

WEATHER

Max: 28°C
Min: 18.9°C
RH: 54%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 29/19°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Bahula Dwadasi till 1.43 pm
Star: Vishaka till 5.41 pm
Varjyam: 9.34 pm to 11.08 pm
Durmuhuram: 12.36 pm to 1.20 pm and 2.48 pm to 3.32 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 pm to 9 pm
HILARI CALENDAR
Rabi-ul-Aker 21, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.35 am
Zohar: 12.23 pm
Asar: 4.10 pm
Maghrib: 5.52 pm
Isha: 7.06 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.48 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.43 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.42 AM
MOONSET TODAY 3.27 PM

INDIA BEATS WINDIES, WINS ODI SERIES 2-1

Cuttack, Dec. 22: Virat Kohli anchored a tricky chase before Sharul Thakur played the most defining cameo of his short career to power India to a series-winning four-wicket victory over the West Indies in the third ODI here on Sunday.

India's top three — Rohit Sharma (85), K.L. Rahul (77) and Kohli (85) — fired in unison in a 316-run chase but it got slippery in the end when the Indian captain left the scene with 30 required off 23 balls. It was then that Thakur, in the company of a composed Ravindra Jadeja (89 not out), smashed 17 runs off six balls with the help of a six and four off Sheldon Cottrell to seal the issue in his team's favour with eight balls to spare. —PTI

Full report on Page 15

Pay ₹1,72-L cr, DoT tells GAIL

New Delhi: The telecom department (DoT) has demanded GAIL to pay ₹1.72 lakh crore, which is double the total assets owned by the PSU, in statutory dues following a Supreme Court judgement that recognised the government's share in the license holder's indirect revenue. GAIL, however, said it had earned only ₹35 crore from licences.

Full report on Page 14

COUNTER POINT



Beyond religious differences, a larger common human truth

Love in the times of NRC-CAA

SIRIRAM KARRI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

If you are... begins a post on Facebook. A warning from an FB friend in the form of a checklist. If you are any of that, the post rants on, you are not my friend. Unfriended! Across social media the war is on. This is the Armageddon, proclaims another. Fight for the idea of India or forever be doomed.

At a time when the political ecosystem is so polarised, when each day convinces us that we have hit the nadir for brooking any tolerance for any differ-

This NRC-CAA debate does not matter much to us (him and his Hindu wife). When governments change, they do change policy. We don't let politics of this kind come between us, or into our lives. As long as it does not harm us directly, we are fine. —MOHD. ALI, Entrepreneur

ence of opinion, or political viewpoint, how do couples in inter-religious marriages cope? When asked, Mr Sudhakar Rao, director, ICFAI Group,

who is married to a Muslim for 22 years, answers in a sangroid tone, "It is not the first time as a couple we are witnessing a communally surcharged and politicised divided situation prevailing around us. It has happened before, and not matter what, we don't think it would be the last. We can feel the pressure from outside, but we sense none between us. Whenever such developments take place, we are exposed to all commentaries, online discussions, TV debates, print news. We don't try to escape or avoid it. We continue to regularly consume news,

you can't shut out the reality of the world outside. We remain more alert, we discuss the issue together, and fortunately, in most number of cases, our views have been not been opposed or contradictory."

The boy from Telangana state met his girl from Andhra neither at school, college, work place nor a shared locality but through the now-lost, old-world style connection — pen pals — which evolved into a love scripted purely by epistolary.

Page 7: We try to be positive, say couples



WORLD | 13

Ashraf Ghani wins Afghan Prez polls



SPORTS | 16

Liverpool are World Club champions

TABLOID

Sound waves too can work like drugs



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Modi clears the air on NRC, CAA

Says Urban Naxals and Congress lying on detention centres for Muslims; attacks Mamata for rumours

SHASHI BHUSHAN | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 22

Amid countrywide protests against the amended Citizenship Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that has resulted in 22 deaths across Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday blamed "urban Naxals and Opposition parties of launching a campaign of misinformation to target him. And, in a stunning assertion that sent social media into a tizzy, said that there has never been any official discussion of implementing the NRC across the country.

Accusing his political rivals of stoking fear among people and misleading Muslims over the amended citizenship law, the Prime Minister asserted that his government's schemes have never discriminated on the basis of religion. He charged that Opposition leaders, unable to challenge him political-

ly, have resorted to dividing the country through their vote bank politics, lies and rumours. Hitting out at the "rumours and lies" being spread on CAA and NRC, Mr Modi said that there has been absolutely no discussion on a nationwide NRC. "I want to tell the 130 crore people of India that ever since my government came to power in 2014, we only had to implement it in Assam to follow Supreme Court directives," Mr Modi said in a combative, over 90-minute speech. He further alleged that his political rivals and "urban Naxals" were spreading lies that Muslims will be sent to detention centres. "India Muslims will be sent to detention centre is a 'white lie' as there is no such centre in the country," he said.

Page 8: CAA has nothing to do with Indian Muslims: PM



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot leads three lakh protesters in Jaipur on Sunday against CAA and NRC. —PTI

ACTIVISTS PLAN APOLITICAL BODY ON CAA

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 22

The Congress opened another front against the Citizenship Act on Sunday, even as civil society activists formed a platform to resist the new legislation.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra made a sudden trip to Uttar Pradesh, where nearly 20 people have been killed in violence related to NRC protests. Meanwhile, activists have decided to come together and form a united front under the name "Alliance against CAA and NRC".

The participants have resolved to support the widespread public disapproval of the CAA. It noted with concern that the law violates the basic secular structure of the Constitution and other UN Covenant. It also decided to appeal to the state governments to challenge the CAA by invoking Article 131 of the Constitution.

HYDERABAD

MIM PLANS TO HOLD PROTESTS IN TS, AP

All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMM) has decided to hold protests meetings against the Citizenship Amendment

Full report on Page 7

LUCKNOW

UP BLAMES SIMI, PFI FOR ANTI-CAA VIOLENCE

The UP government on Sunday said six people from West Bengal associated with Islamic outfits PFI and SIMI have been

arrested. Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) is a banned terror outfit.

Full report on Page 8

GUWAHATI

BJP'S ALLY SAYS INDIA IS ON NAZI PATH

Opposing CAA, former Assam chief minister and senior leader of BJP ally AGP Prafulla Kumar Mahanta said India is

moving in the same direction as that of "Hitler's Nazi Germany".

Full report on Page 9

City all set for a warm Christmas

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

The month of December is almost coming to an end. But the winter season for which several people look forward to continues to elude the city, with the mercury touching a high for this time of the year. Weather forecasters say that this year could see a rather warm Christmas Eve. The temperature drop could, however, still be expected somewhere around the end of this month.

While the maximum temperature was registered at 28 degrees Celsius — the normal for this season — the minimum has been logged at 18.9 degrees Celsius on Sunday evening, a good four degrees above the normal of 14 degrees Celsius.

Perturbed with the lack of nippy winds and cold climes, residents have taken to social media to vent out their angst against the delayed onset of the winter. One such user, K Vijeyendra, writes, "Even winter didn't hit Hyderabad. So, 2019 has been the worst year on all fronts for the city."

Similarly, another social media user, Pratyasha Rath, says, "Winter is yet

METEOROLOGISTS explain and predict that the lack of cold winds passing over the city and the winter chill being still far away.

to arrive in Hyderabad. Last year was so much better. At least, you could feel a nip in the air."

Meteorologists explain and predict that the lack of cold winds passing over the city and the state have led to the winter chill being still far away. There are no winds coming in from the colder northern regions. Instead, we are getting humid cloud-bearing winds from the coastal regions, which is creating a barrier and preventing the heat — that comes in during the day from escaping," Raja Rao Boddu, IMD meteorologist, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

This prevention of escape of day-time heat and lack of cold winds, he said, is treating the city like a convection oven, where the heat is radiated back on to the earth. "The heat that reaches the earth's surface is not radiated back into the sky. This is why we have hotter climate during the night," he added.

MAN SHOTS DOG DEAD AT SAROORNAGAR

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Vexed with the trespassing of 'Jacky', a 15-year-old male pet dog of Indian breed, a 38-year-old person shoot him to death on Sunday evening. Following a complaint from S. Raju Yadav, the pet owner, who works as a milk vendor, the Saroornagar police have booked a case and have started an investigation.

The accused, identified as Avinash Karan, a 38-year-old, bank manager working for IDFC Bank, is a resident of Bapu Nagar Colony, under the Saroornagar police station limits. According to E. Srinivas Reddy, inspector, Saroornagar police, the accused Avinash got irritated at 'Jacky' and fired pellets into him with an air gun at around 3.30 pm Sunday evening. The injured dog tottered for around 100 yards with pellets in his abdomen before falling on the road, dead.

Page 4: Case booked for cruelty against animals

Protect your digital money, just like cash

#OnTheSafeSide

- Keep your UPI PIN secret**
Your UPI PIN is just like your ATM PIN. Never share it with anyone.
- Only download trusted apps**
Harmful apps can access personal information including your payment details you type on your screen.
- Enter your UPI PIN only in your BHIM UPI app or while paying in trusted apps**
Be cautious of sharing your UPI PIN on websites or forms sent to you via a link.
- You don't need to enter your UPI PIN to receive money**
Entering your UPI PIN means you are paying someone. Pay attention to which direction your money is moving.
- Only use your payment app to reach customer care**
Find genuine support details in the Help/Support section of your payment app. Avoid untrusted numbers which may be listed on the internet.

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Recently many speed breakers have been laid on the Necklace Road in multiple locations. But the road is still in a pathetic condition. Driving in the evenings is a nightmare
— Ajay Kumar, Ameerpet

Too much to chew for GHMC!

GHMC, look beyondHITEC City

Even as the twin cities grow rapidly in all directions, the state government, unfortunately, is not focussed on planning the city's growth in an organised manner. It appears that overseeing city's issues has become unmanageable to the GHMC because of the sheer size at which the city is growing. Earlier, when it was under Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and the 9 Municipalities surrounding it, it was all well-managed.

But, ever since its conversion to GHMC, Hyderabad had seen only 'lopsided development', especially in and around areas like Gachibowli, HITEC City, Madhapur and surrounding localities.

The GHMC has been taking good care of these areas whereas complaints from other interior areas on bad roads and poor bus connectivity have fallen on deaf ears of the authorities.

The much sought-after Metro Rail has disappointed people of the areas in and around Nagole-LB Nagar. Although minister K. T. Rama Rao had promised to take up the Nagole-LB Nagar Metro extension at the earliest, no progress was seen since.

In the absence of Metro connectivity between Nagole and LB Nagar, people have no choice but to depend heavily on the rickety-rackety TSRTC Buses like those on route 90-D (Dilsukhnagar-Secunderabad) and the highly uncomfortable and risky 7-seater autorickshaws.

I appeal to the government to re-introduce metro taxis in the twin cities immediately, and also see to it that the regular autorickshaws strictly follow the charges as per the metre reading.

Also, traffic police must see to it that all drivers are registered with respective police stations so that erring drivers can be identified if they fail to follow the metre reading or misbehave with the passengers.

It is also noticed that autorickshaws are being driven by unauthorised persons on sharing basis. For the convenience of passengers, drivers it must be made mandatory that drivers accept digital payments through wallets like PayTm.

Baru Rajendra Prasad
Ramakrishnapuram

Need for doctor in all ambulances

Of late, ambulance services in Hyderabad have improved drastically. However, the city roads continue to be in a bad state. Also, dirty surroundings with trash dumped all over are leading to various diseases. Unhygienic food consumption is also adding to the ill-health of citizens. Most importantly, the increasing number of road accidents is biggest cause of concern. Hence, it should be made mandatory by law that a doctor is always available in the ambulance to provide first-aid to patients. This could go a long way in saving lives of accident victims.

Healthcare and supply of medicines should be made affordable and economical through subsidies to persons of all age groups through a medical insurance plan. Rich people should be asked to opt out of the subsidised services voluntarily.

M. Vislesha Sabasra
Boudhnagar

Penalty over GHMC's certificate

My water connection (106097985) bearing CAN: 620158973 has been functional since five months. Ever since I got the connection, I have been charged ₹1,780 every month irrespective of the usage. When asked about it, authorities said the charges are being levied because I don't have an occupancy certificate, which the GHMC is not issuing anymore. I would like to know why a consumer is asked to pay penalty due to an occupancy certificate that the GHMC is not issuing. I am already paying property taxes. Why am I asked to pay penalty on water bill due to senseless documentation?

Priya Darshini
East Anandnagar

Announcements on MMTS needed

On December 15, at around 8.30 pm, I reached the Janga Gachibowli railway station to catch the MMTS train to Lingampally. When I enquired at the ticket counter, it was said the train will reach in around 20 minutes. But, even an hour later, no train turned up. When I enquired at the ticket counter again at 10:10 pm, I was said the train will arrive late and the expected time is 10:45 pm. It is vital that the announcements on live status of the train be made so that passengers are not put to trouble. I had to wait for more than an hour and a half due to lack of information. I request Railways authorities to make announcements or look for alternative ways to give information.

Pranay Kumar Chowdary
Jamaal Osmanita



Parking a big hurdle at Lakdikapul

Of late, frequent traffic jams have been occurring due to the illegal parking of vehicles near New Niloufer Hotel on the Lakdikapul Main Road. The traffic police have also been turning a blind eye to the issue.

At times, the road is completely turned into a parking lot. Several complaints have been in this regard but made but they all went in vain.

The Additional Traffic Commissioner is requested to immediately focus on resolving the issue of traffic congestion near the Niloufer Hotel and on the main road.

I hope there will be not be any further traffic jams due to the parking issue in and around Lakdikapul.

Syed Shamsuddin
Maghbrahi
Hyderabad

Rude Niloufer staff depriving many of treatment

This is to bring to the notice of authorities the bad state of affairs at the Niloufer Hospital. I had admitted my son, who accidentally swallowed about 2 gms of Himalaya baby soap, at Niloufer after two private hospitals have declined to treat him citing it is a medico-legal case. Doctors at the emergency building had instructed for admitting my son immediately saying the soap could lead to complications. He was initially kept under observation for six hours and later they had extended the observation time to 48 hours and yet, no proper treatment was offered. Senior doctors at the hospital don't visit the patients. Instead, junior doctors visit the patients. When I had asked one of the doctors to provide IV to my son as we were instructed not to feed him anything for a day, the doctor said one should not expect such facilities as Niloufer is a government hospital.

My son was given just one IV of around 300 ml and Rantac (Pantop) was out of stock twice.

He turned so weak that he lacked energy to even stand, just because of the ignorance of the doctors.

Assistant professor Dr. Hemabindu of Paediatric IV ward is so rude to patients that she asks people to speak PG doctors for queries claiming that she is a senior and is not interested in patients' issues.

The PG doctors are so untrained that they were shaking while preparing the injection needle. The ward was spilled all over the place.

Scores of people in need of treatment are facing inconvenience because of the staff's rude behaviour. Failure in administration is leading to failure of providing healthcare.

I hope this issue comes to the notice of the concerned authority so that required action will be taken.



Hari Prasad Gogikar
Hyderabad

Youths occupying senior citizens' seats in Metro

Despite certain seats being earmarked for senior citizens in the Metro rail coaches, youth are not offering the designated seats to us. As I am a senior citizen aged 74 and facing the trouble, I want to bring to the attention of authorities. I have even tried to lodge a complaint but the Metro authorities denied giving me the complaint booklet. Hence, I request the managing director, Metro Rail to allot a security person in the coaches to implement to implement the practice of offering seat to senior citizens.

Boddupalli Subrahmanya Sastry,
Hyderabad

Drainage water, garbage flow into Lotus Pond

During the monsoon rains, a large pile of garbage made its way to the Lotus Pond near MLA colony, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills. There is no fencing in place to stop the garbage from flowing into pond.

Earlier, there used to be a couple of plastic boats with which the security staff to stop the flow of water. Now, the boats are available only with the disaster management cell of GHMC. Despite many complaints through the Dial 100 service, no action was taken.

Ramakanth Inani,
Banjara Hills

With no 'free left', Paradise Jn. turns hell

The 'Free Left' at the Paradise traffic signal is of no use to the motorists as 75 per cent of the commuters are always blocked by vehicles heading towards MG Road and Begumpet. Even the people who are to take a right turn take the turn from extreme left, causing a lot of inconvenience.

E. Narayana
Kompally

Unfair fine on property tax

The property tax of ₹4438 for my property bearing Flat No. 4-1-216/68/505, owned by my son Vinod Raju, for the period between January 2016 and March 2019 has been paid at E-Seva, Snehapuri vide receipt No. 2080601 dated 31-7-2019. However, it wasn't updated in the Kapra Circle records. Subsequently, I have lodged a complaint on the GHMC App and my grievance has been irresponsibly closed with the comment 'Issue has been resolved'.

Later, I have given a representation to Commissioner, GHMC on 24-6-2019, enclosing a copy of the receipt issued by E-Seva, Snehapuri. Meanwhile, I have been given multiple notices for payment of property tax without taking into account the payment made at E-Seva, Snehapuri. I have then made an enquiry with GHMC, Kapra Circle. It has become that the cheque through which I made the payment had bounced. I want to point that the GHMC staff didn't even bother to consult the concerned bank for a solution. I request the concerned authorities to kindly look into this grievance and see to it that the cheque which was earlier realised be returned to me. I am prepared to pay the property tax if the penalty imposed for no fault of mine is waived.

R. Ashok Babu,
Karthikeya Nagar, Nacharam



Road under bridge needed at Tarnaka

There is urgent need for a RuB (Road under Bridge) at the HMDA Complex, Tarnaka. Ever since the Hyderabad Metro Rail route from Nagole to Raidurg has become operational, it has become very difficult to cross the road from Street No. 1, Tarnaka to the HMDA complex and vice versa. Many senior citizens in the area go for a morning walk to the HMDA Complex from Street No. 1. They cannot cross the road because of heavy traffic from either side. Several engineering students cross the road to board their college buses on the other side. Several accidents take place while crossing the road, due to high speed traffic and there is no traffic signal at Tarnaka crossroads. I think GHMC should consider this request on priority basis and help senior citizens and students.

Damodar Joshi,
Tarnaka

Abandoned house turns dump yard in Himayatnagar

This is to bring to the notice of the concerned authorities the house bearing No. 3/6/373, beside Huda Public School, Street No. 2, Himayatnagar, which has been in use for a long time. It has now turned into a dumping yard for garbage. Foul smell is emanating from the area and mosquito breeding is on the rise. The mess is not being cleaned up regularly and subsequently, people have begun urinating in the premises. I request GHMC to kindly look into the matter at the earliest.



Prateek S.
Himayatnagar

King Koti hospital is a total mess

I would like to bring to the notice of the authorities the issues ailing the public health clinic in Esamiya Bazaar. My pregnant daughter visited the clinic on November 18. The doctor has prescribed a blood test, for which samples were taken and advised her to re-visit on December 18. But, the lab technician hasn't conducted any tests. Moreover, the clinic staff are not arriving for work in time. We were forced to visit the clinic three times and yet, he had no account of the blood test. Recently, she had visited the King Koti hospital, where the doctor refused to attend to her saying there is only one doctor on duty and asked her to visit the Sultan Bazaar hospital or Gandhi hospital or the petlaburg hospital. She had waited there for four hours. As a former BSNP inspector, it feels sad with the way she was treated.

Perugu
Balasubramanyam
Gowliguda North

Traffic snarls near a toddy shop on the road leading to Jhirra, Karwan, Mallepally and Mehdiapatnam in Asif Nagar are becoming troublesome to commuters. Road widening is needed in this route.
— **SUDHEERA RADHNYA, MEHDIPATNAM**

Repeated complaints yield no results

Mosquito menace in Saroornagar

Foul smell is emanating from the Saroornagar lake, causing health hazards to residents in the surroundings. Mosquito breeding has also turned out to be a major issue for us. The matter has been brought to the notice of the GHMC authorities several times but in vain. I request the Hon'ble minister to kindly look into the matter.

Jeggari Visweswar Reddy
Saroornagar lake Road

Need for CCTVs in Kalyannagar park

With a good intention, the GHMC has launched a walker's park in Kalyannagar Phase 3. While it is a boon for public in general, it is unfortunately a bane for local residents due to the unruly behaviour of dogs and other health freaks, who throng the park along with their families.

There is no designated parking space in the premises and the visitors park their vehicles as per their whims and fancies.

Also, additional street-lighting is required. Designated parking and installation of CCTV camera is the need of the hour.

DC Reader
Kalyan Nagar

No action despite multiple complaints

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has not acted on my letter published in Deccan Chronicle dated December 9.

As on Dec. 21, the manhole silt has not been cleared, despite multiple complaints to the authorities.

M.G. Sharief
Hyderabad



Function hall in residential area

The stretch between the Mallepally Crossroads to Bazar Ghat, which leads to the Criminal Court, Care and Niloufer hospital, is at any point of time busy with heavy traffic. Already, most of the owners of shops and other commercial establishments have encroached upon the footpaths. Adding to the woes is a new function hall coming up in the residential area, causing more problems to the locals. Various schools, nursing homes and hospitals are already there on the stretch. The entire area comes under the Housing Board. I request authorities to take necessary action.

Khan Ghulam Ghouse Khan
Mehdiapatnam



Wires pass through tree in Bowenpally

This is with respect to the tree intersecting high tension wires in our lane in Malikarjuna Colony, Road no. 4, Old Bowenpally. We have already lodged a complaint on the issue multiple times with the authorities. Due to the dangerous situation with the wires passing through the tree, we all are scared over the possibility of an untoward incident.

I hope that the concerned authorities address the issue as soon as possible.

Suresh Pentam
Secunderabad



Anganwadi school occupied, turned into animal shelter

Organisers of an animal shelter have illegally occupied an Anganwadi school near Sanjeevalah Park railway station in Old Patigadda Colony, Begumpet. The property

belongs to the R&B department and the officials are apparently not bothered about public property. Also, providing shelter to animals poses a risk of health hazards because of the unhygienic

environment around the animal shelter. It is my kind request to the officials to look into the matter as soon as possible.

Sameer Khan
Hyderabad



Dog found sleeping inside ATM

A dog was found sleeping inside the HDFC ATM in Asbestos Colony, on the AP Textbook Colony Road, Secunderabad. I request authorities to take requisite action at the earliest.

Dev Jaiswal
Secunderabad



Huge rocks left on road in Tolichowki

I would like to inform the authorities concerned that massive rocks and construction material have been placed on the road in Tolichowki near Azeem Faheem Function Hall. The road was dug up in the name of new drainage connections and several rocks have been stranded, leading to inconvenience for commuters in the area. When enquired, the local legislator said the contractor is responsible for the delay. But the contractor is blaming it on the government saying he hasn't received funds. Residential construction activity is underway in the area and the rocks have been moved to adjacent plots.

Mohammed Hussain
Tolichowki

Wires hang dangerously in Valmikinagar

Multiple high tension wires are hanging on the decades-old electricity poles in Jaguda police colony, Valmikinagar, posing a threat to residents of the area.

I request the electricity department to look into the matter.

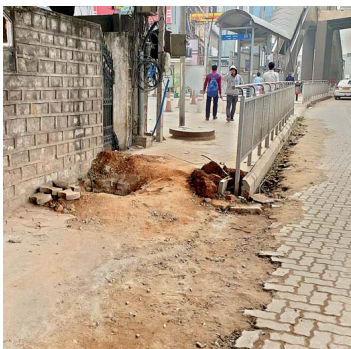
Sree Kishan
Hyderabad



Signals at Paradise dysfunctional

Traffic lights at the Paradise Crossroads have not been working since a long time and due to this, commuters far from the signal are clueless about the status of traffic signal. Hope this issue is taken on priority by concerned authorities.

Hashika
Secunderabad



Hole dug up on Metro pavement

The pavement next to Madhapur Metro station on Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills has been left in a dangerous situation for several months while the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) authorities claim it to be a beautified stretch. This spot has been dug up leaving the risk of pedestrians falling in it especially in the evenings. While HMR claims a massive jump in the number of passengers plying on the Metro, it is necessary to provide safe pavements. Hope the concerned authorities take action as soon as possible.

Dr R. Gopinath
Hyderabad



Wall collapses, area turns dump yard

A part of the compound wall of a private property along the lane opposite PTI building in AC Guards collapsed on the road due to heavy rains a few years back. As neither the property owner nor the GHMC removed the debris, it has become a hindrance on the road and gradually turned into a dumping yard.

M. M. Khan
AC Guards



Dear Readers, We at Deccan Chronicle request you to kindly send all your complaints, issues, grievances, feedback and suggestions to our government and all its departments by writing to Speak Out, the voice of the people, to our new email ID - **DCSpeakOut@gmail.com**. Looking forward to reading your letters to this new ID only.

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Metro Christmas Collection

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Metro Rail MD N.V.S. Reddy says HMRL launched QR ticketing event at Hitec City station on Sunday



TS government only one giving 24-hour power, investment to farmers

T. Harish Rao Finance minister

MAN KILLS WIFE WITH CRICKET BAT

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 22

In a fit of rage, a man killed his wife with a cricket bat at Narasaraopet on Saturday night. Narasaraopet rural police inspector...

WITH FEWER STUDENTS, COST GOES UP

RAJESWARI PARASAI DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

The state government is spending ₹63,637 on each student in a government school...

The average cost of student goes up in case of lower enrolment ratio...

Of the total 24,550 government schools in the state, 9,505 schools have less than 30 students...

In case of schools that have between 30 and 100 students, the average cost per student is ₹39,814...

This reveals that salaries paid to teachers determine the average cost per student...

Officials of the school education department are thus trying to increase the enrolment ratio in schools...

Commissioner of School Education Vijay Kumar, speaking at the Deccan Chronicle...

The average cost per student goes up in case of lower enrolment ratio, whereas it decreases if the enrolment ratio is higher...

Of the total 24,550 government schools in the state, 9,505 schools have less than 30 students...

In case of schools that have between 30 and 100 students, the average cost per student is ₹39,814...

This reveals that salaries paid to teachers determine the average cost per student...

Officials of the school education department are thus trying to increase the enrolment ratio in schools...

Commissioner of School Education Vijay Kumar, speaking at the Deccan Chronicle...

Tighter norms for social media firms in new rules

Privacy, compulsory pre-censorship, traceability on the platter

ADITYA CHUNDURU DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

The Draft Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules 2018 under the Information Technology Act...

in 40 languages worldwide. Only four of them are Indian (Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and Tamil)...

WHAT ARE INTERNET INTERMEDIARIES

The term 'intermediary' refers to all tech companies that host users' data or provide them with a platform for communication...

WHAT WILL THE NEW GUIDELINES CHANGE

Pre-censorship: Companies such as Facebook and Twitter would be required to filter content before they are posted using 'upload filters'...

Mr Ranjith Raj, a researcher and representative of Mozilla, told DC...

Centre may notify new rules by mid-January

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

On December 24, 2018, the Union ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) announced the Draft Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment)...

The Centre had told the Supreme Court it will notify the rules after it was asked the status of the rules during proceedings while hearing petitions related to WhatsApp traceability...

Mr Ranjith Raj, a researcher and representative of Mozilla, told DC "Encryption is not a panacea for security, even if the platforms boasted the world the opposite. As for these draft guidelines, arguments around traceability or the clause in data protection bill on user verification from social media companies is to move us to a surveillance dystopia, which is a way Indian corporates are using the government as a tool to gain access from platforms owned by American corporations..."

"There are three key elements about the guidelines. Firstly, intermediaries would be mandated to use 'upload filters' on their platforms, thereby making pre-censorship compulsory. For instance, if a tweet is deemed 'objectionable', Twitter would not allow the user to post it at all. It may be noted that most platforms already have filtering mechanisms but their use has been based on their discretion. Also, this mandate would be a major blow for the social media giant as automatic moderation only requires users to report content."

"It is important for us to speak to people in the tech world in cities like Hyderabad, who really understand the implications of such guidelines," he said.

He explained that the government has been wary after it was criticised when it released the draft. "Companies are in panic mode. They have openly said that they are simply incapable of complying with some of the rules. For instance, the rules require platforms to filter out objectionable content before it is posted. However, the companies don't have the tools to do this," he said. He added that if this partic-

Police checks out fire safety for Numaish

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjali Kumar on inspected the Exhibition Ground, Nampally, where the 45-day Numaish, the All India Industrial Exhibition, is held every year from January 1. One part of the exhibition was destroyed in a fire last year. The incident revealed several loopholes especially with regard to fire safety.

Speaking to mediapersons after the inspection, Mr Kumar said, special care had been taken with regard to fire safety. "For every 30 metres there is a fire hydrant. Water storage capacity of 1.5 lakh litres has been installed (for fire-fighting)."

He said most of the electrical wires had been moved underground. The roofs of all stalls are now of zinc sheet. Nine emergency exit routes have been constructed.

There will be fewer stalls this year. Police will be deployed for bandstand duties from December 25, Mr Kumar said.

PRATHANA SABHA RACHALVEER CHADLAVADA SOLOMON ... Smt. Champaben Ganatra ... UTHALA CEREMONY ... SH. INDERJIT SINGH JAJ ... 10th DAY CEREMONY ... IN A LOVING MEMORY ... MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Prof. Suresh Vardani Arcot Dept of English, Osmania University ... BHOOMPALY SRINATH ... Smt. Saroj Ben Gaglan ... Mrs RATHNA ASHIRVADAM ... MOYLA LAKSHMI BAI ... Dr. A.J. Sanjeeva Rao ... SHRADHANJALI ... BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Case registered for cruelty against animals

The bullet that was surgically removed from the back of a teen.

TEEN SUFFERS BACK PAIN, DOC FINDS A BULLET

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Doctors of the Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences (Nims) found a country-made bullet lodged in the back of a woman patient while they were examining her for back pain.

Doctors removed the bullet and informed the Panjagutta police. The patient was identified as Akshaya Bhat, 19, a resident of Jahanuma, Falaknuma. She had been consulting with doctors for two months.

Panjagutta sub-inspector D. Nagaraju said, "The doctors told her to take an X-ray and she came back with one. When they examined it, doctors found a country-made bullet of 1 mm near her spinal cord. On Saturday evening they operated on her and removed the bullet. The patient was discharged and doctors informed the police about the issue on Sunday."

The Panjagutta police booked a case of attempt to murder and under the Arms Act. Doctors told the police that the injury appeared to be more than a year old.

The incident came to light after some children, who were playing near the spot, rushed to the police to inform him of the demise. Reportedly, the accused confessed that the dog was jumping the fencing wall of his house and entering into the premises. Frustrated by it, he shot the dog in the abdomen. According to him, the dog fell down to a painful death after walking around for a while.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, S. Devender Yadav, brother of the pet owner, said, "We got to know about the death at around 4 pm through some children. He rushed to the spot to find Jacky's dead body. Most colony members were familiar with Jacky and used to pamper and love him. Jacky became a member of our family and stayed with us for 15 years. He never harmed or troubled anyone."

The Saroonagar police have booked a Section 41 of the Animal Cruelty Act. Further investigation is underway. The police are verifying whether to also book the accused under the Arms Act. Meanwhile, police shifted the dog's body to the Government Veterinary Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

In Remembrance ... UTHAVNA ... Mrs. MAVIS GOVIND ... 8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY ... HOMAGE TO OUR BELOVED FOUNDER ... SAROJ BEN GAGLAN ... SHRADHANJALI

UTHAVNA ... Mrs. MAVIS GOVIND ... 8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY ... HOMAGE TO OUR BELOVED FOUNDER ... SAROJ BEN GAGLAN ... SHRADHANJALI

BURGLARS MAKE OFF WITH GOLD ... DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22 ... Police said the resident, Mr Surender, and his family went to his mother-in-law's house in Moimabad on Saturday night. When they returned on Sunday morning they noticed the lock on the front door of their house was broken. When they went inside and checked, the family found the almirah door broken open and 25 tolas of gold and silver ornaments missing. Police said the burglars couldn't find any thing in the other two houses, one of which belongs to a Hyderabad police officer.

Prathana Sabha ... Uthala Ceremony ... In Loving Memory ... Memorial Ceremony ... Shradhanjali ... Birthday Remembrance

3

ST SC schools are benefiting students from oppressed communities

— Satyawati Rathod
Welfare minister

IN BRIEF

Kishan Reddy opens med unit

Hyderabad: Minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday, inaugurated the brain and spine suite at Apollo Hospitals. The suite is equipped with advanced intra operative MRI. This would enable the operating surgeons to locate any abnormality of the brain during surgery, which otherwise is difficult to assess and often causes complications post surgery. It ensures with precision the removal of the entire brain tumour.

859 MISSING GRAVEYARDS REDISCOVERED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has managed to identify 859 graveyards belonging to various communities and religions after verifying the estate properties.

Officials claimed that the lack of co-ordination between the estate and maintenance wings had led to the disappearance of over 1,600 graveyards in the city. The corporation would embark on a programme to recover the graveyards from encroachers. The records of the estate wing says that there are over 2,500 graveyards in the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad (MCH) areas, not to mention the nine surrounding municipalities that were later merged to form the GHMC.

However, due to apathy, several graveyards belonging to different communities and religions have 'disappeared', leaving little space to bury or cremate the dead.

The field staff at the circle level, in cahoots with the encroachers, ignored the graveyards being illegally taken over.

Asked about this, an estate wing official said that the GHMC did not have any concrete report about graveyards. He agreed that there were over 2,500 graveyards till 2007 prior to the merger of the peripheral municipalities.

On the other hand, the maintenance wing officials argued that they only look after the upkeep of graveyards which were handed over by the estate wing.

Surprisingly despite Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Rao's, instruction to develop 50 model graveyards in 50 days way back in 2015, the maintenance could only complete 20 of them till date.

The corporation has identified 106 graveyards in the L.B. Nagar zone, 232 in Charminar, 205 in Khairatabad, 88 in Serilingampally, 143 in Kukapally zone among others. When asked about the community and religion-wise graveyard data, the official said, "The country has been already divided in to communities and religions. GHMC will not do the same."

Christmas spirit



Shoppers look at a Nativity scene crib set at a shop in the city on Sunday, three days ahead of Christmas. With the Star being set up on buildings festooned with fairy lights, the city is getting set for Christmas. — S. SURENDR REDDY

JH flyover road narrowed 20ft

Redesign could compromise its safety

MADHY DEEKSHITHI
DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Despite the Bio-Diversity flyover having claimed four lives in less than three weeks, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has been compromising on safety standards on another flyover constructed under the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP). The corporation has compromised on the design of the Jubilee Hills Road No 45 flyover which leads to the hanging bridge at Durgam Cheruvu. The civic body, which earlier planned to construct a six-lane elevated corridor by widening the road up to 120 feet, has now restricted it to four lanes by widening the road only up to 100 feet.

An official claimed that the road widening was restricted only to minimise land acquisition costs. But it could endanger the lives of motorists, about 2 lakh of whom are expected to take the road daily.

According to highly placed sources in the corporation, the design change could be dangerous even though the flyover has been built in compliance with Indian Roads Congress (IRC) norms.

Like the Bio-Diversity flyover, the Jubilee Hills Road No 45 also has a steep curve at Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University, which is very prone to accidents, even though the height of the crash barriers has been raised, sign boards indicating the speed limit have come up and rumble strips have been added. Sources said that despite a warning from the independent committee which was formed after the Bio-Diversity flyover tragedy, the GHMC has done nothing about the dangerous curve. The independent committee's report stressed that the height of the curve should be enhanced though it was constructed on par with IRC guidelines.

When queried about the same, a senior official, requesting anonymity, said that

Accident report kept a secret

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has been maintaining top secrecy on a report submitted by an independent committee on the Biodiversity flyover, on which accidents claimed three lives in a span of three weeks. Surprisingly, the report was not given to the superintendent engineer who executed work on the two level flyover at the Biodiversity junction.

An official said that the higher authorities were 'hiding' the 24-page document. Sources claimed that the corporation was asked to keep it confidential by the government. If anyone persisted in asking for the report, the official in-charge was informally advised to go on leave to avoid handing over the report.

On November 23, Satyawati, 40, died when a tree fell on her after a car flew off the flyover, bounced off the ground and crashed into it, before falling again and injuring other people. On November 10, a software employee from Cognizant, who was in an inebriated condition, fatally ran over two persons and injured four persons. He rammed his car into two vehicles before knocking the two

victims who were taking selfies on the flyover. Citing this, the civic body put a selfie ban on the flyover.

According to highly placed sources, the corporation has received instructions from their higher authorities not to put the report in public domain since it would lead to further complications pertaining to the safety of commuters on the flyover.

The independent committee of experts have clearly stressed that the width near the curve, where Krishna Milan Rao, the driver of the car that flew off the flyover, should be increased. Sources said that if the report submitted by the committee is put in the public domain, it would lead to legal complications pertaining to the safety of commuters and the executing of the project. The committee to minimise accidents have suggested an increase in the height of the crash barriers.

When queried about the report, a senior GHMC official, requesting anonymity, said that he was on leave while the report was received by the corporation. He said higher authorities have asked the officials not to utter a word on the expert committee report until January 2020.

the corporation did not change the design, rather the width of the road beneath the flyover has been compromised upon. The official said that the corporation will take additional care at the curve at Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University.

The civic body has instructed the private agency that is maintaining the flyover to increase the height of the crash barrier, install rumble strips, and put sign boards to control the speed limit

as specified by the independent expert committee report. We have already said 43 piers out of 53. Remaining 10 piers have rocky terrain underneath so it will take us two additional months to lay the foundation. The corporation will complete the construction by May and traffic will be allowed on the cable stayed bridge at Durgam Cheruvu only after completion of Jubilee Hills Road No 45 flyover," the official added.



भारत सरकार
Government
of India

DO NOT GET MISLED BY MISINFORMATION ON THE CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT.

A LOT OF RUMOURS AND MISINFORMATION ARE BEING CIRCULATED, WHICH ARE IN NO WAY TRUE. HERE ARE THE FACTS OF THE CAA.



CAA IS TARGETED AT TAKING AWAY CITIZENSHIP FROM INDIAN MUSLIMS

CAA DOES NOT AFFECT ANY EXISTING INDIAN CITIZEN OF ANY RELIGION.

It is about giving citizenship to persecuted minorities settled in India till 2014 and not taking away citizenship from anyone.

CAA IS AGAINST INDIAN MUSLIMS

WRONG. CAA APPLIES ONLY TO MINORITIES FROM THREE COUNTRIES - PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN.

It does not concern any Indian of any religion, including Muslims. So, there is no question of it being against Indian Muslims.

DOCUMENTS TO PROVE CITIZENSHIP NEED TO BE COLLECTED RIGHT NOW OR ELSE PEOPLE WILL BE DEPORTED

WRONG. No nationwide NRC has been announced. If and when it is announced, rules and guidelines would be framed such that no Indian citizen would face any harassment whatsoever.

NO INDIAN CITIZEN OF ANY RELIGION OR ANY REGION WILL BE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY THE CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT.

Alumni get anchor, torpedo for HPS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, is now a proud owner of an anchor and a heavyweight torpedo of the Indian Navy.

The prized possession is the fulfilment of a "long-standing desire" of the school to acquire a school in tri-service presence. The school already has an Army tank and an aircraft from the IAF on display.

The anchor and torpedo establish a presence for the Navy. Exhibiting decommissioned assets from the Army, Navy and the Air Force would play a vital role in motivating stu-



The 1.5-tonne anchor (left) and heavyweight torpedo (top) at the Hyderabad Public School-Begumpet.

dents said HPS-Begumpet principal Skand Bali. The anchor, weighing almost 1.5 tonnes, arrived from Mumbai, home to the Western Fleet while the torpedo arrived from

Visakhapatnam, headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command. At present, installation work is in progress and will be available for display soon. The alumni from the HPS

Batch of 1994 coordinated with the Navy to permanently allocate these items for the display at the school. The batch is celebrating its silver jubilee of passing out from the school.

Kishan Reddy takes part in a meeting of his Secunderabad constituency to review developmental activities



Annual visit



First Lady Savita Kovind (left), President Ram Nath Kovind, Governor Dr Tamilisai Sundaarajan (Centre), Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu (second from right) and the Governor's husband Dr P. Sundaarajan pose in front of a painting of Charminar at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday. The Governor hosted a banquet for Kovind, who is in the city on his winter sojourn. Before the dinner, Kovind launched the Telangana Red Cross mobile app developed by the Centre for Good Governance and the Red Cross Society in which anyone can become a member by registering and making payment online.

State govts urge FM to allow more borrowing

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC 22

The Telangana state government has requested Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to permit an increase in the GSDP ratio in the revenue deficit from 3.3 per cent to 4 per cent in Budget 2020-21.

The revenue deficit has been pegged at 3.3 per cent of the GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 (FRBM) to ensure that state government budgets do not go overboard.

The state governments want percentage of

of the GSDP in the revenue deficit.

According to the Comptroller and Audit General's (CAG) Report of 2014, the debt burden of Telangana state was ₹61,711 crore and it has now reached ₹2,03,730 crore. The Centre allows increase of 4 per cent then the state government will be able to take borrow another ₹40,000 crore.

In view of the decrease in the revenue resources in the state due to the economic slowdown, the state governments say that borrowings are the only solution to generate funds for infrastructure and irrigation projects and also for welfare programmes.

MPs face acid test in civic polls

BJP, Cong MPs vying for state unit prez

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC 22

Elections to the urban local bodies will be a litmus test for first-time MPs from the Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party to prove their control over their respective Lok Sabha constituencies. There is a massive target in the short term. Two Congress MPs and two from the BJP are aiming to become the state unit president of their respective parties. Victory in the civic polls will be crucial to cement their hold.

There are six such MPs: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president B. Uttam Kumar Reddy (Nalgonda), Komatreddy Venkat Reddy (Bhongir) and A. Revanth Reddy (Malkajgiri) from the Congress and from the BJP, Dharmapuri Aravind (Nizamabad), Soyam Babu Rao (Adilabad) and Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Karimnagar).

In the ensuing civic polls, it will be clear whether these MPs have

continued to maintain their sway. Among them, Uttam Kumar Reddy has lost the Huzurnaigar seat which he was representing and from where his wife, N. Padmavati, contested. It is essential for the Congress Party to prove its majority in civic bodies in their constituencies vote for their party which will be a massive test in the subsequent elections.

Revanth Reddy and Komatreddy Venkat Reddy are in the race for the TPOC president's post. If they want to attract the notice of the party high command, they must ensure victory in the municipal polls in their segments. Uttam Kumar Reddy has five constituencies — Kodad, Suryapet, Nereducharla, Nalgonda, Malkajgiri, and Thirumalgi and Halia, Venkat Reddy's constituency has Bhongir, Choutuppal, Alair, Pochampally, Yadagirigutta, Chityal and Chandur municipalities.

Revanth Reddy has a large number of civic bodies: Boduppal, Peerzadiguda, Nizampet and Jawaharnagar municipal corporations which are newly constituted and Medchal, Dammaiguda, Nagaram, Pochampally, Ghatkhesar, Choutuppal, Thumkunta, Dundigal and Kompally.

In the BJP ranks, Mr Dharmapuri Aravind, who defeated TRS candidate K. Kavitha, the then sitting MP and Chief Minister, K. Chandrababu Naidu's daughter, has to win the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation and Bodhan, Armoor, Bhimgal, Jagtial, Korutla, Metpally and Raikot. He is facing some pressure from the Turnercor Board issue.

To stay in the contention for the TS, BJP president's post, Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay will have to win the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation and Jammikunta, Huzarabad, Choppandani, Kotapalli, Sircilla and Vemulavada municipalities for his party.

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. - ECR-CAG-CO-4274-19-21. E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK:
S.No. (1). Name of work with its location: Construction of foundation & sub-structure of Major Bridge No. 40 at Km 54.503, 156 (1x45.7m) at Km 74.823, 192 (1x45.7m) at Km 87.203 in connection with construction of Hajipur Sagauli new BG Rail line project.
(2) Approx cost of the work of: Rs. 243044550.09 (3) Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 1365200/- (4) Date and time for closing of tender: 13.01.2020 at 14.30 hrs. (5) Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office location: Construction of foundation & sub-structure of Major Bridge No. 40 at Km 54.503, 156 (1x45.7m) at Km 74.823, 192 (1x45.7m) at Km 87.203 in connection with construction of Hajipur Sagauli new BG Rail line project.
Information is available on website i.e. <http://www.irps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancy/errata found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before the date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.
CAO/ConNorth/MMX, Patna PR/1911/CON/ENG/7/19-20/48

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
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DECCAN CHRONICLE

SHORT TAKES

AP ADVOCATES TO ABSTAIN FROM WORK

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC 22

AP advocates will abstain from court work from Dec 23 to 27 in protest against the state government's move to transfer the principal seat of the high court and also the administrative capital to Kurnool and Visakhapatnam respectively.

Advocates from five districts, including Krishna, Guntur, West Godavari, Prakasam and Nellore, and members of AP Bar Council, held a meeting here on Sunday and condemned the state government's decision to transfer the principal seat of the high court to Kurnool from the present location of Amaravati and also the secretariat to Visakhapatnam.

They said that separation of legislature, executive and judiciary by locating them at different places was unwarranted and it would cause a lot of inconvenience to the general public, officials and members of the stakeholder, as it would be impossible to travel from place to place in the event of people having the work at all three organs of government at the same time.

They wondered as to how the people could travel from Srikulam to Kurnool to file cases or to attend hearings in the high court as the town does not have a proper transport network. They fumed at the government by asking how people in Kurnool would travel to Visakhapatnam to meet officials for some work at the Secretariat as there was no proper transport connectivity between both places. They appealed to the government to go for the decentralisation of government for better administration and not the decentralisation of public institutions.

Referring to the proposed location of a high court at Kurnool, they alleged that if the people were unable to afford to travel over such long distances from north Andhra and coastal districts, it would be tantamount to delays in justice which in turn would mean the denial of justice.

They reiterated their appeal to the government to continue to let the principal seat of the AP High Court remain at Amaravati as it was connected to all parts of not only the state but to the country itself and advised the state to set up high courts at Kurnool and Visakhapatnam or other places depending on demand.

Errant officials will be punished: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC 22

Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday announced the start of surprise inspections from January 1 to check the quality and progress of the Palle Pragathi (progress in villages) programmes.

While holding a review meeting on the programmes at Pragathi Bhavan, Rao announced that flying squads have been constituted to make surprise checks in the villages. Rao said the prestigious 30-day programme aimed at making the villages clean, green and safe, which was launched in September, will be hit with the people. Maintaining that it was an auspicious development that the people voluntarily participated in the programme, he said, "I am receiving constructive suggestions from the field level that some officials and people's representatives are not showing the enthusiasm being shown by the people. To make the programme more effective, it is necessary to take corrective measures are necessary."

He made it clear that flying squads will be created and implementation of the programme will be reviewed and action taken against those officials and people's representatives who have not improved their performance. Rao said that for the employees in the Panchayat Raj department, promotions were given on a scale which they did not expect or imagine as promised during the Palle Pragathi programme, every month the government is releasing ₹39 crore for panchayats.

He said that officers will be drafted from IAS, IPS and IFS cadre and the monitoring system will be put in place. Each official in a random manner will be given 12 mandals in different districts to conduct surprise checks. Mandals allocated to the flying squad heads will be kept confidential and action taken against officials and sarpanchs who have not done their work and there should not be any let off in this matter, he added. Rao said that especially officials who showed laxity in their job will not be taken lightly. He said that action will be taken against them.

While explaining the seriousness of the programme, he said, "We are conducting the review meeting here today making panchayats about the programme, Raghunandan Rao, cancel his visit to Bengaluru. This alone explains the seriousness."

TENDER FOR INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & DISPOSAL OF STEEL SCRAP
Kirby Building Systems & Structures India Pvt Ltd, pioneer in Prefabricated Steel Buildings in India, is now accepting tenders for following services at their Factory, Pashamylaram and City Eng Centre, Madhapur.
A. Services:
1. Canteen Services 2. Housekeeping Services 3. Part time Doctor Services 4. Pest control 5. Domestic & International couriers 6. Cab Services 7. Mineral Water Supply-City office 8. Cafeteria Services for imports and exports 9. Local Transportation for Material & Express Couriers Services 11. Air Travel Services 12. Xerox machines on Rental basis
B. "Disposal of Steel Scrap" AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS for Quarter Jan - Mar 2020
Tender forms to be collected and sealed bids are to be submitted before 02-01-2020 at the below address:
Manager - Purchase
Kirby Building Systems & Structures India Pvt Ltd
Plot # 8-15, IDA, Phase-III, Pashamylaram, Dist. Sangareddy, Telangana - 502407. Ph: 08455-224041-04. Mob: 9865224092

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC) INVITATION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Rf.CE-PMU-140708/2019-08 Dt.21-12-2019
VMC invites Request for Proposal for "Appointment of 3rd Party Quality Control Agency for All Engineering works in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation".
Interested agencies/companies who are having experience in the similar nature of work including financial capability, having latest technical competency to perform this assignment can obtain the details and the Request For Proposal (RFP) documents from the office of the Chief Engineer, VMC, Vijayawada by paying Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand only) Non-refundable in the form of Demand Draft in favour of the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada payable at any Nationalized Bank in Vijayawada and Rs.3600/- in favour of Commercial Tax Office Vijayawada. The RFP can also be downloaded from the VMC web site i.e. <https://www.vmc.org.in/gp/gentenders.asp> and payment of Rs. 20,000/- can be made through DD while submission of RFP.
Available / Issue of Tender - 23-12-2019 at 3.00 PM
Schedules
Last date for Receipt of Bids - 06-01-2020 at 3.00 PM
Opening of Technical Bids - 06-01-2020 at 5.00 PM
Opening of Financial Bids - After Technical Bid Evaluation.
If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
Commissioner, VMC reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason therefor.
Any addendum/corrigendum/bid clarifications/time extension shall be issued on the website only. No spare notification shall be issued.
Address for Correspondence: Chief Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Jawahar Nehru Buildings, Canal Road, Vijayawada-520 001, Andhra Pradesh. Phone No.0866-2422400 / 2421001; Cell No. 9866897639, 9866514141.
Sd/-
For COMMISSIONER

AMARAVATI | PROTEST

Much will depend upon the condition of soil's upper layer, say scientists

Farmlands have roads, difficult to revive

MD ILYAS DC VIJAYAWADA, DEC 22

Returning lands to the farmers in Amaravati after the YSRC government downsized the AP capital is a puzzling and Herculean task. The YSRC government wants three capitals and this does not require so much land in one place.

The unique fertile lands locally known as Jarebu lands could cultivate 120 varieties of vegetables, horticulture and agriculture. In the absence of cultivation in the past five years, these lands are now barren. Farmers here would be difficult to revive these lands and make them fertile again.

A 20-ft wide access road was constructed on the banks of the Krishna river to reach the capital and other arterial roads were also constructed across what was formerly farmland, turning lush green areas into concrete surfaces.

Farmers say concrete roads, deep trenches and underground cable ducts

Protests back in Amaravati after 5 yrs

Now it is these latter farmers who are protesting and opposing the shifting of the capital from Amaravati.

Locals and farmers of Rayapudi in Amaravati, M. Seshagiri, S. Karimulla and others, recalled that the executive capital was proposed on the banks of the Krishna river at Rayapudi on the banks of the Krishna river at Rayapudi and Uddandaryunipalem, according to the then TD government's "Singapore masterplan", which boasted of building another Singapore here.

A majority of farmers who didn't understand the Land Pooling Scheme

and other amenities. Returning this to farmland will be a puzzling task for the government."

They say that as the Legislative Assembly will continue to operate from Amaravati, the government should think about developing various projects here or including these areas in an adjacent ward by forming a megacity.

Agriculture scientist T.G. Krishna, however, says that the soil is not damaged, but if roads and concrete structures are constructed on the farmlands then it will be very difficult to re-start cultivation.

Agriculture department officials said that idle farmlands, without any activity can be used for cultivation by using the traditional method for the first season. They said that a soil test is a must to know the condition of the soil and farmers will have to use the latest technology to restart cultivation activity in the undisturbed farmlands.

Nandu Reddy recalled the burning of crops of the reluctant farmers and how police had to be called against reluctant farmers and police pickets were set up in the villages to control the situation. They recalled that the milk collection centre in the middle of Mandamand village was converted into a kitchen and then a sub-colony was set up to keep law and order on track. Today, protests and agitations have defaced the panchayat offices as the pro-Amaravati farmers have become the victims of the three capital project of the present government.

Farmers B. Raju, Murali Krishna and others said, "The boundaries to our farmlands were erased for development of land, roads



Owaisi points out that Modi said there was no discussion on nationwide NRC, asks if Amit Shah misled Parliament



If Centre does not give funds, state would not even run for a couple of days

— Soyam Bapu Rao
Adilabad BJP MP

POWER SHUTDOWN

10 am to 1 pm: NRI Colony, EGN Hotel, Prasanthnagar, Bapu Ghat, Pensión, Langa Langer, Houz Market, Ambedkarnagar, Laxminagar, Military Hospital, Indiranagar, Floor Mill, Rajendranagar, Nagar, Defence Colony, Bapunagar, Mehdi Colony; Cancer Hospital area, Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu's residence area, IAS Quarters area, lane opposite Grandma Bakery.
2 pm to 5 pm: Road No. 14, Nandnagar, Jubilee Hills Road No.10, Dubai Building, area around Danam Nagendar's house; Langer, Rajendranagar, Vinayaknagar, Hari Das Pura, Alankar theatre; Kendriya Vidyalaya School, Hasham Nagar, Mandula Basthi, Defence Colony.

SHORT TAKES

HYDERABAD BOOK FAIR OPENS TODAY

SANJAY SAMUEL | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

The 34th edition of the Hyderabad Book Fair will open on Monday with the organisers expecting 10 lakh people to visit the exhibition this year.

The book exhibition will be open from 2.30 pm to 8.30 pm on weekdays and from 12 noon to 8.30 pm on weekends and holidays till January 1, at NTR Stadium.

Speaking at a press conference to make the announcement, Juluru Gowri Shankar, president Hyderabad Book Fair, said, "The book fair will bring together 500 writers and poets of Telangana state."

Eight new writers will be introduced, and the fair will see many book launches. The Gandhi stall will be the highlight of this year's show, which will display all the books written on Mahatma Gandhi.

It will have a green belt project, planting and distribution of saplings, Mr Shankar said. He also requested all schools to send their students to the fair.

WARANGAL HOSP FACES MED CRISIS

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, DEC. 22

The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) hospital in Warangal which is touted as the biggest state-run hospital in North Telangana does not have medicine for emergency treatments.

Several patients who came to the hospital for treatment of dog bite had to go back as the hospital does not possess the ARV injection (Rabies vaccine). Until recently the hospital did not have the Tetanus vaccine.

The patients blamed the state government for negligence and for not providing the required medicines to the hospital which is visited by a large number of patients from Warangal, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad.

A Mallah of Pegadapalli said, "I received the medicine for a dog bite 10 days ago, but I have to take the Rabies vaccine. The hospital doctors and the employees asked me to come again later saying they presently do not have the vaccine. I made several visits to the hospital, but I received the same response."

Several such patients who were waiting for the vaccine staged a protest outside the casualty ward of the hospital on Sunday. They complained that the hospital staff asked them to purchase the medicines from outside.

But, this is not the only case of shortage of medicine. The hospital is facing shortage of other medicines also. Recently, even the tetanus vaccine was not available to patients for several days.

The Vitamin 'A' drug which is essential to avoid dry or night blindness in children, babies is also not available in the hospital.



Members of the All India Professional Congress Cell protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens at Ambedkar statue in Tank Bund on Sunday. TPCP president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy also took part in the demonstration. — S. SURENDRA REDDY

Cong slams BJP over CAA
Party leaders accuse saffron party for destroying constitutional values

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Congress leaders on Sunday staged a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens before the Ambedkar Statue at Tank Bund in the city. The protest was organised by the All India Professional Congress Cell.

Addressing the protesters, TPCP chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy accused the BJP of destroying constitutional values of the country with its divisive policies.

"The CAA and NRC initiated by the BJP have led to a fear in the country and the people."

"The TPCP president criticised the police for being obstructive despite the Congress carrying out its protest in a peaceful manner. He demanded that the state government immediately withdraw the huge police forces deployed in various universities of the country."

Speaking on the occasion, former minister J. Geetha Reddy demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi withdraw the Citizenship Amendment Act. She asserted that the Congress will resist the BJP's efforts to divide the people of the country through the CAA and NRC.

She said that it is not proper that Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu has chosen to remain silent on implementation of CAA and NRC in the state.

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22



Ladeeda Farzana and Ayesha Renna interact with students in protest against the CAA at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University on Sunday.

Anti-CAA protest: Farzana, Renna hail Manuu students

gathered in the Manuu auditorium on Sunday. They were addressed by Ms Renna and Ladeeda Farzana, the Jamia students who have become the icons of the CAA protest after they stopped a policeman from beating their fellow student during a protest at Jamia Islamia Institute. Noted scientist, poet and social worker, Gauhar Kaza, also addressed the students.

"I salute the student community at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) who have been protesting for the past 12 days, but would like to remind them that we have a long way to go. We have to protest until the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) is revoked. Students across the nation at various institutes are staging protests and showing the power of the student community," said Ayesha Renna addressing students at Manuu.

Hundreds of students only students from Manuu but students across the nation, have proved that this generation can fight on the ground and protest for their rights," said Ms Raza. Ms Farzana called for more students to join the protest to make this a mass revolt. She said that she is proud of her Muslim identity.

The police did not allow outsiders to take part in the event. Several students from Osmania University and University of Hyderabad came to Manuu to attend the talk, but were not allowed in.

"People may think that this generation is only going behind pay passing and social media protests and cannot go beyond Whatsapp forwards, but you people, not

POLICE DETAIN PROTESTERS FOR VIOLATING LAW

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Hussainialam police detained protesters near Puranapal in the Old City of Hyderabad for gathering without prior permission.

Reportedly the protesters were planning a road march in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register for Citizens. The BJP's Uma Mahender, who had contested as MLA from Charminar was also detained with 20 supporters.

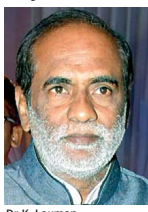
"The Hyderabad police have not given permission for rallies or road shows in public places in Hyderabad in support or against CAA or NRC. Members into custody of Hussainialam police inspector K. Ramesh said, "We have taken 20 protesters into custody for gathering illegally on Sunday evening. As there is a chance of commission of any cognizable offence they were taken into preventive custody."

THE PROTESTERS were planning a road march in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

CAA doesn't affect Muslims, says BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president Dr K. Laxman said the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) does not affect the rights of Muslims and Hindus.



Dr K. Laxman

Participating in a live chat on Facebook at his party office on Sunday, Dr Laxman said that the right to citizenship in India is still under the 1955 Act, but the Congress, Telangana Rashtra Samiti and the rest of the parties were "blinded by religious fanaticism" and had been speaking against the Act without understanding its spirit.

He said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was making a big hue and cry against the CAA but she feared losing votes in the ensuing elections in the state.

He said the TRS should openly spell out its reasons for opposing the CAA, and alleged that TRS president and Chief

Minister Chandrababu Rao was "blinded by religious fanaticism" and had been speaking against the Act without understanding its spirit.

Dr Laxman said that the BJP will launch an awareness programme across the state against "disinformation" being spread on the CAA and National Register of Citizens and organise meetings with intellectuals and educationists to highlight the necessity and importance of CAA and to do away with fear among Muslims.



VHP international joint general secretary, Surendra Jain, speaks on Citizenship (Amendment) Act at Jagruti Bhavan on Sunday. — P. SURENDRA

GVL thanks Owaisi for singing Anthem

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

BJP Rajya Sabha member G.V.L. Narasimha Rao on Sunday welcomed MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi concluding his Saturday's meeting with the National Anthem and appealing to the people to "fly the National Flag at their homes."

Speaking at a meeting of intellectuals organised by the BJP on the Citizenship Amendment Act, Mr Rao said it was the BJP which had compelled Mr Owaisi to conclude the meeting with the National Anthem.

He said that the Congress was protesting against the CAA purely for its political survival. He claimed the Congress was behind the violence in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka.

THE RS MP said the Congress was protesting against the CAA purely for its political survival. He claimed the Congress was behind the violence in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka.

Jawaharlal Nehru did not succeed in taking up the Citizenship Amendment Act, the BJP had successfully brought out the legislation.

Making it clear that the BJP would not take back the Act, Mr Rao said that the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi were speaking on the Citizenship Amendment Act.

He said that Hyderabad had become a hotbed for religious politics.

MIM plans more protests in TS, AP

SA. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 22

All India Majlis Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) will carry out protest meetings in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The MIM held a massive public meeting against the CAA and NRC at Darussalam, its headquarters in the city on Saturday night, and will hold another public meeting on December 24 in Mahabubnagar and on December 27 in Nizamabad.

"There are demands for a massive public rally, but party chief Asaduddin Owaisi is not keen on a rally, which could allow miscreants to create trouble and could lead to violence."

When the participants and speakers demanded the massive rally during the meeting in Darussalam, Mr Owaisi categorically said, "Mai ishaqui ke uper siast nai kar sakta. Mai naujawanu ki

We try to be positive, say couples

From Page 1

"I ask her questions on such subjects. She comes from a social sciences educational background, her work with the government takes her closer to a far more diverse range of people. She is touched far more easily by a view from the ground. We do test the media narrative with such a test," he says.

She confirms a deep-rooted mutual respect and a larger, more encompassing world-view as the bond enabler. "When two people refuse to view any issue with a religious, casteist or communal mindset, but replace it with a humanistic approach, it is amazing how there are seldom any deeper conflicts. We share values and an objective way of life. We don't give much importance to religion, or class differences."

Surely, one quizzes them, they must have faced hostility and discrimination; after all, one cannot merely wish away the divide around us.

one is not a citizen. After all, the state has men, money, machinery, and power to make and amend laws. "If it is not legal immigrants properly, legally. After all, it was your failure in the first place," she advocates.

Both of them agree that this move was aimed at creating rift between communities. "If it is only about weeding out illegal immigrants, there is no need for a new law. Existing laws can enable us to do it. But let no one miss this; if it led to such fear psychosis and administrative chaos to implement in a small state like Assam, imagine the turmoil implementing a nationwide NRC would wreck?"

"Our relationship is close to 30 years now," says Mr Rao. "We don't think our politics has led to destruction of social activities or loss of friends. But we define our friends in real life like that. They accepted us, and they respect us."

know are secular and tolerant. We celebrate both festivals and our friends join in. Respect for each other's religion is very easy, but a delightful path to a discovery of a larger truth," she says. "In fact, it is not just young people, even most elderly people, contrary to portrayal as being more conservative, are strongly religious. If someone wants to impose their regional communal anxieties and intransigence on the nation, that is grossly unjust," he said.

A viewpoint not exactly shared by Mr Mohd. Ali, an entrepreneur and restaurateur, who married Ms Swetha, the younger sister of his classmate from Nizam's College.

"To be honest, this NRC-CAA debate does not matter much to us. When governments change, they do change policy. We don't let

politics of this kind come between us, or into our lives. As long as it does not harm us directly, we are fine. We do read and see news, but don't discuss politics. We have our own simple life system - we are happy with each other."

Mr Ali, and his wife, who is a kindergarten teacher, neither see it as a diversionary tactic to distract attention from falling economic growth, nor do they have a reason for concern, and feel safe; at least as of now. It is not like they can ask us to prove our citizenship and throw us out. We were born here, we have extended families here. We don't feel threatened. It won't be easy for any government to just throw us out."

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Havoc attempt

Assamese singer Zubeen Garg says government is trying to create 'Kashmir-like havoc' in the state



Assam will never accept the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. It is anti-Assam.

— Ripun Bora, Congress leader

SHORT TAKES

WON'T LET SHAH ENTER KOLKATA: MIN

Kolkata, Dec. 22: West Bengal minister and state president of Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind Siddiqullah Chowdhury on Sunday threatened to disallow union home minister Amit Shah to enter the airport whenever he visits the city, if the Citizenship Amendment Act is not immediately withdrawn...

JABALPUR LIMPING BACK TO NORMALCY

RABINDRA NATH CHOUHURY I DC BHOPAL, DEC. 22

Jabalpur, which witnessed a pitched battle between police and those protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that led to clamping curfew on Sunday...

Curfew was relaxed for seven hours in the afternoon to enable locals to buy essential commodities. Near-normalcy was restored in the violence-prone areas under four police station limits...

On Saturday two ministers of the Kamal Nath government met leaders of various communities to defuse the situation and restore peace in the town. Minister Sajjan Singh Verma on Sunday accused the BJP of spreading communal disharmony that led to Friday's incident.

CONG BATS FOR CAA AMBIT TO AHMADIYYAS

New Delhi, Dec. 22: Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Parpat Singh Bajwa on Sunday urged President Ram Nath Kovind to have the ambit of the new citizenship law expanded to include in it the Ahmadiyya community facing persecution in Pakistan.

Bajwa made the request to the President in a letter to him. "Amit widespread protests against the amendment to the citizenship law, Bajwa argued that the government needs to undertake the humanitarian step for Ahmadiyyas, who have had to flee Pakistan following persistent persecution. The ethos of India has always been to protect the oppressed. We have protected minorities and done our best to bring out these qualities in our democratic institutions," he said in his letter to the President. He said, "This being the 150th birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi, I urge you to bring this to the notice of the government. It is my hope that the government will continue to protect those who are oppressed and persecuted around us and look at expanding the ambit of the Citizenship Amendment Act under your directions."

CAA has nothing to do with Muslims in India, says Modi

PM says Cong worried over support he received from Islamic countries

From Page 1

Several Opposition leaders responded to Modi's claims that he made false statements. On Twitter, several politicians made comments and attached clips of the union home minister talking of implementing the NRC across the country, including in the Parliament on December 10.

Attaching a clip of Mr Shah speaking in Parliament, Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi questioned the Prime Minister's statement. "Today, Modi said there has been no discussion on nationwide NRC and that lies are being spread to mislead us," he tweeted. "Who's lying? If Amit Shah is wrong, then it is the Opposition's Privilege and a clear case of misleading the House. Who should we believe?"

Mr Shah has spoken of the government's plan to introduce a nationwide NRC on several occasions, even linking it to the citizenship law. On May 1, at a rally in Bongaon, West Bengal, Mr Shah called the law "a step towards again explicitly linked the amended citizenship law with NRC to target them."

Addressing a rally at the Ramlika Maidan in the national capital, barely a km from Old Delhi's Darwaza-i-Khas, he was hit by violence two days ago, the Prime Minister said. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the NRC have nothing to do with Indian Muslims or any other Indian citizens.

"The citizenship law or the NRC have nothing to do with Indian Muslims or Indian citizens. They have nothing to worry," he said and added, "We have never asked anyone if he goes to temple or mosque when it comes to implementing our schemes. Muslims are being misled and I have always ensured that documents will never come in way of development schemes and their beneficiaries."

Defending the CAA, Mr Modi said that it is about giving rights to persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries and that does not snatch anybody's rights and asked people at his rally to stand up to show respect for the Parliament and lawmakers.



BJP, RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal and various organisations take part in a rally in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act in Nagpur, on Sunday.

In Delhi, on Sunday, he again accused the anti-CAA and anti-NRC demonstrators of violence and vandalism and praised the police force for doing its job diligently. Strongly condemning the violence during the ongoing protests against the CAA, he attacked the opposition for not making any appeal for peace and said their silence showed their indirect support to vandalism targeting school buses and trains.

He also said that 30,000 police personnel had laid down their lives in the line of duty since independence but were now being attacked. Smiles were seen on the faces of security personnel deployed on the ground as the Prime Minister talked of their sacrifices and the audience chanted 'Zindabad' for Delhi Police.

The Prime Minister made no mention of the ongoing protests against the CAA, he attacked the opposition for not making any appeal for peace and said their silence showed their indirect support to vandalism targeting school buses and trains.

Referring to the support he has received from Islamic countries and the civilian honour bestowed on him by many of them, the Prime Minister said that it has scared the Congress and its friends as they are worried that if Muslims in the world support me so much, then how long they can frighten Indian Muslims (against the CAA)?"

Mr Modi made no mention of the 22 deaths in protests since the Rayya Sabha passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill on December 11. Of the 22 dead, 17 died in Uttar Pradesh and two in Karnataka, both BJP ruled states.

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Pro-CAA rally in led by RSS ally

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 22

Amid uproar over the Citizenship Amendment Act across the country, a rally was organised in support of the law in Nagpur by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated body on Sunday. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the RSS supported the rally, which was organised by the Lok Adhikar Manch, Senior BJP leader and union minister Nitin Gadkari and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis joined the rally. Mr Gadkari asserted that the Act was not against the Muslim community in India and union territories with exceptions as may be applicable, seeks to grant citizenship to make illegal migrants who may be Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The union minister said the NDA government was not doing any injustice to Muslims in India and he was in support of the government's decision to enact a new law, which seeks to provide citizenship to persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Mr Gadkari said before 1947, there was an 'Akhand Bharat' but after partition, Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared Pakistan a Muslim nation.

"But, in our country, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, it was accepted that our nation would not be a Hindu Rashtra, but a secular nation for all communities," he said.

"When this was decided, Mr Gadkari said, Mahatma Gandhi was asked where the 22 per cent Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and Muslims of Pakistan go if they face injustice and persecution. 'Gandhiji replied that the country of Pakistan and Afghanistan, whenever they will require support, India will support them,' the minister noted.

"What has it done for the community?" he asked.

6 'outsiders' held over UP violence

Lucknow, Dec. 22: Blaming 'outsiders' for the violence during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the UP government on Sunday said six people from West Bengal, associated with Islamic outfits PFI and SIMI, have been arrested, even as the death toll rose to 17 in the state.

The UP Police, in a statement on Sunday, said that 879 people have been arrested and 5,312 taken into custody as a preventive measure. So far, 164 cases have been registered, it said.

The UP Police, in a statement on Sunday, said that 879 people have been arrested and 5,312 taken into custody as a preventive measure. So far, 164 cases have been registered, it said.

Chakravarthy Sulbela of Yuv Brigade also made a controversial statement saying Dr B.R. Ambedkar had suggested Muslims to leave India and settle in Pakistan after the Partition.

Speaking at the townhall under protest, he said that Dr. Ambedkar, considering the population, had suggested that Muslims should go to Pakistan.

(Congress) done for you? I request the Muslim community of the country to understand the conspiracy. Your development can be done only by the BJP and not the Congress," the BJP leader said. "You used to ride cycle-rickshaws, we gave you e-rickshaws and helped you stand. The Congress considers you as a vote machine so that it can rule afterwards. Don't fall for this misinformation," he said.

"We all are one, our legacy is one. You go to Masjid, we don't oppose it. We will live together and work according to the Constitution framed by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. This is what we have been saying, not anything new," he said.

Dr Ambedkar, Mr Gadkari had said that Muslims of Islamic countries have 100 to 150 alternatives and can get shelter in any Muslim country, "but Hindus, Sikhs, Indian Buddhists, Christians, Jains have no alternative."

"But, in our country, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, it was accepted that our nation would not be a Hindu Rashtra, but a secular nation for all communities," he said.

"When this was decided, Mr Gadkari said, Mahatma Gandhi was asked where the 22 per cent Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and Muslims of Pakistan go if they face injustice and persecution. 'Gandhiji replied that the country of Pakistan and Afghanistan, whenever they will require support, India will support them,' the minister noted.

"What has it done for the community?" he asked.

Govt for B'deshi Hindus, says Aasu

MANOJ ANAND I DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 22

A day after the Assam Cabinet adopted several resolutions protecting the language, identity and land of indigenous people in the state, Assam chief adviser Samual Bhattacharya, who is spearheading the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act movement, said the government's decisions are only aimed at appeasing protesting groups and defending Hindu Bangladeshis.

Demanding that the state government release various arrested leaders, including RTI activist Akhil Gogoi, Bhattacharya said, "The Cabinet decisions have only aimed at appeasing protesting groups and defending Hindu Bangladeshis."

Demanding that the state government release various arrested leaders, including RTI activist Akhil Gogoi, Bhattacharya said, "The Cabinet decisions have only aimed at appeasing protesting groups and defending Hindu Bangladeshis."

Illiterates, puncture repairers, protesting against CAA: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT BANGALURU, DEC. 22

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya stirred a controversy on Sunday after he claimed that most of the people protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) are illiterate, who have not understood the Act.

In a veiled attack against Muslims and Dalits, who form a major group opposing the CAA and NRC, the Bengaluru South MP said at a pro-CAA demonstration at the Town Hall, "If you split open their chests, you cannot find even four words. These are the people protesting against the CAA."

He said that people who own puncture repair shops on the roadside and illiterates are opposing the Act without understanding the Act. While the MP's statement was received with cheers by the participants, it was widely condemned on social media platforms.

The MP went on to criticise opposition parties and those protesting against the law, saying his government is on a mission to make a 'New India' and those protesting have no right to play in it.

Country's minister calls the two laws India's internal issues

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CAA, NRC may affect bilateral affairs: B'desh

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Family members of Sam Stafford, who died in an alleged firing incident recently, mourn during a tribute-paying ceremony, in Guwahati on Sunday.



A.K. Abdul Momen

They should deal with it," he said. Momen had recently said Bangladesh has requested New Delhi to provide a list of Bangladeshis not considered living illegally in India, "if any," to be repatriated.

He had also cancelled his visit to India beginning December 12, hours before he was to arrive in New Delhi. The minister said his busy schedule coinciding with the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day and also the absence of the state minister for foreign affairs, Shahriar Alam and the ministry's secretary in the country made him defer his tour. However, diplo-

matic sources in New Delhi said that Momen and Bangladesh home minister Asaduzzaman Khan had agreed to visits to India over the situation arising out of the passage of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act.

Momen had cancelled his tour a day after he termed as 'untrue' home minister Amit Shah's comments on persecution of religious minorities in Bangladesh. The external affairs ministry said that Momen asserted that Shah referred to the persecution during the military rule and not under current government.