personnel. The sources said one column has been put on standby in Assam's Bongaigaon and another in Dibrugarh. Field commanders and Army headquarters are monitoring the situation closely, said a senior official. — PTT

**Page 7: Rubber bullets were fired at protesters**

**VIJAY PANDY | DC**  
 NEW DELHI, DEC. 11  
 The impact of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) on Bangladeshis could come up for discussion during the consular-level discussions between India and Bangladesh early next year as Dhaka fears mass migration from India due to CAB and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).  
 Sources in the Bangladesh government told this newspaper that they are

**RIPPLE EFFECT**  
 also upset with the provisions in Indian visa rules, which makes Bangladeshi Muslims pay nearly 200 per cent higher penalty for overstaying in India, compared to Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Jain, Christian and Buddhist counterparts.  
 According to India's Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO) rules notified a year ago, the penalty for minority communities from

**Page 7: Bangladesh fears yet another exodus**

**TOUGH FIGHT**  
 JMM, Congress to give tough fight to friendless BJP in rural areas, BJP holds on to towns

**Jharkhand voters may give confused result in polls**  
 SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC  
 DHANBAD, DEC. 11  
 Midway through the Jharkhand assembly poll it's clear no single party is going to sweep. It has become a bare-knuckled fight with the regional outfits holding the key to the outcome.  
 The ruling BJP is facing a two-pronged challenge: one from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) led by former CM Hemant Soren,

**BATTLEGROUND JHARKHAND**  
 and semi-urban areas like Dhanbad and Jharia where the BJP still holds sway. A visit to the BJP office in Jharia — clearly one of the Modi factor all the way. His good work will see the party through.  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a rally on December 12. Six assembly constituencies in Dhanbad go to polls on December 16. The way the ruling party is using Modi as a crutch to navigate the polls

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KTR says he feels proud to be Siricilla MLA as backwaters of Sri Rajarajeshwara project reach the constituency



The Citizenship Amendment Bill challenges the idea of India

— K. Keshava Rao, TRS MP

SHORT TAKES

THREE KILOS OF ONIONS, IPHONE OR TRIP TO GOA?

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Free onions or an all-expenses paid trip to Goa? Which one would you choose? The customers of bus-ticketing platform Abhibus, apparently, have opted for the former. The firm on Wednesday, in a release, said it had recently introduced an offer to its customers on December 10. While booking their tickets, they were told they could participate in a contest wherein they could either win an all-expenses paid trip to Goa, an iPhone, an e-bike or three kilos of onions. Nearly 54 per cent opted for onions. The company's statement noted that in earlier iterations of the competition, a trip to Goa always won. This time, it has been opted for by 46 per cent.

It may be noted that onion rates have caused an uproar across the country. In Telangana, a kilogram is being sold at prices as high as Rs 160. Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has subsidised the cost. They are being sold at Rs 25 per kg at PDS shops. Many discussions in the state's legislative assembly have revolved around the issue of rising onion prices. The situation has even prompted the country to import the vegetable from Afghanistan and as far away as Egypt.

HC NOT TO TAKE UP RGV'S AMMA RAJYAMLO...

VUJINI YAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Telangana High Court made it clear that it would not interfere into the issue of censor certification to Ram Gopal Varma's movie Amma Rajyamlo. The court made it clear that the revising committee of the Censor Board will decide on the matter. "Whether or not to give U, A or U/A certificate will be decided by the Censor Board as per the rules of the Cinematograph Act and, we, the courts cannot direct them to issue the certification or not to issue the Banned order on Wednesday, while dealing with the PIL seeking to set aside the censor certification to the movie. The court further said that the petitioners for submitting that the certification was already had been issued to the movie and urged the court to set aside.

Assistant Solicitor General N. Rajeshwara Rao, appearing for the Censor Board, said that on Wednesday that the certification had not been issued to the movie and the revised committee has not yet seen the movie after the changes made by the producer, based on his suggestions.

The 'licence to kill' costs a mere ₹5,000

Touts at RTA main office arrange licences for a price

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The notorious 'Licence Raj' of the late 70s has ended, so you thought? In Hyderabad, the 'Licence Raj' continues, albeit at the local level. A visit to the RTA office, Khairatabad, exposes the brazen display of the 'Licence Raj' where touts call the shots.

One does not need to go through any driving tests or understand what road signs mean. Just approach touts, shed down a few extra bucks to get a licence. The touts roam around offering help to anyone who wants a driving licence.

This correspondent talked to several agents, and all of them assured that the job would be done. When this correspondent approached a tout at Khairatabad RTA office to 'procure a licence for his sister, who cannot drive, the agent promised that it can be done, but for a price. The touts said the RTA officials get their cut.

"You tell your sister to learn how to hold the steering. On the day of the driving test, we will ensure that she will get a car used by driving schools. One of our guys will sit on the passenger seat and operate the accelerator and clutch," the agent advised.

"We will guide her through the entire test. You don't have to worry about anything. If you go through us, there is no chance she will fail the test," another agent assured. But they advised us to apply for a learner's licence and wait for 30 days. "We cannot book a driving test slot for your sister unless a 30-day period is over," he said.

Well, the mandatory test for learner's licence could also be "managed". One need not study the RTA "traffic signs" to get a learner's licence. "Don't worry about this test at all. It can be managed," the touts promised. All one needs to do is shell out 5,000, perhaps the cost to procure the 'licence to kill'.



TOUTS CAN BE SPOTTED EVERYWHERE IN THE RTA OFFICE

- The touts charge anywhere between 4,000-5,000 to get a driving licence even to those who cannot drive
- The official fee charged by the RTA for a driving licence is free
- According to agents, the bribe money gets distributed.
- Touts make anywhere between 700-1000. The rest goes to the RTA officials

You tell your sister to learn how to hold the steering. On the day of the driving test, we will ensure that she will get a car used by driving schools. One of our guys will sit on the passenger seat and operate the accelerator and clutch" — A tout to DC correspondent

OFFICIAL FEE LEARNER'S LICENCE

₹150 each class of vehicle

FOR DRIVING TEST 300 each class of vehicle

ISSUING A DRIVING LICENCE 200 each class of vehicle

SMART CARD ADDITIONAL CHARGES 200 each class of vehicle

Example: For someone getting a two-wheeler and four-wheeler licence, learner's licence will cost Rs 300, driving test will cost Rs 600. Total cost will be around Rs 1,400

You need licence to ride e-scooter

TSS SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

It's official now. You can possess a driving licence for an e-scooter even if you are 16.

On Tuesday, minister for heavy industries and public enterprises, Prakash Javadekar had informed the Lok Sabha that the ministry of road transport and highways has allowed teenagers in the 16-18 years age group to obtain driving licence to drive E-scooters. The move.

Currently, the same age group are granted licence for scooters with below 50 cc although no e-scooters are made in this category.

On its part, the State Road Transport Authority feigned ignorance on the matter. The state RTA officials said they are unaware of this rule, as it continues to dole out licences only to applicants who 18 and above. While the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways says that one can apply for a driving licence at the age of 16 for an e-scooter, in a bid to tackle two issues—less driving and automobile emissions in one stroke. "We have no idea of such a proposal or rule. The state government has not informed us of any such rule," said C. Ramesh, Joint Transport Commissioner.

Transport Department. Making matters worse, senior officials of the department have equated e-scooters to e-rickshaws, which the state government plans on rolling out.

"We have not received a single driving licence applicant who is below 18. Even if we do receive some, they would be cancelled as the legal age to possess a licence is 18," said the official, requesting anonymity. The official said there's communication from the central government about the new rule. However, electric vehicle dealers in the city are not amused. They say some youngsters—below 18—are already in possession of motor vehicles.

"There seems to be no awareness in people about e-scooters, and the government is working only to ensure it. The popularity for such vehicles has grown. If there is a new rule in place, the number of such showrooms in the city has risen from six to 25 in the last 10 years.

PHASE-II OF FAMEINDIA SCHEME

- The scheme would take place over a period of three years
- The scheme had commenced on April 1, 2019 with a budget support of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- This phase will mainly focus on supporting electrification of public & shared transportation
- The scheme aims to support through incentives and looks to have 7,090 e-buses, 5 lakh e-3 wheelers, 55,000 e-4 wheeler passenger cars and 10 lakh e-2 wheelers
- The scheme would be taken up on a pan-India basis.



India celebrates Isro's PSLV golden spectacle

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, DEC. 11

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C48), on its golden jubilee milestone, successfully launched 628-kg RISAT-2BRI apart from nine foreign customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, in Sriharikota on Wednesday.

With the vicious orange flames at its tail brightening up the skies, the rocket lifted off as per schedule at 3.25 pm and slowly gathered velocity to penetrate into the skies enthralling the people at the Spaceport, while the engine's thunder-like noise adding to the spectacle.

Isro officials said that the First Launch Pad was modified on a war-footing. After 16 minutes and 27 seconds flight into the space, RISAT-2BRI was successfully injected into an orbit of 576 kms. A minute later, nine commercial satellites were injected into their intended orbits.

A fleet separation, solar arrays of RISAT-2BRI were deployed automatically and the Isro Data Relay Transponder and Command Network at Bengaluru assumed control of the satellite. In the coming days, the teams were brought to its final operational configuration.

"Today we achieved an important milestone in the history of PSLV by successfully launching its 50th mission" Chairman, ISRO, Dr. K. Sivan declared.

He added that the versatile launcher has lifted off 627 times into space so far, of which 17% belongs to customer satellites. He said in the last 26 years, PSLV rocket teams were spearheaded by extraordinary achievers like Srinivasan, Madhavan Nair, R.V.Permal, and Ramakrishnan among others.

To commemorate the historic occasion, a book titled 'PSLV@ 50' that retraces each of the earlier missions and satellites they carried, was released by Dr Sivan.

Meanwhile RISAT-2BRI is a radar-imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg. Its applications will be relevant to fields like agriculture, forestry and disaster management, apart from armed forces. The mission life of RISAT-2BRI is five years.

The RISAT-2BRI has an X-band SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) with radial rib reflector, 2.6 metre mesh antenna. Covering a swath of 5-10 kms, it has a powerful 0.33m resolution, which means that two objects separated by 0.35m distance can be distinctly identified.

Similar to other RISAT-2B satellite launched in May, the latest is functional during nights and is capable of round-the-clock border surveillance besides checking infiltration.

Sources in Isro said they have plans to launch a series of RISAT satellites for border security forces, who can keep a tab on activities in any area of their choice.

With regard to the customer satellites, while Israel, Italy and Japan have one each, there are six from the United States. The launch of the foreign satellites comes under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).



The launch of Isro's surveillance satellite RISAT-2BRI, along with nine other commercial nano-satellites for the United States, Israel, Italy and Japan, onboard the PSLV-C48 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Wednesday.

WHAT IS RISAT-2BRI? FIND OUT

- RISAT-2BRI can see through clouds even in the night and capable of border surveillance round-the-clock besides checking infiltration.
- RISAT-2BRI is designed to send sharp clarity images for surveillance, agriculture, forestry and disaster management.
- RISAT-2BRI was realised within six months after RISAT-2B and one more such satellite RISAT-2BR2 will soon be launched.
- India touched 319 foreign satellite launch mark since 1999. They belong to countries. The first launch was in 1999 when PSLV-C2 launched two satellites from Germany and South Korea.
- PSLV-C48 is the second flight of PSLV in 'QL' configuration (with 4 solid strap-on motors). Besides being the 50th launch of PSLV, the launch was also the 75th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota.
- The PSLV-QL is a four stage/engine expendable rocket powered by solid and liquid fuels alternatively. The rocket has four strap-on booster motors to give additional thrust during the initial flight stages.
- Vikram Processor-1601, designed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and realised by Chandigarh based Semi-Conductor Laboratory functioning under Department of Space, is used for rocket's navigation, guidance and control and for general processing applications.

5000 visitors witnessed the launch from the Viewer's Gallery in Sriharikota.

Historic launch, a day of milestones

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, DEC. 11:

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) workforce, especially those associated with Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota is in an upbeat mood following Wednesday's PSLV-C 48/ RISAT-2BRI mission, which is also the 75th launch vehicle mission from India's Spaceport.

Isro Chairman Dr Sivan reflected the mood of the employees by stating that it is a historic launch.

Another milestone is that the Mission is the 50th launch for India's workforce launch vehicle.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

In addition to this the mission is 37th from first launch pad, the sixth in 2019 and second flight of PSLV with 'QL' configuration.

"PSLV has got five variants and it has flown to all places in space, including Mars and Moon. Sun is in the office," Dr Sivan said. He said it has a lot more work to do and several missions are on the cards using PSLV next year.

Stressing that RISAT-2BRI is a very complex satellite, he complemented the satellite team for realising it within six months after coming out with RISAT-2B.

The one from Japan named as QPS-SAR is a Radar Imaging Earth Observation Satellite while Italy's Tyvak-0092 is meant for search and rescue operations and Israel's Duchifat-3 is for remote sensing purposes.

Four of the American satellites, named 'Lemur' are the multi-mission remote sensing platforms. The fifth, HOPSAT is for earth imaging while the sixth one, HIRAP, is for technology demonstration.

SCIENCE | SENSE ■ Lack of work-life balance discouraging women to be scientists

Women scientists on the decline

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

More than 200 women scientists gathered at National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) to discuss on the various research subjects that are being taken up in institutions and how to help young women scientists take their research further and not give up and drop out because of marriage, children and other obstacles.

Basic science leads to inventions and new technologies, stated the women who had gathered for ICMR and National Institute of Nutrition women's meet in the city.

The convener of the conference, scientist KTR Rao, explained, "Basic science requires a lot of work for years together. There



Women scientists at a seminar held at the National Institute of Nutrition in the city on Wednesday to discuss various issues faced by them.

could be 40 subjects that scientists would be working on but only three would finally see the light of the day. That

is one of the prime reasons why the West is always coming out with new inventions. We have to focus on the core

areas to make it happen in India." While the number of women students enrolling for Ph.D in various scienti-

fic institutions is high, there is a gap being noted when it comes to getting jobs.

The major problem noted with aspiring women scientists during the initial stages is their family life. They are not able to have a proper work-life balance and for that reason many of them give up. The efforts of the Indian Women Scientists Association is to give women scientists a chance to network and options where they can rejoin and get back to research work.

Dr Manjula Reddy, principal scientist at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, explained, "We want young women scientists to not give up after their break. There are opportunities to get back and they must not stop looking out."

Warangal textile park will be country's best: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

IT Minister K T Rama Rao on Wednesday said the state government was committed to creating a world class textile manufacturing industry. Telangana's Kakatiya Mega Textile Park in Warangal would be the best park in the country, he added. Mr Rama Rao was speaking after a tour

of the textile park along with Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, local MLAs Challa Dharma Reddy and other officials. The minister was accompanied by Kihak Sung, chairman of the South Korean Youngone Corporation, which has pledged to invest Rs 900 crore in the park. Youngone's unit will be built over 250 acres and is expected to provide jobs

to over 12,000 people directly and indirectly. With this textile park, the face of Warangal will change completely. Through it, thousands of youngsters will get jobs," Mr Rao said. Mr Kihak Sung said, "Youngone is one of the biggest textile companies in the country. We have a presence in 13 countries, including Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia."



### Christmas gifts

Deputy Speaker T. Padma Rao disburses Christmas gifts to beneficiaries in Addagutta, Siethaphalmandi divisions of Secunderabad



It is my desire to create the health profile of Telangana State

— K. Chandrasekhar Rao  
Chief Minister

### POWER SHUTDOWN

10.30 am to 12.30 pm: Botany School area, Telangana Tourism... 12.30 am to 2 pm: RP Road, Andhra Bank area, Avulamanda, Chandana Brothers, Bommana Brothers, Anjali Theatre area, Rangaraj Bazaar and Kurma Basthi... 3 pm to 4 pm: A.J Colony I&2, Ramalayam I&2, Swastika, Gandhinagar, C.C Community, Uppal, Anna Temple, Gandhinagar Community Hall, RC Compound, Mettuguda Park near Railway Club, BSNL Exchange, Ashoka Library, Bondalagadda, Krupa Apts, Skyland, OU Dairy Farm, Post Office, P.T. College, Velodrome PT, RTC Hospital, National Institute of Nutrition Labs, Taranakapeta, Telephone Exchange, Opp. Santhana UTR, Inside Huda, HMDA, Hotel Noma, Ravindernagar, Masjid PT, Ramani PT, Dhobi PT, Gandhi School PT, Telangana Exchange, Kesavanagar Colony, Railway bridge area, Hanuman Temple area, A1 Tent House, Garden PT, GHMC office area.



# Muslims fear CAB may hit cross-border weddings

## Many Indians marry those living in Pak, B'desh

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill if it is passed will curtail the number of cross-border marriages in the Muslim community. Marriages between families in India and those in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan occurred due to extended families living in these countries and the acceptance of citizens of these countries living in any one of them.

The nuptials between the families in India with those in these three countries are due to the extended families living there. Over the years, there have been marriages which have led to many of them settling in India. But with the CAB these relations will take a major hit. Sakina Taher (name changed) who is from Karachi and after marriage lives in Secunderabad, said, "I cannot get Indian citizenship now though my husband is an Indian and my child is born in India."

and their marriages. Rehana Saleem (name changed) from Bangladesh married an Indian national in 2010. "The due process of citizenship is being followed by me. Will it now no longer be applicable?" she wants to know.

This is another question plaguing those who have completed the paper work and the waiting time required for citizenship. For them it is a major blow. They are so scared that they are not willing to talk about it and are very confused. Approaching government officials for any clarification is difficult as it would lead to further problems, say the families. Syed Rafi, president of Overseas Hyderabadis in Middle East said, "This is a genuine problem for many of the families. Some of them are looking at living in Dubai and the Middle East as there are issues in India. These are bonafide citizens who have completed the paper work in the country they were born in. It is not understood why government is taking this step towards the Muslims. If there were minorities who were per-



Congress members burn effigies of PM Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah in protest against the CAB at Nampally on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

# New road to cut through Madeenaguda apartments

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Due to an apparent 'spook-up' by the GHMC, nearly 90 families in Madeenaguda, Serilingampally stand to be displaced from their homes. The residents of Sai Krupa Apartments moved into their homes at the beginning of 2019. Today, the GHMC has said the apartments have to be demolished for a 100-foot-wide road, as prescribed by its master plan.

It has said the apartments are encroaching on public land. Terrified residents wonder why the GHMC gave the buildings the necessary permits if their apartments encroach on public land. The apartments, located close to the Chandanagar railway station, were completed a few months ago. The residents had barely settled in when they came to know of GHMC's plan to demolish their apartments. They were told their apartments would be razed since the plan had clearly prescribed the road there and the necessary permits. Ram Kishore, an outraged resident, said, "We have all the permissions. We have a clear paper trail — proceedings letter, occupancy letter. We bought this flat because we were convinced. Today, we are being told our building is illegal. How are we at fault?"

The residents, in an attempt to plead their case, have met Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and even the GHMC's chief city planner Devendar Reddy both of whom responded positively and were reportedly bewildered how the building was awarded the permissions at all.

It is learnt that the residents will be issued notices by GHMC's town planning department within the week. Apoorv, a perplexed and disappointed resident said, "A few months ago, everything seemed fine and the complex was full of activity. Today, the atmosphere is very bad. People no longer gather in the open areas for gossip. Everyone is scared. We have all put in our savings into buying flats here. We don't want to lose everything."

processed it all. Banks are required to inspect the permits and property before they issue a loan but even during this process nothing fishy came up. We did everything right by the book," he said. K. Revanth, another resident, said, "We were very scared. Before we agreed to buy a house, we were shown all the necessary documentation by the builder. Nothing seemed fishy then."

K. Ravinder, town planning supervisor, said the ball has been set rolling already. "The survey has been done. The road development plan (RDP), regarding the construction or expansion of new roads, has been approved," he said. Meanwhile, Gandhi said he was looking into the matter and working with GHMC to see that the residents don't have to struggle. "The permissions, both by the local and central (GHMC) authorities, seem to have been given by mistake. I am sure we will be able to find a solution agreeable to both parties. We don't want the residents to lose their houses either," he said. However, these statements offer little relief to the over 200 residents of these buildings.

# AP, TS parties differ over CAB

S.N.G.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Telugu political parties are divided on the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) which was introduced by the central government in Parliament this week. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the ruling party in Telangana state, has decided to extend

issue based support to the centre, while the YSR Congress, the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh, has taken a decision to support the centre on every issue. According to TRS, the TRS opposed the CAB in Parliament and the YSR supported it. The TRS headed by former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is eager to restore relations

with the BJP-led Union government, has also decided to support CAB. But there is a split in the TD on this issue. Of the three TD MPs, two - Galla Venkateswaraiah and Ram Mohan Naidu - voted in favour of CAB in the Lok Sabha, while the third, Kesineni Nani, abstained from voting. During a discussion on the bill in the lower house, TRS's Lok Sabha

member, Nana Nageswara Rao, called CAB a communal bill which went against the interests of the minorities. TD MP Kesineni Nani said the CAB is against the fundamentals of the Constitution and discriminates against a section of people, and prevents them from getting their constitutional rights.

# JAMIAT ULEMA TO PROTEST CAB

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (Mahmood Madani group), led by Moulana Arshad Madani, will observe a nation-wide protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) on Friday. The group is contemplating involving other social groups in the campaign. General secretary, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind,

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Moulana Hafiz Khaleeq Ahmed Sabir, said a demonstration will be held after *Jumma* prayers at over 500 mosques in the Telugu-speaking states on December 13. He addressed the President of India will be submitted to the district authorities. "We will demonstrate before mosques at the village level said Mr Sabir.

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# Spl court to try Asifabad dist rape and murder case

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The state government has designated the V. Additional Sessions Judge Court at Adilabad as a fast-track court for the trial of the accused involved in the brutal rape and murder of a Dalit woman Samatha in the Kurnool district last month.

The state government had requested the Telangana High Court to set up the special court exclusively for the trial of the accused. Following the court's approval, the state government issued orders on Wednesday designating the Court of Special Judge for trial under the Cr.P.C. and STs (POA) Act-cum-Additional District Judge, as a special court for speedy trial and disposal of the case.

Law minister Indrakaran Reddy said that the setting up of special court would ensure hearing the case on a daily basis. The minister said following the recent gang rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had decided to take steps to ensure justice in the other cases too.

Following the killing of all four accused in the Disha rape and murder case in an alleged encounter

# Cases piling against encounter deaths

VIJAYAWADHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Telangana state government and police personnel, who were part of the 'encounter' of the four accused in the gang rape and murder of Disha, will face a tough legal battle as petitions calling them to account are being filed every day.

Soon after the 'encounter', the government and police men were praised by members of the public and even legislators who should have known better, who declared that justice has been done.

by the police December 6, people in the Asifabad district staged protests,

Wednesday, former professor of Osmania University, Rama Shankar, and the Melkote, fled another PIL seeking an investigation into the encounter by an independent investigation agency from outside the Telugu states, and sought directions to register the case against the police under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.

In the petition, she says she is worried that an encounter seems to promote retributive culture of justice, of an eye for an eye variety, and said this culture would erode faith in the due process of law.

demanding similar punishment in the case of the Dalit woman too.

# CALL FOR MORE WOMEN IN CYBER SECURITY WING

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Microsoft and the National Centre of Excellence, Telangana on Wednesday organised a roundtable conference on "Women in Security" in the city.

The discussions revolved around the need for gender diversity in the country's cyber security ecosystem. The participants included Swati Lakra, IG (Law & Order), Women Safety, Lanka Rama Devi, OSD - Emerging Technologies, IT&A department, women executives from CDAC, FTCCI, SAP HANA, UTC and Bank of America.

The panel deliberated upon the strategies to build a network of security professionals across the country, and the government and board. They spoke on the need for a comprehensive agenda that highlights the role of women in the domain. The participants also discussed on ideas to attract women to the niche field of cyber security.

The discussions at the Microsoft and Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence revolved around the need for gender diversity in the country's cybersecurity ecosystem.

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# AP approved Disha Act against rapes

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday approved enactment of Andhra Pradesh amended Act, Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2019 and Andhra Pradesh Special Court for Specific Offences against Women and Children Act, 2019.

The draft Bills will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the ongoing session. The Bill pronounces capital punishment to rape culprits if found with conclusive evidence.

As announced earlier in the Assembly in case of conviction of offenders in section 364 (P) on against women such as rape, which can attract capital punishment, the new law will render justice in 14 days after 14-day investigation. The special courts will be set up to address crimes against women and children. The bill also allows action under Indian Penal Code Section 354 (E) against those who upload posts on social media that degrade women. First-time offenders would be punished with two years imprisonment, while it would be four years jail for

second-time offenders. Action would be taken if offences in section 364 (P) on those involved in sexual assaults against children. The offenders in such cases will be served with the punishment of 10 to 14 years jail and in case of severity in the crime committed, it would be lifetime imprisonment. The Cabinet has approved to extend imprisonment for such crimes under POCSO Act.

Among the other decisions, the Cabinet decided to set up a new department to bring village and ward wardens and secretariats under this department. This is to monitor and strengthen the national highways. It also approved setting up of a public transport department for merging APSRTC with the government and the department will be included under the transportation, roads and build-up national highways department. For the 51,488 employees in APSRTC, the Cabinet has decided to recruit those employees in the new department. The Cabinet also approved continuation of existing outsourcing employee services in RTC.

State demand

Reacting to the uproar over Centre's GST dues, TRS leader K. Kavitha says MPs protesting for what should be a regular transaction between Centre and states is sad



KCR should provide accounts for the ₹2 lakh crore spent, as per CAG reports

— Krishna Saagar Rao BJP spokesperson

BRIEF

Kidnapped boy traced in Guntur

Vijayawada: Repalle urban circle inspector S. Sambasiva Rao said that one Mr. Gandela Siva kidnapped a three-year-old boy, V. Gokula Trinath, in Repalle on Tuesday morning and shifted him to Piduguralla. The kidnapper hails from Piduguralla and resides near the boy's house. The accused shifted the boy to Piduguralla on Tuesday night. Police, after observing CCTV camera footage, traced the kidnapper shifting the boy at APSRTC main bus station in Guntur.

Fire in OMC hostel room, none hurt

Hyderabad: Fire broke out in one of the rooms of the girls hostel of the Osmania Medical College in G.O. No. casualties were reported. Panic-stricken girls ran out of the building to escape from the fire. According to officials, the fire originated in Room No. 309 on the second floor of Krishna Devi building on Wednesday at around 7.55 pm. Within no time smoke engulfed the whole building making the inmates run for cover. The three hostellers in the room escaped without injuries. Reportedly there are around 100 hostellers at the time of accident. Fire-fighters who rushed to the spot put out the fire. The firemen removed burnt clothes and furniture.

CHARGE SHEET FILED IN RECORD TIME

DC CORRESPONDENTS NELLORE/VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Chittoor police filed a charge sheet in a record time of one month in the sensational rape and murder case of a 5-year-old girl. The incident occurred near KNR Convention Centre, Chencheta Nagar at Kallalavilla village in Kurabulokota mandal in Chittoor district on November 7, 2019. An unidentified person, aged between 25-30 years, got attracted to the victim when she came to attend to her relative's marriage and even captured her photos on his mobile phone.

He followed her when she went to the washroom behind the convention hall and raped her before killing her in the ladies toilet. Later he dumped the body behind the compound wall of the Convention Hall. Based on a complaint by the girl's father, E. Sridhar Reddy, the police booked a case on November 8. Police traced the accused Patan Mohammed Raif of Molakalavilla during investigation on November 16 and sent him to remand.

Seized objects were sent to the assistant director, Regional Forensic Laboratory, Tirupati and State Forensic Laboratory in Mangalagiri through the first additional district judge of Chittoor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerned parties that the undersigned, Mr. R.N. Singh, Advocate, No. 37-39/274, RofS, Santhosh Colony, Neredmet V. Road, R.K. Puram-500086 has a valid and existing agreement with Mr. Chandrababu Prasad the owner/owner of the Schedule property and the public is hereby informed that any transaction entered into between the said Mr. Chandrababu Prasad with any third parties in respect of the Schedule property shall be at their own risk shall not be binding on my Client.

Two cheats held for posing as PS to KTR

Several cases already lodged against a fraudster

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

KARTHIKEYA, a chartered accountant, managed to get a government official transferred and also managed to get benefits under a government scheme. He contacted Sriramula Raju, administrative officer at Kasturba Gandhi Degree & PG College for Women at West Marredpally, and asked him to arrange an admission for his friend's daughter and collected ₹90,000 from her for doing the favour. He downloaded the documents issued from the Chief Ministers office (CMO), took printouts and prepared fake documents and gave them to the victim, who has managed to get the seat. There are several cases lodged against him in various police stations throughout the state. With the same modus operandi, he has gotten a government official transferred and also managed to get benefits under a government scheme. The SOT Malkajgiri team apprehended both the accused from Malkajgiri area. During interrogation, they confessed to have contacted many government officials and private employees by posing as a PS to KTR. The police officials appealed to the public not to fall prey to such traps.

Safety first



Police commissioner Anjani Kumar interacts with the Blue Colts in Nizam College on Wednesday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Governor advises teaching self defence skills to girl students

DC CORRESPONDENT, PEDDAPALLI, DEC. 11

Telangana state Governor Tamilisai Ekanadaraman, during his visit to Peddapalli district on Wednesday, attended an event for the students of the Zilla Parishad High School in Ramugundam. Speaking on the occasion, she said, "Learning self defence skills helps build confidence among girls and also develops physical and mental abilities. It enables them to face unexpected circumstances and protect themselves. The government must take initiative to teach self defence skills to every girl student studying in government schools." She lauded the efforts of the district collector Devasena in training 12,000 girl students of various government schools and colleges. The Governor said, "Peddapalli district will stand as a role model for not only the state but also the nation." The Governor appealed to all the girls to utilise the opportunity and learn self defence skills and encouraged them to pass on the training to other girls in their areas. Later, the Governor Soundararajan inspected an avenue plantation at Basantnagar and planted a sapling. She inspected the cloth bag manufacturing unit at Basantnagar and the Sabala sanitary napkin manufacturing unit at Shantinagar operated by the women of Self Help Groups. In Kasulapalli village, the villagers gave the Governor a warm welcome with traditional art forms of Telangana — carrying Bonalu and Bathukamma and playing the drums. The Governor inspected the soak pits, individual sanitary latrines, kitchen gardens that have been established under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Later, the Governor inspected the Nandi pump house, surge pool and electric sub-station constructed under package VI of the Kaleshwaram project. Engineer-in-charge of the project, N. Venkateswarlu explained to the Governor about the Kaleshwaram project and the method of lifting water. The Governor said the project will fulfil irrigation needs of farmers and the drinking water needs in the state.

Many firms evade labour cess: CPM

From Page 1

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Jurisdiction, No. of Alert Notices, Cess Amount as Identified by the V & E Department, Cess Amt collected, Balance. Rows include JCL, Rangareddy; JCL, Hyderabad(Tcs); JCL, Warangal; Total.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Cess collection, Expenditure, Balance. Rows include 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, Total.

executed ₹80,000 crore in five years but failed to collect a penny towards labour cess." The CPM leader stressed that there are thousands of unregistered companies in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts that executed projects and shut them down without paying labour cess. However, if the labour department wakes up, it can collect over ₹1,000 crore labour cess with ongoing constructions, he said. "The contractor who executed the Pragathi Bhavan also evaded labour cess and I demand a probe into the multi-crore evasion scam," he added.

BOY, 14, HELD FOR ASSAULT ON MINOR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

A 14-year-old boy who attempted to sexually assault a 7-year-old girl was arrested and booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PCSO) Act in Moinsabad. The incident occurred when a 7-year-old girl returned from school and stepped out to play at 5 pm on Tuesday. The accused, a resident of the neighbourhood, took her to his bathroom and undressed her. After hearing the girl scream, her mother started searching for her. She reached the bathroom, where she found her daughter being sexually harassed, according to the complaint by the victim's mother. She rescued her before anything worse could have happened, the victim's mother stated in her complaint. The Moinsabad police booked a case under Section 354 IPC (assault with intent to outrage modesty), 354B IPC (assault with intent to disrobe), 509 IPC (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and relevant sections of PCSO Act.

CONTROVERSIAL AP MED TECH ZONE BOSS SACKED

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has sacked the controversial managing director of A.P. Med Tech Zone, Poojamma Sharma, who has been facing allegations of large-scale misappropriation of funds. Industries principal secretary Rajat Bhargava will act as the managing director and Sharma will be an advisor. Sources said the Chief Minister was briefed about the director general of vigilance and enforcement's complaint against Sharma for hiding critical information and avoiding the probe. Industries principal secretary Rajat Bhargava will act as the managing director and Sharma will be an advisor. Sources said the Chief Minister was briefed about the director general of vigilance and enforcement's complaint against Sharma for hiding critical information and avoiding the probe. Industries principal secretary Rajat Bhargava will act as the managing director and Sharma will be an advisor. Sources said the Chief Minister was briefed about the director general of vigilance and enforcement's complaint against Sharma for hiding critical information and avoiding the probe.

Vaikunth Samaradhana

Smt. Tadiseti Maniamma (W/o Late T.N. Rajajiah) D.O.D. 30/11/2019 "You are always there in our Memories" Inherited By: Son's: T. Anjiah, T. Mallesh, T. Ramesh, T. Anuradha Grand Son: T. Manjula Krishna & T. Pranitha, Grand Daughter: T. Rashmitha Raman, Great Grand sons: T. Advik Raj & T. Shruvath Mathan

In loving memory of Our Former Vice Chairman Sri. P.V. Rajeshwara Rao Former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) (D.O.B.: 14.08.1946 D.O.E.: 12.12.2016) It is now three years... Your memories of strong leadership and hard work will continue to guide and inspire us. Sponsored by: MNSR Engineering College, Nalgonda, Hyderabad. MNSR Education Society, MNSR Hyderabad. MNSR Institute of Post Graduate Studies, Nalgonda, Hyderabad.

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

SARDARNI BHAG KAUR (Bhji) (W/o Late Sardar Bhag Singh) Will be held on 12 Dec 2019 from 11 am to 1 pm followed by Gurka Ka Langar at Gurudwara Sahib, Alwal. Dr. Satnam & Dr. Indrajit Singh Golaal & Family 5 Changanudi, S. Rajendran Singh Golaal & Family Ph: 911705939 (S/1920/D0140)

10th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. B. VASANTH (W/o Late B. Subrahmanyaiah) Methodist Boys High School Called to rest with the Lord on 12-2019. Memorial Service will be held in his honour on 12-20-2019, 5.30 p.m., gravesite at Methodist Church, Chinnai Road. Inherited by: DAUGHTERS, SONS-IN-LAW AND GRAND CHILDREN (S/1920/D00755)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

The righteous are remembered in Blessings. (Prov 10:7) Mrs. SIVARANA AZARIAH JETTI Born: 12-12-1939 Called to Glory: 06-06-2014 It's five years since you left us but your memories are still fresh in our hearts. Inherited by: Rev. Azariah Jetti, Children and Grand Children (S/1920/D0141)

8th Anniversary

Late DATHRAJ SINGH DODD: 12/12/2011 Your Presence is Unforgettable in our Hearts & Minds. Inherited by: Wife: Datharajamma Son: Vivek Raj Singh - Daughter: Neha, Daughter: Sneha Nuthi - Son in law: Silanth Nuthi Grandson: Devanath Nuthi (S/1920/D00684)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever. (Ps 134:1) VALERIA RODRIGUES DOD: 12-12-1985 DOD: 27-04-2007 Inherited by: FAMILY MEMBERS (S/1920/D00684)

13th ANNIVERSARY

"...even so those who sleep in Jesus will go with him." - 1 THESS 4:4 G.C. MELANCTHON (W/o Late Martha Melancthon) DOD: 30-24-1931 DOD: 12-12-2007 Inherited by: Family Members Son: Satwik Ph: 8422504261 (S/1920/D00395)

19th Death Anniversary

Late Maripally Nursing Rao DOD: 12-12-2000 "Not a single moment goes by without you in our thoughts. Life only gets livelier knowing and believing you are watching over us always. Forever in our hearts." Inherited by: Mother: Laxmi Bai Wife: Shobha Raj Mother: Venkati Bai & Family members (S/1920/D01395)

26th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

G. RISHPAL SINGH You will remain forever in our Hearts, thoughts and memories. Inherited by: Pratap Singh & Family Ph: 842449701 (S/1920/D01395)

32nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (Timothy 4:7) Late Mr. B.C. MOSES Born: 05-12-1957 Called to glory on 12-12-1989 Your life is an inspiration to us, your presence was our strength. Your memories are now forever in our hearts. Inherited by: Family Members (S/1920/D01395)

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

C.SUDHA NAIR DOB: 20-08-1981 DOD: 12-12-2011 No words can tell, The loss we had for eight years today. Till memories fail and life departs, You will live forever in our hearts. We miss you a lot Sudha. Father & Mother: C. Kumari Raman Nair Brother: S. Chandrababu Family Members Ph: 8464362558 (S/1920/D01395)

13th ANNIVERSARY

Sri T. B. SHAM RAO Expired On: 12-12-2006 "Every time in our thoughts. Always in our hearts." Inherited by: Wife: Chandrababu, Madhukar Rao Son: Srinivas Reddy Daughter: Shobha Inherited by: Prasad & Family Members Ph: 8464362558 (S/1920/D01395)

## Farmers' demand

### Minister Jadadish Reddy says government will release Nagarjunasagar waters for the Rabi season, as per the farmers' demand



# Now, 'farmhouse politics' on agenda

GHMC's initiatives LooCafes, she toilets have been recognised by Centre

— Bonthu Rammoah God Mayor

## IN BRIEF

### KCR ASSURES DEVELOPMENT OF DUBBAK

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Chief Minister K Chandrababai Naidu (KCR) during his visit to Gajwel on Wednesday, interacted with Estimators Committee Chairman and Durbak MLA S. Ramalinga Reddy. KCR enquired about the development activities in Dubbak, where he intends to build an integrated market. He said that he would develop the constituency in such a way that it would be an equal partner with Gajwel and Siddipet constituencies.

The Chief Minister instructed the District Collector Venkataram Reddy to acquire land for the market and to make arrangements to inaugurate building of the market where he (KCR) had completed his SSC.

### KCR ENQUIRED about the development activities in Dubbak, where he intends to build an integrated market.

### KCR to hold house-warming ceremony today

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) president and Chief Minister K. Chandrababai Naidu (KCR) will resume 'farmhouse politics' on Thursday after a gap of six months. KCR is conducting house-warming ceremony for his new residential building in his farm house at Erravelli Thursday morning. Moreover, there are no auspicious days after December 12.

He said that although the building is

not ready for occupation, KCR wishes to go ahead with the house-warming function. A normal practice is that the owner has to spend three nights after a house-warming function. KCR will spend only one day at his new farm house. It is said that once the building is fully ready, he will spend more time there. Everybody knows that KCR prefers farm house as the official residence, Pragathi Bhavan. During the 2018 Assembly elections, it was at this farm house that he selected

party nominees and held party meetings. Some important review meetings were also held at the farm house. It was around that time, he noticed that the farm house could not accommodate a massive movement demanding the imposition of prohibition in the state. While chatting with the media on Wednesday, as the state government is looking at liquor as one of the major sources of income and encouraging liquor sales with 'Telangana ranked as the first state across the country earning revenue through the liquor business. Aruna was quite convinced by her well-brained idea, stating that she is holding the two Madhya Pradesh Sankalpa Deeksha on Dec 12 and 13 at Indira Park demanding the state government impose a prohibition in the state.

When reporters asked her why she had not demanded prohibition when she was a minister, Aruna said that there was no such rampant sale of liquor at that time and there wasn't any such crime as like the Hyderabad Police, which has taken place under TRS rule.

Replying to question that she had not attempted to get the state unit president post, she said while joining the party, she told the party high command that she will launch movements against rampant liquor, they collected, they do not and also against crimes against women.

### HUNGER STRIKE FIRST STEP TO CURB WINE SALE

REDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Former Minister and BJP leader D.K. Aruna, said that a two-day hunger strike is the first step towards the launch of a massive movement demanding the imposition of prohibition in the state.

While chatting with the media on Wednesday, as the state government is looking at liquor as one of the major sources of income and encouraging liquor sales with 'Telangana ranked as the first state across the country earning revenue through the liquor business. Aruna was quite convinced by her well-brained idea, stating that she is holding the two Madhya Pradesh Sankalpa Deeksha on Dec 12 and 13 at Indira Park demanding the state government impose a prohibition in the state.



School students hand over a cheque to Telangana State industry and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

### Four school students donate ₹1L to CMRF

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

In a wonderful initiative and a gesture that the elders ought to emulate, four students of Standard XII called on IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao and presented a cheque for ₹1 lakh towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Vishruth Devireddy and Shreya Goparaju of Chirec Public School and Rohan Reddy and Shivani Talluri from Oakridge Public School raised funds by organising a Halloween Party on October 31.

Of the ₹5 lakh proceeds they collected, they donated ₹4 lakh to cancer foundation, Impact. Lauding the initiative of

the students, the minister realised that there was a

newly world out there which was yearning for such God Samaritans. The minister exhorted the students to identify the areas that interest them and explore the need of society and choose whatever drives them to get going. Underlining the importance of eco-friendly surroundings, he said students should adopt some areas for cleaning, some lakes for clearing water hyacinth and check whether the sewerage treatment plants (STP) in their respective communities were fully functional. He further said that onus was also on the government to ensure that mosquito-breeding was contained.

### Naidu faux pas saved Vamsi

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

For all his being a shrewd strategist, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu utterly failed in handling the issue concerning his party Legislator Vallabhaneni Vamsi. In what can be viewed as a politically incorrect decision but one that came as a blessing in disguise for Vamsi, who, by virtue of being suspended from the party did not come under the ambit of 'disqualification'.

According to Anti-Defection Act if an elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party, he will automatically be disqualified. "And when Vamsi resigned from the party, TD leadership suspended him, whereby he cannot attract disqualification."

At a no-holds-barred interaction with the media, Vamsi clarified that he had resigned from Telugu Desam's primary membership. He also announced that he would support Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. However, the TD leadership did not demand the Assembly Speaker to disqualify him.

Former Speaker KR Suresh Reddy, who dealt several disqualification petitions during his tenure in the undivided

Andhra Pradesh, said "if any party suspends its MLA he will not attract disqualification, and the Speaker cannot do so of his own accord." The suspended MLA, for all practical purposes, will continue as his own party member and will be bound by his whip. If the MLA violates the party whip, then he can attract disqualification as per Mr. Suresh Reddy.

He said that suspension is a disciplinary action of that particular party. If the MLA relents and tenders an apology, the party can revoke his suspension. Unless demanded by the party, a Speaker can not disqualify a suspended member. However, if the suspended MLA joins any other party on those grounds, he can be disqualified. During voting, if it is seen any MLA attracts disqualification, it will apply to Vamsi also.

However, he can abstain from voting by duly informing the Speaker. Parties do not give a chance to the suspended members to speak in the House. In such circumstances, the suspended member cannot express his opinion in the House. Former Speaker KR Suresh Reddy said that the Speaker should protect the rights of every member in such situation. The Speaker can use his discretion and give a chance to the suspended member.

### TRS, BJP's main rival in state: Rao

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

P. Muradhara Rao, national general secretary of the BJP said on Wednesday that the Telangana Rashtra Samiti is the main enemy of the BJP in the state.

His reaction came predictably in response to the TRS's opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Bill tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday and in the lower house earlier this week. He said MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi is "haunting the TRS as a demon" and

with that influence, TRS is opposing the Bill. In an informal chat with mediapersons at the party's headquarters in the city, Mr Rao said that the influence of the Congress in politics is diminishing and the Communist parties have already disappeared from the Indian political arena and it is the BJP that is growing day by day in the country. After its defeat in the Karnataka by-elections, the position of the Congress has further deteriorated and the Congress in Telangana is not likely to recover, he said.

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Equal benefits

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury says one rank, one pension scheme should be extended to the paramilitary forces

Naravati arraigns police for Godhra riots

Clean chit for then Modi government in Gujarat

Gandhinagar, Dec. 11: The Naravati Commission has given a clean chit to the then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi-led government in the 2002 riots in the state where over 1,000 people, mostly of the minority community, were killed.

The Commission was appointed in 2002 by the then state chief minister Narendra Modi to probe the riots. It showed that these attacks were either inspired or instigated or abetted by any minister of the state.

The Commission said in its voluminous report that the Commission was appointed in 2002 by the then state chief minister Narendra Modi to probe the riots.

turning a blind eye to post-Godhra riots, it said. The Commission also questioned the credibility of three former IPS officers...

RICHARD BRANSON HAS INDIAN ROOTS

Mumbai, Dec. 11: Billionaire businessman Richard Branson on Wednesday said lab tests have revealed that he and his ancestral origins lie in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore, dating back to 1780.

SC to consider pleas on Ayodhya verdict review

New Delhi, Dec. 11: A batch of petitions seeking review of the November 9 Ayodhya land dispute verdict, which cleared the way for construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site, will be considered in-chamber by the Supreme Court on Thursday.

judge who was not a part of the 5-judge Constitution bench that had delivered the historic verdict.

Blood of BJP, Shiv Sena is common and they should come together again

Chandrabant Patel

IN BRIEF

Drass coldest at -15.3°C

New Delhi: Cold wave continued to sweep north India on Wednesday with mercury settling at minus 15.3 degrees Celsius in Drass in Jammu and Kashmir and the weather department forecast heavy snowfall and rains in the northern states of the country in the next few days.

'Giant viruses' in Mumbai lakes

Mumbai: A study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay) has found presence of 'giant viruses' belonging to five families in samples collected from water bodies in Mumbai.

'Odd-Even' yields 75L as fine

New Delhi: Delhi Police has collected over 75 lakh from commuters for violating the 'Odd-Even' car rationing scheme in the national capital, where it was placed from November 4-15, the Rajya Sabha was informed.

LAW TO HELP OUT 'ABUSED' PARENTS

New Delhi, Dec. 11: Those who intentionally abuse their parents or senior citizens under their care and protection...

Poll officers dropped by copter for 3rd phase

Ranchi, Dec 11: About 40,000 polling personnel have been deputed to conduct smooth and peaceful polls in the third of the five-phase polling for 17 Assembly constituencies...



Ballot papers are handed out to polling officers in Ranchi on Wednesday.

BATTLEGROUND JHARKHAND

Naxal-affected areas. While 1,119 polling stations are 'critical' and 1,038 are 'sensitive' in the non-Naxal affected areas, he added.

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Attention of public at large is being invited that inquiry under Section 14B of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been continuing since one year for determination of dues for the period mentioned against the establishments but there is no effective participation in terms of production of all summoned records or through affidavits.

Centre permits coal mining project in 1,000 hectare forest land

Odisha fears 7K trees for mining

ADK BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 11 The Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) has felled 17,704 trees for facilitating a coal-cast mining at Talabira II and Talabira III coal blocks under Rengali forest range in Odisha's Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts.

official of chief conservator of forest, Sambalpur; a section of media said 1,30,721 trees need to be cut down for the project.

While the government has given the permission for the project, it has been reported that the forest has been protected and conserved by forest dwellers in the Talabira village, about 10 km from the Talabira forest range.

Residents said they had gone to the district collector, who said, "The forest belonged to the government and the villagers had no right or say regarding what the government did with it."

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY. OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE...

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY. E - TENDER NOTICE...

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY. E - TENDER NOTICE...

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COFIMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS). E-TENDER NOTICE NO. G-438, DATED: 12.12.2020...



### Tough talk

Kamal Haasan says CAB is equal to the crime of attempting a surgery on a disease-free person



## POINT AND COUNTERPOINT



Opposition speaking the language of Pakistan on Citizenship Bill — **NARENDRA MODI**, Prime Minister



Citizenship Amendment Bill is an attempt by Modi-Shah govt to ethnically cleanse Northeast. The Bill is a criminal attack on their way of life and idea of India — **RAHUL GANDHI**, Congress leader



You are talking of Pak B'desh, not of Tamils in SL; situation of Hindus in Nepal worst, it's not about politics, but humanity — **SANJAY RAUT**, Shiv Sena MP



First time in India's history an important bill has been brought in Parliament after discussion with voices of northeast — **KIREN RIJU**, Union minister



Unity in diversity is the soul of the state and we don't divide people on the basis of caste, creed and religion. We believe in staying together. We are one family and no one staying here can say that he is deprived. — **MAMATA BANERJEE**, WB Chief Minister



Every political party has a right to have its own manifesto. But the manifesto of any political party cannot be above the Constitution of this country — **ANAND SHARMA**, Congress leader



The present bill has been drawn from "Nazi Coffee Book" and is part of BJP's "agenda" — **DEREK O'BRIEN**, Trinamool MP

Through the proposed legislation, the BJP is fulfilling the dream of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. — **JAVED ALI KHAN**, Samajwadi Party MP



#CABill privileges foreigners over Indians SOLELY because they're non-Muslim. India is my home. Don't be so delusional that you think you will instill fear in us. Our ancestors fought for this land's dignity. We will not embarrass them now



@himantabswa Rahul Ji are you aware that during @INCIndia regime, indigenous communities of Assam have become minority? Infiltrated Bangladeshi Muslims in Assam constitutes 30% of population. They speak no Assamese language & influence 45 assembly seats. Is that not ALSO ethnic cleansing?



@taslimansreen I have been hated by Indian secular liberal leftist Hindus for writing 'Lajja'. My crime is, in Lajja, I defended Bangladeshi minority Hindus. To them, it is politically correct to shed tears for oppressed Muslims, but not for oppressed non-Muslims.

@belindianheart Home Minister just now saying that this bill is for giving citizenship and not for taking away anyone's. I believe him, but what if he later says, "It was a juma."

# Muslims have nothing to fear: Shah

## Home minister says they are citizens, will remain citizens and no one will harass them

From Page 1

"When Partition happened, it was thought the minorities will get civil rights and lead a normal life, that they will be able to practice their own religion and protect their women. But when we look back, we see what the truth really is. These people did not get their rights. They were either killed, converted or came to India," Shah said. Describing CAB as a historic bill, Shah said it will rekindle a ray of hope among lakhs and lakhs of people who were harassed in neighbouring countries. "They took refuge (in India) but were barred from availing basic facilities like homes, jobs, healthcare and education," he said.

The home minister also sought to assuage the concerns of Indian Muslims by saying they have nothing to fear as they are and will remain citizens of India and Indian citizens would not be affected by it. "Muslims have nothing to fear. Confusion, misinformation is being spread that this bill is specifically against the Muslim community. For the Muslims of this country, there is no question of debate or concern. They are citizens (of India) and will remain citizens and no one will harass them," Shah said and added, "Indian Muslims are safe and shall always remain safe. I appeal to the Indian Muslims that please do not fall for misinformation. Please do not be misguided. Please do not live in fear. Live fearlessly."

Opposition parties led by the Congress described the CAB as unconstitutional, saying it discriminates against refugees on the basis of religion, and cautioned the government that the legislation would not stand judicial scrutiny. Initiating the debate on the bill, Congress leader Anand Sharma attacked the BJP saying the manifesto of any political party cannot be above the Constitution of India.

On Wednesday, the BJP's floor managers were able to secure the requisite numbers after having extensive talks with several non-NDA parties like the TD, YSRCP and the BJP. The votes of NDA ally JD(U) were also secured even as several of its leaders expressed concerns regarding the law.

Former NDA ally Shiv Sena, which had backed out of supporting the bill, despite voting for the legislation on Monday, boycotted the voting in Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha TV briefly stopped the live telecast of proceedings from when Opposition members heckled Shah over his claims of protecting Assamese interests.



1) College students, along with locals, burn tyres during their protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, in Tinsukia district of Assam on Wednesday. 2) Police personnel fire tear gas after the situation turned volatile when students clashed with security forces during their protest march in Guwahati. 3) Policemen use batons to disperse the students protesting against the CAB in Guwahati.

## Rubber bullets were fired at protesters in Assam

From Page 1

Informing that the Army was called in Bongaigaon district after some anti-CAB protesters tried to vandalise a village, security sources added that the Army was on standby as police and CRPF had managed to control the situation.

In Tripura, Assam's services remained suspended for the second day and paramilitary forces along with Tripura State Rifles (TSR) personnel were deployed on Wednesday in some districts that were rocked by anti-CAB violence. The Congress has called a shutdown in the state on Thursday after party workers were injured in baton charge by the TSR when they took out a peace rally in protest against the CAB.

Indian Army officials said that two columns of Assam Rifles are deployed in Tripura. The strength of one column is about 70 personnel, including all ranks. A journalist was injured who got caught in the stone pel-



A Pakistani Hindu family in Majnu ka Tila area of Delhi named their newborn girl 'Nagrikta' to commemorate the passage of the CAB. — PTI

ting by a mob and the police lobbing tear gas shells to disperse the protesters. A polytechnic institute, police said, Rubber bullets were fired and lathicharge was carried out against agitators at Moran also, police said. In view of the fresh protests in which students from colleges are participating, Guwahati and Dibrugarh universities have postponed exams for an indefinite period. The protest march at numerous locations in Guwahati brought traffic on all roads to a standstill. Hundreds of vehicles

Internet services have been suspended in Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup.

Internet services were already suspended in the entire state of Tripura for 48 hours from 2 pm on Tuesday to thwart attempts by mischief mongers.

moving in and out of the city have been stranded for hours. Protesting students also forced shopkeepers to close their shops and at some places they tried to vandalise shops. However, police team chasing the protesters managed to avert any major incident.

Though no organisation had called for a bandh on Wednesday, people came out in large numbers in Jorhat, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Bongaigaon, Nagan, Sonitpur and several other districts since morning.

## IPS OFFICER IN MAHA QUILTS OVER CAB

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC 11

In an unexpected twist to the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) saga, a 1997 batch IPS officer Abhur Rehman quit from service on Wednesday as a mark of protest.

Rehman, in his resignation letter, criticised the bill stating it was in gross violation of Articles 14, 15 and 25 of Indian Constitution.

Rehman stated that the bill provides citizenship to immigrants of all communities except Muslims, which is against the ethos and the very spirit of Indian constitution.

"This Bill is against the religious pluralism of India. I request all of us to stand against the very basic feature of the Constitution," tweeted the IPS officer.

## Bangladesh now fears yet another exodus

From Page 1

Sources in the Bangladesh administration have already alleged that Indian immigration staff at land ports sometimes do not put immigration seal on the Bangladeshi citizens travel documents intentionally and levy huge fine on return. This issue will also be taken up during the consular meeting in Delhi.

Sources in Bangladesh administration said the move by India to bring CAB will have serious repercussions in their country. While some say it may lead to the harassment of minorities in order to grab their properties, others said this may lead to mass movement of Muslims towards Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh government is already wary of the repercussions of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) on its country despite the Indian government constantly assuring Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the NRC is an "internal matter" and will have no impact on Bangladesh.

But sources said that Bangladesh has already given refuge to Rohingyas from Myanmar and Dhaka is not ready for another exodus of Muslims towards it.

"India had recently claimed to have caught 50 illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Bengaluru and had sent them to Kolkata. But we have not heard about them after that. Where are they? They have not been brought to our missions for verification and they have not been sent through diplomatic process," sources said.

Bangladeshi officials fear that these 59 persons might have been sent to Bangladesh through land port without following official diplomatic procedure. Sources explained that at land borders there is an arrangement between India's Border Security Force and Border Guards Bangladesh to "push back" illegal entrants from both sides. Bangladesh fears that this "push back" in huge numbers after NRC and CAB can create a crisis in that country.

## JAMIAT SAYS WILL CHALLENGE CAB IN TOP COURT

New Delhi, Dec. 11:

Asserting that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is against the basic structure of the Constitution, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Wednesday said it will challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court.

Its reaction came minutes after the Rajya Sabha passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on Monday. Termining the passing of the Bill in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha a "tragedy", Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind president Maulana Arshad Madani said the Bill is against the basic structure of the Indian Constitution and the Jamiat will challenge it in the apex court. Madani said the Jamiat will challenge it in the court because the legislature has not done its job honestly. — PTI

DECCAN CHRONICLE

12 DECEMBER 2019

On CAB, govt out of sync with mood of the nation

The government used its crushing majority in the Lok Sabha on Monday night to steam-roller the revised Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, and is said to be using all powers of manipulation at its command — political and the rest — to pass the CAB...

Northeastern India was in flames on Tuesday — in some ways resembling Kashmir before the military crackdown last August — only hours after Union home minister Amit Shah had pushed through the hotly contested bill in the Lower House.

On Wednesday, even as the measure was tabled in the Rajya Sabha, the Army had to be called out in Tripura although the internet had to be shut down in the state with a view to preventing protests from spreading. Practically the whole of Assam, especially the populous Brahmaputra valley, appeared to be in flames. In this state, and in the Northeast as a whole, the people have become acutely conscious that the proposed CAB violates the Assam Accord of 1985. The revised version of the CAB seeks to buy peace in the Northeast by exempting most states from the application of the proposed measure by bringing them within the category of the Inner Line Permit system or Sixth Schedule areas (in which tribal protections are offered). But this has not stopped these regions from being totally shut down in protest against CAB.

This part of the country has not seen such comprehensive people's protests since the Assam agitation of the early eighties. With echoes of the protest reaching the streets of the capital and as severe as the major cities, it can be said without exaggeration that such wide-scale disturbances have not been seen since the days of the Ayodhya mosque demolition of December 1992. In recent decades it is hard to recall any legislative measure being brought to the protection of a public or religious condemnation. The brute majority of the ruling party in the Lok Sabha was quite simply out of alignment with the mood of the nation on the important question of what should define the meaning of being a citizen of India.

It is, therefore, surprising that Narendra Modi, addressing the BJP Parliamentary party on Wednesday, should say that the Opposition parties were speaking the language of Pakistan on the CAB. What would he call the protesters on the streets all over the country? The leader of the country was expected to speak the language of moderation that his home minister could not summon.

Hours after the Lok Sabha passed the CAB, in the United States, the House Foreign Affairs Committee — an influential bipartisan subset of the US Congress — has rejected the bill was proposing to use the "religious test" in awarding citizenship. If the measure becomes law, it is likely to recommend to the US government to sanction the Union home minister and other high officials. This is a disgrace for India.

Carte blanche to spy on all

The dystopian scenario of 1984 is not a nebulous concept anymore. It is real and very much at hand as the government of India will be seeking virtual carte blanche to spy on any or all of its citizens through the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019. The title of the bill is a misnomer. While the operative word in it is "protection", what it aims to do is to empower any agency of the government to call for such data in the name of protecting the sovereignty and integrity of India and a host of other things like public order and even friendly relations with foreign states. In short, Big Brother will be watching.

People might just get the uncomfortable feeling there is a "dragon" breath on their necks though they are living in what aspires to be a modern democracy in the digital age. The bill which was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday runs counter to the spirit of the recommendations of the Justice Srikrishna committee incorporated in the draft bill of last year and allowing scrutiny of personal data as a rare exception rather than the rule. Those who can call for such scrutiny will all be bureaucrats, allowing unfettered spying by government agencies to go on without even the cosmetic sanction of judicial authority.

In effect, we are going back to the days of intrigues and whispers in which citizen will be pitted against government in all consuming atmosphere of fear and suspicion. After having made considerable fuss over localisation of data in the name of greater accountability, the government has gone soft on behemoths of the global "new economy". The issue of protection of personal data and privacy might pale at a time of much contentious legislation, but if it becomes law, this will have an insidious effect on personal freedoms. The Parliamentary Joint Select Committee has its task cut out to water down the draconian provisions.

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Subhani



Is Indian State strong or is it, in fact, failing?

Patralekha Chatterjee Dev 360

Is the Indian State strong, failing or flailing? It is "all three", going by recent events in the country. India was once an emblem of the strong State, then the Indian State has been decisively in a specific area, but the outcome of this strong, decisive streak has had differential impacts on different groups of people in the country. A move widely cheered by one section of the population triggers turmoil and deep concern in other sections as we are seeing in many parts of India right now.

A "strong" State can have strong coercive powers but low technical and organisational capacity. It can dominate the formulation of policies, and yet have little ability to implement them, as Peter Dauvergne pointed out in an essay in the Pacific Economic Bulletin several years ago. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that a state action may simultaneously increase legitimacy in some segments of society and reduce it in others.

Recent events offering telling examples of the paradox of the strong State in the Indian context. For example, India leads the world in the number of internet shutdowns, with over 100 reported incidents in 2019 alone, according to Freedom House. The US-based nonprofit. The State typically frames such clampdowns as decisive measures to maintain law and order but they have huge social and economic consequences.

The celebration of custodial killings of alleged rapists, without the due process of law, is a tacit admission on the part of the State that it can neither guarantee safety nor justice through the rule of law. Cheering

Staged Encounters

What is relatively new is the growing public acceptance of such methods with even elected representatives advocating them. The problem with elevating such staged encounters to policy is that it takes away any incentive that the custodians of law may have in actually investigating a case or any incentive for lawmakers to push for societal or economic changes that are needed as long-term preventive measures.

India, in 2019, is witnessing a resurgence of the Strong State and many are cheering a State that delivers instant justice. But such instant justice is also a marker of the State's inability and low capacity to govern. Instant justice in effect, "instant injustice", as retired Supreme Court Judge Madan Lokar has noted in a recent commentary in Indian Express.

"We must also not forget that our society is governed by the rule of law and a progressive Constitution where everyone is presumed innocent (not its imbecile public servants) until proven guilty through a fair trial. This was the basis of Ajmal Kasab's trial who could also have been despatched in an encounter without any furor and amidst celebrations.

But is instant justice our Constitution did not allow that to happen." Justice Lokur noted. Arguably, it is a difficult situation. There are more than 20 lakh criminal cases pending for trial in the district courts and high courts. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (2017), 1.27 lakh cases of rape are pending in the courts at various stages.

But is instant justice the answer to the problem? Why then do we need a strong State to strengthen the capacity of all its people to lead productive lives.

But as we have seen, this is the one area where the Indian State has a glaringly patchy record.

LETTERS ENDING RAPE

A woman in immediate danger of being sexually attacked cannot wait for the police or others to be saved (Women check out martial art classes, DC, Dec. 9). The only way to prevent becoming a victim is to repel the rapists with martial arts. Women need to be trained since childhood in self-defence skills. This gives ample time to take out a pistol to either scare away or shoot if required. 3. Even in friendship or marriage only consensual sex must happen. That is the only humane, civilised way of living.

P. Madhav Secunderabad

PUNISH CORRUPT

'Old habits die hard' has been aptly proved by the VRO and VRA of Jagal district when they demanded money for setting rigid anomalies shown in their issued patadar pass books (Officers forced to return farmer's bribe, DC, Dec. 11). The TRS govt has already hiked the salaries at all levels including of VROs, and the district administration is duty bound to rectify anomalies brought to their notice. The refund of bribe amount, which is the clearly shows that lawyers are not all the solution and the department should also to issue show cause notices to the concerned officials and take strict disciplinary action against them immediately following the law and mention the same in their confidential file. The officials have to realise that they are not doing anyone a favour but are only doing their duty for which they are already getting paid.

Katuru Durga Prasad Raichur

YSRC SHAME

According to an election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms, YSRC lawmakers are the third highest number of lawmakers related to crime against women. This is shameful (YSRC lawmakers are third in list of abusers, DC, Dec. 11). Parliamentarians who are lawmakers themselves are committing crimes and these are increasing manifold every year. How can be a woman feel safe and expect anything related to them in terms of their safety? On the other hand, they talk about the safety for women in Assembly or in Parliament. This is just an eye-wash. The time has come to bar candidates with a criminal background from contesting elections.

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Mahnir Ali

'Spectre of Corbynism' was in essence a conspiracy

A spectre is haunting Great Britain, to misquote The Communist Manifesto the spectre of Corbynism. Pursuing the imperfect analogy a bit further, one could say that all the powers wedded to the status quo have entered into an unholy alliance to exercise this spectre: the Zionists and the Tories, the so-called centrists and the money merchants in the City of London, the billionaires and their dedicated subordinates, the ratbags and the rabbits. And it looks like they will succeed. Tomorrow's British election offers a choice between the status quo and a potentially transformative alternative. The opinion polls suggest the Tories will comfortably trump Home.

The latter institution reflects: "We had been privileged to be given the task of bringing up members of the nation's elite. But what have we done for Boris? Had we taught him truthfulness? No. Had we taught him wisdom? No. What had we taught him? Only how to make witty and brilliant speeches? I comforted myself with the thought that even Socrates was very doubtful whether virtue could be taught. "Witty and brilliant speeches" is obviously an exaggeration. There's beautiful bluster in his utterances, which are invariably peppered with fibs. Does it matter? Decidedly not to the mainstream media, which never loses an opportunity to find fault with Jeremy Corbyn. The relatively uncharismatic but exceptionally honest Labour Party leader tends to be painted as a terrorist-loving, communist-backed Semite never mind his verifiable lifelong commitment to combating all forms of racism. The idea of a potential British PM unequivocally backing the Palestinian right to statehood is

anathema to vested interests, and many others have latched on to the anti-Semitism trope as a convenient means of thwarting the possibility of a socialist at 10 Downing Street. The poisonous propaganda seems to have worked. In all too many cases voters can be heard saying that they have no quarrel with Labour's policies but can't countenance the idea of endorsing Corbyn. The motivated myth of institutionalised anti-Semitism has also played its part. Then there's the question of where they will come from to implement a progressive agenda. That question rarely arises when the richest individuals and corporations are ordered generous tax cuts, in what there's very little to be gained from conflict to plunge into. And in this instance it arises even though Labour's policies have met with universal acclaim in a document released alongside the party's manifesto. That doesn't matter as long as the mainstream media ignores it.

Back in 1983, following a media campaign of vilification against the then-wing Labour leader, I recall watching the results roll in, in the company of a dear Indian friend who has since drifted to the right, in the Oxford college of another Indian friend who has since headed the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, and who insisted that we provide our own glasses for the numbing elixir we were determined to consume. We drifted off to sleep at some point, and awoke to discover the extent of Labour's devastation across the electoral landscape. Barely noticed at the time, one Labour contender who secured a seat for the first time that day was Jeremy Corbyn. There is every indication that the British electorate is willing to inflict similar self-harm this week. Many of those who voted against Britain's EU membership in the 2016 referendum because of their justifiable antipathy towards the elites in Brussels and London will vote to reinforce the Johnson brand of elitism.

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