

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 19 DECEMBER 2019



WEATHER
Max: 27.8°C
Min: 18.2°C
RH: 55%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning.
Max/Min temp. 28/18°C



WORLD | 8
Trump faces crucial vote



SPORTS | 15
India beat Windies to level One-Day series

TABLOID
Smart ways of cutting costs

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KCR WANTS TO HOLD CIVIC POLLS BY SANKRANTI

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Seeing an unexpected political advantage in the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu is thinking of going ahead with the municipal elections before Sankranti, i.e., January 14, 2020.

The CAA along with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has turned the popular mood against the BJP-led central government. Additionally, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) got an endorsement when the four accused in the Disha rape-murder case were killed by the police in an encounter.

The CM is mulling quickly utilising the advantage thrown up by this combination and is having intense discussions with party leaders and officials on holding the municipal elections. The campaign period would be reduced to one week with the amendment of the relevant law.

Since the state government has hiked Road Transport Corporation (RTC) fares as well as electricity rates, the party fears that delaying the poll any longer may backfire as the voter's mood may swing back against the government. The opposition will also not let an opportunity to put the government on the mat over the hikes.

Hence, the party thinks this is the optimum time for the poll. The Huzurnagar by-election came as a shot in the arm for the cadre, who will bring that confidence to the municipal elections. Sources said the CM is likely to finalise poll dates in the next three days.

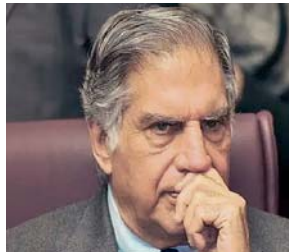
Mistry reinstated as Tata Group head

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD | FC MUMBAI, DEC. 18

In one of the biggest corporate developments of 2019, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has restored Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of the Tata Group and reinstated him as a director of Tata Sons and of three Tata Companies.

Shares of Tata Group companies fell after the judgment and several

closed in the red. Mr Mistry was removed as the chairman on October 24, 2016 after helming the Tata Group for over four years. He was appointed in 2012, after Ratan Tata retired. He was the sixth chairman and only the second, after Nowroji Saklatwala, to not bear the Tata surname. The NCLAT order will take effect after four weeks, the time window for the Tata Group to appeal the judgment.



Ratan Tata



Cyrus Mistry

Setting aside a lower court order, NCLAT also quashed the conversion of Tata Sons into a private

company from a public firm and directed the Registrar of Companies to correct its record showing Tata Sons as a public company. NCLAT's 172-page order also directed Ratan Tata and nominees of the Tata Trust to desist from any decision that requires a majority decision of the Board of Directors or in the Annual General Meeting.

■ Page 13: NCLAT finds fault with removal procedure

Rapist's plea for SC review turned down

Court gives 7 days to Nirbhaya convict to file mercy petition

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 18



The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a plea by Akshay Kumar Singh, an accused in the December 2012 Delhi gang rape and murder case, to reconsider its 2017 verdict upholding the death sentence awarded to him and three others.

Rejecting the plea seeking a review of its May 5, 2017, judgment, a bench comprising Justice R. Banumathi, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice A.S. Bopanna said that no new grounds have been raised by the petitioner for reconsideration.

Pronouncing the judgment, Justice Banumathi said that all the contentions in the petition are what was argued before the court in the course of the hearing of the appeals by the four convicts against the High Court judgment and were also raised by the other three accused — Mukesh, Pawan, Vinay Sharma — in their plea for reconsideration of death sentence.

The court gave Akshay Kumar Singh seven days' time, as permitted, to file mercy petition before the President. Lawyer A.P. Singh, appearing for the convict, had sought three weeks' time to file a mercy petition, but solicitor-general Tushar Mehta told the court that the permissible time for filing a mercy petition was seven days. Solicitor General Tushar

■ Supreme Court judges rejected the review petition as no new ground for reconsideration was raised in the plea.

■ Though the convict's lawyer sought 15 days for filing a mercy petition before the President, the court gave him seven days time.

Mehta, appearing for Delhi government, told the court that there are some crimes for which "humanity cries" and the Nirbhaya case was one of them. "There are some crimes for which humanity cries. On that fateful day, God also must have held his head in shame for two reasons. First for not being able to save the innocent girl and second for having created these five monsters," Mr Mehta said.

On July 9 last year, the court had rejected review petitions of the other convicts in the case.

■ Page 6: Court finds no merit in review petitions

Protests across India today

Solidarity marches will begin from 10 am across 10 cities

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 18

Nationwide protests are due to be held on Thursday by different groups and various political parties to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens (NRC), and to express solidarity with the Jamia Millia Islamia students who faced police brutality in New Delhi on Sunday.

In New Delhi alone, three protest-cum-solidarity marches will take place. Protests are going to be held in Bhubaneswar (at 10 am and 7 pm), Hyderabad (10.30 am), Bengaluru (11 am), Kolkata (12 pm), Bhopal (2 pm), Lucknow (2 pm), Nagpur (2 pm), Chennai (3 pm), Mumbai (4 pm), and Pune (4.30 pm).

Actor Farhan Akhtar tweeted a poster that gave details of why the CAA and NRC had to be removed, and adding: "See you on the 19th at August Kranti Maidan, Mumbai... The time to protest on social media alone is over."

In New Delhi, the Left parties have planned a big protest from Mandi House



Students and activists protest against National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act at the Iqbal Maidan, in Bhopal, on Wednesday. — PTI

at 12 noon with a public meeting followed by a procession at Shaheed Park. All major leaders of the Left parties will participate; while another protest march will begin from Red Fort and end at Shaheed

Park at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. Besides, a third protest-cum-solidarity march will take place at Jamia Nagar at around 11.30 am. "The students of Jamia braved and stood up in the most adverse situa-

tions. We can at least stand in solidarity and send a strong message," said one call for the solidarity march at Jamia.

■ Page 7: Secularism is in the DNA of India's majority: Naqvi

SUPREME COURT TAKES UP PLEAS AGAINST CAA

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 18

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the Centre on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act that provides for the grant of Indian citizenship to illegal migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Christian and Parsi communities, but not Muslims.

Seeking response from the Centre, a bench, comprising Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, fixed January 22, 2020, as the next date of hearing when the court would consider the plea for the stay of the CAA which has been described by the petitioner as being contrary to the provisions of the Constitution.

Fifty-nine petitions were filed in the apex court, challenging the CAA.

■ Full report on Page 7

Bio flyover may open in 10 days

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

The Biodiversity Flyover, which was closed for public use at the end of November, will be thrown open to the public in another 10 days, said Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar, on Wednesday.

The civic chief said that a panel of four experts formed to check the flyover's construction and design had given it a clean chit. Their report was given to the GHMC and will be sent to the state government, which will then deliberate on

the flyover's opening. This, officials say, is expected over the next 10 days.

"The design and construction of the flyover was studied, and the experts found no deviations. They suggested a few measures to make it a safe flyover. They opined that the speed limit on the flyover be restricted to 40 kmph," the GHMC chief said.

"They also said that there must be continuous monitoring of vehicular speed. We will look to place on-road signage of the speed limits," he said.

■ Page 3: GHMC plans view cutters on flyover

Don't speculate on AP capitals: Credai

SAMPAT SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 18

People are advised not to speculate on land and property in the anticipation of real estate prices going up in Visakhapatnam, Kurnool and their neighbouring districts in Andhra Pradesh following the state government's stated inclination to relocate both the administrative capital and the High Court and create new capitals.

There is no guarantee that such institutions will continue or be relocated. Soon after Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced in the assembly his intention to set up his secretariat in the steel city and the High

Court in Kurnool, land and property values are speculated to go up.

Realtors say that when the previous Telugu Desam regime announced the development of Amaravati as the capital in Guntur district, the value of land and property went up, with several investors stepping in to reap the benefits. However, after the YSRC assumed power and its ministers openly opposed developing Amaravati further, land prices plummeted and investors lost heavily. When the CM announced his decision on Tuesday, the value plummeted further.

■ Page 5: Revenge politics will harm state: Credai

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Scenic Musi

MAUD Principal secretary Arvind Kumar visited OU College for Women at Koti; asks officials to explore possibility of linking historic gardens with Musi riverfront



Health centres are being set up in Mahabubabad as CM is keen

Satyavathi Rathod, ST welfare, Women and Child Welfare minister

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana... Tithi: Margasira Bahula Ashtami... Star: Uttaraphalguni till 10.33 pm...

COUNTER POINT



I can only see sky-kissing prices!

IN BRIEF

Woman leaps to death

DC CORRESPONDENT Hyderabad, Dec. 18

A 30 year-old woman, married to a techie, allegedly jumped from about 120 feet, from the 11th floor of an apartment at Chandanagar on Thursday...

Drunk nabbed for killing his dad

Hyderabad, Dec 18: A 25-year-old man, who had hit his father with a pestle in a drunken condition and was arrested for murdering his father...

Hyderabad, Dec 18: A 25-year-old man, who had hit his father with a pestle in a drunken condition and was arrested for murdering his father...



Telangana lawyers hold a protest march against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) outside the High Court in the Old City on Wednesday. (Right) Their colleagues under the banner of 'Advocates for Nation' celebrate the passage of CAA by distributing sweets.

TS lawyers face off at HC

Two sides of HC gates present contrasting views over CAA & NRC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Mild tension was prevailed on Wednesday at outside of the Telangana High Court, when the two groups of advocates staged the demonstrations in support and against the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC legislation.

On one side of High Court gate, some of the advocates vehemently opposed the CAA and NRC. On the other side, some others supported the legislation of CAA and demanded the NRC Bill. However, the peaceful demonstrations concluded in short time, after giving slogans and demanding their contentions.



Students of Nizamiah Tibbi (Unani) College boycott classes in protest against putting effect of the controversial amendments in the Citizenship Act in the city on Wednesday.

Nizamiah Tibbi students protest for Jamia cause

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Students of Nizamiah Tibbi (Unani) College, Hyderabad, on Wednesday, demonstrated against putting into effect the controversial amendments in the Citizenship Act. Unani students extended their support to the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University who were brutally attacked by the law-enforcing agencies.

STUDENTS boycotted the classes at noon and held a march, raising slogans against the Modi government and Delhi and UP Police

THEY demanded a probe into the incidents of high-handedness by police in Jamia, Aligarh univs

above said universities. Zubair Alam, an UG student, said "The Modi government wants to divert the nation's attention from the core issues confronting citizens to non-issues. The amendments carried in the Citizens Act are inhuman, irrational and unconstitutional." He argued that envisaging infiltrators of particular communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan is nothing but admitting that our security personnel who are guarding our borders failed to check intrusion.

POLICE DENY PERMISSION FOR RALLIES

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 18:

South Zone police denied permission for organizing rallies in protest against CAA and NRC near Charminar. Left parties and others changed the venue to Exhibition grounds in Nampally. Meetings with different groups are being conducted to spread awareness about CAA and NRC and the need to reject them.

Former Member of Rajya Sabha, Mr Aziz Pasha said the purpose of the rally was to oppose the Union Government's action, but the Police denied permission for a peaceful rally from Charminar. Secretary AWAAZ Mr Mohammed Abbas said the police allowed them to organize a rally from Exhibition grounds to Telugu University, Nampally. Likewise Amarat e Millat e Islamia was also denied to hold protest programmes on Thursday. Tehreek Muslim Shabban planned a public meeting, while Amarat wanted to protest at Dharna Chowk, Indira Park.

Conjoined twins set for SSC exam

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC 18

For conjoined twins Veena and Vani, who are to write their SSC exams early next year, the question is whether they will given a separate place to sit and whether they will require two hall tickets.

education department has been approached about the problem and the application has been filed for the SSC exams.

The department's officials have stated that they will speak to the government health officers and accordingly decide. The girls will also require a separate place to write their exams. The time for the exams will also have to be decided for them.



Conjoined twins Veena and Vani

YOUTH HELD FOR ROBBING TWO TECHIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC 18:

A 23-year-old man, who stole valuables of two Infosys employees after taking a lift on their bikes, was arrested by the Ghatkesar police on Wednesday. The accused had withdrawn Rs 30,000 from the bank accounts of the victims using WiFi debit cards. On December 8, B Vinay Kumar, a techie with Infosys while on his way to office on his bike, saw a stranger waiting on the road at Annojiguda bridge. On his request, Vinay offered him a lift.

ACB FILES CASE AGAINST SIDDIPET ADDITIONAL DCP FOR BENAMI ASSETS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has registered a case against Siddipet Additional DCP (Law and Order) Govindu Narsimha Reddy, for possessing disproportionate assets. The official earned huge assets by corrupt and dubious means, said the ACB. On Tuesday, the ACB registered a case and subsequently carried out searches at the office and the residence of G Narsimha Reddy and his benamis and other family members including one Perikiti Madhusudhan Reddy, at Siddipet, Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Shadnagar and Ayyavarpalle.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work: Details : S.No.1. Name of work with its location : Design, Drawing, Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25 KV OHE and PSI works between Raxaul (Excl.)-Narkatiaganj (Excl.) in connection with gauge conversion of the section. e-Tender No. ELC/MHX/ETEN/60/19-20. 02. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 18,78,12,378/- 3. Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : Rs. 10,89,100/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively. 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 02.01.20 up to 12:00 Hrs. 5. Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website : www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/CON/Mahendraghat office, CAO/CON/ECR office Complex, Patna-04. By CEE/Con/North EC Rly. / SPJ PR/01879/CON/ELEC/ T/19-20/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work: Details : S. No.1. Name of work with its location : Design, Drawing, Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25 KV OHE and PSI work between Tilaiya-Kharaurndh section in connection with construction of new BG line between Tilaiya-Koderma section. e-Tender No. ELC/S/MHX/ETEN/66/19-20. 02. Approx. Cost of the work : Rs. 7,51,15,457/- 03. Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : Rs. 5,25,600/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively. 04. Date and time for closing of tender: 06.01.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. 05. Website Particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website : www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/CON/Mahendraghat office, CAO/CON/ECR office Complex, Patna-04. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website http://ireps.gov.in. Note : Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in at least 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in connection with this e-tender. By CEE/Con/South EC Rly. MHX, Patna PR/01875/CON/ELEC/ T/19-20/52

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

NO.- ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-111-19-20 E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK. Particulars :-S.N. 1. Name of work with its location : Construction of retaining wall, ballast wall, boulder pitching etc in major/ minor bridges and along railway bank in Mandan Mishra to Jhanjharpur and Tamuria Ghoghardiha section in connection with gauge conversion of Sakri-Nirmali section. 2. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 5,01,01,372.44 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 4,00,500/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender: 08.01.2020 at 14.30 Hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note : In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in at least 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender. CAO/Con/North EC Rly. MHX, Patna PR/01877/CON/ENGG/T/19-20/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE

NO. ECR/CAO/CON/TS/2019-20/09 E-TENDER NO.-15/19/0253/TS (e-open) SEALED OPEN TENDER IN INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK. Particulars :-SN. 1. Name of work with its location for OPEN TENDER NO. 15/19/0253/TS (e-open) : Manufacture and supply of : 1.0 Prestressed Concrete Sleepers for Bridge approach for B.G. 60Kg (UIC) rail to RDSO's Drg. No. T-8672 (latest Alt.) and IRS Spn. Sl. No. T-39-1985 (5th revision Feb'16). 2.0 Prestressed Concrete Sleepers for Bridge Deck, for B.G. 60Kg (UIC) rail to RDSO's Drg. No. T-8672 (latest Alt.) and IRS Spn. Sl. No. T-39-1985 (5th revision Feb'16). 3.0 Prestressed Concrete Sleepers for Level Crossing for B.G. 60Kg (UIC) rail to RDSO's Drg. No. T-8671 (latest Alt.) and IRS Spn. Sl. No. T-39-1985 (5th revision Feb'16). 2. Approx cost of the work for OPEN TENDER NO. 15/19/0253/TS (e-open) : Rs. 4,81,94,736.00 3. Earnest money to be deposited for OPEN TENDER NO. 15/19/0253/TS (e-open) : Rs. 9,63,900.00 4. Date & time of closing of tender : At 15.00 hrs on 03.01.2020 for all tenders. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: The complete details of tender document is available on website http://www.ireps.gov.in. CAO/Con/South EC Rly. MHX, Patna PR/1874/CON/ENGG/T/19-20/44

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: TIRUPATI MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Tender Notice. The e-Tenders are invited for procurement of following commodities by the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams, Tirupati. Item No. 1. Name of the item: GINGELLY OIL GRADE I WITH AGMARK. Quantity: 2000 Tins. E.M.D. in Rs. 1,31,000/- Downloading start and ending dates: 18-12-2019 to 21-01-2020.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Public Notice No. 11/2019

On Line Registration Camp for Scrap Purchasers at Railway Station, Mandi Govindgarh, Punjab Northern Railway is conducting all the E-Auctions for the sale of scrap at eight (8) locations i.e. Delhi, Ambala, Lucknow, Moradabad, Firozpur, Jagadhri Depot, Alambagh-Lucknow Depot and Shakurbasti Depot. Last year, Scrap of 427 Cr was sold which contains P-way Scrap like Rails, Sleepers and other Track Fittings which are generated in the process of Gauge Conversion, Track Renewals and other Repair & Maintenance. Similarly, Scrap generated in the Workshops and maintenance of the Rolling Stocks and Locomotives is also sold.

In the present system of E-bidding, any purchaser can participate in E-Auction for the Scrap lots put up for the Auctions on entire Railway System by getting themselves one time registered on web site www.ireps.gov.in by making a payment of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand) and submitting an affidavit in the prescribed proforma. For this purpose, a current account in the State Bank of India is also required to be maintained by the purchasers.

- 1. Class-III Digital Signatures in the name of the firm. 2. Affidavit (on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/-) to be submitted by Purchaser. 3. Information to be submitted on-line as per the performa (enclosed as Annexure-I) 4. Current Account in the State Bank of India in the name of the firm.

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) (MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD) BID INVITATION FOR ELECTRONIC OFFERS E-GLOBAL TENDER NO: WTA-510. Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India from established and reliable manufacturers or their authorized agents for supply of the following items: Item No. A Solid Forged Wheels (Rough Turned) for FIAT IR Bogies (LHB) to drawing. No. MI00615/Alt. - a. Specification: IRS R- 19/93 Part-II (Rev.4) of July 2012, with Corrigendum No. 1 of August 2015. Quantity (Nos.): 15000. Cost of Bid Document: Indian Rupees 142, US Dollars 142, Bid Guarantee Amount: Rs. 50 lakh, US Dollars 70500.00, Last date for submission & opening of Bids: 20-01-2020 (Monday). 1. Non-transferable Bid documents containing complete description of the item required, as also other terms and conditions are available at www.ireps.gov.in and may be downloaded there from for on-line submission of their E-bid. The terms bid or offer and tenderer or bidder used in this tender document implies the same meaning. 2. Foreign tenderer/bidders are required to deposit the cost of bid document with the PFA, Northern Railway, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001. The scanned copy of receipt as documentary evidence for payment of cost of bid documents shall be uploaded along with their e-bid at www.ireps.gov.in site. Original receipt towards the payment of cost of bid documents should also be submitted manually to SO/RS(WTA), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Room No.134A, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 along with the bid documents as specified in clause 5.1 of the SOR. 3. Foreign tenderer/bidder can also deposit the tender cost to SO/RS(WTA), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Room No.134A, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 before the time specified for submission of manual documents as specified in clause 5.1 of the SOR by submitting a Bank Draft drawn on any Indian Nationalised Bank in favour of the PFA, Northern Railway, Baroda House, New Delhi payable at New Delhi. Scanned copy of Bank Draft towards the cost of bid documents shall also be uploaded with the e-bid. 4. Indian tenderer/bidders shall preferably deposit the tender cost via the online system as available on www.ireps.gov.in site. They also have an option to deposit the tender cost as prescribed in clause 2 and clause 3 above. 5. Qualifying Requirements of Bidders: As specified in clause no. 11 of Schedule of Requirement and clause no. 4 of Section-I of Bid Document Part-II. DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (IC) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001. Mob.No.9717646409 4034/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE





Late fee

Last date of payment of exam fees for Inter students has been extended to December 30 with a late fee of ₹3,000, says BIE secretary Syed Omer Jaleel



There is a proposal to synchronise traffic signals from JBS to MGBS.

— Lokesh Kumar
GHMC chief

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 12 pm: Madhura Nagar SR Hospital Sanjeeva puram Srinivas Nagar.

12 pm to 2 pm: Garonda Triveni, Vasavi majestic seven-hills estate, Gandhi Medical College and boys hostel, Giridhar Homes, Sunnatal Jannat.

3 pm to 5 pm: Jayachandra Enclaves, Indian Gas, Sri Padmavathi Residency, Hima Bindu residency, Food Mart.

IN BRIEF

GHMC PLANS VIEW CUTTERS ON FLYOVER

From Page 1

Also, there was a suggestion on setting up of view cutters — sheets of metal or asbestos used to shield the flyover or stop motorists from peering at things around flyovers— as the high-rises around the flyover could prove to be a distraction.

“We are talking to the police to levy heavy fines on people speeding or driving rashly on the flyover,” he said.

The civic body is also mulling plans to have barricades in a zigzag manner on the flyover, during non-peak hours, so as to prevent speeding.

It may be recalled that the Indian Road Congress (IRC) had issued guidelines that three lanes should maintain a width of 3.5 metre x 3.5 metre. Further, at steep curves, in order to prevent accidents, a width of 3.5 x 5.5 should be maintained. However, these vital parameters were compromised by the civic authorities due to land acquisition issues.

When contacted, Chief Engineer R Sreedhar refused to comment and slammed his phone down.

A major accident took place on November 23 after a speeding car travelling on the newly-opened flyover lost control and fell off the bridge, damaging two cars underneath the flyover, killing a woman, and injuring six others.

Separately, the civic body plans to establish pedestrian-friendly junctions in the city.

“We have already asked officials to identify 10 kms in each zone which would be made pedestrian friendly. We will come up with 54 new Foot-Over-Bridges, and 3,000 new parks with toilet facilities,” said Kumar.



IT minister K.T. Rama Rao shares a lighter moment with deputy assistant secretary, US State Department, Joel Starr as US Consulate general Jeol Riefman and principal secretary IT Department Jayesh Ranjan watch at the Indo-US defence ties conference in Hyderabad on Wednesday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

TS to be defence production hub

Hyd is now a global producer: KTR

T.S.S. SIDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 19

It is not just ‘Make in India,’ rather ‘Making in India for the world.’ Not just offset, Hyderabad has evolved by leaps and bounds as the preferred low-cost alternative manufacturing location.

The city has not just embraced the concept of ‘Make in India,’ it is proactively making in India, for the world, said minister for industries and IT, K.T. Rama Rao. Speaking at the US-India defence ties conference at Taj Krishna on Wednesday the minister said: “The city is the largest and most strategic location for defence establishments.” Adding weight to his statement, he said that fuselage of the US presidential helicopter is manufactured in the

city. “I am glad that the US wants to maintain relations with India at a more local level and not just the national level. There are several states in India that have the capability of manufacturing defence products; Telangana is the fastest growing state amongst them,” he said.

And that’s not all. US and Indian companies are already collaborating in the co-production of C-130 transport aircraft, F-16 fighter planes and Apache helicopters at joint facilities in Hyderabad.

While the growth rates have gone down this year, he said that there would be good times right around the corner. “There is an abundance of skilled talent, coupled with the schemes launched by the state government to promote start-ups and MSMEs,”

he said. With the TS-iPass, many major companies have set up their units in Hyderabad, including Amazon and the state will soon turn into a defence hub since over 12 defence, 25 aerospace and Boeing companies are present in the city, said Rama Rao. “The first ever triservice military exercise between India and the United States, held in November called Tiger Triumph and held at the Port of Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was a delightful experience.

Hyderabad has a lot to offer to the defence sector. There is a lot of potential here where we can find developers, engineers for our software and materials as well,” said Joel Starr, deputy assistant secretary from the US department of state.

Millet good for kids growth

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 19

Millet based mid-day meals can boost a child’s growth by 50 per cent in three months, according to a study of 1,500 children in Karnataka which was released by Niti Ayog today.

ICRISAT scientists who have been part of the research say that improvement in the children was noted in terms of weight and also length. An increase in height was noted in a few subjects as the nutritional intake by the body improved.

Millets also provide good stamina which allows children to be physically active.

The findings of the study were released jointly by Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, Niti Ayog, and Dr Ashok Dalwai, Chair, Empowered Body, Doubling Farmers’ Income, Government of India, in New Delhi.

Millets are being propagated as a substitute for rice. Improvement in millet farming was carried out by ICRISAT as it is a crop which does not require too much water. With the changes in climate and the water scarcity, mil-

lets are being presented to farmers as a good option. The mid-day meal in Karnataka was a part of the ‘Smart Food’ study where the acceptance and impact of millet based mid-day meal was studied.

“It is not good enough just to say we are going to add millets to the meal,” said Dr S. Anitha, a nutritionist at ICRISAT and the study’s corresponding author. “The type of millet, its variety, how it is cooked and the foods it is combined with are some of the key elements that can make a difference in nutrition. For instance, the amount of iron available in a meal can be doubled by selecting the right variety of millet. This is the first known scientific study of millet based meals in a school feeding programme.”

The researchers gave children in the study meals of idli, khichdi, upma and bisibella bath in which rice was replaced by pearl millet (bajra), ragi (finger millet) or little millet (kutki). The anthropometric measurements at the end of the feeding programme were compared with that of a control group.

ATUL KARWAL APPOINTED NPA DIRECTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

The Union Government on Wednesday appointed a senior Gujarat Cadre IPS officer Atul Karwal, as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy. Atul Karwal, a 1988 batch IPS officer, is currently posted as Additional Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Close to a month’s time, the post was vacant as the previous Director of the Police Academy, Abhay, a 1986 batch IPS officer, was posted as Director-General of Police of Odisha.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the appointment of Atul Karwal and subsequently issued orders.

MEET ON INFO SYSTEM SECURITY IN BANKING

Hyderabad: The 15th International Conference on Information Systems Security (ICISS 2019) has been organised by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). The main focus is on disseminating the latest research in Information and Systems Security in the banking sector.

Speaking at the inauguration on Wednesday, Dr A.S. Ramasastry, director, IDRBT, said, “IDRBT with its unique mandate laid the foundation for digitisation of the financial sector in India by providing a safe and secure India network on par with international standards.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify that Mr. Dhruv Agarwal & Mr. Manish Agarwal have ceased to be in the employment with Gati Limited & its subsidiaries (“Company”). They had last reported to work in October 2017.

They have no association with the Company in any capacity and are not authorized to represent the Company in any matters whatsoever since October 2017.

Further, it is reliably learnt that they have been representing and misleading the public at large claiming to be the Promoter of the company, which in fact they have never been and they cannot claim to be so as per the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations.

Any person dealing with them shall do so at their own cost, risk and responsibility.

Authorised Signatory
Gati Limited

It's tech age



It is never too late, as 88-year-old Annapurna Garu, shows while taking this selfie, along with grand-daughters from her two sons, Annapurna and Sraavya at a wedding ceremony in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

‘Deep Learning’ picking up fast in India: Experts

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 19

As scientific disciplines go, the field of ‘Deep Learning’ is but an infant. However, it will soon have a disruptive effect on the field of drug design, experts say.

They were speaking at a panel discussion as part of the ongoing international conference on high performance computing in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Deep learning, a subset of machine learning, functions by imitating the workings of the human brain to process large amounts of data. The artificial neural networks used in these functions have neuron nodes connected together like a web.

This enables deep learning systems to process data in a non-linear manner, unlike traditional programmes which do so in a linear way.

The panel experts on Monday, which included members from both academia and industry, said deep learning has proven instrumental in areas such as modelling protein struc-

tures, human genome interpretation for personalised medicine and understanding host-pathogen interactions (HPI).

Devapriya Kumar, associate professor and head of the centre for computational natural sciences and bioinformatics (CCNSB) at IIIT, Hyderabad, said, “For long, if one had to design a drug for a particular purpose, we took existing compounds which might be close to what we want and performed experiments on them. We would eventually arrive at a synthesised compound that has the properties we want. However, using deep learning functions, we can tell the computer what properties we want in a drug and it would arrive at a compound itself.”

Kumar explained that computing models can also help predict how easily these drugs can be synthesised on a large-scale basis. “After all, it isn’t enough for us to have a compound that does what we need it to do. It should be easy to produce for commercial viability,” he added.

Gopalakrishnan Bulusu, principal scientist at TCS

Innovation Labs, Hyderabad, said deep learning could be used to understand the human genome better. “We still do not have a clear understanding of how many pathogens infect hosts such as a human body. We need more data and we need to process this data properly as well. Deep learning functions can help in these aspects,” he said.

‘Deep learning’ in drug design is such a new field that around the world, there are only 200 startups working on it. Most pharmaceutical giants have started to work in this field but there too the activity is in the nascent stage. Speaking with Deccan Chronicle, Kumar said, “Three years ago, this industry didn’t exist. In fact, the number of startups, which is 200 today, was only 80 six months ago.”

Kumar admitted there was a long way to go before India is considered a major player in the field. “Most activity in deep learning in India has been in the field of medical diagnostics.”

IT SLEUTHS SURVEY MITTAL’S MANSIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD DEC. 19

The assessment wing of the income tax department, Hyderabad region, carried out a survey of the business and residential premises of industrialist Raghunath Mittal in Hyderabad and Adilabad districts on Wednesday.

The survey was reportedly taken up as part of an exercise to detect new tax payers and a proper assessment of the tax liability of a tax payer. Mittal is the owner of Raghunath Agrotech, one of the biggest manufacturers of cotton bales in the country. This morning, separate teams of income tax officials arrived at the Banjara Hills residence of Raghunath Mittal and carried out the survey of his properties.

It is learnt that the officials also went through certain documents. Simultaneously, another team went to a premises in Adilabad district where the company’s soya extraction plant is located.

Raghunath Agrotech has as many as seven ginning factories spread across Telangana State and Maharashtra.

CENTRAL TOOL ROOM, LUDHIANA

Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATION INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY

VENUE: Hotel Comfortel - 6-3-248/3/1, Rd Number 1, Beside Care Hospital, Hyderabad

Date: 21st & 22nd December, 2019 (2 Days) | Time: 10 am to 5.00 pm

Fee: Rs. 5,500 + 18% GST (Included Course Fees, Govt. Certificate, Soft Study Material, Lunch & Tea)

Course Content: EV Charging Stations & Technologies, Types of Charging Stations, Implementation Mechanism, Tariff rate for Supply Electricity to EV PCS, Solar-Powered EV Charging stations Technology, ROI Calculation, Business Opportunities/Rate Contract/Land Leasing, Govt. Scheme, More.

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Certificate will be awarded | www.ctrludhiana.com

Hyderabad

IMAGES AND MEMORIES

75 YEARS OF DECCAN CHRONICLE

We wrapped up our celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Deccan Chronicle on May 15, by bringing a special compilation of seventy-five stories filled with intrigue and delight from the final days of the Nizamshahi, titled Hyderabad: Images and Memories

From the palace mysteries and murder plots to the Nizam’s 3,000 wives and how the ruler faced allegations of kidnapping his bride, all under the watchful eyes of the British, it is all there.

We scoured the archives and collected anecdotal evidence from several actors of that era to discover delightful asides like how the motichur laddus got their name, how an aide saved the Nizam’s legendary treasures for the royal family and how Indira Gandhi flooded the Nizam.

There are more than 75 pictures, a few of them rare and perhaps being published for the first time.

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For safety

Lighting on ORR, signages of toll-free numbers and surveillance cameras have to be installed for security and safety, says DCP Traffic Vijay Kumar



WASH is a mission of commitment of collectors for Clean India

— Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan Governor

BRIEF

Tip helps cop nab chain snatcher

Hyderabad: A tip from a citizen who had seen a vehicle used by a snatcher on social media helped the police to nab a male offender wanted in four cases of chain-snatching. The police recovered property worth Rs 2.5 lakh from the accused and rewarded the citizen. Accused Pallapu Venkatesh, 25, a car driver from Disukhnagar, is a school dropout. Two gold chains weighing 65 gms, a bike, Rs 8,000 cash were recovered.

Pervert HM suspended

Hyderabad: A headmaster of Mandal Parishad Primary School at Marigadi village in Jangaon mandal was suspended after allegedly misbehaving with girl students. After the parents of the students complained against the headmaster B Balu, the District Education Officer (DEO) asked for an enquiry into the matter by the MEO. Based on the report, he issued orders suspending the headmaster on Wednesday. The incident came to light when one of the students complained to her parents regarding his behaviour. Several other girls too said they had faced similar embarrassing experiences. District Education Officer (DEO) S Yadaiah said they have taken action against the headmaster acting on complaints by the parents and the enquiry by the MEO. Parents of students staged a protest outside the school.

Rapist and murderer held in Nizamabad

Accused is a notorious criminal wanted in several cases

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC 18:

A 26-year-old man, who raped and killed his friend's wife on the pretext of collecting money hidden in an isolated place in Ramayampet of Medak district and dumped her body in a lake, was arrested by the police on Wednesday. The accused is a notorious criminal. He was earlier arrested in two cases of murder. In the latest incident, he took the victim on her bike for the 90km-ride to Nizamabad, where he raped and throttled her. On December 13, the Ramayampet police recovered the body of a woman in a highly decomposed state. A case of murder was registered for the probe. They shared the details with their counterparts and a missing case was also registered at Nizamabad

- The accused took the victim on her bike, raped and throttled her to death
- The accused had burnt her Aadhar card, mobile phones, driving licence, and the vehicle registration certificate while going to Nizamabad on the victim's scooter

police station. The relatives of the victim identified the body. Then the police verified the call data records and also searched for the missing scooter of the deceased woman, which led the investigators to suspect the role of N Arun Kumar, 26, a native of Saddupally village in Dichpalli, who was in regular touch with the victim. Arun, who was on his way to Hyderabad from Nizamabad on a bike, was intercepted at Damacherla and taken into custody for questioning. His grilling revealed shocking information about his criminal past. Accused of

murder at Armoor, Arun had escaped from the police in 2016, after which his third wife left him. Later, he was arrested by Nizamabad (Rural) police in a case of robbery. After release from jail, Arun moved to Hyderabad and worked as a caretaker. In 2018, while working as a caretaker, he had killed an elderly woman at Trimulgherry and was arrested again. Meanwhile, he was convicted for escaping from police and was lodged at Chanchalguda central prison for one and a half years. Just about two months ago, he secured bail and went to

Saddupally. While attending Court proceedings, Arun came in contact with one Raju. A few days later, Arun learned that Raju was arrested by Kamareddy police.

On December 2, Arun met Raju's wife at a Court. A day later, he gifted a TV and household articles to her. Three days later, on December 5, he met the woman and convinced her to accompany him to a place where he had hidden some money, and the same evening, he killed her. "The accused took her to an isolated place on the outskirts of Kocheruvu in Ramayampet. Mid-way, he purchased a steel rod and also bought a sweater for the woman, as she was feeling cold. There, the duo had an altercation, as Arun was not able to find anything. He then raped her," the police said.

PD Act invoked against thief

HYDERABAD DEC. 18 PD Act has been invoked against a property offender under Rein Bazaar police station. Sohail Ali, 31, rowdy-sheeter, was involved in theft of mobile phones, two-wheelers, laptops. —DC

SHRADDHANJALI

23.01.1937 12.12.2019

Sri C G Venkata Reddy
Peacefully passed away in Bengaluru

'PUNYATITHI'
22nd Dec. 2019, 9.30 A.M. onwards, at Cholasamudram (V) Hindupur, A.P.

'Vaikuntha Samaradhana'
24th Dec. 2019, 12 Noon onwards, at # 48, 'Nidhi', AECs Layout 3rd Phase, 2nd Cross Road, RMV II Stage, Bengaluru-560094

May his gentle and generous soul rest in peace.

In grief
Smt. Susheelamma & Family

CHAUTHA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of **SHRI MADANLAL JI GULATI** On 16th December 2019

CHAUTHA & UTHALA

On 19th December 2019, from 12 noon to 1 pm at A'la Liberty, Rd. No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyd. (Followed by Langar)

- In grief -

Wife : Smt. Swarnalata Gulati
Children : Kamal & Mamta, Gauri & Dheeraj, Sanjeev & Shilpi
Grand Children : Angadh, Divya, Kunal, Deeksha, Nipun, Paarth, Aditya and Gulati Pariwar

Raja Singh named rowdy-sheeter?

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

In a fresh controversy, two-time BJP MLA from Goshamahala constituency Raja Singh's name figures in the rowdy-sheeter dossier of the Manghalhat police. Raja Singh as a rowdy-sheeter. If social media buzz is to be believed, the BJP MLA's name appeared in the 24th place.

Reacting sharply to this, Raja Singh released a video stating that he was deeply pained.

"When my karyakartas were summoned to the police station, one of them noticed my name and informed me. I felt pained. I am a two-time MLA engaged in public service. The Telangana police

opened a rowdy-sheet. I wonder if I am an MLA or a rowdy-sheeter. There several MLAs and ministers within the TRS who were earlier booked as rowdy-sheeters. Will the Telangana police name them? Will the police conduct further investigations against them," he questioned in the video that has gone viral. The Manghalhat police said they are looking into the issue and cannot comment at this point. Raja Singh was named as a rowdy-sheeter in 2006 when he was not an MLA, a senior police officer told Deccan Chronicle. There are at least 43 cases pending against the BJP MLA in Telangana and other states.

OBITUARY

WE MOURN THE SAD DEMISE OF SULBHA PATHKI
D.O.B: 13.12.2019
Ex-Principal of Sri Vidya Secondary School
Inserted by: Management Staff, Students of Sri Vidya Secondary School
(B/1920/D00163)

OBITUARY

RAGATI MARY DAVID
D.O.B: 19-12-1992
Inserted by: R. DAVID MALLESH (Husband) & FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9247105663

OBITUARY

P. SRINIVAS RAO
Record Asst. Genl Admin Telangana State Secretariat
DOB: 08-11-1970 DOD: 18-12-2019
Burial at Narayanaguda Cemetery at 1.00pm on 19-12-2019
Inserted by: WIFE: PESTHER
Sister, Bro-in-Law and Family

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. ANNIE CHANDRIKA RAO
M.A. B.Ed. (PGT-English, Kendriya Vidyalaya) W/o. V. Azariah Babu - Syndicate Bank 24.09.1957 - 19.12.2013
"You have gone away from us but the memory of you will cherish in our hearts always and forever."
Deeply Missed & Fondly Remembered by Family members
(A/1920/D00086)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Mr. T.A. HANSRAJ
Retd. Member Secretary, FRB. Expired on: 17-Dec-2019
Funeral Tomorrow 19-Dec-2019 Starts from our residence to Bansilpatt Crematorium @ 12 noon. Residence: Plot # 108, Jyoti Colony, Secunderabad-500015
Ph: 040-27740468
Inserted by: Family Members.
(S/1920/D01449)

SHRADDHANJALI

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SRI MADANLALJI GULATI
(24.01.1937 - 16.12.2019)
Inserted by: Ramesh-Shashi Kwatra & Family
(B/1920/D00165)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

Sdn. SUNITA KAUR CHAWLA
(Daughter-in-law of Late Mahender Singh Chawla) Left for heavenly abode on 15th Dec. 2019
Programme at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Guru Nanak Marg, Atzal Gunj, Hyderabad on Thursday 19th Dec. 2019, 12:00 noon Sampathi Sri Akhand Path Sahib 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Keertan & Antim Ardhas, followed by Guru Ka Langer.
In Grief: Mata Ramoyari Kaur Chawla (Mother-in-law) Sardar Satpal Singh Chawla (Husband) Miss Tejpreet Kaur Chawla (Daughter)
(S/1920/D01450)

10th DAY CEREMONY

GOPALDAS AMRUTHA BAI
W/o Late Sri Gopaladas Deen Dayal
DOB: 01-02-1942 DOD: 11-12-2019
10th Day Ceremony (Dasha Dina Karma) will be held on Friday Dec. 20th, 2019 at Dilkusha Function Hall, Akberbagh, behind Govt. Printing Press, Malakpet, Hyd., 12:00 noon onwards.
Inserted by: Rajkumar Chilkula (Son-in-law) Pramod Dayal (Son) Ramasree Chilkula (Daughter) Subodh Dayal (Son)
Mobile: 9246576516

TRS MLA gets HC rap over land grab

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday has issued Form-1 notice to Gampa Govardhan, MLA, Kamareddy Assembly and along with the Principal Secretary of Revenue and District Collector of Kamareddy to appear before it, for going ahead with the construction of the TRS Party office in Kamareddy, even though the HC has restrained the TRS party office in private property land.

Justice Challa Kodandaram was dealing with a contempt case filed by N. Pratap Reddy and another from Kamareddy, alleging that the TRS party office is being constructed in their property, despite of court orders to do not construct. An extent of Ac.1-20 guntas land of the petitioner located in Vadloor village of Kamareddy district was identified by the Revenue Officials for the purpose of construction of

The Telangana High Court has restrained the state government from constructing the TRS party office in a private land but the TRS MLA went ahead

the TRS party office. Opposing such a move, both the petitioners had filed a Petition, in which the Court directed the authorities not to interfere with the petitioners' property.

Even though there was an interim order, the construction of the TRS party office is going on, aggrieved by the action of the State, the petitioners filed a Contempt Case. The Judge issued Form-1 Notice to Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretary of Revenue, Satyanarayana, the District Collector, K. Rajender Kumar, RDO of Kamareddy revenue division, MRO of Kamareddy and Gampa Govardhan directing them to appear before the court in four weeks.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. PIDAKALA LILLIAN PRAMELA
W/o Major Pidakala Lionel Roy (Retd)
Inserted by: Daughter Linda Ragini, Son-in-law Prem Swarup, Grand Sons: 1. Abhishek Caleb 2. Abhinav Bro-in-law, Sisters-in-law, Nephews, Nieces, Relatives and Friends.
(B/1920/D00161)

OBITUARY

DEWAN BALUSA
Date of Death: 19th December 2005
Inserted by: SONS: Dewan Srinivas, Dewan Gopi, Dewan Arjun, Dewan Shyam, DAUGHTER: Gudas Nagamani

SHRADDHANJALI

Sdn. SUNITA KAUR CHAWLA
(Daughter-in-law of Late Mahender Singh Chawla) (W/o Satpal Singh Chawla) Left for heavenly abode on 15th Dec. 2019
In Grief: Late Sd. Gurpal Singh Chawla & Family Gurbhuj Singh Chawla, Rajender Singh Chawla, Suresnder Singh Chawla, Hardeep Singh Saluja (Amaravathi) Kirpal Singh Ajmani (Biaora), Manjeet Singh Sethi, Swaran Singh Sethi, Sandeep Singh Chadha (Mumbai) Ranjit Singh Chhabra & Families
(S/1920/D01451)

SHRADDHANJALI

FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

RAYMOND CLIFFTON WARREN
DOB: 14-08-1958 DOD: 19-12-2015
Gone from sight but never out of memory eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and may his soul rest in peace.
Inserted by: His Loving Wife Karen Warren and Loved Ones
(CA-3106)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Michael Christopher
Advocate of High Court: MALLM It's now 3 years... Your Memories of Strong Leadership & Hard work will continue to guide & inspire us... Sir
Inserted by Principal, Staff & Students of St.Christopher's High School Khairatabad,Hyd

SHRADDHANJALI

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MAJOR GANESH SUBRAMANIAM
DOB: 20.12.1961 DOD: 19.12.2017
You will be loved and cherished forever in our hearts.
Miss by all Family Members
Contact: 9866277852, 800827577
(S/1920/D01456)

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SOJI JOSEPH
DOB: 14.1.1972 DOD: 19.12.2015
Our hearts are full of memories with pride we speak your name. Though life goes on without you, it will never be the same. Remembering always.
Inserted by: Sorrowful Wife: Reji Soji Joseph Son: Tevin Soji Joseph
(B/1920/D00162)

33rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

A.J. PAKYANADHAN
(Retd. DEO Govt of AP)
Through all eternity oh God A Joyful song I'll raise But oh eternity's too short To utter all Thy Praise!
Inserted by: Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children
Ph:9848040358

OBITUARY

THE REV. PROF. G. BABU RAO, CBCNC
(Born: 24.12.1941 - Glory: 19.12.2014)
Pastor, Bible Translator and Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages - Convention of Baptist Churches' of Northern Circars (CBCNC) Pastors' Conference.
(S/1920/D01453)

SHRADDHANJALI

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST" - MATH 11:28

GAZULU DARSON PETER
(Retd. Sr. A.O., A.G.'s Office, Hyd)
DOB: 17-04-1946 DOD: 19-12-2015
Inserted by: Wife, Children & Grand Children
Cont: 9885206838

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Michael Christopher
Advocate of High Court: MALLM It's now 3 years... Your Memories of Strong Leadership & Hard work will continue to guide & inspire us... Sir
Inserted by Principal, Staff & Students of St.Christopher's High School Khairatabad,Hyd

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Mr. DAMARA DEVADANAM
DOB: 16-08-1925 DOD: 19.12.2014
Your life is a blessing Which we are daily missing Your memories are a treasure That are missed beyond measure
Inserted by: Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children.
(S/1920/D01448)

Spiritual conman held for cheating

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

A self-styled spiritual guru and a serial offender was arrested by the SR Nagar police for cheating a woman to the tune of Rs 2.75 lakh.

The accused E. Kumar Girish Singh, who runs 'Advaita Spiritual Recharge Center for Excellence', had withdrawn money from the victim's account without her knowledge. "The

accused used to lure women in the name of pujas. He used to make them believe that he can treat illnesses by doing some rituals," the S R Nagar police said.

In the past, Girish Singh was arrested for duping people to the tune of Rs 60 crore by asking them to invest in his shell companies and multi-level marketing schemes promising them high returns in a short period.

SHRADDHANJALI

In everlasting memory of **SHRI MADANLAL JI GULATI** (Founder : Globe Shoe Co.) 24 JAN. 1937 - 16 DEC. 2019

A fountain head of knowledge and always a source of Inspiration, he has left behind a rich harvest of memories to cherish, honour and emulate.

In reverence & remembrance -

KAMAL TRADERS AKSHAY ENTERPRISES



For Farmers

Minister for agriculture S. Niranjan Reddy said Telangana is spending around ₹70,000 crores every year for welfare of farmers.

Heartfelt condolences or photo-op?



When a Member of Parliament or an MLA goes to visit a family of a rape victim to express condolences, offer support and handover some financial assistance, people expect them to show empathy, sincere condolence and show genuine sadness on their part. Telugu Desam Lok Sabha member of Parliament from Guntur, Galla Jayadev, instead focuses only on the camera, while the handout is given with condescending disdain, while Guntur west MLA M. Giridhar looks on, to the parents of a minor rape victim at their residence, in Guntur city on Wednesday.

— DC PHOTO

TS to tap rivers for water needs

'KG rejuvenation can solve water crisis'

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Rejuvenation of both Krishna and Godavari rivers is crucial to meet the drinking and irrigation water needs of Telangana State, said Telangana agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy.

Participating in the stakeholders' consultation meeting for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Godavari and Krishna rivers here in the city, the minister said due to changes in the climate water scarcity has been increasing globally year by year.

"It is unfortunate that the country is looking at other issues when it is facing acute shortage of drinking water and also unnecessary use of plastic. The Krishna and Godavari waters have been polluted by discharge of sewage

our greed. We must come up with an action plan by involving all stakeholders to protect both the rivers." The meeting was jointly organised by the Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB) and Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST) in collaboration with the Telangana State Forest Department.

After the meeting, talking to this correspondent, Mr Reddy said that the DPR would be prepared by the Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB) with the collaboration of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, Science and Technology, and the Agriculture, Horticulture and Forest departments of Telangana.

The project will be funded by the Centre and the state government will execute it.

into the rivers," he said. While expressing his happiness at the Centre's decision to rejuvenate both Krishna and Godavari rivers, he emphasised the need to improve water quality through sustainable interventions rather than temporary measures.

Emphasising the need to protect these rivers from environmental challenges, Mr Reddy quoted Mahatma Gandhi when he said, "Nature provides for all our needs but not for our greed. We must come up with an action plan by involving all stakeholders to protect both the rivers."

The project will be funded by the Centre and the state government will execute it.

REVENGE POLITICS WILL HARM STATE: CREDAI

From Page 1

Thus realtors and investors advise the people not to invest big money in land and property anticipating huge returns as it is not sure that how long such institutions will continue as the next government may change its mind.

The state government's move drew flak from various sections as it the relocation involves tax-payers' money to settle political scores and undo acts initiated by the previous regime.

AP Credai president Chigurupati Sudhakar said: "The state government may lose its credibility if it goes ahead with unilateral decisions by practising politics of revenge. The state will lose heavily with no investor finding interest to set up industry given the volatile nature of government, resulting in no new jobs and causing social unrest and even breakdown of law and order. We appeal to people not to invest huge money as they may suffer a similar fate to those who invested in Amaravati."

LAND VALUE

● CM Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy is blamed for creating a volatile situation only to ensure that investors, industrialists, realtors and others move to Hyderabad money as governance in Telangana is relatively stable.

● Land value in villages before the announcement of Amaravati was ₹30-40 lakh per acre. Afterwards, it became ₹1 crore to ₹1.50 crore. It has now plummeted.

● Land value at Bhimili Road in Visakhapatnam was ₹15,000 to ₹30,000 per square yard. After the announcement, it has risen to ₹50,000. It is expected to rise further if the state government initiates steps to build it.

● Regional disputes may surface again as some areas are getting developed while others are ignored.

Mudasarlova in Port City may house AP secretariat

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

If Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy decides to locate the state secretariat in the "executive capital", Visakhapatnam, it will likely come up in Mudasarlova near Pendurthi, 25 km from Visakhapatnam city.

After the chief minister announced that there will be three capital cities, the topic of discussion has been in which city will the state secretariat be located - Amaravati or Visakhapatnam. Sources close to the CM say that he will decide after getting the expert committee's report.

On the instructions of the CM, government lands in various parts of Visakhapatnam city have been identified as possible

■ AROUND 600 acres of government land is available in Vizag and thus there is no need to acquire any private land for the secretariat. The chief minister will decide after getting the expert committee's report.

■ CM had announced that there will be three capital cities.

There is no need to acquire any private land as about 500 to 600 acres of government land is available in and around Visakhapatnam. At first it was suggested that the secretariat be constructed in Visakhapatnam port lands. But later the area was

found to be polluted and, moreover, the state government would have to approach the central government for allotting the port land.

Mudasarlova, just 25 km away from the city, was felt to be the best option as it takes just 30 minutes to get there from the city.

Some senior officials have suggested that it is better to let the secretariat remain in Amaravati along with the Assembly, Legislative Council and Raj Bhavan. If the secretariat is located in Visakhapatnam, employees will again have to shift from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam after moving from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam earlier. Amaravati would also be more convenient for the CM who has constructed his own house in Tadepally.

Realty bites Vizag: No spike in property deals

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 18

There have been no abnormal trends in property transactions in Visakhapatnam district ever since Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy took over reins of the state. That may not be the case any more with the CM announcing his grandiose plan of setting up executive capital in Visakhapatnam.

The overall scenario of property transactions even registered a negative growth compared to the previous financial year. The number of transactions came down by 1,500 and revenues dropped by 1.5 per cent till November this year when compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

However, there has been a spurt in property transactions in the first two months of the new regime in city outskirts like Pendurthi, Anandapuram and Gajuwaka. In fact, these areas have witnessed high value property transactions. Property transactions

gained significance against the backdrop of the YSRC and the TD levelling charges of insider trading against each other.

The YSRC showed documentary evidence in support of its allegation that former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, his relatives and TD leaders purchased lands around Amaravati before it was picked as capital. The TD, on the other hand, has not produced any evidence so far but made similar accusations immediately after Mr Reddy announced his intention.

Official sources told Deccan Chronicle that the revenue from registration of properties in the district is still 30 per cent short of the targeted revenue of ₹550 crore. "Knowing the CM well, one can't suspect insider trading because he is very secretive and will not give much importance to whether his party leaders or close followers make money out of his moves on the capital," a close associate of his pointed out. Unlike his father, YSR, who allowed his

close relatives and party men to indulge in land transactions before the announcement of major projects like ORR and Fab City, his son is way smarter.

"In fact, Jagan doesn't allow his relatives to make money and invite criticism from the Opposition," said another associate of the CM.

A close look reveals that Pendurthi witnessed transactions of high value properties. Though a number of documents registered saw minimal growth of about 50 per cent, the revenue growth was about 40 per cent in June and 50 per cent in July. After some lull, the transactions picked up in November when the revenue too went up by ₹1.5 crore.

Similarly, in Anandapuram area, revenue almost doubled and crossed ₹10 crore in July, compared to last year. Again, in November, the revenue went up by ₹1.25 crore in November. In Gajuwaka, there was abnormal increase in transactions in June when the revenue went up by almost ₹2 crore. It, however, saw a declining trend afterwards.



I welcome Chief Minister Jagan's decision on three capitals

— T.G. Venkatesh BJP MP

CM's Christmas treat tomorrow

Hyderabad: Minister for Minorities Welfare Koppula Eshwar on Wednesday conducted a final inspection of the Lal Bahadur Stadium that will host Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao's dinner on Friday. He was accompanied by officials of various departments. Around 8,000 invitees will be attending the dinner, which will also be attended by Bishops and clergy from Christian organizations. Later, he said, "The government has been hosting the event on a grand note for the last five years." This is to show our solidarity towards our Christian brethren.

Suspended IPS trainee moves CAT

Hyderabad: Suspended IPS probationer K.V. Maheshwar Reddy submitted before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) that his explanation was not taken into consideration by the Union home ministry, before axing him from the service. His counsel submitted that the director of IPS training Academy at Mussoorie gave a memo and obtained an explanation from K.V. Maheshwar Reddy, after his wife had complained against him. The counsel further said that, however, they did not know whether or not, the director informed the same to the National Police Academy and union home ministry.

Regulate liquor sale in TS: Mallu

Hyderabad: Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has demanded that the state government regulate liquor sales. He warned the state government that if it did not do so, a mass movement will build up against the rampant sale of liquor in the state. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, he accused Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao of promoting the sale of liquor because he was dependant on the tax on liquor. "It is unfortunate that the chief minister has made Telangana dependent on excise revenue and has increased liquor rates as the state is facing a financial crunch. This has made the state administration depend on the excise revenue to run the affairs of the government," Mr Vikramarka alleged.

'Produce arrested Chaitanya activists'

Hyderabad: The Division Bench of High Court on Wednesday directed the police to produce D. Devendra, M. Swapna and M. Sandeep of Chaitanya Mahila Sangam before it by Thursday. The three were arrested on Wednesday. Anitha, president of Chaitanya Mahila Sangam of Warangal challenged the detention and filed petition in HC.

Harish gives his piece of mind to FM on economy

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Telangana's Finance Minister T. Harish Rao told the Union Finance Minister that she must address the current slowdown in the economy, and it is imperative to empower states in terms of both financial resources and autonomy as states are the drivers of economic activity.

Speaking at the pre-budget meeting of finance ministers with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Wednesday, Mr Harish Rao made several suggestions to address the current economic slowdown.

He said that with the exception of macroeconomic policies, much of the action in developing both physical and social infrastructure

and providing an investor-friendly ecosystem lies with the states. The current economic slowdown was unique, he pointed out, in that while inflation was low and external imbalances were modest, the decline began with a loss of confidence not among foreign investors, but among the country's domestic investors and consumers.

"The growth has been hit more by domestic developments such as stalled investments, improper implementation of the GST, collapse of the NBFC sector, higher rates of unemployment resulting in decline in consumption and high non-performing assets in the public sector banks resulting in low credit growth," Mr Rao said. Maintaining that one of the main concerns

today is decelerating growth of GDP since 2016-17, he pointed out that "from 8.2 per cent in 2016-17, the growth of GDP decelerated to 7.2 per cent in 2017-18 and further to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19". The growth of GDP in the second quarter of the current year (2019-20) was just 4.5 per cent, the lowest since 2013, he added.

He also pointed out that there are a number of concerns with regard to the implementation of GST which need to be addressed urgently to restore the trust reposed by the states in the Union. States agreed to the introduction of GST even at the cost of their autonomy for the sake of tax harmony across the country. He said GST has subsumed 31 per cent of the gross tax revenue of the Centre.

BJP slams TRS, Cong for anti-CAA stand

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

BJP state president Dr K. Laxman has charged that the Congress, TMC and TRS are spreading venomous disinformation about Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Dr Laxman alleged that they all were trying to create fear among Muslims in the name of CAA. He clarified that the Act is to protect minorities, who took refuge

■ The BJP leader condemned the decision of TRS government to oppose CAA in Parliament. Mr K. Laxman wanted to know if the state government would accord Indian citizenship to Pak PM

unable to withstand hounding in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

He said that the repeated assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Union Home Minister Amit Shah that CAA neither takes away rights of any Indian nor is against Indian Muslims, the Congress party is trying to foment violence for its political gains.

He wanted to know from TRS if wants Indian citizenship to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The BJP leader condemned the decision of TRS government to oppose CAA in Parliament when the Bill is not against Indian citizens. As many as 15, 000 illegal immi-

grants are taking shelter in Hyderabad in the name of refugees and their presence is surfacing whenever terror incidents take place in the country. They have to leave from Hyderabad, he averred. Dr Laxman said the BJP would launch an awareness programme across the state against the disinformation campaigns by the Opposition parties.

The party would also organise meetings with intellectuals and educationists highlighting the importance of CAA and allay the fears of Muslims.

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Maritime relations

With the formation of a new government in Colombo, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh will visit Sri Lanka from today



Situation along LoC can escalate any time. We need to be prepared

—Gen Bipin Rawat
Army chief

IN BRIEF

Taj Mahal faces shortage of tokens

Agra: Facing a shortage of tokens for entry to the Taj Mahal, which was affecting tourist footfall in the Mughal-era mausoleum, the Archaeological Survey of India has ordered 15,000 more of these magnetic coins. Explaining the possible reason for the shortage of tokens, superintending archaeologist, ASI (Agra Circle), Vasant Kumar Swarnkar said on Wednesday that the tourist guides buy extra coins in anticipation of getting more customers but either forget to return the unused coins or lose them.

Toddler put in washing machine

Chandigarh: Spurned by a man she wanted to marry, a woman allegedly killed his two-year-old nephew by putting him into a washing machine in Punjab's Kapurthala district, police said on Wednesday. The boy, Adhiraj, was found lying in a motionless state in the washing machine at the house of the woman who lives in the neighbourhood, Kotwali police station incharge Satpal Singh said over phone. The child was rushed to a hospital but was declared as brought dead. The accused, Manpreet Kaur, has been arrested and a case of murder registered, Singh said. Kaur was in a relationship with the boy's maternal uncle and was unable to bear the thought of him marrying someone else, according to the inspector.

Narrow escape for Nagpur mayor

Nagpur: Nagpur mayor Sandip Joshi had a narrow escape when two motorcycle-borne persons fired at his car on Wardha Road here, a police official said on Wednesday. The incident took place just around midnight on Tuesday when the BJP leader was returning home along with his family members and friends after celebrating his 24th wedding anniversary at a restaurant here, he said. More than 30 of his friends attended the celebration and they all were returning in 10 to 15 vehicles, with Joshi driving the mayor's official car. Joshi's SUV was the last in the cavalcade and when it reached a junction of the Outer Ring Road and Wardha Road, two motorcycle-borne persons, who were behind the car, fired three bullets at the mayor's vehicle and fled.

PRIYANKA GANDHI HITS BACK AT MODI

Pakur (Jharkhand), Dec. 18: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday sought answers from Narendra Modi on CNT/SPT Acts, starvation deaths and 'divisiveness', a day after the Prime Minister threw challenges to Congress on Citizenship, Article 370 and Triple Talaq. She also attacked the Prime Minister on economic slowdown, Citizenship Act, National Register of Citizenship and alleged assaults on women in different parts of the country. "From Bhognadih Modiji gave some challenges to Congress. From here (Pakur), on behalf of the people of Jharkhand, I would like to challenge the Prime Minister. Modiji speak about Santhal Pargana Act; tell about starvation deaths in Jharkhand; Answer about unemployment; Tell about rape of women...say about corruption. "For whom are you Prime Minister? Are you Prime Minister of the country or 'batwara' (division) ka Prime Minister," she asked.

Delay in Nirbhaya case unfortunate, say activists

Judicial process is becoming a tamasha, says Annie Raja

New Delhi, Dec. 18: Human rights activists on Wednesday rued the delay in closure of the Nirbhaya case as unfortunate and said such holdups rob victims' families of the feeling of justice, even though many of them advocated abolition of death penalty. A death warrant for hanging the four convicts in the Nirbhaya gang-rape-and-murder case will not be issued by a city court for now as it gave a week's time on Wednesday to know whether they are filing mercy petitions, hours after the Supreme Court dismissed the last review plea against the capital punishment.

Social activist Ranjana Kumari said such inordinate delay has resulted in more and more women being targeted and justice should have been delivered faster, especially in such cases.

Responding to a question if death penalty is the solution, she said the law of land should prevail. "Maximum punishment should be given in case of rape and murder but if that punishment is death penalty or not, is a matter of huge debate," she said.

Shabnam Hashmi, founding member of ANHAD (Act Now for Harmony and Democracy), said she was strongly against death penalty. "Returning violence with violence cannot be considered justice. The maximum punishments must be rigorous life imprisonment," she said. On the delay in issuing of death warrants of convicts, Hashmi said if a case involving Kashmir can be delayed, then any case can be delayed.

Annie Raja, women activist and general secretary of National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW), said the judicial process is becoming



Nirbhaya rape case victim's mother shows the victory sign after the Supreme Court dismissed the plea of Akshay Thakur, one of the four convicts on Wednesday.

— PTI

ing a "tamasha" because of lengthy trials.

"I insist on surety and severity of punishments which do not mean just death penalty. It includes judicial reforms, legal reforms, getting more forensic laboratories and more resources. Without all these systems, there is no point of setting fast-track courts," she said.

"Courts come at the last stage. For that the government should have some understanding. The government has no clue how to implement legislation that is why Nirbhaya fund is lying unutilised. The government lacks clarity and vision," Raja said.

Chhavi Methi from the Bharatiya Samajik Jagritik Sanghatan said justice delayed is justice denied. "Convicts have been pronounced guilty, why they are not being punished. It is a wrong example to be set by this delay. Justice delayed is justice denied," Methi

said. Nirbhaya's mother broke down outside the Patiala House court on Wednesday after the court adjourned for January 7 the hearing on the issuance of death warrants.

"We have been fighting for seven years and the court has not considered our rights when giving this decision. There is no guarantee that a final judgement will be delivered on the next hearing as well," she told reporters.

Six persons, including a juvenile, had raped and brutally assaulted a 23-year-old paramedic student inside a moving bus in south Delhi on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012.

The victim, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, died on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. Four of the convicts — Mukesh (30), Pawan Gupta (23), Vinay Sharma (24) and Akshay Kumar

(33) — were sentenced to death in 2017. While one convict committed suicide, a juvenile was convicted by a juvenile justice board, and released from a reformation home after serving a 3-year term.

Akshay Kumar's review petition was rejected by the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

On July 9 last year, the court had dismissed the review pleas filed by the other three convicts — Mukesh (30), Pawan Gupta (23) and Vinay Sharma (24) — in the case.

Mukesh's lawyer M.L. Sharma on Wednesday said he is examining the option of filing a curative petition against the July 9, 2018 court order.

Curative petition is the last legal recourse available to a person and it is generally considered in-chamber. After that the convicts can file a mercy petition before the President. — PTI

COURT FINDS NO MERIT IN REVIEW PLEAS

From Page 1

A top court bench comprising Justice Dipak Misra, Justice R. Banumathi and Justice Ashok Bhushan by their May 5, 2017, judgment had upheld the death sentence awarded to Mukesh, Pawan, Vinay Sharma, Akshay Singh by the trial court and reaffirmed by Delhi High Court.

Rejecting the plea, the court had said petitions seeking reconsideration of the May 5, 2017, verdict must show an error resulting in miscarriage of justice.

"In these review petitions no ground has been made out which may furnish any ground to review the judgment. We, thus, find no merit in these review petitions and consequently, the review petitions are dismissed", said the July 9, 2018, judgment.

Meanwhile, DCW chief Swati Maliwal, who sat on a hunger strike demanding death sentence for rape convicts, on Wednesday slammed the "hollowness of the system that gives every right to the criminal", as a city court adjourned hearing on a plea seeking the issuance of death warrants against the four convicts in the case.

"A mother has been wandering from pillar to post for the past seven years seeking justice. It is the hollowness of the system that gives every right to the criminal but fails to understand the pain of that mother! Once again, the court gave a date instead of justice! #Nirbhaya," Maliwal posted on Twitter.

NRC fears add to Kashmir woes

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, DEC. 18

A pressure group which calls itself 'Concerned Citizens Group (CCG)' has urged the Modi government to alleviate the fears of the people of Jammu and Kashmir about their future by starting a multi-level dialogue process with all those "affected" by its August 5 move.

It has also demanded unconditional release of all those politicians, businessmen, academics, opinion-makers and students incarcerated under stringent Public Safety Act or other laws ahead of the Centre's abrogating Article 370 "if they are not accused of any crime".

"If there are any specific cases against individuals and they have been sent to jails outside the state, they should be brought back and housed locally. It is a punishment to their families to travel to UP, Delhi, Rajasthan or Haryana to meet the prisoners," it said in a report prepared after its key members — former finance and external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha, national chief information commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, retired Air Vice-Marshal Kapil Kak, senior journalist Bharat Bhushan and executive program director of Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation Sushobha Barve visited Srinagar last month.

The report said that the group found that there was both gloom and anger in the air in the Valley. It said, "Also there was no outlet for sharing their emotional anguish with the

CONCERNED CITIZENS GROUP SAYS

- Centre should start a dialogue with people in J&K
- All arrested under stringent PSA should be released
- All internet and mobile phone connections should be immediately restored

people of the Valley as it was locked up and communications shut down."

It warned the "deliberate silence" of the Kashmiris and their "spontaneous civil disobedience" against the August 5 move and subsequent actions of the government may turn into non-cooperation.

It said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has led to fears of demographic change in the Valley and Muslim-dominated areas of Jammu region. "The Kashmiris seemed to be working in an ideological frame. They believe that the Indian government wants to marginalise them if not annihilate them. This fear is expressed more vividly as fear of demographic change by creating new settlements for outsiders," the report said adding "There is also fear of National Register of Citizens and how it could be used to legitimise settlers." The group said dialogue with the sufferers could alleviate fears.



Head priest at historic Jama Masjid leads Zuhr prayers inside the mosque in Downtown Srinagar on Wednesday.

— PTI

Srinagar's Jama Masjid finally opens for prayers

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, DEC. 18

For the first time since August 5 when Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status, namaz was offered at Srinagar's Grand Mosque on Wednesday.

The police had locked the main entrance to the historic Jama Masjid located deep inside congested central Srinagar as part of the security lockdown down enforced across J&K a night before abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state four and a half months ago.

No weekly congregation could be held in the Grand Mosque for the 19th Friday running on December 13.

Though the security restrictions were eased in central Srinagar a few weeks ago and subsequently the police siege around the Grand Mosque was lifted too, the people were showing reluctance in entering the premises.

THE POLICE had locked the main entrance to the Jama Masjid as part of the security lockdown enforced across J&K, a night before abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state four and a half months ago.

Also, the mosque management Anjuman Awqaf-e-Jama Masjid had reportedly refused to organise prayers until and unless Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric and chairman of his faction of separatist Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was released from house arrest.

Mirwaiz who traditionally delivers sermon and customary pre-namaz speech from the pulpit of the Grand Mosque on Fridays is among several hundred Kashmiri separatist and mainstream politicians and activists placed under house arrest or jailed around after

August 5.

However, Mirwaiz's aide Syed-ur-Rehman Shams said that resuming namaz at Jama Masjid had not been made conditional to his release but to the police's lifting siege around the place of worship.

"We were demanding that the siege of the mosque must be lifted by withdrawing police and other security forces from the premises. After this was done we offered Duha (midday) and Asar (late afternoon) namaz in the mosque and, hopefully, we would be offering also Friday prayers day there after tomorrow," he said.

He regretted that the authorities locked the historic mosque for such a long period and did not allow the devotees to hold weekly congregations for as many as 19 Fridays. "This was but unwarranted interference in our religious matters," a spokesman of the Awqaf had said earlier.

Tharoor wins Sahitya Akademi award

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, DEC 18

The national academy of letters announced the names of Congress leader and author Shashi Tharoor and playwright Nand Kishore Acharya for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2019.

While Tharoor won the award for his book *An Era of Darkness* in English, Acharya will receive the recognition for his book of Hindi poetry, *Chheelatey Hue Apne Ko*.

"The awards were recommended by distinguished jury members representing 23 Indian languages and approved by the executive board of the Sahitya

Akademi which met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chandrashekhar Kambur, president of the Akademi," K. Sreenivasarao, secretary of the Akademi, said in a statement.

The winners will receive an engraved copper plate and ₹1 lakh cash prize at a special function on February 25, 2020 in New Delhi. Seven poets will be given the award — Phukan Ch. Basumatary (Bodo), Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi), Niba A. Khandekar (Konkani), Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Anuradha Patil (Marathi), and Penna Madhusudan (Sanskrit).

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4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Late. S.A. KRISHNA ASCI, Ex-Employee D.O.B. 9-05-1945 D.O.D. 19-12-2018 INSERTED BY: Family Members & Friends Ph: 9440748560	 SHRADHANJALI We mourn the sad demise of SRI MADANLALJI GULATI (24.01.1937 - 16.12.2019) Inserted by: Chetan Bhogaraju & Vandana Bhogaraju Gulati & Family
8th ANNIVERSARY Sri. L.D. GOGIA Left for heavenly abode 19-12-2011 <i>A legend in his own life time.</i> Smt. Sudershan Gogia, Sons ALT PUBLICATIONS HYDERABAD LAW TIMES	5th ANNIVERSARY Late Sri. MARIPALLY PREMNATH (BRAHMAM) DOB : 12-03-1957 DOD : 19-12-2014 Inserted by : Family Members Prem Jewelleries, Near Mahankali Street, General Bazar, Sec'bad, Ph:9177393918, 9100720012



Partial support

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik says the ruling BJD does not support NRC but backs the Citizenship law



Want to visit violence-hit areas after taking state govt into confidence

— Jagdeep Dhankhar West Bengal Governor

IN BRIEF

HC agrees to hear 2 PILs on Jamia

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday agreed to hear two PILs moved on the recent violence at Jamia Millia Islamia University here during protests against the Citizen (Amendment) Act (CAA). Both the petitions were mentioned before a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Rekha Palli which allowed them to be listed for hearing on Thursday. The first petition was moved in the morning by advocate Rizwan seeking setting up of a fact-finding committee to look into the violence at the university. The second petition was moved around 1.30pm jointly on behalf of the Imam of the Jama Masjid mosque opposite the Parliament House and two residents of Okhla seeking investigation by an independent agency like the CBI or the SIT into the violence at JMI.

Torch procession at Pune varsity

Pune: Hundreds of students on Wednesday took out a 'torch procession' at Savitribai Phule Pune University here to protest against the amended Citizenship Act and express solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi. Supriya Sule, NCP MP from Baramati in Pune district, also took part in the 'mashal morcha', during which participants carried burning torches apart from placards with slogans. College students and members of various youth organisations participated in the march.

Kanhaiya joins Jamia protests

New Delhi: Former JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar joined the protest outside the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi on Wednesday and said the demonstration was not just a fight to protect Muslims, but to protect the entire country. Addressing a large gathering of protesters outside the university's gate number 7, Kumar said people should be more worried about the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which he said was much more dangerous than the controversial Citizenship Act. The crowd erupted in cheers when Kumar said the protests against the citizenship law would go down in history "as the one that saved the Constitution".

UN CONCERNED OVER CAA VIOLENCE

United Nations, Dec. 18: UN secretary general Antonio Guterres has called for respect for the rights of freedom of opinion and expression as he voiced concern over the violence and alleged use of excessive force by security personnel in India during protests against the Citizenship Act.

"We are concerned about the violence and alleged use of excessive force by security forces that we've seen that have been taking place in the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. We very much call for restraint and urge full respect for the rights of freedom of opinion and expression and peaceful assembly," Guterres' spokesman Stephane Dujarric told a daily press briefing here. Dujarric was asked if the secretary general has any comment on the protests in India over the CAA.

Dujarric said he would also refer to the comments of High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on the Act.

Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had said in Geneva that it is "concerned" that the CAA is "fundamentally discriminatory in nature".

SC SEEKS GOVT'S RESPONSE OVER CAA PETITIONS

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 18

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the Centre on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act that provides for the grant of Indian citizenship to illegal migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Christian and Parsi, but not Muslims.

Seeking response from the Centre, a bench of Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant fixed January 22, 2020 as the next date of hearing when court would consider the plea for the stay of the Citizenship Amendment law which has been described by the petitioner as being contrary to the provisions of the Constitution.

As senior lawyer Kapil Sibal sought the stay on CAA, attorney general K.K. Venugopal said that there were four judgments of the top court which have said that a statute under challenge cannot be stalled as there was an assumption of constitutionality in favour of the statute passed by the Parliament.

However, senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan said that the question of staying the CAA does not arise at this stage as the date of its implementation has not been notified yet.

As the CJI said that the court would hear the matter on January 22, 2020, including the plea for the stay, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi rested the matter saying that they cannot ask for more at this stage.

There were 59 petitions listed before the court. A few of them were supporting the controversial law which has drawn flak from various sections of the society and fuelled protests with students belonging to Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University taking to the streets.

Broadly the petitioner opposed to the CAA have contended that it is contrary to the principle and promise of secularism in the Preamble of the Constitution, violative of the fundamental rights guaranteeing equality before law (Article 14), prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, language, color (Article 15) and the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

It is contended the Citizenship law under challenge violates the basic structure of the Constitution as secularism, equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion and race.

A war cry



Members of Assam Association of the Deaf take part in a procession demanding withdrawal of the Citizenship Amendment Act in Guwahati on Wednesday.

Protesters court arrest in Assam

Three-day Satyagraha by Aasu concludes

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 18

A day after government suspected the involvement of Popular Front of India (PFI), Assam Police on Wednesday arrested the president and the media secretary of PFI Assam unit even as ongoing three-day long 'satyagraha' of All Assam Students Union (Aasu) on Wednesday concluded with a large number of people courting arrest in most of the districts of Upper Assam and Guwahati.

Informing that police have arrested Aminul Islam, president of PFI Assam unit, Assam industry minister Chandra Mohan Patowary told reporters that he was arrested in connection with violence that rocked Guwahati during the protest against the Citizenship Act. Similarly, Mozammel Haque, who was media secretary of PFI, was arrested from Rangia in Kamrup rural district.

Patowary said that the PFI was operating from a rented office in Hathigaon area of Guwahati.

The office on the third floor of RSP memorial Complex belongs to a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police of Assam police Tahidul Rahman, he said.

The minister said that the government is determined to take action against the "third force" that tried to vitiate the



Former Assam CM Tarun Gogoi, seen as 'lawyer' after 36 years, after challenging the CAA in Supreme Court.

atmosphere of the state by provoking violence. He said that police were looking for two Congress leaders — Kamrul Islam Choudhury, who is the president of Assam Youth Congress and Zuber Alam who is the vice-president of NSUI, but they are still at large.

The first phase of agitation, which the Aasu had defined as 'Gana Satyagraha', came to an end on Wednesday, during which police detained thousands of protesters including Aasu chief adviser Sammujjal Kumar Bhattacharya, general secretary Lurin Jyoti

It's an internal matter of India. We have nothing to say on it. It's your country and you have to resolve your own issues

ZHA LIYOU Chinese Consul General to Kolkata

Gogoi, Assamese film actor Barasha Rani Bishoya, singer Manas Robin among others. Thousands of members and workers of Aasu and 30 other indigenous organisations, artists, cultural activists took part in the ongoing protest.

They courted arrest while shouting slogan, "Scrap CAA or arrest us." Meanwhile, normalcy was restored in most of the trouble-torn districts of the state on Wednesday, as the state administration which lifted curfew in Guwahati on Tuesday, decided to relax curfew from Upper Assam districts also.

After massive violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, curfew was imposed in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tinsukia and a few other cities of Assam on December 11 and the Army was deployed. Flight operations and railway services resumed in Guwahati on Tuesday, while flights to and from Dibrugarh airport were also operating as per schedule.

2 BJP MPs FROM NORTH BENGAL ARRESTED

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, DEC. 18

Two BJP MPs from North Bengal — Khagen Murmu, an MP of Malda North and Nishith Pramanik of Coochbehar, were arrested by the state police on Wednesday for visiting two violence-hit railway stations without permission.

Bhaluka and Harishchandrapur in Malda were among the many railway stations in the state which came under attack by mob protesting against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens since December 13.

When Murmu and Pramanik were going to visit the Bhaluka station, the cops stopped them on the way and asked if they had permission. The two BJP MPs then started demonstrating sitting on the road. The cops arrested them and took them away to the English Bazar police station. They were, however, granted conditional bail later.

Noting huge loss to public properties due to vandalism, Murmu later alleged that they sought permission from the district magistrate and superintendent of police but didn't get it.

Meanwhile, no major incidents of violence were reported from the districts on Wednesday as West Bengal limped back to normalcy, with internet services restored in some areas, officials said.

Mamata targets Shah over CAA

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, DEC. 18

A day after hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee trained her guns on Union home minister Amit Shah for reiterating on Tuesday that the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens will be implemented.

Tearing into his statement, the Trinamul supreme advised the BJP president of dousing the fire instead of "setting the country on fire" after leading her protest march from Howrah to Esplanade for the third consecutive day in the city.

She even wondered if the "BJP amulet" would give the validity to live in the country, and said that the saffron party will turn the country into a "detention centre."

Sending a strong message to Shah on Wednesday, the Trinamul chief told the rally, "I will make one request to the Union home minister. Please remember, you are the home minister of the country. Setting the country on fire is not your job. Dousing the fire in the country is your task. It is my appeal to you with folded hands."

Posing a volley of questions to the BJP president, she angrily asked, "Why are you reiterating that the Act will be implemented when Assam, Tripura, Delhi, Punjab and many other states are burning? Why are you asserting that the Aadhaar cards will be of

PROTESTS CONTINUE AT JAMIA VARSITY

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC 18

Anti-government posters covered the long boundaries of Jamia Millia Islamia as protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens continued for the third consecutive day outside the university on Wednesday.

The protesters, including students and local residents, hung a large map of India outside the varsity gate number 7, showing the places where students from other universities across the country are carrying out protests against the CAA.

Another large poster urged the protesters "to maintain the acceleration with zero violence (sic)". People from nearby areas and students started gathering outside the gate number 7 around 10:30 am.

They raised slogans against home minister Amit Shah, the government and the Delhi Police, demanding withdrawal of the CAA.

THE TRINAMUL supreme who has been at the forefront of opposing the National Register of Citizens and the new citizenship law, has conducted three protest marches across the city since Monday.

THE WEST BENGAL CM is scheduled to hold two protest meetings in the next two days.

no use? If so, what was Aadhaar card made for? That means the cat is out of the bag."

Banerjee claimed, "You had said it. So I want a clarification as a citizen of the country. I have the prerogative and right to ask you. When the home minister of a country makes a statement in public that Aadhaar card would not be useful, then why were ₹6,000 crore spent after it?"

She also noted, "Why was Aadhaar card linked with telephone, bank accounts and passports when it is invalid? Why were the people thrown in panic? Why is the income tax there if PAN will be invalid? Now they are claiming even voter ID would be invalid. Your and my governments are in power because the voters cast their ballot. If the voters' list, Aadhaar card and PAN will be invalid, will it be the BJP amulet which will only work?"

CAA EFFECT | Police hold flag march at Seelampur, high vigil is on at Jamia

Situation in Delhi continues to be tense

From Page 1

"We will form a human chain in front of the residents of Jamia Nagar and the students of Jamia when they perform the post-noon namaz at 1 pm. The message must go out that 'We, The People of India' stand as one with our brothers and sisters," said the message.

This group will end the meeting by reading out loud the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Besides the Left parties, organisations like Gandhi Peace Foundation, Khudai Khidmatgar, NAPM — Medha Patkar, ICLU, IYC, SFI, DU, AISA, other collectives and student unions are also expected to join the protest.

The marches from Red Fort and Mandi House will merge at Shaheed Park, and the Jamia group too will join them.

"The attacks on youth, specially at a time when there are no jobs and there is a severe economic slowdown, shows that the government is trying to drag back the country. Tomorrow we request you all to come and participate in the protest demonstration. And this would merge with other demonstrations to put pressure on the government to roll back the CAA and NRC," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

The situation in certain parts of New Delhi are tense, but under control. On Wednesday, the police held a flag march at Seelampur, while high vigil is on at Jamia.

Meanwhile, asserting that "secularism and tolerance is in the DNA of the majority community in India", minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas



RAF personnel keep vigil as women and a child walk past them at violence-hit Jafarabad in New Delhi on Wednesday. The area on Tuesday reportedly witnessed some violent clashes.

Naqvi said there was a misinformation campaign going on against the CAA. He added there was no threat to the citizenship of any Indian Muslim or any other citizen.

"The Citizenship Act is to provide citizenship and not to take away the citizenship of any person. The minorities in India are an equal partner in the development process. We

have to defeat this conspiracy to create confusion by people who are mixing the Citizenship Act and NRC," said Naqvi.

Addressing a 'Minorities Day' event organised by the National Commission for Minorities, Naqvi said that "those who are trying to hijack peace through rumours and mala fide misinformation should understand their conspiracy will fail. Satyamev Jayte will defeat political propaganda of Jhuthmev Jayte."

Without naming any party, the Union minister said those defeated by the prajatantra (democracy) are trying to disturb the atmosphere of harmony and trust in the country through gundatantra (anarchy). We have to defeat such elements through the strength of democracy and harmony," Naqvi said.

2,830 from Pak got citizenship

New Delhi, Dec. 18: Nearly 4,000 people from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, hundreds of them Muslims, have been given Indian citizenship in the past six years, a senior home ministry official said on Wednesday.

The disclosure came amidst protests, some of them violent, in various parts of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from these three neighbouring countries.

As many as 2,830 people from Pakistan, 912 from Afghanistan and 172 from Bangladesh have been given Indian citizenship in the past six years and hundreds of them were Muslims, the official said, adding that such

migrants will continue to get Indian citizenship, if they fulfil eligibility conditions.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act does not target any religious community from abroad, he asserted.

Those opposed to the law have objected to making religion as the basis of granting citizenship. The official said Muslims are the majority community in these countries and will continue to get Indian citizenship if they fulfil the eligibility already provided in the law for registration or naturalisation.

Besides the 4,000-odd people, about 14,864 Bangladeshi nationals were also granted citizenship after incorporating more than 50 enclaves of Bangladesh into Indian territory. —PTI

The honest poor can sometimes forget poverty. The honest rich can never forget it.

You must lose everything in order to gain anything

DECCAN Chronicle

19 DECEMBER 2019

Will Jharkhand voters teach Modi a lesson?

This newspaper is disturbed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nasty, communal, and polemical challenges against his main opponent, the Congress Party, over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Having won a second term, Mr Modi ought to speak like the country's leader; instead he sounds like he is still a movement's leader. Only an intellectual lightweight would remain stubbornly tethered to his partisan background.

True, his gauntlets were thrown at election rallies in Jharkhand, where anti-incumbency means his party could lose another state government. True, the PM is a vigorous speaker who gets carried away by his own rhetoric at times. "I dare Congress and all its allies to announce before the nation that they are ready to grant Indian citizenship to all residents of Pakistan," Mr Modi said at Sahebganj on Tuesday. What a master of spin. His challenge is built upon the lie that the Congress conspires to turn Pakistanis into Indian citizens. "If the Congress has the guts, it should also announce they will reimpose Article 370 in J&K and Ladakh," he added. Another fake premise. The Congress has not spoken of resurrecting Article 370; in fact, it was the first to erode Article 370 in the 1950s. Indeed, Kashmiris would today laugh at the suggestion of resuscitating Article 370: they have seen India at its ugliest, and they want out.

"Congress and its allies are stoking fire over the Citizenship Act but the people of the Northeast have rejected violence," Mr Modi said in Dumka, with another lie as his premise. "Actions of the Congress prove that all decisions taken in Parliament are 1,000 per cent correct." One, any political party's actions prove nothing beyond that party's political stratagem. Mr Modi insidiously insinuates that his party equals the nation, and others equal the enemy. Two, Parliament makes law, and sheer numbers don't make such laws necessarily correct. Three, a 1,000 per cent exists only in a statistical context; this mathematical illiteracy is further evidence of this government's inability to arrest India's plunge into an economic abyss — a plunge undertaken deliberately in pursuit of harebrained schemes like demonetisation. "Stop using others as shield to practice guerilla politics," Mr Modi told the Congress at a rally. "Do not use the youth for your political gains. Do not ruin their future and the dreams of their parents." More lies. To call the Congress gurreillas (or its supporters "Urban Naxals") is a joke because clearly, the Opposition party lacks killer instinct at its highest levels.

Equally clearly, students, even non-Muslims, don't need any provocation to protest. Their future is already in doubt due to Mr Modi's dubious economic stewardship. And it is also clear that his appeal is not directed at students but at their parents, to keep the social order intact — through paternalistic rule, on a scaffolding of lies.

Though we urge the PM to cease and desist from nonsensical challenges, we suspect it will be Jharkhand's voters who will soon teach him a lesson in the limits of nastiness.

Jagan's out-of-the-box solution

Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken one of the boldest decisions in recent times by declaring a resolve to create three capitals for the state — a legislative capital with its current Assembly located in Amaravati, a new executive capital in Visakhapatnam on the coast, where the power and seat of government would be located, and a judicial capital in Kurnool, where the new high court in the state would be created.

Building on yet another promise listed in the YSRC Party manifesto before the election to decentralise and distribute power and seats of government, aligning them with sub-regional aspirations, and ensuring that north Andhra and coastal regions as well as the arid, rocky Rayalaseema in the heartland all have development drivers, Mr Reddy has scored a political winner. He has also partially corrected and undone the massive underhand insider trading resorted to by the previous N. Chandrababu Naidu government that had made Amaravati the capital for nefarious reasons with malafide motives.

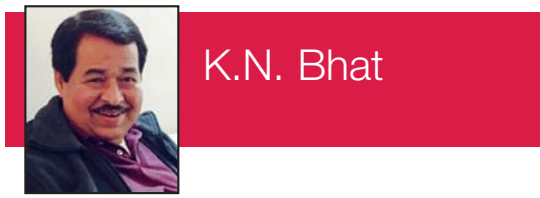
Mr Reddy has shown great maturity in first selling the idea to the powerful duo at the Centre and getting their tactical buy-in before making a breaking news announcement in the last hour of the Assembly session. The public demand for a fourth capital, a devotion capital in Tirupati, one of the holiest pilgrimage sites in the country, deserves positive consideration — and could help the young chief minister establish his image further as a statesman.

However, funding the three capitals and shuffling the government between two of them each year, during different months, would be Herculean. The Opposition too would build an accentuating attack against the idea as inevitable executional flaws emerge. But let nothing deter the young CM and the people from a great idea and a model, with lessons for other states, and even the country.



Subhani

New law on citizenship is legally quite sound



K.N. Bhat

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, or CAB in short, has now become the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, or CAA. Whenever the executive decides that the needed machinery to implement it are in place, the law can be brought in to force. It does not require the approval of any of the states in India, and therefore the vociferous opposition to the new law expressed by several chief ministers is of very little relevance.

What is the law meant to do? And is there any substance to the complaint or objection that it is anti-Muslim, meaning Indian Muslims?

The residents of every country in the world — or "State", as referred to in international law — can be roughly divided in to two classes — that is, citizens and non-citizens. The State concerned can have its own policy and laws regulating the acquisition and determination of its citizenship. Trinidad's policy and its laws permit Mehul Choksi, on the run from the law in India, to acquire the citizenship of that country, and we cannot question it — and can only request that State to hand him over to us. There are several countries in the world who permit dual citizenship — one can legally acquire a new passport while retaining the original one. Nirav Modi, the notorious diamond merchant, is reputed to have many such passports.

On becoming a citizen of a State, the subject becomes entitled to all the protections and privileges available under the laws of that State. Securing a voter ID or an Aadhaar card is no substitute.

Non-citizens of a country comprise mainly immigrants — citizens of other countries who enter into another with the intention of settling there, perhaps for a limited period or permanently, as distinct from visitors or tourists. Immigration generally is with the permission of the host state. However, a considerable number enter into another country without valid travel documents, and without the permission of the host country. They are called illegal immigrants. In simple terms, they are trespassers.

Ever since India became independent there has been an uncontrolled inflow of illegal immigrants for a variety of reasons from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan — many in search of greener pastures while many others are fleeing from religious persecution. Illegal immigration into India is a punishable offence — as it is in every other country. However, when the number of such illegal immigrants is as huge as it is, prosecuting the offenders may not always be practicable.

There are at present in different parts of India an unascertained number of such immigrants living as refugees — many are subject to exploitation as cheap labour in several establishments. These illegal immigrants consist of, among others, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians — all minorities in the specified Islamic countries; and also a large number of Muslims who could be safely presumed to have migrated for reasons other than religious persecution.

The Constitution of India specifies who are citizens of this country. It also recognises Parliament's power to make laws relating to citizenship. Accordingly, the Citizenship Act of 1955 was enacted. That law has been amended several times to meet the needs of the time.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill sought to further amend the 1955 law to facilitate the named minorities to apply for Indian citizenship — as a one-time measure — while leaving out the Muslim immigrants. What is objected to by lawyers and others opposing the new law is the act of ignoring Muslims from the ambit of a favour. Illegal immigrants as a class have right to demand Indian citizenship, nor is the Indian government obliged to take any of them into its citizenship fold. The Constitution of India does not command the country to extend charity to trespassers. India, like all other sovereign republics, can and is duty-bound to take policy decisions after taking into consideration all the facts and circumstances relevant for advancing its own paramount national interests. That responsibility is of the government of the day and the exercise of the needed power for achieving that end cannot be the subject of judicial scrutiny.

International jurists are alarmed by the growing number of stateless persons, particularly in Assam, and they blame India for not absorbing them. My reply to them is that please take them all, and we will bear all the transport expenses.

This principle is too well established to require the need to cite authorities.

If the legal position is different, anyone can challenge the Government of India's decision to ban the participation of Pakistani players in the IPL tournaments — on the ground that while Bangladesh and Afghanistan are permitted to play, Pakistan is discriminated against — as a violation of Article 14. And secularism inevitably hovers around whenever Pakistan is involved.

Yes, all the illegal immigrants now in India are "stateless" persons. It is possible they are part of the 19 lakh-plus people left out of the National Register of Citizens in Assam. If and when the NRC is implemented across the whole of India, this number will be staggering.

The problem of statelessness has been for long a serious one that has eluded a solution. The United Nations had attempted a convention in 1954, which India has not ratified. The so-called developed countries are generous in tendering advice and showering abuses. International jurists are alarmed by the growing number of stateless persons — particularly in Assam — and they blame India for not absorbing them. My reply to them is that please take them all — and we will bear all the transport expenses.

Illegal immigration into Assam has been a continuing tragedy for a long time. However, the current violent protests since the passing of the citizenship law can only be attributed to those left out of its benefits — be it in the Northeast or in West Bengal — and others who are victims of the false rumours that new entrants will take their place.

The writer is a senior advocate of the Supreme Court and a former additional solicitor-general of India. He can be reached at knbhat1@gmail.com

LETTERS

LOSING KASHMIR

Your editorial, 'Will Kashmir ever get back to its true normal?' (DC, Dec 18), hits the nail right on its head. When the government talks about Kashmir being an integral part of India, do they mean only the land-mass of Kashmir and not the people living there? Ironically, at no time have the people of Kashmir drifted away from India so much as they have after abrogation of Article 370 and the crackdown on them.

L. Prabhakar
Secunderabad

WITHER DEMOCRACY?

There are pros and cons to every law and so does the Citizenship Amendment Act. Instead of discussing and coming to a consensus, political parties are behaving unilaterally, with despotic leaders justifying mindless violence against students and citizens. The state government's duty is to maintain law and order. But they are encouraging anti-social elements merely for political gains. How can these governments claim that they are real representatives of democracy? Our democracy has become a synonym of autocracy.

K. Lahari
Karimnagar

PRIORITIES

When two-thirds of the Indian population is already living in poverty and the declining GDP growth rate is bothering one and all, why is the government so adamant about implementing CAA despite opposition and protests all over the country (Will ensure citizenship despite opposition, DC, Dec 18). Let the government first eradicate poverty from our country by providing food, jobs, healthcare, education and housing etc., to all the citizens and only then it should think of accommodating the so-called persecuted and selected foreigners.

Wasim Ahmed Khan
Secunderabad

AWARD WAPSI

I feel the award wapsi group is back. It is very unfortunate to know that many people are protesting against the CAA. I am unable to understand what for they are protesting because there is nothing against the citizens of our country in this law. If you are protesting for other countries' citizens, then God save this country. Moreover they say democracy is under threat.

K. Ganesh
Hyderabad

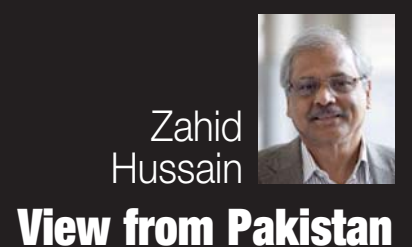
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- Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
- Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/255287; Telefax: 0866-255234
- Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-255233/255234; Fax: 0891-2755285
- Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswararam Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
- Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
- Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433
- Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burrampur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
- Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
- Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552
- Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
- Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, EMakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
- Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014
- Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax: 0495 4019 018
- Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: H/SD-348/2006-08



Zahid Hussain

View from Pakistan

Death sentence for Musharraf a clear message to the military

When a former military ruler is convicted and handed the death sentence in a country which has been under dictatorships for the better part of its existence, it is no less than history being made. This is the first time in Pakistan's history that a former military chief has been declared guilty of high treason for suspending the country's Constitution.

The verdict of a special court against former president Pervez Musharraf is a landmark development in many ways. It has challenged the military's predominance and demonstrates the growing assertiveness of the judiciary. The death sentence may not be implemented but the court ruling carries far-reaching political implications. The verdict sends a strong message to potential adventurists.

Musharraf's treason trial had become an explosive political issue and had also been a cause of tension between the military and the govern-

ment of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. The military was surely not happy with its former chief being put in the dock on treason charges, and predictably his conviction has provoked a robust reaction from the military leadership that had rejected the court order.

Many Pakistani political leaders have faced treason charges, but this is the first time a former head of state has been convicted under Article 6 of the Constitution. Musharraf was indicted in 2014 for imposing a state of emergency on Nov 3, 2007. There had been strong apprehension that the trial would never reach its conclusion because of reported resistance from the military. Despite repeated summons, Musharraf failed to appear before the court. He has been out of the country for the past several years and is hospitalised for serious health problems. He left the country in March 2016. The court declared him an absconder.

It was evident that the PTI government had not been interested in pur-

suing the treason case. In a dramatic move last month, it pulled out its team of prosecutors and asked the court to halt the trial, saying the case against the former military leader was weak. The court verdict has worsened the government's predicament. It remains to be seen whether it challenges Musharraf's conviction in the Supreme Court. Musharraf is required to be present in the country to file an appeal against his conviction but his return is improbable.

Gen Musharraf took power on Oct 12, 1999, in a coup that ousted Nawaz Sharif's government. He stepped down as president in August 2008 under the threat of impeachment by the elected civilian government installed after the general elections that year. Interestingly, the treason case was filed more than five years after Musharraf's exit that came reportedly after a deal brokered by the US guaranteeing indemnity to the former president.

In a cable sent to Washington and leaked by WikiLeaks, the then

American ambassador Anne Patterson reported that Asif Zardari had told her that he was committed to giving indemnity to Musharraf. The ambassador stressed that only the promise of indemnity had persuaded Musharraf to step down as president. The PPP government that came to power after the 2008 elections took oath from Musharraf who was still the president.

But the situation changed after the return to power of Nawaz Sharif as prime minister. For him, it seemed to be an opportunity to settle scores with a man who not only deposed him but also put him on trial for sedition. There's certainly a revenge aspect to the decision to initiate the treason trial, though the government maintained that it only complied with the Supreme Court ruling.

Interestingly, the former military ruler was tried not for his 'original sin' of staging a coup against an elected government, but for imposing emergency and holding the Constitution in abeyance in 2007.

The main argument for not charging Musharraf over the coup was that the Supreme Court and parliament indemnified his action. Many legal experts question whether the 2007 action alone provided sufficient grounds for his conviction under Article 6, ignoring the original takeover. Musharraf has also been implicated in other cases including the Lal Masjid operation. A court has ordered the confiscation of all his properties and frozen his bank accounts.

Significantly, the Musharraf verdict came a day after the Supreme Court released its full judgement in army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa's extension case. The two court orders demonstrate an unprecedented assertion of authority by the country's superior judiciary. That has led to a new conflict between the military and the judiciary that in turn could worsen the political crisis. It is not the end of the game yet.

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