

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 16 DECEMBER 2019

## WEATHER

Max: 30°C  
Min: 19.2°C  
RH: 52%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty/haze likely. Max/Min Temp. 30/19°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana  
Tilthi: Mangasira Shudha  
Panchami till 3.38 am (Tuesday)  
Star: Aslesha till 2.45 am (Tuesday)  
Varjyam: 4.08 pm to 5.39 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 12.33 pm to 1.17 pm and 2.45 pm to 3.29 pm  
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am  
HILARI CALENDAR  
Rabi-ul-Aker 18,1441 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.34 am  
Zohar: 12.22 pm  
Asar: 4.02 pm  
Maghrib: 5.50 pm  
Isha: 7.05 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 5.44 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.39 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.53 PM  
MOONSET TODAY 10.14 AM

## Don't depend on govt: Dattatreya

**Mandi:** Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Sunday asked the students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, here to not depend on government jobs and instead start their own businesses after graduating. The Governor appealed to them to serve the people by providing them employment. "Do not depend on government jobs but set up your own businesses." — PTT

## PAN, Aadhaar must be linked

**New Delhi:** It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar by the end of this year, the income-tax department said in a public message on Sunday. "Building a better tomorrow" to reap the endless benefits of income tax services, complete the vital link before 31st December, 2019," the department said. It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar, according to the public message issued by CBDT. — PTT

## Two held for posts on Jagan

**Vijayawada:** Two Telugu Desam supporters were arrested for posting allegedly objectionable posts on AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and YSRC Chikaluripeta legislator Vidadala Rajani. The activists, Satyavolu Hanprasada Reddy alias Satyam Reddy and Pantagani Pravin, were arrested based on a complaint by YSRC leader Maruboina Nagaraju.

## COUNTER POINT

**World Tour:** Power distribution companies in Andhra Pradesh top the list of those who defaulted on paying power dues. The discoms in Telangana stand at seventh position. Outstanding dues owed by discoms rose around 48 per cent to ₹81,010 crore in October 2019. Discoms in AP top the list with 913 days to make payments, followed by Rajasthan (912 days), Bihar (912 days), Haryana (910 days), TN (908 days), MP (897 days) and Telangana (890 days). — PTT

## OFFICIAL | NEGLECT

## At Charminar, tourists get a whiff of civic apathy

**RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15**  
Visiting the historic heritage Charminar this weekend was a stinky experience. The pathway to the monument was inundated with sewage that spilled out of a choked manhole, about 300 metres away towards Mecca Masjid. The leakage began on Saturday morning and persisted till Sunday evening at around 6 pm, only after the



**WORLD | 9**  
Miss World 2nd runner-up Suman



**SPORTS | 15**  
Shimron's ton helps WI beat India

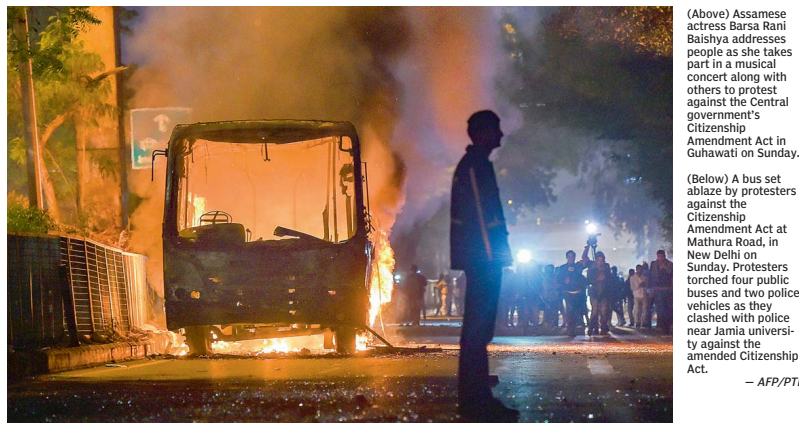
## TABLOID

ARR to share stage with his daughters Khatija, Raheema



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(Above) Assamese actress Barsa Rani Baishya addresses people as she takes part in a musical concert along with others to protest against the Central government's Citizenship Amendment Act in Guwahati on Sunday.

(Below) A bus set ablaze by protesters against the Citizenship Amendment Act at Mathura Road, in New Delhi on Sunday. Protesters torched four public buses and two police vehicles as they clashed with police near Jamia University against the amended Citizenship Act.

— AFP/PTI

## AP DISCOMS TOP POWER DUES LIST, TS SEVENTH

**New Delhi, Dec. 15:** Power distribution companies in Andhra Pradesh top the list of those who defaulted on paying power dues. The discoms in Telangana stand at seventh position. Outstanding dues owed by discoms rose around 48 per cent to ₹81,010 crore in October 2019. Discoms in AP top the list with 913 days to make payments, followed by Rajasthan (912 days), Bihar (912 days), Haryana (910 days), TN (908 days), MP (897 days) and Telangana (890 days). — PTT

■ Report on Page 13

## KCR to hand crown to KTR in 2020

After making KTR the chief minister, KCR would remain party president

**S.N.G.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15**  
parliamentary election. KCR expected that neither the Modi-led NDA nor the Congress-led UPA would garner a majority of seats to form the government. In that case, KCR calculated that the Federal Front that he had floated with other regional parties could somehow slip through and grab power and form a government at the Centre. In this he had hoped that his party would win 16 of

Telengana's 17 Lok Sabha seats, enabling him to play a key role in national politics. But it was not to be. Both father and son dropped sufficient hints. During his first press conference after returning as the Chief Minister on December 13, 2018, the TRS supremo was asked about KTR becoming CM. "I will take a call," the CM said, not explicitly denying the premise of the question. When the son became the party's working president, KTR was asked the same thing at a media conference. "My being KCR's son helped my entry into politics and the party, but

ultimately it was my performance that helped," Mr KTR said. "I have proved myself time and again. The challenges were thrown at me, and I delivered. Yes, there are more senior and capable people in the party. But if seniority is to be considered, then Rahul Gandhi should not be president of the Congress party. Several party MLAs have openly said that KTR should be Chief Minister. Nanna Nageswara Rao, the party leader in the Lok Sabha, has in the past said that KCR should shift to national politics and KTR should be Chief Minister.

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## BJP ally to fight CAA, 2 more die

Dissidence against AGP chief grows over CAA

**DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs GUWAHATI, DEC. 15**

The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which is a BJP ally and a part of the Assam government, plans to file a petition in the Supreme Court, challenging the amended Citizenship Act. "We will take the legal route to seek revocation of the amended Act as the indigenous people of Assam are apprehensive that their identity, language might come under threat," said party leader Kumar Deepak Das, a former Rajya Sabha MP, said.

Sources said a delegation of the AGP, led by Mr Das, would leave for Delhi in the evening to file the plea in the apex court as PILs seeking revocation of the Act were scheduled to be taken up for hearing on December 18. The AGP president, Atul Bora, who is facing disaffection in the party for supporting the CAB, said the party was yet to decide on the matter. "We have not yet decided. We are discussing the issue. Some of our friends will go to Delhi," he told reporters.

The situation in Assam, however, was relatively normal on Sunday as no untoward incident was reported from anywhere. However, the curfew, that was relaxed in the morning, was reimposed at 6 pm in Guwahati and parts of Upper Assam.

Two more persons succumbed to gunshot wounds suffered in the police firing on Thursday, taking the toll to five. Officials, however, put the toll at four.

The Assam Sahitya

## WB SUSPENDS INTERNET IN FOUR DISTRICTS

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI and PRANMOY BRAHMA CHARI KOLKATA/BEHRAMPUR, DEC. 15**

Failing to control the large-scale violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) across West Bengal, the Mamata Banerjee government has suspended internet services in four districts and two subdivisions each in two more districts for 48 hours, as fierce protests entered their third day, which saw an attack on BJP MP Arjun Singh by an angry mob in the early hours. The Trinamool Congress government has also kept the option of calling in the Army for deployment in violence-affected districts only if the trouble escalates further, sources said.

■ Page 7: Protesters torch railway properties

Sabha, the state's premier literary organisation, is also planning to move the Supreme Court against the CAA. The All Assam Students' Union, which has been protesting against the CAA, on Sunday hinted at launching a political party along with the "Shibi Samaj" as an alternative to the existing parties.

■ More reports on Page 7

## Modi sees dissent in clothing

**Dumka (Jharkhand), Dec. 15:** Accusing the Congress and its allies of fuelling violence over the amended Citizenship Act, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that those indulging in arson "can be identified by their clothes". "The Congress and its allies have been raging against the law in the north-east and West Bengal, where several railway stations, buses and buses were set afire by mobs over the last two days. "People who are setting fire to property can be seen on TV. They can be identified by the clothes they are wearing," he said. He also condemned the overseas protests organised by the Congress activists. — PTT

Stray dogs near the Ranga Reddy Zilla Parishad office in Khairatabad are creating many a problem to the residents of the area. — P. Abhishek, Anand Nagar

## ONUS SHOULD BE ON ROAD MAINTENANCE

### No public transport from Meerpet

We the residents of R.N. Reddy Nagar have no access to public transport facilities. Employees, students and businessmen have no option but to take autorickshaws due to this problem. Also, private players are charging huge money from the public. Therefore, we request to introduce a bus route from R.N. Reddy Nagar to Secunderabad covering LB Nagar, Nagole, Uppal, Habsiguda and Tarnaka. The route, if run two trips in mornings and evenings, will be highly useful for the locals. Hope RTC authorities look into the matter.

Konduri Kasiveswara Rao  
Meerpet  
(Through a handwritten letter)

### Beggars are back at traffic signals

After a year of relief from nuisance with beggars at traffic junctions, the issue seems to be back to square one as groups of beggars began causing inconvenience to the commuters across the city. The problem now exists in all the busy traffic junctions like Tank Bund and Sangeti. Even two-wheelers and three-wheelers are not spared by the beggars. Authorities should focus on the issue and make it a point that no beggar or street vendor is allowed at traffic signals.

S. Suresh Kumar  
Hyderabad

### Metro parking service haphazard

Through *Deccan Chronicle*, I would like to highlight an issue related to the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) and bring to the notice of authorities so that necessary action is taken on immediate basis.

I commute daily in the Metro from Secunderabad East after parking my two-wheeler at the parking lot next to Blue Sea hotel in Secunderabad. This parking area is authorised by the HMR. Ever since it was opened for parking, the space has been in a bad shape with uneven granite rubble making it tough to drive into the area. Needless to say it becomes even more difficult for women. No arrangements have been made to protect vehicles from rain and sun. The ride into the parking area and to align vehicles in an order is a tough task to achieve every morning, especially when one has to rush to work. Employees at the parking lot are really helpful in helping commuters ride through the area.

ParkHyderabad, a paid parking facility for 2 and 4-wheelers by the HMR launched the service at the Secunderabad East in August this year. It is ParkHyderabad's responsibility to provide proper parking facilities. Authorities should ensure that renovation work is taken up.

T. Suzan Spurthi  
Secunderabad

### New speed breaker? Put up a sign-board

I would like to share a recent incident that I have encountered last week. I am familiar with the road route from my home in Anandbagh to my office in Madhapur. Recently, a massive speed breaker was laid on the stretch. Since I was not aware of the speed breaker on the road, I had a fall while driving at a speed of 40 kmph. There was no intimation about it and there was not even a sign board to alert the commuters. I wish that commuters are informed of such developments to avoid road accidents.

Anusha  
Hyderabad

### Ban cellphone driving in city

There is an urgent need to place a complete ban on cellphone driving in the city. Cellphone driving involves drivers speaking over phone while driving. It can lead to unnecessary accidents, injuries and casualties, suffering for self and the near and dear.

Similarly, usage of cellphones by professionals should be prohibited while conducting business. For instance, lecturers and professors taking phone calls while taking classes, doctors speaking over phone while attending to a patient etc., are highly unprofessional acts. As Hyderabadis, we should try and build a global reputation for the professional ethics we follow.

V. Shishir Siddu  
Jamal Osmania

### GHMC workers demand money

I live in an apartment in Begumpet and on the morning of December 9, the GHMC worker demanded that we pay ₹150 in return for collection of garbage. As a courtesy, I have agreed to pay him ₹50 but then he has threatened me saying he will not collect the garbage. I wanted to lodge a complaint with the local supervisor, Mr. Narendra (98618292573), who said the workers will not collect garbage if the demanded amount is not paid. He also dared me to lodge a complaint with higher authorities. I request the authorities to resolve this issue.



### Breakage on Paradise flyover

I am a civil engineer and I had noticed this breakage on the structure of P&T flyover near the Paradise Crossroads on November 18. Since then, I was trying to reach the GHMC authorities but in vain.

I felt that *Deccan Chronicle's* Speak Out is the right way to bring this to the notice of the authorities who are incharge of the maintenance of flyovers. I request the authorities to take up the matter to avert the potential dangers.

S.Q. Nasreen Quadri  
Bowenpally, Secunderabad

### Stray dog menace in Hydershakote

Through *Deccan Chronicle*, I want to bring to the notice of officials the stray dog menace in Sai Harsha Nagar, Hydershakote, in Bandlaguda Jagir Municipal Corporation.

Even after the municipality has been recently turned into a corporation, we are facing the issue of stray dogs. We are having sleepless nights due to this issue. I request the commissioner of the newly constituted Municipal Corporation to focus on this issue.

Narender Singh  
Bandlaguda Jagir

### Pathetic roads in Triveni Colony

The road leading to Triveni Colony, Bolaram is in a very bad state, especially the stretch near Bethesda Church. This area comes under the jurisdiction of Cantonment Board. The road has been in this shape for few years now. The situation is so worse that it is not even conducive for walking in the evening. I therefore request authorities to look into the matter.

Sadhana Pachela  
Bolaram

### Nala overflow in Hitec city

The drainage near the Hitec City TMMTS station has been overflowing for a long time now. It is causing traffic issues and inconvenience to the commuters.

No action has been taken by the authorities to resolve the issue.

Sonali Domadia  
Hyderabad

### No street lights, illegal parking in Masab Tank

I would like to bring to GHMC's notice the dysfunctional street lights in the lane opposite Garden Towers, First Lancer Road, Masab Tank. Since many days, this issue has been prevailing. Besides, there is issue of illegal parking in the street. I request authorities to take immediate action and put up the street lights to avoid accidents.

Khalid Hashmi  
Masab Tank

### Tow unused vehicles

Of late, several unused vehicles are being parked illegally on the road side, causing traffic snarls. Also, vehicles are being parked on either side of the road as house owners lack space for parking inside their premises. The police should tow the illegally parked vehicles.

Mubashir Syed Chanchalguda

### DC IMPACT: Bank resolves address issue

Thank you very much *Deccan Chronicle* for publishing my issue. The issue of 'Misuse of Virtual Account Facility' has been resolved. I was earlier getting credit card bills of some other person to my address. On this not, I would like to make a request to bank employees. It is always a good idea to maintain customer's privacy but if an outsider arrives at the bank, please try and resolve the issue.

Mohammed Sharif  
Hyderabad

### Bad toilets in petrol stations

Recently, when I was travelling from Kakinada to Hyderabad, I stopped by at the Giri Nagar Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) petrol station near Suryapet for a refill. It was a nightmare to reach the toilet in the station as I had to pass through several hurdles like trucks and huge aluminium frames. There was no water supply in the urinals and the flushing sensors were dysfunctional. Clearly, there seems to be no inspection by the IOC authorities. Despite all the promotion to the Swachh Bharat campaign, toilets in petrol stations are not maintained for public use.

V.S. Sarma  
Hyderabad

### Appoint regular V-C at BRAOU

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad (BRAOU) is supplying study material for certain PG courses like History, Sociology, Political Science, Public Administration in Telugu and allowing the interested students to write exams in English. It becomes tough to translate the books to English. Also, non-Telugu students can not avail admission. We request that the university provides English books at least from next academic year. A regular vice-chancellor is required to be appointed to replace the incharge V-C as various administrative works are getting abnormally delayed.

N.S.R. Murthy  
Bolaram, Secunderabad



### No collection of garbage

We the residents of Bhagat Singh lane, opposite Ganesh temple in Ramkoti have been complaining about the garbage clearance issue since six months. There was no response from them.

Collection of garbage from our residences has been completely stopped and when asked about it, the GHMC personnel ask us to dump it on the road.

Therefore, we kindly request the concerned authorities to take necessary action at the earliest.

This way, spreading of viral infections can be averted.

— Shiv Kumar Baldawa  
Bhagat Singh Lane  
Ramkoti

### No street lights in Madhapur

There is an urgent need to install street lights in the stretch from NCC Limited to the Pulla Reddy Sweets shop in Madhapur.

We are finding it inconvenient to drive in the route at nights. We request the government authorities concerned for a solution to the problem as soon as possible.

— Philip Joshua,  
Madhapur



### Manhole damaged in Chandanagar

This is to bring to the notice of the authorities the condition of a manhole opposite the Apollo Pharmacy behind Gandhi statue in Chandanagar. I request for action at the earliest.

S. Murali Sudhakar  
Chandanagar

### RTC bus nearly kills family of four in Trimulgherry

I would like to bring to notice of the officials a shocking incident my family encountered when they were travelling to a church from Lothkunta to Secunderabad. At about 8.20 am on December 8, as they crossed the Trimulgherry traffic signal, an RTC bus heading towards Secunderabad attempted to overtake our car from the left and while doing so, the bus hit the car at high speed. The impact was so massive that the car nearly overturned. The car was totally damaged but by God's grace, all my family members survived. After the hit, the RTC bus sped away and my panic-stricken family members could not take a note of the bus's details. My family is still in a state of shock and fear. It has even affected my 3-year old daughter. I am sure the bus can easily be traced in the CCTV footage from shops in the area. I request *Deccan Chronicle* and the authorities concerned to identify the driver and council him so that another accident can be averted.

Shiju Abraham  
Secunderabad

### Bus stop needs shelter

The bus stop near Head Post Office in Khairatabad lacks a shelter for the passengers. Besides, there is no information on bus routes as there are no sign-boards. There is dire need to build a bus stop shelter immediately as passengers are forced to wait for buses in rain or shine.

I request the authorities to look into the matter and construct a shelter and install sign boards at the bus stop as soon as possible.

Syed Nisar  
Mehdi  
Hyderabad





BJP TS president Dr K. Laxman to offer prayers today at Babu Ghat as part of the party's Namami Musi programme

With Kaleshwaram project, we are storing record levels of water  
— Harish Rao  
Finance minister

**MAN BOOKED FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF GIRL**

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC 15:**  
A 55-year-old scavenger at a Gurukul school for girls in Vikarabad was booked for alleged sexual abuse of a girl student. Jangaiah, 55, was arrested and produced at court for judicial remand. On Saturday, the school principal told the Vikarabad police that a girl student complained about Jangaiah molesting and touching her inappropriately. Police registered a case under the POCSO Act. Vikarabad inspector V. Srinivas Rao said that they found prima facie that Jangaiah misbehaved. He asked a student to show her molesting and reportedly touched her inappropriately. "There are other students who witnessed this incident," said the inspector. "Investigation is on to find if there are more victims." Three days ago, R Jagadeeshwar (38), a social studies teacher at Zilla Parishad Government School was arrested by the Neredmet police of Rachakonda, when a student complained of misbehaviour. He had reportedly touched the private parts of several girls on the school premises.

**TEMPLE EO DUPES PEOPLE, ARRESTED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC 15**  
Hyderabad Central Crime Station has booked a Hyderabad officer of Yanamalakur Duurga Mata temple for cheating 11 people to the tune of ₹1.26 crore under the guise of providing jobs and plots. Police said the accused Sathyavathi lured victims stating that she would get them employed in government jobs through her brother, who is working in the DGP office. Believing her, a victim and his friends together handed over ₹60 lakh to Sathyavathi hoping to get a job. Meanwhile, she also told them that she can get them land at cheaper prices. This way, she collected another ₹66 lakh. Subsequently the victims started believing her about jobs and land documents, but she kept postponing the matter. Victims then realised that they had been cheated. A cheating case has been booked. ■ **EXECUTIVE officer of Yanamalakuru Durga Mata temple for cheating people to the tune of ₹1.26 crore.**

**NET | EFFECT**

**Free Wi-Fi hotspots vulnerable to security breaches, leading to data theft**

**Free Wi-Fi can be terror, hackers hotspot**

**DURGA PRASAD SUNKU HYDERABAD DEC. 15**  
Hyderabad has the highest number of Wi-Fi hotspots among all metros. While such hotspots provide free connectivity to the internet, they are also vulnerable to security breaches leading to data theft. Cyber security experts warn that free Wi-Fi can be misused by cyber criminals. Terrorist organisation Indian Mujahideen is stated to have used free Wi-Fi for sending e-mails to media houses moments before the 2008 serial bombings in New Delhi and Ahmedabad. Speaking on the issue, Global Cyber Security

Forum chairman Sai Krishna said, "There is a massive flaw in WPA2, the encryption standard that secures all modern Wi-Fi networks. There is a possibility that anyone near you could easily access your information, including encrypted data, if you are using a Wi-Fi network. Wi-Fi standards currently available in India are flawed and should not be trusted." Using free Wi-Fi is like requesting hackers to invade your privacy. ■ **Hackers can use an unsecured Wi-Fi connection to distribute malware, says Khushihal Kaushik of Lisanthus Tech**

Using free Wi-Fi is like welcoming the hackers to invade your privacy. ■ **Hackers can use an unsecured Wi-Fi connection to distribute malware, says Khushihal Kaushik of Lisanthus Tech**

infect the software on your computers and devices, your business can be financially crippled. Hackers also use special software kits that enable them to eavesdrop on Wi-Fi signals. This allows cybercriminals to access everything that remote workers may be doing online, potentially enabling them to capture login credentials and hijack accounts. In fact, a user would find it difficult to distinguish

between free Wi-Fi given by an authorised agency and one set up by a hacker. Because of this, many banks have initiated using two-factor-authentication methods to keep their transactions secure. However, Bankbot imitates real banking applications to steal users' login details. Bankbot can intercept text messages as well. Every mobile telephone network (MTN) number sent to a customer phone can also be accessed by cyber criminals operating behind the Bankbot," he added.

**Disha charges by Dec-16**

**Cops identify 30 witnesses in Disha case, gather technical evidence**

**JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T. I DC HYDERABAD, DEC 15**  
Having collected the statements of close to 30 witnesses in the Disha rape and murder case, and technical evidence, the Cyberabad police is planning to file a chargesheet before the fast-track court designated at Mahabubnagar by the end of December. After the rape and murder of Disha, and the arrest of the four accused — Mohammed Arif, J. Shiva, J. Naveen, and C. Chennakeshavaulu — the Cyberabad police formed 10 teams to work simultaneously on the

■ Investigators have identified about 25 to 30 persons as witnesses  
■ Witnesses include a man at puncture shop where the killers reportedly took Disha's bike  
■ Employees at a wine shop where the accused purchased liquor  
■ Employees of a petrol bunk



case. Each team headed by a deputy superintendent rank officer was tasked with extracting technical evidence like footage of CCTV cameras before and after the

incident and other documentation works. Though the four accused were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with the police party, the teams continued the task of filing a chargesheet before the fast-track court. The investigators have identified about 25 to 30 persons as witnesses including a man at puncture shop where the killers reportedly took Disha's bike, employees at a wine shop where the accused purchased liquor, employees of a petrol pump, and others. The forensic analysis has resulted in establishing the identity of the

**COPS SUMMON RGV FOR MORPHING IMAGE OF EVANGELIST K.A. PAUL**

**DURGA PRASAD SUNKU HYDERABAD, DEC. 15**  
Following a complaint of an allegedly morphed photograph from Jyoti Begal, treasurer of Dr K.A. Paul's charity, the Hyderabad cyber crime police booked filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma and served notices asking him to appear for questioning within two days. According to the complaint, Mr Ram Gopal Varma edited former President Pranab Mukherjee out of a picture and morphed himself into it to make it appear that he was receiving the censor certificate from Paul for his Anna Kadupulo Kadapa Biddalu film.

**16th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**LATE CHENNADI MARTHANDARAO**

Always on our Minds  
Forever in Our Hearts  
Your Guiding Hand on our Shoulders  
Will remain with us forever...

Inserted by  
**Family Members, Relatives & Friends**

**OBITUARY**

**Shri. V.R. SATISH CHANDRA**  
(Head Director & Chief City Planner MCH)  
Expired on: 15-12-2019  
Funeral will be held at 12.30PM, at his residence 202, Vaidharani Venkat Villa, Nalakuhta Vag Market, Anandberpet Crematorium, Hyderabad-50.

**Family Members**  
Ph: 8332921014 / 9848292964

**OBITUARY**

**Mrs RATHNA ASHWRADAM**  
DOB: 19-10-1934 DOD: 13-12-2019  
Funeral Service at Century Methodist Church, Chapel Road, on 16-12-2019 at 10am.  
Inserted by: Family Members 919620247 / 9896719276

**OBITUARY**

**K.S. SATYANARAYANA**  
D.O.B: 18-10-1950 - D.O.D: 14-12-2019  
Former Vice-President SBI Staff Union, Hyderabad Circle  
Final rituals will be at our residence H.No. 1-6-13 Near Sai Durga Colony, Old Alwal, Secunderabad at 10.00 a.m. on today  
Inserted by: Family Members 990819945 / 953635320

**SHRADHANJALI**

**S. ANAND**  
8th day ceremony to be held  
Today Evening at plot no-19, Jawahar rally colony, Silk road, Diamond Point, Sec-4B  
Inserted by: Sridharan Family 9966575201, 9985081609

**OBITUARY**

**Mrs. SATYA SALOMIE LUKE**  
Who Late George Chinnappa  
D.O.B: 01.03.1930 D.O.D: 15.12.2019  
Church Service at 2 p.m. at Century Methodist Church (Small), Chapel Road on 16.12.2019 at 2.00 p.m. Committal at Narayanga Cemetery at 4.00 p.m.  
Inserted by: Family Members Ph: 9908114873 / 9542062599

**SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
The memory of the righteous is blessed. Prov: 10:7

**Mrs. Esther Pakiadas**  
Who Late Darling Prasad  
9.1.1934 - 16.12.2017  
Inserted by: Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren (L/1920/D00010)

**Mrs. Dorothy George Chinnappa**  
Who Late Darling Prasad  
31.7.1924 - 16.12.2017  
Inserted by: Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Mob: 964860 (L/1920/D00000)

**14th ANNIVERSARY**  
The memory of the righteous is a blessing. Proverbs 10:7

**Rev. G.S. CHRISTOPHER**  
DOB: 10.1.1950 DOD: 16.12.2005  
Inserted by: Wife, Daughters, Son, Daughter-in-Law, Grand Children & Dear Ones (S/1920/D01431)

**10th ANNIVERSARY**  
The memory of the righteous is the life, who believes in me, though he may die he shall live. John 11:25

**Mr. M.A. MAJID**  
DOD: 16-12-2009  
We Miss You  
Inserted by: Family Members

Learning centres

BJP's spokesperson Krishna Saagar Rao says universities are centres for learning, not islands to protect criminal behaviour



Rahul Gandhi resigned as Congress chief as people rejected the party

- P. Ajay Kumar Transport minister

POWER SHUTDOWN

10 am to 1.30 pm: Moti Mahal, Sadadnagar, Heera Khana; Katara House, Golconda police station area, Dilvarshanagar, Risala Bazaar; Rethigalli, Government Golconda Hospital, Bada Bazaar
10.30 am to 1.30 pm: Kavuri Hills Phase-II, Amar Co-Operative Society, Kalyannagar, Anjaninagar, Road No. 44
1.30 pm to 5 pm: Jubilee Hills Road No. 13, Collector's building
1.50 pm to 5.30 pm: Padmalaya Studio area, Jubilee Hills Road No. 78, Eastwarawalli, Babu Jagjivan Ram Colony, Padmalaya, Heera area around the houses of Pulla Gopichand, Sania Mirza, Nihita Nethu, Bharani Layout, Teacher Training Centre, Nyaya Vihar.
2 pm to 5 pm: Naya Khila, Jinsi Bazaar, Takatbhovli, Raghavamma Kancha, Heera Khan 1 & 2, Moti Mohal, Khazi Galli, Salenagar Kancha, Dhana Kota; Golconda military area.

IN BRIEF

'Mobile TV is new challenge'

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Chapter of the Broadcast Engineering Society on Sunday conducted a seminar on direct to mobile Mr T.V. Ramakrishna, chairman of BES (Hyderabad chapter), said the satellite, direct-to-home, on-demand and internet TV were changing the viewing habits. Mobile TV was breaking traditional barriers, when it comes to consuming content. "This is a challenge that mobile operators and media companies have to face. This would attract a stress on linear and non-linear methods of consuming content," he added.

No Art 371 in J&K: Minister

Hyderabad: The Central government does not intend to extend Article 371 of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. "There is nothing of that sort being contemplated at any level by the government of India as this disinformation is being planted by those whose illegitimate interests have been adversely affected by the abrogation of Article 370," he said. Article 371, which has special provisions and is applicable in some states, especially in the Northeast, safeguards the rights of native people with regard to religious or social customs, customary laws and procedures, ownership and transfer of land and resources.

MAN HELD FOR DUPING LOAN APPLICANTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

Sleuths of West Zone Task Force arrested a film producer, who cheated people promising to give huge loans. The accused has been identified as Shaik Basheed, the protagonist in the film Eadra Hero. A complainant, Soidetty Panakla Rao approached the accused for a ₹ 10 crore to 15 crore loan for his construction business. Basheed, assuring him of the loan, asked Mr Rao to pay processing fee and registration challan amount. Mr Rao transferred ₹ 65 lakh through different modes but he did not get the loan. On being approached, Basheed threatened him. Using the same modus operandi, he cheated many others. On credible information about his whereabouts, Basheed was apprehended by West Zone Task Force team at Banjara Hills. He was, subsequently, handed over to station house officer of the Banjara Hills police station for further investigation.

CAA protesters avoid religious turn

A protester is asked to be silent when he broke the code; organisers anxious to avoid trouble

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

Hundreds of people gathered at Dharna Chowk near Indira Park on Sunday morning to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Registry of Citizens (NRC). Mostly from the Muslim community, they slammed the BJP-led NDA government for bringing in the controversial CAA legislation that will allow migrants from persecuted minority communities in neighbouring countries to apply for Indian citizenship, but excludes Muslims from doing so.

The protesters said CAA has made Muslims second-class citizens. They shouted slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah for demotivating the Muslim community and legalising discrimination against it. "Nahi chalegi, nahi chalegi, Modi teri taang chahiye, Modi teri gundagardi" (We won't allow Modi's dictatorship and Shah's rowdism); they chanted.

The organisers were careful in instructing the crowd to not shout any slogans that could give their protest a religious bent. When one of the protesters shouted "Nara-e-Akbar" a slogan that is used alternatively with "Allah hu Akbar", an organiser was quick to shush him.

The fear of being considered "communal" was pronounced. The organisers had emphasised that Muslims had to be a peaceful protest and caused no inconvenience to any member of the public. "Even if there is a small slip-up, they will say we are making trouble and try to shut us down," Mr Hamid Mohammad Khan, state president of the Jamaat-e-Islami, told the crowd. Not many protesters in the country, are held amid suspicion of being misund.

An hour into the protest, the road on which Dharna Chowk is located got open to traffic. But as the crowd swelled, police had to barricade the road. Some protesters took to open marches in the neighbourhood while many sat at the Chowk to listen to the speakers.



Members of the Assamese community (top) protest at Dharna Chowk near Indira Park in Hyderabad against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Earlier on Sunday, a large number of people turned up to protest the legislation as well as the proposal to implement the National Register of Citizens nationwide. - S. SURENDER REDDY



Mr Md Azharuddin from the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, one of the speakers at the protest, said, "We Hindustani Muslims chose to stay in this country. Many members of our community gave their lives for this country's independence. In fact, those people (RSS), who sided with the British before 1947, are trying to portray us as outsiders." He said there were many issues plaguing the country, but the central government was hell-bent on dividing the country on the basis of religion. "There are no onions anywhere. No development. The government only cares about NRC and CAB (now CAA). They claim India will become the home of persecuted immigrants from other countries, but what about Muslims in China and Myanmar? Doesn't your humanity acknowledge their problems?" he asked. Mr Amjadullah Khan, Majis Bachao Trehrek spokesperson, pointed out many apparent loopholes in the CAA. "The new law does not specify how long they have to wait for citizenship to be granted," he said. Rashmi, a degree student who had come with her friends, said, "The Act calls into question our status. My parents, keep telling me India doesn't care for us any more. I am feeling this to be true each day."

Assamese vow a peaceful protest

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

People from the Assamese community gathered at Dharna Chowk in the afternoon to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The protesters criticised the controversial legislation for encouraging migration into Assam as the Act welcomes a wide range of Indian citizens people of all faiths, except Muslims, who face discrimination in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The protesters contended that Assam has been heavily burdened with illegal immigration through the decades. They said the BJP government cheated them by ignoring the Assam Accord.

The CAA has changed the cut-off date for non-Muslim immigrants eligible for citizenship, from 1971 to 2014. This clause, the protesters said, was a violation of the Assam Accord which aimed to deport illegal immigrants of all religions from Assam.

Said Mr Pranjal, one of the organisers of the protest: "Assam has been plagued with migration for several decades. Our cultural Assamese identity is under threat because of this. Currently, Assamese have all but become a minority in their own country. We are not in violation of the Assam Accord which aimed to deport illegal immigrants of all religions from Assam."

The train from Guwahati to Secunderabad (02314) had to be diverted via Katihar, Barauni, and Hajha (Bihar) and Assansol (West Bengal). Most trains to Howrah in West Bengal were cancelled altogether. This was mostly due to the agitation at Uluberia, where passengers complained on social media about this. "To help them, the East Coast Railway (ECR) announced later in the day that it would run special trains between Puri and Chennai."

Several trains to West Bengal and Assam operated by the South Central Railways (SCR), were cancelled or diverted on Sunday. Both states have been seeing massive protests by the general public against the recent Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The train from Guwahati to Secunderabad (02314) had to be diverted via Katihar, Barauni, and Hajha (Bihar) and Assansol (West Bengal). Most trains to Howrah in West Bengal were cancelled altogether. This was mostly due to the agitation at Uluberia, where passengers complained on social media about this.

Many trains going to or through West Bengal, such as Hyderabad to Howrah and Secunderabad to Guwahati, were terminated at Uluberia, where passengers complained on social media about this. "To help them, the East Coast Railway (ECR) announced later in the day that it would run special trains between Puri and Chennai."



A protester sitting on a tree holds a poster. - DC

A poster at the protest by the Assamese said, "Bangladeshis go back", meaning illegal migrants of both faiths

are your taxi drivers, security guards and construction workers. By the time you recognise them, it will be too late!" When asked if their protests were not xenophobic, the protesters said the campaign was only against illegal migration, when one of them was asked what would happen to the lakhs of immigrants who had settled in Assam decades ago, he said they should be deported. Many others said the same thing, Mr Sachin, a professor chose to answer with caution: "We don't know what should be done with them. But Assamese culture is at risk here. We Assamese will fight until these people leave."

Mr Abhinav, a protester, said "We Assamese are peaceful people. We will not give up. But there are some elements that want to portray the protests in Assam as violent. This might escalate the danger for immigrants of either faith. "Bangladeshis go back!" was a popular slogan among the young protesters. One elaborate placard read: "Illegal Bangladeshis are everywhere. Assam has lakhs of them, but don't think you are safe. They have spread to the rest of India. They Mr Pranjal.

SPECIAL TRAINS AFTER SERVICES HIT BY PROTESTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

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FASTag has few speed bumps

SA. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

Except for some initial hiccups, the FASTag payment facility at toll gates on National Highways across Telangana enjoyed a smooth start on Sunday, said National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) Regional Officer, Mr Kiran Prasad. The FASTag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to enable cashless toll payments. It became mandatory across the country on Sunday. Though NHAI officials claimed a smooth launch, reports from Pantangi and

THOUGH NHAI officials claimed a smooth launch, reports from Pantangi and Sangareddy toll gates said non-FASTag vehicles queued up at booths. Sangareddy toll gates indicated that vehicles queued at the booths, most of which were dedicated for FASTag payments. This resulted in drivers expressing displeasure at the toll gate staff and NHAI officers for not giving enough time to understand and follow the system. Mr Rao said, "We have 17 toll plazas on National

Highways in the state. Except in one or two plazas, the FASTag system has been launched successfully. Not many vehicles have entered the FASTag lanes at toll plazas have to pay double the toll amount as per the orders of the Union transport ministry." He said after the Centre had announced the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme, which, in fact, came into force on December 1. They started trial runs at toll plazas

and also set up sale points at each of the plazas and arranged staff to enlighten vehicle users about the benefits of the tags. He said that while introducing the service, the Centre partnered with 23 banks to make FASTag easily available. Branches of Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Karur Vysya Bank are additionally enabled to sell FASTag across various plazas. The official explained that the use of FASTag will help in reducing congestion around plazas and also pollution. Saving of fuel will also help reduce the operating costs of vehicles, Mr Rao said.

Metro Rail to see regular interruptions till March

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

The Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) claimed that sensitive equipment cannot withstand pollution in the winter. As a result, official sources claim, the Metro Rail service will face service interruptions during the next few months. In order to beat the early morning smog, HMRL set back the timing of the first train by half an hour. The first train will move out at 6.30 am in winter.

HMRL sources say that most of their equipment are very sensitive and do not suit Indian conditions. The pollution levels have increased due to smog (mix of smoke and fog) and would only worsen as people burn garbage to keep warm on the streets. Sources said that the HMRL could not find a solution for the pollution-related outages. The HMRL predicts a series of interruptions until March. Officials will try and keep the services running on schedule as best

they can under the circumstances. Officials said that HMRL has been in touch with the service engineers who were asked to find a permanent solution for the metro interruptions caused by pollution. "Though the HMRL has been trying to upgrade the equipment to suit local conditions, it could barely adapt. The HMRL authorities have been still chalking out plans to find the right equipment to suit Hyderabad conditions," the official added.

SEASON OF CHEER ■ People feel at home when they hear carols in their native language, say celebrants

Carols in the vernacular hold a special joy

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

Christmas is a lot more than the day it is the season where you will find a lot of activities. One such important event is carol singing. Groups walk through different modes but he did not get the loan. On being approached, Basheed threatened him. Using the same modus operandi, he cheated many others. On credible information about his whereabouts, Basheed was apprehended by West Zone Task Force team at Banjara Hills. He was, subsequently, handed over to station house officer of the Banjara Hills police station for further investigation.

employee of the national academy of construction, said, "I belong to a Hindustani service that uses pure Hindi and Urdu. We have a congregation from north India. There is some connect when the service is your mother tongue. For aao vishwaso, anand karke oao is the Hindi translation of the carol O come all ye faithful." Pastor Ashok Sawlikar Matati said, "The Marathi families who came from the Nanded, parts of Maharashtra are who we sing for. This is the time we have the most home visits. Compared to other language services we have a very small gathering; it's like an extended family." Mr Qubert Wilson, head

of the choir at Holy Church, Trimligherry, said, "This is the biggest Tamil congregation in the twin cities. Half of the congregation has Tamil-speaking families. If you ever pass through Mudfort, Trimligherry, Bolaram, Ammuguda, Alwal, Lothkusa, you can hear Tamil. Most of the people we serve are Tamil. During this season, we have five teams who will be going from door to door carol singing in Tamil. Since 70 years, this Tamil carol singing has been going on in this church." St Paul's of Holy Public School principal Rodha Vasudra said, "My husband visits for the carollers to visit. His family are migrants

from Karnataka, Kannada carols bring back to him his childhood memories. It feels nice when you see the regional language songs sung to praise God. The whole family will be full of joyful singing." Mr E. Raja Jayavel, choir member of the Methodist Telugu Church, said, "The dominant language has services with a congregation of 1,500. Visiting each and every house is a task but also a must. We start the carols early in the second week of December and we make sure that each member's door is knocked with carols. The beauty of Telugu carols is that most of them are originally written and composed."



Carol singers perform at the Centenary Methodist Church in Chapel Road at Abids on Sunday. - P. SURENDRA

Steely resolve

Jagan will lay foundation stone for Kadapa Steel Factory on December 26 at Limestone Park in Jammalamadugu



Those who resort to crimes against women will be scared thanks to AP law

Raashi Khanna Tollywood actor

IN BRIEF

FOUR HELD FOR SMUGGLING PRECIOUS IDOL

DC CORRESPONDENT TRIPATHI, DEC. 15

Prakasam district police on Sunday arrested four persons in Ongole on charges of theft and trying to smuggle two ancient Panchaloha idols from Sivalayam temple located in Thammavaram village in the district.

Interestingly, the primary accused, Mallikarjuna Rao, 45, used to work as a priest at the temple. The idols belong to the 12th century A.D. and are worth ₹40 lakh, the police said.

Mallikarjuna along with the other accused persons, had allegedly stolen the idols on November 22. The other accused have been identified as S. Rajesh, 28, Mohammad Hidayathulla, 45, K Prasad Rao, 40. Following the incident, a case was registered at Korisapadu police station on the same day.

Acting on the instruction given by the Superintendent of police (SP) P. Siddarth Kaushal, deputy SPs, A. Prasad Kumar and K. Prasad, formed teams and launched an investigation into the matter.

Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested all the accused when they visited the town to sell the idols.

THIRUPPAVAI AT TIRUMALA FROM DEC. 17

DC CORRESPONDENT TRIPATHI, DEC. 15

With the holy month of Dhanurmasam set to commence at 11.47 pm on the daily awakening ritual of Suprabhatam will be replaced with the traditional Thirupavai in Srivari temple from December 17. The Goda Thirupavai Pasura Parayanam will conclude on January 14.

During Dhanurmasam, the recital of the Suprabhatam will be replaced with the recital of Thirupavai—a collection of about 30 pasurams by Andal (Goda Devi) in praise of Lord Venkateswara. Andal or Nachiar is one of 12 Alvars.

Her 30 pasurams (stanzas) titled Thirupavai are an integral part of Alvar Devya Prabandham and significant in Tamil literature.

Dhanurmasam is considered highly auspicious in Vaishnavite temples. The kankaryams, decorations to lord, natvayam offerings during the month occupies a unique place at the Tirumala temple.

Utsav, during Sahasra Namachana, Srivari Dhruva Beram is worshipped with tilasi leaves amidst recital of 1,008 names for 11 months in a year except during Dhanurmasam where Sahasra Namachana is carried out with Bel leaves.

Civics fuel a fresh bout of turmeric war

TRS, BJP rush to meet farmers' demand before elections

SA. ISHAQUI IDC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

The issue of the turmeric board for Nizamabad has once again become an issue between the Telangana Rashtra Samiti and the Bharatiya Janata Party as they seek to assert control over Nizamabad and Jagtial districts with municipal elections looming.

Turmeric farmers of both districts who have been silent for the past few months are again taking to agitation to achieve their demand. They had embarrassed TRS MP K. Kavitha during the Lok Sabha elections and are now targeting Nizamabad MP Dharmaapuri Aravind of the BJP.

The Joint Action Committee of the farmers has announced that it is taking up a series of agitations in Nizamabad and Jagtial. As part of this, Rhythu Athma Gourava Padyatra (Walk of farmers for self-respect) will set off on December 16.

The farmers want a turmeric board and a minimum support price (MSP) for red jowar and turmeric.



Nizamabad turmeric farmers protest in this file picture

The BJP suspects that the TRS is behind the relaunching of the agitation. But it was Mr Arvind who had won on the promise of setting up the board and is now being asked to keep his election promise. Mr Arvind had promised on a stamp paper that he would secure the turmeric board or else resign as MP, the farmers say.

Feelings among the farmers had run high during the Lok Sabha elections and 240 turmeric farmers had filed their

nominations to contest against Ms Kavitha, daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Naidu and the sitting MP to ensure her defeat as she had not set up the turmeric board in Nizamabad. Ms Kavitha lost the elections and the BJP's Mr Arvind had won promising to set up the board within 15 days of his victory.

As the walkathon of farmers will start from Monday, sitting BJP MP Mr Aravind held a press conference in Nizamabad

on Sunday and assured the farmers that the turmeric board will be set up in Nizamabad before the Sankranti next month. He also assured the farmers they would get a better support price for turmeric, and criticised the TRS government for failing to send the proposal to the Centre in this regard. He said that the Centre is prepared to announce MSP for turmeric if the state government sends the proposal to New Delhi.

RTC staff says forced to support welfare council

For safety, women must report at 5 am

RAJESWARI PARASI IDC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

The TSRTC management claims that it has collected the signatures of 85 per cent of the staff in support of the welfare council that is proposed to replace the staff union. Workers, however, say they are being pressurised to sign up.

Some conductors said the management is not accepting the cash they collect from ticket sales if they don't sign up for the welfare council. Recently, a group of conductors at the Picket depot protested and were exempted.

"Just because we protested we were exempted, but there are many conductors and drivers who are silently signing the papers to eschew from the nuisance that the depot managers and other officials are creating. This is happening in several depots," said a conductor.

Drivers are being told that their names will not be on the duty roster if they do not support the welfare council. "We don't understand why we are being pressurised when the Chief Minister has given a choice. It has become mandatory at the depot level," said a driver from the Mahabubnagar depot.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

After the end of the strike last month, women employees of the TSRTC are being posted only on morning shifts. They have been told this is being done for their safety. But many of them want to choose their shift.

"It is appreciated that safety was considered and morning shifts are being given, but the choice should be left to the women. They can choose the shift based on their commitments at home," said a woman conductor.

The morning shift timings will be inconvenient. The employees has to report at about 5.15 am to the depot and leave around 3.5 pm. "It becomes difficult when there are school-

going kids as the women do not have time to cook food for them," said Ms A. Trilochana, a conductor from the Medhapatnam depot.

When we request the second shift, which starts at 12.30 pm, the depot officials say that will have to stay back in case of train strikes and continue till the next shift, which will stretch till midnight.

How do we deal with this situation, asked a conductor. "We are facing the heat from both sides, at home and at work."

"The morning shifts given to women conductors, the night shifts are being given to senior employees, some of them with 30 years of experience. Earlier, the day shifts were given to those who are in need of rest, said another conductor."

It is not clear how the welfare council will function. "The council has only two members. There are several leaders from various unions who help us," asked another con-

ductor from the Picket depot. Asked about this, a TSRTC official denied it only two members. "There are several leaders from various unions who help us," asked another con-

AP-TS deadlock over power staff

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

The stalemate continues over the division of employees of power utilities between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state.

While the management of the AP power utilities did not accept the proposal made by the Telangana power utilities management, the Justice Dharmadhikari committee, which met here on December 15 with the management of power utilities of both states, expressed its displeasure at the AP authorities.

According to the employees of the TS power utilities, the committee which had met on October 4 and 5 of this year issued proceedings to both the states that 613 employees out of 1,157 employees who have been relieved from TS have to be adjusted in AP power utilities; the remaining 504 have to be taken back

by TS as per their native proceedings. Justice Dharmadhikari had directed the AP authorities to come back with the details of 256 employees who had opted for Telangana state, without reference to the 1,157 employees (mentioned above) at the next date of the committee meeting.

When the committee met on Sunday, the management of TS power utilities informed the committee that it is willing to take the 504 employees and also out of the 256 TS-bound employees, it will take 128 employees. It will also take back 242 employees belonging to TS who are working in Andhra Pradesh.

The TS power employees alleged that though the AP authorities stepped down and agreed to take 874 employees, the management of the AP power utilities did not accept this proposal.

A place for dogs



TRS leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha plays with a dog after handing over a cheque of ₹5 lakh to Zabi Khan (left), who opened India's first animal sanctuary, 'A Place to Bark' in Hyderabad on Sunday. Also seen are Chevela MP Ranjith Reddy and Chevela MLA Kale Yadaiah.

TS leaves GHMC fund-starved

MADHY DEEKSHITH IDC HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is heading toward a deep financial crisis as its income is dwarfed by its expenditure.

The civic body's finance department officials lament that within less than two months, the corporation might not be able to pay salaries to its employees and it has no option but to depend on loans to take up the government's flagship programmes like the Strategic Road

Development Plan, Comprehensive Road Maintenance and regular maintenance works.

According to the GHMC official, the government is yet to release ₹280 crore which has been sanctioned by the Centre as a part of the 14th Finance Commission. This apart, revenue collection has been badly hit due to reshuffle of field staff.

The corporation has prepared the ground to fund the SRDP with ₹2,500 crore term loans (RTL) at about 10 per cent interest rate and handed over the maintenance of 709 arterial roads with an estimated cost of ₹1,827 crore. It is still short of money.

Though the government has assured providing ₹100 crore every month to rescue the corporation from the financial crisis, officials claimed that ₹10 crore in the past 10 days which has been the worst ever, since the inspection of the GHMC.

and it would not pay salaries during January. A senior GHMC official, on condition of anonymity, said that the civic body has been paying about ₹900 crore towards salaries of employees and has been spending about ₹120 crore on maintenance work on a monthly basis.

It has collected only about ₹250 crore each in September, October and November. The official said that the corporation could not even collect ₹10 crore in the past 10 days which has been the worst ever, since the inspection of the GHMC.

TWO DESAM ACTIVISTS HELD FOR POSTS ON JAGAN, MLA

MD ILIYAS IDC VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 15

Two TD supporters were arrested for posting allegedly objectionable posts on AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and YSRC Chilkaluripeta Urban Inspector S. Subrahmanyam, a social media group, and posted the photographs and comments on their Facebook page.

Satyam Reddy halls from Vidavalur of Nelloru mandal and Pravin from Kondaluru.

YSRC leader Maruboina Nagaraju. Chilkaluripeta Urban Inspector S. Subrahmanyam, a social media group, and posted the photographs and comments on their Facebook page.

Satyam Reddy halls from Vidavalur of Nelloru mandal and Pravin from Kondaluru.

Satyam Reddy halls from Vidavalur of Nelloru mandal and Pravin from Kondaluru.

POLITICAL GAMES ■ YSRC uses charges against son-in-law of Desam leader as a bargaining tool

1-1 officials in crosshairs of AP govt

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS IDC VJAYAWADA, DEC. 15

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's selective targeting of income-tax officials may give him marginal political edge over Telugu Desam but the same is leading to a compromise with his crusade against corruption at every level of government.

In fact, this could possibly put the government in a tight spot, particularly with regard to one particular case in Andhra Pradesh High Court. This pertains to financial irregularities allegedly during the tenure of some IRS officials, who were on deputation with the state government dur-

ing the Telugu Desam regime. The officials held impromptu by industries, health and mines departments. While the state government has already suspended senior tax official Jasti Krishna Kishore and ordered ACB and CID probes but has let off another official, Ch Venkata Gopinath.

It is the YSRC plan to target the officials who cannot find fault with Gopinath's repatriation because he is a son-in-law of the party senior leader.

The AP government has already suspended senior tax official Jasti Krishna Kishore and ordered ACB and CID probes but has let off another official, Ch Venkata Gopinath.

It is the YSRC plan to target the officials who cannot find fault with Gopinath's repatriation because he is a son-in-law of the party senior leader.

(CID) against all public servants involved in the irregularities. The then Chief Secretary, Mr L.V. Subrahmanyam, sought permission from the Chief Minister to register a case and the matter is pending with the latter.

The Chief Minister's decision to let off Mr Gopinath comes at a time when the Leader of Opposition N. Chandrababu Naidu is crying foul over the action initiated against Mr Krishna Kishore. He even alleged that Mr Kishore was paying the price for slapping tax notices on the CM's media houses when he was income tax commissioner in Hyderabad a few years back.

"There is no truth in Naidu's allegations. Had we been vindictive, why did we let off Mr Gopinath from state service? We could have ordered similar probe against him also. We act on merits," a senior YSRC minister said.

But, it is clear strategy of the YSRC bosses to corner the Telugu Desam, which cannot find fault with Mr Gopinath's repatriation because he is a son-in-law of the party senior leader.

Relevant documents, which are in possession of Deccan Chronicle establish that relieving Mr Gopinath is purely a political decision and merits of the case speak otherwise. Sources said Mr Gopinath's name

figured in relation to a public interest litigation filed by one L. Venkata Rama Raju against alleged irregularities in awarding a contract to M/s TBS Telematic and Bio Medical Services India Pvt Ltd.

"Krishna Kishore was not allowed to go back to the parent department so that a probe could be ordered against him. Gopinath was cleared despite the High Court direction to conduct a thorough enquiry into and allegations and the Chief Secretary seeking CM's permission in this regard," a probe official said adding that it has to be seen whether the decision to let off the official comes under judicial scrutiny.

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit e-TENDER NOTICE Regional Director (P&S), HRP&S, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL, Post, Hyderabad 500082 invites online tenders as given below: 1. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: DPS/HRP/NUFC/PT/TP/CAP/11065 (b) Description : Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection & Commissioning and Performance Grinding Cum Polishing Machine of size 8-20 mm - Qty 1 No. details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 30/12/2019 @ 10:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 21/01/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 10,00,000/- 2. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: DPS/HRP/NUFC/PT/TP/CAP/11068 (b) Description : Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection & Commissioning and Performance, Demonstration of High Precision Tube Straightening Machine of size 20-65 mm - Qty 1 No. details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting :18/12/2019 @ 10:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 21/01/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 10,00,000/- 3. (a) Tender Enquiry No.: DPS/HRP/NUFC/PT/TP/CAP/11058 (b) Description : Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Commissioning and Performance, Demonstration of Ten Roll Tube Straightening Machine suitable for tubes of 6 - 25mm OD - Qty 1 No. details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 27/12/2019 @ 10:00 AM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 28/01/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 10,00,000/- Visit https://tenders.dpsde.gov.in for details. [DPS/HRP/NUFC/1920/30]



Union Minister Prahlad Joshi says the Congress is trying to project Citizenship Bill as a communal issue to create unrest

# Clash in Jamia against CAA

## Jamia students, however, distance themselves from the violence, blame locals for the incident

**BHASKAR HARI SHARMA**  
DC  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

A protest march against the recently-passed Citizenship (Amendment) Act, held by students of Jamia Millia Islamia in South Delhi, became violent Sunday evening and eventually turned the upmarket New Friends Colony into a battleground. At least four DTC buses, a fire tender and several other vehicles were set ablaze and damaged by the miscreants, who even threw stones at the police personnel, who in return resorted to a lathi-charge and fired teargas shells. Jamia's chief proctor claimed that the police forcibly entered the campus as no permission had been taken and both staff and students were beaten up. At Jantar Mantar, students from the Northeast states protested against the CAA, and termed it as "anti-constitution" and a threat to the identities of indigenous people in the region.



Members of West Bengal Human Rights Cell stage a protest rally against CAA and NRC in Kolkata on Sunday.

The Jamia students, however, distanced themselves from the violence in South Delhi and blamed locals for the incident. The BJP was quick to blame the Aam Aadmi Party for the violence, but local AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan denied these accusations outright. It all started with local hooligans, with faces covered, hijacking the students' march. The police vehicles ablaze and three stones at the police when they tried to stop them from marching towards Jantar Mantar. Several people, including policemen and two fire brigade personnel, were also injured. In evening, the situation was under control at Jamia Millia. The police said it was a violent mob, and some of them had entered the premises to hide. Both the Jamia students' community and the Teachers' Association had disassociated themselves from the violence and arson. The students

claimed that "certain" local elements had "disrupted" their protest and indulged in violence. A Jamia student said the police tried to disperse the protesters by resorting to lathi charge and firing teargas shells. He said some of the "outsiders" had run towards the campus, and the police personnel entered the campus and blocked the gates to the demonstration. The Delhi Metro closed the entry and exit gates of the Sakshidhar Vihar, Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Vihar, Jasola Vihar, Shaheen Bagh and Gate No. 3 of Ashram station. The Metro trains did not halt at these stations. Soon after the violence broke out, the Jamia students disassociated themselves from the incident, saying they had repeatedly maintained their protests were peaceful and non-violent.

The statement said: "We have time and again maintained that our protests are peaceful and non-violent. We stand by this approach and condemn any party involved in violence. We have maintained calm even when students have been lathi-charged and some women protesters have been badly beaten up... Violence by certain elements was an attempt to vilify and discredit genuine protests." In another statement, the university said the violence was triggered by locals and not during the student agitation. Jamia has already announced its winter vacation and put off the semester examinations after a clash between the police and students on Friday. It also urged its students to stay away from such "directionless" protests led by local political leaders.

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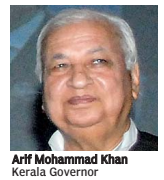
# AMU closed till Jan 5 after clash

**Aligarh, Dec. 15:** The Aligarh Muslim University administration Sunday night announced that the institution will remain closed till January 5 after clashes broke out between police and students protesting against the amended Citizenship Act near the campus gate. "The university is closed from today (15/12/2019) till 05/01/2020. This is being done due to disturbances created by some antisocial elements for last three days," AMU Registrar Abdul Hamid said. The announcement came after hundreds of AMU students protesting against the amended legislation clashed with police which used batons and teargas to disperse them. "All other offices will remain open as usual and the closure of the university is for the purpose of reading and examination only. The remaining examination will be conducted after 05/01/2020," the Registrar said in a statement. Earlier, AMU proctor Prof Afzulul Kabir said some security personnel were injured in brick-battling near the gate.

# KERALA GOV REJECTS CM'S REMARKS ON CAA

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHI, DEC. 15

Kerala Governor Mohammad Arif Khan has rejected the statement of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that the state will not implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Speaking to reporters at Aluva near Kochi, Mr. Khan said every state has a constitutional obligation to implement the laws passed by Parliament. He said that the protest and agitation against the amendment are politically motivated. "The amendment does not target any community," he added. The governor made the comment even as the ruling Left Democratic Front led by the CPM and the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) headed by the Congress are joining hands to hold a joint protest in the state on Monday against the amendment. The joint protest will begin from the Martyrs' Column at Palayam in Thiruvananthapuram, the state capital. The state is set to witness a series of agitations in coming days with many of the activist organisations and groups also joining the protest against the CAA. A statewide brawl has been called by a slew of organisations including several Islamic outfits in the state on Tuesday.



Arif Mohammad Khan Kerala Governor



Maha Assembly winter session is a farce as portfolio allocation not done

— Devendra Fadnis  
Former Maharashtra CM

### SHORT TAKES

## DMK POSTS STALIN'S CLIP ON CAA

**Chennai:** The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on Sunday released a video of its chief M.K. Stalin explaining in detail as to how the DMK opposed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. The video was in response to AIADMK taking a decision to support the CAA, asking if it had ever spoken a word about getting Indian citizenship for Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka when it shared power at the Centre for 17 years. In the clip uploaded on social media platforms, Stalin said his party would not have opposed the Act if it provided refugee status to those who seek asylum in the country. Termining the Citizenship Amendment Act as "unconstitutional, anti-people, divisive and regressive," Stalin said, DMK would not have opposed it if it provided refugee status to all those who seek asylum in the country. "However, the law discriminates against Muslims and uses religion as a benchmark to distinguish between people and therefore divide them," he alleged. "Economic distress, rising unemployment. As our fellow citizens continue to suffer from all such problems, this Act has provided a timely attraction for the BJP government," the DMK president remarked.

## ANTI-CAA, NRC ADVTS IRK BENGAL GOV

**Kolkata:** The advertisement, in which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee states that NRC and citizenship law will not be implemented in West Bengal, is unconstitutional and a head of government can't use public money for such campaigns, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday. Speaking to reporters at Raj Bhavan, Dhankhar said he relied upon those in position of power not to shirk responsibility as it is "no occasion to play politics". "How can an elected head of a government use public money to give advertisement in national media, that there will be no NRC, no CAB in state? This advertisement is unconstitutional," the governor said. "As Constitutional head I had very gracefully invited her (CM) attention, I had urged her (to) withdraw. I am sure you will all agree that public money can't be used to lead an agitation against law of the land," he said. Dhankhar said public property is being damaged in a wanton manner, ruthlessly and recklessly.

## NRC: YOGI SEEKS PUBLIC SUPPORT

**Lucknow:** Amid fears in a section of population against the likely creation of a country-wide National Register of Citizens, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday sought people's support to the move, terming it a "true tribute" to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Speaking at a function here to mark the death anniversary of the first Union home minister, Adityanath said, "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel checked divisive policies of the British." "Through his efforts, he foiled evil intentions of anti-India elements, who had a mindset of dividing the country, and included the country's 563 princely states into the Republic of India, contributing to the creation 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,'" the chief minister said. "The entire country should be united on the NRC and this will be a true tribute to Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel."

# B'desh seeks list of illegal settlers, if any

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh through middlemen due to economic reasons. "But if anybody other than our citizens enters Bangladesh, we will send them back," he told media here when asked about reports that some people are illegally entering the country through borders with India. Momen said Bangladesh has requested New Delhi to "provide a list of Bangladeshis living illegally in India, if any," to be repatriated. "We will allow them (Bangladesh citizens) as they have the right to enter into their own country," he said. Asked why he cancelled his India visit, the minister said his busy schedule coinciding with the Martyrs' Intellectuals Day and Victory Day and also the absence of the state minister for foreign relations Sharmin Alam.

# Woman dies in WB; ends life due to NRC fear, says family

**Bardhaman (WB), Dec. 15:** A 36-year-old woman was found dead in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, police said on Sunday, with her family claiming that she was scared of the proposed country-wide NRC she committed suicide. Shipra Sikder was found hanging with a muffler wrapped around her neck at her house in Jaugram area's Tell village under Jamalpur police station limits on Saturday, police said. She was taken to the Jamalpur government hospital where doctors declared her brought dead, they said. Locals said Shipra's husband, Shubhash Shikder, was a van driver and they have a son and a daughter. The woman had to depend on her income from the MGNREGS scheme to run herself because of the NRC," he said. An officer of the Jamalpur police station said they suspect it to be suicide, however, a case of unnatural death has been registered. "The body has been sent for postmortem examination, he said, adding that the family's claims are being investigated. Jamalpur panchayat samiti president Mehmooh Khan said that he has heard that Shipra's son didn't have the documents and she killed herself as she was scared that her son will be ousted. Shipra's brother-in-law Bipul Sikder said she was tensed and scared ever since the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was cleared by Parliament. "Though her son, 19, had Aadhaar card but he didn't have a birth certificate and voter ID, due to which Shipra was scared that her son might be thrown out of the country, claimed Bipul. "She went to the BDO office several times to get documents for her son. But she couldn't manage to get those. She killed

# Protesters torch Rly properties

**From Page 1**  
The four districts are Howrah, Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinapur. Of these, Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinapur share a border with Bangladesh. The subdivision areas are Barasat and Basirhat in North 24 Parganas, also near the international border, and Canning and Baruipur in South 24 Parganas. On Sunday afternoon, the state government declared its move after reviewing the situation that has turned from bad to worse. "Under the circumstances, left with no other alternative, internet services were being temporarily suspended in the districts of Uttar Dinapur, Malda, Murshidabad and parts of North 24 Parganas (Basirhat and Barasat subdivisions) if it is not possible to restore services," said Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, meanwhile, has summoned state chief secretary Rajiva Sinha and director-general of police Virendra to Raj Bhavan on Monday morning. "We are highly disturbed by developments in the state that seriously compromise our constitutional values and rule of law, both the chief secretary and director-general of police have been called upon to see me tomorrow at Raj Bhavan at 10 am and brief me on the situation," he tweeted. The state government has complained that "some externally mobilised communal forces (were) inciting violence and conspiring to create disorder". The district magistrate (Malda) has suspended the

# Assam is united, says Assamese in Britain Stir in UK over Citizenship Act

**London, Dec. 15:** People from different groups gathered outside the Indian High Commission here on Saturday to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and what they termed as Modi government's "failures". A group of protesters from the British Assamese community dressed in their traditional attire and accompanied by children, waved placards in Assamese as well as some in English that read: Save Democracy, Stop CAB, against BJP and Farmers security, farmers need reasonable prices for their crops. The promises Modi made during the election were broken. In reference to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, the IOC UK spokesperson added CAB is unconstitutional, which has set fire in the North Eastern states. But she couldn't manage to get those. She killed

# MAHESH BHATT JOINS PROTEST AGAINST CAA

**Mumbai, Dec. 15:** Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt on Sunday joined a protest meet here against the Citizenship Act, and said it is time people unite to send across a message that the country belongs to everyone. The protest meet was held at Rajghra, where Bhatt was joined by Congress leader Sanjay Jha, among others. "It's time for people to stand up and say this country belongs to each one of us and it is the might and will of each one of us that has finally found an expression," he said.

# Mania slams Cong, Sena pact

BSP chief asks the grand old party to clear its stand on Savarkar issue

## The Congress still does not have faith in NCP

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 15**

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Kumari Mayawati hit out at the Congress on Sunday over the difference of opinion between the Congress and its new ally Shiv Sena over Savarkar.

"It appears that the Congress still does not have complete faith in its ally of 20 years, the NCP. While state Congress leaders have managed to establish extremely cordial relations with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, the party is sceptical about the NCP and its chief, Sharad Pawar."

Two weeks into the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) regime, Congress leaders are saying that they find Mr Thackeray a very reasonable leader, but Mr Pawar has been playing a double game with the Congress and Sena since the beginning because of which the alliance is facing many hiccups. "We are confident that we will complete a full term under the leadership of Mr Thackeray despite our ideological differences. He is a very reasonable leader and accommodating of all-in-ance partners. But none of us has the same confidence about the

bill in the Lok Sabha after it was tabled by Home Minister Amit Shah. However, the right wing party had recused from voting on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, allegedly in an attempt to not sever its ties with the Congress in Maharashtra. It has been less than a month since the alliance in Maharashtra between the Congress NCP and the Shiv Sena. Though a common minimum program

also true that such a coup cannot be carried out overnight. It was well planned, and therefore it was impossible that the senior Pawar was unaware of it," the Congress leader said. An MLC, who was previously associated with the NCP, also confirmed that Ajit Pawar had switched sides with the complete knowledge of his uncle. "The BJP did not blame Ajit as the party knew that he was made the scapegoat," the MLC added.

Another Congress leader, who has also worked in New Delhi, also alleged that the Sena's first attempt to form the government on November 11 was thwarted by the none other than the NCP supremo. However, state Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat denied the existences of any misgivings among the MVA constituents. He said, "The MVA government will complete its five-year term under the leadership of Mr Thackeray."

(CMP) has been put in place but there have been certain contentious issues. These include the position of the Shiv Sena as a coalition partner, an Amendment Bill and issue of Savarkar.

**MURMUR OF RAHUL AS PARTY CHIEF GAINS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 15**

After Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took centre stage in the 'Bharat Bachao' rally in New Delhi on Saturday, murmurs in the party have begun demanding his return as party chief. In the last couple of days, several leaders, including general secretary Venugopal and chief ministers of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, have openly said that Mr Gandhi is the only alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Gandhi had quit as the Congress chief after the Lok Sabha debacle in May early this year. After several attempts by leaders of the Congress to make Mr Gandhi continue he refused to change his stand. After a marathon Congress Working Committee meeting Mrs Sonia Gandhi was made the interim president of the party. The controversy over Rahul Gandhi's rape remark has catapulted him into the limelight that was required. Also, the direct attack on RSS and Savarkar has brought him back in the headlines.

Party sources say the process for bringing Rahul back as Congress chief may now be accelerated. The sources are obvious hurdles that still need to be streamlined.

JMM and Congress have no roadmap or willingness to develop Jharkhand

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**SHORT TAKES**

**10 YEAR-OLD GIRL KILLS CLASSMATE**

**Jaipur, Dec. 15:** A 10-year-old girl was sent to a juvenile home here on Sunday for allegedly killing her classmate hitting her using a pen. After the two got into an argument over snatching a pen, police said.

The girl's parents were also produced before court and sent to jail for destroying evidence by dumping the body of the 12-year-old girl in a ground, Chaksu station house officer Braj Mohan Kaviya said.

On Saturday, all three were arrested by police in the case, he said.

The incident occurred on December 11 when the victim went to the girl's house after school for getting her pen back, but an argument led to a fight, the SHO said. The accused attacked the other with an iron rod in which the victim sustained critical injuries to her ribs and stomach leading to her death, Kaviya said adding that the girl's parents were not at home then.

**MAN HELD FOR RAPING, SETTING WOMAN ABLAZE**

**Banda (UP), Dec. 15:** A man was arrested for allegedly raping and setting ablaze an 18-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur city, police said on Sunday.

According to doctors, the woman sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries and her condition was critical. An FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman's family, and the accused was arrested for rape and attempt to murder, Fatehpur SP Prashant Verma said.

Additional Director General of Police (Allahabad zone) Sujeet Pandey said it was the woman who allegedly set herself ablaze when a 'panchayat' did not approve of her relationship with a distant relative. Upset over the panchayat's decision, the woman rushed to her house and allegedly set herself ablaze, he said.

District Magistrate Sanjeev Singh said that upon noticing smoke, villagers rescued the woman and took her to local community health centre. Superintendent of Kanpur's Hallet Hospital R K Maurya said, "The condition of the 18-year-old woman from Fatehpur is extremely critical. She sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries".

**'GIVE BLANKETS TO COWS FOR GUN LICENSE'**

**Gwalior (MP), Dec. 15:** Want to obtain a gun licence under the Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh? Then donate ten blankets for cows in a 'gaushala' to protect them from the cold. The orders on the new rule for securing a gun licence were issued on Saturday by Gwalior district collector Anurag Choudhary after visiting a civic-run 'gaushala' in Gola Ka Mandir area where six cows died recently due to 'excessive cold'.

He also visited a cow shelter in Lal Pipara area, also run by the Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC).

In June this year, Choudhary had ordered applicants seeking a gun licence to plant trees and shoot a selfie, while submitting an application. "After visiting the cow shelters, the collector ordered that each seeker of a gun licence should donate ten blankets to either of the two 'gaushalas'. Directives have been issued in this regard," said a Public Relation Department officer. The decision was taken to protect cows from cold, the officer quoted the district collector.

**BLOW TO BJP, 2 ZP MEMBERS DEFECT TO BJD**

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 15**

Dealing a body blow to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in two of its Zilla Parishad (ZP) members from Bargarh district who were allegedly resigning from the party, Bhubaneswar and joined the BJD.

The development came just as the party's senior leaders were busy at state level, two days before giving final touches to the process for election of district presidents. The two ZP members who joined the BJD are Parbati Bhoi and Susuma Bhoi.

Interestingly, the BJP had on Saturday alleged that the two ZP members were abducted by the BJP men led by minister Sushant Singh. Along with Parbati Bhoi and Susuma Bhoi, several other ZP members also surfaced in Bhubaneswar and said they had resigned from the party.

In the 2017 ZP polls in Bargarh district, the BJP had won 25 of the 34 seats and formed Zilla Parishad council. With resignation of nine ZP members, the BJP has almost lost the majority in the council and its position is likely to face the non-confidence motion. Speaking on the matter, senior BJP leader Pradip Purohit said, "A conspiracy has been hatched from the Naveen Niwas (official residence of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik) to divide the BJP. The Zilla Parishad members had won on BJP tickets and hence, it is now a fit case for the anti-defection law to apply. We will move the State Election Commission soon."

In another development, the saffron party's District in-charge Arun Singh on Sunday informed that the state unit of the BJP will get its new chief by the end of December. "The BJP district president he had in Indore has literally been razed to the ground as his bungalows, hotels and media office were bulldozed by the local administration. The Kamal Nath government says it is part of its drive to demolish mafias

Polling officers carry EVM machines and other polling materials on the eve of the fourth phase of Jharkhand Assembly Elections in Dhanbad. —PTI

# J'hkhand fourth phase polls today

**Ranchi, Dec. 15:** The fate of state labour minister Raj Paliwar and land and revenue Minister Amar Kumar Bauri will be decided in the fourth phase of polling in Jharkhand today. Behind the bars in Bhandari Janata Party (BJP) candidate Bauri will lock horns with NDA ally AJSU party nominee Umakant Razzak in Chandankiyari seat while the saffron party's candidate Bauri will face the NDA candidate Anant Prasad. A total of 47,85,009 electors, including 22,44,134 women and 81 third gen-

der voters, are eligible to cast their franchise in the 15 Assembly seats that are going to polls in the fourth of the five phases, state chief electoral officer Vinay Kumar Choubey said on Sunday.

A total of 221 candidates, including 23 women nominees, are in the fray in the elections. The highest number of 25 candidates will lock horns in the Bokaro seat where the least number of eight nominees will contest the Nirsa constituency, Choubey said. Voting will commence at 7 am and end at 3 pm at Jamua, Bagodar, Giridih, Dumri and Tundi seats while polling will continue till 5 pm in rest of the constituencies. Choubey said.

Polling will be held in Deoghar (SC), Jamua (SC), Chandankiyari (SC), Madhupur, Bagodar, Gandey, Giridih, Dumri, Bokaro, Sindi, Nirsa, Dhanbad, Jharia, Tundi and others. Polling units are spread across four districts of the state. —PTI

**RAZED | STATURE** Indore-based media baron Jitu Soni's bungalows, hotels, offices demolished

## Jeweller first victim of honey-trap scandal in MP

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, DEC. 15**

The 'honey-trap' scandal of Madhya Pradesh, unearthing a month ago, following raids in the houses of five women here, has claimed its first victim in jewel merchant Indore-based media baron Jitu Soni of Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

The high profile stature he had in Indore has literally been razed to the ground as his bungalows, hotels and media office were bulldozed by the local administration. The Kamal Nath government says it is part of its drive to demolish mafias

in the state. The 'anti-mafia drive', incidentally, came in the wake of the tabloid, Sanjha Lokswamy, owned by Mr Soni, running a series of articles exposing the contents of a video and an audio purportedly seized during the police raids from the houses of the five women allegedly involved in the honey-trapping and blackmailing scandal.

The articles had unmasked a former minister and an influential retired bureaucrat of the state by exposing their 'intimate relations' with one of the five women accused in the honey trap scam. The exposures had

pressed panic button, particularly among a section of influential babus in Kamal Nath's government as the tabloid ran a social media campaign warning it would unmask the erring babus and politicians one after another. Then, the crackdown on

Soni followed. His two bungalows, three hotels and his media offices were demolished and as many as 42 cases, including extortion and trafficking in women, were filed against him. A bounty of ₹1 lakh was also announced on his head by the police. The tabloid stopped appearing since December 8 when its office was sealed by the police.

Indore range inspector general of police Barun Kapoor was removed from his post in the wake of the leak of the video and the audio. Around 4000 files containing seizure videos, audios, and sex chats of

some high profile people, including bureaucrats, politicians and businessmen, were recovered from laptops, pen drives and other electronic gadgets seized from the houses in the honey trap scandal. The hurricane like speed with which the state government acted in the case has raised many eyebrows.

"I fully welcome the drive against mafias in the state. But, what about the bureaucrats linked to the honey trap scandal? Why no action has been taken against them so far?" asked former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, a former Member of Parliament

from Indore, while interacting with media persons. "Soni, who has been 'absconding', was in the jewellery business inherited from his father in the 1990s. He later entered the controversial business of real estate when he established a chain of hotels. He took over a newspaper from a Congress leader in the late 1990s, allegedly to expand his influence in the city. Soni was also an 'asset' for the Madhya Pradesh state and central intelligence agencies, for his alleged contacts in the underworld and *satta bazaar* (illicit gambling)."

## DCW chief faints, taken to hospital

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 15**

DCW chief Swati Maliwal, who was on a hungerstrike to demand capital punishment for rapists within six months of their conviction, was taken to a city hospital after she fell unconscious on Sunday morning. When Ms Maliwal's condition deteriorated on a Saturday night, doctors over 10 days at the Santa Shal near Raj Ghat.

On Sunday morning, she was taken to the LNJ Hospital after she fainted. According to a DCW member, she was initially taken to the emergency ward of the hospital since she was unconscious. Later, when she regained consciousness, she refused to allow doctors to put her on intravenous fluids. Ms Maliwal was shifted to a special ward, where she was put on intravenous fluids, he said, adding that her condition was stated to be stable. He said the DCW chief's supporters were stationed outside the hospital. Maliwal was on a hungerstrike for over 10 days at the Santa Shal near Raj Ghat. On Saturday, she wrote to Home Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Disha Bill, which mandates disposal of DCW members, is implemented within 21 days and handing out the death penalty is implemented in the entire country.

**SHOOTER WANTS HANG DELHI RAPISTS**

**Lucknow, Dec. 15:** Shooter Vartika Singh on Sunday wrote a letter in blood requesting the Centre to let her hang the rapists convicted in the Nirbhaya rape and murder case.

"In the letter, she has sought permission from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to execute the rapists. Speaking to reporters here, Singh said, "I have a letter in my hand that is written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. I have written the letter with my blood. I have written that I should be allowed to execute the convicts in the Nirbhaya case. This will reinforce the concept that women are viewed as goddesses in India." "This message should go to the entire world. The rapists should know that in India, a woman can execute them. I have sent the letter through registered post and also tweeted it," she added.

The shooter urged all women soldiers, actresses, public representatives and organisations to support her in carrying out the execution. She hoped that there would be a transformation in the country with a "different kind of society" where women need not live in an atmosphere of fear. —PTI

**IN HER LETTER, shooter Vartika Singh sought permission from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to execute the convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya rape case.**



Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal hospitalised after she fell unconscious at Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi on Saturday. —PTI



Payal Rohatgi

**PAYAL DETAINED FOR REMARKS ON NEHRU-GANDHI**

**Kota, Dec. 15:** The Rajasthan Police on Sunday morning detained Bollywood actress Payal Rohatgi from her Ahmedabad residence in a case relating to objectionable content against the Nehru-Gandhi family on social media. The actress was booked by the Bundi police under the IT Act on October 10 for the objectionable content against Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and other members of the family. She was served a notice earlier this month and told to furnish a reply in this connection.

Assistance for interrogation in a case under the IT Act. She is being brought to Bundi for interrogation," SP Mamta Gupta said. The SP said since the actress was not cooperating in investigation, a preventive action is being taken to bring her to Bundi. The SP said the actress had not been "formally arrested".

"Our team was there (in Ahmedabad) for interrogation in a case against her but she was not cooperating," the SP said. —PTI