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HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 22 DECEMBER 2019

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WEATHER

Max: 28°C
Min: 16°C
RH: 49%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Foggy morning.
Max/Min 28/16°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Bahula Ekadasi till 3.23 pm
Star: Swathi till 1.33 pm
Variyam: 12.01 am to 1.33 am (Monday)
Durmuhurtam: 4.15 pm to 4.59 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HILARI CALENDAR
Rabi-ul-Akher 25,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.36 am
Zohar: 12.25 pm
Asar: 4.11 pm
Maghrib: 5.54 pm
Isha: 7.07 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.47 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.42 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.47 AM
MOONSET TODAY 1.58 PM

IN BRIEF

Maha waives farmers loan

Nagpur: The Maharashtra government on Saturday announced a loan waiver of upto Rs two lakh for farmers, with a cut off date of September 30, 2019. Besides, a special scheme would be offered for the farmers who repay their loans on time, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said.

V-P to give film awards

New Delhi: Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu will present the National Film Award to the winners on Monday. The annual National Film Awards ceremony will be held at Vigyan Bhawan where megastar Amitabh Bachchan will also receive the Dadasaheb Phalke award. Traditionally, the National Awards are handed out to the winners by the President of India.

2 Pak soldiers killed in J&K

Jammu: At least two Pakistani soldiers were reported to have been killed on Saturday in an exchange of fire with the Indian Army along the LoC in Akhnoor sector of Jammu and Kashmir, defence sources said. They said the Pakistani troops violated ceasefire and fired on forward posts in Pallanwalla area of Akhnoor which was effectively retaliated. In the morning, the Indian Army spotted two bodies near the LoC.

COUNTER POINT



First... I heard Mann Ki Baat, now I am hearing my Antaratma ki awaaz!

FRESH TROUBLE

Angry farmers torch tyres, burn effigies

Split-capital protests rock AP

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 21

Angry farmers climbed the panchayat office at Velagapudi and painted it black to protest the downsizing of the Amaravati capital. The office had recently been painted in the YSRC colours. Farmers set fire to tyres and burnt effigies at various places to protest the YSRC government's decision to shift out different components of the capital to Visakhapatnam and

Kurnool. At Mandadam in the capital zone, they symbolically hung the effigies. Students of Vellore Institute of Technology and SRM University situated in Amaravati expressed their support to the farmers. They said they had joined the universities to get a world-class education and employment in Amaravati but their plans were affected by the government decision. Elsewhere, pro-Amaravati farmers attempted to blacken pan-

chayat office at Rayapudi but were prevented by police. The police tried to take the farmers into police custody at both places, but were prevented from doing so. The police later registered six cases against the protestors for violating restrictions and damaging government property. Pro-Amaravati farmers along with family members including women and children took part for the third consecutive day on Saturday demanding can-

cellation of the proposal to set up three capitals and continuing with Amaravati as the capital. The women and children aired slogans against YSRC government, the Amaravati expert committee which suggested the three capitals and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Ms Aluri Lakhshmi-kanthamma, a local, said, "we have sacrificed our fertile farms which were the source of our livelihood for the capital and not to the Telugu Desam."

Unabated protests in U.P. leave 16 dead

VINEETA PANDEY | DC with agency inputs NEW DELHI, DEC. 21

Even as the death toll in Uttar Pradesh protests against the CAA and the NRC rose to 16 on Saturday, protests intensified in the BJP-rules state and continued in other parts of the country. Though most protests remained peaceful, protesters clashing with police and incidents of arson were reported from parts of U.P., Bihar, Chennai and Karnataka.

Among the dead in Uttar Pradesh is an 8-year-old boy and two policemen. Several policemen and protesters were injured during stone-pelting and arson in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur and Kanpur and parts of Bihar on Saturday as protesters clashed with the police to express their anger against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

In Kanpur, a mob torched a police post while large-scale vandalism and disruption of rail and road traffic were witnessed in Bihar during a bandh called by the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Of the total 75 districts in UP, Internet services have been suspended in at least one-fourth. The 17 districts without net connectivity include Lucknow whose inspector general of police Praveen Kumar was quoted by media as saying 705 people have been arrested in the state capital.

■ Page 8: Five wearing skullcaps, lungis arrested



Women raise slogans during a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at Latasil ground in Guwahati on Saturday. The All Assam Students Union which is spearheading the anti-CAA movement had called for a sit-in-strike and protest by women all over the state.

Owaisi says fly Tricolour to protest CAA

KANIZA GARARI & AYHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

All those who are against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) must fly the National Flag at their homes, MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said on Friday.

Speaking amidst about 100 Indian flags being waved by the audience in the densely packed compound of the Darussalam, the MIM headquarters, Mr Owaisi said, "The Indian flag will send a message to the BJP government at the Centre and it is going to be our way forward to fight this draconian Act. This

PG 2 | INTERNET SERVICE AT DARUSSALAAM SUSPENDED FOR THREE HOURS

fight is not only for the Muslims. It is for all of us as Indians."

About 25,000 people inside Darussalam and outside heard nearly 30

speakers at the protest meeting that was organised by the United Muslim Action Committee.

He said that flying the National Flag would send out the message that the thoughts of the national leaders are still alive. "This country is not a country of Golwalkar but the country of Gandhi, Ambedkar and Azad," he said.

"We rejected the offer of Jinnah who came to Hyderabad 70 years ago and appealed to us to come to Pakistan. We decided to live in India," Mr Owaisi said. "We are Indians by choice and by birth. But, even after 70 years, the government is doubting our loyalty towards India."

MADHYA PRADESH

CURFEW IN JABALPUR, 35 HELD FOR VIOLENCE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, DEC. 21

Curfew remained in force for the second day on Saturday in Jabalpur that witnessed a pitched battle between the police and demonstrators during an anti-CAA protest.

Meanwhile, at least 35 people have been arrested on charges of indulging in violence.

■ Report on Page 7

BIHAR

BANDH SUPPORTERS INCLUDE CHILDREN

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, DEC. 21

Violent protests were witnessed in Patna and other districts of Bihar during a day-long bandh called by the RJD against the CAA and the NRC. At many places, the bandh supporters included children of not more than 10-15 years of age and some of the agitators were in their underwear.

■ Report on Page 7

MALAYSIA

INDIA FUMES OVER MAHATHIR'S REMARKS

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 21

India on Saturday summoned the Malaysian Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest over remarks by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on CAA. The Malaysian PM had said New Delhi is trying to "deprive some Muslims of their citizenship".

■ Report on Page 7

Disha case: HC orders 2nd autopsy of slain accused

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

To remove the possibility of doubt from the authenticity or veracity of the first autopsy, the Telangana High Court on Saturday ordered a second autopsy on the bodies of the four accused in the Disha rape-murder case.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy directed the state medical and health principal secretary to request the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi to constitute a medical board of three senior forensic doctors, who are independent and have no relationship to Telangana, and to send the team to Hyderabad to carry out the second autopsy before 5 pm, December 23.

It also directed the re-postmortem be videotaped and handed over to the High Court registrar-general.

The medical board is to give a detailed post-mortem of each body and to draw its independent conclusion. The post-mortem is also to be given as pen-drives and

■ The four accused were arrested on Nov. 29 for allegedly raping and killing the woman veterinarian by smothering her and later burning her body.

■ On Dec. 6, they were gunned down by police when they were taken to the site of offence for the reconstruction of the scene of crime as part of the investigation, near the culvert where the charred remains of the 25-year-old veterinarian were found on Nov. 28.

CDs. The bench directed the state government to hand over the bodies, under supervision of the Gandhi Hospital and police, to the families of the deceased once the re-postmortem is done.

The bench directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the state of Telangana to investigate the encounter, seize the case

diary, the logbooks, the weapon entries, the police movement reports from the filing of the FIR of the Disha crime till the alleged encounter.

The SIT should also seize the police weapons used in the alleged encounter and send them to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory for examination and ballistic report.

The SIT should also collect the call-details record and the details of cell-tower locations as well as CCTV footage from the police station where the alleged offenders were taken, as necessary evidence.

All evidence collected by the SIT is to be preserved for the Commission.

"It is essential to note that the truth can be discovered if and only if appropriate evidence is collected, preserved and projected," the court said. "In case the evidence is dissipate, disappears, the truth can never be known. Therefore, in order to discover the truth it is absolutely essential that the evidence be collected appropriately and preserved thoroughly".

■ Page 4: No mortuary to freeze bodies at sub-zero

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More greenery

Principal secretary Rajeswar Tiwari says second phase of Haritha Haram will start soon, co-ordination panel has been formed



Keep kids away from social media, it is difficult to stop the addiction

— T. Harish Rao
Finance minister

SHORT TAKES

TOP CLASS V.S. MUSEUM SOON: TECH MAHINDRA

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, DEC. 21

The Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tech Mahindra, Mr CP Gurnani announced that they would go all out to make the Sri Venkateswara museum in Tirumala a world-class destination.

Towards this, they will soon take up the exercise of three-dimensional (3D) imaging of the entire jewellery of Lord Venkateswara with an aim to exhibit them in a digital format at the museum.

Addressing media persons after having darshan of Lord Venkateswara here on Saturday, Mr Gurnani said that they will entirely sponsor the project, which will help the temple authorities not only to record the 1,200 items of precious jewellery that adorn the presiding deity and processional deities at Tirumala temple, but also help them to conduct an audit of the jewellery.

"I should thank the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, TTD Additional EO, AV Dharma Reddy and the temple authorities for giving this prestigious and pristine project to Tech Mahindra," he said.

Adding further, Mr Gurnani said "I urged my sister Ms Sandhya, who is an author and also associated with history, to help Tech Mahindra in taking forward this project. We will not only make 3D imaging of the Lord's jewellery but will also publish a coffee-table book, in which the evolution and growth of jewellery will be exquisitely displayed. We will rope in lighting and museum experts and all those with experience in creating world-class museums".

Meanwhile, it may be recalled that the SV museum has recently been refurbished with advanced 3D virtual image technology. Under the initiative, the temple administration planned to set up a galleries that can provide temple-like experience with the help 3D augmentation technology that gives the devotees an augmented reality experience of being inside the main shrine and walking through the temple precincts.

In addition to this, the TTD Trust Board had in October decided to take up the initiative of 3D imaging of jewellery and wanted to complete it within six months.

TTD has searched for the donors and with the initiative taken up by the Additional EO Dharma Reddy, Tech Mahindra is learnt to have come forward to sponsor the entire project.

According to highly placed sources, to make a 3D image of single piece of jewellery, it will cost the makers between ₹1.2 and ₹1.5 lakh.

As there are more than 1,200 items of precious jewellery in the temple, it is estimated to cost around ₹14-15 crore.

THE TTD Trust Board had in October decided to take up the initiative of 3D imaging of jewellery and wanted to complete it the work within six months.

APPLY FOR VOCATIONAL COURSES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

The state institute of vocational education has invited online applications for short-term vocational courses for the academic year, 2020-21.

Students who wish to register can visit www.sive.telangana.gov.in and apply before January 17, 2020. All the details regarding the course names and fees structures are available on the official website.



Indian flags flutter at a protest meeting organised against the Citizenship Amendment Act by the United Muslim Action Committee at Darussalam in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— P. SURENDRA

Voice against CAA becomes shriller

Over 10,000 protesters hold rally, want President and SC to reject the Citizenship Amendment Act

KANIZA GARARI AND
ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

With President Ram Nath Kovind in Hyderabad for his winter sojourn, there was a demand from the people gathered at a meeting here on Saturday to give him a memorandum to reject the Citizenship Amendment Act.

There was also a demand that every Hyderabad must write to the President and to the Supreme Court to reject this Act.

Hindustan was the one word that reverberated in Darussalam as people responded with enthusiasm to the speakers to the meeting organised by the United Muslim Action Committee demanding rejection of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The open ground of Darussalam was full and the terraces of buildings were choked people. The star speaker, MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, could take the stage only at about 11.30 pm. There were 27 speakers who were given two minutes each to speak.

There were more than 100 Indian flags waving in the ground as every speaker on the podium exhorted that they were Indians.

The crowd rejected the idea of dividing the country on the basis of religion and said that these were steps for changing the Constitution.

Dr Asma Zehra, convenor of the women's wing of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Abul National Urdu University students union president Umar Farooqi, Mr Hamid Mohammed Khan of the Jamaat-e-Islami and many others said the agitation would continue till the Centre takes back the Act.

Captain Pandu Ranga Rao, historian said, "I was born as a Hyderabad in 1943. I became Indian in 1950. The movement that starts in Hyderabad will always be successful. I request Asaduddin Owaisi to start a 'Save India Movement'. Home minister Amit Shah must change his surname as it is a Persian name. They are questioning role of Muslims but they do not know their contribution to the country who have given the Tricolour and the slogan 'Jai Hind'."

Indian flags dotted the rally organised by the United Muslim Action Committee, and the National Anthem was sing before the meeting started at Darussalam on Saturday night to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act. A crowd of about 15,000

NRC will leave 7,000 homeless in the lurch

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

There are an estimated 7,000 homeless men and women living on streets, urban shelters and ashrams in city limits, who have no papers or documents to prove their identity. Non-government organisations working in this sector are wondering what will happen to these homeless people once the CAA and NRC kick in.

There are 110 shelters in the city, 14 of them run by GHMC. Others are privately owned and are supported by donors. These homeless and destitute have been stateless even before the implementation of National Register of Citizens.

Hand Foundation, a non-government organisation, which has carried out the survey in the city, has found that 10 to 15 per cent of people make their living on the streets. When these people are asked if they have any papers, they simply walk away. Some of them are in such a bad shape that they do not even know their names. They naming their father, mother and grandparents is out of question, said Mujtaba Hasan Askari of the foundation. Non-government organisations working for the homeless have been wondering what will happen to this marginalised group, which has no one to look after them. They question their fate if the NRC is implemented.

The average age of such homeless is 40-45 years and 70 per cent of them are men. They remain

persons, comprising mostly of students, heard the speakers eagerly, while an estimated 10,000 waited outside.

The audience carried placards featuring Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the father of the Constitution. There was one demand voiced by all — that the Act must be shelved. Secularism was the theme of the meeting where the stress was to not allow the communal agenda of the government.

There was a demand that the false accusations, rumours and wrong information which are being spread must be countered by everyone. For this reason it was felt that there must be meeting about CAA and NRC in maxi-



MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi addresses the protesters at Darussalam on Saturday.

— DC

Protesters hail Farzana, Renna

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

Ladeeda Farzana and Ayesha Renna, the 'sheroes' of Jamia Millia, were received by MIM Asaduddin Owaisi on the dais, which immediately triggered loud chanting of the azaadi slogan, seeking freedom from a variety of ills.

The two students rose to fame when they were seen protecting a male colleague from being beaten up by the police.

The two students from New Delhi spoke of how the police entered the Jamia Millia library, beat up and teargassed students who had nothing to do with the protests outside over the Citizenship Amendment Act.

"Is it wrong to study in a library? Why did the police beat them," they asked. "The police bashed those who were offering namaz in the university. We are going to fight it out and not accept this," Ms Farzana and Ms Renna, both of whom hail from Kerala, said.

abandoned on to the streets. Till they can work, it is fine. But once their condition deteriorates, what would happen to them? Osmania General Hospital and Gandhi

mum community gathering to make everyone aware of it. Speakers said the CAA and the NRC were not only against Muslims but every Indian. The Act was only to trouble people and not for any good for anyone. The demand for documents was not a valid demand from the government. To use these documents for citizenship was not justified.

Dr Chiranjeevi Kolluri, historian, who came despite not feeling well exhorted that people from the Muslim, Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe communities to come forward as one.

He said, "When these people are called minorities they are actually

Cops who abused Farzana and Renna suspended

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

Ladeeda Farzana and Ayesha Renna from Delhi who became famous after they reportedly protected a young man from the Delhi police faced vulgar abuse online from police constables in Hyderabad.

When screenshots of the abuse went viral, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar, suspended two constables.

Police constable Pankaj Kumar, serving at the Nampally police station, was suspended for posting obscene comments against the two female students of Jamia Millia University in a private Whatsapp group named 'Amberpet PTC.'

Shaik Nadeem, Amberpet resident, who saw the screenshot of the vulgar comments made by Pankaj Kumar going viral on social media, lodged a complaint with Amberpet police who opened further

No Internet for 3 hrs at Owaisi meet

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

Internet service at Darussalam, where MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi addressed a public meeting, was suspended for three hours. The intention apparently was the videos of the meeting must not go viral and create a law and order problem. With a heavy police

bandobast it was decided to shut down the internet in the around Nampally for three hours.

Due to this it was not possible to send the live coverage, post selfies and pictures of the event instantly. Officials in a police patrol van stated that they there were orders from the government to suspend the service.

investigations. The trail quickly ended with the two constables.

The police chief also suspended constable Mohammed for taking the screenshot of the comments.

Mr Anjani Kumar said, "We have suspended two

police constables involved in improper conduct on social media."

Ms Farzana and Ms Renna were coming to Hyderabad to attend a protest meeting against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the NRC at Darussalam Hyderabad.

The sound of silence



Above: Shopkeepers around Charminar voluntarily closed their establishments in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act on Saturday.

— P. SURENDRA

Left: Students protest at the ISL match between Hyderabad and Kolkata at Gachibowli stadium on Saturday.



Sprucing it up

Principal secretary Arvind Kumar inspects Moazzamjahi Market work, tells officials to firm up the timeline



Under KCR's rule, all religions would get equal priority in Telangana state

— Gyadari Balamallu
TSIIC Chairman

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 12.30 pm: Jupiter Colony, Telephone Exchange, Market area, Kiran Enclave, Diamond Point.
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm: Palika Bazaar, South India Church, Prakash Hospital, Old Gandhi Hospital area, Afzal Allauddin Crystal Plaza.
2.30 pm to 3.30: Bandi Mettu, Maruthi Veedi, Second Bazaar, Kummarguda, Chappal Bavi, and Regimental Bazaar.
3.30 pm to 4.30 pm: Passport Office, Sri Sai Ganesh Lodge, Rathifile bus stop.

IN BRIEF

Traffic curbs for Prez movement

Hyderabad: President Ram Nath Kovind will travel to Raj Bhavan from Rashtrapathi Nilayam, where he is on the annual winter sojourn on Sunday evening. To facilitate this, additional commissioner of police, traffic, Anil Kumar has imposed certain traffic restrictions on Sunday evening and night. At 5.45 pm on Sunday and again between 9.30 pm and 10.30 pm, traffic will be stopped or diverted at KV Junction, Trimulgherry substation, Subashnagar, Alwal T-junction, Satya Petrol Pump, Laxminagar, Ambedkarnagar near Jubilee Bus Station, Sangeet Junction, Karbala Junction, Ranigunj, CTO Junction, Greenlands, NFCL and VV Statue.

MOAZZAMJAH MKT WORK GAINS SPEED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

Principal Secretary Municipal Administration Arvind Kumar on Saturday visited Moazzamjahi Market and instructed the officials to expedite the works and firm up timelines as the first phase renovation work is in the final stages of completion. Zonal Commissioner Musharaf Faruqi and other officials were also present.

Mr Kumar went around the market and took stock of the progress achieved so far and asked the officials to ensure that footpath all round the corridors should be laid in a uniform manner. The shifting of lime mortar unit inside the market should be immediately shifted, he said. Flooring of the entire area, restoration of heritage taps, street furniture and lighting should be taken up at the earliest, he added. Water board officials informed that the water and sewerage works are completed.

When the officials informed the principal secretary that designs for the signages are ready, he asked them to include shop numbering also as part of signages so that they have a uniform pattern. A stone encryption outside the market explaining the history of the market should be put up, he said. Construction of modern mutton market should be taken up incorporating all the suggestions of the veterinary officials and including the modern requirements like refrigerators, blow air etc, he said.

■ **PRINCIPAL SECRETARY** Municipal Administration Arvind Kumar went round the market and took stock of the progress achieved so far and asked the officials to ensure that footpath all round the corridors should be laid in a uniform manner.

■ **FLOORING OF** the entire area, restoration of heritage taps, street furniture and lighting arrangements will be taken up at the earliest.



Indian Air Force cadets celebrate after the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal on Saturday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

IAF will continue to play vital role: Chief

As many as 21 women officers commissioned

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) R.K.S. Bhadauria said on Saturday the decade would witness significant changes in the nature and methodologies of warfare.

Since inception, the IAF has always undertaken challenging roles and will continue to play a critical role in the security domain," ACM Bhadauria said.

He was speaking at the Combined Graduation Parade held at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal near here.

He expressed confidence that the Flight Cadets, who completed their training at the academy, would meet all challenges head on in the endeavour and accomplish every task to perfection.

"While we prepare to fight the enemy across the entire spectrum of warfare, we must also proactively assist the

■ **AIR CHIEF Marshal (ACM) R.K.S. Bhadauria** He expressed confidence that the Flight Cadets, who completed their training at the academy, would meet all challenges head on in the endeavour and accomplish every task to perfection.

■ **THE PARADE** marked the successful completion of training for 127 Flight Cadets of flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force

nation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and any other support role that emerges," he added. He exhorted the newly-commissioned officers to be professionally competent, confident and fearless in order to deliver as future leaders of the Air Force.

The parade marked the successful completion of training for 127 Flight Cadets of flying and ground duty branches of IAF, according to an official release. Twenty one women officers joined the growing number of women

in the IAF, it said. ACM Bhadauria, who was the reviewing officer of the parade, conferred the President's Commission on the graduating cadets who successfully completed their professional training.

The Commandant of the Air Force Academy administered an 'oath' to the successful flight cadets. Flying Officer Arunabha Chakraborty from the flying branch was awarded the Sword of Honour and President's Plaque for standing first in overall

merit in the pilots' course, the release said. Among the newly-commissioned officers on Saturday was Arti Tomar from Ghaziabad who is the sole woman from the Fighters branch. She said she is a first generation defence officer from her family.

"I will be joining defence in flying branch. It was a great experience. It will be difficult but it will be exciting also," she said.

Asked what motivated her to join the Fighters branch as it is seen by some as challenging for women, she said every task is difficult as those in other branches like transport also worked hard. "Fighters, it is considered that it is difficult. But, once you start learning... it's not that difficult," she said. Tomar was motivated to join the fighters by the example of a woman officer who took up the branch earlier.

(With agency inputs)

Festive spirit



The Noble Tuskers group performs on a tableau which wound its way around Secunderabad to mark the pre-Christmas celebrations on Sunday. — DC

PAST | TENSE Discussion on veracity of historical account

Historians meet on the lake

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

On Saturday evening, an elaborate discussion went on for more than two hours in a boat on the Husainsagar lake. A panel of historians and the writers congregated to discuss on the writings of historical fiction and the veracity of the historical accounts to which we are exposed.

The discussion started on the books published in the name of inspiration and how some stories are misleading. Mr

Punna Krishna Murthy said: "The tools of history will be always correct, timelines, records, archaeological evidence, those threads will be correct but how far have the writers put in historical facts in the true sense is debatable. I believe history always has a slant anyway." Khadeer Babu, a writer, shared "When I went to Agra, along with a group of 40 people, a guide joined us as a part of package, as we were entering the Agra Fort, the guide questioned us: How many people know that Shah

Jahan chopped the hands of the crafts men who constructed the Taj Mahal? And all the hands went up. Then the guide said: 'As far as I believe and as far as I have been getting the story from my forefathers, the emperor did not chop off any hands, but he gave them enough money to live for the rest of their lives. However, he took an oath from them that they will not work on their skilled craft thereafter. This was like chopping their hands. History is sometimes literalised for sensa-

tional purposes" Kotti Reddy, retired teacher, who taught History for about 40 years said: "Today, history has been mangled. At present, how are we teaching as history. The prime minister is teaching us history, chief ministers are teaching us history, MLAs are teaching us history now. History is moulded as per their convenience and these people have no sense of history. Universities and colleges are teaching as per their ideologies, I feel the education system has collapsed."

800 NEW BUS STOPS THAT DON'T OCCUPY FOOTPATH TO BE BUILT

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar on Saturday said that the 400 bus shelters, removed by Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited during construction of the metro lines in the city, will be relocated.

He announced that the civic body will set up 800 new bus shelters with cantilever design, so that they do not disturb walkers on the footpath.

The GHMC chief was addressing the monthly convergence meeting of officials, hosted by Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, at the Haritha Plaza on Saturday. He asked Metro authorities to clear the debris lying under the JBS to MGBS line, which has narrowed down the carriage way.

The commissioner said that 55 of the 135 link roads proposed in the state capital will be ready within six months.

At the convergence meeting, traffic police complained that trees remain to be removed in the HiTech City for easing traffic movement.

The commissioner instructed GHMC officials to negotiate with NGOs for relocation of the trees under the CSR programme. He suggested that permanent dividers be built instead of placing cement blocks.

Lokesh Kumar asked officials of the electricity department to promptly remove power supply poles wherever they are obstructing traffic.

The GHMC chief also suggested that whenever excavation work is carried out for laying drainage pipelines, human-held machines must be used instead of JCB machines, as there is a chance of the latter damaging the pipelines.

TS raps Centre for delay in 5G work

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 21

IT secretary Jayesh Ranjan on Saturday said that 5G was going to be crucial as its use has been well established. The official criticised the Centre for the delay on framing regulations on 5G. He said that a lot of trial and experiments on the technology were conducted in Hyderabad.

Mr Ranjan was speaking at an event here organised by FTTCI on 5G.

"While we are still talking about 5G, many countries have progressed far ahead. A lot of investment has happened on infrastructure and users too have adopted the technology. In fact, research is being done extensively in 6G now," he said.

Mr Ranjan hoped that "the experience of getting into the quagmire of 5G

will not come in the way during 6g." "It is clear that the regulations have not kept pace with technology. All telecom operators are waiting for regulation. Unfortunately, the regulation domain lies entirely with the government of India. There is very little that the state governments can do except for wait and watch," he said. The official said that Telangana State has a regulatory framework in place and the state is ready for its rollout in the future. This had happened in the case of 4G as well, when Jio found it easiest to expand coverage in Telangana, he said. "Our regulatory hurdles are pulling us back. On the one hand, we have campaigns like digital India, on the other we do not create enabling circumstances," the IT secretary added.

Pune Smart City CEO visits GHMC

Hyderabad: Rubal Agarwal, chief executive officer, Pune Smart City Development Corporation Limited (PSCDCL) and additional commissioner, Pune Smart City, visited Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation on Saturday to study projects under-

taken by the corporation. As part of study tour, Rubal visited several projects taken up by the GHMC such as Dog Park, Durgam Cheruvu Lake, Loo Cafe, among others. The CEO was highly impressed by the innovative initiatives taken by the GHMC.

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Prime security

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally on Sunday at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan

Protests, arson, rallies against Citizenship Act, NRC continue to rock the nation



NOW that voices opposed to the CAA and NRC have started coming from within the NDA, the government should give up its stubborn stand and withdraw its decisions. It is an appeal to protesters to express opposition peacefully

MAYAWATI

BSP Chief

CAA AND NRC does not deserve to be implemented in the country. It will affect people of all communities. They want to process both CAA and NRC together. They should move ahead by taking all communities

ASHOK GHELOT

Rajasthan CM

STRONGLY feel that the Muslim community should be included in Citizenship Act. I am speaking on behalf of my party, which is clear that Government of India should include them (Muslims) and should come out with an amendment

SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL

SAD party President

THE CITIZENSHIP LAW the NRC are against the Constitution of India. The people of the country would not allow any such attack on the Constitution but the government is bent upon using force and violence against protesters.

PRIYANKA GANDHI

Congress leader

CENTRE already has the power to grant citizenship, so there was no need for the Citizenship Amendment Act. We should follow the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act

DIGVIJAYA SINGH

Senior Congress leader

THE citizenship law and proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) are ploys by the Centre to divert attention of people from the "economic crisis". There is a riot-like situation in the country due to the violence over CAA.

RAJ THACKERAY

MNS Party President

THE GOVERNMENT has announced that strong action will be taken against those who are behind the violence, based on CCTV footage and other evidence,

VIJAY RUPANI

Gujarat Chief Minister

AFTER Citizenship Amendment Act, government's next brainchild is National Register of Citizens. You cannot deny ones' ancestry based on documentary evidence or lack of it. My fight wont stop till this tyranny goes off.

KAMAL HAASAN, Actor turned politician



DELHI: Protesters hold placards as they raise slogans during a demonstration outside Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi on Saturday. —PTI



KOLKATA: Protesters take part in a demonstration against NRC and CAA, in Kolkata on Saturday. —PTI



PATNA Rashtriya Janata Dal supporters burn tyres during a demonstration against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), in Patna on Saturday. —PTI



GUWAHATI Women hold placards as they march during a demonstration against the CAA in Guwahati, Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019.



NAGALAND Protesters hold placards during a rally against CAA and National Register of Citizens (NRC), organised by Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee at Dimapur on Saturday. —PTI

CHENNAI Protesters clash with police personnel during a demonstration against the CAA, in Chennai on Saturday.



Ramachandra Guha@ The immediate withdrawal of the NRC is a necessary first step to restore trust and heal the nation.

Sitaram Yechury@ The Government must immediately announce the withdrawal of the NRC. Appeal to people to continue the protests peacefully against CAA.

Pinarayi Vijayan@ The Citizenship Amendment Act has imperilled the nation's constitutional values and no one can be afford to be silent.

Anurag Kashyap@ Know the history of students protest and know how BJP became a party via student protests during emergency when it began in 1975.





Diversion trick

Sharad Pawar says CAA, NRC are attempts to divert attention from serious issues the country is facing

Violent protests mar RJD's Patna bandh

Vandals damage taxis, vehicles, block highways; Journalist beaten up; Party says bandh successful

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, DEC. 21



Protesters pelt stones during a rally against the Citizenship Amendment Act in Kanpur on Saturday. — PTI

Violent protests were witnessed in Patna and other districts of Bihar during a day-long bandh called by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizenship (NRC).

Angry protesters demanded scrapping of the CAA and vandalised private and commercial vehicles in Patna and other districts of the state. In some districts, including Patna, protesters also disrupted rail routes.

In Darbhanga and Vaishali, RJD supporters took off their shirts and used buffaloes to block the highway.

The protesters also blocked the Mahatma Gandhi road bridge over Ganga which connects Patna with northern Bihar.

Large-scale vandalism was witnessed in the state as protesters smashed windshields of taxis and three-wheelers and damaged cycle-rickshaws that plied on the roads in defiance of the call for the shutdown at the towns of Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur and outskirts of Patna.

Also, a journalist of a leading news channel here was on Saturday roughed up by persons trying to enforce the day-long bandh.

The bandh called by RJD on Saturday was supported by around five opposition parties including the Congress and Left.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav who led the protest march from his party's headquarter at Dak Bungalow intersection in Patna during the bandh slammed the NDA especially JDU president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for supporting the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Parliament.

"I salute the Jamia students for raising their voice aggressively against the Citizenship Amendment Act which is unconstitutional and against humanity. This Act has exposed the divisive character of the BJP", RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said while addressing his supporters during the bandh on Saturday.

While opposing the proposed NRC, he had earlier said that the people's documents often gets washed away during floods in states like Bihar and hence it won't be easy for them to prove their identity if the government demands it.

Taking a dig at Bihar CM Nitish Kumar for refusing

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 21

A large number of women came out across the state on Saturday to join the ongoing protest against contentious Citizenship Act in Assam. The All Assam Students Union (Aasu) which is spearheading the anti-CAA movement, on Saturday had called for a sit-in strike and protest by women all over the state.

The central sit-in strike was held at Lataasil field in Guwahati where women from all walks of life — including writers, social-activists, as well as homemakers, joined the protest against the amended Citizenship Act in a bid to protect to what they called — 'jati, mati and bheti' (community, land, and base) of the state.

A similar protest was organised all over the state as women came out in large numbers at Lakhimpur, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, and Sibsegar, to join the protest and shouted slogans — "Jai Aai Axom" and "Scrap

CAA". They also demanded justice for the five youths who were killed during police firing in the ongoing anti-CAA movement. In Assam, the movement is being led by many film actresses — such as Prastuti Parashar, and Barsha Rani Bishaya. While addressing the all women protest at Lataasil field, Aasu chief adviser Samujjal Bhattacharyya came down heavily on Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal while describing his stand both as misleading and ridiculous.

Referring to Mr Sonowal's press conference on Friday, he said that Mr Sonowal openly accepted the presence of

The Aasu would continue its democratic agitation against the CAA but at the same time warn the Chief Minister and other leaders of the ruling dispensation not to mislead the people of Assam

— SAMUJJAL BHATTACHARYYA Aasu chief adviser

illegal Bangladeshis in Assam and also agreed to rehabilitate them in the state. "The Aasu would continue its democratic and disciplined agitation against the CAA but at the same time warn the Chief Minister and other leaders of the ruling dispensation not to mislead the people of Assam on issues that involves the question of our existence."

The Aasu leader while referring to CM's remark that the number of Hindu Bangladeshis in Assam was negligible, said, "If the number was so tiny, then Chief Minister should talk to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union home minister Amit Shah and arrange rehabilitation of these Hindu Bangladeshis in Gujarat."

He said, "In 2004, the then union minister of state for home himself had said in Parliament that there were 1.2 crore illegal Bangladeshis in the country and 50 lakh of them were in Assam. It's a government data and the CM cannot ignore it."

he is only misleading people of the state for his own political gains.

to implement the NRC in Bihar, RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha said, "State governments won't

be able to stop the NRC exercise if the Centre decides to implement it. If Nitish Kumar is saying

this then he is only misleading people of the state for his own political gains.



Anti-CAA protesters at the Gandhi statue at Parliament Square in London on Saturday. — PTI

Curfew in Jabalpur, 35 arrested over violence

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, DEC. 21

Curfew remained in force for the second day on Saturday in the district headquarters of Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh that witnessed a pitched battle between the police and demonstrators during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on Friday. At

least 35 people have been arrested on charges of indulging in violence, even as the Rapid Action Force (RAF), the anti-riot wing of the MP police, has been deployed in sensitive areas in the town to prevent recurrence of violence.

"Curfew will continue in the town till normalcy is restored. However, curfew will be relaxed for three hours everyday to enable

people to buy essential commodities," Jabalpur district collector Bharat Yadav said.

A meeting of leaders of different communities and political parties was on Saturday held in the town as a measure to build confidence among various sections of people.

Several state ministers including finance minister Tarun Bhanot attended the meeting. Mr Bhanot

said he assured people of different communities of security. "I have asked the district administration to take strong action against the trouble-makers, but to ensure that no innocent people are falsely implicated," Mr Bhanot said.

On Friday, Jabalpur turned a battlefield with the protesters pelting stones at the police after being stopped from taking out a rally to oppose the

CAA, leading local administration to clamp curfew in the town. At least 20 policemen and six demonstrators were injured in the incident. Former chief minister and BJP national vice-president Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Jabalpur on Saturday to interact with the people and create awareness about CAA.

Stating that the law was not against any communi-

ty, he accused the Congress and some vested interests of spreading canards to create fear psychosis among the Muslims regarding the CAA.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 remained in force in 44 of the 52 districts in MP for the second day on Saturday. Peace meetings were held in several cities to ensure social harmony is not disturbed.

KERALA CONGRESS TAKES TO STREETS AGAINST CAA

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 21

Congress workers in Kerala took to streets on Saturday to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

At many places, the party workers tried to barge into central government offices resulting in tension and commotion. The police used water cannons and mild force to remove the protesters in various districts.

Many Congress leaders, including opposition leader Mr Ramesh Chennithala, courted arrest as part of the agitation. "The BJP government is trying to divide people on religious lines. The current agitation is not just for Muslims but for the entire secular people of the country. Despite using repressive measures, the authorities have not been able to curb or weaken the people's struggle," he said and accused the Centre of attempting to subvert the basic structure of Constitution.

He referred to Kesavananda Bharati case in which the Supreme Court stated in 1973 stating that the basic structure of Constitution cannot be altered through any amendment.

"The CAA is an unconstitutional amendment and that is why it has been challenged in the Supreme Court. We are sure that the new law will be thrown into the dustbin soon," he added.

In Kozhikode, Congress workers forcibly entered a post office resulting in a scuffle with police. The cops used water cannons and later took the protesters into custody.

In Kollam, the march to post office turned violent with the police using water cannon to disperse the Congressmen.

Protest marches, dharnas, demonstrations and public meetings were witnessed in front of central government establishments across all 14 districts.

Kerala PCC chief, Mr Mullaipally Ramachandran, who inaugurated the protest in Kasargod, ruled out any joint agitation with the Left Front for the time being.

"Let the Chief Minister first apologise for breaking the secular alliance against BJP in the last Lok Sabha polls before calling for joint protests," he said.



Over half of C'garh won't be able to prove citizenship in the NRC exercise

— Bhupesh Baghel

CHhattisgarh CM

SHORT TAKES DALITS JOIN PROTESTING STUDENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 21

Not merely upper caste Hindus, Dalits and OBCs have also been coming out on the streets to lend their voices in support of the students protesting against the CAA and NRC. At Windsor Place, Dalits were among others who joined the protest. Dalit leaders met the media at Indian Women Press Corps and blamed the government of being anti-people. They said it was also targeting the Dalit community. Activist Prashant said, "Dalits are also against this Act, it is shameful how through state machinery people are being detained or arrested. This is a draconian Act which breaches the constitution in every sense."

Speaking about the situation in Uttar Pradesh, where death toll has risen to almost 18, the Dalit activist blamed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for letting BJP-linked organisations go free. Since the CAA was passed, several Dalit outfits have come out terming the Act as being discriminatory.

WB STUDENTS DUB NRC, CAA PLAN TO DIVIDE

Kolkata, Dec. 21: Thousands of Left-leaning students on Saturday marched to the state BJP headquarters here, demanding rollback of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the proposed nationwide NRC, which they dubbed as the saffron party's 'gameplan to divide the country'.

Students from Jadavpur University, Presidency University, Alia University, Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute and Calcutta University took out a rally from Esplanade to Mahajati Sadan, from where the state BJP office is a short distance away.

The protesters shouted slogans and held placards that read 'Scrap NRC & CAA' and 'We won't allow fascism to rule in India,' as they passed by the saffron party's West Bengal headquarters at Muralidhar Lane.

MOBILE NET BACK IN MEGHALAYA

Shillong, Dec. 21: Mobile internet services have resumed in Meghalaya, eight days after they were snapped in the wake of violent protests over the new citizenship law, officials said on Saturday.

The ban on mobile internet and mass messaging services, imposed on December 12, was lifted at around 7 pm on Friday due to improvement in law and order situation, a senior home department official said.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma reviewed the law and order situation in Meghalaya with senior home department officials and issued instructions for restoring mobile internet and messaging services in the state, he said.

The official said the decision towards restoring the mobile internet and messaging services was taken after the state Assembly on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to implement the Inner Line Permit in Meghalaya. The curfew imposed in Sadar and Lumdingji police station limits in the hill town was also relaxed for 16 hours from 5 am on Saturday and no untoward incident was reported in these areas in the past 24 hours.

Bhim Army chief surrenders, sent to 14-day remand

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 21

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, who had escaped from police custody on Friday, surrendered to the police at around 3.15 am on Saturday outside Jama Masjid. He was later denied bail and remanded to judicial custody for 14 days by a city court.

Though the police was on a lookout for him and there was a tight security ring outside Jama Masjid, Mr Azad said that he had sneaked into the masjid around 1.30 pm on Friday, wearing a skull cap and wrapping himself in a long shawl. "My name is

Chandrashekhar Azad. The police cannot hold me captive. I wore a cap and a shawl and entered the mosque easily," he said.

When Mr Azad was inside Jama Masjid, the police had been sending feelers for him to come out.

In the wee hours of Saturday, Mr Azad stepped out and surrendered.

Before getting into the police van, Mr Azad told the crowd: "I am giving myself up to the police."

Mr Azad sought bail from the court on the ground that there is no evidence that he instigated the Jama Masjid crowd

to go to Delhi Gate where the protesters turned violent on Friday.

The police opposed his bail plea on the ground that he may threaten witnesses and his judicial remand is necessary for the sake of law and order. The court dismissed his bail plea and sent him to 14 days' judicial custody.

The police suspect he instigated the crowd, which turned violent near Delhi Gate.

On Friday, after playing hide and seek with security personnel for several hours, Mr Azad surfaced inside the mosque. He had given the Delhi Police a slip to reach the mosque.

