

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 24 DECEMBER 2019

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## WEATHER

**Max:** 27.3°C  
**Min:** 17.4°C  
**RH:** 51%  
**Rainfall:** Nil  
**Forecast:** Misty morning and cloudy sky later  
Max/Min temp. 28/18°C

## ASTROGUIDE

**Vikari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Margasira Bahula Trayodasi till 12.20 pm  
**Star:** Anuradha till 5.01 pm  
**Vijaya:** 0.33 pm to 12.08 am  
**Dumuhurta:** 3.58 am to 11.42 am and 10.57 pm to 11.49 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm  
**HILARI CALENDAR**  
**Rabi-ut-Aker** 27, 1441 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5:38 am  
**Zahar:** 12:26 pm  
**Asar:** 4:12 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5:54 pm  
**Isha:** 7:08 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY** 5:48 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6:43 AM  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW** 4:42 AM  
**MOONSET TODAY** 3:27 PM

## Civic polls, minus GHMC, on Jan 22

**Hyderabad:** Elections to 120 urban local bodies (ULBs) and 10 municipal corporations will be held on January 22. Counting will be held on January 25 and the results would be declared immediately. Barring the GHMC, Khammam and Warangal municipal corporations, 10 corporations including Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Nizamabad will go to the polls. Municipal corporations including Badangpet, Meerpet, Bandlaguda Jagir, Buduppal, Peerzadiguda, Jawaharnagar and Nizampet on the city outskirts and over 50 urban local bodies will take part in the voting in the independent entities for the first time.

Full report on Page 5

## No junk food sale near schools soon

**New Delhi:** Food regulator FSSAI is likely to finalise within the next two months its proposed regulations to ban sale as well as advertisements of junk foods in school canteens and within 50 metres of school campuses, its CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal said on Monday. He said the regulations would be finalised within two months and would be sent to the health ministry for approval. In its draft regulations, the FSSAI had said "foods which are referred to as foods high in fat, salt and sugar cannot be sold to school children in school canteens or hostel kitchens or within 50 metres of the school campus".

Full report on Page 14

## COUNTER POINT



This time, let's ask him for some onions!

# BJP LOSES ANOTHER STATE

### JMM-Congress trounces BJP in Jharkhand; CM Das loses election; Hemant Soren will be new CM

**YOJNA GUSAI, SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY and NAYEAR AZAD | DC NEW DELHI/PATNA, DEC. 23**

In a major blow to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after it lost Maharashtra, yet another state slipped out of its hands on Monday as Jharkhand elected a government of the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance. Adding insult to injury, incumbent BJP Chief Minister Raghubar Das lost from his home turf of Jamshedpur (East). The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's Hemant Soren is poised to be the next Chief Minister.

Talking to reporters in Ranchi, Mr Soren, who is the JMM's working president, said that he will soon call a meeting of all alliance partners to discuss the future course of action. He also used the occasion to thank his father and party chief Shibu Soren whom he addressed as *Garuji*, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi for "forming a grand alliance against the BJP".

Jharkhand went to polls for 81 Assembly seats in five phases from November 30 to December 20. The BJP, JMM, Congress, RJD, AJSU and JMM-P were the main political parties in the fray. The primary fight, however, was between the BJP and the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance. In an election fought largely over local issues, the BJP was virtually shut out with the JMM-Congress-RJD winning 46 seats, comfortably crossing the magic mark of 41 seats. The BJP won 35 seats, which is 12 seats less than its tally in the last Assembly polls.

In 2014, the BJP had won 37 seats, "going solo" along with alliance partner AJSU, was 43. While the Congress improved its tally from six to 16 seats, Babul Marandi bagged one of the seven seats it contested. The AJSU won two seats and former chief minister Shibu Soren's JMM-P won three seats.

Page 6: National Issues failed to cut ice with voters



Party workers and supporters of the Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) celebrate their parties' performance in the Jharkhand Assembly election results in Ranchi on Monday.

## BJP's rout shocks party strategists

**YOJNA GUSAI | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 23**

The BJP's master strategists were scratching their heads and looked completely blank as they never expected a complete rout in Jharkhand. But "arrogance", "wrong ticket distribution", "discouraged cadres", "going solo" and the Raghubar Das-led BJP government's "failure to highlight what it actually did for the state" ended up with the party losing the state, with its votesharing crashing down from 55 per cent in the Lok Sabha polls to just 39 per cent. Worse, Mr Das, the BJP's CM face, lost his pocket borough Jamshedpur East, which he had been winning

■ WHILE THE BJP is trying to formulate an explanation for this crushing defeat in the state, rising unemployment, lack of economic development in the state and upset tribals were reportedly the major causes.

Since 1985, Jharkhand is the fifth state that the BJP lost this year. The BJP also failed to please tribals, who were miffed over the state government's decision to amend the SPT Act and CNT Act.

The BJP, till the first two phases of polling, was certain of a close fight and confident of returning to power with the help of the All Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU) and,

if need be, Babul Marandi's Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM). But later ground reports left the party's poll managers disturbed. Also, the BJP top brass, sources said, did not listen to the feedback from its cadre that the party should not project Mr Das as the CM candidate. In addition, multi-cornered fights in most seats proved disastrous for the BJP. The AJSU and JVM also did not make any noticeable electoral impact.

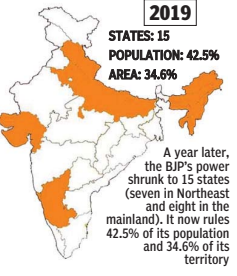
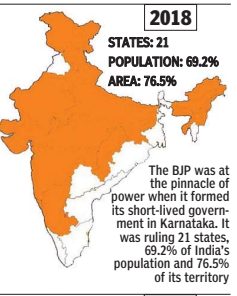
PM Narendra Modi congratulated JMM working president Hemant Soren, who led his party's alliance with the Congress and RJD, for the victory and extended his best wishes to the coalition. BJP president and home minister

Amit Shah expressed his gratitude to Jharkhand's people for giving the BJP a chance to govern the state for five years, and asserted that his party remains committed to its development. Taking responsibility for the electoral debacle, Mr Das, who was accused of being an "outsider" in the state by the Opposition, said that it was his defeat and not that of the BJP. While the BJP is trying to formulate an explanation for this crushing defeat, rising unemployment, lack of economic development in the state and upset tribals were reportedly the major cause.

Page 6: Even BJP cadres didn't vote for Das

Cong+	BJP	Others
47	25	9

## SHRINKING LOTUS



People are dying. So many died while standing in queues during the demonetisation. For you (the BJP-led Centre) laws, people are dying, then someone has to take responsibility. This is not about the Muslims.

— HEMANT SOREN  
JMM-Congress Chief Ministerial candidate

## Protests surge, 120 held in UP

**DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, DEC. 23**

Protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) continued across the country and abroad on Monday with huge turnouts in Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru. Even as allegations surfaced on Monday that actress and Congress activist Sadaf Jaffer, arrested on December 19 and since lodged in Lucknow jail, was brutally tortured by the UP police, in Delhi, 46 students were arrested and over 120 detained even before they could begin their protest against police brutality in Uttar Pradesh where crackdown on protesters continued.

Both the BJP and the Congress were out on the streets on Monday, but in favour of CAA, NRC



DMK president M.K. Stalin along with leaders of allies, including senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, MDMK chief Vaiko and state unit leaders of the Left parties take part in a protest rally against the CAA Act in Chennai on Monday.

and the another against it. Opposing the CAA and NRC, the Congress held a dharna at Raj Ghat where party president Sonia Gandhi read the Preamble to the Constitution. After her, Dr Manmohan Singh and Rahul Gandhi also read out the Preamble at his address to Parliament earlier. In Kolkata, the BJP

took out a rally in support of the CAA. It was led by the party's acting president J.P. Nadda.

Full report on Page 7

## Jagan refuses to support Centre on NRC in AP

**NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA | DC KADAPA, DEC. 23**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao has asserted that his government was not supporting the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He gave this clarification while inaugurating development programmes including a steel factory in Kadapa district on Monday.

Addressing a public gathering at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), he said that the YSR Congress government was not opposing the Muslims. "My friend Deputy Chief Minister Amjad Basha is assured

that Muslims are safe as the government is not supporting the NRC. He has discussed this issue with me," he said.

Three days back, hundreds of Muslims protested against the Citizens Amendment Act and the NRC and staged a dharna at the NRC centre. Amjad Basha had assured them that the government was not supporting the NRC.

Mr Reddy's statement comes close on the heels of several other Chief Ministers, including those belonging to the BJP allies, refusing to support the NRC despite voting in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

## Owaisi flays Modi-Shah doubletalk on NRC

**ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23**

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi criticised the BJP government strongly over its vacillation on the issue of bringing in a nation-wide NRC.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah were giving contradictory statements to create confusion on the issue, Mr Owaisi said on Monday. Speaking to mediapersons at the party office in the city, Mr Owaisi said the President of India had in his address to Parliament earlier this year stated that the BJP-led NDA government would bring in

the National Registry of Citizens (NRC).

The Prime Minister himself had said in an interview to an English channel earlier that his government would implement the NRC nationwide, he said. Suddenly, the Prime Minister Modi had taken a U-turn and said yesterday in a speech that his government was not considering a nation-wide NRC, said Mr Owaisi.

The AIMIM chief wondered if it was a strategy of the BJP to divert attention of the public by prevaricating and deceiving them on the crucial issue.

Full report on Page 2

### AIR-COOLED STEAM CONDENSERS FROM THE WORLD LEADER

The ACC market in India has undergone a revolution since Paharpur acquired the dry cooling business of SPX Cooling Technologies Inc. USA, now renamed SPG Dry Cooling.

The combined Paharpur and SPG-DC entity is acknowledged as the world leader in the air-cooled steam condenser industry.

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FIN FAN COOLERS AIR-COOLED STEAM CONDENSERS COOLING TOWERS



### CAA solution

Congress leader Konda Vishweshwar Reddy says CAA row could have been avoided if it avoided naming religions



TRS leadership and its chief are silent over the issue of illegal infiltrators

— Dr. K. Laxman  
TS BJP president

### SHORT TAKES

## CAA PROTEST AT NECKLACE ROAD ON DEC. 28

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

A Million March has been proposed against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens.

The march to be held at Necklace Road on December 28 from 2 pm, said Mr Mohammed Mustaq Mallik, president of Tehreek-e-Muslim Shabaan, and Mr Syed Mustafa Mehmood, general secretary of the Majlis BT, on Monday.

The intention is to raise awareness among the people that they should not fill documents or forms for the CAA. The people have to understand that they have to stand together and not enrol in the CAA process, said Mr Mallik. With the CAA planned to be rolled out in April 2020, there is a need to spread awareness and ensure that maximum people abide with this decision, he said.

## UMAC TO HOLD RALLIES IN AP, MAHA, BIHAR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

The United Muslim Action Committee has decided to hold protest public meetings and rallies against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and other states.

These will be attended by MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, religious scholars and intellectuals. The meetings will be organised at Jamia Parishad ground in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday and on December 27 at the Idgah Ground in Nizama. Mr Owaisi will participate in a protest rally on December 29 at Lehra Chowk in Kishanganj, Bihar.

## EX-AP CM: CAA WON'T HARM ANY CITIZEN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

The citizenship law is not new and no one will be harmed by the amendments, said Mr Nandendia Bhaskar Rao, former chief minister who is now with the BJP.

Addressing the media at the BJP office in the city, Mr Bhaskar Rao said that the people of the northeastern states need not be afraid of the Citizen Amendment Act (CAA). "Opposition parties are creating issues for the sake of political gain. Sonia Gandhi was given citizenship after she married Rajiv Gandhi, such is the greatness of India," he said. The legislation does not have anything to do with religion, he said and asked Opposition parties not to create unnecessary misinterpretations.

He said not even a single point in the CAA would affect Indian Muslims. "The people who have a voter ID, Aadhaar and driving licence as identification cards will be treated as citizens," he said.

■ **ADDRESSING THE media** at the BJP office in the city, Mr Bhaskar Rao said that the people of the northeastern states need not be afraid of the Citizen Amendment Act (CAA).

■ **HE FURTHER SAID** not even a single point in the CAA would affect Indian Muslims.



Students from state and central universities across Telangana attended a meeting on a chilly Monday evening in front of the historic Arts College on the Osmania University campus.

# OU students rally against CAA

## Protest against the legislation has become the struggle of the decade in India

RAJESHWARI PARASAI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Students from state and central universities across Telangana state attended a meeting on a chilly Monday evening in front of the historic Arts College on the Osmania University campus to demand that the Centre revoke the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The students were also demanding that Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Naidu not implement the CAA in the state. They appealed to him to take a stand against the Act. Earlier in the day, reports said AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had joined a slew of Chief Ministers who have said they would not implement the CAA and the National Register of Citizens.

The meeting at Osmania University was organised entirely by student leaders, and featured students, research scholars and professors as speakers. Some student leaders recalled George Reddy, who was shot dead in 1972 and the subject of a recent film, and said they were inspired by him to continue the fight until the Centre revoked the CAA. The students chanted the slogan, 'Jeena hai toh marna seekho, kadam kadam adina seekho', among others.

Many people in the audience waited for the two Jamia Millia students Ayesha Renna and



Ayesha Renna and Ladeeda Farzana, who have become the face of the struggle against the CAA and the NRC, along with Lyak Ahmed was present at OU on Monday — GANDHI

Ladeeda Farzana, who have become the face of the struggle against the CAA and the NRC after they stopped Delhi police personnel from beating up a male colleague.

They said the protest against the legislation had become the struggle of the decade. Many countries were facing a crisis due to their leaders, they said.

Ms Renna said that the protests that were taking place at educational institutions was the result of the pressure that was put on the students for the last six years.

"Minorities had to face lynching, fake encounters and riots, now the government is trying to convert

■ **MANY PEOPLE** in the audience waited for the two Jamia Millia students Ayesha Renna and Ladeeda Farzana, who have become the face of the struggle against the CAA and the NRC after they stopped Delhi police personnel from beating up a male colleague.

■ **PROF. P.L. VISHWESHWAR RAO**, a former teacher at the university, who has filed a petition against the CAA in the Supreme Court said that the struggle was for the future of the country and to protect its plurality and diversity.

them into illegal immigrants as well," she said.

Prof. P.L. Vishweshwar Rao, a former teacher at the university, who has filed a petition against the CAA in the Supreme Court said that the struggle was for the future of the country and to protect its plurality and diversity.

ality and diversity.

"Osmania University is a historic place and any protest here will lead to victory," Prof. Rao said.

"This is a civil war going on in India, and people are spreading hatred against each other. There are about 65 petitions on the

## ABVP HOLD RALLY IN FAVOUR OF CAA-NRC IN OU CAMPUS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad student wing of the BJP, conducted a rally on the Osmania University campus to express support for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens

(NRC) at about 11:30 pm on Monday. The ABVP activists shouted slogans stating that they would support the CAA and NRC. The rally started at the Arts College and continued for a kilometre. The police had made tight security arrangements to ensure that there were no untoward incidents.

Citizenship Amendment Act with the Supreme Court, the court should

give a fitting reply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

The invitees spoke from the grand entrance of the Arts College.

A poster against the CAA was tied to the staircase leading to the entrance. The students carried several posters condemning the CAA and the NRC.

Several students have managed to enter the campus despite the police restricting the entry of outsiders from all sides. Several women students who were heading for the protest were stopped at the entry from the Osmania police station side for a while till the organisers put up a public appeal on the microphone to verify their credentials and allow them to attend the meeting.

# Owaisi flays Modi-Shah doubletalk on NRC

## Tricolour comes up in Old City

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

President of the All India MIM, Asaduddin Owaisi criticized the BJP government strongly over its vacillation on the issue of bringing in a nation-wide NRC.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were giving contradictory statements to create confusion on the issue, Mr Owaisi said on Monday Speaking to mediapersons at the party office in the city, Mr Owaisi said, the President of India had in his address to Parliament earlier this year stated that the BJP-led NDA government would bring in the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The Prime Minister himself had said in an interview in the English channel earlier that his government would implement the NRC nationwide, he said. Suddenly, Prime Minister Modi had taken a u-turn and said yesterday in a speech that his government was not considering a nation-wide NRC, said Mr Owaisi.

The MIM chief wondered if it was a strategy of the BJP to divert attention of the public by prevaricating and deceiving them on the crucial issue.

"We were hoping the Prime Minister might clearly say that his government will not implement the NRC. Earlier, the BJP

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Some families in the Old City have started hoisting the National Flag on their houses, in response to a call by MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi. At a public meeting on Saturday, Mr Owaisi had asked those opposed to the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens to fly the flag at their homes.

Mr Owaisi had appealed to the people to hoist the National Flag to convey their strong resentment at having to providing documentary evidence of their citizenship.

Families particularly in the Gokonda area, Langer Houz, Tolichowki and Karwan put up National Flags, Macca Masjid Imam Moulana

had said it 'may implement the NRC'. There is a vast difference between 'may' and 'shall'. We were hoping that government would refrain from proceeding ahead with the NRC after the death toll and mass protests across the country. Instead, the BJP leadership is creating more confusion as a strategy," he said.

The Lok Sabha MP from Hyderabad said that Prime Minister Modi and Home



Mohammed Osman Naqshbadi put up two tricolours.

An MIM worker said, "We are planning to dis-

tribute the Tricolour among the residents by procuring in bulk. Many people are willing to hoist the flags but are not able to

get them in the market." He said that more flags would be available ahead of Republic Day next month. "We know that

mental rights and is against the basic structure of the country," he said.

"This law was legislated based on the religion. There cannot be two laws for citizenship, one law for the entire country and another for the northeast. The Modi government had abrogated the Article 370 on the premise of equal law for entire country, but with this, they have given more special status to the northeast region," Mr

Owaisi argued. He said it has been his consistent stand that the CAA was directly connected to the NRC. Mr Hemant Biswas, Finance Minister of Assam and BJP leader, had stated that five lakh Bengali Hindus would be given citizenship in Assam while five lakhs Muslim would be sent to detention centers, Mr Owaisi said.

He said it means in the

eyes of Prime Minister Modi, Bengali Hindus in Assam were refugees whereas Bengali Muslims were intruders. He should treat them equally, said Mr Owaisi. If NRC was implemented in entire country, then those who do not have documents would be declared illegal.

He said that Mr Modi was misleading the nation while saying that NRC was not mentioned in his regime, when it was con-

stantly mentioned during the debate on the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Mr Shah had several times stated that there would be an NRC across the nation while speaking on behalf of the Modi government. If it was Prime Minister's viewpoint that Amit Shah had led, then the Prime Minister must move a privilege motion in Lok Sabha against his own Home Minister for misleading the nation, Mr Owaisi said.

The MIM leader said the preparatory groundwork for NRC was started in the guise of NPR. The NPR, which will be started in April, is part of the NRC, he claimed. "Therefore, we had demanded that NPR work be stopped. During NPR, a low-level official can say he has doubts about someone, which will decide the fate of a citizen," Owaisi alleged.

He questioned if or not a person marked as "doubtful" in NPR would not face questions during NRC, quoting figures that only five per cent citizens carrying passports and as per a 1996 survey, only half of Indians have birth certificates. "The Modi government spent ₹1,600 crore on NRC process. Before the final list, BJP people claimed that in Assam, 50 lakhs Muslims were intruders. Now, after the outcome, they are rejecting it," he said. He also wondered why the government was afraid to respond to his questions.



Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan saw off President Ram Nath Kovind from the Hakimpet air base; he was travelling to Puducherry

## Celebrations



Girls take selfie with Santa Claus ahead of Christmas at a store in Secunderabad on Monday. — P. SURENDRA

Hyderabad got 35th rank out of 4,273 municipalities in the ODF++ category

— D.S. Lokesh Kumar  
GHMC commissioner

### POWER SHUTDOWN

10 am to 1 pm: Balajinagar, Satyanarayananagar, Crystal Garden, Gudimalkapur, Heeranagar, Sainagar, Pavan Garden, KRKM Garden, Shivbhai, Maheshnagar, Roof Garden, Muradnagar, Chota Masjid, Syed Ali Guda, Alapattinagar, Kavin Hotel, Jayanagar, Sharadanagar, Kabbadi Stadium, Mahaveernagar, Markendeyanagar, LIC Colony, SBI Colony, Priya Colony, Maheshnagar, Chaitanya College, Santhoshnagar, Amba Garden, Kranthinar, Jeevan Kalyan Nagar, Hill Colony, Vijay Apartments, Sai Gardens, Huda Colony, Sai Gardens, Devarathina Apartments, Vijaya Sushela Apartments, Ganesh Residency.

2 pm to 5 pm: Ushodaya Colony, Gudimalkapur, Mandulaguda, Priya Colony, LIC Building, Dhobi Ghat, Sai Gardens, Balajinagar, Satyanarayananagar, Crystal Garden, Heeranagar, Sainagar, Pavan Garden, KRKM Garden, Shivbhai, Maheshnagar, Roof Garden, Mandulaguda, Ushodaya Colony, VBG Garden, Navodaya Colony, Sabernagar, Huda Colony, Ali Nagar, Jayanagar.

### IN BRIEF

## YOUTH GETS 7-DAY JAIL FOR ABUSING GIRLS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

A 25-year-old man, who was booked for harassing girl students of a private school, was convicted and sentenced to seven days imprisonment by a court at LB Nagar. The accused was identified as Laxmi Narayana, a resident of Chenna Reddy Colony. The case was booked against him under the City Police Act.

## Tram for twin cities picks up momentum

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

The tram project for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, proposed by a French company, has picked up momentum after three-and-a-half years. The tram is expected to improve public transport in the twin cities by at least 40 per cent, which is currently only 20 per cent.

Highly placed sources in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) said the state government has asked the French firm to explore tyre-based trams, rather than gauge ones, to minimise road cutting.

The new age tram services will connect Jubilee Bus Station to Falaknuma via Lower Tank Bund, Ambedkar Statue, Basheerbagh, Abids, Mozamjahi Market and Charminar. No heritage structures would be damaged as the tram would take a detour of them.

Though multinational companies, including Keolis, Cobitu and Aluminas, had expressed interest in the tram project, they did not follow up. However, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) keenly pursued the project. It made a power point presentation at a meeting chaired by municipal administration and urban development minister K. Taraka Rama Rao earlier this month at Buddha Bhavan. The French agency was asked to conduct a detail transport study and submit a comprehensive project report by February, along with changes suggested by the authorities.

A senior GHMC official said the delay of HMRL in extending its operation has forced Falaknuma to till the minimum fare will be fixed around ₹10 and maximum will be ₹30," the official added.

## Now, pre-book Metro tickets for 20 stations

### QR-based e-tickets available on multiple apps

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Metro Rail passengers can now pre-book their tickets on MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, PhonePe, PayTm and 'T. Savari' applications in 20 of the 49 stations on the network.

Starting this week, commuters will be able to book tickets at 20 stations, including Nagole, Uppal, Tarnaka, Secunderabad, Ameerpet, Durgam Cheruvu, Raidurg, JNTU, KPHB, Kakatpally, Dilusukhnagar and LB Nagar, among others.

The feature will be rolled out across all 49 stations by January-end. Commuters will be able to book 'single and return journey ticket'. In subsequent phases, trip pass and store value pass can also be booked through MakeMyTrip's website an app.

The feature, embedded



with a Quick Response (QR) code will allow people to pre-book two different types of tickets: single and return journey ticket for single or two-way journey. HMRL managing director N.V.S. Reddy said, "With the launch of the QR code-based ticketing by MakeMyTrip, we have

taken a forward step towards creating urban mobility solutions that are future-ready. We believe that by offering these tech-powered solutions, we will serve the transit needs of commuters more efficiently and seamlessly."

Mr K.V.B. Reddy, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, L&T Metro Rail, added "The launch of mobile QR ticketing is a memorable day for the people of Hyderabad. Such collaborations would also be extended with other major apps."

## ACB traps woman deputy tax officer

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

A woman deputy tax officer working in the Commercial Taxes department was caught by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Monday when she demanded and accepted a bribe of ₹5,000 to do official favours.

According to ACB officials, Dheeravathi Saroja, Deputy State Tax Officer, Nacharam Circle 2 was caught red-handed in her

office when she was taking the bribe from one Gyara Raj Kumar of Moua Ahi, who sought change of address in GST. The officer was arrested and produced before the Special Judge for SFB and ACB Cases, Hyderabad, and further probe is underway. Meanwhile, in another incident, Y. Narendar Reddy, an outsourcing computer operator working at Dundigal Tahsildar's office was held for demanding and accepting ₹40,000 bribe.

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WE HAVE A BRANCH SUNDAY CLOSED

## Depression and anxiety tops mental disorders list in TS

KANIZHA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Depression and anxiety disorders top the list of mental disorders that people in the age group of 35 to 45 years suffer in Telangana State, according to a survey carried out by the Indian Council for Medical Research and published in the journal *Lancet*.

Doctors studied the data 1990 to 2017 and found that these two disorders were highly prevalent in Telangana State, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa. Women were found to suffer more than the men, in the ratio of 2:1. This is due to hormonal imbalance, family stress, balancing work, home and family and inability to express themselves.

Dr Minhaj Nasirabadi, general secretary of the Indian Psychiatric Society, Telangana chapter, said more people were coming to the clinics as awareness spread. "These numbers are of those people who are availing help. There are many others who do not make it to the hospitals and are out there suffering from the disease and not aware of it."

### INDIAN COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY

- One in seven persons in India suffers from a mental health issue and needs attention.
- Depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, idiopathic developmental intellectual disability, conduct disorders, and autism are the common problems in India.
- Women are found to suffer from depression, anxiety and eating disorders and men from attention deficiency, autism spectrum disorders and behaviour disorders.
- The burden of mental disorders has doubled from 1990 to 2017.
- The burden of mental disorders shows that they are setting in during adult life unlike childhood disorders which are mostly associated with genetic issues.
- Prevalence of depression in older adults has significant impact on the ageing population.
- Depression is also associated with death by suicide.
- There is a need for a strong and effective strategy to deal with the increasing burden of these disorders at the government and community levels, doctors say.
- Prevention steps needed are in terms of reducing stress and strife in daily life and providing social support in different settings.

Syndrome and eating disorders are also prevalent. The burden of mental disorders has doubled from 1990 to 2017 with 197.3 million suffering from different mental problems. This means that one in every seven person in India is suffering from a mental disorder and needs help.

Prof. Lalit Dandona, director of the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative and national chair of Population Health at ICMR, stated that the study had utilised the accessible data from the hospitals and evaluated the disease burden.

Prof. Dandona said, "The growing incidence of depression needs urgent attention as it leads to different set of issues in the family and also the community. There is a demand to integrate mental health with general health to do with the stigma and make access easy for the people." To add to the problem is the lack of trained manpower to deal with those suffering from mental health issues. There are just 0.3 psychiatrists per 1 lakh population. To add to this there is lack of awareness and extremely poor health care services. Insurance for the treatment of these disorders. Mental health treatment is prolonged and involves continuous visits to the doctor, medication and changes in the medication from time to time. There has to be a family member to support the person and it can be quite a challenge.

Treatment of rehabilitation is expensive and also requires constant monitoring which brings in the question of affordability.

## Hyderabad IMAGES AND MEMORIES

75 YEARS OF DECCAN CHRONICLE

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

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

We scoured the archives and collected anecdotal evidence from several actors of that era to discover delightful asides like how the mother-in-law got her name, how an aide saved the Nizam's legendary mistress for the royal family and how Indira Gandhi floored the Nizam.

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

HYDERABAD: IMAGES AND MEMORIES

The hard-bound: ₹2,000, Soft cover: ₹1,500.

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NOW AVAILABLE

Uttam Kumar Reddy pays tribute to P.V. Narasimha Rao on his death anniversary, says he led India at a crucial juncture



Do not get influenced by TD, Amaravati will be developed as education hub

—Botsa Satyanarayana AP minister

**BRIEF**  
**Inspector sent to headquarters**

Hyderabad: In the report '2 Rachakonda cops sent to HQ: Misconduct' published on December 21, the name of the inspector who was attached to the headquarters by Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat should read as inspector Surender Reddy and not as rendered. He faced allegations of aiding the accused in a case registered under the Explosives Act.

**Bullet sent for forensic tests**

Hyderabad: The police has sent a bullet that was found in the back of a teenager for forensic tests. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, the investigating officer said, "We have sent the 1mm country bullet to Forensic Science Laboratory for examination. Once we receive the report, we can establish the bullet. We are stuck with the investigation as the patient and her family members are not revealing details of the bullet. We are looking to other aspects also to crack the case." The family of the teenager, Asma Begum, was reluctant to talk to the media about how the bullet landed in her body. The bullet was found during medical tests after she complained of back pain, and was surgically removed.

**Museum theft suspect hits ATMs**

Hyderabad: The Falaknema police along with South Zone Task Force arrested a gang of ATM robbers, including a criminal wanted in Nizam museum theft case. The accused Mohammed Mubeen, alias Nizam Sarkar, who was arrested in the museum burglary case and sent out on bail, was frantically accused, Shaik Quasim and Sajid, to assist him in robbing ATMs. According to the Falaknema police, Srinivasa Rao while police personnel were on patrol on Sunday night, they noticed three people moving suspiciously near Andhra Bank, Shamsheerunji Road. The three tried to escape and the police chased and nabbed them. During investigation, police found materials like gas-cutter kit with them.

**DISILLUSIONED COP COMMITS SUICIDE**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23  
A sub-inspector working with Central Crime Squad (CCS), committed suicide by hanging allegedly due to depression on Monday morning while he was alone at his residence. The Amberpet police identified the SI as Saideul Goud, 41, who hailed from Nalgonda district. According to police, his 38-year-old wife, Nirmala, went to drop their two children at school. When she returned around 8.40 am, she found her husband hanging from the ceiling. She called the police with the help of neighbors. Police said Goud was a heavy drinker and had some health issues due to which he had not reported to work for quite some time. He was recently posted at CCS Hyderabad. It is suspected he went to depression as his fellow officers got promoted but he was not. Amberpet police booked a case under Section 302 of the Criminal Procedure Code (suspicious death) and shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital morgue. The body was later handed over to his family members, police said.

**2nd autopsys done on Disha case accused**

Bodies released to kin 18 days after they were killed

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23



Police men stand guard as doctors from Delhi's AIIMS leave the Gandhi Hospital mortuary after completing the second autopsy on the bodies of the accused in the Disha rape case on Monday.

Eighteen days after the alleged encounter killing of four accused in the Disha case, a second post-mortem examination was performed on their bodies by a team of forensic doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, at the Gandhi Hospital here on Monday, as per directions of the High Court. The bodies were subsequently handed over to their families and sent to their native places in two ambulances under police escort for the last rites.

The High Court had on Saturday directed that a second post-mortem examination be performed on the bodies of Mohammed Arif, J. Shiva, J. Naveen, and C. Chennakeshavaulu, who were killed in an alleged exchange of fire between Disha's lawyers and the Cyberabad police on the outskirts of Chhattanpally village during the early hours of December 6.

The accused were arrested by the Cyberabad police charges of raping and murdering the 27-year-old veterinary doctor on Saturday. They were subsequently taken to the outskirts of Chhattanpally for recovering Disha's belongings, which the accused had buried there.

The alleged exchange of fire took place when the accused snatched two guns by overpowering policemen escorting them. The accused then allegedly opened fire at the police party, which resulted in the death of all the four accused.

The team of three forensic doctors, assisted by another expert, reached the Gandhi Hospital at around 9 am on Monday. They allegedly interacted with families of the four deceased before carrying out the autopsies.

The AIIMS team asked family members of the deceased to identify the bodies. The team took photographs and carried out paperwork before proceeding with the autopsies.

Doctors, who performed the first autopsy after the firing incident, were asked to keep themselves away from the second post-mortem examination, arranged for which they were made by the Gandhi Hospital administration.

The AIIMS team performed X-ray examination on the bodies before commencing the second autopsy. This was done to check whether there were any fractures on

the bodies. After the X-ray, the procedure was videographed for submitting the same to the High Court.

After Monday's post-mortem, the bodies were shifted to their native places. Two vehicles containing at least 10 policemen escorted the bodies to Jaklair and Gundigandla, the villages of Mohammed and the three others.

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The commission is expected to reach Hyderabad by the second week of January and start its probe.

The commission has also forwarded its requirements to Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi through the law secretary for setting up the office in Hyderabad.

The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice V.S. Sirpurkar and has retired Bombay High Court judge Rekha Sundar Baldota and D.R. Karthikeyan as its members.

The Supreme Court has granted them six months to submit their findings. Top sources told Deccan Chronicle that all three members met at the residence of Justice Sirpurkar and held their first meeting after the Supreme Court appointed the commission to inquire into the meeting, which lasted several hours, discussed various aspects of the case and the alleged encounter.

**Inquiry team holds first meet**

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Tasked with finding out the truth behind the 'encounter' killing of the four accused in the gang-rape and murder of the veterinary doctor Disha, the three-member inquiry commission appointed by the Supreme Court held its first meeting in Nagpur last week where the experts discussed the case details and chalked out their action plan.

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**2-YEAR RI FOR MISBEHAVING WITH MINOR**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

A 35-year-old man, who was booked in a case of outraging the modesty and misbehaving with a Class V girl was convicted and imprisoned by a court on Monday.

The accused was sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of ₹1,000 by a district court, police said.

The accused, Palla Srinivas Reddy, 35, is a driver from Rajanna Boudi in the city. He was booked in a case at the RGI Airport police station on July 8, 2013, following a complaint by the family members of the 10-year-old victim regarding his misbehavior.

After investigation, a charge-sheet was filed in the Ninth Additional District Judge Court at LB Nagar, which conducted the trial and convicted him.

**Constable 'slaps' complainant**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

In a rather bizarre turn of events, a man who lodged a complaint on Dial 100 about some persons creating a nuisance at Jeedimetla was allegedly beaten up by a constable. The victim took the issue to the notice of senior officials, who ordered an inquiry to ascertain facts.

On Sunday night, when one Siva Krishna, a resident of HAL Colony, complained about the nuisance, he received a call from the police that a patrol team would be reaching the spot. The trouble mongers left the place in the meanwhile and Siva Krishna informed the

**WOMAN, LOVER BEAT HER SON TO DEATH**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

A woman, Sulthana, and her lover Ismail reportedly beat her eight-year-old specially-abled son to death at their house in Mallaredevally on Sunday night.

The police arrested Sulthana while Ismail is at large. The incident came to light after a citizen called the police and sensed police officials through the Hawk Eye app and informed them about the incident. They asked the station house officer to look into the matter.

Jeedimetla inspector P. Ramana Reddy said Siva Krishna's statement had been taken and an inquiry was in progress.

**OBITUARY**  
Smt. CILAKKOTI JANA (Retd. Mrs. C.A. Teacher) DOB: 05-07-1937 DOD: 23-12-2019  
Mrs. NELAPATI SULOCHANA (Retd. Mrs. Y.C. Teacher) DOB: 20-11-1940 DOD: 22-12-2019

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE 24th DEC**  
PRASHANT SURYA (Fashion Designer, Choreographer, Image Stylist) Let this world on 19th Dec. 2014 to be in safe hands of the Lord.

**2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
GOTTLA GLORY PRIYA DOB: 28-07-1966 DOD: 24-12-2017  
Mr. PERUMALLA ANANTHA RAO (Retd. H.M. Calicut, Kerala) DOB: 12-05-1941 DOD: 23-12-2019

**1st ANNIVERSARY**  
K. JAGADISH RAO DOB: 12-12-1936 DOD: 23-12-2019  
LATE SRI KANNAN SAVITRI DOB: 24-12-2017

**11th DAY CEREMONY**  
G.K. GNANESHWAR RAO NAIDU DOB: 8-10-1945 DOD: 15-12-2019  
Smt. PREMLATA YADAV (Wife of MAA) DOB: 12-12-1936 DOD: 23-12-2019

**4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
M. CHRISTY KAMALAKAR DOB: 23-12-1956 DOD: 24-12-2015  
9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
Late Sri PILLY LAXMINARAYANA DOB: 24-12-2010

**PEDDA KARMA**  
Smt. HEMALATHA CHEPVALA DOB: 2/10/1949 - 13/12/2019

**IN LOVING MEMORY**  
Late Guru Pratap Late Prithvi Rao Pratap On Ptaji's 84th Birthday remembering the care, love and guidance of our parents...

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE 24th DEC**  
PRASHANT SURYA (Fashion Designer, Choreographer, Image Stylist) Let this world on 19th Dec. 2014 to be in safe hands of the Lord.

**1st Year Anniversary**  
Late Kurelli Upender Goud DOB: 24-12-2018

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
B. MANASA DOB: 12-12-1944 DOD: 14-12-2019

**18th ANNIVERSARY**  
M.V.K. SAMUEL DOB: 12-12-1944 DOD: 14-12-2019

### 'Missing' MLA



#### Agitators in Amaravati file missing case against Mangalagiri MLA A. Ramakrishna Reddy to protest his silence on the capital's issue



#### It's like holiday tours for the ministers

— K. Narayana, CPI secretary, on locating Secretariat in Vizag and ministers' quarters in Amaravati

### SHORT TAKES

#### HC SETS ASIDE MARKFED'S NEW RULES

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

The Telangana High Court has set aside the stringent conditions imposed by the Markfed federation for the purchase of agricultural commodities such as Bengal gram, red gram, sunflower, jowar and black gram.

According to a petitioner in the High Court, Markfed had stated that the bidder should have an annual turnover in any one of the last three financial accounting years of ₹100 crore per annum. The bidder should have to place bids for the entire quantity indicated in the lot, and not piece meal. Another condition was that bidders should pay ₹1,000 per metric tonne as earnest money deposit (EMD) to participate in the tendering process. The total stock to be lifted by the selected bidders is 62,855.375 metric tonnes versus the ₹260.35 crore, and bidders have to deposit ₹2.6 crore to participate in the process.

These conditions have been challenged by some interested bidders. While allowing the petition, Justice Challa Kondanda Ram opined that the government had not shown due diligence required to be exercised in discharging the functions entrusted to Markfed. Justice Kodanda Ram felt that Markfed should not lose sight of its objective of getting the best price for the commodities, for which they are required to frame terms and conditions like a prudent trader rather than yet another department of bureaucracy.

#### EX-CS, AP LIKELY TO GET PLUM POST

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

AP government is likely to give some important post to former chief secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam. After transfer from chief secretary's post to DC, AP HR Development Institute on November 6, 2019, Subrahmanyam went on a long leave for one month without taking charge. After December 6, he again extended the leave for one month. He wants to go to central service on deputation. In fact, he applied for central deputation before 2019 assembly elections. Top officials are likely to meet Subrahmanyam to convince him to continue in the state government service and will be given some important post.

#### Convocation



Dr K. Prapat Reddy, Dr Sandhya Gavva, Dr P.V. Lakshmiipati, Dr S.V. Subramanian and others light the lamp to mark the inauguration of Dhruva College of Management's 23rd convocation on its campus on Saturday.

## Reddy leaders unite to grab TPCC chief post

### Senior Cong leader Hanumantha Rao also in fray

S.N.G.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

With leaders of the BC community including AICC secretary V. Hanumantha Rao demanding that the high command give the TPCC president's post to their community, senior leaders from the Reddys in the party have begun to close ranks to grab the post. The Reddy leaders are likely to come on one platform to discuss this issue.

The Reddy community leaders are backing four leaders for the post: MPs Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, A. Revanth Reddy, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy and former minister K. Jana Reddy. TPCC treasurer Guduru Narayana Reddy, former MP Konda Vishveswar Reddy and Ranga Reddy DCC president T. Rammohan Reddy are playing a key role in the effort.

#### HC notice to govt on encroachment

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

A petition in the High Court on Monday directed the amended section in the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019 which empowers the authorities to demolish any construction which has no sanctioned plan and is in violation of the master plan.

Challenging Section 178(2) of the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019, advocate Mohan Chandra Parthasarathy, who filed the petition, said that the previous legislation mandates officials to serve notice to any person who constructs a building in violation of rules.

The new Act allows the officials to directly go for demolition without putting the person on notice.

#### No demolitions at Ashoorkhana

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the GHMC commissioner and the Charminar zone commissioner to ensure that there are no encroachments at the Ashoorkhana Peerla Chavadi at Darulshifa in the Old City and that there are no demolitions.

The High Court took up this issue suo motu and issued notices to the principal secretaries of the minority welfare and municipal administration departments, the GHMC commissioner, Wakf Board and Nizam Trust to file their responses within four weeks. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was dealing with a suo motu public interest litigation taken up on basis of a letter by one Syed Azger Hussain, who stated that GHMC officials had colluded with encroachers in occupying the building. Mr Hussain stated that illegal encroachments and possible demolition of the heritage building was the result of collusion of interested persons with the authorities concerned. These persons had filed a building application with the GHMC town planning section of the Charminar circle by misrepresenting the ownership of the structure.

■ **THE REDDY** community leaders are backing four leaders for the post: MPs Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, A. Revanth Reddy, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy and former minister K. Jana Reddy.

■ **TPCC TREASURER** Guduru Narayana Reddy, former MP Konda Vishveswar Reddy and Ranga Reddy DCC president T. Rammohan Reddy are playing a key role in the effort.

■ **A senior leader** said leaders from other communities in the party are united, with the exception of those from the Reddy community.

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■ **J'KAND RESULTS** A GOOD LESSON FOR BJP: CONG

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Mr S.A. Sampath Kumar, secretary, All India Congress Committee, and a poll observer in Jharkhand, said that the results of the Jharkhand elections were a good lesson to the BJP's anti-national policies. After the BJP came to power for a second time at the Centre, Mr Kumar alleged, it was trying to destroy the Constitution. Due to the policies adopted by the BJP in party, it has been defeated in five states so far. He said the BJP would not be in the political race in coming days anywhere in the country. BJP state chief spokesperson K. Krishna Saagar Rao said that the Congress and JMM have succeeded in Jharkhand with a 'local agenda'. Mr Rao said that the BJP's defeat had nothing to do with the Ayodhya verdict or the CAA issue. Mr Rao said that the Congress and JMM alliance had worked out, besides anti-incumbency against the ruling party at the state-level. He said Congress has gradually lost its nationalist image while the BJP had provided effective governance for five years. Mr G. Balaramu, government whip, said that regional parties would come into power and rule the nation in the coming days.

MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said his party had entered government for the first time in these elections. "It was our first election. We will try harder to gain the trust of the people," he said.

Narayana Reddy said, "we are working in the interests of the party, our aim is to bring the Congress to power in Telangana state. Of course, there are some aspirants from the community for the post." Some Congress leaders feel that unless the Reddy leaders come together, other communities would not sail with the party. A senior leader said leaders from other communities in the party are united, with the exception of those from the Reddy community. This is influencing other communities over which the Reddy leaders hold sway. A Reddy leader says if it is not possible for the high command to give the post to someone from the community, the former legislator Duddila Sridhar Babu who is acceptable to all communities and not controversial, is preferred.

#### Oath ceremony



Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan singing the National Anthem after administering the oath of office to Justice C.V. Ramulu (Left), former judge of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court, as the first Lokayukta of Telangana state, at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister K. Chandrababai Naidu and Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan (second from right) were also present at the function. The Governor also administered oath to former law secretary V. Niranjan Rao (extreme right) as the Upa Lokayukta. Justice G. Chandrabhai, former judge of the erstwhile AP High Court, took charge as chairman of the State Human Rights Commission. The function was organised at the SHRC office in Nampally on Monday.

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#### AP asks finance panel to grant ₹2,19,695 cr

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Apart from demanding special category status for 10 years, the government Pradesh government has sought from the 15th Finance Commission ₹2,19,695 crore specific grants.

In the report submitted to the commission two days ago, the government requested for ₹47,424 crore as capital city development grant. However, the report made no mention of capital city Amaravati, like the previous government did. In the breakup of grants, the state government divided the amount under Judiciary, Legislative, Executive and other heads. It explained in the report how the previous TD government borrowed indiscriminately to meet expenditure for the schemes announced before the 2019 assembly elections.

The report pointed out that the new government had inherited 2,72,296 unpaid bills amounting to ₹39,293 crore as on April 1, 2019. There are ₹16,280 crore of resources from corporations have been utilised in the form of budget borrowings. There are ₹10,000 crore of deferred dues of the power sector and AP Civil Supplies Corporation. The report maintained that while on one hand, the new government inherited ₹5,683 crore of liabilities, it has a limited borrowed space on the other hand. The outstanding liabilities of the state government as on 31-3-2019 have mounted to ₹2,39,929 crore. The state government urged the 15th

## 120 ULBs, 10 corporations to vote on January 22

MADHY DEEKSHITHI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Elections to 120 urban local bodies (ULBs) and 10 municipal corporations will be held on January 22. Counting will be held on January 23 and the results would be declared immediately.

Barring the Greater Hyderabad, Khammam and Warangal municipal corporations, 10 corporations including Karimnagar, Ramachandrapuram, Nizamabad will go to the polls. Municipal corporations including Badangpet, Meerpet, Bandlaguda Jagir, Boduppal, Peerzadiguda, Jawaharnagar and Nizampet on the city outskirts and over 50 urban local bodies will take part in the voting in the independent entities for the first time.

The State Election Commission (SEC) will issue the notification on January 7. Candidates can file nominations between January 8 and 10.

■ **THE STATE** Election Commission (SEC) will issue the notification on January 7. Candidates can file nominations between January 8 and 10. Scrutiny will be on January 11, candidates can appeal rejection of nominations on January 12.

■ **THE APPEALS** will be disposed of on January 13. The last date of withdrawal of nominations is January 14 and list of candidates will be published the same day.

■ **THE WARDWISE** electoral rolls will be published on January 8.

Scrutiny will be on January 11, candidates can appeal rejection of nominations on January 12. The appeals will be disposed of on January 13. The last date of withdrawal of nominations is January 14 and list of candidates will be published the same day. The SEC official that the wardwise electoral rolls will be published on January 8. They said that the model code of conduct (MCC) will come into effect immediately

after the poll notification. However, there was still confusion prevailing over the reservation of wards. When asked, officials claimed that the SEC was verifying voter data from 2,727 wards in urban local bodies and 385 wards in municipal corporations. The SEC will publish draft electoral list on December 30 and receive claims and objections from December 31 to January 2. The final ward-wise voter list would be published on January 4.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

REQUESTS GRANTS FOR THE CAPITAL CITY	
Item Amount (₹ in crore)	
Judiciary:	2,311
Legislature:	1,746
Executive/Secretariat:	6,374
Civic Infrastructure:	4,071
Other Essential Infrastructure in capital city:	35,422
Total:	49,924
Sanctioned by Gol:	2,500
Balance Amount:	47,424

STATE-SPECIFIC GRANTS REQUESTED (₹ IN CRORE)	
Building for Village/ Ward Secretariat:	5,950
Survey of lands:	1,667
Health Infrastructure:	13,942
Education:	22,475
Drinking water supply: Krishna-Godavari linkage:	17,639
Urban infrastructure:	24,000
Railways:	12,600
Industries:	6,255
Capital city:	43,093
Backward districts:	47,424
Total:	2,19,695

Finance Commission to facilitate Grant of Special Category Status by the central government to the state for 10 years in the interest of reducing the state's revenue deficits and initiating a virtuous cycle. The state government said, "We will continue to pursue this matter with the Government of India. We request that the grants equivalent to 90% of EAP loans be extended for a period of 10 years". The state government also sought debt relief of ₹11,039 crore to AP by writing off outstanding central loans as on 31 March 2020.

#### BOOKLOVER GOV. OPENS BOOK FAIR

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 23

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said that she has a collection of 3,000 books, and spends an hour every day to read a book. Speaking at the inauguration of the Hyderabad Book Fair at the NTR Stadium on Monday, the Governor also stated that Mir. Kerosoff's Bill Gates was a reader of books. The 300-stall book fair will end on January 1, 2020.

Dr Tamilisai said, "I am happy to inaugurate the book fair as I am a book lover. After I took charge as Governor, a lot of people are coming to meet me, I told them not to bring flowers and I instead bring a book." She said that she had more than 3,000 books in her house. "However busy I am, I make sure I spend one hour every day reading a book, Bill Gates, who is considered the busiest man, reads at least 50 books a year."

"It's not how rich we are, it's how rich our knowledge is," she said, in an obvious reference to Mr. Gates. "There is a book lover. After I took charge as Governor, a lot of people are coming to meet me, I told them not to bring flowers and I instead bring a book." She said that she had more than 3,000 books in her house. "However busy I am, I make sure I spend one hour every day reading a book, Bill Gates, who is considered the busiest man, reads at least 50 books a year."

The organisers said the book fair was started in 1986 with 56 stalls by Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had several publications dedicated to eight publishers to promote the reading habit among the people. "This year, the book fair has 350 stalls. There is special stall for new writers."

Poll lessons

Nawab Malik, NCP's chief spokesperson, says Jharkhand voters demolished the arrogance of Modi, Shah and the BJP



Independent candidate for East Jhanshpur, Saryu Roy, receives greetings on phone after he defeated his BJP rival and Chief Minister of Jharkhand Raghubar Das in the morning on Monday. Roy, a former minister in the Das government, contested the election as an independent after the BJP denied a poll ticket to the veteran leader. — P71

Even BJP workers didn't vote for Das

From Page 1

Also, the party's much-faunted CAA, NRC and national card did not find their cadre, despite the Prime Minister himself openly playing the communal card. Speaking at a rally in JMM's Dumka stronghold, Modi raised the CAA and NRC issues and hinted that only Muslims were protesting against the new law.

While the BJP top brass tried to seek votes for a "double engine ki sarkar" (BJP at the Centre and the state), the anti-incumbency was one of the biggest achievements of the Raghubar Das government.

The state BJP feels even the organisation suffered in the state as Jharkhand unit chief Lexman Gilua, considered close to Mr Das, also lost.

With the BJP now governing only 35 per cent of the country's landmass in comparison to over 71 per cent at its peak in 2017, when it was in power in the entire Hindi-speaking heartland, many within the party have started questioning its poll strategies.

we had a massive vote-share, but we could not use it to our benefit in the Assembly polls.

First of all, the CM did not respect the cadre, we made such a blunder during ticket distribution, angered senior leaders, promoted factionalism and there was no proper utilisation of the cadre, for which the BJP is famous for. Our opponents kept accusing us of being anti-tribal and our CM as an outsider, but we did not use our cadre to counter it properly," said a senior BJP leader who added checking Naxalism was one of the biggest achievements of the Raghubar Das government.

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Victory Lap



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha working president Hemant Soren rides a bicycle at his residence in Ranchi on Monday. His father and party chief Shibu Soren and mother Ripu Soren are also seen. — P71

THEY SAID IT

Congratulations to Hemant Soren and the JMM-led alliance for the victory in the Jharkhand polls. Best wishes to them in serving the state — **NARENDRA MODI** Prime Minister

People of Jharkhand have given clear majority to JMM-Cong-RJD alliance. A new chapter begins for Jharkhand; people's expectations will be fulfilled — **HEMANT SOREN**

It appears that the people of at least one state have conclusively given their verdict that they do not want (CAA and NRC) — **ARVIND KEJRIWAL** Delhi Chief Minister

It is not BJP's defeat, it is my defeat — **RAGHUBAR DAS** Outgoing Jharkhand Chief Minister

The BJP is not unbeatable. If all opposition parties rally together and understand the dangers faced by the country and come together, surely the BJP can be defeated in future elections — **P. CHIDAMBARAM** Congress leader

Jharkhand elections held amid CAA and NRC protests, were in favour of citizens. — **MAMATA BANERJEE** West Bengal CM

Major boost for RJD, Congress

Regional parties JD(U), LJP fail to open an account in Jharkhand elections

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, DEC. 23

The RJD on Monday celebrated the success of grand alliance in Jharkhand assembly polls. The party had contested in alliance with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the Congress.

Hitting out at the outgoing Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das and the BJP, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "The mood was against the state government as well as the Centre which failed in providing relief to the people from poverty and unemployment. People were also upset due to deteriorating law and order scenario in the state."



Outgoing Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das comes out after tendering his resignation to Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu in Ranchi on Monday. — P71



Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi for "forming a grand alliance against the BJP".

"I am thankful to everyone who believed in me and I assure that I will never let them down. We will soon meet and discuss our future course of action," JMM working president Hemant Soren said. "The state went to polls for 81 seats in five phases from November 30 to December 20. BJP, JMM, Congress, RJD, AJSU and JMM-P were the main political parties in the fray. The primary fight was between the BJP and the JMM-Congress and RJD alliance.

The most high profile seat which the BJP lost during this year's Assembly election was Jhanshpur (east) which was contested by Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das. His colleague and former minister Saryu Rai contested against him and won with a high margin.

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 23

For the Congress, it will truly be a merry Christmas! After managing to hit the jackpot in Maharashtra by latching on to the NCP, the party scored again in Jharkhand. While the JMM led the charge, the Congress too did well for itself by improving its tally from six to 14 Assembly seats.

The result came a surprise for the party too as the state unit was faction ridden. The earlier state unit chief, Ajoy Kumar, had resigned after hitting out at state leaders just two months before the polls. The Congress managed to do well as it kept itself confined to semi-urban areas, leaving the tribal belt for its bigger ally Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

Playing second fiddle helps Cong

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 23

The Congress contested 31 and the RJD seven. However, playing second fiddle to the JMM did not go down well with many senior party leaders, who camped in New Delhi to get tickets for their supporters. But after getting inputs from Central observers, the Congress leadership went ahead with the 'coalition dharmam', and also agreed to announce the JMM's Hemant Soren as chief minister candidate of the alliance.

The Congress' pragmatic approach is also indicative of the 'fight to the finish' attitude of Congress president Sonia Gandhi. In the past four months since she took charge as party chief, the Congress has gone into three Assembly elections, of which the party is in the ruling alliance in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

National issues failed to cut ice with voters

From Page 1

While economic distress and issues like tribal land acquisition laws and reservation in government jobs for state residents were the issues which hit the ruling BJP, it was evident that national issues like the recent amendment to the citizenship law and the promise of implementing the National Registrar of Citizens (NRC) across the country did not find much resonance with the masses. Neither the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, which was another major legislation passed by the BJP government at the Centre.

Another major factor for the BJP's loss was the unpopularity of Das, especially amongst former allies like All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU). In fact, AJSU cadre maintained that the polls were fought only on the "Oust Raghubar Das" slogan.

Das was defeated by his colleague and former minister Saryu Rai. Rai quit the BJP after being denied ticket from Jhanshpur (West) seat and contested the poll from Jhanshpur (East), a seat held by Das five times, as an independent.



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress workers celebrate their lead in the Jharkhand Assembly Elections results in Ranchi on Monday morning. — P71

AJSU alliance 12 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in May this year. Just six months after the general elections, the state decided to oust the BJP, which went alone in the Assembly polls as AJSU was not happy with Das and the seat sharing formula. Many in the BJP had questioned the ticket distribution and had blamed Das for ignoring the winnability factor of candidates and trying to sideline many senior leaders. This was why the BJP top brass, including PM

Narendra Modi, had sought votes for a "double engine ki sarkar" (BJP government at the Centre and the state), and put up hoardings with pictures of Modi and Das together. Despite this, the state rejected the BJP government and its non-tribal chief minister.

Though the BJP's poll managers were expecting the party's tally to go down, as feedback reaching them was not in their favour; they did not expect the tally to go down so much. "It is not that there was no development in the last five years... check on Naxalism and development, including in Naxal pockets—this government's work is evident... but Raghubar Das' arrogance and the way he treated the cadre led to the BJP losing the state and Das losing his own seat," said a senior BJP leader from the state.

THE PERCENTAGE of population being governed by the BJP in the states, either on its own or with its allies, now stands at around 43 per cent from over 69 per cent two years back, data analysis show.

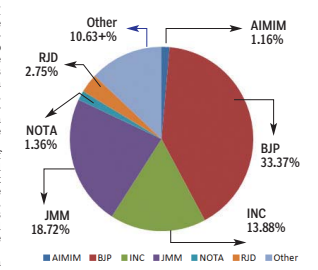
SIGNIFICANTLY THE PARTY has suffered losses in states at a time when it has been successful in fulfilling its longstanding ideological promises, including nullifying Article 370, criminalising the practice of triple talaq and enacting Citizenship Amendment Act.

Others include Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Just like the other four states, which were ruled by the BJP, the party lost Jharkhand because of a strong anti-incumbency faced by chief minister Raghubar Das.

Hemant Soren's first stint as CM lasted 14 months

Ranchi, Dec. 23: JMM leader Hemant Soren, the son of Jharkhand architect Shibu Soren, is set to take up the reins of the state for a second term as the Opposition coalition comprising the party, Congress and RJD is surging ahead of the BJP in the 81-member seats in the Assembly.

His first stint as Chief Minister of the tribal state had lasted for just about 14 months since July 15, 2015. But this time, he with support from his allies — the Congress and the RJD have stopped the seemingly invincible BJP. Hemant Soren had been the face of the Opposition alliance in the state.



One was born to Shibu Soren, known as 'Guruji' to his innumerable followers, and his wife Koopi on August 19, 1975 at Nema village in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand.

The senior Soren had three, had been grooming his elder son Durga Soren, but fate had deemed otherwise. Durga Soren died in a suspected kidney failure and Shibu Soren was convicted in the Chiridih massacre case. The situation turned the focus on Hemant Soren who was then entrusted with the responsibility of running JMM. It was only after the Gurujii quit the Manmohan Singh cabinet owing to his court conviction. Hemant Soren he emerged as heir apparent of the 'Soren clan' and won the Dumka Assembly seat in 2008. He went on to become a Rajya Sabha member in 2009-2010, before becoming Jharkhand's youngest CM in 2013 with the support of the Congress and the RJD.

Leading from the front

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel led a protest march against the CAA and the NRC in Bhilai



HC SUSPENDS WB GOVT'S ANTI-CAA ADS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, DEC. 23

In a major blow to the Mamata Banerjee government, the Calcutta High Court on Monday banned its controversial advertisement against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Hearing a public interest litigation filed recently, a division bench of Chief Justice T.B.N. Radhakrishnan and Justice Arijit Banerjee of the High Court ordered the state government to remove its advertisement, which openly declared that the CAA and the NRC would not be implemented in the state, till the next order.

The state government advertisement titled 'No CAB, No NRC' appeared on the pages of the state government's social networking sites and certain Bengali TV news channels after the controversial Act was passed by the Parliament.

The BJP and West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar earlier denounced the ad and demanded for its removal. The division bench also asked for a detailed report from the Trinamool government about the petitioners' claim that the state government's advertisement against the CAA and the NRC was carried out using public money.

The division bench, which has been hearing petitions on the collapse of law and order and damage to Railway property in the state, in wake of the massive violence over the CAA and NRC, besides the one against the ad, scheduled the matter for hearing on January 9.

It also ordered the Railways to submit a report stating its measures taken to prevent loss of public property and the financial loss incurred due to the violence.

The division bench, Advocate General Kishore Dutta submitted before the court that law and order situation in the state has been under control and the internet services have been restored.

It also ordered the Railways to submit a report stating its measures taken to prevent loss of public property and the financial loss incurred due to the violence.

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar on Monday was heckled and shown black flags by a group of protesters at Rajghat while in Kolkata, the BJP took out a rally in support of the CAA.

Indian students studying in London, New York, Paris, Washington DC, Berlin, Geneva, Hague, Barcelona, San Francisco, Tokyo, Amsterdam and Melbourne have organised protests.

However, in Uttar Pradesh, amid allegations of police excesses, the state government continued its crackdown on protesters, and seized properties of the alleged rioters.

The arrest of actor and Congress spokesperson Jafar has become a fresh flashpoint with Congress alleging that she was given treatment worse than 'third degree' by the police, an allegation that the UP Police has denied.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday had released the immediate release of Jafar, who was arrested on December 19.



No major policy will come before the country without govt level discussion

— Sharad Pawar, NCP chief

SHORT TAKES

CONG TO HOLD MEGA RALLY IN ODISHA

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 23

Odisha, which has seemingly remained calm and peaceful as other parts of the country plunged into turmoil over enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) legislation, is all set to witness strong protest rallies later this month.

The Congress, the second opposition party in the state after the BJP has decided to hold a mega protest rally in Bhubaneswar on December 28. Speaking in this newspaper on Monday former minister Ganeswar Behara said senior leaders and workers from across the state would participate in the December 28 rally to protest what he described the 'discriminatory' and 'draconian' CAA, and awaken people of Odisha about the real motive of the BJP to weaken the NRC.

Speaking about the late reaction and response of the Congress, Mr Behara said the party's leaders had vehemently criticised the law through press conferences and television debates.

MAHANTA STAGES SIT-IN PROTEST

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 23

Former Assam Chief Minister and Aom Gana Parishad (AGP) leader Prafulla Kumar Mahanta on Monday led a sit-in demonstration with his supporters in the party at Gandhi Mandap in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

In an apparent indication of a crack in the party, NRC senior party leaders, including Brindaban Goswami, Pabindra Deka, Gunit Hazarika also joined the protest, which was against the AGP's party line. The party is part of a Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government in the state.

Mr Mahanta came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. "By taking Assamese Gamuchha, one cannot synthesise himself that he loves Assam. Modi does the same."

KERALA FILM FRATERNITY HOLDS MARCH

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 23

Actors, directors, literary personalities and people from all walks of life in Kerala on Monday took out a long march against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Kochi.

The protesters, carrying placards and banners, denouncing the CAA and NRC, walked 12 km from Rajendra Maidan to Fort Kochi.

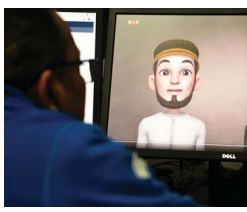
Directors Kamal, Ashik Abu, actors Nimisha Sajayan, Shane Nigam, Rima Kalinga and cinematographer Venu were among those participated in the long march. However, superstars Mammooty and Mohanlal snubbed the protest. Both have drawn flack from various quarters and on social media for keeping silent on the issue.



(CLOCKWISE) Protesters take part in a protest march against the CAA and the NRC, in Bengaluru on Monday.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wraps a shawl around party president Sonia Gandhi at the satyagraha staged in demand for protection of the Constitution in view of the CAA and the NRC, in New Delhi on Monday.

A man watches a video released by the BJP showing animated Muslim characters.



Indian students abroad up in arms against CAA

Congress says activist Sadaf Jafar tortured by police

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 23

IN UTTAR PRADESH, 16 people have died and 263 police personnel were injured during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) continued across the country with Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru showing major show of strength.

In Delhi, 46 students were arrested while in Uttar Pradesh, crackdown on protesters continued. Among those arrested is actress and a Congress activist Sadaf Jafar, who the party alleged, was brutally tortured by the police.

Both the BJP and Congress were on the streets on Monday — one in favour of the CAA and the NRC and the other against the laws.

Opposing the two laws, the Congress held a dharna at Rajghat while in Kolkata, the BJP took out a rally in support of the CAA.

Indian students studying in London, New York, Paris, Washington DC, Berlin, Geneva, Hague, Barcelona, San Francisco, Tokyo, Amsterdam and Melbourne have organised protests.

However, in Uttar Pradesh, amid allegations of police excesses, the state government continued its crackdown on protesters, and seized properties of the alleged rioters.

The arrest of actor and Congress spokesperson Jafar has become a fresh flashpoint with Congress alleging that she was given treatment worse than 'third degree' by the police, an allegation that the UP Police has denied.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday had released the immediate release of Jafar, who was arrested on December 19.

"She (Jafar) was beaten up brutally by the police. She was hit on her back and her hair was pulled," said Congress state president Ajay Kumar Lallu, who met Sadaf in jail.

Stalin terms it an anti-CAA 'war'

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, DEC. 23

"Idhu perani alla; Idhu porani, Indha por thodarum" ("This is not a rally, this is a war. This war will go on"), said DMK president M.K. Stalin at the massive rally he led here on Monday to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which drew massive applause from the gathering that included various leaders and members of the DMK's alliance parties and outfits.

His rhetoric conveyed that it was not just a rally but a "war" and it would continue (till the Centre withdraws the Act).

Former Union minister P. Chidambaram, PCC President K.S. Alagiri, DK Chief K. Veeramani, VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan and MDMK chief Vaiko accompanied the DMK chief as well as his son and youth wing secretary Udayanidhi, dressed in black to signify protest, in the rally. It goes to the credit of Stalin and his party leaders, as well as the allies present, that despite the massive gathering and the charged-up atmosphere — politically and emotionally — that the rally was peaceful.

The presence of policemen in large numbers, some of them in civvies and wielding the intimidating mobile cameras may have had some sobering effect on the environment. Also, drones were pressed into service by commissioner A.K. Viswanathan following a directive from the Madras High Court. But, even otherwise, sources said, Mr Stalin ensured discipline is maintained in the rally.

"Thalivar (leader) had conveyed this concern to the alliance leaders also, though very subtly and politely," said a source. Mr Stalin said the protest sent a clear message to the Centre that the Tamils are opposing the law. "I thank the lakhs of peaceful protesters who joined us in Chennai today to show that #TNopposeCAA. This has sent a clear signal to the BJP and AIADMK governments that Tamils are against this law. We will continue voicing our dissent until the law is repealed," he tweeted.

UP Police said they have arrested the state head of Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and his two aides for allegedly masterminding violence in last week's Lucknow protests.

A Delhi court on Monday dismissed bail pleas of 15 people arrested in connection with the violence in Delhi's Daryaganj area and extended their judicial custody by two weeks.

Metropolitan magistrate Kapil Kumar dismissed the bail applications, saying there was no sufficient ground to grant them the relief.

A protest rally against the CAA and the NRC in Bengaluru drew huge crowd causing massive road jams. It is learnt that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had asked police to stay alert and not to allow a Mangaluru-like situation to develop in the city.

Former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah demanded a judicial probe into the Mangaluru violence last week and rejected a CID inquiry ordered by Yediyurappa.

Activists want violence on students probed

MAMATA WRITES TO OPPN. CMs FOR UNITY AGAINST CAA

Kolkata, Dec. 23: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is eyeing pan-India support in her fight against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), wrote to Chief Ministers and senior leaders of opposition parties on Monday, urging them to unite and chalk out a plan to "save the country."

Ms Banerjee wrote separate letters to NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, among others, asserting the need for joint protests against the CAA and the proposed nationwide National Register of Citizens.

Her appeal to the opposition parties came on a day when BJP working president J.P. Nadda addressed a rally in the city and accused the Trinamool of "misleading" masses over the contentious law.

Ms Banerjee described the current situation in the country as serious and urged all non-BJP parties to come together and rise against the "draconian regime" at the Centre.

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DMK chief M.K. Stalin, flanked by former Union finance minister P. Chidambaram, of the Congress at a mega rally against the CAA and the NRC in Chennai.

Bilateral ties

Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria will embark on a bilateral visit to Egypt from December 24 to boost defence ties



We have to save the country from divide and rule politics

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Congress leader

IN BRIEF

FIR AGAINST BJP MP FOR FALSE CLAIMS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC BHOPAL, DEC. 23

In a significant development, police filed an FIR against BJP MP from Guna in Madhya Pradesh K. P. Yadav for submitting false income certificate to claim other Backward Class (OBC) certificate for his son.

Police booked Yadav and his son Sarthak under sections 420 (cheating), 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 181 (false affirmation to public servant authorized to administer an oath), and 182 (false information with intent to cause public servant to use unlawful power) of Indian Penal Code for providing wrong statement on his income to claim OBC certificate, in charge of Kotwadi police station under district headquarters of Ashok Nagar said on Monday.

INDIA'S OLDEST VOTER DIES AT 111 YRS

New Delhi, Dec. 23: Bachan Singh, the oldest voter in Delhi who hogged headlines in May when he voted in the Lok Sabha election, passed away on Monday, his family said. He was 111.

Singh died around 6:30 am. He had not been seen in public for the past three-four days, his grandson Sonu Singh said. A paralysis attack around 11 months ago had rendered him centenerian bedridden. He had grown frail, according to his family.

Bachan Singh has never missed out on voting in an election since 1951, his youngest son, Jasbeer Singh, 63, said. Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh felicited Bachan Singh and invited him to vote in the general election. Till the 2015 Assembly election, the centenerian cycled to the polling booth to cast vote. This year, he reached the booth in a car along with poll officers in full media glare. He was later wheeled to the polling booth at Tilak Vihar.

"For him, every election was a contest between the BJP and the Congress," his son said.

Mahanati awarded



Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu presents Best Actress award to Keerthy Suresh for her role in Mahanati during the 66th National Film Awards function at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. He presented the National Film Awards to actors Vicky Kaushal, Ayushmann Khurrana as well. Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was supposed to receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the ceremony, skipped the event citing ill health. The 77-year-old actor will now be honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind on December 29 at a high-tea, to be hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan for the winners.

9 killed in Delhi fire 6-month-old among dead

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA I DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 23

Nine people, including three children, were killed after a massive fire ripped through a three-storey residential building in Outer Delhi's Kirari area. The incident took place in the wee hours of Monday. The issue of illegal commercial building in Outer Delhi's Kirari area. The Delhi government also announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the next of kin of those who died in the fire.

According to a senior Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official, a call regarding the blaze was received at around 12:20 am on Monday, following which eight fire tenders and DFS teams were dispatched for the spot. The blaze was brought under control by 3:50 am. During initial investigation it was revealed that the house had a cloth godown on the ground floor while the two upper floors had residences. It is suspected that a cylinder also blasted on the second floor resulting in a roof collapsing, said Atul Garg, the chief fire officer.

The DFS teams recovered three charred bodies and 10 persons were rescued and rushed to a nearby hospital, where nine were declared brought dead by the doctors, said Garg. The building had single staircase and there was no fire safety equipment installed in it. The cause behind the fire is being investigated. It is suspected that the fire started due to short-circuit, which led to a cylinder blast and the subsequent wall collapse.

Those killed were identified as Ram Chandra Jha (65), the building owner; Sudariya Devi (58); Sanju Jha (36); Gaddan; and the family of Udaykant Chaudhary (33) including his wife Muskan (26), their children Anjali (10), Adarsh (7), and six-month-old Tulsii. According to a police official, three people were rescued.

"Pooja (24), her niece Saumya (10) and her three-year-old daughter Aaradhya jumped to an adjacent building to escape the blaze," the police official added.

Under these circumstances, a stent could not have been placed after angioplasty. Therefore, doctors decided to perform bypass surgery. Experts say among adults, blood pressure, diabetes and smoking are the major causes for atherosclerosis, which results in block in blood vessels. Among children Takayasu arteritis, Kawasaki disease and congenital heart problems are reported more often.

"However, the child had different symptoms. During the surgery, it was found the heart attack was not the kind which is usually seen among adults," Dr. Koshy said.

VIDEO ON PRAGYA SHAMES BJP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC BHOPAL, DEC. 23

Two days after BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur embroiled in an argument over allocation of seat to her in a Delhi-Bhopal flight, a video showing a co-passenger pulling her up for causing inconvenience to her co-flyers surfaced on Monday, landing her party in further embarrassment.

The purported video showed the passenger reminding her of her responsibility towards other passengers as an elected representative, and told her "you should be thinking of (your actions)". However, Thakur was seen making her point that she had been silenced by the reprimand by the passenger.

The Bhopal BJP MP had on Sunday accused the SpiceJet of ill-treating her during her travel from Delhi to Bhopal on December 21 over an issue with the seat allocated to her in the flight.

The flight started getting delayed, other passengers were becoming restless and requested Thakur to change her seat but she refused. Passenger passengers also requested the airline staff to offload Thakur, as she refused to change her seat.

Finally, the BJP MP Pragya Thakur agreed to change her seat.

HC fires 2 judges for corruption

Chennai, Dec. 23: The Madras High Court has dismissed two judges and a judicial magistrate from service as part of its efforts to overhaul the subordinate judiciary.

While a judge has been compulsorily retired on health grounds, five increments were cut for two metropolitan magistrates. The decisions in this connection were taken at a Full court meeting of all judges of the Madras High Court on December 7, sources said.

Formerly additional district judge, S. Manvizhi, ex-principal district judge, T. Ponprakash and the then judicial magistrate, K. Vijayakumar were dismissed from service. Manvizhi, now under suspension and not permitted to retire from service, will face prosecution for various irregularities she has been charged with.

Citing an administrative order of the Department of Corruption Act, the Full court said it resolved unanimously that Manvizhi deserved to be dismissed. The criminal prosecution already sanctioned against her may proceed, the Full court said.

The Full court, considering the gravity of charges against him, decided to dismiss him from service. In the civil judge, S. Chellappandian, chairman of the Taxation Appeals Tribunal (Madurai) has for various irregularities on health grounds after a medical board confirmed his disability to perform judicial functions.

Two metropolitan magistrates in Chennai city were given five increment cuts and the duo shall be under the watch of higher authorities, according to the Full court decision. Former district magistrate in Krishnagiri district, was let off with a censure, the court said.

SHRINGLA IS NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY

New Delhi, Dec. 23: Seasoned diplomat Harsh Vardhan Shringla was on Monday appointed as the new foreign secretary for a two-year fixed term, starting from Vijay Gokhale.

Shringla, a 1984 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), is considered an expert on India's neighbourhood and is currently serving as envoy to the US.

His appointment comes at a time when India is facing a plethora of foreign policy challenges including dealing with an increasingly assertive Trump administration and China's attempt to expand its military and economic influence in the region. As foreign secretary, Shringla's immediate task is expected to be ramping up of diplomatic outreach in the wake of criticism by several countries and global institutions of India's new citizenship law.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shringla as the new foreign secretary a government order said, adding he will assume the new role on January 29.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise) MINISTRY OF DEFENCE GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD-500 032. Ref: BDL/CC/01/GT/022/2019-20 Dt: 24.12.2019

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit e-TENDER NOTICE Regional Director (P&S), HRPSP, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online tenders as given below:

13-year-old suffers heart attack, undergoes bypass

GILVESTER ASSARY I DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 23

In a rare case, a 13-year-old girl who suffered a heart attack underwent bypass surgery at the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College.

The doctors at the medical college claimed that it was first case of juvenile heart attack in Kerala and perhaps very rare in the country, which warranted a bypass surgery. The doctors say that the possibility of heart attack among girls is very rare and that makes this particular case special.

It was found that the patient had 99 per cent block in major blood vessel and 50 per cent block in another blood vessel which is not seen in children

landing in the medical college. Since the possibility of heart attack among children was unheard till now, the doctors examined her for any congenital heart disease, but could not find any defect.

With chest pain continuing, cardiology department team led by George Koshy examined her and found signs of heart attack in the ECG. She was then subjected to angiogram. It was found that the girl had 99 per cent block in major blood vessel and 50

NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE (Ministry of Power, Government of India) NPTI Complex, Sector-33, Faridabad-121003. VACANCY NOTICE National Power Training Institute, an Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India and established as National Power Training and Human Resources Development in Power Sector, invites applications for the following posts:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (MWCD)

Applications are invited to fill up the existing two vacancies of Members in National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi in the following fields namely: (i) Child Education (ii) Child Health, Care, welfare or child development. The eligibility criteria, age, salary and other allowances, etc. and Application form in the prescribed format and other details may be seen at website of Ministry of Women & Child Development at www.wcd.nic.in. Persons fulfilling the eligibility criteria for appointment as a Member and interested for appointment to the post may send their particulars in the prescribed proforma (Schedule IV Form under rule 6A(3) of NCPOR Rules) By Post to the Under Secretary (CW-I), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Room No. 628-A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi: 110001 within 28 days from the date of publication of the Advertisement in the newspaper. Applications not in the prescribed proforma, incomplete or received after the due date shall not be entertained under any circumstances. The persons who are serving under the Central/State Government or any other organization funded by the Central/State Government should route their applications through proper channel. Sd/- (Vikas Tripathi) Under Secretary to the Government of India davep 46101/11/0007/1920